



REFORMATION Notes

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection

Fall 1994

No. 5

Sixth Kessler Reformation Concert Announced

Steven F. Darsey

On October 18, at 8:15 in Cannon Chapel, the Candler School of Theology and the Kessler Reformation Committee will present the seventh annual concert commemorating the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection in Pitts Library. These concerts afford students and audiences the rare opportunity to witness firsthand the "resurrection" of documents that played pivotal roles in the development of the Christian faith. By singing their tunes and performing works inspired by them, we breath new life into these historic monuments and they, before our eyes, shake the dust of centuries and rise in newfound splendor.

This year's program features contributions by Emory University Organist, Timothy Albrecht, and the Candler Choraliers, with a special guest: the eminent hymnologist and liturgist, Robin Leaver, of Westminster Choir College.

The basis for our program this year is a hymn text by Elizabeth Creutziger (c.1504–1535), "Herr Christ, der einig Gotts Sohn" ("Lord Christ, the Only Son of God"). Elizabeth Creutziger was married in 1524—the same year she published her hymn—to a protégé of Martin Luther, Caspar Creutziger, who, through Luther's aegis, became a theology professor at Wittenburg. "Herr Christ..." is her only known hymn. Of Elizabeth, hymnologist John Julian reports that she was "a friend of Luther's wife (Catherine von Bora), a lover of music, and an affectionate wife and mother." Robin Leaver presents her as the first Protestant woman hymnist.

The tune accompanying Creutziger's text is taken from a folk song, "Mein Freud möcht sich wohl mehren" ("My joy increases greatly"). Though Luther censured coarse songs that he feared would corrupt youth, he promoted the use of quality popular tunes as a means of winning people to the new Protestant faith.

Our source for this text and tune is *Enchiridion Geistliker Leder unde Psalmen*, (Magdeburg, 1536), a collection of 79 psalms and hymns acquired by the Kessler Collection in 1988—the only known surviving copy of this important hym-

nal. Earlier this year, a beautiful facsimile edition of this work, prepared by Emory musicologist Stephen A. Crist, who delivered the lecture in last year's concert, was published by Scholars Press as part of the series Emory Texts and Studies in Ecclesial Life.

We owe to another woman, the great translator Catherine Winkworth (1829–1878), that Elizabeth Creutziger's hymn found a place in English speaking hymnody. Robin Leaver uses her translation with his own for stanzas 2 and 5, for our upcoming concert. The contemporary *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1982) carries Creutziger's text in a version by another nineteenth century translator, Arthur T. Russell.

Our program will open with the congregational singing of the hymn, alternating with organ settings of the tune by J. S. Bach, Helmut Walcha, Dietrich Buxtehude, and an improvisation by Timothy Albrecht. This portion of the program will also include a choral setting by Johann Walter (1496–1570), who collaborated extensively with Martin Luther. Robin Leaver will present a commentary on Elizabeth Creutziger's hymn and its significance for church history. To conclude the program, the Candler Choraliers will present J. S. Bach's cantata, "Herr Christ, der einig Gottessohn," scored for horn, recorder, flute, strings, keyboard, soloists, and chorus. Ranging in musical affect from dancing brilliance to dramatic gravity, this cantata prophetically expounds Elizabeth Creutziger's timeless hymn.

This year marks our first season under the guidance of new Pitts librarian, M. Patrick Graham. Through his enthusiastic vision and commitment, we expect the Kessler Reformation Collection to continue to grow in excellence.

Steven F. Darsey is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of the Choral Music Program at the Candler School of Theology at Emory

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Reformation “Orphans” Are In Need of Adoption

Melanchthon, Philipp, 1497–1560.

De D. Pauli theologia, et contra perniciosas theologorum aetatis nostrae scholas. [Augsburg: Sigmund Grimm und Marx Wirsung, 1520].

This is an Augsburg printing of P. Melanchthon’s “Little speech on the theology of St. Paul.” With this speech, Melanchthon tried to do two things: give a summary of the theology of St. Paul and convince J. Hess to take up the leadership of the Reformation in Silesia. On the latter matter, he was not successful, for Hess was too timid a person to assume such a leadership position. Hence, the post fell to C. Schwenckfeld, which proved to be a disaster for Schwenckfeld personally and nearly a catastrophe for Silesian Lutheranism. This is the second printing of the work.

Spengler, Lazarus, 1479–1534.

Ein trustliche Christenliche anweisung vnd artzney in allen widerwertigkeiten. [Nuremberg: Friedrich Peypus, 1521].

L. Spengler was city secretary in Nuremberg, and it is due in no small measure to his efforts that the Reformation succeeded in Nuremberg. He wrote this tract, “A comforting Christian demonstration and medicine in every kind of adversity,” for his sister Margaretha, who had been of great comfort to him in times of adversity. This is the first printing of this work.

Rhegius, Urbanus, 1489–1541.

Ain Sermo[n] vo[n] Dem dritten Gebot. Wie man Christlich feyren sol. [Augsburg: Melchior Ramminger, 1522].

U. Rhegius was forced to leave Augsburg in 1521 because of his Lutheran tendencies. By 1523, however, he was back in Augsburg because the

Reformation had been established there by that time. He preached this sermon on the proper observance of Sunday while he was in Halle (near Innsbruck) in 1522. This is the first and only printing of this sermon, which sought to expose abuses of the Catholic Church’s keeping of Sunday.

The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a repository of rare and valuable documents which form the core of the Protestant Reformation. The collection now contains more than 1,500 pieces written by Martin Luther, his colleagues and opponents, and printed during their lifetimes. Supported by the vision and resources of Lutheran laypeople Richard and Martha Kessler and partners throughout the Southeast, the collection is housed in Pitts Theology Library of Candler School of Theology. It provides a rich resource for scholars of the Reformation and for clergy and laity who seek to understand the history of our faith. For more information about the collection contact Dr. M. Patrick Graham, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, 404-727-4165.

Hoffman, Melchior, d. 1543 or 4.

Dialogus vnd grundtliche bericht[n]g gehaltner Disputation, im land zuo Holsten vnderm Kunig vo[n] Denmark... [Augsburg: Philipp Ulhart, 1529].

M. Hoffman began his evangelical career as an ardent Lutheran who had Luther’s full support—at least at first. Opposition by Lutheran pastors forced Hoffman to undertake the Disputation at Flensburg, then a part of Denmark in April 1529. In this Disputation, Hoffman’s views on the Lord’s Supper are clearly defined in opposition to Lu-

ther’s own. J. Bugenhagen acted as referee in the Disputation. The upshot of the affair was that Hoffman was banished from Danish territory. He proceeded to Luebeck and came eventually to Strassburg, meeting up with A. von Karlstadt on the way to Luebeck. In Strassburg he was imprisoned and died in 1543 or 1544. This Disputation is important because it helps to define Anabaptism as against Lutheranism on the question of the Lord’s Supper. This is either the first or second printing of the work, edited by Hoffman himself.

Strauss, Jakob, 1480?–1533?

Eyn verstendig trostlich leer vber das Word. Sanct Paulus. [Wittenberg: Nickel Schirlentz 1522].

J. Strauss was a fiery preacher whose sermons in Halle (in Tyrol) attracted thousands of hearers. This sermon is on I Corinthians 11:28a and concerns self-examination before Communion and on the Lord’s Supper itself. The motto at the foot of the title reads: “Buy [this tract] and read it; you will like it.” This is the first printing of Strauss’ first printed work.

Cochlaeus, Johannes, 1479–1552.

Glos vnd comment auff den xiii. Artickel um vom rechtem Mess halten... [Strasbourg: Johann Gruninger, 1523].

This is one of J. Cochlaeus’ earliest attacks on Luther. Specifically targeted is Luther’s “Sermon on the New Testament, that is on the Holy Mass.” Cochlaeus wrote this tract in September 1523 in Frankfurt am Main.

Bugenhagen, Johann, 1485–1558.

Annotationes / Ioan. Bugenhagii Pomerani; in decem Epostolas Pauli. [Nuremberg: Johann Petreius, 1524].
J. Bugenhagen was city preacher in

Wittenberg and professor of theology at the University. These "Notes on Ten Pauline Epistles" were printed from a student's manuscript notes, a fact the printer boasts about in his Preface. Such pilferage was common and even at times encouraged by Luther and others. This is the third printing of the work by Petreius and the rarest of his printings.

Rhegius, Urbanus, 1488–1541.

Kurtze verandtwortung auff zwno gotsslesterungen, wider die feynd der hayligen Schrifft. [Augsburg: Sigmund Grimm und Simprecht Ruff 1524].

In 1523 U. Rhegius returned to Augsburg where the Reformation had become firmly established. In 1524 he formally adopted Lutheranism and in 1525 he married. This pamphlet is an attack on those who deny the validity of Scripture because of its alleged contradictions. This is the first printing of the work.

Stor, Thomas.

Von dem Christlichen Weingarten. [Augsburg: Heinrich Steiner, 1524].

T. Stor was probably from Dresden or its vicinity. He wrote four tracts in 1524 and then, apparently, ceased writing. He was later active in Dresden's city government. This tract compares the church to a vineyard overrun by goats who eat the tender leaves so that the vines cannot grow. The attack is on worldly and incompetent clergymen, who ought to be dismissed so that pious men might replace them. This is probably the second of the three printings of this work from 1524.

Cochlaeus, Johannes, 1479–1552.

Auff Martin Luthers Schandbuchlin an die Christen von Halle... [Cologne: Franz Birckmann, 1528].

When the Lutheran Pastor in Halle was murdered in 1524, Luther wrote two strongly-worded tracts against Al-

bert, Archbishop of Mainz, in whose territory the deed had been done and as comfort to the Lutherans in Halle. J. Cochlaeus here replies to Luther's tracts and, for good measure, inserts an extract from J. Fisher's work on the Sacrament in both kinds. This is the only printing of this work.

Standing Advisory Committee for the Kessler Reformation Collection

Policy direction for the Reformation Collection is provided by a standing advisory committee composed of representatives of Emory University and the local and national Lutheran community.

Mr. Richard C. Kessler, Chairperson
Mr. Roy T. Wise, Secretary
Mr. Rudolph L. Yobs, Consultant to the Committee
Dr. James R. Crumley
Dr. M. Patrick Graham
The Reverend F. Stuart Gulley
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The Reverend Larry W. Raudebaugh
Bishop Harold C. Skillrud
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Special offer for readers of *Reformation Notes*

Stephen A. Crist, *Enchiridion Geistliker Leder vnde Psalmen, Magdeburg 1536* (Emory Texts and Studies in Ecclesia Life, 2; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1994) 120pp. Hardback.

This facsimile edition reproduces a Low-German hymnal from the Kessler Reformation Collection of the Pitts Theology Library. No other copies of the hymnal are known to exist. The list price for the volume is \$59.95, but for recipients of *Reformation Notes*, it is offered at a 33% discount. For your copy, please remit \$40.00 plus \$3.50 for shipping and handling to: Scholars Press, Customer Services, P. O. Box 6996, Alpharetta, Georgia, 30239-6996. Orders may be charged to MasterCard or Visa by calling 1-800-437-6692.

Five Reformation Favorites

Bradford Smith

Lady Gregory, the God-mother of the Irish literary Renaissance in the early twentieth century, was a notorious blue-stocking in her youth. Her love of learning caught the eye of her husband-to-be, Sir William Henry Gregory, who allowed the young girl full run of his library. Although the prospect of them marrying lay far in the future, Lord Gregory did leave a place for the budding scholar in his will, allowing her to choose any five books from his collection. Many years later, long after Sir William's death, as Lady Gregory contemplated her own end, she included a chapter on the library of their home in her book, *Coole Park*, wherein she described the five volumes she would wish to have, were she now forced to make the same choice.

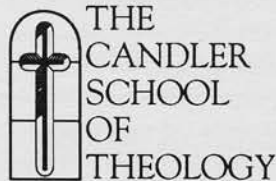
As I have worked with the Kessler Reformation Collection and thought about this story, I have often considered what five out of the fifteen hundred Kessler volumes I would choose, if given the opportunity. Aside from the obvious "stars" of the collection, there are two that have a special appeal to me as a historian whose specialty is the Reformation in Franconia. The first is the *Ratschlag etliche Pfarrherm*, drawn up by the leading clerics of the Hohenzollern lands in 1524 and representing the first step in creating a Protestant territorial church. Then there is the 1552 printing of the Brandenburg-Nuremberg church ordinance, originally drawn up by a commission of theologians

and lawyers from Ansbach and Nuremberg in 1533. The 1552 printing was clearly intended to be used as an altar prayer book and contains a large fold-out section with the words and music for the prayer of consecration in the communion service.

My other favorite works are perhaps a little more mainstream: the 1519 edition of Erasmus' Greek New Testament, Luther's 1522 translation of the New Testament (the "September Testament"), and Philip Melancthon's handwritten German sermon notes on Colossians 3, set down in the italic script that was usually used for Latin rather than German texts.

So much for my choices—which I am sure will inspire the librarians to keep an even more careful eye on five pieces of the collection! Now we shall see how long it takes before the librarians begin searching my office for missing volumes.

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