

# Meeter Center Newsletter

The H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies  
Calvin College and Seminary  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546 (616) 957-6089

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## Editorial

Summertime is usually one of slower pace and vacations, but not for the Meeter Center. We were fortunate to have three outstanding scholars in residence this summer, Michal Bihary, Paul Helm, and Ralph Keen, all of whom contributed their special interests and gifts to our community.

The rare book collection of the Meeter Center continues to grow. We have been able to obtain a number of rare books in recent months, one particularly lovely one being: *Commentaires de M. Iean Caluin sur les Epistres de l'Apostre S. Paul, & aussi sur l'Epistre aux Hebreux* printed by Conrad Badius and Item, *Sur Les Epistres Canoniques de S. Pierre, S. Iean, S. Iaques, and S. Iude, autrement appelees Catholiques* printed by Iean Bonnefoy, 1562, bound in one volume.

It was my special delight in October to represent the Meeter Center at the Third Conference for Calvin Studies in Asia. Calvin study continues to be vital in that part of the world, and it is always stimulating for a Westerner to see the different directions scholarship is going there.

Many of you know of the international undertaking to produce another complete edition of Calvin's works, replacing the *Corpus Reformatorum*. The project was in the planning stage for many years, and the first volumes will soon appear from Librarie Droz in Geneva. The work of editing and publishing will take many years. Editors for all the volumes have not yet been found, and Dr. Backus of the Institute for Reformation History in Geneva has requested that any interested in working in the *Ecclesiastica* section contact her.

Editing texts for publication is one of the most important contributions that scholars can make to our field. The Meeter Center wishes to encourage all of the various editors presently working and encourage those of you not yet involved to contribute your time and talents.

Richard C. Gamble

## Recent Publications

### Books

Willem van 't Spijker, ed., *Calvin: Erbe und Auftrag. Festschrift für Wilhelm Heinrich Neuser zum 65. Geburtstag* (Kampen: Kok, 1991). Articles in this book which would be of particular interest to Calvin scholars are as follows:

Hans Scholl, "Johannes Calvin: Periodisierung seines Lebens und Werkes."

Johan J. Steenkamp, "A Review of the Concept of Progress in Calvin's Institutes."

David Willis-Watkins, "The Unio Mystica and the Assurance of Faith According to Calvin."

Pieter C. Potgieter, "The Providence of God in Calvin's Correspondence."

Chul-Ha Han, "Theology of Ministry in John Calvin: Jes. 59,21; Rom. 10,17; Rom. 1,16."

Adriaan D. Pont, "Confession of Faith in Calvin's Geneva."

Nobuo Watanabe, "Calvin's Concept of the Right of Resistance: from the Viewpoint of Asia."

Richard C. Gamble, "Calvin's Theological Method: The Case of Caroli."

Robert M. Kingdon, "Popular Reactions to the Debate between Bolsec and Calvin."

Marijn de Kroon, "Bucer und Calvin über das Recht auf Widerstand und die Freiheit der Stände."

Brian G. Armstrong, "The Pastoral Office in Calvin and Pierre du Moulin."

Robert C. Walton, "The Visible Church: A Mixed Body or a Gathered Church of Visible Saints; John Calvin and William Ames."

Irena Backus, *Lectures humanistes de Basile de Césarée: Traductions latines, 1439-1618* (Paris: Etudes Augustiniennes, 1990).

John Calvin, *Calvin's Ecclesiastical Advice*, translated by Mary Beaty and Benjamin W. Farley (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991).

Benjamin A. Reist, *A Reading of Calvin's Institutes* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991).

Heiko A. Oberman, *Initia Calvini: The Matrix of Calvin's Reformation* (Amsterdam: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1991).

Charles S. McCoy and J. Wayne Baker, *Fountainhead of Federalism: Heinrich Bullinger and the Covenantal Tradition* (Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991).

## Articles and Reviews

Irena Backus, "Calvin's Judgment of Eusebius of Caesarea: An Analysis," *Sixteenth Century Journal* 22, No. 3 (1991).

Donald K. McKim, "Recent Calvin Literature," *The Presbyterian Outlook* (July 1991), pp. 12-13.

Jill Raitt, "Probably They Are God's Children: Theodore Beza's Doctrine of Infant Baptism," *Humanism and Reform* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991).

David C. Steinmetz, "Calvin and the Natural Knowledge of God," in *Via Augustini: Augustine in the Later Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation: Essays in Honor of Damasus Trapp, O.S.A.*, edited by Heiko A. Oberman and Frank A. James, III (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1991), pp. 142-156.

Review of Alister McGrath's *John Calvin: A Study in the Shaping of Western Culture*, by Donald K. McKim in *Christianity Today* (October 28, 1991) and by Heiko A. Oberman in *Times Literary Supplement* 00:4587 (March 1, 1991), p. 24.

Review of Ralph C. Hancock's *Calvin and the Foundation of Modern Politics*, by Donald K. McKim in *Religious Studies Review* 17:2 (April 1991), pp. 169-70.

Review of John H. Leith's *John Calvin's Doctrine of the Christian Life*, by Donald K. McKim in *Religious Studies Review* 17:1 (January 1991), p. 76.

Review of Ronald S. Wallace's *Calvin, Geneva, and the Reformation: A Study of Calvin as Social Reformer, Churchman, Pastor and Theologian*, by Donald K. McKim in *Religious Studies Review* 17:1 (January 1991), p. 76.

Review of *Probing the Reformed Tradition: Historical Essays in Honor of Edward A. Dowey, Jr.*, eds. Brian Armstrong and Elsie McKee, by Donald K. McKim in *Reformed Review* 44:2 (Winter 1990), p. 166.

## Educational Opportunities

The Institute for Reformation History, University of Geneva, will be offering the following programs:

1. Research Methodologies. Designed to introduce students to a range of techniques and materials essential to all Early Modern historians: palaeography, physical bibliography, edition and interpretation of texts, and work with archives.

2. Renaissance Languages. A spectrum of courses including an abbreviated version of the Methodologies course.

For more information, contact Francis Higman, Director.

## Works in Progress

### Forthcoming Review

*Probing the Reformed Tradition: Historical Essays in Honor of Edward A. Dowey, Jr.*, eds. Brian Armstrong and Elsie McKee, reviewed by Richard C. Gamble, forthcoming in *Calvin Theological Journal* and *Renaissance Quarterly*.

## Conferences

The Third Conference of Calvinistic Studies in Asia was held Sept. 28 - Oct. 2, 1991, at the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu, Taiwan. Richard C. Gamble presented a paper entitled "Calvin and Missions." Some of the other participants were: Wilhem Neuser, Nobuo Watanabe and Chul-Ha Han.

The Sixteenth Century Studies Conference was held Oct. 17-19, 1991, in Philadelphia, PA, at the University of Pennsylvania. The first plenary speaker for the conference was Prof. Oberman, whose topic was "John Calvin: The Mystery of His Impact." Oberman's lecture provoked considerable discussion, and his forthcoming major book on Calvin will provide grist for historians' and theologians' mills for many years to come. The session, "Roman Law, Irenicism and the Church Fathers in the Reformed Tradition," was chaired by Richard C. Gamble, and papers were presented by: Michael Monheit, Iren Snaveley, Martin Klauber and James Payton.

The Sixth Colloquium on Calvin Studies will be held at Davidson College on January 17-18, 1992. Some presentations of interest are as follows: Brian Armstrong, "Calvin on Polity"; Edward Dowey, "On the Need for Publishing Heinrich Bullinger's Works"; Heiko Oberman, "New Perspectives on John Calvin"; and David Willis-Watkins, "Calvin's Theology of Pastoral Care."

## Fellowships

Meeter Center Fellowships are offered to scholars having faculty status at their institutions for summer study at the Center. The appointment carries a stipend of \$2,000 and the use of a study room in the Center. The Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship is offered to ministers in the Reformed tradition to support research in Calvin and Calvinism. Applications for these fellowships are available from the Meeter Center and must be returned by January 1, 1992.

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