

Cloisters To Exhibit Rare Manuscripts

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—A special exhibit of rare manuscripts from the German religious community of Ephrata Cloister will open on April 21st at The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

The exhibit, "Early American Illuminated Manuscripts from the Ephrata Cloister," has been organized by Smith College Museum of Art. It reunites many of the original Ephrata Cloister manuscripts for the first time since their creation some 250 years ago and features a collection of items selected from museums and libraries throughout the east coast—including the Library of Congress and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to view the manu-

scripts in one exhibit," according to Michael Showalter, museum educator. "There are no plans to do this again anywhere in the country."

Scholars of folk art refer to these manuscript treasures by the German term Fraktur, meaning fractured writing, eluding to the open spaces in the lettering. Members of the cloister produced manuscripts in many forms: music books, wall charts filled with religious sayings, and book inscriptions.

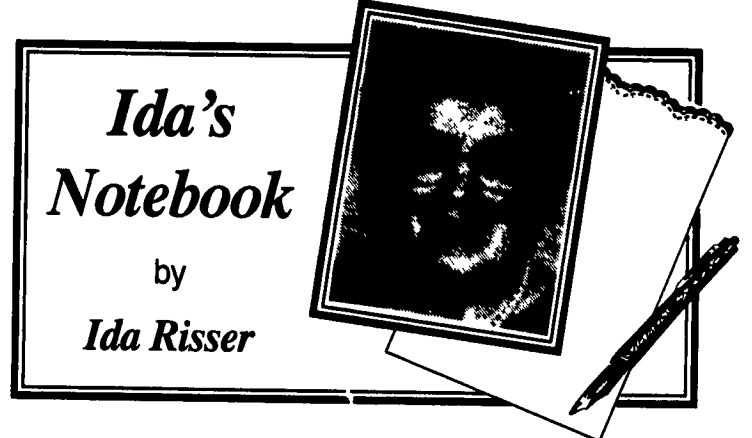
In conjunction with the opening of the exhibit, the Ephrata Cloister chorus will perform a free concert of music on Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m. in the museum auditorium.

The chorus, under the direction of Dr. J. Daryl Hollinger, will present a program including music written by Cloister members and

other early American composers. The Friends of the State Museum are sponsoring a special bus trip and tour of the Ephrata Cloister on May 15. On Saturday, May 20, a beginning calligraphy workshop will be offered at the State Museum. Registration and a fee are required for the trip and workshop. To register for the trip and workshop, call (717) 787-6590.

"The Ephrata Cloister represents one of America's earliest communal societies," said Showalter. "The Lancaster County community of religious celibates practiced an austere lifestyle which emphasized spiritual and mystical goals rather than material objectives."

The Ephrata Cloister and the State Museum operate under the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The State Museum of Pennsylvania is located at Third and North Streets, Harrisburg. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information call (717) 787-4978. Individuals with disabilities who need special attendance or accommodation should call (717) 787-4979 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984.



We had enough warm and sunny days so that Allen could rototill the garden. Now the sugar peas are planted in a 100-foot double row so that a fence can be put up to support them. It is a job to drive posts for a fence but then the six-foot high peas are easy to pick.

Our daughter in Atlanta tells us that her spring flowers are finished blooming. I'm lucky to have forsythia blooming in the house as I forced some blossoms by bringing them indoors a week ago.

In regard to our Florida trip, I'd like to finish telling you about our journey homeward. We left the Orlando area and traveled to Silver Springs. Here the artesian springs are the world's largest. We

went in a glass-bottom boat and could see 40 feet below the surface. Allen and I had been there before on our wedding trip and at that time we saw many more fish.

The same day we had a jeep safari ride and saw many unusual animals. This was followed by a jungle voyage on a larger boat. Some of the giraffes in their zoo were 18 feet tall. My husband bought a sign in a gift shop for our 12th and youngest grandchild—it said "Bryan Blvd."

Our next stop was Savannah where we had a guided tour of the city. One house that we visited was the "Isaiah Davenport" home and it was built in the early 1800s the same as our farm house in Lancaster County and it was quite similar.

All along the way we checked license plates and at the end of the trip we had identified 46 different ones. We were too well fed and decided that we better eat a lot of grapefruit when we got home.

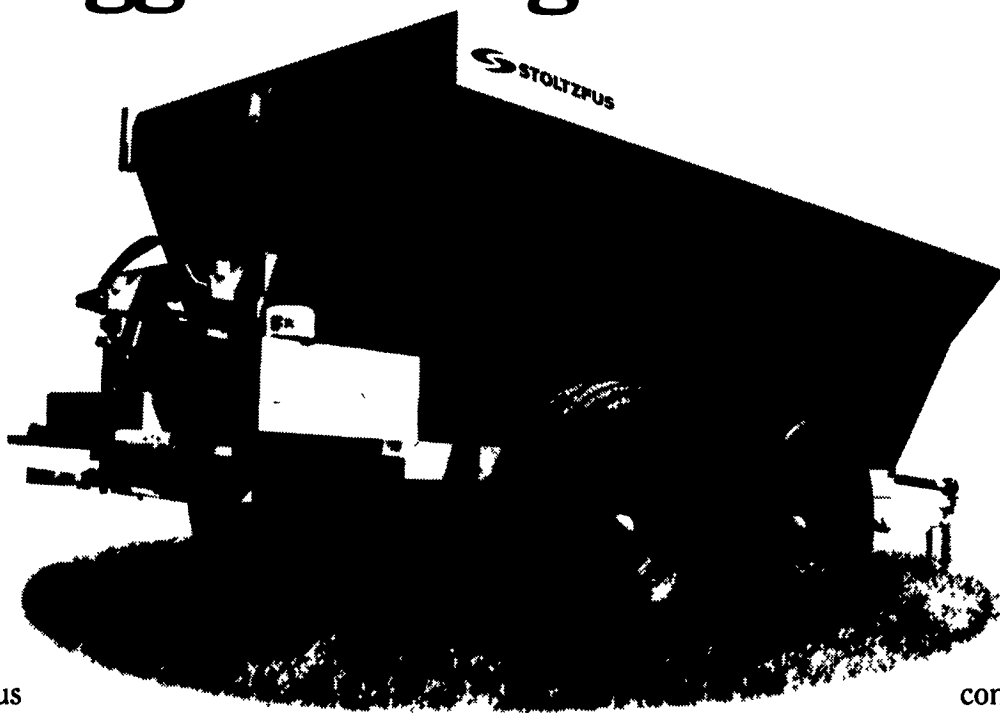
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