

Calvin Studies Society NEWSLETTER

April 2000



SPEAKERS NAMED FOR 2001 CALVIN STUDIES COLLOQUIUM: “CALVIN AND THE CHURCH” MAY 24-26, 2001

Calvin College Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Donald Sinnema, Program Chair for the 2001 Colloquium, reports that seven scholars will present papers on the topic “Calvin and the Church”:

Gene Haas, Redeemer College, Ontario

Raymond Mentzer, University of Montana

William Naphy, University of Aberdeen

Barbara Pitkin, Stanford University

Marylynne Robinson, University of Iowa

Herman Selderhuis, Theological University, Apeldoorn

Karen Spierling, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Karin Maag, Director of the Meeter Center at Calvin, is in charge of local arrangements. Housing will be available on the Calvin College and Seminary campus. Registration information will be available later. Fred Graham is also a member of the Program Committee.

FROM CONCILIARISM TO CONFSSIONAL CHURCH, 1400-1618

September 29 - October 1, 2000

The University of Notre Dame

Conference Co-Chairs are **Randall Zachman**, Associate Professor of Reformation Studies at Notre Dame and a member of the CSS, and **Howard Louthan** of the Notre dame History Department.

Speakers include: **Brian Copenhaver**, UCLA; **H. Lawrence Bond**, Appalachian State University; **Nicholas Conostas**, Harvard Divinity School; **Karlfried Froehlich**, Princeton Theological Seminary; **Erika Rummel**, Wilfrid Laurier University; **Irena Backus**, Institut d’Histoire de la Reformation, Geneva; **Evan Cameron**, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; **David Steinmetz**, Duke Divinity School; **Susan Schreiner**, University of Chicago Divinity School; **Karin Maag**, Meeter Center at Calvin College; **Zdenek David**, Woodrow Wilson Center; **Howard Hotson**, University of Aberdeen; **Graeme Murdock**, University of Birmingham, G.B.; **Borys Gudziak**, L’viv Theological Institute.

For more information, please contact Randall at: Dept. of Theology, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN 46556, or at 219-631-5141 or zachman.1@nd.edu or fax 219-631-4268.

REPORT ON CALVIN STUDIES CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Forty people participated in the Calvin Studies Conference at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, from January 26-28. The freezing rain in Atlanta caused flight cancellations in the eastern part of the country and prevented 15 registrants from attending. Charles Raynal, Director of Continuing Education and Advanced Studies at Columbia, along with Brian Armstrong and Robert Johnson, hosted the conference. Papers presented included

“God and the Devil in Calvin’s Psalms Commentary”
by Herman Selderhuis of the Theologische Universiteit, Apeldoorn;

“The Legacy of Peter Martyr and the Martyr Translation Project,” by Frank James of Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando.

“A Tale of Two Simultaneities: Justification and Sanctification in the Writings of Barth and Calvin,”
by George Hunsinger of Princeton Theological Seminary.

“Worship in Calvin’s Geneva,”
by Robert M. Kingdon, University of Wisconsin at Madison.

“A Challenge to Reformed Worship Today,”
by Daryl G. Hart of Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia.

“Sealing and the Holy Spirit in Bucer and Calvin,”
by Willem van ‘t Spijker, Theologische Universiteit, Emeritus, Apeldoorn.

“Calvin’s First Theological Writing,”
by Wilhelm Neuser, Munster.

Copies of the papers may be ordered from the Continuing Education Office at Columbia Seminary, P.O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031. Charles Raynal can be reached at 404-687-4562, fax 404-687-4591, or <RaynalC@CTSnet.edu>. Papers from previous conferences which were held at Davidson College can also be ordered from Columbia, or through our web site <www.CalvinStudiesSociety.org>.

Following the Friday banquet, **John Leith**, **John Hesselink**, **Tony Lane** and **Brian Armstrong** reflected on the state of Calvin studies and answered questions from the participants. **Bill Klempa** moderated the discussion.

John Leith reflected on early meetings of the Conference and International Congress of Calvin Research, speaking with great affection for the 1986 meeting in

Debrecen which brought together Calvin scholars from the West and Eastern Europe. John said he gained appreciation for the phrase “the church under the cross”.

John also described how the Calvin Conferences at Davidson came about. John helped established the Calvin Studies Society in 1975, but when he suggested having a meeting outside of Grand Rapids, the group balked and John established the Calvin Conferences held at Davidson. [An editor’s note here! The CSS and the Calvin Conference at Davidson—now Columbia—work very well together, sharing mailing lists and often inviting the same scholars to address the meetings. The Columbia/Davidson group and the CSS meet in alternate years. Occasionally there is talk of merging the two groups, but a merger may simply result in fewer conferences.]

John Hesselink said that he thought the most significant changes in Calvin studies in the past 25 years included the number of women making important contributions to the field and holding important appointments in academia. John also mentioned the large number of Roman Catholics studying Calvin, as well as the great interest in Calvin among Japanese and Korean Christians. Finally, John mentioned our more sophisticated understanding of the distinctions between Calvin and Calvinism.

Tony Lane filled in for Karin Maag (one of the weather casualties) and discussed the place of the Fathers in Calvin’s thought, referring to his own work and that of others. Tony noted how he often wished that Calvin had left—as Pighius had done—an inventory of his library.

Brian Armstrong noted the shift of interest from Calvin the theologian to Calvin the person who served as a pastor and teacher in Geneva and who worked to extend the reform into territories beyond Geneva. Instead of focusing on Calvin the theologian, scholars are also interested in Calvin the preacher, commentator, counselor and civic figure. Brian concluded by noting that Calvin studies is now an international movement, and with the study of a broad range of issues in Calvin and Geneva, Brian finds that even colleagues at secular institutions take Calvin studies seriously.

At the opening session on Saturday morning, Brian Armstrong reported that the next meeting of the International Congress on Calvin Research would be held in 2002 at Princeton Theological Seminary. Brian also announced that the Presidium of the Congress had selected **David F. Wright** to succeed Wilhelm Neuser as Executive-Secretary.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Ward Holder and **John Hesselink** recently made presentations at Colloquia sponsored by the Meeter Center at Calvin College and Seminary. On February 14, Ward spoke on the topic "The Church as Intersection of Theology and Scripture in Calvin's Thought". Ward is an assistant professor of religious studies at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. John spoke on the topic "Calvin: The Theologian of Sweetness" on March 9. John is Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Western Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

Jack Waskey, Dalton College, Dalton, Georgia, presented a paper, "Calvin's Thought on Civil Disobedience: Justifications Religious and Rational," at the National Social Science Association Fall Conference in St. Louis, Nov. 11, 1999.

Several people have recently become members of the Calvin Studies Society:

- **Andy Jones** 436 Floyd Dr. Smyrna, GA 30082 youngcalvin@yahoo.com Andy obviously should receive a prize for the most innovative e-mail name.
- **Alan K. Henderson** 55 Guinn Dr. Oxford, GA 30054 revkyle@gateway.net
- **E. Wayne McLaughlin** 2379 Patterson Blvd. So, Dayton, OH 45409 revwayne@hotmail.com
- **Rev. Bruce Brown** 140 North Ave., Apt. 1, Washington, PA 15301 BBrown@SGL.net Bruce attended the Columbia Conference and is interested in pursuing graduate work at Columbia on Calvin.
- **Murv L. Gardiner** 232 Sain Rd. Statesville, NC 704-873-2624
- **Dr. Gary Hansen** Dubuque Theological Seminary. Gary received his Ph.D. from Princeton in 1998 with his dissertation, "John Calvin and the Non-Literal Interpretation of Scripture."
- **Jung-Sook Lee** Seoul, Korea. jslee@yahoo.com Jung-Sook received his PhD from Princeton where he worked with Jane Douglass and Elsie McKee.
- **Steven M. Moulson** 1736 Tierra Libertaria Escondido, CA 92026 Steven is a student at Westminster Theological Seminary.
- **Masanaru Tanoue** Keio University, Tokyo. mtanoue@mb.infoweb.ne.jp Masanaru was on the executive committee of the 7th Asian Congress on Calvin Research, where he presented a paper, "Holy Spirit, Order and 'Market': A Reexamination of Calvin's Political Thought." Masanaru recently published *The Political Thought of the Young Calvin*.

- **Dr. Derek Thomas** Reformed Theological Seminary 5422 Clinton Blvd. Jackson, MS 39209 dthomas@rts.edu Before coming to Columbia, Herman Selderhuis visited RTS in Jackson where he met Derek Thomas and encouraged him to join the CSS.

Dawn DeVries and **Brian Gerrish** are members of the Governing Board of the Institute for Reformed Theology at Union Theological Seminary and PSCE in Richmond. The Fall 1999 Bulletin of the Institute was sent to everyone on the CSS list, but if you wish more information, please contact the institute at 1-800-229-2990 or at <IRT@utsva.edu>; also check <www.reformedtheology.org>. The Bulletin contains a lengthy review by Paul Capetz, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, of *Toward the Future of Reformed Theology: Tasks, Topics, Traditions*, ed. David Willis and Michael Welker, with Matthias Gockel. Eerdmans, 1999. 533pp. \$40.00.

Karine Langley successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on Calvin and the Devil. Brian Armstrong served on the dissertation committee.

Heiko Oberman will deliver lectures on Luther and Calvin at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, on April 25-26, as part of the Brueggemann and Kulenkamp Lecture Series.

John Hesselink provided us with three reviews of **Marilynne Robinson's** collection of essays, *The Death of Adam: Essays on Modern Thought* (Houghton Mifflin, 1998). The reviews are from *The New York Times* Book Review (Feb. 7, 1999), entitled "John Calvin Got a Bad Rap," by Roger Kimball; *The Christian Century* (Nov. 18-25, 1998) by Kathleen Norris; and *Perspectives* (Aug.-Sept., 1999). When John learned that Marilynne Robinson was a member of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he wrote to her in Iowa City and inquired about her background. Marilynne Robinson's reply to John is a fascinating description of how she began reading Calvin as a result of teaching *Moby Dick*. After working through the *Institutes*, she turned to the commentaries and sermons. Her reading of and fascination with Calvin's writings led her to begin teaching classes at her congregational church; the classes attract students from the U of Iowa campus as well as people from the community and her church. [Editor's note: I will be glad to fax you copies of the reviews if you request them.]

CHRISTOPH BURGER REPORTS ON THE ON THE CHURCH HISTORY PROGRAM AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Prof. Dr. C. P. M. Burger, Director of the Program in Church History at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, reports that the department is working in three areas: first, the transition from the Late Middle Ages to the Reformation; second, a critical edition in ca. 40 volumes of Calvin's correspondence; and third, the history of Dutch Protestantism in the 19th century. Other staff in the program are F.P. Van Stam, A.A. den Hollander, J. Vree and M.G.K. Van Veen.

The project dealing with Calvin's correspondence will produce the original texts of letters from and to Calvin, and will include introductions, annotations and critical apparatus. About three-fourths of the 3,000 letters are in Latin, and the rest in French. The volumes of letters will form part of the *Ioannis Calvini Opera Omnia Denuo Recognita* which is being published by Droz of Geneva. The initiative for this project was taken during the international congresses for Calvin research held at the Vrije Universiteit in 1974 and 1978.

The international team of scholars working on the correspondence project includes: **Brian Armstrong**, Georgia, U.S.; **C. Augustijn**, Netherlands; **Irena Backus**, Geneva; **Olivier Fatio**, Geneva; **Helmut Feld**, Germany; **Francis Higman**, Geneva; **Wilhelm Neuser**, Germany; **Bernard Roussel**, France; **Willem van 't Spijker**, Netherlands; and **David F. Wright**, Edinburgh.

Christoph Burger goes on to note that the first part of the new edition of the letters, which goes up to Calvin's arrival in Strasbourg in September, 1538, is nearing completion and includes 86 letters. As a result of the collaboration with the Institut de la Reformation in Geneva, one of the researchers, M.G. K. Van Veen has been researching the conflict between Calvin and Coornhert (1522-1590) on the subject of Nicodemism. Another result of the work on the letters is an article by F. P. Van Stam on the conflict between Caroli and Calvin, in which Van Stam argues that Caroli in 1537 accused Calvin of adhering to the teachings of Michel Servet.

Research on the letters has generated another article dealing with the circumstances under which Farel and Calvin left Geneva; this will be published by *Zeitschrift fur Kirchengeschichte*. Finally, the *Nederlands Archief voor Kerkegeschiedenis* has accepted an article on the translation of a pamphlet published by Calvin in March 1537, which Leo Jud was seeing through the press in 1540. Prof. Burger comments that the importance of this pamphlet is seen in that Jud said that he had published it in German but had suppressed Calvin's name as the author.

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Visit our Website at: www.CalvinStudiesSociety.org

Visit our web site and read the CSS Newsletter—with photos. You'll also find a list of past publications from the Calvin Studies Society and the Davidson Calvin Conferences which you can purchase for \$10.00 plus \$2.75 SH, per volume. You'll also find a list of publications by several of our members.

We would like to list your books. Besides publisher and date, we will also show the publisher's web site, e-mail, and 800 number so that the books can be ordered quickly and easily. If you have books to sell directly yourself, you can sell the books on our web site.

UP-DATE ON THE RHEINISCHE CALVIN SYMPOSIUM

In our November, 1999, newsletter, **Herman Selderhuis** told us of the meetings of Calvin scholars from Germany and the Netherlands met in October at Wuppertal. **Christoph Burger** is active in the group and tells us that the meeting in October 1999 was the fourth gathering. The symposium was initiated by **Hans Scholl** and **Wim Balke**, who were joined by **Cornelis Augustijn**. Prof. Burger organized the first meeting in November, 1995 at the Vrije Universiteit, and Prof. Scholl chaired the second in October, 1996 at Wuppertal. The March, 1998 meeting, organized by Burger and Frans P. van Stam met in Amsterdam, while the October, 1999, session was directed by Manfred Schulze and Hans Scholl.

The aim of the meetings is to provide new Calvin researchers a forum for presenting and evaluating their work. The group plans to meet once every 18 months.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AND HELP TO PUBLISH THE CSS PAPERS

Annual dues for the CSS are only \$20 and include a copy of the 1999 papers, *The Legacy of John Calvin*. If you pay the \$40 registration fee for the 2001 Colloquium, your dues for two years are included in the registration fee.

SEND INFORMATION ON YOUR ACTIVITIES, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

We all enjoy reading about the activities, research and publications of other CSS members. Please e-mail us material so that we can include it in the newsletter. We are glad to publicize conferences that your institution is sponsoring.

Pictures from Columbia Seminary - January



Herman Selderhuis →



Brian Armstrong ↑



← *Robert Johnson*



← *Charlie Raynal and Wilhelm Neuser*



Gary Hansen and Tony Lane ↑



John Hesselink and Daryl Hart ↑

↓ *Richard Ray and George Hunsinger*



Willem van't Spijker (at the podium) ↑