**79. April 8, 1709.** *A letter to the United Mennonite church at Amsterdam from the United Mennonite church at Rotterdam, asking support for some Palatines who have arrived there intending to remove to Pennsylvania.*

[recto]

To the respected preachers and the rest of the overseers of the United Mennonites at Amsterdam, having their meetings with the Lamist and Toren congregations.

Very worthy brothers in the Lord, salvation be to you!

Some days ago there arrived here nine or ten households from the Palatinate, close to Worms and Frankental, all very poor people, with the intention to change their place of dwelling to Pennsylvania. And so the journey here required a fair amount, and these people, as they explain to us, bring almost nothing along of what is needed for food and shelter, much less the moneys which shall be required for the passage from here to England and the great journey from there, and, after having traversed that [distance], to establish themselves in that strange land. These people are not only Christians, but also Mennonites,[[1]](#footnote-1) and are provided with testimonies of their membership.

They have approached us and declared their need and requested help and support from us, so we have considered it urgent to communicate this to you, wondering whether there is not yet some remainder left over from the moneys collected some years ago for the poor Palatine brothers. If so, whether one should not be able to approve helping these needy people from the funds. If not, whether you would please propose some suitable means, then, for the work in order to reach the reported urgent and Christian goal. Accordingly we shall be looking first and foremost

to your welcome answer because the matter cannot easily be postponed.

Remaining meanwhile after committing it to God,

Rotterdam The Preachers and the rest of the Overseers

April 8, 1709 of the United Mennonites

at Rotterdam, and in name of all

as writer

Adriaan van Alkmaar[[2]](#footnote-2)

[verso: address]

The Honored Preachers and the rest of

the Overseers of the United Mennonites

having their meetings with the Lamist and

Toren congregations at Amsterdam

Letter from the ministers

from Rotterdam about

some Palatine families

who arrived there,

dated April 8, 1709

1. **79** 1 John Ruth discusses this little party, most of whom would settle in the Mennonite community at Skippack, north of Germantown, Pa. Ruth, *Maintaining the Right Fellowship*, pp. 85-86. Cf. De Hoop Scheffer, “Vriendschapsbetrekkingen,” pp. 4-5; Pennypacker, p. 122. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *DB* (1909), p. 130. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)