



# Calvin Courier

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

Fall 2004, Number 34

## From the Director

From June 28 through July 30, 2004, we held our five-week summer seminar funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. At times the Meeter Center reading room had no free chairs, and the line-ups for the photocopier were long! Fortunately we had use of the lower level, so that some of our participants could find a spot to work down there. The Meeter Center staff worked diligently to ensure that all the NEH participants as well as our regular group of visiting scholars had access to the materials they needed for their research. See page 3 for the seminar report.

We have two public lectures planned for October and November and two more in the spring, including our biennial lecture to be given by Dr. Raymond Mentzer of the religious studies department at the University of Iowa. We are delighted that he will be with us to share his expertise on church life among the French Huguenots. See page 3 for more on this year's colloquia.

From April 7–9, 2005, the Meeter Center is hosting the biennial meeting of the Calvin Studies Society. A program

and registration information sheet is included with this newsletter. The theme of the conference is "Calvin, Beza, and later Calvinism," a fitting topic since 2005 marks the 400th anniversary of the death of Theodore Beza, Calvin's successor in the Genevan church and a significant figure in his own right. As a bonus we will offer a dramatic reading of Beza's play, *Abraham's Sacrifice*, as the evening entertainment on Friday, April 9.

Finally, please note that from June 6–17, 2005, the Meeter Center will offer its fourth biennial Genevan paleography course, taught by Dr. Thomas Lambert, one of the main scholars involved in the transcription and publication of the Genevan consistory registers. Applicants must provide a letter of reference and evidence that their French is at intermediate reading level or better to participate. The first ten successful applicants will receive a \$500 bursary from the Friends of the Meeter Center. See more information on how to apply on page 2 of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events in the coming year.

Karin Y. Maag

## Music Wars in the Dutch Reformation

On October 15, Randall D. Engle presented a lecture on the organ controversy in the Netherlands during the 16th and 17th centuries. Drawn to the topic as an organist and CRC pastor, Engle explored why John Calvin's prohibition of the organ was quickly overturned after his death. Engle identified the situation as unique—without parallel in the history of church music. The Dutch Reformed Church was searching for its identity and formulating its theology of worship. Because the city magistrates owned the churches and paid the organists, the congregations did not have power to remove the organs.

During this time, the controversy shifted from the statement that

the organ cannot be used to an interrogative: Why couldn't the organ be used? The Dutch Reformed Church was struggling to learn the newly composed Genevan psalms without instrumental support. Highlights from provincial and national synods and church orders revealed that organs were being used again for preludes,

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## New Acquisitions

### Books

Beza, Theodore. *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze*. Vol. 26. Collected by Hippolyte Aubert. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2004.

Calvin, Jean. *De handzame Calvijn*. Amsterdam: Van Gennep, 2004.

Edmondson, Stephen. *Calvin's Christology*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Foxgrover, David, ed. *Calvin and the Company of Pastors*. Papers presented at the 14th colloquium of the Calvin Studies Society May 22–24, 2003. Grand Rapids: CRC Product Services,

### Rare Books

Calvin, John. *Commentarii in secundam epistolam ad Corinthios*. Geneva: Jean Girard, 1548.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Commentaire sur l'Epistre aux Ebrieux*. Geneva: Jean Girard, 1549.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Institutio christianae religionis*. Edited by Nicolas Colladon. [Geneva]: Eustache Vignon & Jean Le Preux, 1585.

### Articles

Baars, A. "Meditatio futurae vitae bij Calvijn." *Theologia Reformata* 47, no. 3, 2004: 225–47.

Boer, Erik A. de. "The Presence and Participation of Laypeople in the *Congrégations* of the Company of Pastors in Geneva." *The Sixteenth Century Journal* 35, no. 3, 2004: 651–70.

Coertzen, Pieter and S. J. Hans. "An Investigation into Calvin's Use of Augustine." *Nederlands Gereformeerd Theologische Tydskrif* 45, no. 1 & 2, 2004: 36–44.

Currid, John D. "Calvin as Hebraist: Guarding the Sacred Deposit." *Reformed Theological Review* 63, no. 2, 2004: 61–71.

Lang, M.H. de. "De Harmonia (1555) van Calvijn." In *De opkomst van de historische en literaire kritiek in de synoptische beschouwing van de evangeliën van Calvijn (1555) tot Griesbach (1774)*, 23–35. Leiden: [s.n.], 1993.

Millet, Olivier. "Les *Loci communes* de 1535 et l' *Institution de la Religion chrétienne* de 1539–1541, ou Calvin en dialogue avec Melancthon." In *Melancthon und Europa*, 85–96. Stuttgart: J. Thorbecke, 2002.

Pitkin, Barbara. "The Protestant Zeno: Calvin and the Development of Melancthon's Anthropology." *The Journal of Religion* 84, no. 3, 2004: 345–78.

Stevenson, William R., Jr. "An Agnostic View of Voegelin's Gnostic Calvin." *The Review of Politics* 66, no. 3, 2004: 415–43.

### Dissertation

Shin, Dong Soo. "Creation, the Fall, Redemption and Consummation as a Framework for Understanding the Law-Gospel Relationship in Calvin" Th.M. thesis, Calvin Theological Seminary, 2004.

## Paleography at the Meeter Center

Do you or someone you know have plans for archival research in the near future? Do you plan to read manuscript sources in French? If so, we have the training you need to be able to decipher sixteenth-century French handwriting! Applications are invited for our fourth biennial Genevan paleography course at the Meeter Center, from June 6–17, 2005.

The two-week session will feature intensive morning seminars with the afternoons free for individual practice and research using the Center's collection. Dr. Thomas Lambert, one of the chief scholars involved in the transcription and publication of the Genevan consistory registers, will be the instructor. Students must be proficient in reading modern French at the intermediate level prior to taking the course. The application deadline is March 15, 2005. The first ten successful applicants will each receive a \$500 bursary to help defray travel and accommodation costs.

One of the participants in our 2003 course reported: "My brief assessment of the course is that it was fantastic. I had no experience in paleography before the course, but after two weeks I feel much more confident about doing archival research with sixteenth-century sources. At the very least the course has shown me what I can expect to find when I do go to the archives." Another noted, "Apart from learning a good deal of sixteenth-century French, I greatly appreciated all the related information that Dr. Lambert imparted to us. From the structure of the Genevan government to the daily preaching schedule of the churches, Dr. Lambert gave us a great introduction to life in Geneva during the ministry of John Calvin. Paleography might be difficult, but the rewards, as Dr. Lambert showed us, are great." Application information can be found on our Web site, [www.calvin.edu/Meeter](http://www.calvin.edu/Meeter).



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## NEH Summer Seminar



Fifteen college and university faculty from across the U.S. joined Ray Mentzer of the University of Iowa and Karin Maag, director of the Meeter Center, for a five-week seminar on “John Calvin and the Transformation of Religious Culture in Geneva, France, and Beyond.” Participants met three mornings a week for three hours for a wide-ranging seminar discussion based on primary and secondary sources and used the rest of the time for their own research. Social events included gatherings at the homes of local participants and a pot-luck dinner as well as smaller group outings to the farmers’ market, local restaurants, and movies. Thanks to the generosity of local faculty and staff, we were able to provide bicycles to participants who wanted them. Faculty at the college and seminary were also generous with their time, meeting individually with participants who wanted to explore certain themes related to their discipline. As one of the members of the seminar commented on the evaluation form, “These two directors seem to me to have accomplished NEH goals in exemplary fashion, and I certainly hope they run this seminar, or some version of it, again.”

## In Memoriam

The Meeter Center expresses its sympathy to the family and friends of Jelle Faber, professor of dogmatology and principal at the Theological College of the Canadian Reformed churches from 1969–1989. He was the author of two books and numerous articles in Dutch and English on various aspects of the Reformed faith.

**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.

## Meeter Center Colloquium Series

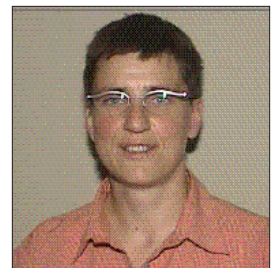
*November 18, 2004* Dr. Susan Felch, professor of English at Calvin College, will speak at the Meeter Center’s fall colloquium. Her topic will be “Women and the Reformation.”

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

*April 6, 2005* The Meeter Center Biennial Lecture will feature Dr. Raymond Mentzer, Daniel J. Krumm Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa. Dr. Mentzer is a noted expert on the social history of the French Reformation. His topic is “‘No Benches Are Reserved’: Seating Disputes in the French Reformation Church.”

## A Summer at the Meeter Center

This year I spent a wonderful summer in Grand Rapids. As a Faculty Fellowship recipient I was able to use the extensive collection of the Meeter Center and to enjoy the stimulating environment the Center staff has created. Moreover, this year the Meeter Center hosted the NEH seminar, and this provided an excellent opportunity to meet other scholars in Calvin research.



During the summer I worked on a critical edition of Calvin’s treatise against the Anabaptists, a paper about Calvin’s correspondence with Jean de L’Espine, and an article about Farel’s influence on Calvin’s treatise against the Anabaptists. The Meeter Center possesses a rich collection of sources and literature on these subjects. The extensive microfiche-collection and the collection of articles were especially of great use to me. I was pleasantly surprised by the article catalogue that enables scholars to find articles on specific subjects easily. The fact that all these materials are so readily at hand made it possible for me to study the wider context of, for example, Calvin’s writing against the Anabaptists and to compare this writing with other Reformed polemics against the Anabaptists.

Other scholars who have had the opportunity to spend some time in Grand Rapids have already described the Meeter Center as a sort of heaven on earth for Calvin scholars, and indeed it is!

*Miriam van Veen, Ph.D.  
Free University of Amsterdam*

2005.

An audio-cassette tape copy of Reverend Engle's lecture can be ordered from the Meeter Center for \$2 + postage. Contact Susan Schmurr at [sschmurr@calvin.edu](mailto:sschmurr@calvin.edu).

## Music Wars in the Dutch Reformation

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postludes, and accompanying the singing of the Genevan psalms. In 1640 the Synod of Delft found a middle way: the decision to use the organ was left to the freedom of the churches.

Observing that the Dutch Reformed Church agreed with John Calvin's visual iconoclasm but not with his aural iconoclasm, Engle concluded that Calvin's aural iconoclasm clashed with the primary Calvinist principle of congregational singing. The singing of the Genevan psalms was unsuccessful without the organ. Many churches needed the organ to support congregational singing so that the people could worship God in spirit and in truth.

*Jana Bos, M. Div. student  
Calvin Theological Seminary*

## A Reformation Tour

This tour (July 22 – August 5, 2005) will highlight Reformation Europe. Visits to Lutheran and Reformed churches in the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland will concentrate on worship, art, music, and theology. Other sites such as Wartburg Castle, Wittenberg, Dordrecht, and Heidelberg will be visited. The tour leaders will be [Emily Brink](#), senior research fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and editor of *Reformed Worship*, and Frank Roberts, professor emeritus of Reformation history at Calvin College. The tour is cosponsored by the Calvin Alumni Association and the H.H. Meeter Center for Calvin Studies. To register, contact [Frank Roberts](mailto:robefr@calvin.edu) at [robefr@calvin.edu](mailto:robefr@calvin.edu).

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

The topic for 2005 is "Why Has Education Been So Central for John Calvin and Calvinism?" Contact the Meeter Center to receive an informative brochure about the contest. Papers should be received by January 15, 2005.