

Calvin Courier

H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies
Reformation, Research, Teaching, Community Outreach



Fall 2019
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Hyun-Ah Kim: 2019 Meeter Family Fellowship Recipient

4 June – 31 July 2019

Project: The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music: From the Reformation to the Present

Research and Resources

During the fellowship I have studied numerous primary and secondary sources essential to my project at the Center. The Center has an impressively rich collection of Reformation studies, including Calvin studies. All the sources are readily accessible, and I could study them in my cosy office located within the Center. The desktop computer in the office, updated with the latest software, was helpful for reading E-books particularly. The Hekman Library was useful too; it has excellent collections in the humanities (especially theology, history, liturgy and church music) and other sources useful for refreshment.

My research was not confined to these scholarly sources I have consulted at the Center. It was a pleasure and fun to meet other fellows and staff and students on campus through the Center. I enjoyed participating in some important events of which I was well informed by the Center: a seminar at Calvin Theological Seminary (June 5); the special Sunday evening worship of the Christian Reformed Church Synod (June 16); 'Cultivating Vital Worship,' organised by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, which offered a range of workshops, lectures, a documentary film, an exhibition and so on (26 June). A fellows lunch meeting (12 June) and podcast interviews (13 June) were also helpful for networking and promoting my project.

Since my project is intended both for a conference and a publication, it's important to maintain the balance between my task as the project leader with a clear overview of the project and individual research on several themes relevant to it. I've continued research on aspects



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From the Director

On the evening of Friday, September 13, an audience of students, scholars, and community members filled the Calvin Seminary Chapel. They had come to attend the Meeter Center's re-enactment of the public debate held in Zurich in 1523 that helped usher in the Reformation in that Swiss city. This readers' theater brought together participants from Calvin Theological Seminary and Calvin University, playing the parts of Reformers, Catholic opponents, and city councilors. This highly successful event, held in the context of the conference organized by the Meeter Center to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Swiss Reformation in 1519, illustrates the Meeter Center's key role in fostering learning about the Reformation era and its ongoing impact. See p. 3 for more on the conference.

The Center also kept busy hosting this year's fellowship recipients, who came to us from Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Scotland, and the United States. Meeter Family Fellowship recipient Hyun Ah Kim provides a report on her research and experiences in Grand Rapids on pp. 1 and 4. We were also delighted to welcome other scholars who came to the Center over the summer months to pursue their research projects, including Andrew Spicer from Oxford Brookes University in England, and In-Sub Ahn from Chongshin University in South Korea. The deadline for next year's fellowships program is January 1, 2020. Please see p. 2 for more information on how to apply.

In 2020, the Center will once again offer its two-week Genevan paleography workshop, led by Dr. Thomas Lambert. Past participants have testified time and time again about how helpful this workshop has been in preparing them for archival work and for deciphering manuscripts. Candidates with a solid reading knowledge of modern French are strongly encouraged to apply. Successful applicants each receive a \$500 bursary to help defray travel and accommodation costs. Please see p. 2 for application details.

Finally, we are delighted to announce that thanks to a generous donation from Kate and Frans Van Liere in memory of Kate's mother, Thorne Tjader Elliot, the Meeter Center has purchased a set of eleven rare books, including ten by Calvin and an early 17th century illustrated Luther Bible. We encourage others who may be interested in helping the Center expand its rare book holdings in Calvin and Reformation studies to contact Meeter Center curator Paul Fields (pfields@calvin.edu). We continue also to work on reaching our Meeter Center Endowment goal of five million dollars – so far, we are just under half-way there! Gifts to the endowment are also deeply appreciated. Please contact the Meeter Center (meeter@calvin.edu) for more information.

Karin Maag

The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music: From the Reformation to the Present

The first Reformation Musical History and Theology conference on The Reformed Theology and Spirituality of Music will be held in Enschede, The Netherlands (13-15 May 2020). Dr. Karin Maag will give one of the plenaries on psalter prefaces. Deadline for the second and final round of short paper submissions is 15 November, 2019. For more information on the conference, please visit: <https://www.rmht2020conference.com>

French Paleography Workshop

Our biennial French paleography workshop will take place again July 6 - 17, 2020. The workshop is open to undergraduates, graduate students, and scholars. Participants will receive a stipend of \$500 to defray the costs of travel and accommodation for the two-week course. For additional details go to the Meeter Center website:

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

IN MEMORIAM IRENA BACKUS

The Meeter Center joins scholars and friends worldwide in marking the passing of Professor Irena Backus, who died in Geneva on June 13, 2019. She was an outstanding scholar and linguist, known for her research on John Calvin and the Reformation, but also for her work on the early church Fathers. She decisively shaped the field of Reformation studies, readily and kindly sharing her expertise with all of us, and she will be sorely missed.



Meeter Center Fellowships and Scholarships

Every year, the Meeter Center offers fellowships for graduate students, faculty, and pastors, with awards of \$2,000-4,000. We also offer scholarships for high school seniors, with one 1st place award of \$3,500 and three 2nd place awards of \$2,000 to be applied to college tuition at one of six specific colleges. For more information on how to apply for fellowships and scholarships, see:

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

Renew Your Friends Membership

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends' donations help provide funding for special programs, including fellowships, workshops, and community educational events.

Student	\$25	Advocate	\$500
Supporter	\$50	Partner	\$1000
Donor	\$100	Benefactor	\$5000

Donate to our Endowment or Rare Book Fund

Currently the Meeter Center owns approximately half of Calvin's works in original editions, and we expand our offerings each year. Donations to the Rare Book fund are used exclusively for adding rare books to the collection. Endowment Fund donations are also welcomed. We have a \$5 million endowment goal and are nearly half-way there, thanks to your generosity!

Donation checks may be made out to "Calvin University Meeter Center" and sent to 1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546. Thank you!

The Meeter Center at SCSC

The Sixteenth Century Studies Conference will meet for its annual gathering in St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 17 - 20, 2019. The Meeter Center, an active partner at SCSC, will sponsor four panel sessions on Theodore Beza, and Karin Maag will speak in a panel session on the historiography of Calvin Studies within the last fifty years. She is also participating in a round-table discussion to honor John Thompson (Fuller Theological Seminary) in view of his upcoming retirement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reformation Day Lecture

Dr. Susan Felch of the Calvin University English Department will present "Discovering Anne Lock: The Remarkable Ordinary Life of an English Reformer."

October 31st, 3:30 pm, Meeter Center
(fourth floor, Hekman Library)

Fall 2019 Lecture

Dr. Jason VanHorn of the Calvin University Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies Department will present "Unlocking Scriptural Terra Incognita: An Exploration in Bible Maps of Old."

November 14th, 3:30 pm, Meeter Center Lecture Hall
(Hekman Library Lobby)

"The Swiss Reformation at 500"

Our conference on September 13th and 14th commemorated Huldrych Zwingli's ministry in Zurich, which began in 1519.

1523 Zurich Debate reenactment. L to R: Scott Manetsch, Yudha Thianto, Lyle Bierma, Don McCrory, David Malone, Jul Medenblik, Karen Spierling, George Monsma, Jeff Sadjak



Meeter Center Director Dr. Karin Maag, with the Honorary Swiss Consul from Detroit, Walter Wegmueller

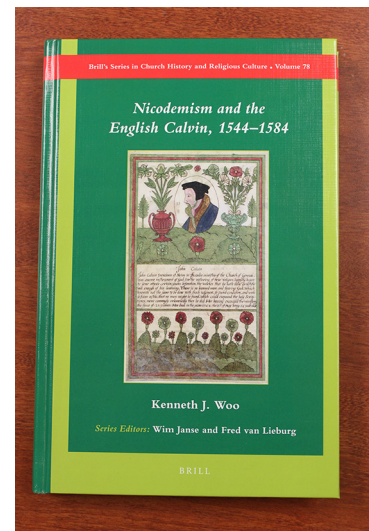


CURATOR'S CORNER: ACQUISITIONS AND RARE BOOKS

Nicodemism and the English Calvin, 1544-1584 by Kenneth Woo. Leiden: Brill, 2019.

Working with John Calvin's 1552 Quatre Sermons, Kenneth Woo argues for a balanced understanding of Calvin's written arguments against Nicodemism. He considers the contexts of the arguments and critiques the assumption that Calvin's "approach to religious dissimulation remained static over time" (p.3). Woo argues that "the publication history of Quatre Sermons reveals how Calvin's anti-Nicodemite polemic could be adapted for completely different audiences" (p. 3). First preached in 1549, the sermons were translated into Latin and then from 1553 to 1584 published in five unique English translations. These are the only sermons Calvin personally prepared for print (p.18). According to Calvin Nicodemites were those who, to avoid persecution, hid their true beliefs by participating in the Roman mass. "At the same time, there remains considerable debate over the attitudes—even the identity—of those whom Calvin addressed through these writings" (p.5). Woo asserts that "Notwithstanding [Calvin's] confident allegations, the identities of actual Nicodemites were a mystery to Calvin as well... Could it be that his invective pointed at no dissemblers in particular or even to none at all?" (p.15). By working closely with the Sermons publication history and English translations for an audience in Elizabethan England, a place where Nicodemism as Calvin portrayed it was not evident, Woo argues that "various uses of Calvin's 1552 publication in other contexts affirm the text's versatility in its original setting" (p. 19).

By using one work, which was retranslated and printed over several decades for different audiences, Prof. Woo posits that Calvin and others applied the idea of Nicodemism differently depending upon the historical context and the needs of the times.



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of Reformed theology/spirituality and musical practices from early modern to the present time, while at the same time studying Peter Martyr's commentary on I Corinthians 14 and Reformed and Presbyterian musical traditions in North America.

Living and Working

This is my first visit to the Center and Calvin University; it's my second visit to the USA! Being an unlicensed anthropologist, I enjoyed exploring regional history, culture, nature and customs, not only by visiting all the museums in town but also by observing and living local life – natural, agricultural, academic, religious, cultural, etc. It was an interesting experience to live in Grand Rapids, not so far from Toronto where I used to live for many years, as I could see something in common between them. The Dutch heritage is very strong in Grand Rapids/Calvin University, and it was fascinating to see what the immigrants have achieved and how, in comparison with my experiences in the Netherlands. I often felt as if I've been somewhere between Toronto and the Netherlands – a junction where I met many Koreans too! My accommodation arranged by the Center was close to the Center; it was comfortable and safe. All staff members of the Center were so efficient and helpful; they supplied everything needed for my living and research without delay, without any fuss.

I've worked as a researcher at various institutions during the last several decades. At the Meeter Center I could learn a lot about how a good research center should function, particularly in a Christian environment. If/when I have any chance to set up a research center in the future, the Meeter Center will be an excellent role model. Giving a presentation towards the end of fellowship was very helpful for promoting my project in wider circles. I also visited many churches around the campus and made good contacts with them. I'd love to visit the Center again in the future. I am more than happy to introduce it to others, let alone those specialising in the Reformation/Reformed studies.

Meeter Center Youtube Channel

Our Youtube channel has new videos on it! This past summer, Karin Maag did a series of short takes on the Protestant Reformation which are featured in a playlist on our channel titled "The Protestant Reformation--Whiteboard Sessions." We also have a playlist of our Swiss Reformation conference presentations up, including the video of our live reenactment of the 1523 Zurich Debate between Zwingli and Vicar-General of the Bishop of Constance Johannes Fabri. Check it out here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCARZPtTRyQ_KzWon-6WLfWA/playlists