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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

Now that the excitement and busyness of the Calvin year is over, we can catch our breath and take stock. The Meeter Center organized lectures, conferences, musical events, an art exhibit, an intensive three-week workshop for high-school teachers, and presentations for general audiences in Michigan and further afield. Our exhibit in the college art gallery on Images of Calvin drew in over 500 visitors in the space of a month, while audiences at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, and at Dordt College in Iowa, gained deeper insights into Calvin's views on the law and on worship respectively, thanks to special presentations during the fall of 2009. In August, the Center will participate in the International Calvin Congress in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The summer of 2010 promises to be quite busy with visitors and researchers. We will welcome nine participants for our sixth biennial paleography course in June, focusing on sixteenth-century Genevan manuscripts

(see p. 3 for the list of successful applicants). Over the summer and into the autumn, we will welcome six visiting scholars from Ghana, Italy, and the United States, whose projects range from research on the Synod of Dordt and on the theology of Jacob Arminius to studies of Calvinism and its connections to the socio-economic development of early modern Europe in the light of African development issues. (see p. 3 for the list of this year's fellowship recipients)

Our regular work of collecting materials goes on: we are working hard to keep up with the flood of publications surrounding Calvin's 500th birthday, and continue to increase the number of digital resources on the Reformation at the same time. Please see our newly-redeveloped website for more information: <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/>

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing interest and support of our work.

Karin Y. Maag

“Duty or Delight: Labor and Prayer in the Middle Ages”

The relation of labor and prayer throughout western society from Roman Christian times to the late Middle Ages was always a balance of labor and leisure. In dealing with this tension, Prof. John Van Engen, the Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, presented a fast-paced though thoughtful lecture on March 4th entitled “Duty or Delight? Labor and Prayer in the Middle Ages.” He set the stage by asking the following questions: How did this all play out? Was prayerful worship dutiful labor or restful recreating? Was sustaining life through work travail or fruitfully fulfilling? Or can we even answer such questions? He responded by giving examples from various

theologians such as Augustine, Nicholas of Lyra, Cassian, and later Joachim of Fiore, as well as various orders and lay people who expressed and lived out their interpretation and understanding of Biblical injunctions. The question of how to work productively and yet pray without ceasing became the problem issue for this entire age. Could one pray and work, meditate and be productive; or were these distinct acts performed by distinct groups? Historically people always did both – worked and prayed. Only after Christianity became a



John Van Engen

continued on page 3

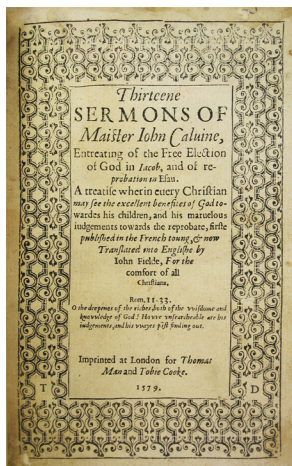
New Rare Books

The Meeter Center added four rare books to its collection this academic year. All are significant and contribute to the depth of the overall collection.

1. *Admonitio adversus astrologiam, quam iudiciariam vocant; aliasque praeterea curiositates nonnullas, quae hodie per universum fere orbem grassantur.* Geneva: Jean Girard, 1549.

Translated by François Hotman into Latin from its earlier 1549 French rendition and published March 1st by Joannes Gerardus, Calvin in this discourse writes in favor of astronomy but against astrology: stars speak of God's glory but are unable to give direction to one's life - to think otherwise is superstitious and wrong.

The work is 69 pages in length with an Erratum on the verso side of the last page followed by one more unpagged leaf containing a colophon on the recto side and a printer's mark on the verso.



2. *Thirteen Sermons of John Calvin, entreating of the free election of God in Jacob, and of Reprobation in Esau. A Treatise wherein every Christian may see the excellent benefits of God towards his children, and his marvelous judgments towards the reprobate... for the comfort of all Christians.* London: Thomas Dawson for Thomas Man and Tobie Cooke, 1579.

This volume is the first English edition of the original 1562 French edition. The work is dedicated to the Earl and Countess of Bedford by John Fielde who was known within English Puritan circles as a militant Calvinist.

The thirteen sermons average 28 pages in length. The volume concludes with a twelve page chapter entitled "An Answer to a Libel Against Predestination."

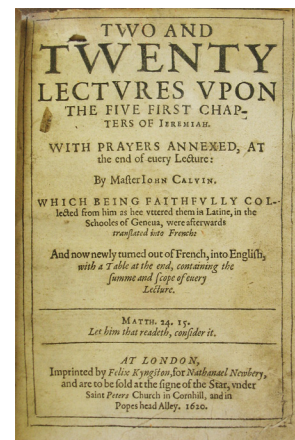
Friends of the Meeter Center

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

3. *Institutionis christianae religionis epitome.* Abridged by William Laune. London: Thomas Vautrollerius, 1584.

This is a reprinting of the 1583 edition with the addition of several tables elucidating doctrines found within the *Institutes*.



4. *Two and Twenty Lectures upon the Five First Chapters of Jeremiah with Prayers Annexed, at the End of Every Lecture.* London: Felix Kyngston for Nathanael Newbery, 1620.

As the title page also states, the volume concludes with a table containing the sum and scope of every lecture.

New Meeter Center Website



Visit <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter> to see the improvements.

Meeter Center Governing Board



The Governing Board of the Meeter Center is usually busy discussing John Calvin or planning events but this year they spared a moment for a pose; left to right: Cornelius Plantinga, Gaylen Byker, Richard Hamstra, David Vander Ploeg, Karin Maag, Richard Muller, Wayne Muller, Suzanne McDonald, Richard Baker, Laura Smit, Susan Schreiner, Amy Burnett, and John Bolt.

“Duty or Delight...”, *continued*

dominant cultural force did the issue of solitude enter the equation. Still, monks or the monastic life called for a disciplined spiritual body and manual labor which was self-sustaining. The end goal was constant prayer with tranquility of mind, and the means was labor with contrition: prayer was the unmoving center of life and labor.

Over time there were historical complications. Leisure was a problem so where did prayer fit? Those who wanted greater freedom for prayer could be seen as excessive. What about those outside the religious houses? Individuals were to pray the Lord’s Prayer and attend church. Work equaled the world while prayer equaled the church. This separation defined the situation for close to eight hundred years until Mendicants came on the scene – those who begged for a living and hence were perceived as being in the world yet spiritual. Friars set the tone for working in the world yet caring for spiritual needs until the time of the Reformation, at which time growing resentment by both Reformers and the Roman Catholic Church toward those who were able bodied yet begged and thus “stole” from the poor grew increasingly vocal. So, the quandary continued and Van Engen concluded as he began – “With prayer and work as ideal forms of life yet as varied concretely substantiated social roles, whence the obstacles individuals faced certainly in the middle ages and yet perhaps still today in bringing them together.”

*Paul Fields
Meeter Center Curator*

2010 Genevan Paleography Course

The Meeter Center is once again holding its biennial summer Genevan Paleography Course taught by Dr. Tom Lambert. Nine well-qualified participants were selected from a pool of candidates from all over the country:

Annie Adams, Missouri State University, Springfield, MA
Timothy Allen, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Devan Baty, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA
Gregory Bereiter, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
Katherine Godwin, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL
Elisa Jones, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Daniel Ludington, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
Jessica Nelson, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Matthew Rivera, University of California, Riverside, CA



**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>

Fellowships Awarded in 2010

Student Fellowships

Monica Pierce, Ph.D. student, Fordham University, Bronx, New York, will research John Calvin and the Greening of Calvinism in North America.

Sue Rozeboom, Ph.D. student, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, will research the Derivation of John Calvin’s Understanding of the Role of the Holy Spirit with Respect to the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Faculty Fellowship

Dr. Jill Fehleison, Associate Professor of History, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut, will research the propaganda battle for confessional loyalties in and around Geneva, 1589-1665.

Emo F.J. Van Halsema Fellowship

Rev. Dr. Emanuele Fiume, Minister of the First Waldensian Church of Rome, Italy, will research Dordt 1618-1619: International Calvinism and Radical Grace.

Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship

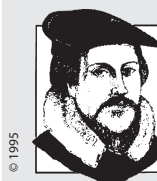
Dr. Komi Hiagbe, Director of the Global Impact Foundation, Accra, Ghana, will research the influence of 16th century Evangelicalism on socio-economic development of Europe and its implications for evangelicals in Africa.

Research Fellowship

Dr. Keith Stanglin, Assistant Professor of Bible and Historical Theology, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas, will research Arminius and Grace.

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

Abel, Olivier. *Jean Calvin*. Paris: Pygmalion, 2009.

Battles, Ford Lewis. *The Piety of John Calvin: A Collection of his Spiritual Prose, Poems, and Hymns*. Phillipsburg: P&R Pub., 2009.

Brouwer, Reeling and Rinse Herman. *Het Calvinistisch ongemak: Calvijn als erflater en provocator van het Nederlandse protestantisme*. Kampen: Kok, 2009.

Hall, David W. *Calvin and Commerce: The Transforming Power of Calvinism in Market Economies*. Phillipsburg: P&R Pub., 2009.

Hebding, Rémy. *Pour comprendre la pensée de Jean Calvin : introduction à la théologie du réformateur*. Lyon: Olivétan, 2008.

Kingdon, Robert M. *Geneva and the Coming of the Wars of Religion in France, 1555-1563*. Geneva: Droz, 2007.

Reed, R. C. *The Gospel as Taught by Calvin*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2009.

Selderhuis, H. J. *The Calvin Handbook*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2009.

Stroup, George W. *Calvin*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009.

Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors

The 2010 winners are:

1st Place: **Martha Veldkamp** of Grand Rapids, MI

2nd Place: **Rachel Adams** of Rocklin, CA

Both winners have been admitted to Calvin College

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