45. June 27, 1710. Letter from six Swiss Mennonites from London, with thanks for the travel money provided them. They report that they went on board ship on June 24 and, before long, expect to depart for America.

 On this ship, the unarmed Mary Hope with John Annis as captain, were twenty-nine Palatine Mennonites, who had received 200 guilders from the Dutch Mennonites. They began the voyage under the protection of Russian warships and arrived safely on September 23 at Philadelphia.[[1]](#footnote-1)

[page 1]

Worthy and beloved Friends,[[2]](#footnote-2)

Besides a wish for all earthly and eternal wellbeing, we want to report to the dear friends that we have received properly that good deed, which the dear friends out of generous mercy have directed for our journey. This generous aid has arrived very opportunely for us because the trip has cost more than we had supposed. God bless the worthy friends in time and eternity. Whatever is beneficial to the body and healthful for the soul may the merciful God grant you and constantly be and remain your Rewarder.

Concerning our journey, however, we report that we were held up here almost ten weeks before we could get onto a ship. But now as soon as we actually boarded the ship on the 24th, we were well lodged and cared for. As we understand, we will sail the coming Saturday or Sunday from here to Gravesend and there wait on the Russian convoy.

May God be with us and let us land as successfully in America as here in England. With this we commend you to the merciful God, and should we not [page 2] see one another in this world, may God grant that we see one another in eternity. With this, we commit us all together to the merciful God with a heart-felt greeting from us all, remaining

Your

True friends

London June 27, Old Style, Martin Kündig [Kendig, Kindig],[[3]](#footnote-3)

1710 Jacob Müller [Miller]

Martin Oberholtzer [Overholt]

Martin Meili [Meiley, Mylin]

Christian Herr [Hare]

Hans Herr.

[page 3: blank]

[page 4: Address]

To our worthy

Friends and Beloved

benefactors

Amsterdam

1. 45 John L. Ruth, The Earth Is the Lord’s: A Narrative History of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference. (Scottdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 2001), pp. 164-167. Ruth gives a vivid description of this voyage to the New World. A first-hand account of this same trip is given by Samuel Gülden in “Journey from, England, to New Castle, Delaware, Letter Dated December 1, 1710” in PMH 33 (Apr. 2010),   
   pp. 20-33. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. C. Henry Smith gives an English translation of this letter on p. 151 of The Mennonite Immigration to Pennsylvania In the Eighteenth Century (1929), but incorrectly interprets the date and order of signatures. Other English translations are “On the Way to Pennsylvania,” Mennonite Year Book and Almanac (1911), p. 35; Ira D. Landis, “For a Faith’s Pure Shrine,” Mennonite Research Journal (Oct. 1960), p. 25; and PMH 33 (Apr. 2010), p. 34. Multiple translations of this document indicate its importance for Mennonite migration to the New World with the names of the forefathers of many American Mennonites. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Perhaps either the first signer or the last signer was the writer. Hans Herr (born 1639) was 71 in June 1710, but the writing is firm. Elizabeth Kendig was his wife and Christian his son. ME II, 712. North American spellings are given in brackets. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)