

DRTS NEWSLETTER

The Dutch Reformed Translation Society

Number 18 –November 2015

“The Heritage of the Ages for Today”

Anniversary Actions

In 2014 the DRTS passed a milestone. It noted with thanks to God that it had reached its twentieth anniversary. In response it voted to archive its important records: minutes, constitution and by-laws, policies, treasurer’s reports and financial statements, copies of contracts, and key correspondence. These materials are being accumulated at Heritage Hall at Calvin College and Seminary and will be kept current there.

This year at its fall meeting, the board approved refined policies on evaluating prospective translators and on board membership. It also directed its officers to compile a handbook of its policies and procedures.

Board Meetings

The board met in its usual spring and fall meetings this year to transact business before it. All members who had concluded their three-year terms were re-elected, as were the incumbent officers:

James A. De Jong, president
Joel R. Beeke, vice-president
Nelson D. Kloosterman, secretary
Henry I. Witte, Jr., treasurer

Meetings are open to all society members, whose presence is welcome.

Gratitude to Dr. Kloosterman

After the fall meeting, Dr. Kloosterman resigned for personal reasons. He is heartily thanked for his many years of fine service. Professor Ronald Cammenga has agreed to serve as interim board secretary.

Bavinck Goes Global!

Our secretary reported at the October meeting that the society has had its best year to date in royalty revenues. Solid sales of our translations are substantially due to the continuing steady sales of the works of Herman Bavinck in both print and electronic form.

The translation of Herman Bavinck’s four-volume *Reformed Dogmatics* is particularly responsible for this good report. By arrangement with overseas publishers, our English translation has become the basis for translations of that work into the Korean, Indonesian, and Portuguese languages. Selections of this work have also appeared in the Italian language.

Currently a Chinese couple in graduate studies at Calvin Seminary is working together on a translation of the entire work into the Mandarin language. We will keep society members informed on this exciting development.

Bavinck Ethics Project under Review

Dr. John Bolt, editor of the Bavinck work noted above and other Bavinck material in translation, and the founder of The Bavinck Society (see below) has requested the board to consider granting a subsidy for a three-volume translation of Bavinck’s lectures in ethics. This material exists in manuscript form and was discovered several years ago in Dutch archives. The lectures were given during Herman Bavinck’s years on the faculty of the Theological School in Kampen, 1882-

1902. They are being edited by Dr. Dirk Van Keulen in the Netherlands.

Dr. Bolt has assembled a team of scholars to prepare an English translation. It will be published by Baker Academic. The size of the translation project has compelled Bolt to seek funding from several sources, including DRTS. The board raised a number of considerations and questions that Bolt promised to address in a refined proposal to be considered by the board next spring. In doing so, the board will also review samples of initial translation excerpts.

The project promises to further enhance the influence of Herman Bavinck's theological legacy globally.

Progress Reports

Theodorus van der Groe's *The Christian's Only Comfort in Life and Death: An Exposition of the Heidelberg Catechism* is in the final stages of translation by Rev. Bartel Elshout. It is expected to appear in two volumes next year, published by Reformation Heritage Books.

Abraham Kuyper's first two-hundred devotional meditations, dating from 1875-1882, are in the final stages of translation by James A. De Jong. They will be submitted to potential publishers when reviewed and edited. They are six hundred pages long and appear as two volumes in their Dutch original.

Peter Van Mastricht's *Theoretico-Practica Theologia*, as reported in last year's annual newsletter, is a more complicated project because it involves working with both the Latin and Dutch languages. It is also a longer project that will appear in several volumes. While the initial translation is well along, editorial procedures and issues are being addressed as the work continues. When completed, this

work will be a widely used and appreciated resource in classic Reformed theology.

While the society's treasury shows a balance of \$101,000 as of the October board meeting, that amount represents only one-half of what will be needed to complete these three projects. The Bavinck ethics subsidy, if approved, would be additional.

Year-end contributions are especially strategic this year, therefore, and they would be especially appreciated. Please give DRTS prayerful consideration in your year-end giving this year.

Complimentary Organizations

While the board judges it inappropriate to share its mailing list with others requesting it, it does call members' attention to two worthy, related organizations.

Members interested in Bavinck are encouraged to check out:

The Bavinck Society

<https://bavinckinstitute.org/society>

Members interested in Abraham Kuyper are encouraged to check out:

The Abraham Kuyper Translation Society

www.acton.org/research/kuyper-translation-project

Best Holiday Wishes!

The board wishes all receiving this newsletter a blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's celebration. Thank you for your continuing support of the society's important work.

Place discounted member orders at:

Reformation Heritage Books

2965 Leonard St. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

Phone: 616-977-0599.

www.heritagebooks.org