



Calvin Courier

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

Spring 2003, Number 31

From the Director

In early April the Grand Rapids area experienced a major ice storm. Many of those living in the city had no light or heat beginning on Friday, April 4, and did not get power back for at least forty-eight hours. Fortunately, the college campus did not lose its electricity supply, for on that very same weekend the Meeter Center was due to host a visiting group from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia, Michigan. In spite of the weather, fifty-six members of the church still came on Saturday afternoon as planned and gave a warm reception to an hour-long presentation on printing and the Reformation. Though the circumstances were somewhat unusual, we were glad to be able to open our doors to these visitors and to share with them some key aspects of Reformation history.

We also look forward to welcoming other visitors to the Meeter Center this summer, including six recipients of Meeter Center fellowships. The Center's reputation seems to be growing as a good place to come for a concentrated period of research, and we are delighted to have scholars from Korea, Australia, Scotland, and the United States as our guests in 2003. In June we will also host our third

biennial paleography course, led by Dr. Thomas Lambert. Participants from Europe and North America will be learning how to read sixteenth-century, hand-written Genevan documents.

We continue to organize and participate in colloquia and conferences that have a Reformation focus. In November the Meeter Center fall colloquium featured Professor Davis Young, who spoke on Calvin and science. His presentation was part of a larger book project partly funded by the Meeter Calvinism Fund through the generosity of the Meeter family. In April the Meeter Center cosponsored the successful Bach Symposium that was held on campus and attracted participants from across North America.

If you have not done so recently, we invite you to browse our Web site, www.calvin.edu/meeter. The site offers information on the Center and its collection, access to the electronic catalog for books and the Calvinism Resources Database for article references, images of Calvin, and links to other Reformation studies centers. As always, we look forward to your feedback.

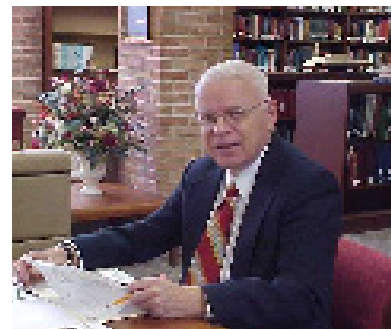
Karin Y. Maag

Making Our Resources Accessible

using the Center's resources, but in fact the person in question is Charles C. Brown, a quiet, hardworking, behind-the-scenes indexer for the Center.

A unique part of the Meeter Center collection is the Calvinism Resources Database or CARD. The database contains thousands of citations for book chapters, articles, and book reviews concerning John Calvin and Calvinism. In recent years subject-indexing for this valuable collection has progressed, and two-thirds of the project is now done. If all continues on schedule the remainder of the materials will be subject-indexed within two years. Over time several small grants have helped

On any given afternoon a visitor to the Meeter Center is likely to see a silver-haired gentleman bent over a pile of files. Occasionally this person will consult a reference work or ask a question of someone and then get back to work. One might assume that another visiting Calvin scholar is



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New Acquisitions

Books

Beza, Theodore. *Le Passavant: édition critique, introduction, traduction, commentaire*. Edited by J. L. R. Ledegang-Keegstra. Leiden: Universiteit Leiden, 2001.

Calvin, John. *Grace and Its Fruits: Selections from John Calvin on the Pastoral Epistles*. Darlington: Evangelical Press, 2000.

_____. *Instruis-moi dans ta vérité: Brève instruction chrétienne*. Aix-en-Provence: Éditions Kerygma; Cléon d'Andran: Éditions Excelsis, 1996.

Detmers, Achim. *Reformation und Judentum: Israel-Lehren und Einstellungen zum Judentum von Luther bis zum frühen Calvin*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2001.

Dever, Mark. *Richard Sibbes: Puritanism and Calvinism in Late Elizabethan and Early Stuart England*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2000.

Foxgrover, David, ed. *Calvin and the Church*. Papers presented at the 13th colloquium of the Calvin Studies Society May 24–26, 2001. Grand Rapids: CRC Product Services, 2002.

Gordon, Bruce. *The Swiss Reformation*. Manchester, UK; New York: Manchester University Press, 2002.

Weeda, Robert. *Le Psautier de Calvin: L'histoire d'un livre populaire au XVI^e siècle, 1551–1598*. Turnhout: Brepols, 2002.

Rare Books

Calvin, John. *Calvin's Commentary on Hosea*. Geneva: Conrad Badius, 1557.

Dissertations

Chin, Clive S. "Unio Mystica and Imitatio Christi: The Two-dimensional Nature of John Calvin's Spirituality." Ph.D. diss., Dallas Theological Seminary, 2002.

Kim, Jin Young. "The Exegetical Method and Message of Peter Martyr Vermigli's Commentary on Judges." Ph.D. diss., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2002.

Mallinson, Jeffrey Charles. "Fides et Cognitio: The Direction of Religious Epistemology under Theodore Beza." Ph.D. diss., University of Oxford, 2000.

McGowan, Beth Ann. "The Economics of Theories of Rhetorical Production: Erasmus, Calvin, and Milton." Ph.D. diss., University of Pennsylvania, 2000.

Spierling, Karen E. "A Child's Place in the Community: Reformed Infant Baptism in Sixteenth-Century Geneva." Ph.D. diss., University of Wisconsin, 2001.

Articles

Backus, Irena. "Calvin's Concept of Natural and Roman Law." *Calvin Theological Journal* 38, no. 1, 2003: 7–26.

Balke, Willem. "Calvijn en Viret: vriendschap en spanning." *Nederlands theologisch tijdschrift* 56, no. 3, 2002: 233–55.

Balserak, Jon. "'The Accommodating Act Par Excellence?': An Inquiry into the Incarnation and Calvin's Understanding of Accommodation." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 55, no. 4, 2002: 408–23.

Carpenter, Craig B. "A Question of Union with Christ? Calvin and Trent on Justification." *Westminster Theological Seminary* 64, no. 2, 2002: 363–86.

Engelsma, David J. "'Nothing but a Loathsome Stench': Calvin's Doctrine of the Spiritual Condition of Fallen Man." *Protestant Reformed Theological Journal* 35, no. 2, 2002: 39–60.

Helm, Paul. "John Calvin on 'Before All Ages.'" *Tyndale Bulletin*, 53, no. 1, 2002: 143–48.

Spierling, Karen E. "Insolence toward God? The Perpetuation of Catholic Baptismal Traditions in Sixteenth-Century Geneva." *Archive for Reformation History* 93, 2002: 97–125.

Wykes, Michael. "Devaluing the Scholastics: Calvin's Ethics of Usury." *Calvin Theological Journal* 38, no. 1, 2003: 27–51.

Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards to High School Seniors

Ten students wrote papers on the topic "John Calvin's View of What It Means to Be Human." The first prize of \$2,500 went to Ryan Kruis of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the second prize of \$1,250 was awarded to Sarah Greenlee of Shaker Heights, Ohio. Both Ryan and Sarah plan to attend Calvin College in the fall. The topic for 2004 is "John Calvin and Marriage." Contact the Meeter Center for an informative brochure about the awards. Papers must be received by January 15, 2004.



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New Art Work for the Center



Director Karin Maag standing next to the bas-relief

Thanks to the generosity of Calvin College, the Meeter Center now features two copies of the bronze bas-relief head of John Calvin displayed above. The sculptor is a local artist, Darrell DeRuiter. One copy of the bas-relief adorns the fourth-floor entrance to the Meeter Center, while the other is displayed on the exterior wall of the Center, facing the main campus roadway.

Fellowships Awarded in 2003

Faculty Research Fellowship: Dr. Willem Berends, professor at Reformed Theological College, Geelong, Australia, will pursue research on the Reformed doctrine of the Atonement.

Student Research Fellowship: Mr. Mark Garcia, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, plans to study Calvin on justification and sanctification. University of Iowa Ph.D. candidate, Mr. Jesse Spohnholz will do research on the Dutch Calvinist exiles in Wesel. Mr. Gyeong Su Park, a Ph.D. candidate at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, Calif. will study John Calvin as an advocate of church unity.

Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship: Rev. Brian Nicholson, an assistant pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church, Savannah, Ga. plans to do work on Wolfgang Musculus.

Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowship: Dr. Nak Heong Yang, associate professor at Korea Theological Seminary, Kosin University, will study Sabbath observance.

Meeter Center Colloquium Series

April 10–12, 2003: The Meeter Center cosponsored a symposium entitled, “Bach: the Preacher,” with the Seminars in Christian Scholarship, Calvin College Music Department, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

October 29, 2003: The Meeter Center will participate in a tricentennial celebration of Jonathan Edwards’ birthday by cosponsoring a colloquium entitled “Today’s Church in Reformation and Politics” with Calvin Seminary. Panel participants will include: Dr. John Bolt, professor of systematic theology, Calvin Seminary, “The Glory of Spiders and Politics” and Rev. Jack Van Ens, PCUSA minister, “Today’s Spiritual Need: Jonathan Edwards or Thomas Jefferson?”

November 6, 2003: Dr. Lyle Bierma, professor of systematic theology at Calvin Seminary, will speak at our fall colloquium on “The Sources and Theological Orientation of the Heidelberg Catechism.”

March 31, 2004: Dr. Laura Smit, assistant professor of religion at Calvin College, will be the Meeter Center’s spring lecturer. Her topic will be “Calvinist Sacramental Understanding.”

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to pay for an individual to work on this project on a part-time basis. In this issue of the *Calvin Courier* we introduce you to the person who is largely responsible for indexing materials—one who describes himself as an Anglican with a strong interest in Calvin.

Charles’ educational and professional background is that of a librarian, historian, and Reinhold Niebuhr scholar with degrees from the University of Missouri and the University of Michigan. Early on, his interest in Niebuhr was piqued, and the result has been a major study of Niebuhr published in 1992 and now available in a new edition under the title *Niebuhr and His Age: Reinhold Niebuhr’s Prophetic Role and Legacy*. Also, an early friendship with Russell Kirk, a social philosopher and cultural critic, developed into a working relationship as Charles organized Kirk’s extensive writings. A definitive bibliography of Kirk’s works, prepared by Charles, is to be published in early 2004. Charles’ historical and religious interests are broad and well-informed and include the Renaissance and Reformation era.

As a professional cataloger and bibliographer, Charles provides thoughtful analysis and indexing of Calvin materials. Having looked at thousands of articles, he has a good idea of what the Center has to offer and is impressed with its attempt to make available in one place a wealth of secondary sources for visiting scholars.

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So the next time you visit the Center, speak to the fellow working on a pile of files and be prepared for an interesting conversation. Thank him for his work, since his efforts ensure that the Center can provide better access to materials for scholars both on-site and on-line. We are thankful for his hard work and diligence.

*Paul Fields, curator
H. Henry Meeter Center*

Genevan Paleography

The third biennial course on Genevan Paleography will be held June 2–13, 2003. The eight participants this year come from universities across the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland.

Our U.S. and Canadian participants include Dwight TenHuisen, who is a professor in the Spanish department at Calvin College and is finishing a Ph.D. in comparative literature this semester. Scott Marr, a graduate student at Boston University, is working on French religious and social history during the sixteenth and

seventeenth century. Carolyn Corretti's dissertation work at the University of Iowa will include a fall trip to France for archival work on sixteenth-century manuscripts. Jonathan Gray is working on an M.A. thesis at the University of Mississippi on a study of the political thought of a number of Calvinist thinkers in the sixteenth century. Jason Zuidema, attending McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, is working on a doctorate in Reformed biblical exegesis/historical theology.

Our European contingent includes Dr. Frans Pieter van Stam from the Netherlands, a full-time researcher on the critical edition of Calvin's correspondence to be published by Droz in the *Ioannis Calvini Opera Omnia*. Judith Becker from Germany is writing a Ph.D. thesis on the church order of Johannes a Lasco, known as the "Forma ac Ratio," and its reception in a number of exile churches. Our eighth participant, Christophe Chazalon from Switzerland, currently studying at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on a student exchange program, is beginning work on a dissertation on the printers who published the works of Theodore Beza.

All of the participants look forward to the challenge of learning to decipher handwritten documents in sixteenth-century French.