

BHR 5: 194-5

**Edwin N. Cross**

**3 April 1951-18 August 2009**

Walking in the mountains above Kandersteg (Switzerland) one holiday, we encountered a couple giving out gospel tracts. Having established that they were Brethren, I asked, “Kennen Sie Edwin Cross?” and was not too surprised when they answered in the affirmative! The sudden illness and death in the USA this summer of Edwin Cross has robbed historians of the Brethren of a valued collaborator and unique character. Well known as a minister of the Word among Kelly-Lowe-Glanton (or Reunited) Brethren worldwide, he was the director of Chapter Two in south-east London, which is now a sizeable enterprise with a mission to publish and distribute Brethren works and evangelistic literature in various languages. Edwin began literature work during the 1970s with a stall on Woolwich market, and he never lost his taste for open-air evangelism. On the other hand, more recently he turned his hand to writing, producing a biography of William Kelly, *The Irish Saint and Scholar*, in 2004 and working on another, of C. H. Mackintosh. Alongside the business, he built up a large personal archive of Brethren works, with particular strengths in the area of Exclusive periodicals and books; the Christian Brethren Archive has cause to be grateful for his assistance in supplying photocopies of rare works. I used his archive a considerable amount, and was always made welcome. Hospitality extended to an invitation to share in the workers’ mid-day meal, which was usually enlivened by Edwin’s wide-ranging store of informative trivia and his love of awful puns. What I found moving was that, although he knew (and would doubtless have disapproved of) my ecclesiastical affiliation as an Anglican, it presented no barrier to our personal fellowship as Christian believers. Like many others, including his wife Marylon and family, I shall miss him.

Tim Grass