

# THE H. HENRY MEETER CENTER FOR CALVIN STUDIES



## RESEARCH GUIDE

2022

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**CALVIN**  
MINDS IN THE MAKING



**CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
*A community of faith. A center of learning. A life of ministry.*

# THE H. HENRY MEETER CENTER FOR CALVIN STUDIES

*Research Guide*

*Henry Calvin*

A RESEARCH COLLECTION OF CALVIN UNIVERSITY AND CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **The Hekman Library Hours**

Consult the Hekman Library website for hours as hours change throughout the week and the calendar year: <http://library.calvin.edu/hours/>

### **The Meeter Center Hours**

#### **ACADEMIC YEAR**

Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m.

#### **SUMMER HOURS**

Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed between 12 noon and 12:30 p.m.

Closed on Saturday

### **To Contact the Meeter Center:**

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies

Calvin University

1855 Knollcrest Circle SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402

USA

Phone: 616-526-7081

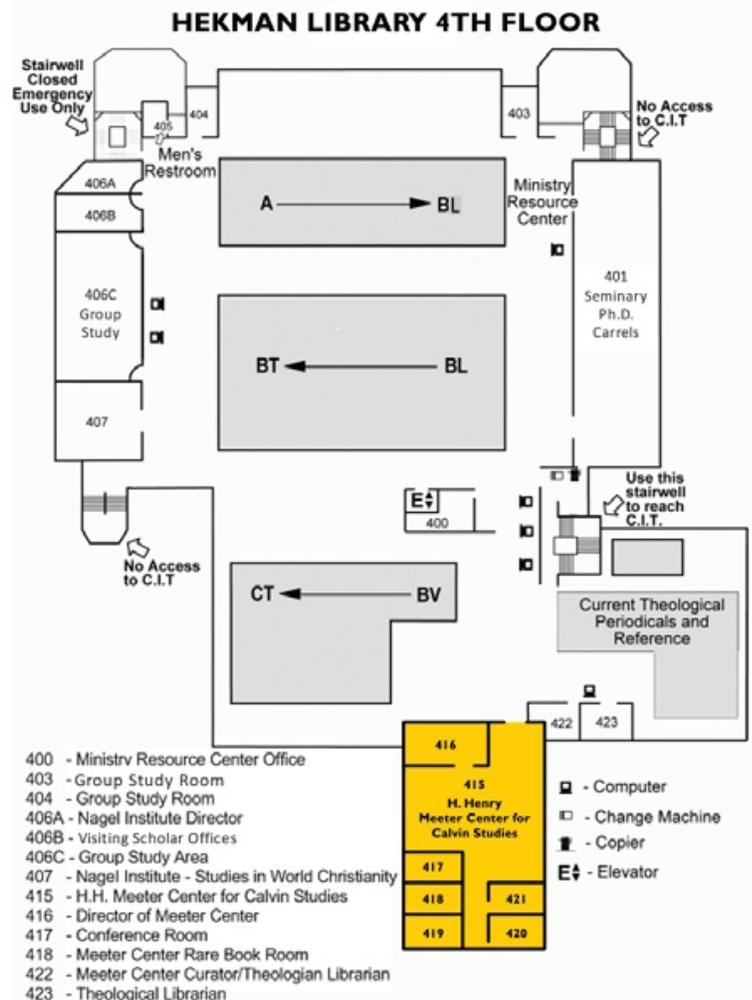
E-mail: [meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu)

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/>

## LOCATION

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is home to one of the largest North American collections of primary and secondary source material on John Calvin and Calvinism. Together with the collections of the adjoining Hekman Library, the Center offers unparalleled access to resources for research on the Reformation and early modern studies. This booklet serves as a guide to introduce researchers and scholars to our collections and how to search them. The descriptions that follow indicate highlights of the collections and make no claim to be comprehensive. To discover the full extent of our printed materials, individuals can access the Center's collection in the Hekman Library catalog via our website: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/>

The Meeter Center is located on the fourth floor of the Hekman Library, providing easy access to the University's and Seminary's general collection.



## INTRODUCTION

Researching the collections of the Meeter Center begins at the Center's website: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/>.

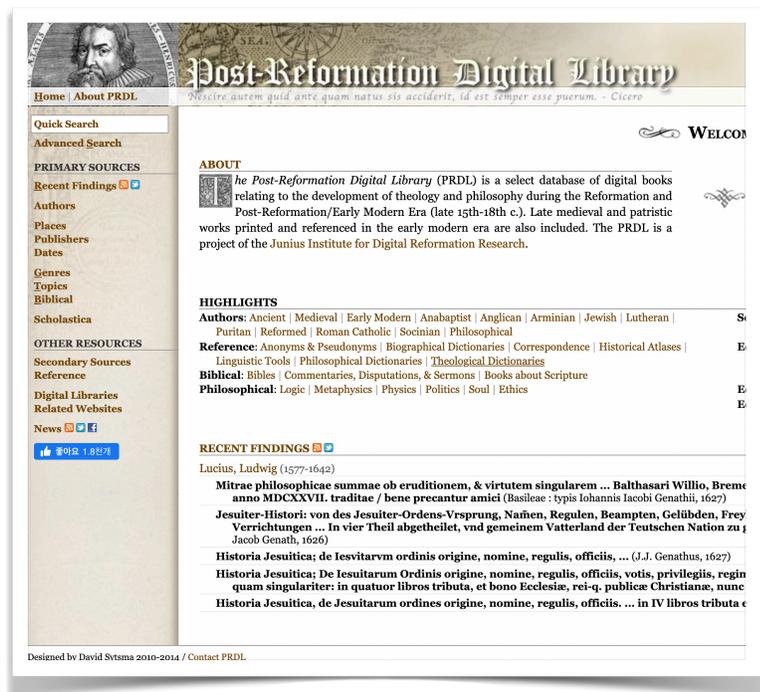
Access to article, book, rare book indices is found toward the bottom of the Center's main web page. The "Hekman Library Catalog" tab connects users with the online catalog of Calvin University's Hekman Library, which includes the Meeter Center collection, or connect directly via: <http://library.calvin.edu/>



Researchers must come to the Center to use its books, rare books, and articles as the Center is a non-circulating collection. There are however two online databases hosted by the Center where scholars can access complete books (PRDL) and topical reference information (CaRD) from their home or office.

## POST REFORMATION DIGITAL LIBRARY (PRDL)

The Post Reformation Digital Library (PRDL) is a database of digital books relating to the development of theology and philosophy during the Reformation and Post-Reformation/Early Modern Era (late 15th-18th c.). Late medieval and patristic works in their original languages printed in the early modern era are also included. Hosted by the Meeter Center and Calvin Theological Seminary, this research tool provides full-text access to thousands of primary and



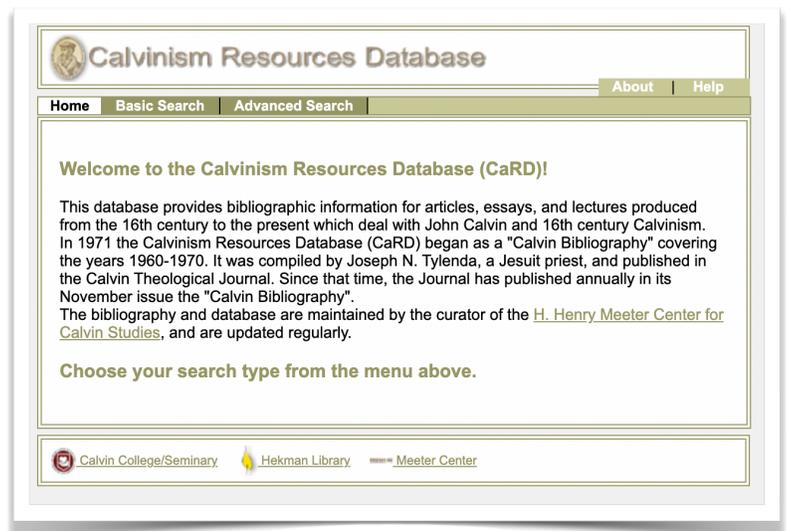
secondary sources by hundreds of authors. Sources listed come from a variety of religious traditions: Anabaptist, Anglican, Arminian-Remonstrant, Baptist, Jewish, Latitudinarian, Lutheran, Puritan, Quaker, Reformed, Roman Catholic, and Socinian-Unitarian. To access the PRDL, click on the “Post Reformation Digital Library” tab toward the bottom of the Center’s main web page or go to: <http://www.prdl.org/>

## CALVINISM RESOURCES DATABASE (CaRD)



The Calvinism Resources Database is an online index to the Center’s repository of articles, book chapters, essays, book reviews, and unpublished papers in a variety of languages on John Calvin and Calvinism. This continually growing resource currently houses nearly 30,000 files. CaRD’s advanced search option allows scholars to search the database by author, title, keyword, and subject. Each item’s complete bibliographic citation is provided. Hard copies of all items are filed alphabetically by author in the Meeter Center. While a trip to the Center is required to access these materials in their full form, CaRD is nevertheless an extremely helpful topical reference tool for creating a research bibliography of pertinent sources that can then be searched for at other libraries.

To search CaRD, click on the “Calvinism Resources Database” tab toward the bottom of the Center’s main web page or go to: <https://www.calvin.edu/library/database/card/index.stm>.

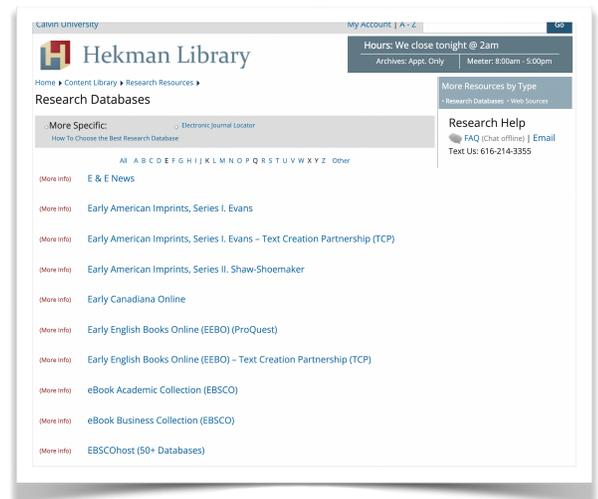


## JOHN CALVIN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Another online resource offered by the Center is the John Calvin Bibliography. It is an annual listing of Calvin and Calvinism-related articles, book chapters, book reviews, books, theses, and dissertations added to the Center's collection, and organized by subject heading. The items cited for a given year are those added to the collection during that year. The bibliography can be accessed via the "Publications" tab on the left side of the Center's main web page or at: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/publications/john-calvin-bibliography/>

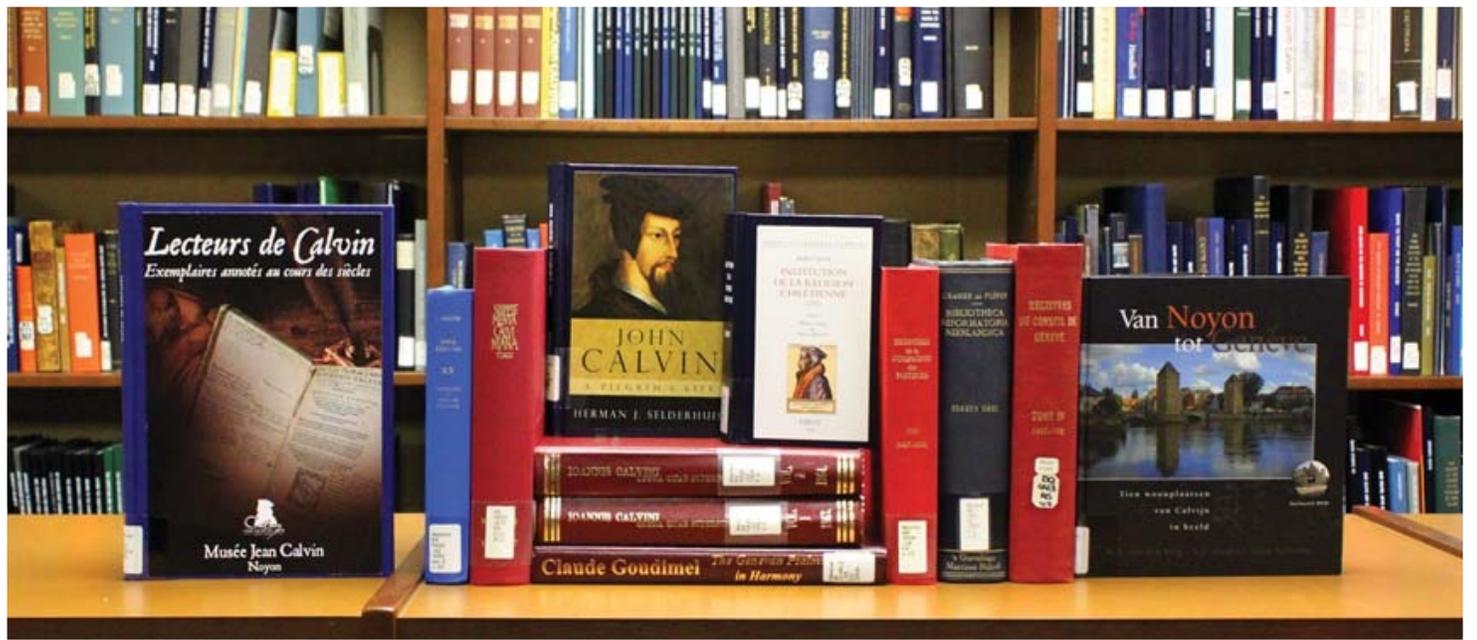
## HEKMAN LIBRARY ONLINE DATABASES

The Hekman Library subscribes to thousands of digital journals and periodicals which may be accessed via the library catalog and online databases. One example is the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. Early books useful for Reformation and early modern research are also available electronically in Early American Imprints (Series I - Evans and Series II - Shaw-Shoemaker), Early English Books Online (EEBO), and Eighteenth Century Collection Online (EECO).



To browse the Library's online databases go to the Library main web page and click on the "Research Databases" link. For visitors, these resources can only be accessed from computers on campus.

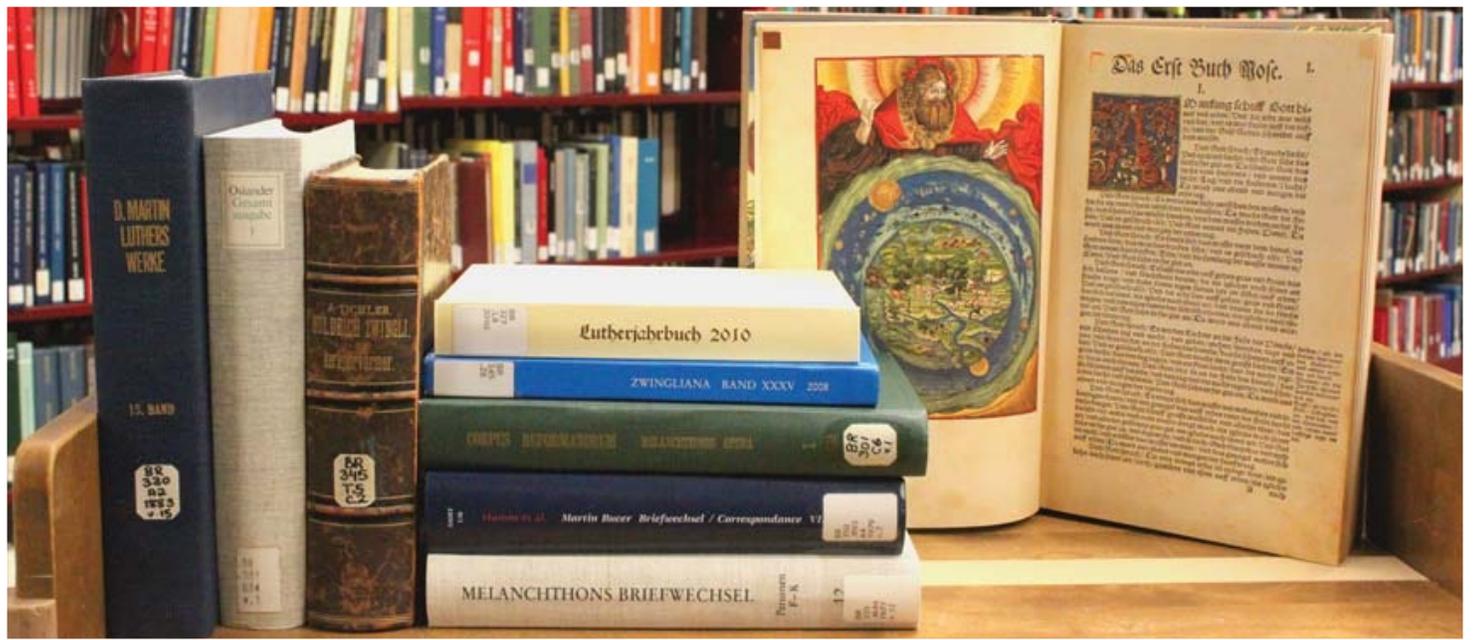
One online resource that is accessible from anywhere is the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL), a digital library of hundreds of classic Christian books in English. Examples in this collection include all of John Calvin's commentaries, his *Institutes*, as well as works by other Reformation-era figures such as John Knox, Martin Luther, Hugo Grotius, and Thomas Cranmer. It can be found via the "Research Databases" link on the Library's main web page or at: <https://ccel.org/>



## PRINT RESOURCES

In addition to primary sources online and in the rare book collection, the Meeter Center collects modern translations and critical editions of Calvin's works. Some of these include copies of the *Corpus Reformatorum* (CO), the *Ioannis Calvini Opera Omnia*, the *Supplementa Calviniana*, and the *Opera Denuo Recognita*. Other sources intended to facilitate research into the Genevan context of Calvin and his successors' work include the *Registres de la Compagnie des Pasteurs* from 1546 onwards, the *Registres du Conseil de Genève* from 1409 on, and the volumes of the *Registres du Consistoire de Genève* as they appear. Collections of published correspondence available in the Meeter Center include Herminjard's *Correspondance des Réformateurs* and the complete publication of the *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze*. Calvin's *Institutes* are available in numerous editions, reprints, and translations, including in Korean and Russian. The Center also has searchable digital versions of the entire *Calvini Opera* and the complete works of Melanchthon.

The Center possesses thousands of secondary monographs and volumes of essays on John Calvin, Calvinism, the Reformation, and early modern studies. New works are continually being added to an already well-established collection. Examples of older secondary sources available in the Meeter Center include Charles Borgeaud's *Histoire de l'Université de Genève* and Emile Doumergue's complete *Jean Calvin: Les hommes et les choses de son temps*. In addition to published works, the Center acquires masters theses and doctoral dissertations on Calvin and Calvinism.



The adjoining Hekman Library houses over a million hard copy and electronic books and periodicals, including collections in Reformation theology and sixteenth and seventeenth-century history, particularly on the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Geneva. Included are works by fifteenth- and sixteenth-century figures, including the *Opera* of Luther, Melanchthon, Zwingli, Bucer, Ficino, Campanella, and Osiander, in the standard editions. These are complemented by critical editions of patristic and medieval sources including the two patrologies of Migne (on microcard), the *Corpus Christianorum* (both the *Series Latina* and the *Continuatio Mediaevalis*), and the *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*. The library also owns many complete collected works of Protestant continental and British theologians from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century, such as Turretin, Voetius, and Baxter. In addition the library possesses up-to-date monographs and series, including *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Thought*, *Travaux d'humanisme et renaissance*, and the *St. Andrews Studies in Reformation History*. Finally there is also a fine collection of older works on the Reformation in Dutch, French, and German.

## **RARE BOOKS**

One of the highlights of the Meeter Center is its collection of early printed books. The rare book room contains hundreds of books in early editions by Calvin and other Reformers. Among the early editions of Calvin's works, the Center has the 1532 *Libri duo de clementia*, the Latin *Institutio* of 1550 and 1559, and the French *Institution* of 1554 and 1560.



Also available are Calvin's French New Testament commentaries on John and the Harmony of the Gospels; his Latin commentaries on Acts, the New Testament Letters, Romans, Titus, and Hebrews; and English translations of his commentaries on Corinthians and Galatians. A number of Calvin's sermons, tracts, and treatises, as well as early works by other Reformers such as Beza, are held by the Center.

Seventeenth-century printings are kept in this room as is the collection of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century imprints of anti-Calvin treatises. The Center also has a number of important sixteenth-century Bibles. In addition the Hekman Library rare book room houses a substantial collection of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Dutch theological and historical works.

## **MICROFORM COLLECTION**

The Meeter Center possesses a number of significant print and manuscript collections on microfilm.

### **Printed Works on Microfilm/Microfiche**

#### **1. 16th Century Authors Collection**

The Center has 250 microfilmed works by sixteenth-century German humanists and theologians that are searchable on-site through a paper index alphabetized by author.

#### **2. Dutch Pamphlets**

This microfiche collection of over 5000 pamphlets is part of a larger collection (1486-1853) catalogued in chronological order by W.P.C. Knuttel in the Royal Library of The Hague in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their subject matter covers church and religion, politics, colonization, and economics. IDC microfiche

#### **3. Early Printed Bibles**

This collection of Bible translations dates from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. IDC microfiche

#### **4. Lutheran Reformation Sources 1500–1650**

This is a collection of sources on the Lutheran Reformation that provides access to the most important published works that are not available in modern critical editions. IDC microfiche.

5. *Philipp Melancthon, Theologian and Humanist*

IDC microfiche

6. *Reformed Protestantism*

These original sources dating from 1500–1700 include many of the key works of Reformed Protestantism. IDC microfiche.

- a) Geneva/Switzerland
- b) Strasbourg/France
- c) The Netherlands and Germany
- d) England
- e) East Friesland and northwest Germany

7. *The Anabaptist, Mennonite, and Spiritualist Reformation*

IDC microfiche

8. *The Reformation in Heidelberg I and II*

IDC microfiche

9. *The Works of Guy de Brès*

IDC microfiche

10. *The Works of John Calvin*

IDC microfiche. The Center also has various individually microfilmed editions of the *Institutes*.

11. *Works by and about Huldrych Zwingli*

IDC microfiche

12. *The Huguenots*

IDC microfiche

13. *Heinrich Bullinger's Original Publications*

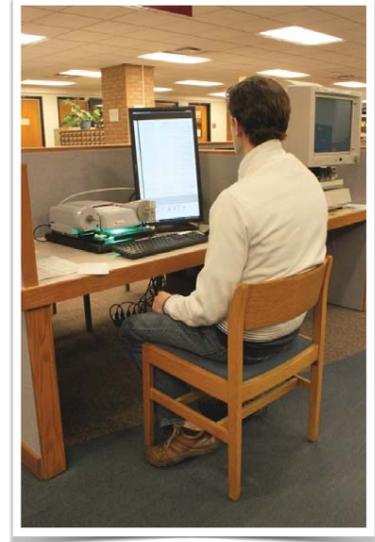
IDC microfiche

14. *Heinrich Bullinger: Secondary Sources, 1543-1940*

IDC microfiche

15. French Protestant Church Archives

The French Protestant Archives 1560-1889 Manuscripts are held at the Eglise Protestante Française de Londres, Soho Square, London. The French Protestant Church Archives 1560-1889 contain on microfilm the consistory records of the French Protestant Church in London from the time of Edward VI to 1889. The archives are made up of over 300



Indices of the above microform collections can be found online via the “Research Databases” tab on the left side of the Center’s main web page or at: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/resources/microform-collection/>

The following manuscript collections were acquired from their original locations in Geneva, Paris, and Zurich. While some require considerable paleographical experience to read, others are in the hands of copyists and are easily legible. They are in positive copies and are all of high photographic quality.

## Manuscripts on Microfilm

### I. Archives d’État de Genève

a) *Registres de la Compagnie des Pasteurs de Genève* - These rolls consist of the minutes of the Company of Pastors, including the Ecclesiastical Ordinances of 1541, for the period from 1541 to 1594.

b) *Registres du Consistoire* - These twelve rolls, consisting of twenty-one volumes, are the minutes of the Consistory from February 1542 to February 1565.

c) *Registres du Conseil* - These thirty-three rolls, consisting of the same number of volumes, are the minutes of the Council of Geneva from 1536–1564.

### 2. Musée Historique de la Réformation, Genève

The *Archives Tronchin* is a remarkable collection of a Genevan family’s papers from the sixteenth through the eighteenth century and is an excellent resource for the study of Calvin and his influence through these centuries, for the history of Geneva, and for the study of Beza, the French Reformed Church, the Tronchin family, and even the Synod of Dort. The Meeter Center has twenty-two rolls, consisting of fifty-two of the one hundred and thirty-five volumes in the archive. A paper index to the collection is available.

### 3. Bibliothèque Publique et Universitaire de Genève

a) *Manuscrits Français*, No. 41–52 - These five rolls consist of twelve manuscript volumes of the Acta of national and provincial synods of the Reformed Church in France from 1559–1659, including a summary of the acts of the provincial synods of Dauphiné from 1597–1659.

b) *Manuscripts Français*, No. 401–51 - These twenty-two rolls consist of fifty-one manuscript volumes of ecclesiastical correspondence in French dating from 1530–1797. They are a vital manuscript source for the correspondence of Calvin, Beza, and the Turretini family, and relate to the Swiss and the French churches.

c) *Manuscripts Latins*, No. 106–110 - These five rolls consist of seven manuscript volumes of Latin ecclesiastical correspondence beginning with a 1528 letter to Calvin.

#### 4. Archives of the French Protestant Church

The archives of the Huguenot Community in London dating from 1560–1889 are contained in the Hekman Library. World Microfilms Publications

#### 5. Oud Synodaal Archief

These archives of the Netherlands Reformed Church in The Hague dating from 1560–1810 cover the Netherlands and abroad plus the Dutch Republic and its colonies. IDC microfiche.

#### 6. Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, Paris

These five rolls consist of five volumes, numbered 1454–1458, of ecclesiastical correspondence. The volumes are given the common title *Epistolae Haereticorum*. Some are transcribed in very legible hands.

#### 7. Staatsarchiv, Zürich

This roll consists of Calvin's letters to Bullinger and others from 1537–1563. The volumes containing these letters are designated E II, 337–71. An index to all the letters is reproduced at the head of the roll.

#### 8. Thesaurus Hottingerianus. Zentrabibliothek Zürich

Sources for Reformation history: A manuscript collection from the estate of John Heinrich Hottinger (1620–1667), theologian, church historian, and orientalist. IDC microfiche.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

### Faculty Research Fellowship

Faculty of colleges, universities, or seminaries (other than Calvin) as well as independent scholars are invited to apply for appointment as a Meeter Center Research Fellow for study at the H. Henry Meeter Center. This appointment carries a stipend of \$2,000 to \$4,000 and use of the Meeter Center facilities. The stipend is intended to be used towards expenses incurred for the fellowship (travel, accommodations, food, photocopies, books, etc.). The appointee is expected to be in

residency for a period of 4-6 weeks. Applicants should have completed their Ph.D. prior to tenure of the fellowship. Applicants who receive a fellowship must come to the Meeter Center between July of the year in which the fellowship was received and the following June.

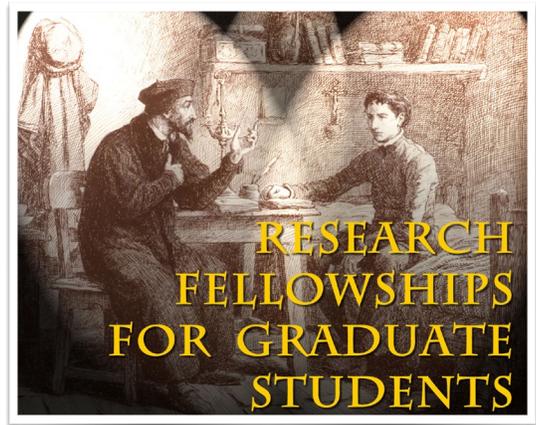


Successful fellows are expected to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Meeter Center in any published work resulting from their period of research in the Center and are encouraged to present a paper on their research at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference for a session sponsored by the Meeter Center. Faculty Research Fellows will be asked to give an oral presentation on the results of their research toward the end of their stay in the Meeter Center.

### Student Research Fellowship

Students of colleges, universities, or seminaries (other than Calvin) may apply for an appointment as a Meeter Center Student Research Fellow. The appointment carries a stipend of \$1,250 for a period of no less than four weeks. The stipend is intended to be used towards expenses incurred for the fellowship (travel, accommodations, food, photocopies, books, etc.).

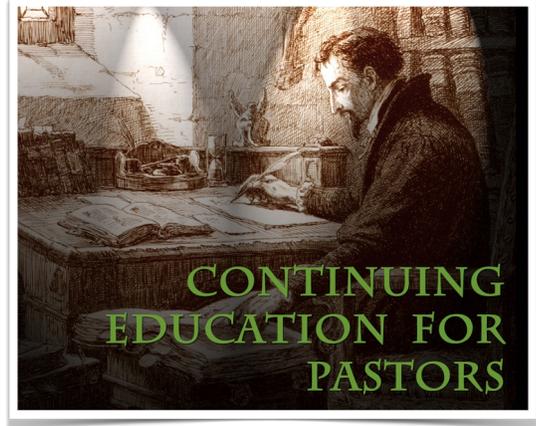
Applicants who receive a fellowship must come to the Meeter Center between July of the year in which the fellowship was received and the following June.



A Meeter Center Research Fellow normally undertakes a specific research program which implements the resources of the Meeter Center. Successful fellows are expected to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Meeter Center in any published work resulting from their period of research and to give an oral presentation on the results of that research toward the end of their stay in the Meeter Center.

### **Emo F.J.Van Halsema Fellowship for Pastors**

The family of Emo F.J.Van Halsema has funded a fellowship at the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies for pastors in the Reformed tradition. Candidates must hold an appropriate graduate degree and submit a proposal that justifies their plans for research in the Center. Successful fellows are expected to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Meeter Center in any published work resulting from their period of research and will also be asked to give an



oral presentation on the results of that research toward the end of their stay in the Meeter Center. This four-week research fellowship is awarded annually. The stipend is a minimum of \$1,250. The stipend is intended to be used towards expenses incurred for the fellowship (travel, accommodations, food, photocopies, books, etc.).

### **Meeter Family Fellowship**

Faculty of colleges, universities, or seminaries (other than Calvin), independent scholars and doctoral students are invited to apply for appointment as a Meeter Family Research Fellow for study at the H. Henry Meeter Center. This appointment carries an honorarium of \$3,500 and use of the Meeter Center facilities. The appointee is expected to be in residency for a period of 4-6 weeks. Applicants should have completed their Ph.D. prior to tenure of the fellowship. If applicants receive a fellowship, they must come to the Meeter Center between July of the year in which the fellowship was awarded and the following June. On-campus housing is only available in June and July.

The postmark deadline for application for any of these fellowships is January 1 of each year. Submitting materials as an email attachments is preferred. Please send them to the Meeter Center Director at [kmaag@calvin.edu](mailto:kmaag@calvin.edu). Research fellowship application forms can be accessed from the "Fellowships & Scholarships" tab toward the bottom of the Center's main page or go directly to: <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/>.

## THE STORY OF THE H. HENRY MEETER CENTER

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies began with a collection of important books and a bibliography by Calvin College professor Dr. H. Henry Meeter during his tenure as a professor in the Bible (now Religion) Department from 1927 to 1957. At the initiative of Dr. Meeter, Calvin College and Seminary established the Committee for Scholarly Research and Development of Basic Historic Calvinism in 1961. This Committee was the genesis of the H. Henry Meeter Center and its advisory council.

The primary goal of Dr. Meeter was to make scholarly research on Calvinism available to students and laypeople. This goal was articulated and achieved in his classic 1939 work, *Basic Ideas of Calvinism*. Published by Baker Book House, the book is now in its sixth edition and has been translated into five languages: Dutch, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, and Russian.



Dr. H. Henry Meeter

The need for space for the growing collection of materials on Calvin and Calvinism was recognized and supported by Dr. Meeter's son Hugh and daughter-in-law Eve Meeter of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and by the Pew Foundation who made possible the 1981–1982 construction of the H. Henry Meeter Center and Heritage Hall as a wing of the Calvin College and Seminary Library.

The Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors were established in 1993 by Hugh and Eve Meeter to stimulate an interest in and a knowledge of the Calvinistic world-and-life view among high school seniors.

Today the Meeter Center with its rare items, books, articles, literature, and bibliographies is acclaimed worldwide as one of the most extensive and user-friendly of all Calvin and Calvinism collections.