

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 13 – August 2010

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

Board Meetings

The board has met three times since our December 2008 newsletter: on April 15 and December 16, 2009, and on April 28, 2010.

Two new board members have accepted appointments to your board since our last report. Mr. Paul Heule was appointed in April 2009 and Rev. Ronald Cammenga in April 2010. Mr. Heule is the president of Eenhoorn, LLC, a privately held real estate corporation based in Grand Rapids. Rev. Cammenga is Professor of Systematic Theology at the Protestant Reformed Theological Seminary in Grandville. Both men bring special expertise and deep interest in the society's work.

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.

While the three meetings were involved substantially with routine, maintenance matters, several significant developments are reported in the following paragraphs.

Update on Van Mastricht

In our last newsletter, we reported extensively on our current major project: the translation of Peter Van Mastricht's *Theoretico-Practica Theologia*. We also announced the appointment of Mr. Todd Rester and detailed his excellent qualifications as the translator of this major work. As of this summer, Rester is nearing completion of phase one of the project, which represents roughly a third of the total undertaking. As this segment is completed, it is being turned over to editors for finalization of the text. When their work has been finished, copy will be sent to our

publisher, Reformation Heritage Books.

At our December 2010 meeting, the board approved a refined editing process involving an editor for translation accuracy, two copy editors for English style and standards, a bibliographical assistant, and finally two general co-editors. The co-editors will review and approve the work of all the foregoing participants and supply introductory and supporting material for the finished work. Dr. Beeke and Dr. Kloosterman have been designated by the board as the general co-editors.

Mr. Rester and Mr. Jay Collier, Director of Publishing at Reformation Heritage Books, have been added to the Van Mastricht subcommittee. The subcommittee monitors progress on the project and develops and proposes policy on it. Dr. John Bolt and Dr. Adriaan Neele as well as the co-editors are the other four members of this subcommittee.

The subcommittee proposed and the board approved a total budget of \$195,000 for the entire venture. To date almost \$40,000 of that has been expended, met by designated gifts and royalty income. Given the widespread interest in the undertaking, the subcommittee projects healthy sales at the society's reduced, non-profit prices.

Schortinghuis Now in Print

In November 2009, the first volume of the second series of the society's Further Reformation spirituality titles appeared in print. It is Willem Schortinghuis's *Essential Truths in the Heart of a Christian* [*Nodige Waarheden* in the Dutch language], 1750. It is a lucid primer in basic Reformed doctrine, written with the experiential touch of this late representative of the movement. Translated by Harry Boonstra and Gerrit Sheeres, with an introduction by editor

James A. De Jong, the book is 135 pages long and retails for \$14.95, or \$7.50 to society members

Scheduled Titles

The three subsequent titles of the second series are scheduled to appear as follows.

G. Udemans, *The Practice of Faith, Hope, and Love*, spring 2011. Joel Beeke, editor; Annemarie Godbehere, translator.

J. van Lodenstein, *Nine Sermons*, fall 2011. Joel Beeke, editor; Bart van Elshout, translator.

W. à Brakel, *Edifying Exercises Related to the Lord's Supper* and G. Saldenus, *The Power of the Lord's Supper*, two essays in one volume, spring 2012. James A. De Jong, editor; Bart van Elshout, translator.

When completed, the two series and Arie de Reuver's contemporary introduction to the Dutch Further Reformation will give English language readers a substantial overview of this important movement in Reformed spirituality.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported a balance of \$64,973.67 on April 28, 2010. Combined receipts reported at the last three board meetings were \$63,814.81, disbursements were \$87,362.47.

EMAIL Delivery

About two-thirds of the DRTS membership is receiving this newsletter via email. This is the first issue being so transmitted, at significant savings in expense to the society. This practice is becoming more common for organizations such as ours.

Perhaps you would like to set up an e-file for these issues for future reference.

We encourage those still receiving the material via surface mail to send their preferred email address and let us add their names to the DRTS e-list. Send to:

dejj@calvinseminary.edu

Gift to Stott Scholars

Approved by the board and funded by gifts in response to a special appeal to DRTS patrons, some seventy sets of Herman Bavinck's *Reformed Dogmatics* were sent to Langham Scholars. These are people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who were supported in their doctoral programs by Dr. John Stott's foundation and who are now teaching at seminaries in their homelands or otherwise providing church leadership there.

Many of these people have completed their doctoral programs at Reformed and evangelical seminaries like Calvin, Fuller, Trinity Deerfield, and Westminster.

The DRTS board recognized this initiative as a way of sharing the Reformed insights of Herman Bavinck strategically. The gift was deeply appreciated by both the recipients and the Langham Foundation.

Bavinck Society Formed

On the heels of the successful Bavinck Conference hosted by Calvin Seminary in September, 2008, that seminary has created the Bavinck Institute, headed by Bavinck editor, Dr. John Bolt. The institute will promote and consolidate the burgeoning interest in Herman Bavinck and his enduring influence. DRTS members are encouraged to explore the Bavinck Institute's website and to consider joining the new Bavinck Society. Information related to Bavinck studies can be found there.

<http://bavinck.calvinseminary.edu/>

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: @heritagebooks.org