

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 11 – November 2007

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

Semi-Annual Meetings—Update

Your board once again held two meetings this year, a spring meeting on April 27 and the autumn meeting on October 12.

Re-elected in April to three-year terms were: John Bolt, Robert den Dulk, I. John Hesselink, E. William Kennedy, Nelson Kloosterman, Carl Schroeder and Gise Van Baren. All four board officers were re-elected for another year:

James A. De Jong, President
Joel R. Beeke, Vice-President
Nelson D. Kloosterman, Secretary
David Engelsma, Treasurer

The treasurer reported that as of September 30 the balance on hand was \$38,630.89. The society holds no other assets. Neither the board members nor officers receive compensation or remuneration of expenses for board meetings. The society does pay stipends for the work of editors and market rates to its translators.

Several new memberships have been received.

Both meetings were marked by the usual good spirit of collaboration and enthusiasm for significant projects underway and envisioned.

Robert den Dulk’s Death

With sadness the board noted the passing of its colleague Dr. Robert G. den Dulk on August 2, 2007. With his death the board lost a wise counselor and generous patron. The board passed a resolution of sympathy, conveyed to the family and sent a memorial gift to Westminster Seminary in California for the Robert G. den Dulk Memorial Fund. Den Dulk. Associated with Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, then in Escondido, for his entire professional life, he served the

California branch as president from 1989-1994. Subsequently he was involved in several business enterprises and headed the Den Dulk Family Foundation, which has generously subsidized sales of our books to M.Div. students at a number of Reformed seminaries. Bob’s service on the board will be greatly missed, and the board commends his wife, Nellie, and his children and grandchildren to God’s comfort and sustaining grace.

De Reuver Title Released

This year the superb study of the Further Reformation by Professor Dr. Arie de Reuver appeared in print. Entitled *Sweet Communion: Trajectories of Spirituality from the Middle Ages through the Further Reformation*, it contains seven chapters. The first two deal with the medieval figures Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas á Kempis, who had a profound influence on the five leading figures introduced in the last five chapters.

The book has been acclaimed as a masterful introduction to this movement, whose “oude schrijvers” had such a profound influence on many Dutch immigrants to North America. The translation appears in Richard A. Muller’s fine series with Baker Academic, “Texts and Studies in Reformation and Post-Reformation Thought.”

While the book retails for \$29.99, society members can purchase it from Reformation Heritage Books (noted below) at half price, plus half the cost of shipping. The book is being automatically shipped and invoiced at this rate to the members of the society who have signed up for this service.

Presentation of the translation became part of the ceremonies marking the retirement of Professor de Reuver from the University of Utrecht last May.

Bavinck in Process

John Bolt completed his editorial work on volume 4 of Bavinck's dogmatics in 2006, as we reported earlier. This concluding volume of the set will appear in print next spring.

Bolt has also concluded his editorial work on the translation of Bavinck's best essays on a wide array of issues. That volume, translated by Dr. Harry Boonstra and Rev. Gerrit Sheeres, will appear in time for the September 2008 conference on Bavinck and his work sponsored by Calvin Seminary.

Watch the seminary's website or consult its mailings on conference details.

Spirituality Series Now in Korean

Tyrannus Press of Seoul, Korea, has completed its translation of all four volumes in the society's spirituality series. The Korean edition appears with colorful covers and without the editors' introductions or the plates included in the English edition. The entire project was completed in less than a year.

Board Approves Second Spirituality Series

At its autumn meeting, the board approved the translation of a second series of books from the Further Reformation. This series will include representative authors and topics not included in the first series. Translators and editors were also approved at the meeting.

W. à Brakel, *Stichtelijke oefeningen* ["Edifying Exercises Related to the Lord's Supper"], with G. Saldenus, *De kracht des Avontmaal* ["The Power of the Lord's Supper"]—Hans Boersma, translator; James A. De Jong, editor.

W. Schortinghuis, *Nodige waarheden* ["Essential Truths in the Heart of a Christian"]—Harry Boonstra, translator, James A. De Jong, editor.

J. van Lodenstein, *Negen predikatiën* ["Nine Sermons"]—Bartel Elshout, translator; Joel R. Beeke, editor.

G. Udemans, *Praktijk van geloof, hoop, en liefde* ["The Practice of Faith, Hope, and Love"]—Annemarie Godbehere, translator, Joel R. Beeke, editor.

The series will be published by Reformation Heritage Books.

Board Girds for Van Mastricht

Also approved for translation and publication is *Theoretical and Practical Theology* [*Theologia theoretico-practica*] by Peter Van Mastricht. Jonathan Edwards reportedly thought this was the finest work ever written in Reformed theology.

Van Mastricht (1630-1706) was trained under Gysbert Voetius at the University of Utrecht, and succeeded his mentor there in 1676. William Ames also had a profound influence on him, and during his tenure he resisted the incursions of Descartes' modernizing influences on theology. His work was first published in Latin, went through numerous editions, and was translated into Dutch. It has never appeared in English.

The board advertised extensively for someone with competence in both the Latin and Dutch languages, as well as in Reformed theology. It has found such a person in Dr. Riemer Faber, head of the classics department at the University of Guelph. Faber's father, Dr. Jelle Faber, was principal of the Canadian Reformed Seminary in Hamilton, Ontario. The board is currently in negotiations to finalize contracts with Faber and Baker Academic.

The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University has approached the board about its possible involvement in the project. Dr. Adriaan Neele, DRTS board member, is affiliated with the Yale center.

Once underway, the Van Mastricht project will be as large and more expensive than the translation of Herman Bavinck's *Reformed Dogmatics*. But the board is persuaded that this undertaking is well worth the effort.

Members of the society can claim their 50% discount on society titles ordered through

Reformation Heritage Books

2919 Leonard St. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Phone: 616-977-0599.

E-mail: @heritagebooks.org

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MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!