



John Calvin

Calvin Courier

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

Spring 2004, Number 33

From the Director

As we gradually move toward spring in Michigan, we look forward to a busy summer. Our fifteen participants in the National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar have been selected, and we are currently working on the practical arrangements to ensure that all participants have a comfortable and fulfilling stay in Grand Rapids. A list of the confirmed participants and their university affiliations can be found on page 4.

We have selected six visiting scholars for 2004. Their countries of origin range from Australia to the Netherlands to the United States. Several of the visiting scholars will be here at the same time as our NEH seminar participants, so we look forward to fruitful interactions. As in previous years, the scholars will present the results of their work toward the end of their stay. All are welcome to attend these presentations. Please see page 3 for more on this year's visiting scholars.

The Meeter Center notes with sadness the passing of several leading scholars of Calvinism and Reformation

studies, including Dr. Edward Dowey (May 5, 2003), Dr. James Kittelson (November 10, 2003), Dr. Fred Klooster (December 27, 2003), and Dr. William Bouwsma (March 2, 2004). Dr. Bouwsma in particular had ties to the Meeter Center through his service on our Governing Board from 1989 to 1991. Paying tribute to him, Calvin emeritus history professor and former Meeter Center Governing Board president Frank Roberts wrote, "He was a wonderful Christian gentleman in addition to being a world-class scholar. It was our blessing to have had him on the Meeter Center board for those three years."

My sabbatical projects (on Calvin's second catechism and on his works more generally) have led me to make extensive use of the Meeter Center collection. Once again I am struck by how much we have benefited from the careful collection of books, articles, microfilm, microfiches, and rare books built up over the years. The Center truly is a valuable resource, one we look forward to sharing with our visitors over the coming months.

Karin Y. Maag

A Spring Colloquium

The Meeter Center was pleased to feature Dr. Laura Smit, professor in the Religion Department at Calvin College, at its recent spring colloquium. Dr. Smit, whose areas of expertise include medieval theology and contemporary debates in systematic theology, offered an engaging presentation entitled "Developing a Calvinist Sacramental Theology," in which she used John Calvin's doctrine of the Lord's Supper as an entry point into broader questions of theological aesthetics.

By her own admission, discussions of aesthetics that look to the Lord's Supper are much more common in Roman Catholic quarters, which build upon the doctrine of transubstantiation. She sought,

therefore, to develop a constructive Protestant approach to beauty in the created order by pushing the boundaries of historical Reformed conceptions of spiritual presence in the Supper. During her presentation Dr. Smit first gave an overview of Calvin on the Supper, and then she proposed a model to explain how the goodness and beauty of the world parallels the



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New Acquisitions

Books

Benedict, Philip. *Christ's Churches Purely Reformed: A Social History of Calvinism*. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2002.

Boer, E.A. de. *John Calvin on the Visions of Ezekiel: Historical and Hermeneutical Studies in John Calvin's Sermons inédits, especially on Ezek. 36–48*. Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2004.

Calvin, John. *Institutio Christianae religionis*. Romanian edition. Vol. 1. Oradea: Cartea Crestinã, 2003.

Calvin, John. *Institutio Christianae religionis*. Romanian edition. Vol. 2. Oradea: Cartea Crestinã, 2003.

Conseil de Genève. *Registres du Conseil de Genève à l'époque de Calvin*. Vol. 1. Publiés sous la direction des Archives d'Etat de Genève. Geneva: Droz, 2003.

Mallinson, Jeffrey. *Faith, Reason, and Revelation in Theodore Beza, 1519–1605*. Oxford; NY: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Muller, Richard A. *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics: The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy, ca. 1520 to ca. 1725*. Vol. 1–4. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Oberman, Heiko Augustinus. *The Two Reformations: The Journey from the Last Days to the New World*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003.

Sunshine, Glenn S. *Reforming French Protestantism: The Development of Huguenot Ecclesiastical Institutions, 1557–1572*. Kirksville, Mo.: Truman State University Press, 2003.

Articles

Chavura, Stephen. "The Universe of Calvin and Hobbes: Towards an Understanding of Calvin's Anthropology and His Political Thought." *Churchman* 117, no. 1, 2003: 33–55.

Douglass, E. Jane Dempsey. "Pastor and Teacher of the Refugees: Calvin in the Work of Heiko A. Oberman." In *The Work of Heiko A. Oberman*, edited by Thomas A. Brady, Jr. et al., 51–65. Leiden: Brill, 2003.

Meeter Center Web Site

We have revised and updated our Web site! To access information about our collection, search our article citation database (CARD), and find out about upcoming events go to www.calvin.edu/meeter.

Kaiser, Christopher B. "Climbing Jacob's Ladder: John Calvin and the Early Church on Our Eucharistic Ascent to Heaven." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 56, no. 3, 2003: 247–67.

Kingdon, Robert M. "Nostalgia for Catholic Rituals in Calvin's Geneva." In *Grenzgänge der Theologie*, edited by Otmar Meuffels, 209–20. Münster: LIT Verlag, 2004.

Kingdon, Robert M. "Catechesis in Calvin's Geneva." In *Educating People of Faith*, edited by John Van Engen, 294–313. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Pellerin, Daniel. "Calvin: Militant or Man of Peace?" *The Review of Politics* 65, no. 1, 2003: 35–59.

Sohn, Byoung Duk. "A Study of Calvin's Reformed Social Work Practice and Suggestions for the Current Christian Social Work." *Presbyterian Theological Quarterly* 70, no. 4, 2003: 159–72.

Wells, Paul. "Le Christ médiateur et la prédestination selon Calvin." *La revue reformée* 55, no. 1, 2004: 39–48.

Zachman, Randall C. "Expounding Scripture and Applying It to Our Use: Calvin's Sermons on Ephesians." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 56, no. 4, 2003: 481–507.

Dissertations

Anders, Albert David. "Prophets from the Ranks of Shepherds: John Calvin and the Challenge of Popular Religion (1532–1555)." Ph.D. diss., University of Iowa, 2002.

Christina, Craig Collier. "Calvin's Theology of Preaching: The Activity of the Holy Spirit in the Preaching Event." Ph.D. diss., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2001.

Garstka, Daniel. "A Politics of Piety: The Latent Modernity of Calvin's Christian Philosophy." Ph.D. diss., University of Toronto, 2002.

Grosse, Christian. "Les rituels de la cène: une anthropologie historique du culte eucharistique réformé à Genève (XVIe–XVIIIe siècles)" Vol. 1, 2. Ph.D. diss., Université de Genève, 2001.

Kunz, Marcus. "Sending Words into Battle: Reformation Understandings and Uses of Letter and Spirit." Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2002.

Wiley, Charles Aden. "Responding to God: The Church as Visible and Invisible in Calvin, Schleiermacher, and Barth." Ph.D. diss., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2002.



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Fellowship Applications for 2005 may be obtained from the Meeter Center upon request and should be returned by January 1, 2005. Application forms are also available on our Web site.

A Spring Colloquium

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symbolism of the Eucharist without resting on either transubstantiation or a "sacramental" character to all of life.

Those students, scholars, and friends who attended the afternoon lecture seemed to enjoy the fresh yet provocative nature of Professor Smit's presentation. Among its many contributions, Smit's "Calvinist Sacramental Theology" reflected the mutual interests of historians, theologians, and philosophers on this subject.

*David Holmlund, M.Div. student
Calvin Theological Seminary*

Fellowships Awarded in 2004

Faculty Research Fellowship: Dr. Mirjam van Veen, a research assistant at the Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, will pursue research on Calvin's treatise against the Anabaptists.

Student Research Fellowship: Mr. Stephen Chavura, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of New England, NSW, Australia, plans to study Calvin and English political thought. Mr. John Exalto, a Ph.D. candidate at the Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, will do research on Calvinism and sanctity.

Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship: Rev. Randall Engle, a pastor at North Hills CRC, Troy, Mich., plans to work on John Calvin's theology of instrumental music in worship and the Dutch organ controversy.

Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship: Dr. Brian Lee, adjunct professor at Reformed Bible College, Grand Rapids, Mich., studied Vermigli on marriage and celibacy in his commentary on 1 Corinthians 7. Mr. Young il Joseph Han, a Ph.D. candidate at City University, New York, N.Y., will pursue work on a conceptual study of the history of childhood in the Reformed tradition.

Meeter Center Colloquium Series

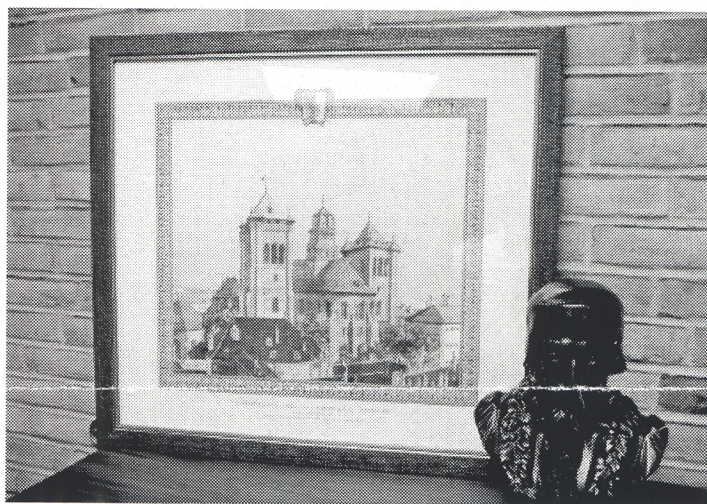
November 18, 2004 Dr. Susan Felch, professor of English at Calvin College, will speak at the Meeter Center's fall colloquium. Her topic will be "Women and the Reformation."

March 3, 2005 Dr. Karin Maag, director of the H. Henry Meeter Center and Calvin College history professor, will be the Meeter Center's 2005 spring lecturer. Her topic will be "Hero or Villain? Interpretations of John Calvin and His Legacy."

Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors

Nine papers were submitted on the topic "John Calvin and Marriage." Abigail Veldkamp from Grand Rapids, Michigan won the first-place award of \$2,500, and second-place winner Kory Plockmeyer of Holland, Michigan, won \$1,250. Contact the Meeter Center to receive an informative brochure about next year's contest. Papers should be received by January 15, 2005.

Van Halsema Family Calviniana Gifts



Within the last year Dr. Dick and Mrs. Thea Van Halsema gave to the Center five prints, several plaques, and a bust of Calvin. Such materials are always welcome since they add to the Center's collection of Calviniana and are interesting in their own right. Both Dr. and Mrs. Van Halsema have long been active in Reformed circles and in their promotion of Calvin studies. Dr. Van Halsema was President of Reformed Bible College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1966 to 1987, while Mrs. Van Halsema has written several books including *This Was John Calvin* and *Three Men Came to Heidelberg*. Also, the Emo Van Halsema Fellowship administered by the Center is a stipendiary award available to pastors from the Reformed tradition. Its purpose is to allow pastors to pursue scholarly research in the field of John Calvin or the Reformation and early Calvinism. This award carries a stipend of \$1,250 annually, funded by an endowment provided by the Van Halsema Family.

The fellowship, the picture of St. Pierre in Geneva, plus the bust of Calvin are three examples of the Van Halsemas' generosity. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing support and interest in the Meeter Center's work.

NEH Summer Seminar

The NEH summer seminar on "John Calvin and the Transformation of Religious Culture in Geneva, France, and Beyond" scheduled for June 28 to July 30, 2004, will be held at the Meeter Center and co-taught by Raymond Mentzer from the University of Iowa and Karin Maag. The confirmed participants and their projects are as follows:

- Martin Batts, professor, chair, English
Le Tourneau University, Longview, Texas
Calvin and Calvinists: similarities and differences
- Daniel Eppley, assistant professor, religion
McMurry University, Abilene, Texas
The Admonition Controversy and royal supremacy in Tudor England
- Amanda Eurich, professor, history
Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington
The confessionally-mixed communities of Béarn and Orange
- Cassandra Falke, instructor, English
Lamar State College, Port Arthur, Texas
The moral and ethical aspects of Reformed higher education
- Jill Fehleison, post-doctoral fellow, history
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
Dialogues between Catholics and Calvinists
- Charles Gunnoe, associate professor, history
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
The Erastian view of church discipline
- Michael Monheit, associate professor, history
University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama
Calvin's formative years, 1528-41

- Jeannine Olson, professor, history
Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island
Calvin's friend Nicholas Des Gallars in Orléans
- Igor Puchkov, instructor, social sciences
Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, Michigan
The complexity and historic role of Calvinism
- Linda Smith, department chair, humanities
Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo, Iowa
Calvin's impact on a theology of international development
- Yudha Thianto, assistant professor, theology
Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois
The practice of private baptism in the Reformation
- Allan Tulchin, post-doctoral fellow, history
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia
The Reformation in Nîmes
- Mike Vander Weele, professor, English
Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois
Calvin's notion of exchange and rhetorical aesthetics
- Michael Vendsel, adjunct professor, social science
Brookhaven Community College, Farmers Branch, Texas
Calvin's analysis of medieval faith and reason
- Darren Walhof, assistant professor, political science
Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan
The reconstruction of religion in Calvin's Geneva

International Congress

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 Web site: www.unizh.ch/irg/bullinger2004engl

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