

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 14 –November 2011

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

The previous issue (number 13) of this newsletter was distributed in August 2010. Since then, the board has met three times: October 2010, April 2011, and October 2011.

Board Composition

At both of the April meetings the incumbent officers were re-elected: James A. De Jong, chairman; Joel R. Beeke, vice-chairman; Nelson D. Kloosterman, secretary; Henry I. Witte, treasurer.

Board membership is also unchanged. All members serve pro bono, including without remuneration of travel expenses. They serve three-year, renewable terms.

Website Initiated

The board approved creating a DRTS website, which was subsequently designed and launched. The board secretary, Dr. Nelson Kloosterman, was appointed to administer the site. Suggestions for enhancing it can be sent to him at ndkloosterman@gmail.com.

The site includes pictures and descriptions of all DRTS titles, copies of all previous newsletters, the DRTS statement of purpose, a list of board members, information on ordering titles, membership application information, links and descriptions of compatible organizations, and a copy of the DRTS promotional brochure. Have a look!

www.dutchreformed.org

Treasurer's Reports

October 20, 2010 Meeting:
Opening balance: \$64,902.39
Receipts: 11,335.84

Expenditures: 7,700.58
Closing balance 68,537.65
April 27, 2011 report:
Opening balance: \$68,537.65
Receipts: 6,683.13
Expenditures: 2,354.80
Closing balance: 72,,865.98
October 5, 2011 report:
Opening balance: \$72,865.98
Receipts: 8,886.42
Expenditures: 5,247.20
Closing balance: 76,505.20

Words of clarification are in order. While balances have grown, the latest closing balance covers roughly only one-half of the outstanding commitments to ongoing projects the society has, notably the Peter Van Maastricht translation and the last two titles in the spirituality series. Further, receipts have been unusually high because of sales of the now completed four-volume set of Bavinck's dogmatics and of the recently released one-volume abridgement in the spring of this year. That level of sales is not assured in the future.

Membership Initiative

A subcommittee of James Kinney, Paulus Heule and Jay Collier presented their recommendations for expanding the DRTS membership base, which stands at roughly 150. In response, the board acted to keep in place the \$100, lifetime membership with its present terms. It also approved a one-year membership of \$25 (\$10 for students), with the same privilege of purchasing DRTS titles at the same 50% discount as life-time members.

Four successive annual membership contributions moves one into the life-time level. This adjustment is an effort to satisfy

potential IRS concerns about the limited size of our donor base brought to the board's attention by the society's auditor. More donors giving a larger proportion of gift receipts would lessen the likelihood of such notification. While no IRS concern has been registered about the matter, the board is intent to see that none is.

Current members are encouraged to recommend DRTS membership to friends, colleagues and family members—either lifetime or annual memberships.

Saldenus-à Brakel Project in Press

The seventh volume of the society's library of titles featuring Further Reformation topics and authors has gone to press this month. It should be on the market sometime next spring.

This book features two short titles on the Lord's Supper by highly regarded late seventeenth century pastors. These essays were designed to help people prepare for coming to the table, understand what was going on in the supper, and respond appropriately after celebrating the sacrament. Both pieces are perceptive, thoughtful devotional literature and provide a window on why the Lord's Supper was emphasized so significantly in Dutch Reformed spirituality.

James A. De Jong edited the volume and wrote the introduction. Bartel Elshout translated the essays. Elshout earlier translated Wilhelmus à Brakel's *The Christian's Reasonable Service*, 4 volumes, a standard work of the Further Reformation.

EMAIL Delivery

Once again, we encourage those receiving this edition of the newsletter by mail to opt for receiving it via email, thus saving us the cost of postage. So indicate via

dejj@calvinseminary.edu

THANKS!!!!

Marketing Initiative

At its October 2011 meeting, the DRTS board authorized its officers "to implement a marketing initiative," recommend someone who might be hired to oversee this effort, and develop a position description for the position.

Suggestions from the society's membership on this matter are welcome. They can be submitted by mail to DRTS, PO Box 7083, Grand Rapids, MI 49510 or by email to any officer of the board.

Bavinck Abridgement

The 850 page, one-volume abridgement of Herman Bavinck's *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4 vols., rolled off the Baker Academic presses in April, 2011. The retail price is \$60. So far, it has been selling well. Dr. John Bolt also served as editor of this project and made judicious selections from the original translation.

Christmas Gifts

Why not consider giving your pastor, children or select friends a DRTS title or two for Christmas?

Ordering is easy. Substance is solid!

These will be gifts that continue to bless their recipients and remind them of your appreciation and spiritual interest in them.

Orders

Orders at members' 50% discount can be submitted to RHB. Just mention your DRTS membership status. RHB has members' names on file:

Reformation Heritage Books

2919 Leonard St. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Phone: 616-977-0599

E-mail: orders@heritagebooks.org

Website: www.heritagebooks.org