

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 10 – December 2006

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

Second Newsletter in 2006

This is the second newsletter being mailed in 2006. Ordinarily we send only one per year. However, the significance of our semi-annual board meeting held in October compels us to send a second.

Bavinck Update

The third volume of Herman Bavinck’s four-volume *Reformed Dogmatics* (*Gereformeerde Dogmatiek*) came off the press in April and is selling nicely. Also, sales of the first two volumes remain encouraging.

The translation of the volume of Bavinck’s collected essays, about which we reported earlier, has been completed. The translators are Dr. Harry Boonstra and Rev. Gerrit Sheeres. By the time you are reading this, John Bolt will have completed editing and lightly annotating this volume.

Bolt’s work on volume four of the dogmatics concluded and was handed to the publisher last summer.

Both volume four and the essays should appear in print early in 2008.

Resolution

The board adopted the following resolution at its October meeting.

“The board of directors of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society, meeting in its semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, unanimously adopts the following resolution in gratitude for the editorial labors of Board member Professor John Bolt.

“Whereas John Bolt has labored diligently for more than twelve years, as the skillful and patient editor of the full text and notes of this society’s translation of Herman Bavinck’s *Gereformeerde Dogmatiek*, the premier and uniting project of our society,

“Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Dutch Reformed Translation Society, on this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord 2006, expresses its profound thanks to God for this labor of our brother, and congratulates our brother upon the completion of his contribution to this inaugural project.”

Conference

As an indication of the significance of the Bavinck translation, as well of its gratitude for Dr. Bolt’s completion of his work on it, the board voted to offer a \$5,000 subsidy for a 2008 conference on Bavinck. The conference is being planned for the centennial year of Bavinck’s delivery of the Stone Lectures at Princeton Seminary. Plans are for Calvin Seminary to sponsor the event.

The grant was offered with the provision that plans for the conference be in place by next summer. The board also voted to appoint a subcommittee to work with this seminary in the planning process. Board members from several seminaries agreed to serve on it.

As plans develop, we will keep DRTS members informed of details.

Korean Translation of Spirituality Series

Baker Academic and the society’s board have given permission for Tyrannus Press in Seoul, Korea, to publish a translation of our series of four titles on Dutch Reformed spirituality. The firm is Tyrannus Press, reportedly the largest Christian publisher in South Korea.

Treasurer’s Report

Professor David Engelsma, the society’s treasurer, reported a balance of \$26,671.37

through August 31, but that since that date expenditures and commitments drew that balance down below \$10,000. The subsequent costs were for the Bavinck essays and final bills on the dogmatics; the commitments are the conference subsidy and approved advertising for a specialized translator.

Asked about the final cost of the Bavinck project, Engelsma calculated and reported subsequent to the meeting that the amount is \$119,110.97.

Balance and anticipated revenues from sales, as well as future donations, will be directed toward future projects.

Future Projects under Investigation

A subcommittee chaired by vice president Dr. Joel Beeke has identified four titles for a possible second series in Dutch Reformed spirituality. A final decision is anticipated at the spring meeting in 2007. The titles include:

Wilhelmus à Brakel, *Stichtelijke oefeningen over de . . . Heilig Avondmaal* ["Edifying Exercises Related to the Lord's Supper"], accompanied by Guilelmus Saldanus, *De kracht des Avontmaals* ["The Power of the Lord's Supper"];

Willem Schortinghuis, *Nodige waarheden in het harte van een Christen* ["Essential Truths in the Heart of a Christian"];

Jodocus van Lodenstein, *Negen predikationen* ["Nine Sermons"], or an alternative title;

Godefridus Udemans, *Praktijk van geloof, hoop, en liefde* ["The Practice of Faith, Hope, and Love"], an excerpt from his commentary on the Ten Commandments.

Projects of a larger proportion are also under consideration.

The first of these is Petrus Van Mastricht's magisterial work, *Theologia theoretico-practica* ["Theoretical and Practical Theology"]. In scope and importance, it approaches the size of Bavinck's dogmatics. The problem faced by the committee is that it was originally written in Latin, then translated into Dutch. The board approved advertising in select journals for someone who knows both

languages as well as eighteenth-century Reformed theology well. The work was especially highly esteemed by Jonathan Edwards and those he influenced. Last year board member Adriaan Neele completed a dissertation on van Mastricht for the University of Utrecht.

The second major project under current consideration is Jeremias Bastingius' *Verklaring op den Catechismus der Christelijk Religie* ["Exposition of the Catechism on the Christian Religion"]. It is the earliest Dutch commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism, written by an esteemed professor at the University of Leiden in the 1590s, and was widely used for several hundred years. Abraham Kuyper and his contemporaries reprinted it in a series of classic works they produced at the end of the nineteenth century.

De Reuver on the Further Reformation

Editorial work on Arie de Reuver's work on the Further Reformation is in the final stages of production by Baker Academic. It should be available by the spring board meeting.

Remember to Claim Your Discount!

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

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Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Phone: 616-977-0599.

E-mail: @heritagebooks.org

BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT