

## New Books

Castellio, Sebastian. *Gegen Calvin: Contra libellum Calvinii*. Alcorde Publishing, 2015.

Gilmont, Jean-Francois. *GLN 15-16: Les Éditions imprimées a Genève, Lausanne et Neuchâtel aux xv et xvie siècles*. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2015.

Gordon, Bruce. *John Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

Hutchinson, Mark A. *Calvinism, Reform and the Absolutist State in Elizabethan Ireland*. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2015.

Maag, Karin. *Lifting Hearts to the Lord: Worship with John Calvin in Sixteenth-Century Geneva*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2016.

Raith, Charles II. *After Merit: John Calvin's Theology of Works and Rewards*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2016.



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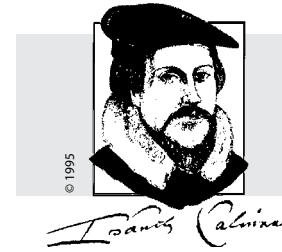
### Hugh and Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors

The 2017 research paper topic is:

**John Calvin and Martin Luther: Comparison and Assessment**

For further details and application instructions visit:

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/high-school-seniors/>



# Calvin Courier

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

Fall 2016, Number 58

## From the Director

This past summer was one of the busiest times for the Meeter Center in recent memory. In the month of July alone, we had five visiting scholars, eight paleographers and their instructor (see p. 2) and twenty-five participants in our National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute (see p. 3). As you can imagine, space in the center was at a premium. The Meeter Center staff spent a lot of time preparing for our guests, orienting them to our collections and to the campus, and ensuring that everyone benefited from their time at the Center.

In late June, we said farewell to our program coordinator, Ryan Noppen, who left after ten years to move to Virginia for his wife's work. We wish him well and thank him for his service. In September, we hired a new program coordinator, Laura Beer. She is working for us in the mornings, five days a week.

In 2017, we will be marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a series of events, including special lectures, a major art exhibit, at least one concert, and an open house at the Meeter Center on Thursday, March 9. On that day, we will be commemorating the Reformation but also marking the Meeter Center's thirty-fifth anniversary. Local

friends of the Center should look for more information on this and other events in the mail in early 2017.

Graduate students, faculty, and pastors in the Reformed tradition are invited to apply for a Meeter Center fellowship for 2017-18. The Meeter Center provides funding for six to seven short term fellowships (usually four weeks, up to six weeks for the faculty fellowship) each year. The deadline for applications is January 1, 2017. Materials can be submitted as email attachments. Go to <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/> to find out more. See p. 2 for a report from one of this year's visiting scholars.

Finally, we continue to encourage contributions to the Meeter Center endowment. We are at 1.5 million, which is terrific, but we still have a ways to go to reach our 5 million dollar goal. Any and all donations help! We have set up a donations page online for secure giving: go to <https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/join-us/> to make a gift to the Friends of the Meeter Center, to the rare books fund, or to the endowment fund (scroll down the page for endowment giving).

Karin Y. Maag

## Theodore Beza and Translating 16th-Century Latin

The Meeter Center Fall Lecture, by Dr. David Noe of the Calvin College Classic Department, was entitled, "Theodore Beza as Exegete, Humanist, and Polemicist: Translating 16th Century Theological Latin." Dr. Noe's academic work focuses on the reception of Greek and Roman philosophy and religion in the Reformation and Post-Reformation periods. This lecture was about a recent work Noe translated: Theodore Beza's essay from 1559, *A Clear & Simple Treatise on the Lord's Supper* (Grand Rapids, Reformation Heritage Books, 2016).

Dr. Noe began by explaining the conflict over the Lord's Supper between the Reformed in Geneva and Joachim Westphal, a Gnesio-Lutheran from Hamburg. Westphal and Calvin went back and forth with each other in multiple tracts for the greater part of a decade. At the core of their debate was the tension between the Lutheran and Reformed views on the nature of Christ's presence in the Supper. Beza's work engaged and responded to Westphal's 1558 *Defense of the Lord's Supper against the Errors and Calumnies of John Calvin*.

The lecture then focused in on several passages from Beza's treatise to demonstrate Beza's expertise as an exegete, his roots as a humanist, and the polemical nature of theological debate during that era. Dr. Noe showed how Beza sought to use reason properly in the exegesis of scripture. Beza argues against Westphal that the Ascension did not swallow up Jesus' body, only his weakness, and thus his circumscription was still in effect, so there could be no physical feeding on Christ who remains fully human.

Beza's humanist background was illustrated by his references to many Church Fathers, as well as his use of classical authors such as Homer and Virgil. For example, to buttress his arguments, Beza argues that even Homer used figural language to describe religious rites, so it would not be unexpected, given God's accommodation, for scripture to do so as well.

As was common during the Reformation era, Beza uses polemic in answering Westphal's own blistering attacks. Several times



Dr. David Noe

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## Beza and Translating 16th-Century Latin, *continued*

Beza paints Westphal as a divider over against the Reformed who are the true champions of Protestant unity. He complains that Westphal ridiculed the Genevans as tropists, symbolologists, and figurists, and the French aristocrat even humorously mocks Westphal's German beer-drinking ways before concluding with a more pastoral, generous plea for reconciliation.

Dr. Noe concluded the lecture with time for questions and answers, highlighting the benefit to contemporary scholars of understanding classical Greek and Latin works for reading Reformation and Post-Reformation authors, whose own training often centered on the classics. The lecture was attended by over thirty undergraduate and seminary students, Reformation scholars, and members of the public.

Matthew Wright  
PhD Student, Calvin Theological Seminary

## Ninth Paleography Workshop



2016 Summer Paleography Workshop Participants:  
(left to right) Holly Kizewski, Joseph TenHulzen, Anna Young, Thomas Meyers, Kelly Peebles Michelle Kuykendall, Jamie Kwan, Matthew Vanderpoel, and Tom Lambert

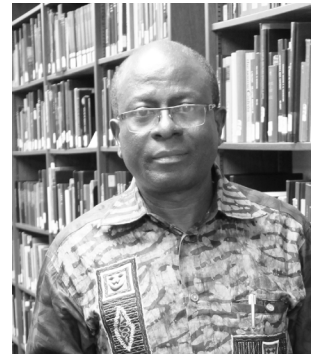
In July, eight participants gathered with course instructor Dr. Tom Lambert for two weeks of intensive study and training in how to read sixteenth-century manuscripts in French. Course members met daily as a group in the mornings to wrestle with non-standard spelling, really challenging handwriting, and perplexing abbreviations. In the afternoon, they worked individually and in small groups to hone their skills. By the end of the two weeks, as one of the participants reported, "I could not be more pleased with the experience... The course content was exceptional: well chosen, tailored to our research interests, and increasingly challenging. Tom Lambert is a gifted historian and paleographer, and an equally gifted instructor! Paleography will open a new avenue of research to me that would otherwise be inaccessible." We are particularly grateful to the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference for its \$2,000.00 grant, and for the continued financial support of the Friends of the Meeter Center that makes this workshop possible.

### Funded Research Fellowships

Every year, the Meeter Center offers fellowships for graduate students, faculty, and pastors. Fellowship recipients receive a stipend to come to the Center to do research on subjects pertaining to John Calvin and Calvinism. For further details visit:

<https://calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/>

## African Christianity and John Calvin: Research at the Center



Epiembong Louis Ebong

My research in the Meeter Center was focused on the new wave of Christian spirituality in Africa directed towards self-development, success, prosperity and interest in miracles. I intended to establish a discussion between Calvin and this new trend. My reading of Calvin has given me a certain perspective of understanding this new trend and also confirming some of my suspicions about it. In all, I think that we must re-emphasize a Christian spirituality in Africa that focuses on *God's claim on us* and not just our *claim on God*.

Besides the academic work, the Center also gave me the opportunity to meet other persons and create contact with other institutions. I would like to take this opportunity to also express my gratitude to the students and faculty of Calvin College and Calvin Seminary and others who attended the presentation of my report.

My journey with the Meeter Center has just begun and I will always remember the contribution the Center has made to my scholarship. I hope the Center can recommend scholars to publishers. This will be important for some of us who come from Africa. I render my thanks to all those who have contributed towards the establishment of the Center from which many scholars continue to benefit and broaden their theological knowledge. May God continue to direct the vision of the Center.

Epiembong Louis Ebong  
Professor of Theology and Religious Sciences  
Protestant University of Central Africa

## In Memoriam

**Dr. T.H.L. Parker**, noted British expert on John Calvin, died in April 2016, in his hundredth year. His best-known works include *Calvin's Preaching* (1992), *Calvin: An Introduction to His Thought* (1995), and his parallel studies of Calvin's commentaries on the Old Testament and the New Testament. His 1975 (rev. ed. 2007) biography of John Calvin remains one of the clearest and most straightforward accounts of the Genevan Reformer's life and thought.

**Mrs Thea Van Halsema** died in Grand Rapids on November 8, 2016. She and her family were long-standing supporters of the Meeter Center, especially through the Emo Van Halsema fellowship for pastors in the Reformed tradition. Many of the contributions to that fund came through donations in memory of her late husband Dr. Dick Van Halsema. She was also the author of *This Was John Calvin*, first published in 1959, and later translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, and Korean. She will be missed.

## Successful NEH Institute

From July 11 to 29, twenty-five college and university teachers from across the United States gathered in Grand Rapids for our three-week institute funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, "Teaching the Reformation after 500 Years." The three co-directors, Karin Maag (Meeter Center, Calvin College), Kate Van Liere (History Department, Calvin College), and David Whitford (Religion Department, Baylor University) were joined by three visiting lecturers: Katherine French (U. Michigan), John Roth (Goshen College) and Kristen Walton (Salisbury U.). We met in plenaries and small groups, focusing both on content and on pedagogy, including re-enacting two plays focusing on the Reformation. Participants praised various aspects of the program. One wrote: "This seminar is the best pedagogy-related work I've done, hands down. I anticipate that it will have a profoundly beneficial effect on my teaching, as well as my scholarship." Another reported, "This Institute has been nothing short of extraordinary. Not only have I learned an immense amount of information about the Reformation, I have also learned numerous ways to convey that information to my students. This will improve my teaching immensely." Finally, one participant summed up the experience by saying, "I learned far more about teaching in these three weeks than I have in any previous pedagogical training."



2016 NEH Institute Participants



## Celebrating the Reformation's 500th Anniversary: Meeter Center Special Events

**January Series Lecture:** Meeter Center Director Karin Maag will give a January Series Lecture entitled, "After 500 Years, Does the Reformation Still Matter?" The lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 12:30 PM–1:30 PM, at the Covenant Fine Arts Center Auditorium. January Series lectures are free to the public. See <http://calvin.edu/directory/series/karin-maag> for more details.

**CALL Class:** Karin Maag is teaching a special January class with Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning on "Getting the Word Out: Spreading the Message of the Reformation." Participants will learn about the impact of the Bible from the time of the Reformation until today. This class will be held in the Woodlawn Ministry Center across the street from Calvin College, and will be publicized in advance of the CALL spring curriculum catalog announced at <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/call/>

**CALL Trip:** The Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning is headed to Europe! Tour key Reformation sites with Director Karin Maag and Curator Paul Fields with CALL from September 12-22. See the upcoming CALL newsletter for more information.

**Calvin Studies Society Conference:** CSSC's Seventh Annual Reformation Conference, entitled "Calvin and the Early Reformation," will be hosted this year by Baylor University in Waco, Texas, from 11:00 AM March 16 to 1:30 PM March 18, 2017. To register, see <http://www.calvinstudiesociety.org/events/2017/3/16/calvin-studies-society-colloquium>.

## A Reformation Week Organ Recital

Over a hundred and fifty community members congregated in Calvin College Chapel on October 25 for a spectacular organ performance by Hilary Guter, Director of Music at Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church. Guter's dynamic gusto and stunning technique complemented the dramatic highs and lows of her Reformation-era selections, which echoed magnificently through the chapel. Through the interplay of sound and silence, Guter expertly drew out melodies, and highlighted the full range of the organ's pipes. Interspersing music with narration from her husband, Rev. Frank Guter, Hilary Guter offered the audience a musical history of the Reformation via its organ composers. Playing works chronologically by Bruhns, Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Walther and Bach, Guter conveyed a sense of the central and yet often contested place of organ music within worship during the Reformation, and taught us to listen with an historical ear.



Hilary Guter  
Calvin College Chapel

### Friends of the Meeter Center

We welcome members to the Friends of the Meeter Center. Friends' donations help provide funding for special programs, including the Friends of the Meeter Center Fellowships, the Rare Book fund, and the biennial paleography workshop. Checks may be made out to Friends of the Meeter Center and sent to the Center's address. Thank you for your support! Annual membership fees are:

Student	\$20	Associate	\$100
Supporter	\$40	Partner	\$200
Donor	\$75	Benefactor	\$500