



REFORMATION NOTES

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection
Fall 2001, Number 19

Reformation Day at Emory

Good News To Ev'ryone!
Tuesday, October 23, 2001

On Tuesday, October 23, 2001, Candler School of Theology celebrates the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection with a "Reformation Day at Emory" slate of events open to the public without admission charge. The theme of this year's daylong event is entitled, "Good News to Ev'ryone!" Professor Martin E. Marty and Bishop Frank K. Allan will be guest lecturers.

This year we return to the monumental *Geystliche Lieder* (the 1567 printing of this work is held in the Kessler Collection), a German Lutheran hymnal first appearing in 1545. This hymnal, printed by Valentin Babst, was the very last congregational songbook overseen by Martin Luther. It appeared just one year before the reformer's death. Included is the text and tune of Luther's Christmas hymn, *Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her* ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"), our featured chorale in this year's celebration. An English translation of the text from the first stanza's second phrase provides this evening's theme, Good News to Ev'ryone!

In the course of the sixty-minute concert, we will participate in both singing individual stanzas and listening to short musical meditations on all fifteen stanzas of Martin Luther's *Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her* ("From Heaven Above"). Such a variable presentation follows the time-

honored *alternatim praxis*, where different performing groups (choir, congregation, organ, etc.) would be assigned specific sections of the chorale's content.

Found among this fifteen-stanza contemplation will be Johann Sebastian Bach's 1747 organ chorale variations, *Einige canonische Veränderungen über das Weihnachtslied Vom Himmel hoch*, which Timothy Albrecht, Emory University organist will perform. The Candler Choraliers will present the first Kessler choral commission as part of their contribution to this year's Kessler Reformation Day. We have requested a liturgical work from renowned Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi. A graduate of the Sibelius Academy, Mäntyjärvi's recent commissions include the Nordic Church Music Symposium and the 700th anniversary of the Lutheran cathedral in Turku. Our new piece will be sung at both the 11:00 a.m. chapel service and the 8:15 p.m. concert. The composer will be in attendance.

Within the hour program, the audience will also sing, as is its custom, Luther's battle hymn of the Reformation, *A Mighty Fortress*. In addition, Martin Marty, Lutheran pastor, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago, and author of more than fifty books, will provide commentary.

Please come Tuesday evening, October 23, to Cannon Chapel at 8:15 p.m. to share in the Good News to Ev'ryone!

The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a repository of rare and valuable documents produced in connection with the Protestant Reformation. The collection now contains more than 2,500 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 the 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 the Christian faith.

*For more information about the collection, contact:
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“Is the king of England a liar or is Luther?”

A Half Millennium Later

M. Patrick Graham

Among this year’s acquisitions is a publication of about 120 pages entitled, *Ob der künig vsz engelland ein lügner sey oder der Luther* (Whether the king of England is a liar or Luther; Strasbourg, 1522). It was composed by Thomas Murner, a Franciscan preacher and theologian who won considerable acclaim in the early sixteenth century as a satirist and vigorous opponent of Luther. In 1521, England’s King Henry VIII had written *Assertio septem sacramentorum* against Luther’s view of the sacraments, which the latter had set forth the preceding year in his *De captivitate Babylonica ecclesiae praelundium* (Babylonian Captivity of the Church). For this support of the Catholic faith, the king received the

title “Defender of the Faith” from the papacy. Luther replied in 1522 with his tract, *Contra Henricum regem Angliae*, and it was at this point that Murner stepped in to attack Luther for his response to Henry and posed the question, “Is the king of England a liar or is Luther?”, indicating his own assessment by printing Henry’s coat of arms on the title page of the work. He proceeded to examine the issues of the debate by carefully juxtaposing his statements alongside those of Henry and Luther. (The book ends, interestingly enough, with a plea by the printer, Johannes Grüninger, in the colophon, that the public should not be too harsh with him for printing this tract, as he is only trying to make a living.)

Henry’s favored status with Rome was not to last, however, as he later would quarrel with the papacy about his marriage (one of the seven sacraments), and in 1534, he declared “the supreme head of the Church of England” by the Parliament’s Act of Supremacy.

Therefore, although Anglicans and Lutherans are Reformation churches of the first generation, their earliest relationship was created in conflict rather than in convergence. Now, half a millennium later, the heirs of these two traditions have moved from the polemics illustrated by Murner’s question to an affirmation of a common mission (www.elca.org/ea/proposal/text.html). It is this statement of understanding, “Called to Common

Mission,” that will be discussed in the 2001 Reformation Day at Emory program on October 23. The Episcopal bishop in residence at Emory, Frank K. Allan, will officiate at the chapel service that morning; the noted Lutheran theologian Martin E. Marty will offer commentary at the concert that evening; and the

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Coat of arms of Henry VIII. From *Assertionis Lutheranae confutatio* (Cologne, 1523).

Kessler Collection Update

M. Patrick Graham

The Kessler Reformation Collection passed the 2,500 mark this year, as 119 pieces were added, and the total items in the collection reached 2,553. This year's acquisitions include a significant number by Roman Catholic authors (Cochlaeus, three; Eck, four; Emser; and Erasmus, six), as well as works by prominent reformers, such as Karlstadt (two), Melancthon (four), Dietrich, Major, and others. In addition, a near-record fifty-three works by Luther himself were acquired this year.

Among the more notable pieces is a 1519 unique printing of the original notarial protocol of the Leipzig Disputation of Karlstadt and Luther with Johann Eck. It includes fully two-thirds of the several-day debate and all of the famous "duel" between Luther and Eck on authority in the church. The debates were copied by two notaries, and at the end of each day's session, they were verified by two witnesses.

Also included are three printings of Philipp Melancthon's famous systematic theology, the *Loci communes* (1545, 1552, 1558), as well as a thick volume of essays and epitaphs from 1561 on the life and death of

Melancthon (d. 1560), edited by the faculty of Wittenberg University.

Among the works by Martin Luther, the following are especially noteworthy: a first edition of his famous *Table Talk* (1566 folio); a 1526 German translation of Luther's important tract, *De servo arbitrio* (*Concerning the Enslaved Will*), written in response to Desiderius Erasmus' *De libero arbitrio* (*Concerning Free Will*) and affirming the complete inability of humans to please God apart from divine grace; and a 1520 German translation of Luther's *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, issued in the same year as the Latin original but intended by the Catholic translator to expose Luther's radical ideas.

The project to digitize the woodcuts from the Reformation Collection now includes about 2,300 images and is accessible from the Pitts Theology Library homepage (www.pitts.emory.edu/) by clicking on the Luther Rose.

M. Patrick Graham is librarian and Margaret A. Pitts Associate Professor of Theological Bibliography.

Joint Declaration on Justification that had been signed by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church in 1999. We invite you to attend this year's program and consider this effort at Christian unity and the proclamation of "Good News to Ev'ryone."



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

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"Is the king . . ."

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two will serve as guest lecturers in the afternoon program to offer their assessments of this landmark agreement reached by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and The Episcopal Church, USA. This program follows well the Reformation Day at Emory program of a year ago, which discussed the

Reformation Day at Emory

October 23, 2001

- 8:30 A.M. Registration and coffee
Brooks Commons, Cannon Chapel
- 9:00 A.M. "Good News to Everyone!" J.S. Bach's Canonic Variations on
"From Heaven Above, to Earth I Come," Organ Lecture Recital
Professor Timothy Albrecht
Cannon Chapel
- 11:00 A.M. Chapel Service
Bishop Frank K. Allan
Cannon Chapel
- 12:00 NOON "Will it Still Preach? Sermons in Song from the Reformation,"
Lecture Recital and Box Lunch*
Ms. Ashlyn Mengel
Cannon Chapel, Room 106
- 2:30 P.M. Lecture Program: Lutheran-Episcopal Dialogue
Professor Martin E. Marty and Bishop Frank K. Allan
Cannon Chapel
- 7:45 P.M. Concert Preview
Cannon Chapel
- 8:15 P.M. Kessler Reformation Concert
Commentary by Professor Martin E. Marty
Cannon Chapel

*Reservations required. Call 404.727.4430.

Continuing Education Credit for Ministers

To receive Continuing Education Credit (.5 CEU is available), persons must attend all Reformation Day at Emory events and submit their name, address, and \$10 (checks made payable to Emory University) to the Office of Church Ministries Education (address below). A certificate of attendance will be mailed following the event.

Beth Luton Cook, Director
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