



REFORMATION Notes

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection
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Library poised to meet new challenges

Graham notes that retired Pitts Theology Librarian, Channing Jeschke, established a tradition on which new staff and advisors will build.

M. Patrick Graham

After twenty-three years of service as the Director of the Pitts Theology Library, Professor Channing R. Jeschke retired at the end of August 1995. He will always be remembered at Emory as the architect of the purchase of the Hartford Seminary Foundation library, which brought 220,000+ volumes to Pitts. By those involved in the development of the Kessler Reformation Collection, Channing will be remembered for the vision and energy that he brought to that effort. As his successor at the Pitts Library, I will remember him also as that wise and patient mentor who taught me most of what I know about librarianship. He has placed many in his debt. The good news, though, is that Channing will continue to serve on the Committee of the Kessler Reformation Collection and will be available for consultation.

In addition, the fall of 1994 saw the arrival of Dr. Daniel J. Rettberg, who succeeds Fred R. Grater as Rare Book Librarian at the Pitts Theology Library. Fred Grater's retirement followed fourteen years of work at the library. During this time, he made enormous contributions to the study and development of the Kessler Reformation Collection. His successor comes to Emory from the Special Collections Library of Duke University. He holds the B.A. in German (Wartburg College), M.Div. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne), M.A. and Ph.D. in Rabbinic Literature (Dropsie College), and M.S. in Information Studies (Drexel University). I am delighted to have Dr. Rettberg's experience and expertise available for the development of the Reformation Collection at Pitts.

It is also a pleasure to welcome three additional colleagues in our work on the Reformation. Professor Robin A. Leaver (Westminster Choir College, Ryder University), Dr. Martin Treu (Director of Lutherhalle, Wittenberg), and Professor Timothy J. Wengert (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) have agreed to serve on the Scholars Advisory Committee for the Kessler Reformation Collection. Their counsel will be invaluable for the development of the collection and its programs.

The year began well with the successful Reformation exhibit and concert in October, the addition of nearly thirty new books and manuscripts to the collection since September 1, and the publication of Professor Robin A. Leaver's lecture from the October concert. I am confident that many more good things lie ahead, and I am profoundly grateful for the privilege of working with the Kessler Reformation Collection and all those who care about the Reformation story.

Before succeeding Dr. Channing Jeschke as Librarian and Pitts Associate Professor, Dr. Graham served as Reference Librarian at Pitts Theology Library. He is the author of The Utilization of 1 and 2 Chronicles in the Reconstruction of Israelite History in the Nineteenth Century (1990). Dr. Graham is a graduate of Abilene Christian University, where he earned the M.A. and M.Div. degrees. He earned the Ph.D. degree from Emory University and most recently earned the M.L.I.S. degree from the University of Texas in 1990. Ordained in the Churches of Christ, Dr. Graham served as pulpit minister at Druid Hills Church of Christ.

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Reformation “orphans” are in need of

Dietrich, Veit, 1506-1549.

Summaria vber die gantze Bibel : das Alte vnd Newe Testament, darinn auffs kuertzte angezeygt wirdt, was am noetigsten vnnnd nuetzten ist dem jungen Volck, vnd gemeinem Mann, auss allen Capiteln zu wissen vnnnd zu lernen, darnach sie ir Leben richten vnd solcher feiner Lehre, zu ihrer Seeelen Seligkeyt brauchen koennen. Mit Fleys von newem vbersehen gemehret vnd gebessert. Nuernberg : [Johann vom Berg und Vlrich Newber], 1548.

See “Marginalia” column below (p. 4).

Luther, Martin, 1483-1546.

Kirchen Postilla, das ist, Auslegung der Episteln vnd Euangelien an Sontagen vnd furnemesten Festen. Auff new corrigirt vnd gebessert. Wittenberg [i.e. Wittenberg] : [Peter Seitzen Erben], 1554. 2 pts.

bound with:

Luther, Martin, 1483-1546.

Kirchen Postilla, das ist, Auslegung der Euangelien an den furnemesten der Heiligen. Wittenberg [i.e. Wittenberg] : Gedruckt durch Hans Krafft, 1553.

Bound together as one volume, these two works are collections of Martin Luther’s sermons on the Epistles and Gospels for Sundays and major church festivals (the first work) and on the Gospels for the most prominent saints’ days (the second work). They illustrate the kinds of helps available to the parish pastor of the time, as well as the type of reading material available to literate laity. The works are amply illustrated with wood engravings, some including the monogram “H.B.” perhaps the initials of the contemporary wood engraver, Hans Brosamer (1500?-1554), who illustrated several editions of the

Bible and collections of sermons for the printer G. Rau (one of Luther’s publishers) between 1532 and 1550. Of particular interest are the engraved title pages, with portraits of Luther and a patron (possibly Albrecht of Mansfeld or Georg of Anhalt and Ascanien, to whom the two parts [respectively] of the first work were dedicated).

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.

Confessio Augustana.

Confessio fidei exhibit a inuictiss.

Imp. Carolo V. Caesari Aug. in comitijs Augustae : anno

M.D. XXX. addita est Apologia confessionis. [Ienae : Impressum per Thomam Rebart], 1568.

A small, neat copy of the Latin version of the confession of faith presented to Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg. This copy includes extensive old manuscript notes and is bound in a

blind-tooled, contemporary vellum binding.

Linacre, Thomas, 1460-1524.

Thomae Linacri Britanni De emendata structura Latini sermonis libri VI. Coloniae: Apud Mart. Gymnicum, anno 1549.

This small volume illustrates the importance of Philipp Melanchthon as the master teacher of Protestant Germany. In the early 1530s, a copy of this Latin textbook by the English humanist scholar, Thomas Linacre, came into Melanchthon’s hands. He was so pleased with it that he published it in Wittenberg with his own introduction, and it went through no less than thirteen separate editions.

Melanchthon, Philipp, 1497-1560.

Ad Paulinae doctrinae studium adhortatio. Basileae : Apud Adamu[m] Petri, [1520].

This study of the theology of the Apostle Paul comes out of the earliest period of Melanchthon’s theological teaching.

Melanchthon, Philipp, 1497-1560.

Quaestiones de rebus cognitione dignissimis : explicatae in publicis congressibus in Academia VVitebergensi ... VVitebergae [i.e. Wittenberg] : Officina haeredum Georgii Rhau], 1558.

Like his edition of Thomas Linacre’s Latin grammar (above), this little book shows us Melanchthon the teacher. Debate was an important part of the university curriculum in the sixteenth century, and here Melanchthon offers transcripts of actual university debates on such topics as the Hippocratic Oath, Astrology, the Calendar, the Ideal Form of Government, and Did Jesus Sweat? (a study of the humanity of Jesus). Paulus Eberus, a close colleague of Luther

adoption

and Melancthon, wrote the dedication.

Melancthon, Philipp, 1497-1560. *Examen eorum, qui audiuntur ante ritum publicae ordinationis, qua commendatur eis ministerium euangelii. Witebergae : Excudebat Iohannes Crato, anno 1565.*

In this piece we see Melancthon, the church leader, presenting the formal questions asked of Lutheran candidates for ordination. Versions of Melancthon's questions appeared in German and Latin (and one at least in Polish) throughout the sixteenth century. The Kessler copy includes a portrait of Melancthon on the title page and extensive marginalia.

Melancthon, Philipp, 1497-1560. *Eine Schrifft Philip. Melanth. newlich latinisch gestellet : Widder den vnreinen Bapsts Celibat vnd verbot der Priesterehe. Wittemberg : [Durch Joseph Klug], anno 1541.*

This last piece is an attack on the Papacy's position on the celibacy of the clergy. Originally written in Latin and entitled, *Defensio coniugii sacerdotum* ("A Defense of Priestly Marriage"), this is a copy of the German version entitled, "Against the Impure Pope's Celibacy and Ban of Priestly Marriage," prepared by Justus Jonas, pastor and professor with Luther and Melancthon in Wittenberg.

Theologia teutsch: Disz ist ain Edels vnd kostlichs buechlin von rechtem verstand was Adam vnd Christus sey und wie Adam in vns sterben und Christus ersteen soll etc. [Augsburg: Siluanus Ottmar], 1520.

This attractive piece fills a distinct gap in the Kessler Collection. The *Theologia teutsch*, or *German Theology*, was

by an anonymous earlier writer, who is reputed to have been a priest and a member of the Teutonic knights, and influenced by the preaching of the Dominicans. Luther says of the book in his introduction, "According to my foolishness, no book closer to the Bible and St. Augustine has come before me, from which I have learned more and desire to learn concerning what God, Christ, and human beings are." Luther recognized the author of the *Theologia teutsch* as an important link in the chain of true teachers of the Gospel from the time of the apostles to his own day. It was, for him, proof that he and his colleagues, unlike what their detractors held, spoke with the authentic voice of the early church. The title page, printed in red and black, is decorated with sharp and attractive wood engravings of God, Adam and Eve, and the serpent of Genesis 3.

Partners of the Kessler Reformation Collection Are:

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Anderson
Mr. Erwin G. Baumer
Judge Dorothy T. Beasley
Mr. and Mrs. Russell W. Crick
Mr. William H. Gaik
Dr. and Mrs. Channing R. Jeschke
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Mr. Frank Easterlin Wise
Mr. John Calhoun Wise, Jr.
Mr. Roy Thomas Wise
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph L. Yobs

Standing Committee for the Kessler Reformation Collection

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.

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
Dr. Channing R. Jeschke
Dean R. Kevin LaGree
The Reverend Larry W. Raudebaugh
Bishop Harold C. Skillrud

Scholars Advisory Committee

Dr. Robin A. Leaver
Dr. Martin Treu
Dr. Timothy J. Wengert

Marginalia

Daniel J. Rettberg, Rare Book Librarian

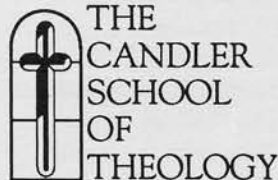
A Treasure in the Spirit of the Reformation

Perhaps the most striking of the recent additions to the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a piece that was intended for the literate lay person. It is the *Summaria ueber die gantze Bibel* (Nuremberg, 1548) of Veit Dietrich, Luther's private secretary. Dietrich studied under both Luther and Melancthon and later became their colleague on the faculty at Wittenberg University. In 1536 he returned to his native city of Nuremberg as pastor of the Church of St. Sebaldus, where he soon became known as the city's great popularizer of the Reformation, attracting so many hearers that the church could hardly hold them all.

The *Summaria* is Veit Dietrich the popular preacher and teacher in print. In this work he offers an outline of the Bible, chapter by chapter, together with devotional and catechetical comments on the major themes of the Scriptures. An English translation of the work's full title says it all: *Summaries of the whole Bible, the Old and New Testament[s], in which is shown in the shortest [possible] way what is most necessary and most profitable for young people and the common person to know and to learn about all [its] chapters, according to which they should conduct their lives, and [together with] such fine teaching [as] to be able to use for their soul's salvation.*

This piece fills an obvious void in the Kessler Reformation Collection. The collection already included a 1545 edition of the *Summaria* on the Old Testament only and a 1534 edition of

Luther's *Summaria* on the book of Psalms, which Dietrich incorporated wholesale into his work. (Dietrich says in his introduction that he could do no better than his revered teacher and that Luther's work on the Psalms already held an important place in the lives of many people.) The new *Summaria* also covers the New Testament and includes introductory essays by Philipp Melancthon. Our copy of the book is in excellent condition and has an interesting wood-engraved title page, featuring a large rendition of the mark of the printers, Johann vom Berg and Ulrich Newber, showing the Transfiguration. It is bound in a handsome contemporary, leather binding, with intricate designs featuring several biblical scenes (e.g., Moses with the stone tablets, the crucifixion of Jesus). Unique to this copy of the work, though, is a wealth of what is called "provenance," i.e. notations by earlier owners of the book. In general, provenance can be anything from a signature to extensive marginalia (notes in the margins), to whole pages of material. In this piece we have not only the signatures of two previous owners with the same last name, but two dealer's marks, one from Germany and one from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as a wealth of pious poetry and mottos. As such, it reflects the immigration of Germans in the nineteenth century to what we call today the American Midwest, in search of the freedom to practice a revived Lutheran faith.



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