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The Review and Herald Library Collection

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The Review and Herald Library Collection

A Legacy for the Seventh-day Adventist World Church

On December 15, 2005, the Review and Herald Publishing Association donated the rare materials from their editorial library to the Andrews University, Center for Adventist Research. In making this decision the Review and Herald recognized that the library would receive greater use at Andrews University, particularly with the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and its more than 600 graduate students.

The Collection contains about 2,500 books, tracts, and periodicals together with early advent charts and ephemera. It includes many rare and significant items, some of which are one-of-a-kind. For example, the library contains an 1835 edition of William Miller's lectures on the prophecies. No other copies are known to be extant. The collection is particularly rich in Millerite materials many of which were collected by F. D. Nichol in preparation for his 1944 publication, *The Midnight Cry*. A portion of the Collection has a shared provenance with the Andrews University Seminary Library and the Center for Adventist Research.

History of the Review and Herald

The Review and Herald is the oldest ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The publishing work of the Church began in July, 1849, in Middletown, Connecticut, when James White, with the encouragement of his wife, Ellen, published the first issue of *Present Truth*. In 1850 the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* began publication and is still published today as the *Adventist Review*, with many editions around the world.

The fledgling publishing work relocated several times until it settled in Rochester, New York, in 1852. James White purchased a printing press and gathered an effective team of dedicated workers. In 1855 the press moved to Battle Creek, Michigan. Then in 1861, less than a year after Sabbatarian Adventists adopted the name Seventh-day Adventist, the Publishing Association was formed. As the first organization of the yet to be formally organized denomination, its mission was to publish periodicals, books, and tracts to "impart instruction on Bible truth, especially the fulfillment of prophecy, the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus Christ." Also in 1861 James White built a new brick building to house the growing publishing work. Over

the next 40 years the physical plant grew to become the largest and most complete printing establishment in Michigan. Sales grew from \$15,000 in 1873 to half a million dollars in 1890.

On the next to last day of 1902 a fire reduced the Review and Herald building to a pile of charred wood and ash. As a result of this cataclysmic event the Board, with the encouragement of Ellen White, decided to move along with the General Conference to Washington, DC. They temporarily located in downtown Washington, and then in 1905 constructed a permanent building in Takoma Park, D.C., across the line from Maryland. Through the years numerous additions were made to accommodate the growing needs of the publishing house.

In 1980, the Southern Publishing Association, founded by J. Edson White, son of James White, merged with the Review and Herald. This merger caused the management to seek additional space. This led to the purchase of 127 acres in Hagerstown, Maryland, where a new office and production facility was built. The new facility officially opened in July 1983.

Through the years the Review and Herald Publishing Association has been one of the most important ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Uncounted millions of books, periodicals, tracts, ingathering papers, and a host of other publications have literally circled the globe with the light of truth.

History of the Review and Herald Editorial Library

There is little said in print about the origins of the Review and Herald Editorial Library. Presumably it was begun by James White and augmented over the years by Uriah Smith and others. The wide range of subjects represented in Review and Herald publications required a well-supplied editorial library. The original library undoubtedly contained many priceless items. These were all lost in the 1902 fire. The first issue of the *Review and Herald* following the fire carried this bit of news: “The files [back copies] of the paper, which were kept in the editorial room, together with the valuable editorial library, were lost in the fire. It happens, however, that a complete set of the files of the *Review*, including a file of the original *Present Truth*, was in the vault in the General Conference office. We therefore have a complete file of the paper available.”

The publishing house was quite successful in rebuilding many of the historic components of their library. By the 1930s they were only looking for specific titles to fill recognized gaps in their holdings. Advertisements in the *Review and Herald* asked for the donation of specific titles.

In 1906 the General Conference leadership “recognized the desirability of having every book published by us in our General Conference Library.” They invited “our publishing houses to supply such a copy of every new book, and ask[ed] them to supply such copies of books already published as are not in our library.” In the 1920s the General Conference Library requested donations of books to help fill in gaps in their collection though not with the same specificity as did the Review and Herald.

When the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary was located in Washington D.C. during the 1930s the General Conference Library was merged into the Seminary’s library. In 1960 when the Seminary moved to Michigan, it took much of the General Conference Library holdings with it. The General Conference reopened its own library, but in 1967 it was merged with the then next-door Review and Herald Library.

In Hagerstown, Maryland, the rare materials of the Review and Herald Editorial Library was located in a central location on the top floor. A specially constructed climate controlled room with a fire suppression system housed the rarer materials.

The Collection at Andrews University

Between December 2004 and the dedication of the Review and Herald Library Collection on March 5, 2005, most of the materials were organized and cataloged for use. Careful attention has been given to recognizing the legacy of the Review and Herald in the catalogue.

Each book in the collection has a marker which indicates it is a part of the “Review and Herald Library Collection.” The original Review and Herald bookplates remain in the books. At least one copy of each title and edition is kept in the collection to maintain the original Review and Herald Library. A number of volumes from the Review and Herald were duplicates. These duplicates will mostly be shared with Adventist universities and research centers around the world where the books will do the most good.

Those wishing to see what is included in the collection can use the James White Library online catalog at <http://www.andrews.edu/library>, and do a title search for “Review and Herald Library.” This will show all of the holdings that are a part of the collection.

Bright days are ahead for Adventist studies and the Review and Herald Publishing Association has made the possibilities even brighter. Through the donation of the Review and Herald Library they have provided a permanent

legacy that will benefit untold numbers of scholars, pastors, church leaders and members, and society at large.