

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 12 – December 2008

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

2008 Board Meetings

Your board met twice in 2008, on April 17 and on November 5.

Officers re-elected were James A. De Jong, chairman; Joel R. Beeke, vice-chairman; Nelson D. Kloosterman, secretary; David J. Engelsma, treasurer.

Reported was that contracts have been signed with Reformation Heritage Books for publishing rights for *Spirituality Series I* (Taffin, Teellinck, Voetius-Hoornbeeck, and Koelman) and for *Spirituality Series II* (Udemans, Brakel, Schortinghuis, and Van Lodenstein), three of whose titles should be available in early 2009.

Approved was translation of phase one of Peter Van Mastricht's *Theoretico-Practica Theologia*, a late seventeenth-century body of divinity in size and importance comparable to Bavinck's dogmatics.

Baker Books, Inc. reported healthy sales of Bavinck's titles. Generous patrons underwrote subsidized sales in October at eight seminaries.

The treasurer reported balances of almost \$64,000 on February 29 and almost \$71,000 on October 31. He also reported positive results of DRTS's first thorough audit of its books last summer. At the November meeting Rev. Engelsma submitted his resignation from the board. There upon the board adopted a resolution of appreciation for his fifteen years of outstanding service.

Substantial Commitments

The healthy treasury balance must be seen in terms of the roughly \$65,000 that has been contractually committed as of the end of 2008.

EMAIL SERVICE

Beginning in 2009, DRTS will begin offering email service to members who enroll for it. This will include:

- timely announcement of new titles,
- newsletters sent electronically,
- easier follow-up on address changes,
- easy inquiry on DRTS matters.

Enrollment will yield cost savings to the society and better service to members. To enroll send your email address to:

dejj@calvinseminary.edu

Van Mastricht Project

Peter Van Mastricht (1630-1706) was a leading Dutch Reformed theologian in the traditions of William Ames and Gijsbert Voetius, whom he succeeded as a professor at Utrecht. His major work was published in Latin in 1655, widely used, republished often, and translated into Dutch in 1750. Its genius is that it weaves together doctrinal, ethical, and practical theology.

Jonathan Edwards, considered by many to be the greatest American theologian, regarded Van Mastricht as second to none. Accordingly, the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University is expressed interest to DRTS in electronic rights to the translation. DRTS board member Adriaan Neely is on staff at the center.

Contracted to do the translation of phase one (the first third) is Mr. Todd Rester, an established expert in Latin and Dutch and a Calvin Seminary Ph.D. student. Reformation Heritage Books is the contracted publisher.

Estimated costs of the entire multi-volume work are in excess of \$125,000, a third of which has already been secured.

New Titles in 2008

At its April meeting, the board was presented with the first copies of Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics: Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation*. It is the fourth and final volume of Bavinck's dogmatics and completes this massive, ten-year project.

At 944 pages, it is easily the largest of the four volumes in the series, yet it retails for the same price of \$50 as the previous three. A fourth of its size is due to the cumulative bibliography and the combined scriptural, name, and subject indices that cover all four volumes. The assiduous work on these enhancements by editor John Bolt, as well as his introductions and footnotes, make the Bavinck dogmatics project a major accomplishment. The project has been acclaimed by leading Reformed and evangelical theologians.

A month later, in May, Baker announced the publication of Herman Bavinck, *Essays on Religion, Science, and Society*. Once again edited by John Bolt, it was translated by Harry Boonstra and Gerrit Sheeres. At \$40 retail, 304 pages, hardcover, it is available to society members for half price plus 50% of shipping. The volume consists of previously written essays that Bavinck selected for republication near the end of his life. They are on a wide range of subjects: psychology, philosophy of religion, education, natural science, evolution, aesthetics, politics, and philosophy of religion. With piecing insight, they reflect the relevance of Reformed thinking for contemporary issues.

The volume includes a moving biographical tribute to Bavinck, originally published in *The Princeton Theological Review*, by Henry Elias Dosker. Dosker was a fellow student of Bavinck in Kampen and his life-long correspondent who, after immigrating, taught at Western Seminary in Holland, MI, then at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in Kentucky.

Both of these new titles are available to members from Reformation Heritage Books at member discounts.

Bavinck Celebration

On September 18-20 Calvin Seminary hosted a conference co-sponsored by fourteen seminaries, colleges and organizations, including DRTS. Entitled "A Pearl and a Leaven: Herman Bavinck for the Twenty-First Century," the conference attracted 200 registrants. Stimulating presentations by recognized European and North American scholars, panel discussions, and competitive presentations by doctoral students from a number of seminaries and universities were featured. A worship service at Pillar Church in Holland, MI on the following Sunday capped the event.

Making their appearance at the conference were two new titles not sponsored by DRTS but inspired by the new interest in Bavinck. The first is Eric D. Bristley, *Guide to the Writings of Herman Bavinck*. The second is Herman Bavinck, *Saved by Grace: The Holy Spirit's Work in Calling and Regeneration*, translated by Nelson D. Kloosterman, edited by J. Mark Beach. Both titles are published by and available from Reformation Heritage Books.

New Treasurer

Subsequent to its November meeting, the board approved the appointment of Henry Witte as the new DRTS treasurer. President of Witte Travel in Grand Rapids, he has served on the board since its inception.

Orders

Orders at members' discounts can be claimed by notifying our supplier of your membership status. RHB has your name on file:

Reformation Heritage Books
2919 Leonard St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525.
Phone: 616-977-0599.
E-mail: @heritagebooks.org

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BLESSED HOLIDAYS
JOYFUL NEW YEAR