



REFORMATION Notes

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection

Fall 1992

No. 1

Fifth Kessler Reformation Concert Announced

Kessler Collection Tradition Continues With Hans Sachs Concert

By Dr. Steven F. Darsey

On October 28 at 8:15 PM in Cannon Chapel, the Candler School of Theology and the Kessler Reformation Committee will present the fifth annual Kessler Reformation Concert. This event is free and the public is cordially invited.

These concerts were established to provide a public forum to celebrate the burgeoning Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection of theological works related to the German Reformation. Administered by Pitts Librarian Channing Jeschke and funded by generous gifts from Richard and Martha Kessler and other collection partners, the Kessler Reformation Collection is one of the outstanding Reformation collections in North America. The collection's consistent and integral relation of library holdings with public performance is unique in higher education.

This year the inspiration for the event comes from a book of Lutheran poetry in the Collection, *Drey geystliche lieder*, of 1525 which contains "O got-vater," a poem by Hans Sachs. Hans Sachs was a sixteenth-century German shoemaker who was also among the most prominent figures of the ancient Meistersinger guilds. He composed some 6,000 poems.

With roots reaching back to the twelfth century, the Meistersinger guilds reached their zenith in the sixteenth century under Hans Sachs' leadership. The Meistersinger guilds were one important manifestation of the rising

bourgeois classes and consisted principally of lower and middle-class tradesmen, such as shoemakers, weavers, bakers, nailmakers, and the like. To join the guild, one had to study with a member and learn a number of songs and rules for singing them.

Monthly public and private concerts/contests were given during which the singers were eliminated by a panel of judges until the most perfect singer remained. The winner kept the prize until the next event. In the sixteenth century, judgment was based on fidelity of the song to the sense and words of the Lutheran Bible and other texts and to the stringent performance rules of the guild. These criteria are consistent with the Meistersingers' historical commitment to education.

This year's Kessler Reformation Concert will share in this ancient commitment to education through music, though there is to be no musical contest!

In his poem, Sachs took a preexistent hymn to Apollo and recast it as a dialogue between Jesus and a sinner. The work espouses Luther's doctrine of justification by faith. Performed by the Choraliers, Candler's choral ensemble, the graphic piety of this poem will be both surprising and edifying. The Choraliers will perform it to a Sachs tune, "Silberweise." Scholars have shown that "Silberweise" was an antecedent of important Lutheran Chorales, including "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "A Mighty Fortress," and "Wake, Awake."

The program will also include J. S. Bach organ works based on "Wake, Awake" performed by Georgia State Professor, Sarah Martin. The Choraliers will present one of J. S. Bach's most popular cantatas, "Wake, Awake," with orchestra and soloists. Additionally, at the beginning and end of the program, the audience will be invited to sing "From Heaven Above" and "Wake, Awake." All of these musical selections can be traced back to Hans Sachs' "Silberweise."

Don E. Saliers, professor of theology and worship at Candler School of Theology, will provide a brief commentary on Hans Sachs' contribution through the ages to contemporary religious life. Thus, the Kessler concert will allow the audience to experience how the musical and theological handiwork of sixteenth century shoemaker Hans Sachs has borne considerable influence through history and still appears in worship today.

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Kessler Collection "Orphans" Are In Need of Adoption

Individuals or groups may support the acquisition of specific pieces by becoming Partners of the Reformation Collection. A tax deductible membership contribution of \$1500 may be given at one time or over a period of up to three years. This contribution will be applied to the purchase of an artifact for the collection. The pieces listed below are available for sponsorship by individuals or groups.

Emser, Hieronymus, 1478-1527.
De disputatione Lipsicensi, quantum ad Boemos obiter deflexa est, Epistola/Hieronyni Emser. [Augsburg: Silvan Otmar, 1519].

This volume includes both H. Emser's letter on the Leipzig Disputation which is fairly reserved and Luther's sharp reply to it which is not. Luther and Emser became lifelong enemies, a fact only made worse by Emser's use of Luther's New Testament as a basis for his own German "translation" in which he attacked Luther and Lutheranism. The woodcut on the title page shows Emser's coat of arms with the prominent goat, which gave Luther the title of his work, "To the Goat in Leipzig." The manuscript note on the title page says the book was purchased in 1520.

Lange, Johannes, 1485-1565.
Oratio/Joannis Langij Lembergij; Encomium theologiae disputationis, Doctorum Ioannis Eckij, Andreae Carolstadij, ac Martini Lutherij co[m]plectens ... [Leipzig: Melchior Lotther, 1519].

This is the speech with which Johannes Lange von Lemberg, Rector of the University of Leipzig, officially brought the Leipzig Disputation to an end. After the speech, a festival Te Deum laudamus (We praise Thee, O God) was played and sung. Hence the angelic concert in the title border, almost certainly by Lucas Cranach the elder, is quite appropriate. Lange v. Lemberg takes no sides in the Disputation (a true diplomat he!) but

praises all the contestants, especially Luther. This is the only edition of the work.

Heinrich, von Zuetphen, 1489-1524.
Etlich puncten vn[d] namhafftige artickel, den Gelaubenn vnd alles Christenlich wesen betreffend. [Augsburg: Sigmund Grimm & Simprecht Ruff, ca. 1525].

Heinrich von Zuetphen was an Augustinian friar who converted to Lutheranism and became one of the first Lutheran martyrs. This volume includes 66 "points" of theology arranged under four headings: Nature, Law, Gospel, and Love. It was probably an academic disputation, but for what degree is not clear, nor is it certain when the disputation was held.

Warhafftiger Vnterricht etzlicher handlungen, die sich Bapst Pauli, des namens des dritten, Concilij halben ... Wittenberg: Georg Rhaw, 1537.

By the time the Pope got around to convening the long-desired Council projected for Mantua in 1537, the situation had been so altered that the Protestants no longer felt they would get a fair hearing or be able to present their case to an unbiased assembly. They issued a pamphlet spelling out why they would not attend the Council, and they also issued this group of documents in support of their contentions regarding the unfairness of the Council. This is either the first or second printing of the work; the sources are unclear.

Dietrich, Veit, 1506-1549.
Gruendtlicher vnterricht vom Sacrament des Altars ... [Nuremberg: J. vom Berg and U. Neuberg], 1543.

Veit Dietrich was a student of Melancthon and Luther who later became a companion and private secretary to Luther. He had a falling out with Luther's wife and had to leave Wittenberg in 1535. He settled as pastor in Nuremberg and defended that Church against Catholic attacks. He

stood firmly against the Interims, the laws passed by Charles V as attempts to solve the Catholic-Protestant differences after the Schmalkaldic War of 1546-7. This booklet takes the position that the only way to administer or receive the Lord's Supper is in both kinds, bread and wine. It is a reply to two sermons by Catholic priests in Regensburg and is either the first or second printing of the work.

For more information on sponsoring a piece in the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection, please contact:

*Dr. Channing R. Jeschke, Librarian
Pitts Theology Library
Candler School of Theology
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
(404) 727-4166*

Standing Advisory Committee for the 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.

Members of the committee are:
Mr. Richard C. Kessler, Chairperson
Mr. Roy T. Wise, Secretary
Mr. Rudolph L. Yobs, Consultant to the Committee
Mr. James R. Crumley, Member at Large
The Reverend F. Stuart Gulley
Dr. Channing R. Jeschke
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President James T. Laney
Bishop Harold C. Skillrud
Dr. James L. Waits, Member at Large

Recent Purchases by Partners of the Reformation Collection

Judge Dorothy T. Beasley
Atlanta, Georgia

Linck, Wenzeslaus (1488-1527). *Ain schoene Christliche Sermon von dem aussgang der kinder Gottes...* [Augsburg: H. Steiner, 1524].

Linck was dean of the Theological Faculty at Wittenberg when Luther received his doctorate in 1512. He was also prior of the Wittenberg Monastery and a brother-monk to Luther. He succeeded von Staupitz as head of the Augustinian order but followed Luther when the Papal Bull came. His preaching was folksy and full of allegorical interpretations of scripture. This sermon shows how the exodus from Egypt may be viewed as a type or model of how Protestants came out from under the papal yoke. There is no set text.

...

Mr. and Mrs. John C. McCune
Atlanta, Georgia

Luther, Martin (1483-1546). *Von der Freyhayt Aines Christen menschen.* [Augsburg: M. Ramminger] 1520.

This is the third and most theoretical of Luther's "Three Great Reformation Tracts" of 1520. It is addressed to Pope Leo X and expresses Luther's concern for Christian freedom and the consequent Christian responsibility to be of service to all men. This is Luther's own German translation in its fourth printing.

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Mr. and Mrs. Jean A. Mori
Atlanta, Georgia

Luther, Martin (1483-1546). *R. P. Doct. Martini Lutheri...Synceri lucubrationum pars una...* Basel: A. Petri, 1520.

First volume of a projected two-volume set which aimed at presenting all of Luther's major works. The second volume was never issued. This collection is based on an earlier one published in Basel by J. Froben in

1518 and adds works published since then. Luther's immense production after 1520 rendered such efforts virtually impossible, and none were, in fact, attempted until 1539 when the first volume of Luther's German works was issued.

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Mr. and Mrs. Callie W. Kessler
Rincon, Georgia

Kern, Georg and Sachs, Hans. *Drey geystliche lieder vom wort gottes, durch Georg Kern...Der Juppiter verendert geystlich, durch Hans Sachssen...* [Nuremberg: Hieronymus Hoeltzel, 1525].

Three hymns by Georg Kern, the music master at the princely court in Cassel of Landgrave Philip of Hesse. Also included is one long poem of three pages by Hans Sachs, the famous Nuremberg Master Singer and shoemaker. The three Kern hymns are about the Bible, while the Sachs poem is a conversation between Christ and the sinner about true Christian faith

and its power to save even lost sinners if they truly repent. This is the first appearance in print of the Hans Sachs poem and the only printing of the three Kern hymns. All are set to contemporary tunes familiar to the people, so no music is provided.

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Mr. and Mrs. Neil Anderson
Atlanta, Georgia

Luther, Martin (1483-1546). *EIN SENDEBRIEFF...AN DIE DREY HOFF JUNGFRAWEN...* Wittenberg [Nickel Schirlentz, 1523].

In 1523, Hanna von Draschwitz, Milia von Olsnitz, and Ursula von Feylitzyn had been found reading Luther's writings. They were summarily dismissed by Heinrich, Duke of Saxony, from his court in Freiberg. Nicholas von Amsdorff, a close friend of Luther, informed Luther of this incident. In his best pastoral manner, Luther wrote this letter of consolation to the three women. The letter was intercepted by Professor Jerome Schurff of the law faculty, who had it published without Luther's knowledge or consent.

Partners

Current partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection are:

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Anderson
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The Reverend and Mrs. Larry W. Raudebaugh
The Memorial Fund of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Illinois and Bishop and Mrs. Harold Skillrud
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph L. Yobs.

*D*oris Flandorffer, a member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta, Georgia, contributed ninety hours as a volunteer during summer 1992, assisting the Pitts Theology Library Staff in the preparation of a bibliography of the Kessler Collection. A certificate of appreciation was given to Ms. Flandorffer for her commitment to the preservation of materials documenting Lutheran history.

Martin Luther: the First Media Superstar

Ruminations from the desk of Fred A. Grater, Rare Book Bibliographer

We take fame for granted today. Communication is worldwide and instantaneous. But this is a recent development. My father can remember when movies had no soundtracks. The age in which we live has made "superstars" commonplace. In the sixteenth century most people never left their home villages or towns. News of the outside world was scarce and hard to come by. The use of movable type did not see its hundredth birthday in Luther's lifetime. Yet Luther himself became a household word. His words were read and spread across Europe as fast as they could be printed and horses could carry them.

Luther used the printing press in ways it had never been used before, both as a tool for propaganda and as a substitute for his own presence. Much needed to be done. The time was short, and the stakes were high. He could not be in ten places at once, but his books could be and were. During his lifetime more than 3,700 printings of his books

appeared: in 1520 alone 168 printings in original and translation of twenty-eight books appeared from European presses. He preached forty-three known sermons and wrote at least 127 letters.

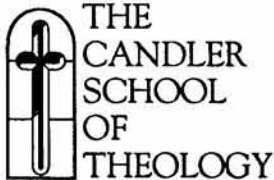
His books tended to be short and to the point, unlike those of his theological opponents. They were written mostly in German and addressed to the laity. Luther wrote pastorally and passionately, addressing the common people in language and style they could understand. He kept several Wittenberg presses busy and complained, sometimes quite bitterly, when they could not keep up with him. He became almost a "cottage industry," producing works with great speed and with seeming effortlessness.

Luther's ideas inspired people to action and to a renewal of the religious life. What he had to say hit them where they lived, and the changes he helped effect reshaped the continent of Europe.

Andy Warhol has declared that everyone will be famous for at least fifteen minutes. Luther asked, "Why should a miserable fellow like me seek glory? I only ask that they let me live a

private and very obscure life...." Is it not strange how some things turn out despite our best intentions?

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 1,300 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. Channing Jeschke, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322 (404) 727-4166.



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Remember the Kessler
Concert, October 28,
1992, 8:15 p. m. at
Cannon Chapel,
Emory University.