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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

As we look back over the summer, various images spring to mind: our visiting scholars from the US, China and Indonesia enjoying conversation and making full use of the Meeter Center collections (read more on p. 3), the rapt audience of local senior citizens who attended a session on printing and the Reformation in July, and the wonderful restored church building in Emden, Germany, that is now home to the Johannes a Lasco Library, where Paul Fields and I attended the International Calvin Congress in late August (see the report on the conference on p. 3).

Our big news of the late summer came from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the main United States government organization that funds research and scholarship in the humanities. Our grant application to hold a summer institute for college and university teachers in the summer of 2007 (June 25 to July 13) was approved with full funding of \$112,114. We are delighted that the NEH is supporting this project. The theme of the institute

is "Teaching the Reformation in a pluralist age". For more information, see p. 3.

Once again the Meeter Center has a busy fall in prospect. Our main event for the fall is our Biennial Lecture, on October 19. Dr Emdio Campi, the Director of the Swiss Institute for Reformation History, is our speaker. Established in 1964, the Institute has made its name by focusing primarily on the Zurich Reformers Huldrych Zwingli and Heinrich Bullinger. See the report on Dr Campi's lecture below.

We look forward to this year of special lectures and events. This spring, the Meeter Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary, and we hope it will flourish for many more years to come. Your ongoing interest and support of our work has sustained the Center over the years. Thank you.

*Karin Y. Maag*

## Heinrich Bullinger and Reformed Protestantism

On October 19, Dr. Emdio Campi, Director of the Institute for Swiss Reformation History in Zürich, delivered the Meeter Center's Biennial Lecture. Addressing an audience of some 50 students, pastors, and scholars, he spoke on the topic of "Heinrich Bullinger and Reformed Protestantism." Today, he noted, Bullinger (1504-1575) is not as well known as Luther, Zwingli or Calvin, in part because he was less radiant and lived a less vibrant life. In his own time, however, Bullinger was a significant leader. Not only was he elected as the head (antistes) of the Swiss church in 1531, he also used his worldwide contacts to promote the Zürich theology. The latter can be seen in his incredible correspondence of over 12,000 letters, which is more than that of Luther, Zwingli and Calvin combined! On top of that, his *Decades*, an 800-folio collection of sermons, rivaled Calvin's *Institutes*

and Peter Martyr Vermigli's *Loci communes* in influence.

After briefly describing Bullinger's life and influence, Dr. Campi turned to his contribution in theology. Bullinger did not, he emphasized, construct a system around a single doctrine or idea; rather, he was mainly a biblical theologian. His work appears to have been motivated by the desire to reformulate Zwingli's thought in a way that would not

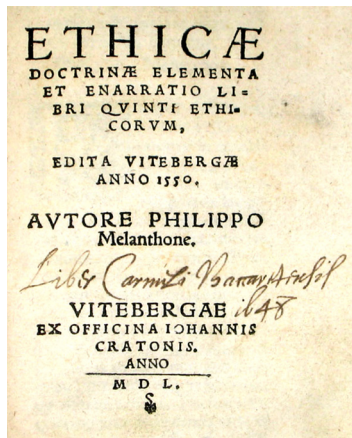


*Dr. Emdio Campi*

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## New Additions to Rare Books

The Meeter Center has recently added two works to its rare book collection. The first is the 1565 French edition of Calvin's lectures on Jeremiah and Lamentations. This work was first published in 1563 in Latin then translated into French and published in Lyon by Claude Senneton in 1565 as *Leçons ou commentaires et expositions de Jean Calvin, tant sur les Revelations que sur les Lamentations du Prophete Jeremie...* The lectures were originally dedicated to Frederick III, elector of the Palatinate. The second work added to the Center as a gift is by Philip Melancthon from 1550 entitled *Ethicae Doctrinae Elementa et Enarratio Libri Quinti Ethicorum*. The



volume is made up of three parts: the "Epitome Philosophiae Moralis Repetita" of 1548; the "In Quantum Librum Ethicorum Aristotelis"; and the "De Arbore Consanguinitatis et Affinitatis". The Center very much appreciates the public's interest in the rare book collection and the desire to support its growth through both monetary and physical gifts.

## New Acquisitions

Barbier-Mueller, Jean Paul. *La parole et les armes: chronique des guerres de religion en France, 1562-1598*. Geneva: Musée international de la Réforme; Paris: Hazan, 2006.

Berg, M. A. van den. *Vrienden van Calvin: Een amicale bio-*

*grafie*. Utrecht: De Banier, 2006.

Beza, Theodore. *Satyres chrestiennes de la cuisine papale*. Geneva: Droz, 2005.

Biéler, André. *Calvin's Economic and Social Thought*. Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches, 2006.

Blacketer, Raymond Andrew. *The School of God : Pedagogy and Rhetoric in Calvin's Interpretation of Deuteronomy*. London: Springer, 2005.

Bruening, Michael W. *Calvinism's First Battleground: Conflict and Reform in the Pays de Vaud, 1528-1559*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2005.

Busch, Eberhard. *Gotteserkenntnis und Menschlichkeit: Einsichten in die Theologie Johannes Calvins*. Zurich: Theologischer Verlag Zurich, 2005.

Greef, W. de. *Calvijn en zijn uitleg van de Psalmen: Een onderzoek naar zijn exegetische methode*. Kampen: Kok, 2006.

Greef, W. de. *Johannes Calvijn: zijn werk en geschriften*. Kampen: Kok, 2006.

Holder, R. Ward. *John Calvin and the Grounding of Interpretation: Calvin's First Commentaries*. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

Vree, Jasper and Johan Zwaan. *Abraham Kuyper's Commentatio (1860): The Young Kuyper About Calvin, a Lasco, and the Church*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.

Zachman, Randall C. *John Calvin as Teacher, Pastor, and Theologian: The Shape of His Writings and Thought*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2006.

## Heinrich Bullinger and Reformed Protestantism


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alienate those who admired Luther and Calvin. This tendency could be seen as Dr. Campi briefly traced Bullinger's contribution to the doctrines of the Lord's Supper, covenant, predestination, and justification by faith.

In concluding his address, Dr. Campi noted that there has been a recent resurgence in Bullinger studies, but added that more work needs to be done. The relevance of this remark became evident immediately, when a question was raised concerning Bullinger's ethics. Dr. Campi remarked that this subject has received only spotty attention, and needs a comprehensive study. Is someone ready to take up the challenge?

Albert Gootjes

Ph.D Student at Calvin Theological Seminary



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## The International Calvin Congress, August 22-26, 2006

The International Calvin Congress, an invitational gathering of Calvin scholars from around the world, meets every four years. This summer's meeting was in Emden, in north-western Germany, and was co-hosted by the Johannes a Lasco Library in Emden, and by the theological seminary in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands. The Meeter Center and Calvin Seminary were well represented, since the Director and Curator of the Center were joined by Dr Lyle Bierma and by Emeritus President James de Jong from Calvin Theological Seminary. We met colleagues from around the world, including from Singapore, Japan, Korea, Finland, Hungary, Brazil and South Africa, as well as from western Europe and North America. Nearly every one of the 120 delegates had heard of the Meeter Center, and had very positive impressions of the Center, largely thanks to their use of the Meeter Center web resources, the annual bibliography, and their encounters with previous Meeter Center fellowship recipients.



*Delegates at the International Calvin Congress in Emden: from left to right John Thompson (Fuller Seminary), Karin Maag (Meeter Center), William Naphy (Aberdeen) and Jong-Hee Kim (Baekseok University)*

## Meeter Center receives second NEH

After a successful five-week research seminar in 2004, the Meeter Center obtained funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a summer institute to be held from June 25 to July 13, 2007. This institute is teaching-focused, and is intended primarily for colleagues who teach survey courses in the humanities and who are interested in deepening their understanding of the Reformation and in building links between key Reformation themes and other central themes in world history. Visiting lecturers for the three-week course include Robin Barnes (Davidson College), Ward Holder (Saint Anselm College), Henry Luttikhuis (Calvin College), Karin Maag (Calvin College), Graeme Murdock (University of Birmingham), Charles Parker (Saint Louis University), Larissa Taylor (Colby College), and Merry Wiesner-Hanks (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). This institute is open to American citizens and to those who have

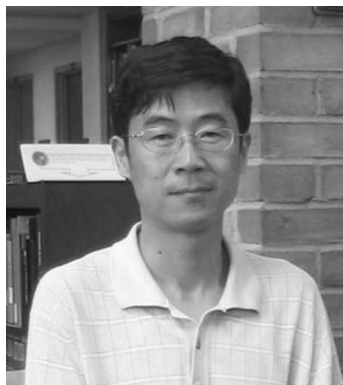
been permanent residents in the US for more than three years. Applicants must currently be teaching at US colleges and universities. Participants receive a \$2,400 stipend to cover transportation and lodging costs. Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2007. For more information and application materials (available starting November 15), please contact the Meeter Center director by email: [kmaag@calvin.edu](mailto:kmaag@calvin.edu).

## Scholars from Indonesia and China

This past summer the Meeter Center welcomed three scholars from Asia. Rev. Simon Rachmadi, a reformed minister from Surakarta, Indonesia, received the Emo F. J. Van Halsema Fellowship and researched Calvinist spirituality for the spiritual formation of Javanese clergy. Dr. Sun Yi, a professor from Renmin University in China, received a Special Fellowship and researched Calvinist systematic theology. Finally, Dr. Bin You, a professor from the Central University for Nationalities in China, received the Faculty Fellowship and researched John Calvin's interpretation of the Old Testament and his political thought.



*Rev. Simon Rachmadi*



*Dr. Sun Yi*

All three scholars had positive experiences during their time at the Meeter Center. When asked about his impressions of Calvin College and Seminary, Simon Rachmadi replied "the college and seminary impressed me with the Calvinist environment. I saw symbols and icons about Calvin and they gave me a sense of identity as a Calvinist. I think they might be very useful to develop Calvinian spirituality in

many ways." Bin You mentioned "through the weekly discussions I had, I understand more deeply Calvin's thought and I find that his thought is a very useful resource for me to reflect on the Chinese Church tradition." When asked if the Center is a useful resource for Christian scholars in China, Bin You added that "the Meeter Center could play an important role for Christian scholars in China, especially as John Calvin's theology and his



*Dr. Bin You*

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## Scholars from Indonesia and China

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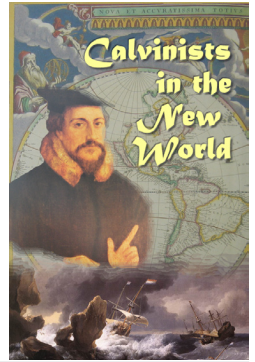
theology about religion, culture, church, and government could be an important intellectual resource for the study of theology in China.

Perhaps the most inspiring feedback about the summer scholars' stay at the Meeter Center came from Simon Rachmadi: "I have a dream that someday I could develop a center like the Meeter Center to help our church develop a Christian spirituality rooted in the Calvinist tradition." The Meeter Center is very pleased that it can serve as a useful resource for Calvinist scholars in Asia.

## Calvinists and the New World

Are you aware that Calvinists were among the first Protestants to set foot in the New World? Ryan Noppen, the Center Program Coordinator, has designed a new exhibit chronicling Calvinist attempts to establish colonies in the New World during the second half of the sixteenth and first half of the seventeenth centuries.

Admiral Coligny sponsored two unsuccessful Huguenot colonization attempts in Brazil and Florida in the 1550s and 1560s. The Dutch followed several decades later with a short-lived colony in Brazil but also established permanent colonies in modern day Suriname, the West Indies, and New York. The exhibit is located in the foyer in front of Heritage Hall on the second floor of Hekman Library.



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

The research paper topic for 2007 is  
**John Calvin and Prayer**

For more details go to

[http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool\\_award.htm](http://www.calvin.edu/meeter/scholarships/highschool_award.htm)

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