

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Calvin University and Calvin Theological Seminary
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402

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Calvin Courier

H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Reformation, Research, Teaching, Community Outreach



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The Electronic Calvin Courier: Help us save trees and paper!

We now offer our Meeter Center newsletter in both digital and paper formats. If you would like to be included on our email list to receive your newsletter as a pdf attachment, please send an email to:

meeter@calvin.edu.

From the Director

The Meeter Center has been busy with planning and preparations this spring! We are hosting the quadrennial International Calvin Congress at Calvin Theological Seminary from July 25 to July 28, 2023. There's still time to sign up for what promises to be an excellent conference, on the theme of Calvin, Exile, and Religious Refugees. Follow this link to sign up:

<https://internationalcongressoncalvinresearch.com/>

We have selected six visiting scholars for 2023-24. This year's recipients come from the United States, Scotland, the Netherlands, and China. please see p. 3 for more information about them and their projects. We look forward to their time with us and their research presentations towards the end of their stay.

Our other main task this spring has been to search for a new Meeter Center curator. Our current Curator, Paul Fields, will retire in June 2023, after over thirty years of service. Please see p. 2 for a tribute to Paul and an introduction to our new curator, Sam Ha. We are delighted to welcome him and look forward to his work among us.

As always, we appreciate the ongoing support of so many friends of the Meeter Center. Your financial gifts enable us to offer a wide range of programs, fellowships, conferences, and special events. Please see p. 4 on how to donate - and thank you!

Karin Maag

Your Friends Membership

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends' donations help provide funding for special programs, including fellowships, workshops, and community educational events.

Supporter \$50	Advocate \$500
Donor \$100	Partner \$1000
Promoter \$250	Benefactor \$5000

Donate to our Endowment or Rare Book Fund

Currently the Meeter Center owns approximately half of Calvin's works in original editions, and we expand our offerings each year. Donations to the Rare Book fund are used exclusively for adding rare books to the collection. Endowment Fund donations are also welcomed. We have a \$5 million endowment goal and are nearly half-way there, thanks to your generosity!

Donation checks may be made out to "Calvin University Meeter Center" and sent to 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. To donate online, go to: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/contribute/> Thank you!

International Calvin Congress this summer: John Calvin, Exile, and Religious Refugees

Don't forget to register for the International Calvin Congress, July 25 to 28, 2023, at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI. The headline speakers are: Bruce Gordon (Yale), Mirjam van Veen (Amsterdam), Max Engammare (Geneva), Kenneth Woo (Pittsburgh), Michael Bruening (Missouri). The schedule, list of plenary speakers, and registration page are all available at here:

<https://internationalcongressoncalvinresearch.com/>

Tribute to Paul Fields

In 1990, Paul Fields began his work at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, first as theological librarian, and then taking over the role of curator of the Meeter Center. For over three decades, he has been for many the always helpful, friendly, and welcoming face of the Meeter Center - whether in person, on the phone, or responding by email to requests for a copy of an article or information about a particular resource in Calvin Studies. He has been an outstanding colleague to Karin Maag, the Meeter Center Director - always ready to lend a hand at a moment's notice, whether to move tables for a Meeter Center event, drive to Wisconsin to collect innumerable boxes of books donated by Robert Kingdon, orient patrons and scholars to the collection, or help plan and run major events. Thanks to him, the Meeter Center's collection of books, rare books, articles, and other resources has grown to be an outstanding scholarly resource, as highlighted in the annual Calvin bibliography which he so carefully prepares. We pray for God's blessings as he and his wife Kim move into retirement at the end of June - he will be missed!



Introducing our new curator, Sam Ha

Sam comes to us from South Korea - he did his undergraduate degree at the London School of Theology, his master's at Korea Theological Seminary in Busan, South Korea, and is currently a PhD candidate at Calvin Theological Seminary.

He brings to this position his expertise in assisting students and scholars with their research projects, his own strong research and writing skills (he has already published two peer-reviewed articles), his strong knowledge of our collection and operations thanks to his previous work as a student assistant in the Meeter Center, and his eagerness to help make the Meeter Center and its work better known among students, scholars, and the wider community. Sam and his wife Lila have three children: Leo, Emma, and Levi. We are delighted to welcome Sam to this position and we look forward to his service as curator and theological librarian starting in the summer of 2023.



Recent Publications in Calvin Studies

- Books:**
- 1) Colson, Charles Burton. "The Day of Rest: A New Reading of John Calvin's Teaching on the Fourth Commandment." PhD dissertation. King's College, University of Aberdeen, 2021.
 - 2) Gordon, Bruce & Carl R. Trueman, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Calvin and Calvinism*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Articles:**
- 1) Essary, Kirk. "The Mind's Bloody Sweat: (Dis)embodied Emotions in Erasmus, More, and Calvin." *Paragon* 38:1 (2021): 41-64.
 - 2) Quackenbos, David C. "Calling in Conflict: John Calvin's Pastoral Theology During His Strasbourg Exile, 1538-1541." *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 65:2 (2022): 333-348.

Meeter Center Visiting Scholars Summer 2023

We welcome our fellowship recipients for 2023. Each of them will present on their research towards the end of their stay.

Meeter Family Fellowship:

Bernard van Vreeswijk, a minister in the Protestant Church in Scheveningen (The Hague), will work on a project on the concept of divine satisfaction and forgiveness in the Reformed tradition.

Friends of the Meeter Center Research Fellowship:

Qingyu Wang, a current PhD student at the University of Beijing in China will work on her thesis on "Scottish and French Calvinism on the limitation of monarchical power and its influence on 16th century history plays."

Faculty Fellowships:

Jared R. Michelson, Honorary lecturer and Honorary chaplain at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, will work on his monograph which began as a PhD dissertation under the supervision of John Webster and Oliver Crisp, evaluating Reformed accounts of the doctrine of God.

Student Fellowships:

Thomas M. Alexander, an M.Div. student at Virginia Theological Seminary, will work on how the "textuality" of Holy Scripture features in and contributeto John Calvin's theology.

Elizabeth Hines, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department at the University of Chicago, will work on her doctoral dissertation project: "Anglo-Dutch Commerce, Religion and War 1635-1651".

Emo Van Halsema Fellowships:

Max Rogland, a senior minister at Rose Hill Presbyterian Church, South Carolina, will work on a project titled "Queen Esther among the monstrous regiment: The role of the book of Esther in 16th century politics."

"Numismatic Calvin"

On March 23, we welcomed guests to the Meeter Center who came to see and hear about one of the world's largest collections of commemorative medals of John Calvin and other Reformation-era figures and events! The Center also expressed its appreciation to Bob King, who has been instrumental in helping the Center acquire such a magnificent collection.

Paul Fields, the Curator of the Meeter Center, began by discussing the idea of collecting. Why does anyone collect anything? What does collecting do for us? He then highlighted what the medals are about, what they say about us, and what they achieved in their own day. Bob King then followed, telling the story of his coin collecting. His passion for coins began in 1997 when he was a theology student at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids and was writing an MA thesis on John Calvin. He often visited the Meeter Center to do his research. One day, Rev. Ray Teeuwissen visited the Meeter Center to talk about commemorative coins that he was transferring to the Meeter Center, and Bob happened to be there! His passion for coins started that day. He then presented some of his favorite medals related to Calvin and the Reformation, with one representative commemorative coin from each century. The Meeter Center director Karin Maag also spoke about the significance of the medal collection, saying that these coins were struck to mark significant events and allowed people to see representations of the Reformers. She pointed out that having the images of Reformers on coins raises interesting and important questions about how the Reformers have been perceived by Protestants, especially in the context of Protestant opposition to medals and effigies of Catholic saints.



Bob King and Paul Fields

Report prepared by Sam Ha