



John Calvin

# Calvin Courier

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

Fall 2007, Number 40

## From the Director

Our summer months were busy at the Meeter Center! From June 26 to July 13, we hosted twenty participants and eight presenters attending our summer institute, "Teaching the Reformation in a Pluralist Age". See the report and pictures below. At the same time, we welcomed our regular visiting scholars who came this year from Germany, the US, and Poland. See p. 3 for visiting scholars' reports.

In November, we will hold two Meeter Center colloquia, one featuring Dr Charles Gunnoe of Aquinas College, speaking on German Calvinism, and one co-sponsored with the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, in which Dr James Bratt will discuss his forthcoming co-edited book, *John Calvin Rediscovered: The Impact of His Social and Economic Thought*. See inside for details on dates, times, and location.

Graduate students and faculty who have a good knowledge of modern written French are invited to apply for our summer 2008 Genevan paleography course, which will teach the fundamentals of reading and working with 16th and 17th century manuscripts in French. The course will run for two weeks, from June 2 to 13, and will be taught by Tom Lambert. Selected participants will each receive a \$500 stipend. The group size is limited to ten participants. Please contact [meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu) for more information and an application form.

Finally, those wishing to apply for a Meeter Center fellowship for 2008 should note the January 1, 2008 application deadline. Forms and more information are available on the Meeter Center website, [www.calvin.edu/meeter](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter).

As always, we deeply appreciate your interest in and support of our work, especially as we gear up for the big 500th birthday celebrations for John Calvin in 2009!

Karin Y. Maag

## NEH Summer Institute a Success

Twenty colleagues, ten men and ten women, from universities and colleges across the US gathered at the Meeter Center at the end of June for our three-week institute. None of them had been to the Meeter Center before. Although they were all strangers to each other to start with (except for two participants who had had the same PhD

supervisor), the participants swiftly became a strong and cohesive group, thanks in part to shared experiences including finding their way around campus, trying to locate more comfy chairs for class



NEH Participants at opening reception

sessions in the lecture hall, finding a restaurant big enough to accommodate all those wanting to go out to dinner together, etc. Participants enjoyed getting to meet and learn from the presenters (Ward Holder from Saint Anselm College, Robin Leaver from Davidson, Larissa Taylor from Colby College, Hal Parker from Saint Louis University, Merry Wiesner-Hanks from Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Henry Luttikhuisen and Karin Maag from Calvin College, and Graeme Murdock from the University of Birmingham in England). Of



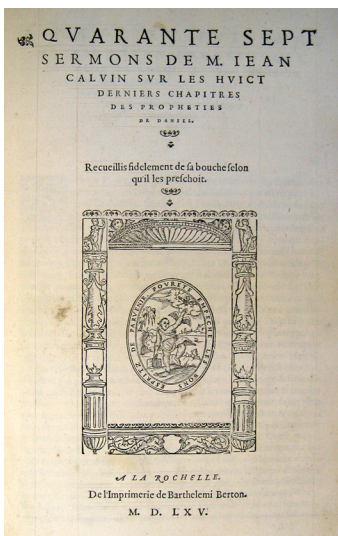
Participants getting to know one another

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## John Calvin and Daniel



The Meeter Center has added to its rare book collection two of Calvin's works on Daniel. Both books are bound together in a single volume. The first is the 1562 *Leçons de M. Jean Calvin sur le livre des propheties de Daniel*. Published in Geneva, it is the first edition of the French translation of the original Latin work of 1561, a work which the Center also owns.

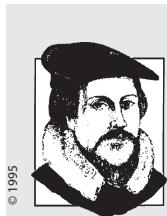


The second title is the *Quarante sept sermons sur les huit derniers chapitres des propheties de Daniel* published in 1565 in La Rochelle by Barthélemy Berton. Two printings of the work exist and this is the first. The work is unique because of its French connection. Support for its publication came from Frenchmen who dedicated it to a fellow-Frenchman, the Seigneur de Soubize.

## New Acquisitions

Arnold, Matthieu. *Annoncer l'Evangile, (XVe-XVIIe siècle): permanences et mutations de la prédication : actes du colloque international de Strasbourg, (20-22 novembre 2003)*. Paris: Editions du Cerf, 2006.

Berry, Lloyd E. *The Geneva Bible, a Facsimile of the 1560 Edition*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969.



Calvin Courier is published twice yearly by the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.

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Beza, Theodore. *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze, recueillie par Hippolyte Aubert*. Geneva: Droz, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Théodore de Bèze, (1519-1605): actes du colloque de Genève (septembre 2005)*. Geneva: Droz, 2007.

Brand, S. J. P. "Die logika van die geloof: gebed as die raakpunt tussen rasionaliteit en ervaring by Rahner en Calvin." Thesis (D.D. Dogmat.) Universiteit van Pretoria, 2005.

Brglez, Henry A. "Saving Union with Christ in the Theology of John Calvin: A Critical Study." Thesis (Ph. D.) University of Aberdeen, 1993.

Eglise nationale protestante de Genève. *Consistoire de Genève. Registres du Consistoire de Genève au temps de Calvin*. Geneva: Droz, 2007.

Hall, David W. *A Heart Promptly Offered: The Revolutionary Leadership of John Calvin*. Nashville: Cumberland House, 2006.

Ilic, Luka. "The Understanding of Sin in the Theology of Matthias Flacius Illyricus." Thesis (Th.M.) Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, 2005.

Maxfield, Eric J. "The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful: An Appraisal of the Status of Beauty and the Arts in the Thought and Work of John Calvin." Thesis (Th.M.) Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2005.

Pattison, Bonnie L. *Poverty in the theology of John Calvin*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2006.

Scholl, Hans. *Verantwortlich und frei: Studien zu Zwingli und Calvin, zum Pfarrerbild und zur Israeltheologie der Reformation*. Zürich: Theologischer Verlag Zürich, 2006.

Selderhuis, H. J. *Calvin's theology of the Psalms*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2007.

Sternhold, Thomas. *1599 Geneva Bible: The Holy Scriptures Contained in the Old and New Testaments*. White Hall: Tolle Lege Press, 2006.

Thierry, André. *Autour de l'Histoire universelle d'Agrippa d'Aubigné: mélanges à la mémoire d'André Thierry*. Geneva: Droz, 2006.

Wisse, Maarten. *Scripture Between Identity and Creativity: A Hermeneutical Theory Building upon Four Interpretations of Job*. Utrecht: Ars Disputandi, 2003.



*Left to Right*

*Front Row: Doug Wayman, Darren Williamson, Van Campbell, Amanda Epperson, Mary Anderson, Kathryn Brammall, John Pinheiro*

*Second Row: Karin Maag, Michelle Voss Roberts, Jacob Blosser, Daniel Christianson, Ronald Greenwald, Jeffery Hankins, Jessica Thurlow, David Burrow*

*Third Row: Hal Parker, Nancy Bjorklund, Linda Pittman, Renee Brichker, Brenda Schoolfield, Robert Imperato, Patricia Mangan*

## NEH Summer Institute a Success

*(continued from page 1)*

particular value were the discussions about pedagogy and about resources that presenters and participants had themselves used in the classroom. One good sign of the success of the program came in the feedback session, when a number of participants suggested that they would have liked the institute to go on for at least another week! We are particularly grateful to staff and faculty at Calvin who helped our institute run so smoothly, both on a practical level and in their willingness to interact with our guests. The written evaluations showed that participants felt they had learned a great deal about how to teach the Reformation more effectively in their classrooms, and that both the content and the strategies they learned would be put to very good use.

## 2007 Summer Scholars' Impressions

Diane Margolf, the 2007 Faculty Fellowship recipient from Colorado State University, wrote: "I really enjoyed the atmosphere at the Meeter Center during my visit this summer. It was more than just the richness of the archives and library collections, excellent though they were. The Center's director and staff went out of their way to offer generous hospitality, as well as assistance with my work. They made me feel very welcome as a scholar and a temporary member of their community. I also enjoyed the campus at Calvin College, especially the lovely, quiet corners where one could read and reflect in tranquility on the day's work (in my case, studying penance and public apology in the Calvinist tradition during the Reformation). Finally, I enjoyed visiting some of Grand Rapids' local attractions. The



*Diane Margolf*

Gerald R. Ford Museum brought back memories of the 1970s and '80s, and I spent a delightful afternoon visiting the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park – including a special exhibit on chocolate!"

Tomasz Szczech, Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship recipient from the University of Lodz, Poland, wrote: "The main topic of my interest during my research at the Meeter Center was the relationship between John Calvin's political theology and the modern idea of religious liberty. The center provided me with excellent conditions for research. Among many things which I appreciated and enjoyed I would like to mention: 1. The large amount of resources collected by the Meeter Center and easy access to them. 2. The proximity of the library. 3. The atmosphere of friendship and thorough work among the staff of the Meeter Center. I not only researched the topic mentioned above, but also collected materials for other publications which I am working on. The people from the Meeter Center helped us a lot during all our stay at Grand Rapids. They were caring for all our family's needs, helping us to be at the picnic, take us shopping, visit Chicago, or rent a car (which for some reason was very difficult). Our children enjoyed the stay in Grand Rapids beyond our expectations. My younger daughter keeps asking me: "Dad, when will we take the plane and return home?" By "home" she means a house at 2009 Edgewood in Grand Rapids. Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude for Dr. Karin Maag, Director of the Meeter Center, to Mr. Paul Fields, curator, for Ryan Noppen, program coordinator, Chelsey, Seth and all the other people, who helped me to be there and to explore the resources available at Calvin's College. I am thankful to Dariusz Brycko, PhD Candidate at Calvin's Theological Seminary, for mentoring me in reformed theology. I wish to express my appreciation to all the participants at my presentation given on August 27th. My best regards to my friend Prof. William R. Stevenson, Jr., whose constant encouragement and support helps me a lot in discovering Calvin."



*Tomasz Szczech*

## Coming Soon!

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

## Upcoming Lectures

### November 14, 2007

The Meeter Center will co-sponsor, together with the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship, a presentation by James Bratt of Calvin's History Department. Dr. Bratt will be discussing his co-edited work, *John Calvin Rediscovered: The Impact of His Social and Economic Thought*. The presentation will take place on Wednesday November 14, 2007, at 3:30 PM in the Commons Lecture Hall. Refreshments will be served.

### November 15, 2007

The Meeter Center's 2007 Fall Colloquium will feature Dr. Charles Gunnoe of Aquinas College speaking on "German Calvinism in Crisis: The Heidelberg Conflict over Church Discipline 1568-1571". The Colloquium will be held on Thursday November 15, 2007, at 3:30 PM in the Meeter Center Lecture Hall just off the Hekman Library lobby. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

## 2008 French Paleography Course

The Meeter Center will host a French paleography course on reading 16th Century Genevan documents. Beginning paleographers will develop a basic tool set to help them read, interpret, and present the manuscripts they encounter in their research. The class will take place from June 2 to 13, 2008, and will be taught by Tom Lambert, who has led previous Meeter Center paleography courses. For more information visit:

<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/paleography>

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

The 2008 research paper topic is:

**John Calvin and the Risks and Benefits of Learning from  
non-Christian Sources**

For further details and application instructions visit:

[http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool\\_award.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool_award.htm)

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