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John Calvin

Calvin Courier

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

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From the Director

The Meeter Center's summer was busy (as usual), featuring our sixth Genevan paleography workshop led by Dr. Tom Lambert. Nine graduate students and faculty from across the US participated in the two-week intensive course and benefited greatly from the experience (see the report on p. 3). We also welcomed six Meeter Center visiting scholars, including a Waldensian pastor from Italy and a director of an NGO from Ghana. For more on our visiting scholars' experience, read below.

We are also delighted to announce the extremely generous gift we have received from Professor Robert Kingdon, who has donated his entire research library to the Meeter Center. We are currently organizing and cataloging the 2,500 volume collection, which will enrich the Meeter Center's holdings particularly in hard-to-find Genevan and French secondary sources on the Reformation and early modern European history. For

more on this deeply-appreciated gift, see p. 2.

In August, I represented the Meeter Center at the International Calvin Congress in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Several conference delegates highlighted the Center's role as a pre-eminent center for Calvin research.

Finally, I wish to announce that I intend to make this my last year as director of the Meeter Center, stepping down at the end of the summer in 2011. After nearly fourteen years as director, I am confident that the Meeter Center is in good shape and will continue to be a key resource and reference point in Calvin studies and Reformation studies more generally. I have deeply enjoyed the opportunity to lead the Meeter Center and help shape its work and have particularly appreciated meeting and working with many of you at conferences and other gatherings over the years. As always, thanks for your support of our work.

Karin Y. Maag

Calvin and Ghana

Komi Hiagbe, the Director of the Global Impact Foundation, located in Accra, Ghana, was the recipient of a Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship and came to Grand Rapids this past summer to research the influence of 16th century Evangelicalism on the socio-economic development of Europe and its implications for evangelicals in Africa. Dr. Hiagbe had the following to say about his visit: "My four-week fellowship at the Meeter Center-from the 16th of July to the 12th of August 2010 has been very significant to my research interest in theology and development with prospects of lasting impressions. The experience had not only been with books, a state-of-the-art copier and an excellent office space to work from but with people. I found the team at the center both professional and relational: each with a unique quality which in my view, gives the Meeter Center its distinctiveness as a research library. Besides her leadership roles at the Center, Dr. Karin Maag went out of her way to furnish me with a list of experts in the International Development Studies program

whom she thought might be helpful to my research. The scholars I met from that department have proved overwhelming in their response to my approach and some as I can envisage, will become relationships far beyond my four-week fellowship. Then to Mr. Paul Fields - very pastoral in his approach. After exchanging pleasantries on our first encounter, Mr. Fields' next question was; 'do you have enough food and everything else?' The next day he left his telephone contact and that of his wife on my table. When we met soon after that, his words were; 'did you find the contacts? Please call whenever you need to.' This was followed up with an invitation to Church, dinner, and the beach. Ryan Noppen was all-round in his



Dr. Komi Hiagbe

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“Calvin and Ghana”, *continued*

assistance as a coordinator; in picking me up from the airport at a third attempt, registration with Student Life at Calvin, in financial matters and with a few other personal issues. The last is Mr. Drew McGinnis, the Meeter Center student assistant whose assistance in finding resources in the library and companionship outside, I consider most invaluable during my fellowship. In very specific ways, each member of the team touched my life in a special way. On the whole, after working with a selection of rare texts one could hardly find anywhere else, copying 36 texts and building new social networks relevant to my studies, I consider my fellowship at the Meeter Center a very successful one and shall always live with fond memories of the last four weeks.”

In Memoriam: Professor Wilhelm Neuser

Wilhelm Neuser, a leading German scholar well-known for his work on Calvin’s thought and theology, died on June 25, 2010, after being hospitalized since May for a number of ailments. He held the chair of Reformed Theology at the University of Münster, where he taught from 1970 until his retirement in 1991. He was also an ordained pastor in the German Reformed church. He was the leading spirit in the International Congress for Calvin Research from its inception in 1972, and served on the editorial board that has been publishing new critical editions of Calvin’s works in the *Opera denuo recognita* series. He was the author of numerous articles and books, including most recently a close study of Calvin’s life, work, and thought from 1509 to 1541, published in German in 2009. In August, the 2010 International Calvin Congress, meeting in Bloemfontein, South Africa, honored his memory with a moment’s silence.

Major Research Collection Donation

Professor Robert Kingdon, emeritus professor of Reformation History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and one of the world’s foremost experts on the social history of sixteenth-century Calvinism, has generously donated his entire research library of works on Calvin, Calvinism, and early modern history to the Meeter Center for Calvin Studies, to further the work of the Center.

This research collection comprises over 2,500 individual titles, over 700 of which have never previously been held by the Meeter Center or the larger Hekman Library collection. Over a hundred of the works are very rare and hard to find, including thirty-four that are held by ten or fewer other libraries world-wide. This addition to the Meeter Center’s collection will provide excellent new resources for students and faculty research at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, as well as for the scholars who come to the Meeter Center from around the world.



A portion of Dr. Kingdon's extensive collection donated to the Center.

Robert Kingdon is the author of thirteen books and over eighty articles. He was an active member and presiding officer of many of the leading North American organizations for Reformation Studies, and was the editor of the *Sixteenth Century Journal* for twenty-five years. He has had a long association with the Meeter Center, beginning in 1987 when he received one of the Meeter Center’s research fellowships. He also served two six-year terms on the Meeter Center Governing Board as member-at-large. The Center also provided financial support for his major project of editing and publishing the transcriptions of the Genevan Consistory minutes from John Calvin’s lifetime.

Thanks to this extremely generous donation of high-caliber secondary sources, our collection can now offer even more resources to those who want to find out more about the roots and impact of the Genevan Reformation. The Center is deeply grateful to Dr. Kingdon for his decision to crown his long-standing association and friendship with the Center with this wonderful gift.

Friends of the Meeter Center

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends’ donations help provide funding for special programs, including the Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowships and the upcoming comprehensive catalog of John Calvin medallions. Checks may be made out to Friends of the Meeter Center and sent to the Center’s address. Thank you for your support! Annual membership fees are:

Student	\$20	Associate	\$100
Supporter	\$40	Partner	\$200
Donor	\$75	Benefactor	\$500



The 2010 Paleography Class, from left to right: Elisa Jones, Gregory Bereiter, Annie Adams, Katherine Godwin, Daniel Ludington, Tom Lambert (instructor), Jessica Nelson, Timothy Allen, Devan Baty, and Matthew Rivera.

2010 Genevan Paleography Course

The Meeter Center again held its biennial Genevan Paleography Course taught by Dr. Tom Lambert this past summer. Eight graduate students and one professor took the course and Tom considered the group to be very proficient at their work. The participants were equally pleased with Tom's knowledge and skills as an instructor. One participant commented: "Tom Lambert was an exceptional instructor. I appreciated that he talked to us not just about how to decipher handwriting, but also how to do research. The tools he gave us for our research are the sorts of things that no one teaches in graduate school, but that you are expected to know... I am pleased that I am able to read manuscripts I was unable to two weeks ago." Another participant stated: "The content of this paleography course was extremely relevant to graduate students studying not only sixteenth-century Geneva but also early modern France and larger issues of religiosity, confessionalization, and social discipline in early modern Europe. Moreover, the types of documents we examined provided a nice sampling of the various documents available in Genevan archives for anyone hoping to conduct extensive archive dissertation research." Regarding the Center, one student hopes "to come back in the future to take more advantage of it."



**A Limited Number of
Calvin 500th Anniversary Medals
are still available**

Visit the Meeter Center's homepage
to learn how to purchase this unique
commemorative piece.
<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter>

Funded Research Fellowships

Every year, the Meeter Center offers fellowships for graduate students, faculty, and pastors. Fellowship recipient receive a stipend to come to the Center to do research on subjects pertaining to John Calvin and Calvinism. **Previous fellowship recipients may re-apply after a minimum one-year hiatus.** For further details visit:

<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/new/fellowships-and-scholarships>

Recent Acquisitions

Beeke, Joel R. *Calvin for Today*. Grand Rapids: Reformation Heritage Books, 2009.

Bolliger, Daniel, ed. et al. *Jean Calvin: les visages multiples d'une réforme et de sa reception*. Lyon: Olivétan, 2009.

Breukelman, Frans. *The Structure of Sacred Doctrine in Calvin's Theology*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2010.

Campi, Emidio. *Consensus Tigurinus: Heinrich Bullinger und Johannes Calvin über das Abendmahl*. Zürich: Theologischer Verlag Zürich, 2009.

Canlis, Julie. *Calvin's Ladder: A Spiritual Theology of Ascent and Ascension*. Grand Rapids: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2010.

Davis, Thomas J. *John Calvin's American Legacy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Engammare, Max. *On Time, Punctuality, and Discipline in Early Modern Calvinism*. Translated by Karin Maag. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Gibson, David. *Reading the Decree: Exegesis, Election and Christology in Calvin and Barth*. London: T & T Clark, 2009.

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Lecture Recordings

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



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“Recent Acquisitions”, continued

Hall, David W. *Preaching Like Calvin: Sermons From the 500th Anniversary Celebration*. Phillipsburg: P&R Pub., 2010.

Harms, Frederik A. V. *In God's Custody. The Church, a History of Divine Protection: A Study of John Calvin's Ecclesiology Based on his Commentary on the Minor Prophets*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2010.

Link, Christian. *Prädestination und Erwählung: Calvin-Studien*. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Neukirchener Verlag, 2009.

Reinhardt, Volker. *Die Tyrannei der Tugend: Calvin und die Reformation in Genf*. Munich: C.H. Beck, 2009.

Reiss, Ansgar. *Calvinismus: die Reformierten in Deutschland und Europa*. Dresden: Sandstein Verlag, 2009.

Shepherd, Victor A. *A Ministry Dearer Than Life: The Pastoral Legacy of John Calvin*. Toronto: Clements Publishing, 2009.

Vliet, Jason Van. *Children of God: The Imago Dei in John Calvin and his Context*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2009.

Zahnd, Ueli. *Calvin, l'ame humaine et la philosophie classique: influences philosophique sur la Psychopannychia, premier écrit théologique de Calvin*. Geneva: Revue de Théologie et de Philosophie, 2009.

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

The 2011 research paper topic is:

John Calvin and Infant Baptism

For further details and application instructions visit:

<http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/new/fellowships-and-scholarships/high-school.htm>