



John Calvin

Calvin Courier

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

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25th Anniversary Edition

From the Director

This spring, we are celebrating the Meeter Center's twenty-fifth anniversary! We have asked visiting scholars from past years to send us updates, and I have in fact been asked to keep my contribution short, so as to make sure that we have enough space for all the news we have to share!

This summer we look forward to the visit of a number of new fellowship recipients, and especially to the three-week institute funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Over the past two and a half decades, many people have supported the Meeter Center, through their financial gifts, through service on our governing board and executive committee, and through their ongoing interest in our work. I am particularly grateful for the excellent work done by past and current Meeter Center staff members and for the constant support we receive from Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary. Thank you all, and may our next twenty-five years be just as successful!

Karin Maag

Visiting Scholars Through the Years

I had a graduate student fellowship at the Meeter Center in the summer of 1999. I was in the early stages of research for my dissertation, which was on Pierre Viret and the Reformation in the Pays de Vaud. I received my Ph.D. in 2002 from the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies at the University of Arizona. My dissertation has since been revised and published as *Calvinism's First Battleground: Conflict and Reform in the Pays de Vaud, 1528-1559* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2005). My initial academic position has been at Concordia University in Irvine, California, but I will be starting a new position in the fall (2007) in the history department at the University of Missouri-Rolla (soon to be renamed the Missouri University of Science and Technology). I will look forward to being within a day's drive of the Meeter Center and its excellent sources on the history of Calvinism. In addition to helping me get started on my dissertation, my time there allowed me to work with microfilmed Genevan archival materials that have proved very useful in more recent projects.

Michael Bruening
Student Research Fellow, 1999



The Meeter Center took me under its wing back in 2002, when I had just given birth to our second child and needed a place to focus on my work. What I thought was going to be an academic retreat turned out also to be a wonderful place of fellowship, and even a family holiday! Perhaps most significantly, the research that I carried out while at the Meeter Center has resulted in the honor of receiving the 2007 Templeton Prize for Theological Promise. For the time being, I'm living out Calvin's theology of family (we've just had our fourth child!), researching spiritual formation for children, and teaching the occasional course at the University of St. Andrews.

Julie Canlis
Student Research Fellow, 2002



I have many happy memories of my visit to the Meeter Center during July 2005. Karin, Paul, Susan, and Lauren were very patient with my many questions. I shared a seminary flat with two international students, Darius and Wilson, who showed me around the area, including a visit to Lake Michigan. It was a privilege and gave a real boost to my research to have access to such an extensive collection of sources, some of which were unobtainable in the United Kingdom. It was also valuable to be able to compare notes with other researchers. My PhD thesis is studying the development of Calvin's thinking about faith and assurance between the 1536 and 1539 editions of the Institutes. Presently, I work part-time teaching Church History in adult and higher education.

Geoff Cooke
Student Research Fellow, 2005



When finishing my Ph.D. on pastoral care for the sick in the Netherlands and especially about the so called "Ziekentroosters" (Comforters of the sick), I more and more felt the need of a fundamental reflexion on the foundations of reformed pastoral care. My supervisor and former visiting scholar Fred van Lieburg suggested that I apply for a stay at the H. Henry Meeter Center. I am still grateful the Meeter Center granted me their 2005-Student Fellowship. The Meeter Center proved to be a most cordial and inspiring environment. The hospitality and helpfulness of the staff was simply fantastic! Together with some friends I had written a volume about the Reformation memorial in 1917. During my stay at the Meeter Center I got the idea to do something similar about Calvin. As a result, work is underway on an international volume on "The Modern Calvin. John Calvin in Nineteenth- and Twentieth- Century Collective Memory" which will appear in 2008.

Johan de Niet
Student Research Fellow, 2005



I am most grateful for the Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship awarded to me in 2005. The resources and support of the Meeter Center enabled me to write about Calvin's understanding of worship as it related to instrumental music in general, and the pipe organ in specific. I tell everyone that there is simply no better

facility for researching Calvinism than the Meeter Center; my travels to major European research libraries and research libraries in North America confirm this. Additionally, my time at the Meeter Center introduced me to wonderful colleagues, many of whom have become personal and valued friends. I join Calvin scholars everywhere in saluting the vital mission of the H. Henry Meeter Center, and congratulate it on its twenty-fifth birthday!

*Rev. Randall Engle, Ph.D.
Van Halsema Fellow, 2004*



As a professor at a small college in western Texas, I am largely isolated from colleagues sharing my interest in religion and politics in sixteenth-century England, and it is difficult for me to gain access to many of the texts on which my research relies. The summer I spent as a fellow at the Meeter Center was a wonderful break from

this situation. Seven weeks surrounded by scholars of Calvinism with a vast collection of literature on Calvin and Calvinism at our fingertips was a wonderful opportunity. Research conducted at the Meeter Center has played an important role in the completion of several projects: three conference presentations, a soon to be published chapter in the Brill Companion to Richard Hooker, and a forthcoming book, *Defending Royal Supremacy and Discerning God's Will in Tudor England*. Thank you to all of the Meeter Center administrators, staff, and supporters for making this opportunity available to me and other scholars.

*Daniel Eppley
Faculty Research Fellow, 2005*



I was honored to receive a Meeter Center Fellowship in the summer of 1989 to support my translating Calvin's lectures on Ezekiel for the Rutherford House project headed by David Wright. The late Peter DeKlerk was helpful in showing me how to make use of the Center's resources, and I enjoyed times of visiting with Bob

Clouse and Ray Mentzer who also had fellowships that summer. Since 1989, I have been the pastor of a UCC congregation in Batavia, IL, and since 1997, I have been an officer of the Calvin Studies Society and editor of the CSS papers.

*David Foxgrover
Faculty Research Fellow, 1989*



I was doing research in the spring of 1990, in the era of the great wind of change in Eastern Europe. At the Meeter Center, I found a real paradise of Calvin's research. This has always been a unique place for scholars to fulfill their dreams, because the Meeter Center has a remarkable collection on Calvin and

Calvinism, where one can not only read the latest and contemporary literature on Calvin, but also outstanding copies of documents from the 16th century.

All that I acquired on Calvin and Calvinism, I could implement in the field of education as well as in political practice (i.e. in the Hungarian and the European Parliament and the Council of Europe).

*Dr. Richard Höresik
Faculty Research Fellow, 1990*



I remember with warmth my time at the Meeter Centre which was just before Karin came. I tried valiantly to write a doctoral thesis on Reformed and Anabaptist thinkers but the more I thought about it the more my original thesis proved untenable. I started by thinking that these two groups were the forerunners to

later divisions over the Word and Spirit. For a couple of years I was a p/t staff member at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. In mid 2000 I accepted my present position as Senior Minister of St Alfred's Anglican Church in Melbourne. I occasionally do some lecturing on the Reformation and one day I intend dusting off the research. While in Oxford I had three children with my wife, Virginia. They are Hannah (now 11), and twins David & Naomi (now 7). I am full-time, fully engaged leading a busy church and I thank the Meeter Center for giving me time to stop and reflect on the great Reformation heritage passed on to us.

*Rev. Peter MacPherson
Student Research Fellow, 1997*



My initial experience at the Meeter Center was in 1989 when I was a Summer Research Fellow. It proved the beginning of a wonderful, ongoing relationship. I returned for an extended time in 2004 when Karin Maag and I co-directed a NEH Summer Seminar. In between and since, I have always found a few days or a week at

the Center to be extremely helpful. The longer stays have given me the time to research and write journal articles and book chapters. Shorter visits have been the occasion to put the final touches on a conference presentation or encyclopedia entry. In every instance, the primary and secondary materials are comprehensive and readily available. No less beneficial have been the opportunities to discuss various projects with Karin, Paul Fields, other faculty members at Calvin College and Seminary, and visiting fellows. Altogether, the research possibilities, secluded quiet for writing, intellectual exchanges, and good fellowship make the Center a lively and exceptional resource for Calvin scholars from throughout the world.

*Dr. Raymond Mentzer
Faculty Research Fellow, 1989*



I am currently researching sacramental confession in early modern Catholicism as a Fulbright Fellow in Spain. In the coming academic year, I will be defending my dissertation in the Department of History at Saint Louis University. I fondly remember the time that I spent in Grand Rapids as a Student Research Fellow during the late summer of 2005 both for the friends that I made and the productivity made possible by the resources of the Meeter Center. The project that I worked on there, a study of the practical theological elements in Jerome Zanchi's late sixteenth-century treatise on the doctrine of God, is forthcoming from the University of Toronto's journal *Renaissance and Reformation*.

*Patrick O'Banion
Student Research Fellow, 2005*



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My wife and I stayed at the Meeter Center during the summer of 2003 through the support of the Center's dissertation fellowship. The Meeter Center was a perfect place for me to complete my dissertation. My wife learned to ride a bike there for the first time in her life, and now she is a good bicycle rider and enjoying cycling. It was a special privilege that we stayed at the Center. Now I am a faculty member at the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea. I am teaching courses on the history and theology of the Reformation in the 16th century. I have a special interest in the ecumenical spirit of the Reformers.

Gyung Su Park
Student Research Fellow, 2003



I was in the Meeter Center during the summer 2006. It was a precious moment to have access to the collection of Calvin studies, which I could not get in my local library. Having taken photographs from as many as seventy books, I brought the data home digitally. They are the most valuable collection now, while I am still doing research under the Postgraduate Program of IRTI (Amsterdam) and the Faculty Development Program of the Jakarta Theological Seminary (Indonesia). My research is about Calvinian Spirituality for the Javanese Christian Ministers in Indonesia, which was supposed to have been finished this semester. For me, coming from a third world country, researching Calvin creates a new sense of Christian identity. It gives me a sense of connection with the archaic layers below my language of faith, which is not always in harmony with the local culture and popular religiosity. Hopefully, the ongoing Calvin studies will create a living discourse that enriches the Reformed churches in third world countries to have their roots strong in the native soil without being uprooted from the "axis-age".

Rev. Simon Rachmadi
Van Halsema Fellow, 2006



Dr. Springer was a Meeter Center fellow during the summer of 2002, while working on his PhD in history at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He remembers fondly the lively discussions during the colloquia and making use of the center's rich and extensive collection. His dissertation examined John a Lasco's ecclesiastical ordinance, the *Forma ac ratio*, and its impact in Europe. This study is currently in press and will appear this summer as *Restoring Christ's Church: John a Lasco and the Forma ac ratio* (Ashgate Publishing, 2007). After finishing his PhD, he held fellowships at the Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz and at the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha. He now is an assistant professor in history at the University of Central Oklahoma. Current research interests include the German Reformation, refugee congregations, and the superintendent's office.

Dr. Michael Springer
Student Research Fellow, 2002



During the summer of 2005 I stayed at the Meeter Center in Grand Rapids. I worked on Calvin's polemic against the Anabaptists. I was able to prepare a critical edition of Calvin's treatise against the Anabaptists and a paper on Calvin's correspondence with Jean de l'Espine. The Meeter Center was an excellent place to work on this project. It was great to have that much material on one spot and (even more important) it was highly encouraging to work in such a stimulating atmosphere. The polemic between Reformation and Radical Reformation is still my major field of

interest. At this very moment I am working on a paper on the Reformed polemic against Anabaptist-marriage practices.

Mirjam van Veen
Faculty Research Fellow, 2004



I have very fond memories of the Meeter Center, where I spent the month of June in 1987 transcribing the first volume of the registers of the Consistory of Geneva, the morals court established by Calvin. Sixteenth-century French handwriting is notoriously hard to decipher, and the Consistory minutes are exceptionally challenging.

Twenty years later, I hold the rank of Professor of History at the University of Mississippi. Although the books I have published thus far have been based on other sources, I have drawn on the Consistory records to write several articles, and I now intend to delve more deeply into these fascinating records. I likely will pursue a comparative study which will draw on my research on both the Consistory and the Roman Inquisition. To this day, I remain grateful to the Meeter Center for giving me this first encounter with Calvin's Consistory.

Dr. Jeffrey Watt
Student Research Fellow, 1987

Meeter Center Spring Lectures



Hubert Bost

This spring, the Meeter Center hosted two lectures. On Thursday March 1, 2007, the Meeter Center and Calvin College's French department sponsored a lecture by Prof. Hubert Bost, from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris, entitled "Pierre Bayle, Freedom of Speech and Censorship". Prof. Bost posited that Pierre

Bayle held that 'freedom of conscience should not be limited by human powers, even if this conscience is wrong.' Before he fleshed out this argument, Prof. Bost began with a brief description of Pierre Bayle's life. Prof. Bost then presented Bayle's "thoughts on tolerating heretical books" and censorship. Bost first outlined the 17th and 18th centuries' definition of censorship, and then reviewed the circumstances under which Bayle confronted censorship before the publication of his *Dictionnaire historique et critique*. Next Bost dealt with political censorship in France and ecclesiastical censorship in the Dutch Republic as applied to the *Dictionnaire*. Prof. Bost presented a very interesting view of Bayle's publishing experience as his immensely popular *Dictionnaire* navigated the scrutiny of both political and religious censors yet survived as a work which contained controversial ideas. Bayle's somewhat unique experiences and ability to play political and ecclesiastical sides against one another worked in his favor as he strove for freedom of speech and the presentation of ideas which opposed the various political and theological authorities of his time.



Bonnie Pattison

On Monday April 2, 2007, Dr. Bonnie Pattison, professor of Theology from Wheaton College, gave a lecture entitled "Splendor and Beauty in Reformed Worship: A Christological Evaluation". Dr. Pattison's illustrated lecture compared Catholic and Reformed approaches to church art and decoration. She argued that Calvin's rejection of Catholic art in church was due to Calvin's focus on Christ's humility during His life on earth, where His spiritual kingship was revealed in His poverty. According to Pattison, Calvin held that Christians should seek the presence of Christ in the simple and ordinary elements in the sacraments, the water, wine and bread, and should not seek to have the church mimic the kingdoms of the world in earthly power and splendor. Calvin also encouraged the church to instead devote its resources to care for the poor. The questions and

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answers session following the lecture highlighted the importance of these themes for the contemporary church as well.

National Endowment for the Humanities Participants Selected

The selection committee, headed by the Meeter Center director, has chosen participants from among the applicants for our National Endowment for the Humanities three week institute, “Teaching the Reformation in a Pluralist Age”. As of press time, here are the confirmed participants:

- Mary Anderson, St. Olaf College, MN
- Nancy Bjorklund, Fullerton College, CA
- Jacob Blosser, Texas Woman’s University, TX
- Renee Bricker, Wayne State University, MI
- David Burrow, University of South Dakota, SD
- George (Van) Campbell, Grove City College, PA
- Daniel Christensen, Biola University, CA
- Amanda Epperson, Baldwin-Wallace College, OH
- Ronald Greenwald, Mount Ida College, MA
- Jeffery Hankins, Louisiana Tech University, LA
- Robert Imperato, Saint Leo University, FL

- Patricia Mangan, Azusa Pacific University, CA
- Raymond Maxwell, Cornish College of the Arts, WA
- John Pinheiro, Aquinas College, MI
- Linda Pittman, Richard Bland College, VA
- Brenda Schoolfield, Bob Jones University, SC
- Jessica Thurlow, Aurora University, IL
- Michelle Voss Roberts, Rhodes College, TN
- Darren Williamson, Cascade College, OR
- Doug Wayman, Gonzaga University, WA

We look forward to welcoming these colleagues for a stimulating time of learning together about current scholarship and best practices in teaching about the Reformation and its significance to the coming generations of undergraduate students in US colleges and universities.

Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors

The 2007 winners are:

1st Place: **Brad Jansen** of Grand Rapids, Michigan

2nd Place: **Adrianna Oudman** of Wheatfield, Indiana

Brad plans to attend Calvin and Adrianna plans to attend Dordt.

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