



# REFORMATION Notes

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection

Fall 1995

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## Eighth Kessler Reformation Concert features first Lutheran hymnbook

Steven F. Darsey

The eighth annual Kessler Reformation Concert will be presented October 17 at 8:15 p.m. in Cannon Chapel. The concert celebrates the holdings of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection in the Pitts Theology Library. This year the program is derived from the epochal 1524 *Etlich Cristlich Lider* (Some Christian Songs), more commonly known as the *Achtliederbuch* (Eight-song-book). This slight volume, the first Lutheran hymnbook, is the kernel from which Protestant hymnody sprang.

Two hymns from this collection will be used in this year's concert: *Nun freut euch lieben Christen g'mein* (Now Rejoice, Dear Christians All) and *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu Dir* (From Deep Trouble I Cry to Thee). The first, from Luther's pen, is a bright hymn on the justification of the believer. *Aus tiefer Not*, also written by Luther, is a paraphrase of the great penitential psalm, Psalm 130. The accompanying tunes, attributed to Luther, have appropriately contrasting bright and plaintive characters.

The program will include congregational singing of *Nun freut euch ...*, interspersed with organ settings performed by Emory University Organist Timothy Albrecht and choral settings by Luther's musical collaborator, Johann Walter. The Candler Choraliens, soloists, and orchestra will present the cantata that J. S. Bach wrote on *Aus tiefer Not*. Esteemed Bach scholar Robert Marshall will deliver commentary on the chorales and the cantata.

Come sing and hear these great Lutheran hymns and observe how they impact our faith both past and present. The program is free and open to the public.

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

### *Bach Scholar to present Reformation lecture*

Robert L. Marshall, the Louis, Frances, and Jeffrey Sachar Professor of Music at Brandeis University, will present a public lecture at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17 in the Cannon Chapel Sanctuary. Dr. Marshall, an international Bach scholar who has a special interest in Bach's use of Reformation hymns, will speak on the topic, "Luther, Bach, and the Early Reformation Chorale." Dr. Marshall will also offer commentary during the Kessler Reformation Concert at 8:15 p.m.

### *Kessler Collection grows; preservation ensured*

M. Patrick Graham

The past year has been an eventful one for the Kessler Reformation Collection, both in terms of its physical setting and its growth. In the first regard, the security of the collection has been improved dramatically by the completion of a \$2,000,000 renovation of the library's HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning), fire protection, and lighting systems. The new HVAC and lighting systems will insure excellent climatic conditions for the materials in the years to come, and fire protection is now provided by a state-of-the-art, environmentally-safe gas system.

*continued on page 3*



# Reformation “orphans” in need of adoption

*The following Reformation “orphans” are in need of adoption by a Kessler Partner. Partners sponsor the purchase of a document by making a gift of at least \$1,500, which may be divided into monthly or quarterly payments. A bookplate listing the donor’s name is placed in the “adopted” book or document. Gifts may also be made in honor or memory of persons. Those persons honored will be notified of the gift, and the bookplate will list both the giver and honoree.*



**Luther, Martin, 1483-1546.**  
**Catechismus D. Mart. Lutheri,**  
**Deusch vnd Lateinisch: daraus die**  
**Kinder leichtlich in dem lesen vnter-**  
**wisen mögen werden. Leipzig: In offi-**  
**cina Typographica Nicolai Vuolrabi,**  
**anno M.D.LI. [1551]**

The fifteen-hundredth book added to the Kessler Reformation Collection and the first copy of Luther’s Small Catechism to be acquired, this primer for parochial religious instruction is among the most important additions this year and includes German and Latin text on facing pages.

**Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor**  
**(1519-1556)**  
**Responsio Caroli V. Imperatoris, sem-**  
**per augusti, ad literas Beatissimi D.N.**  
**Pauli, tertij, P.M., conuocatorias con-**  
**cilij, Tridenti celebrandi. [Nuremberg:**  
**Johann Petreius], 1542.**

This little booklet is Emperor Charles V’s letter to Pope Paul III (dated August 25, 1542) after the Pope, upon the demand of the Emperor, had published on May 22, 1542, a bull summoning a general council to meet at Trent.

**Hortensius, Lambertus, d. 1575.**  
**Lamberti Hortensii Montfortii Histir-**  
**ici, De bello Germanico libri septem...**  
**Basileae: s.n., 1560.**

This is the first edition of an important history of the Schmalkald War, in which the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V defeated the Protestant princes of the Schmalkald League.

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*The Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a repository of rare and valuable documents that 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.*

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**Melanchthon, Philipp, 1497-1560.**  
**Acta in conuentu Ratisbonensi... Vit-**  
**bergae: Per Iosephum Klug, 1541.**

Melanchthon attended a conference of Lutheran and Catholic representatives at Ratisbon and here offers the reader various documents related to the conference with his critique, including the conference’s response to the Augsburg Confession.

**Theologia teutsch: Disz ist ain Edels**  
**vnd kostliche büchlin, von rechtem**

**verstand was Adam vnd Christus sey**  
**vnd wie Adam in vns sterben, vnd**  
**Christus ersteen soll . . . [Gedruckt**  
**vnnnd volendet zu Augspurg: Durch**  
**Siluanu Ottmar], 1520.**

This is a late fourteenth century treatise by a priest of the Teutonic Knights, who was strongly influenced by Christian mysticism of the time. Luther greatly favored this work and saw in it a precursor to his own views on faith and works and regarded it as proof that he and his colleagues at Wittenberg were not theological innovators but were only teaching what true Christians had always taught and believed.

**Westphal, Joachim, 1510 or 11-1574, et al.**  
**Ein Brieff der Prediger zu Hamburg**  
**an die Theologen zu Wittenbergk ...**  
**[Magdeburg: Christian Rödinger],**  
**M.D.XLIX. [1549]**

In this open letter of 1549, the pastors of Magdeburg appealed to their teachers in Wittenberg for guidance after the Leipzig Interim. It is clear that the pastors opposed the Interim but did not want to cause further dissension in Protestant ranks by openly attacking the Wittenberg theologians who had authored it.

**Adolphus II, Prince of Anhalt, Bishop**  
**of Merseburg.**  
**Handlung des Bischoffs von Merss-**  
**burg mit den zwayen Pfarhern vo[n]**  
**Schonback... [Nürnberg: Hieronymus**  
**Höltzel], 1523.**

This brief German piece presents itself as an examination by Adolphus II, Bishop of Merseburg, of two parish priests under his authority, who were called to defend themselves on charges such as having married, forbidden church fasts, and offered both the bread

and wine to the laity in Holy Communion.

**Flacius Illyricus, Matthias, 1520-1575.**  
**Widder die vermeinte Gewalt vnd**  
**Primat des Babstes: zu dieser Zeit da**  
**die ganze Welt sich beflisset den aus-**  
**getriebenen Antichrist widerumb in**  
**den Tempel Christi zu setzen,**  
**nützlich zu lesen. Durch Matth. Fla-**  
**cium Jlyr. Gedruckt zu Magdeburg:**  
 Bey Christian Rödinger, [1550].

Flacius Illyricus, perhaps the chief and most vociferous critic of the Leipzig Interim, here presents arguments showing that the Interim compromises the essence of Christian teaching. The title says it all: The pope is the very Antichrist of II Thessalonians, who was expelled from the Temple of Christ by the efforts of the Reformers, but whom the whole world in Flacius' time is attempting to restore to his (usurped) throne.

## Partners of the Kessler Reformation Collection

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## Scholars Advisory Committee

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

## 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  
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 The Reverend Elaine Eberhart  
 Dr. M. Patrick Graham  
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Dr. James R. Crumley  
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## *Kessler Collection grows; preservation ensured*

*continued from front page*

As for the growth of the collection, substantial progress has been made here as well. Candler professor of New Testament, Carl Holladay, happened to be on sabbatical this year in Germany and was able to serve as the library's agent to purchase three important piec-

es at the famous Stuttgart book fair. More recently, Dean R. Kevin LaGree and I visited book dealers in Germany, Switzerland, and The Netherlands who supply most of the materials acquired for the Kessler Reformation Collection. It was a pleasure to meet these people personally for the first time and to have the opportunity to review their stock, make selections, and discuss trends in the availability of sixteenth century imprints.

In the course of our stay in Germany, we visited Lutherhalle Wittenberg, the Luther museum that includes, among other things, the reformer's study, numerous paintings of Reformation figures, and thousands of sixteenth century Reformation books and pamphlets. The director of the museum is Dr. Martin Treu, a member of the Scholars Advisory Committee for the Kessler Reformation Collection. He was gracious enough to give us a tour of the museum and to describe some of his plans for its development.

We returned to Atlanta encouraged by this pilgrimage to the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation and with renewed confidence in the validity of our enterprise to build a world-class Reformation collection in Atlanta.

While a bit over thirty pieces were added to the Kessler Reformation Collection last year, that number should double this year. Additions include sermons by Luther, Bugenhagen, and others; academic works by Melancthon; and a splendid manuscript written by an officer of King Philip II of Spain. The centerpiece, though, will be one of the three pieces acquired at the Stuttgart book fair, a rare edition of Luther's Small Catechism. A number of these pieces will be exhibited this fall in the Durham Reading Room.

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

# Marginalia

Daniel J. Rettberg, Rare Book Librarian

## The Leipzig Interim

**B**uilding a rare book collection can be a tricky business, since one can only select from what becomes available. This adds to our difficulties in gathering materials around certain important topics related to the Protestant Reformation. This year has witnessed, however, an unusual increase in our holdings related to the Schmalkald War—perhaps not as familiar as some other Reformation conflicts—and its aftermath. Led by the Electors John Frederick of Saxony (1503-1554) and Philip of Hesse (1504-1567) against Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (1500-1558), the war was of immense significance to the Protestant cause. Its origins lay in the forming of the Schmalkald League of Protestant princes and free cities at Schmalkald in 1531. The members hoped to establish a common defense against all opponents of the Reformation, the chief of whom was Charles V. Although the Emperor had been preoccupied with France and Turkey for more than a decade, by 1545 the scene had changed entirely. In 1544 he had concluded the Peace of Crespy with the French king, and the Turks were no longer agitating for war.

Free of external problems, Charles V now turned to the religious disputes within his empire. He first entered into a secret agreement with the Pope, promising to compel the Protestants to reaffirm allegiance to Rome, and the Pope in turn promised financial support in case of war. Charles V also concluded a secret agreement with Maurice, Duke of Albertinian Saxony, to

attack John Frederick, if the latter went to battle against Charles. Consequently, when forces of the Schmalkald League gathered for war, John Frederick and his ally, Philip of Hesse, broke ranks to defend their territories against Maurice. Charles easily defeated the remaining troops of the league.

Rather than force Protestants to return to the Roman fold, Charles negotiated a compromise by means of two documents. The first was the Augsburg Interim of 1547, which favored the Catholics, and the second was the Leipzig Interim of 1548, which favored the Protestants. Neither agreement was intended to remain in effect beyond the convening of a general council (Trent), which Charles V had been urging the Pope to call. The final form of the second agreement allowed the conquered territories to keep their form of doctrine so long as they returned to the public practices of the Catholic Church, a compromise that was unacceptable for many Protestants.

Among the works acquired this year that relate to this period, is one by Bishop Julius von Pflug, a moderate Catholic who was active in negotiating the Augsburg Interim; works by Philipp Melanchthon, who led the Protestants negotiating the Leipzig Interim; pieces by Matthias Flacius Illyricus, who vociferously opposed the Interim; and funeral sermons preached upon the deaths of Elector John Frederick and Duke Maurice. A number of these works will be on exhibit this fall in the library.



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