



John Calvin

# Calvin Courier

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

Fall 2014, Number 54

## From the Director

As the days grow shorter and cooler, we look back on a successful summer and forward to a busy year ahead. The Meeter Center hosted a very successful seventh biennial Genevan Paleography workshop, offering the eight participants the opportunity to improve their abilities in reading manuscript documents in French. See the report on p. 2. Our summer fellowship recipients also enjoyed the opportunity to make use of our collections to further their research. See the report from a Hungarian Student Research fellow below. We encourage you to consider applying for a fellowship for your own research! Our fall Meeter Center lecture featured Professor Frans

Van Liere of Calvin College's history department, speaking on his recently published work, *An Introduction to the Medieval Bible* (Cambridge University Press). Visit the lecture webpage under the "Publications" tab on the Center's homepage to hear an audio recording of the lecture. Looking ahead, our major event this spring will be the Calvin Studies Society biennial conference, hosted by the Meeter Center from April 9 to 11, 2015. This year's theme is Calvin and Worship. See p. 3 for more on the conference and the link to the registration site. We hope to see you there!

Karin Y. Maag

## Hungarian Reflections

It is not without good reason to point out how difficult and interesting it is to enter the field of international Calvin research in recent times. I am convinced it is hard work, because young scholars ought to be familiar with the main points of the reformer's theological and ethical legacy, but besides this they have to find their ways in the big labyrinth of Calvin studies as well. Nevertheless, it is so interesting to discover the multifaceted directions in current Calvin research and to experience the frequently growing influence of John Calvin's admirable heritage. As a consequence, it was a great pleasure, honor, and perhaps a challenge for me to win the Friends Research Fellowship of H. Henry Meeter Center in 2014.

My name is Balázs David Magyar, and I am a young, motivated Ph.D. student at Debrecen Reformed Theological University in Hungary. During my theological studies in Debrecen (2003–2009), I completed several academic courses related to the origins and the history of Calvin and Calvinism. Due to the inspiration of my professors (Sándor Fazakas, Richárd Hörsik, Botond Gaál) and to an Erasmus fellowship, I spent a semester at the Theologische Universiteit Kampen in the Netherlands. As a result of this program, and numerous short term projects in Geneva, Vienna, and Warsaw, I devoted myself entirely to the examination of John Calvin's life and work from the viewpoint of social ethics and church history. It is really hard to deny that after presenting several lectures, essays, and papers, the most remarkable achievement of my Calvin studies was to win the "Young Researchers' Prize" (2012), granted by the Regional

Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia), and to receive the "Lombard Prize" for an international Calvin essay competition declared by World Alliance of Reformed Churches entitled "What would Calvin say? Responsible Stewardship in the Face of Today's Ecological and Financial Crisis."

The basic intention of my application for the Friends Research Fellowship of H. Henry Meeter Center was to finish the background research of my Ph.D. thesis with the following working title "The Structure of John Calvin's Social Thoughts with special emphasis on the ethical way of family life." Why Calvin's social thoughts? Since the publication of André Biéler's famous book *Calvin's Economy and Social Thought*, there has been a growing interest in the social ethics and social thought of John Calvin. My dissertation intends to depict the structure of Calvin's social thought that is based on five substantial pillars, namely: (1.) sermons, (2.) work of the Consistory, (3.) education, (4.) moral edicts of the Genevan Councils, (5.) importance of congregation meetings.

And why the H. Henry Meeter Center? I took part in the Uniting



Balázs David Magyar

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## Hungarian Reflections, *continued*

General Council of World Alliance of Reformed Churches and Reformed Ecumenical Council, organized at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids in 2010. During my stay there, I spent several days at the H. Henry Meeter Center and Hekman Library so as to get acquainted with the catalog of the library. The lists of all materials concerning Calvin's social thought made me constantly anxious to come back to complete my doctoral research, and to prepare for my lecture at the 11th International Congress on Calvin Research (Zürich, 25. August 2014.), with the following title: "The City of Geneva ought to be as a burning lamp to give light. Portraits of Genevan Family Life in John Calvin's Sermons on the Ephesians."

Thanks to the fascinating collections of biographies, monographs, microfilms of doctoral dissertations, registers of the Genevan consistory and council, sermons, articles published in journals and collections of essays, every researcher and visitor accepts that the Calvinism Resources Database and Post Reformation Digital Library of the H. Henry Meeter Center offer admirable possibilities to find all sources related to John Calvin or Calvinism in one place. At the same time it is not possible to speak about these high-quality resources without highlighting the stellar qualities of the staff. In my opinion, the director Karin Maag, the curator Paul Fields, and program coordinator Ryan Noppen have a deep-seated affection, calling and zeal not only for grooming Calvin's spiritual heritage, but also paving the way for the improvement of international discussions on the Genevan reformer as well. To do so, the Meeter Center organizes special events, e.g. Summer French Paleography Workshop, lectures, and programs that guarantee a special insight into the professional way of research on John Calvin's life and influence.

The Friends Research Fellowship lasted simply for one month, but I feel so profoundly that this short term research occupies a very important part not only in my Calvin studies, but in my entire life as well.

In brief, it was a great delight and joy for me to visit Meeter Center and establish strong ties with Karin, Paul, Ryan, and perhaps with other two Research Fellowship students, Allison Brown from Wheaton College, and Christopher McFadin from University of Iowa.

God bless the international and the Hungarian Calvin research!

*Balázs David Magyar*

*Friend of the Meeter Center Research Fellowship Recipient*

## Lecture Recordings

*For our friends who cannot attend, Meeter Center Lectures and Colloquia are recorded, with speakers' permission, and are accessible on the Center's website via podcasts.*

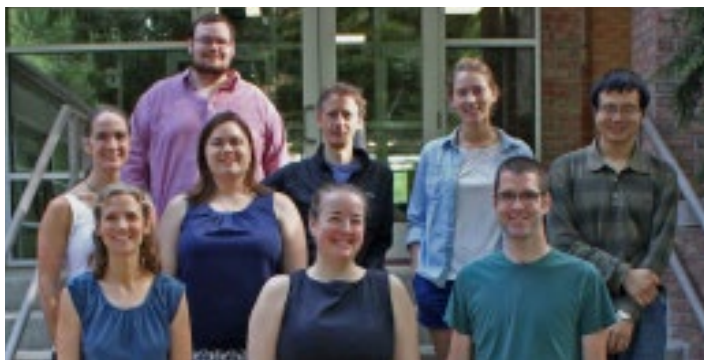
## 2014 Summer Paleography Workshop

The Meeter Center organized and hosted its seventh biennial Genevan Paleography workshop from June 16 to June 27, 2014. We selected eight applicants from a pool of thirteen candidates. Each participant received a \$500 bursary to help defray travel and accommodation costs. The participants reported very favorably on their experience. Here are some of their responses in appreciation for the bursaries:

Marjorie Hopkins: "I want to thank you for your generous gifts that have given me this opportunity to learn paleography. Your kindness and generosity have helped to develop me as a scholar, but have also invigorated my enthusiasm for my doctoral research."

Ashleigh Corwin: "Thank you very much for all your support for this paleography workshop! This has been a wonderful and very informative experience that will greatly aid in my research into French religion and politics during the Wars of Religion in the 16th century. I would not have been able to attend without your generous support."

Rebecca Harmon: "Thank you for your generosity in making possible the paleography workshop at Calvin College's Meeter Center. This unique opportunity proved extremely valuable. Dr. Lambert's materials and methods were superb, the facilities were excellent, and the Meeter Center staff were knowledgeable and helpful. I gained both precious paleographic skills and a better understanding of 16th century Genevan history, culture, and documents. I am very appreciative of the further research this workshop will enable me to execute."



*2014 Summer Paleography Workshop Participants:*  
(front row) Katherine Maynard, Marjorie Hopkins, Christopher McFadin;  
(middle row) Rebecca Harmon, Ashleigh Corwin, Tom Lambert (instructor),  
Kristen Coan, Ji Gao; (back row) Edward Gray



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## Apply for a Meeter Center Fellowship

Have you ever wished for more focused time for your research on Calvin, Calvinism, and the Reformation? Would it help to make use of a rich collection of primary and secondary source materials including theses and journal articles, all at your fingertips? Then consider applying for a Meeter Center fellowship! Every year, the Center awards fellowships to PhD students, faculty, and pastors to further their research. More information can be found here:

<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/fellowships-and-scholarships/>  
All application materials must be received by the Center on or before January 1, 2015. Contact [meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu) with any questions you may have.



*Three of our 2014 Research Fellowship recipients at John Calvin's Birthday Party: Balázs David Magyar, Christopher McFadin, and Allison Brown*

## 2015 Calvin Studies Society Conference

Registration is now open for the 2015 Calvin Studies Society Conference. The conference, on Calvin and Worship, will be hosted by the Meeter Center and take place at Calvin Theological Seminary from April 9 to 11, 2015. Speakers include

Charles Parker (St Louis), Sue Rozeboom (Western Seminary), Andrew Spicer (Oxford Brookes U.), Karin Maag (Meeter Center), Theodore Vial (Iliff School of Theology) and more. The conference will feature two special evening events, open to the public: a debate on infant baptism versus infant dedications and adult baptism, and an evening of Psalm singing. To register, go to the Calvin Studies Society website:

<http://www.calvinstudiessociety.org/>

### Friends of the Meeter Center

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends' donations help provide funding for special programs, including the Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowships, the Rare Book fund, and the biennial paleography workshop. Checks may be made out to Friends of the Meeter Center and sent to the Center's address. Thank you for your support! Annual membership fees are:

Student	\$20	Associate	\$100
Supporter	\$40	Partner	\$200
Donor	\$75	Benefactor	\$500

## 2014 International Calvin Congress

In August 2014, Director Karin Maag and Curator Paul Fields attended the International Calvin Congress in Zurich, Switzerland. The conference featured many fine presentations on various aspects of Calvin's theology and life, and included an excursion to the Benedictine monastery at Einsiedeln, (where the Zurich Reformer Huldrych Zwingli served as a priest before his move to Zurich), and to Kappel, where the Protestant and Catholic cantons fought two battles, the second of which resulted in Zwingli's death in 1531. This group photograph was taken at Kappel, before the conference dinner and spontaneous group hymn-sing in Kappel's monastery church.

*Participants of the 2014 International Calvin Congress in Zurich*



## New Books

Bruce, James E. *Right in the Law: The Importance of God's Free Choices in the Thought of Francis Turretin*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2013.

Dingel, Irene, and Volker Leppin, eds. *Reformatorenlexikon*. Darmstadt: Lambert Schneider Verlag, 2014.

Farmer, Craig S., Timothy George, and Scott M. Manetsch, eds. *The Reformation Commentary on Scripture*. New Testament Vol. 4, John 1–12. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2014.

Freudenberg, Matthias. *Reformierter Protestantismus in der Herausforderung: Wege und Wandlungen der reformierten Theologie*. Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2012.

McNutt, Jennifer Powell. *Calvin Meets Voltaire: The Clergy of Geneva in the Age of Enlightenment, 1685-1798*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2013.

Mentzer, Raymond M, ed. *Les registres des consistoires des églises réformées de France – XVIe-XVIIe siècles*. Geneva: Droz, 2014.

Thianto, Yudha. *The Way to Heaven: Catechisms and Sermons in the Establishment of the Dutch Reformed Church in the East Indies*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2014.

Watt, Isabella M., and Jeffrey R. Watt, eds. *Registres du consistoire de Genève au temps de Calvin*. Vol. 8 (25 mars 1553 - 1er février 1554). Geneva: Droz, 2014.

### **Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors**

The 2015 research paper topic is:

### **John Calvin and Vocation**

For further details and application instructions visit:

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

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