

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 5 – March 2003

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

A Banner Year

The year 2003 promises to be a “banner year” for our society. Ten years of planning and hard work will yield five society publications between now and December.

The major production will be the first hardcover volume of Herman Bavinck’s *Reformed Dogmatics*. It will be an elegant, stitched book, in hardcover, with a dust jacket, retailing for \$49.99. It is slated to be in bookstores in October.

All four volumes of the “Classics of Reformed Spirituality” series will also appear this year. All are softcover books, featuring a consistent cover design (shown at right for the first two in the series), and including an introduction written by the editor. Each volume is illustrated with plates, maps, and artwork, which enhances its attractiveness.

Jean Taffin (1529-1602), *The Distinguishing Marks of God’s Children* will appear in May, at \$14.99 retail. It is edited by James A. De Jong, translated by Peter Y. De Jong.

Jacobus Koelman (1633-1695), *The Duties of Parents in Bringing Up Their Children for God* will appear in July, at \$14.99 retail. It is edited by M. Eugene Osterhaven, translated by John Vriend.

Gysbert Voetius (1589-1676) and Johannes Hoornbeek (1617-1666), *Spiritual Desertion* will appear in September, also at

\$14.99 retail. It is edited by M. Eugene Osterhaven, translated by John Vriend and Harry Boonstra.

Willem Teellinck (1573-1629), *The Path of True Godliness* will appear in December, priced at \$19.99 to reflect its substantially larger size. It is edited by Joel R. Beeke, translated by Annemie Godbehere. We originally announced this title as *The North Star*, which is a literal translation of the Dutch. But the series committee agreed to the change, which better reflects the contents of the book.

The total retail cost of these five volumes is \$115. Society members, who have paid the one-time, \$100 membership fee may purchase them at 50% off, or \$57.50.

A Significant Savings

Mr. James Kinney, Director of Academic Publishing at Baker Book House and a member of the DRTS board, has informed the board that the retail price of each of the four Bavinck volumes is \$49.99,

for a total of \$200. The four volumes of the spirituality series will retail for \$65.

Society members can purchase all these books for \$132.50, which added to their membership contribution of \$100 still represents a savings of more than 12 ¼% over retail prices. Additional, future titles will also be available to members at 50% of retail and will only increase the percentage of net savings over retail prices.

Brochure

Enclosed is a revised, updated brochure on the Dutch Reformed Translation Society. Over the years several board members have moved from the Midwest and dropped off our board, several have changed positions and locations, and several new members have joined the board.

We ask that you give the brochure to someone who may be interested in joining the society. **Now is the year to join—when the full benefits of reduced prices on all the society's titles can be realized.**

Questionnaire

Last year we mailed a questionnaire to all society members asking if they would like each of our titles mailed to them as soon as they appeared, with an enclosed invoice at 50% of retail.

Response was good, but not unanimous. This year we enclose the questionnaire to those who have not responded to this offer. Returning it will assure that you will be the first to receive each title as it appears and that you will not inadvertently miss acquiring one of them.

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer, Professor David Engelsma of the Protestant Reformed Seminary, reported at the last board meeting (October 10, 2002) a balance of \$11,700. Since then we have paid all the translation, editorial, and secretarial costs for the spirituality series, but have also received a number of gifts for the work in the \$500 to \$3,000 range. At the end of February the society's balance was approximately \$13,000. We reported to members in March of 2002 that a decision to hire additional editorial help to complete the Bavinck project on schedule could cost up to an additional \$25,000. When the second installments of two large requests are received, we will have sufficient resources to complete that major project as originally planned, by 2005.

Thanks!

The board genuinely thanks the society membership and our generous patrons, whose fees and gifts have made this important work possible for the last ten years.

Our fellowship on the board across six or seven denominational lines has been cordial. We remain convinced that we share a rich and precious spiritual and theological legacy that deserves much wider exposure. Your vision and support sustain us in this work, and we thank you and the Lord.

Promotions

Plans are in process to promote our titles at synods, seminaries, academic conferences, and through newsletters, ads, and press releases. Pray that these efforts will be successful.