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John Calvin

Calvin Courier

The newsletter of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies

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From the Director

As spring comes once again to West Michigan, we look back on a productive fall and winter, and forward to a very busy summer. We continue to host classes, offer public lectures on Reformation-related topics and provide research assistance to students, faculty, and scholars from further afield who come to the Meeter Center to make use of our collection and make progress on their various projects. We also continue to focus on acquiring materials. Our reading room now provides access to 6,992 books and 24,330 articles – these works, along with our rare books, microfiche and microfilm resources, and e-books accessible through Hekman Library make us one of the largest and most comprehensive collections on Calvin and Calvinism world-wide.

In July we will be hosting a number of our visiting scholars, our two-week Genevan paleography course and our three-week National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute on the Reformation. Over the course of the month, upwards of forty scholars will be using the Center – not surprisingly, we are spending considerable time focusing

on logistics. See p. 2-3 for the names of those selected as participants for our various summer programs.

We are also increasingly turning our attention to plans for 2017 and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A number of sites have begun listing events to commemorate the anniversary, including lectures, conferences, exhibits, concerts, etc. See the following sites for listings:

<http://www.refo500.nl/rc/pages/623/reformation-conferences.html> (mainly for conferences in Europe) and

<http://www.elca500.org/events/> (mainly for exhibits and events in the US). In conjunction with other departments, centers, and institutes at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, the Meeter Center is planning a range of events including public lectures, special adult education classes, a concert and a major art exhibit. Please let us know at meeter@calvin.edu about any events you are planning. As always, thank you for your continued interest in the Meeter Center and its work

Karin Y. Maag

The Genevan Psalter Revisited

For the 2016 H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies spring lecture, Emily Brink gave a talk entitled “The Genevan Psalter Revisited”. Prof. Brink is a former adjunct professor of church music and congregational song, emeritus editor of *Reformed Worship*, and editor of the Christian Reformed Church *Psalter Hymnal* (1987). In her lecture, Prof. Brink explored the original publishing phenomenon of the Genevan Psalter in 1562, the reception of the Genevan Psalter in different countries in the past five centuries, and current translations of the Genevan Psalter.

Brink first compared and contrasted Calvin’s and Luther’s use of congregational songs. Both Reformers had the goal of encouraging congregational singing in the vernacular. Luther, with his monastic training and mastery of the Catholic chant tradition, attempted to translate traditional chants into the German language; however, when that proved difficult, Luther adopted the chorale form. This meant translating the Psalms into metrical poetry. Calvin, on the other hand, adapted the Psalm text directly into metrical forms. Brink then described the initial reception of the Genevan Psalter. Finally completed in 1562, approximately 27,000 copies of the Genevan Psalter were printed in its first two

years, not only for the people of Geneva, but also for the greater Reformed communities across continental Europe.

The Genevan Psalter functioned as a communal prayer book in the midst of persecution. The Psalms were sung in churches as a confession of faith but also in schools as a pedagogical tool. Brink quoted John Witvliet, “... psalm singing is a discipline of sung prayer...[and it is] not unlike Benedictine monasticism.” On any given week, a Genevan inhabitant would sing thirty stanzas from the Psalms. This marked a huge change for the Christians in Geneva: men, women, and children could lift their voices to the Lord directly, which was not a common practice in the Roman Catholic Church.



Emily Brink

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The Genevan Psalter Revisited, *continued*

Brink surveyed various modern translations of the Genevan Psalter. Hungary, with its tremendously rich choral heritage, completed its translation of the Genevan Psalter in 1948. Indonesia, which inherited the tradition of Psalm singing through the missionary work of the Dutch via the Dutch East India Company in the 17th century, produced a new translation of the Genevan Psalter in 2008. It incorporates both original Genevan tunes and indigenous Indonesian songs for the church. Brink noted that these enculturated songs are transplanted from Geneva into their own context, but are also making their way into North American hymnals. Japan, a country where Christians make up less than 1% of the total population, has had since 2004 the entire Genevan Psalter in Japanese. Korea, a country evangelized by American Presbyterian, who themselves lost the psalm-singing tradition in favor of hymn singing, published a Genevan Psalter in 2009. The Netherlands, which always had the Genevan Psalter, published a new version of the Genevan Psalter in 2013. Finally, in Canada, the Genevan Psalter was translated by the Canadian Reformed church in 2013 by a group of second and third generation Dutch immigrants who sought to maintain a tight relationship to the Dutch roots of the Genevan Psalter.

Brink concluded that there is a desire to establish or reestablish the worship tradition of psalm singing worldwide. This is accomplished differently in various parts of the world. While acknowledging the great heritage and tradition in the original Genevan Psalter of 1562, the Reformation emphasis on singing in the vernacular means that the usage of the Genevan Psalter in the 21st century involves the translation of the Psalms into local languages, but also the application of a culture's music to the text.

Edmund Saw, PhD student, Calvin Theological Seminary

Funded Research Fellowships

Every year, the Meeter Center offers fellowships for graduate students, faculty, and pastors. Fellowship recipients receive a stipend to come to the Center to do research on subjects pertaining to John Calvin and Calvinism. **Previous fellowship recipients may re-apply after a minimum one-year hiatus.** For further details visit:

<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/new/fellowships-and-scholarships>

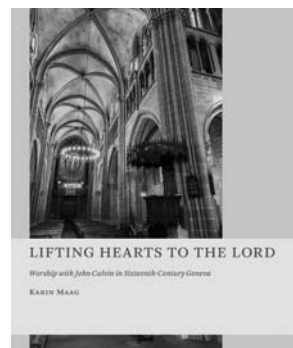


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Lifting Hearts to the Lord

In January 2016, Eerdmans published Meeter Center Director Karin Maag's annotated collection of documents (all in English) on worship in Calvin's Geneva, in the series *The Church at Worship*. This compendium volume offers various helpful tools to guide the reader, including a historical introduction, helpful notes and source information, as well as discussion questions, a glossary and bibliography. The work provides a wide range of documents, from images of church interiors and liturgical objects, first-person accounts, and documents from the Genevan city council and consistory records, to Calvin's views on worship as articulated in his sermons, commentaries, and correspondence. For more information see:

<http://www.eerdmans.com/Products/7147/lifting-hearts-to-the-lord.aspx>



Fellowships Awarded in 2016

Seven research fellowships were awarded in 2016:

Faculty Research Fellowship

Dr. Gordon Raeburn, Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne in Australia, will study Calvin, Castellio, and the emotions of tolerance.

Friends Research Fellowship

Eric Rivera, Pastor at The Brook Church, Chicago, IL and Ph.D Student at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, will look at prayer, catechisms, and the spiritual formation of the family.

Student Research Fellowship

Kyle Dieleman, Ph.D Candidate at the University of Iowa, will research the theological and practical understandings of the Sabbath in the Dutch Reformation.

Matthias Mangold, Ph.D Candidate at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit in Leuven, Belgium, will study the covenant theology of Salomon van Til (1643-1713).

Alden McCray, Ph.D Student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, will look at Calvin's doctrine of the divine attributes.

Greg Salazar, Ph.D Candidate at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, will research the imputation of Christ's righteousness in 16th and 17th century Reformed theology.

Emo F.J. Van Halsema Fellowship

Rev. Chelsey Harmon, Pastor at Christ Community Church in Nanaimo, BC, Canada, will compare John Calvin's writings with Richard J. Foster's *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith*.

Im Memoriam

In late 2015, the world of Reformation studies said goodbye to one of North America's most eminent experts in the field. Professor David Steinmetz (Duke Divinity School) died on Thanksgiving Day at age 79. He authored many important studies including *Calvin in Context* (1995, 2010), *Reformers in the Wings* (1971, 2001) and *Taking the Long View: Christian Theology in Historical Perspective* (2011). He supervised the PhD research of several noted Reformation scholars including Richard Muller, Timothy Wengert, and Sujin Pak. He served with distinction on the Meeter Center board as a member at large from 1993 to 1999. David was an outstanding scholar, a leading figure in Reformation studies in the United States, and a warm and generous person. He will be sorely missed.



From left to right: Richard Muller, John Schneider, Lyle Bierma, Timothy Wengert, and David Steinmetz (Meeter Center, fall 1997)

2016 NEH Participants

Planning for our 2016 National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute, "Teaching the Reformation after 500 years" continues apace. Fifty-two applicants from twenty-five states across the US competed for the twenty-five available places. The institute starts on July 11 and runs through July 29. Here is the list of selected and confirmed participants:

- Amanda Allen, History dept., Brewton-Parker College, GA
- Phillip Brandt, Theology dept., Concordia University Portland, OR
- Karin Breuer, History, Ithaca College, NY
- Julia Bruggemann, History dept., De Pauw University, IN
- Grace Coolidge, History dept., Grand Valley State University, MI

- Christopher Denny, Theology dept., St. Johns University, NY
- Lisa Diller, History dept., Southern Adventist University, TN
- Thomas Farmer, History dept., Erskine College, SC
- Martha Garcia, Modern languages and literatures dept., University of Central Florida, FL
- Angela Heetderks, English dept., Oberlin College, OH
- Joshua Held, English dept., Trinity International University, IL
- Suzanne Hequet, Theology dept., Concordia University St. Paul, MN
- Bethany Kilcrease, History dept., Aquinas College, MI
- Diana Kirby, Religious Studies dept., Edgewood College, WI
- Stephanie Kucsera, Graduate Student, English, Loyola University Chicago, IL
- Margaret Lewis, History dept., University of Tennessee Martin, TN
- Jennifer Liston, Art dept., Salisbury University, MD
- Ryan Paul, Language and Literature dept., Texas A&M Kingsville, TX
- Ute Possek, History dept., Gordon College, MA
- Julianne Sandberg, English dept., Wheaton College, IL
- Amanda Scott, Graduate Student, History, Washington University St. Louis, MO
- Andrea Smidt, History dept., Geneva College, PA
- Joseph Tipton, World Languages dept., Winthrop University, SC
- Jessica Walker, History dept., Johns Hopkins University, MD
- Julia Zhao, Graduate Student, Medieval Studies, University of Notre Dame, IN

Summer French Paleography Course

This summer the Meeter Center will again offer a two-week course for graduate students and scholars interested in reading manuscript sources in French. The course will draw on a variety of documents from the Genevan State Archives, primarily from the 1540s to the 1560s, as well as documents from the Meeter Center's own collection. We are pleased to welcome back Tom Lambert, an expert in French Paleography, as the course instructor. Those selected for the course are:

- Holly Kizewski, Ph.D student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Michelle Kuykendall, MA student at the University of Missouri St. Louis
- Jamie Kwan, Ph.D student at Princeton University
- Thomas Meyers, Ph.D student at the University of Notre Dame
- Kelly Peebles, Asst. Professor, French, Clemson University
- Joseph TenHulzen, MA student at the University of Iowa
- Matthew Vanderpoel, Ph.D student at the University of Chicago
- Anna Young, Ph.D student at Vanderbilt University

New Books

Beza, Theodore. *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze. Volume 40 (1599)*. Edited by Hippolyte Aubert, et al. Geneva: Droz, 2015.

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Calvin, Jean. *Institutio Christianae Religionis: A keresztyén vallás rendszere 1559*. Translated by Dezső Buzogány. Budapest: A Magyarországi Református Egyház Kálvin János Kiadója, 2014.

----- *Ioannis Calvini Varia, Volumen I. Congrégations et Disputations*. Edited by Erik A. de Boer. Geneva: Droz, 2014.

Daussy, Hugues. *Le parti huguenot: Chronique d'une désillusion (1557-1572)*. Geneva: Droz, 2015.

George, Victoria Ann. *Whitewash and the New Aesthetic of the Protestant Reformation*. London: Pindar Press, 2012.

Junius, Franciscus. *The Mosaic Polity*. Translated by Todd M. Rester. Edited by Andrew M. McGinnis. Grand Rapids: CLP Academic, 2015.

Parsons, Michael, ed. *Reformation Faith: Exegesis and Theology in the Protestant Reformations*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2014.

Schmoeckel, Mathias. *Das Recht der Reformation: Die epistemologische Revolution der Wissenschaft und die Spaltung der Rechtsordnung in der Frühen Neuzeit*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2014.

Stawarz-Luginbühl, Ruth. *Un théâtre de l'épreuve: Tragédies Huguenotes en marge des guerres de religion en France, 1550-1573*. Geneva: Droz, 2012.

Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors

The 2016 winners are:

1st Place: **Jenna Gaffner** of Hudsonville, MI

2nd Place: **Ally DeYoung** of Grandville, MI

Naomi Vroegop of Caledonia, MI

Lauren VanVugt of Grandville, MI

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