



# Calvin Courier

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

*Spring 2002, Number 29*

*Isaiah Calvinus*

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### From the Director

Welcome to our special twentieth anniversary edition of the *Calvin Courier*. We are delighted to bring you this chance to look back on the Center and its work over the past two decades. We have always felt that the most important feature of our work was making the collection accessible to as many interested people as possible. So this issue offers a selection of reflections from visiting scholars over the years, as they recall some of their experiences here, and highlight the impact that the Meeter Center has had on their research and careers. Taken together, these accounts show that the Center has been able to contribute in no small way

to the advancement and spread of knowledge about John Calvin, Calvinism, and the Reformation, and for this we are very thankful. We look forward to the arrival of another six visiting scholars in the summer of 2002 from Scotland, Korea, and the U.S. Meanwhile, our usual work of leading college classes on printing and the Reformation, acquiring materials for the collection, and hosting lectures continues. Please see our Web site for further information on our activities. We profoundly appreciate your support for our work over the past twenty years, and we look forward to many more years of fruitful service.

*Karin Y. Maag*

### Visiting Scholars Through the Years

#### 1987



My first encounter with the Meeter Center came in 1986 when I met the staff at the Debrecen Calvin Congress. I was suitably inspired to apply for a faculty fellowship for the following year and spent a very profitable six weeks at the Center, together with Bob Kingdon. Four years

later I was able to spend five months of a sabbatical in Grand Rapids with my whole family, working at the Meeter Center, part of the time with Richard Muller as a fellow visiting scholar. Since then I have returned twice for a few days each time, in 1997 and in 2000.

The time spent in the Meeter Center has been invaluable for a variety of reasons. The help received from curator Peter De Klerk and, more recently, from Paul Fields has been greatly appreciated. The time spent with local staff such as Rick Gamble and Karin Maag has been a great stimulus as has contact with other visiting scholars. The administrators, Ellen Monsma, Sherry Smith, Dawn Bierma, and Susan Schmurr have been unfailingly helpful.

But great as has been the fellowship with and friendship of these dear folk, pride of place must go to the best friend of all, the

humble photocopier. Leaving aside the fact that it has nearly bankrupted me on occasions, it is thanks to the Meeter Center copier that I now have a superb collection of Calvin material occupying a whole filing cabinet. The last three times that I have had a sabbatical I have been tempted to go to Grand Rapids, but each time this has proved to be unnecessary because of all the time spent with my friend in the back room during the periodic visits. In 2000 I was awarded a personal chair in historical theology by Brunel University (which accredits our college), and this was based in large part on my publications that were made possible by the superb resources of the Meeter Center.

*Tony Lane, professor of Christian doctrine  
London Bible College, U.K.*

**Fellowship Applications** for 2003 may be obtained from the Meeter Center upon request and should be returned by January 1, 2003. Application forms are also available at [www.calvin.edu/meeter/fellow.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/fellow.htm)

## 1988



During the fellowship that I spent at the Meeter Center in 1984 I worked on research for my doctoral dissertation, which deals with the Synod of Dort (1618–1619). Again in 1988 I received a summer fellowship and then worked on preparing an annotated translation of the original Latin Acta of the Synod of Dort. On both occasions I was able to benefit very much from the wonderful resources available in the Meeter Center, the rare book collection, and the Calvin library. Since 1987 I have been a professor of theology at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois. Over the years I have continued research and writing on the Reformed tradition in the post-Reformation era. For me the Meeter Center continues to be an ongoing resource where I can often find rare materials that are difficult to locate elsewhere.

*Don Sinnema, professor of theology  
Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Ill.*

## 1989



The Meeter Center generously granted me a student research fellowship during the summer of 1989. Meeter Center resources helped me to complete my dissertation on Martin Bucer's influence on John Calvin's commentary on Romans. By the time I defended my dissertation at Duke University in 1993, I had already begun my career as a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church. After serving five years (1991–1996) as a pastor in Ames, Iowa, I began my pastorate in Broomall, Pennsylvania, where I continue to serve today. I am grateful to the Meeter Center for the time I was able to spend there. Reformation studies provide wonderful resources for pastoral preaching and teaching.

*Joel Kok, pastor  
Trinity CRC, Broomall, Pa.*

## 1990



In 1990 I received a summer grant to revise my dissertation for publication. The Meeter Center director, Richard Gamble, and I went to work out in the gym a couple of times. Professor Gamble was a great encouragement to me. Richard Muller was there that summer, and as he read a Latin text of some obscure post-Reformation figure, he would break out laughing in the study room and then explain some interesting twist of words in the Latin text. What was amazing about Richard Muller was that in every single conversation with him, I would pick up a couple of ideas for possible research topics. Anthony Lane was also there that summer, and he always had interesting insights about Calvin's relationship to medieval and patristic sources. My daughter, Bonnie, was only three

months old, and I have a picture of me holding her next to the Calvin portrait in the reading room. Bonnie is eleven years old now, and when she looks at that photo she always asks, "Who is the guy in that portrait?" I published my dissertation *Between Reformed Scholasticism and Pan-Protestantism: Jean Alphonse Turretin (1671–1737) and Enlightened Orthodoxy at the Academy of Geneva* with Susquehanna University Press in 1994. My time at the Meeter Center was invaluable in helping me complete this project.

*Martin Klauber, visiting professor of church history  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill.*

## 1991



I held a student research fellowship after finishing my Th.M. course work at Calvin Seminary and am currently teaching systematic theology at Hapdong Theological Seminary in Korea. I published five books on Calvin and the Reformed heritage. I received a special award from Korea Evangelical Theological Society in 2001 because my book *Calvin, the Man of Piety and Reformation* (in Korean) had been selected one of the best theological accomplishments in 2001 by KETS. I hope to be again at the Meeter Center for further research in the near future.

*Jae Sung Kim, professor of systematic theology  
Hapdong Theological Seminary, Seoul, Korea*



The summer of 1991 now seems a long way off, but certain things remain firmly in my memory about my time as a summer fellow: the almost monkish existence, a cell-like room, daily swims, and the difficulty of finding food on the weekends. (No car!) But that was compensated by the supremely excellent study facilities of the Center, equaled only by the courtesy and friendship of the staff and that of colleagues in the Philosophy Department at Calvin College. I worked on providence, a topic that saw the light of day in an article on Calvin's views (CTJ, 1994) and in a book *The Providence of God* (IVP, 1993). Some of the seeds sown then are only now bearing



*Calvin Courier is published twice yearly by the  
H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin  
College and Calvin Theological Seminary, 3201  
Burton Street S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.  
Ph. 616-957-7081  
E-mail: meeter@calvin.edu  
Web site: www.calvin.edu/meeter/*

fruit in a forthcoming book on philosophical aspects of Calvin's theology, *John Calvin's Ideas* (Oxford, Clarendon Press). In 1991 I was in the Philosophy Department at the University of Liverpool and subsequently moved to King's College, London (professor of the history and philosophy of religion, 1993–2000). At present I am part-time at Regent College, Vancouver (J. I. Packer Chair in Philosophical Theology) and part-time in rural Oxfordshire.

*Paul Helm, J. I. Packer Professor of Theology and Philosophy  
Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia*

## 1992



I visited the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies from July to August in 1992 when I was preparing my Ph.D. dissertation. I could read and collect many essays and original materials about John Calvin's political thought. After I returned to Korea, I studied and analyzed these documents in preparation for earning the Ph.D. degree for my dissertation, "The Theological and Political Ethic of John Calvin" from Chongshin University. Now I am a church history professor in Anyang University, which is located near Seoul. In 2001 I spent the sabbatical year at Yale University in New Haven.

*Eun Seon Lee, professor of church history  
Anyang University, Seoul, Korea*



In the summer of 1992 I started my research project on John Calvin and Karl Barth. For that reason I was accepted as senior fellow at the Institute for Humanities of the University of Madison, Wisconsin. As part of that project I spent some time at the Meeter Center. I remember the kind reception, the practical assistance of the secretary, the guidance of the director of the Meeter Center, and the kindness of Harry Boonstra, theological librarian of Calvin College.

What makes the Meeter Center unique in my view is the direct access that scholars have to almost all works of and works on Calvin. It makes a stay very fruitful and productive. The direct result of my project on the knowledge of God in the thought of Calvin and Barth is now available. In 2002 the Dutch version was published with Kok, Kampen under the title *Als in een spiegel. God kennen volgens Calvijn en Barth. Een tweeluit*.

I congratulate the board and the members of the Meeter Center on this anniversary and hope this Center will be able to continue its task and be of great interest for Calvin research internationally.

*Cornelis van der Kooi, associate professor for systematic theology  
Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

## 1993



Two extended visits to the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies have functioned as precious bookends for my historical research and writing over the past decade. In the summer of 1993 the Center provided an ideal environment for me to begin in-depth research on a doctoral dissertation examining Theodore Beza's role in the political and religious affairs of France after 1572. Six years later the Meeter Center again offered generous support and valuable space for me to revise this dissertation for publication. During both visits my family and I were the recipients of the kindness, hospitality, and collegiality of the staff and friends of the Center (notably Richard Gamble, Karin Maag, Paul Fields, Susan Schmurr, and Richard Muller). The rich collection of documentary resources first drew me to the Meeter Center ten years ago, but it is the wonderful human resources that make me eager to return.

*Scott Manetsch, assistant professor  
of church history and Christian thought  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill.*



I have many fond memories of my study time at the Meeter Center during the fall of 1993. My scholarship enabled me to explore the much-neglected but very important topic of spiritual dryness and desolation. Typically people associate this subject with John of the Cross and his "Dark Night of the Soul." However Calvin—and in greater detail the Puritans—explored and preached on this critical dimension of our experience with God.

Much has changed since my visit in 1993, the only constant being Paul Fields, the able and ever helpful curator, who is still present to guide scholars and students alike. Karin Maag continues the competent leadership and scholarship that marks the Meeter Center, while Susan Schmurr offers the needed and gracious assistance to provide outstanding atmosphere and support for those interested in studying the Reformed tradition. The excellent collection of dissertations and the extensive articles related to Calvin and Calvinism combine with the rich selection of books to make any visit to the Meeter Center profitable and refreshing. Many thanks to all those in the past and Karin, Paul, and Susan today for offering this wonderful Center for research.

*Tom Schwanda, associate professor of spiritual formation  
Reformed Bible College, Grand Rapids, Mich.*

### Friends of the Meeter Center

You are invited to join the Friends of the Meeter Center. For more information about the Friends of the Meeter Center see [www.calvin.edu/meeter/friends.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/friends.htm)

## 1994



I am grateful to the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies for extending a fellowship to me that allowed me to work in the Center's collection in the summer of 1994. It was a great pleasure to work with the staff. They were all very helpful and aided me in completing my planned research with great efficiency. My work in the collection was crucial to two papers that I presented at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and the American Catholic Historical Conference on the subject of the founding of the Dutch Republic and the regulation of conscience. I continue to use my research from my time at the Center for my manuscript on Marnix of Saint Aldegonde and the founding of the Dutch Republic that incorporates the two papers referred to above. I am currently professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

*Fred Beemon, professor of history  
Middle Tennessee State University,  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.*

## 1995



In January, May, and June of 1995 I was a fellow at the Meeter Center, working on the circle of people around John Calvin. I had a profitable sojourn there and a warm reception by the staff of the Center and of the College library and also by the History Department of Calvin College. Again in the spring of 1999 I attended the seminar on French paleography run by the Meeter Center, an excellent course. I have been in and out of the Meeter Center at Calvin Studies conferences and at the International Conference on Calvin Research. I have always been warmly received and made good use of the facilities. The leadership of the Meeter Center under Karin Maag is outstanding.

Products of my research on the friends of Calvin have been coming out in article form. The most recent of these are "Nicolas des Gallars and the Genevan Connection of the Stranger Churches" in *From Strangers to Citizens: Integration of Immigrant Communities in Great Britain, Ireland and the Colonies, 1550-1750*, Brighton, England: Sussex Academic Press, 2001, 38-47 and "The Family, Second Marriage, and the Death of Nicolas des Gallars within the Context of His Life and Work: Evidence from the Notarial Records in Paris and in Pau," *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, 63, 1 (2001): 73-79.

*Jeannine E. Olson, professor of history  
Rhoden Island College, Providence, R.I.*

## 1996



The six months I spent at the Meeter Center in 1996 were among the most important and fruitful of my career. On the scholarly front the research I did there bore fruit in a monograph on the English Puritan John Owen, an edited book on Protestant scholasticism, and numerous articles. In addition the scholarly friendships I made have continued and have been renewed through many subsequent conversations, conferences, and lectures. On a personal level it was a great pleasure to get to know the Center staff and some of the faculty at the seminary, all of whom helped to make my time in Grand Rapids a most pleasant experience.

I came to the Center on study leave from the University of Nottingham in the U.K.; shortly after my return I moved to the University of Aberdeen where I took up a post as senior lecturer in church history. Now I have returned to the U.S. as associate professor of church history and historical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, where I am also the director of the newly founded Craig Center for the Study of the Westminster Standards. I hope that my time at the Meeter Center will prove invaluable in giving this new venture vision and focus.

Had I not been granted the opportunity of spending six months at the Meeter Center and learning what life in America was like, it is unlikely that I would ever have taken the post at Westminster Seminary. For that, among other things, my wife, Catriona, my two boys, John and Peter, and I will always be grateful.

*Carl R. Trueman, associate professor  
of church history and historical theology  
Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.*



I am a vicar of the Nihon Kirisuto Kyokdi church and teach Korean children in a Sunday school. The experience of the Meeter Center has changed my life, for I accessed a lot of resources that I can never find in Japan.

These texts were treasures to me. Every day I stood before a copymachine to take treasures home. As a result I wrote two papers, "Susan E. Schreiner's View of Calvin: Suggestive Directions for Preachers" and "Marguerite de Navarre et Jeanne d'Albret: Calvin and Feminism." Happily, they were accepted with hearty welcome in the 7th and 8th Asian Congress on Calvin Research (Tokyo and Seoul). I am thankful for Richard Gamble who opened the door of the Meeter Center for me at that time.

*Mimako Saito, vicar  
Nihon Kirisuto Kyokdi, Tokyo, Japan*

## 1997



I was at the H. Henry Meeter Center in 1997–98 as a visiting scholar. It was a good place to find materials on Calvin and international Calvinism. For an international scholar the opportunity to get access to primary and secondary sources was great. The research at the Center made me see the variety in scholars' perspectives of Calvin. Above all, I remember the staff's kindness and favor while I was working at the Center. I feel that the Center is like a home to stay and research. After returning to Korea, I became a professor at Chongshin University in Seoul.

*Tae K. Kwon, professor  
Chongshin University, Seoul, Korea*



My acquaintance with the Meeter Center began while an undergraduate at Calvin College. In course work for the religion, philosophy, and classics departments, I was introduced to the Calvinist worldview and grew to appreciate its clarity and depth. Later, while a graduate student in classics at the University of Iowa, I spent some time at the Meeter Center as a student research fellow. The project I worked on was preparing the Latin edition of Calvin's Prefatory Address to the *Institutes* for use in the undergraduate Latin classroom. The Meeter Center's unparalleled collection of resources were invaluable in researching the circumstances under which the address was first written as well as what scholars have thought about Calvin's Latin style, for which I have high regard. Presently I am writing my dissertation on Cicero and Stoicism (an interest sparked in part by Calvin's Commentary on Seneca's *De Clementia*) and teaching classics at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Va.

*David Noe, instructor of classics  
Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, Va.*



My time spent at the Meeter Center as an Emo Van Halsema Fellowship recipient was very helpful in giving me the opportunity to do some background research on two books I was able to release later that year, *Straight Talk about Spiritual Warfare* and *Battle of the Angels*. My research allowed me to better assess the direction(s) Reformed scholarship and thinking had taken on the topics addressed by these studies in the area of spiritual warfare. The availability of materials and the use of an office with a computer were invaluable to accomplishing my fellowship goals. My thanks to the Meeter Center staff.

*Jeffry Stam, director  
Set Free Ministries, Jenison, Mich.*

## 1998



I came to the Meeter Center while on academic leave in 1998. My topic of study was protestant spirituality, and my purpose in coming to the Meeter Center was to explore aspects of Calvin's piety. I spent several weeks using the Ford Lewis Battles Papers, including materials relating to his *Piety of John Calvin*; Calvin's sermons, especially on the Psalms; commentaries; secondary literature related to Calvin's piety; and woodcuts and printer's art found in selected sixteenth-century publications. I also used the newspaper collection and archives of Calvin College along with other materials that provide a context for understanding the devotional practices that later evolved in the Christian Reformed Church. My research forms the basis of a chapter in a forthcoming book. The remarkable thing about the Meeter Center is that everything one needs is close at hand, whether it be texts in microform, rare editions, or journal articles and other secondary literature. It was a great joy to work with such resources in a comfortable setting and with a knowledgeable staff to assist. I continue to work as associate librarian and associate professor of bibliography at Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia.

*Robert Benedetto, associate librarian  
and associate professor of bibliography  
Union Theological Seminary and the  
Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, Va.*



I received the Emo Van Halsema Fellowship in the summer of 1998. As a Baptist with a Calvinistic theology I was interested in the interpretive and personal reasons why Calvin was so reticent to accept Anabaptist arguments for believer's baptism. My research focused on how Calvin's history of interaction with Anabaptism and Anabaptist sectarianism influenced the language with which Calvin defended infant baptism. I published my research in *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* (October 1999) in an article entitled, "The Development of John Calvin's Doctrine of Infant Baptism in Reaction to the Anabaptists." My experience at the Meeter Center was very valuable in developing my research and writing skills. I have published six other scholarly articles since then (only one on Calvin) while pursuing my Ph.D. in church history at Baylor University. I will graduate in May 2002 with a dissertation entitled "Prisoner of Conscience: Individualism, Subjectivism, and Christian Selfhood in the Writings of John Bunyan." I would certainly like to visit the Meeter Center again. I enjoyed the city of Grand Rapids, the friendships I made, and the Center's magnificent holdings.

*Galen Johnson, Ph.D. candidate  
Baylor University, Waco, Tex.*

## 1998



I am very grateful to Calvin College, the Emo Van Halsema fund, and the staff of the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies. My fellowship gave me a rare opportunity to experience daily life in the college and academic library in Grand Rapids. I am the librarian of a "Calvin College" in

Hungary. I am also in a dozen cultural associations through my lectures and publications. My research in the Meeter Center dealt with sources from the Reformation era. This period of study enabled me to prepare the publication of these sixteenth-century texts for the Sárospatak library collection. I will gladly send copies of my work to the Meeter Center. I pray for God's blessing on the work of Calvin College and the lives of the Meeter Center staff.

*Andrew-Joseph Kiss, librarian  
Sárospatak, Hungary*

## 1999



My month at the Meeter Center in the summer of 1999 provided me with the space, resources, and encouragement to get my thoughts in order and start writing my dissertation. I recall productive hours hunting through the library stacks, article collection, and microfilm as well as plenty of time

to contemplate, organize my research, and begin the writing process. But I also recall friendly coffee breaks, lunches, and minor league baseball games that provided a welcome relief from my studies. Ultimately both aspects of my time at the Meeter Center, the studies and the friendly encouragement, kept me on the right track to finish a daunting project, which I am now in the process of transforming into a book on infant baptism and children in Reformation Geneva. I look forward to returning to the Meeter Center (as a professor!) to pursue future projects.

*Karen Spierling, assistant professor of history  
University of Louisville, Kentucky*



I applied for a fellowship at the H. Henry Meeter Center in 1998 to do research on Calvin's political thought. After getting the fellowship, I spent July of 1999 at Calvin College. I prepared myself by reading the literature I had acquired in Hungarian before my journey to Grand Rapids. Once there, I

found an amazing abundance of monographs and articles on the chosen topic, and the system of the collection was easy to handle.

In the Meeter Center I found a friendly community of staff, including the director, Karin Maag, and the researchers. They were helpful, thoughtful hosts and colleagues. The most impressive personal experience was the small conference organized by the Meeter Center and Richard Muller. Here I gave my first lecture in

English (which I was not pleased with), but the interest of the participants encouraged me to keep on working. After I returned home, I continued work on my thesis. I have given some lectures on it here in Pápa, in the seminary and in the Reformed high school where I work as a deputy principal. In 1999 I was elected the president of a national NGO, the Association of Hungarian Reformed Teachers, which has members in Slovakia, Romania, and Ukraine as well. I gave this up in order to continue my studies on Calvinism and on literary topics. I would like to write on Calvinism in English in the future.

*Bálint Korsós, deputy principal  
Reformed high school, Pápa, Hungary*

## 2000



It was a great intellectual pleasure to spend six weeks at the Meeter Center during the summer of 2000. During that time I wrote half of a book about the spirituality of time and the time of spirituality in Calvin's Geneva. Astonishingly for me, I found almost all the books and articles I was

looking for. Last but not least I am very thankful for the warm welcome I received in Grand Rapids at the Meeter Center.

*Max Engammare, director  
Librairie Droz S.A., Geneva, Switzerland*



My stay at the Meeter Center in the summer of 2000 was one of the happiest periods of my life. Six weeks in a study office equipped with a laptop, surrounded by a wealth of books, articles, and other sources, and supported by helpful experts—it could not be better! At the same time my wife and

children had nice holidays in Grand Rapids, enjoying the friendship of many people. Being in Grand Rapids as Dutch people is a special pleasure! Afterwards, my research on prophesying in early Calvinism has stimulated the development of a big historical project on Reformed lay religion in the Netherlands. I hope and trust that the Meeter Center and its affiliated seminary and library will remain of great importance for the study of Calvinism and for the international contacts between scholars and institutions.

*Fred van Lieburg, Centre for Dutch Religious History  
Free University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

### Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards

Twenty-one papers were submitted on the topic "John Calvin and Religious Persecution." Rebecca Jelsema, of Grandville, Michigan, won the first-place award of \$2,500, and second-place winner Jonathan deKoning of Lacombe, Alberta, received \$1,250. Contact the Meeter Center to receive an informative brochure about next year's contest. Papers should be received by January 15, 2003.

## 2001



During the summer of 2001, I had the privilege of visiting the Meeter Center as a Student Research Fellow. It was my family's first experience in the United States, and we greatly enjoyed it. The Meeter Center staff did everything to make us feel comfortable and provided whatever we needed.

The purpose of my stay in Grand Rapids was to fill in a blank on the map of my research. As a doctoral student of the Vrijgemaakt Reformed Theological University of Kampen, I am preparing a dissertation on the connection between method and content in the doctrine of God. A significant part of the thesis is devoted to the analysis of Reformed orthodox theology. I used my research time at the Meeter Center to examine some materials on philosophical and theological method in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The excellent resources and the stimulating scholarly environment of the Meeter Center enabled me to make effective progress in my research.

At the same time the contacts with the Meeter Center staff; with seminary professors Richard Muller, Lyle Bierma, John Bolt, Cornelius Plantinga, and Henry de Moor; and with some doctoral students provide a lasting sense of commonality and promises of future encounters. It is important for American and Dutch Reformed theologians to share experiences and ideas in the common task of making our rich tradition relevant for today's church and society. I congratulate the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies on its twentieth anniversary, and I trust it will continue to enrich the study of Reformed theology for many years to come.

*Roelf Theodoor te Velde, Ph.D. candidate  
Theological University of Kampen (Broederweg)  
The Netherlands*



After two and a half months working in the Center as the holder of an Emo Van Halsema Fellowship (and teaching at Calvin Theological Seminary), I look back at this period with great pleasure. Within the scope of my project to write an intellectual biography of the Franeker Uni-

versity professor of theology, Johannes Maccovius (1588–1644), the Meeter Center offered me some unique possibilities to explore the sources of the library, the rare book room, and most of all, the IDC fiche series for which the Meeter Center is famous. It was possible to trace several Latin and Dutch editions of Maccovius' *Distictiones et Regulae theologicae ac philosophicae*. I was invited to lecture for the Meeter Center and the Seminary on the topic "The Fundamental Meaning of Theology: Archetypal and Ectypal Theology in Seventeenth-Century Reformed Thought." The resources necessary for the preparation of this lecture were also available at the Meeter Center.

I want to thank the staff who kindly offered many suggestions and answered many questions. While working in such fine collections and collegial surroundings, my study of the history of Reformed theology was also stimulated by the dialogue with the colleagues of Calvin Theological Seminary. This combination—research at the Meeter Center and teaching at the Seminary—has been very fruitful for my project.

*Willem van Asselt, professor of the history of Reformed theology  
Utrecht University, The Netherlands*



The main purposes of my research at the Meeter Center were to write an essay on the eschatological character of Calvin's theology and to get secondary resources for my further research on Calvin's use of eschatology in his commentaries.

While I was working there, I was able to gather most of the resources that I needed. The Center has an excellent collection of primary and secondary sources related to Calvin. The merit of the Center is its location. It would not be as beneficial if the Center were not linked to the Hekman library. I have found that the time I spent there was challenging and enjoyable.

*Young Hwan Ra, Ph.D. candidate  
University of Cambridge, U.K.*

## Fellowships Awarded in 2002

**Faculty Research Fellowship:** Dr. Darlene Flaming, assistant professor in the department of Christianity, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, will study Calvin's use of the apostles in understanding the office of the pastor.

**Student Research Fellowship:** Ms. Julie Canlis, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, plans to research Calvin and Irenaeus on the doctrine of participation. Mr. Michael Springer, also a Ph.D. candidate from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, will pursue research on John a Lasco's *Forma ac Ratio* (1555) and the development of sixteenth century Protestant church orders.

**Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship:** Rev. Frederik Harms, pastor of New Haven United Reformed Church, New Haven, Vermont, will study Calvin's view of the Church based on his Scripture commentaries on the Minor Prophets.

**Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship:** Dr. Jung Sook-Lee, part-time lecturer/research fellow from The Academy of Korean Studies, Seoul, Korea, plans to study the significance of repentance in the consistorial restoration in Calvin's Geneva. Dr. Scott Manetsch, assistant professor of church history and Christian thought at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, will continue his work on a biography of Beza.

## Chronological History of the Meeter Center

**1959** The will of Emeritus Professor H. Henry Meeter establishes a committee to promote the Scholarly Research and Development of Basic Historic Calvinism. The will envisions a growing scholarly collection and eventual housing for its storage, exhibition, and use.

Named to the committee are: Calvin College President Dr. William J. Spoelhof, Calvin Seminary President Dr. John Kromminga, Calvin College and Seminary Director of Development Mr. Sydney Youngsma, Calvin College Bible Department Chairperson Dr. John Bratt, and Mr. Hugh J. Meeter.

**1973** Mr. Sydney Youngsma, who is active in the promotion of the Calvin College and Seminary Heritage Hall/Colonial Origins project, urges consideration of the Bok Tower in Lake Wales, Florida, as a model for a free-standing campus.

**1974** A formal request is advanced to the Calvinism Committee for the establishment of a Calvinism Research Center stressing *visibility* as a prerequisite to *participation*. Urged is the construction of a highly visible Center structure for the Calvinism Collection to encourage participation of students, faculty, off-campus members of the Christian Reformed Church, scholars, and business and professional persons.

**1976** Dr. Anthony Diekema becomes President of Calvin College and a member of the Calvinism Committee provided for in

the will of Dr. Meeter. Dr. Diekema appoints an Ad Hoc Committee on the Calvin-Calvinism Collection chaired by Dr. John Bratt. Committee proposals are summarized by Calvin Seminary professor Dr. Fred Klooster in terms of the following needs and options.

**Needs:** Additional room for both books and users, greater prominence, physical continuity with the existing library, shelf space that might be integrated with the Colonial Origins Collection in Heritage Hall.

**Options:** Modest expansion into the balcony area of Heritage Hall; moderate expansion with a wing added to the library structure; plush creation, if funds would be available, of a unique architectural unit for the Calvin-Calvinism Collection.

**1978** Dr. Ford Lewis Battles, distinguished Calvin scholar, joins the Calvin Seminary faculty and recommends the creation of the present Center. (Dr. Battles' tenure is cut short by cancer in 1979.)

**1979** The Calvinism Study Center Committee is appointed with Calvin College history professor Dr. Frank Roberts as chairman. (The prodigious study, completed in 1981, develops the Center's constitution, bylaws, functions, and responsibilities.)

**1981** Construction of the plush option is begun.

**1982** The completed H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies is dedicated with thanksgiving to God.

— Hugh J. Meeter, 1988

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 248

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies  
Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary  
3201 Burton Street, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4388