



© 1995

*John Calvin*

# Calvin Courier

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

Fall 2005, Number 36

## From the Director

Once again our summer has been both busy and fruitful at the Meeter Center. From June 4 to June 16 we hosted our biennial Genevan paleography course. At the same time the first of our visiting scholars for the summer were beginning to arrive. We also welcomed some nonstipendiary scholars and former visiting scholars for periods of research throughout the spring and summer.

Thanks to the zeal and energy of our current student worker, Lauren Colyn, and the work of Susan Schmurr, our program coordinator, we got two projects completed over the summer months. The first was to organize and properly catalog our extensive collection of portraits of John Calvin. For the first time the portraits and information about each one are now easily available. The

second was to prepare a pictorial record of the history of the Meeter Center through the years, including former visiting scholars, lectures, events, and conferences held at the Meeter Center.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, I will have returned from representing the Meeter Center at the international conference on Theodore Beza held in Geneva in late September. The Meeter Center will also be featured at other conferences, since we are once again sponsoring a session at the Sixteenth Century Studies conference (held in Atlanta this year from October 20 to 23) and one at the 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI, in May 2006. We look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

*Karin Y. Maag*

## Beliefs in Modern Science, Then and Now

The Meeter Center was proud to welcome Dr. Christopher Kaiser on October 13<sup>th</sup> for a lecture entitled, "Science-Fostering Belief, Then and Now." Kaiser, professor of historical and systematic theology at Western Seminary, sought to explicate the relationship that exists between religious belief and scientific inquiry in the minds of prominent scientists both past and present. Kaiser first turned to an investigation of the historical origins of this relationship by referring to the work of Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). Kepler's assumption was that science is grounded in twin beliefs: a). the universe is ordered by God-given cosmological laws (like those of geometry); b). humans have the God-given capacity to comprehend those laws. For Kepler, this meant that God must have ordered the orbiting planets in a discernible fashion. And yet it

also meant that Kepler was working from a belief system that fostered scientific inquiry.

Kaiser then proceeded to bring us into the present by introducing the work of the prominent modern scientist Paul Davies, who shares Kepler's assumptions, but is struck by the notion that scientists generally take for granted the twin beliefs of Kepler and others. That is, a certain



*continued on page 2*

## New Acquisitions

### Books

Bèze, Théodore de. *Correspondance de Théodore de Bèze*. Vol. 27. Collected by Hippolyte Aubert. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2005.

Calvin, John. *Ioannis Calvini Scripta didactica et polemica*. Edited by Mirjam van Veen. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2005.

de Boer, Erik A. and Victor E. d'Assonville, Jr., eds. *Ad fontes: theologiese, historiese en wetenskaps-filosofiese studies binne reformatoriese kader: Festschrift vir Ludie F. Schulze*. Bloemfontein: Redaksiekantoor van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat, 2004.

Dyrness, William. *Reformed Theology and Visual Culture: The Protestant Imagination from Calvin to Edwards*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

Harding, Thomas, ed. *The Decades of Henry Bullinger*. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2004.

James, Frank A., ed. *Peter Martyr Vermigli and the European Reformations: Semper Reformanda*. Leiden: Brill, 2004.

Pils, Holger, Stephan Ruderer and Petra Schaffrodt, eds. *Martin Bucer (1491-1551): Bibliographie*. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 2005.

### Articles

Fontoni, Christian F. "Protestant Preaching in the Renaissance: The Examples of Calvin and Knox." In *Proceedings of the 11th Annual Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature*, edited by Michelle M. Sauer, 56-64. Minot: Minot State University Printing Services, 2003.

Manetsch, Scott. "Historical and Theological Studies. Problems with the Patriarchs: John Calvin's Interpretation of Difficult Passages in Genesis." *The Westminster Theological Journal* 67, no. 1, 2005: 1-21.

Olson, Jeannine E. "Calvin, Social Justice and Diakonia, A Comparative Perspective." *Seminary Ridge Review* 7, no. 2, 2005: 32-50.

Rosario, Ruben. "Calvin or Calvinism: Reclaiming Reformed Theology for the Latin American Context." *Apuntes* 23, no. 4, 2003: 124-55.

Slater, Jonathan. "Salvation As Participation in the Humanity of the Mediator in Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*: A Reply to Carl Mosser." *Scottish Journal of Theology* 58, no. 1, 2005: 39-58.

van den Brink, G. "Focus: De Triniteitsleer van Calvijn." *Theologia Reformata* 48, no. 2, 2005: 138-42.

Witte, John, Jr. "Moderate Religionsfreiheit in der Theologie Calvins." In *Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte*, edited by R. Knütel et al., 401-48. Wien: Böhlau, 1997.

### Dissertations

Langley, Karine. "John Calvin's Preaching on the Devil." Ph.D. diss., University of Ottawa, 1999.

Witt, Jared L. "Worship, Politics, and Identity in Calvin's Theology." Ph.D. diss., Yale University, 2004.

### Beliefs in Modern Science, Then and Now

(continued from page 1)

system of belief – an ordered, knowable cosmos – underlies scientific endeavor, which belief itself is a "tantalizing mystery." The idea that the universe is essentially comprehensible and rational was shared not only by Henry Margenau (1901-1997), physicist and philosopher at Yale, but also by Albert Einstein. It was Einstein who noted that there is a certainty of conviction in the rationality and intelligibility of the world which "lies behind all scientific work of a higher order."

The combined evidence from scientists past and present led Kaiser to observe that modern science involves implicit assumptions – beliefs – that give scientists the courage and faith to sustain their endeavors. From a theological perspective, this suggests a response of heightened sensitivity and appreciation for the scientific enterprise.

Marcus Johnson, Ph.D. Student  
Trinity College, University of Toronto



Calvin Courier is published twice yearly by the  
H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies,  
Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary,  
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE, Grand Rapids, Michi-  
gan 49546.

Ph. 616-526-7081

E-mail: meeter@calvin.edu

## Genevan Paleography Course



*Participants in the 2005 paleography course: first row from the left, Heidi Sushereba, Tom Lambert, Geneviève Gross; second row, Dwight TenHuisen, Albert Gootjes, Jonathan Young, Jeff Rop, and Laura Smit*

From June 4 to June 16, the Meeter Center welcomed seven participants in our biennial Genevan paleography course. We were particularly pleased about the participation of five younger scholars, all either current graduate students or about to begin graduate work over the next few years. Dr. Thomas Lambert's instruction in reading handwritten 16th-century sources and in making the best possible use of archives will be invaluable to them. The course was supported by a \$1,000 grant from the Sixteenth Century Studies society and by contributions from Friends of the Meeter Center earmarked for the paleography scholarships.

## In Memoriam

The Meeter Center was saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Dewey Hoytenga, who taught in the philosophy department at Grand Valley State University from 1965 to 2001. He was the author of *John Calvin and the Will: A Critique and Corrective* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997) and of *Faith and Reason from Plato to Plantinga: An Introduction to Reformed Epistemology* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1991). Dr. Hoytenga was highly knowledgeable about Calvin and his thought and was the epitome of a humane educator.

2005.

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

The topic for 2006 is "John Calvin and the Visual Arts." Contact the Meeter Center to receive an informative brochure about the contest. Papers should be received by January 15, 2006.

**Fellowship Applications** for 2006 may be obtained from the Meeter Center upon request and should be returned by January 1, 2006. Application forms are also available on our Web site.

## Second Summer at the Meeter Center

Last summer I took part in an NEH seminar hosted by the Meeter Center, and immediately after departing I began making plans to return as soon as possible. My research centers on the English reformation (in which Calvin's influence played a large role), and the Meeter Center provides an ideal setting in which to research the background of ideas on which my studies focus.



In addition to the Center's collection of primary and secondary sources, three aspects of my Meeter Center experience have been particularly valuable. First is the staff of the Center, whose friendliness and expertise are invaluable aids to providing a fertile research environment. Second is Hekman Library. Because my field of study ranges beyond Calvin, some texts that I need are not housed in the Center collection. But this is not a problem. Texts that at my home institution I would have gotten (if at all) through interlibrary loan are on the shelves of Hekman Library, making my research far more productive. Finally, spending summers at Calvin is a pleasure. My family has accompanied me both summers, and each time we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Grand Rapids area and making new friends.

Personally and professionally my second summer at the Meeter Center has been as rewarding as I anticipated thanks to the fine facilities and the many people who make them work.

*Daniel Eppley, Ph.D.  
McMurry University*

## Meeter Center Colloquium Series

*October 13, 2005* Dr. Christopher Kaiser, professor of historical and systematic theology at Western Theological Seminary, spoke at the Meeter Center's fall colloquium. His topic was "Beliefs in Modern Science, Then and Now."

*March 16, 2006* The Meeter Center's spring colloquium will feature Rev. Joel Beeke, pastor of the Heritage Netherlands Reformed church. His topic will be "The Puritan Art of Meditation."

## Classes at the Meeter Center

Every fall and spring semester the curator and director of the Meeter Center coteach sessions on various aspects of printing and the Reformation to college and seminary classes. The students come to the Center for a fifty-minute session, during which they get to see several of the items from our rare book collection up close.

Although many of the requests for these sessions come from professors in history and religion, we have also welcomed classes from communication arts and sciences, economics, geography, music, English, French, German, to name but a few, as well as classes from local seminaries, high schools, and churches. On average we run ten to twelve such sessions a semester.

If you live locally and would like to sit in on such a session, let us know and we will provide you the schedule of our upcoming classes. If you wish to get a group together from your school or church for a session tailored specially for you, simply get in

touch with us and we will help make arrangements.

## A Farewell and Welcome

On October 14, 2005, Susan Schmurr completed ten years of service to the Meeter Center as its program coordinator and began the next phase of her life, since she retired from Calvin College at that point. We thank her for her many years of cheerful service and her gifts of hospitality, especially to the visiting scholars and their families. We wish her all the best as she spends more time with her family and friends.

After an extensive search this summer, we have selected Ryan Noppen to be the new program coordinator. Ryan is a graduate of Calvin College and has a master's degree in history from Purdue University. While his own research interests are in transportation history, he brings archival and instructional experience to the position. We are delighted to welcome him to the Meeter Center.

*The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies  
Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary  
1855 Knollcrest Circle SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-4402*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 248