



REFORMATION NOTES

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection
Fall 1996, Number 9

God's Time Is Best

The ninth annual Kessler Reformation Concert will be held at 8:15 P.M. Tuesday, October 29, in Cannon Chapel. The 1996 program will commemorate the 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther with the performance of one of the Reformer's favorite hymns, organ and choral music of J. S. Bach, and commentary on Luther's significance for the Reformation.

The musical program will include congregational singing of *Ein Feste Burg*, as well as performances by Emory University Organist Timothy Albrecht of his own new compositions on Luther's *A Mighty Fortress*, J. S. Bach's final incomplete movement from *Art of Fugue*, and the organ chorale *Before Thy Throne I Now Appear*. In addition, Marian Dolan, Candler's new assistant professor of church music and choral conducting, will lead the Candler Choraliers and orchestra in a presentation of Bach's Cantata 106, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (God's Time Is Best).

In addition to the musical performances, Kurt K. Hendel, Professor of Reformation History at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Chicago, will comment on the circumstances of Luther's death and the significance of his life for the Protestant Reformation, especially as illustrated by the sermon preached at Luther's funeral by Johann Bugenhagen, the Reformer's pastor at Wittenberg. The first edition of this sermon was acquired for the Kessler Reformation Collection last year and will be reproduced by the Pitts Theology Library in print and electronic formats. The reproduction will include an English translation and introduction by Professor Hendel.

All are invited to this hour-long celebration of the life of Martin Luther and the music that grew out of the Reformation. The concert is free and open to the public.

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 1,700 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:
Dr. M. Patrick Graham
Pitts Theology Library
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
(404) 727-4165
libmpg@emory.edu



Another banner year for Kessler Reformation Collection acquisitions and publications

Although 1994–95 was an outstanding year for the growth of the Kessler Reformation Collection with its addition of eighty-eight pieces, 1995–96 has been even better. A total of 160 pieces were added to the Collection, including a marvelous hymnal from 1567, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism from 1536, an emblem book with seventy-seven woodcuts intended for religious instruction, the splendid Wittenberg edition of Luther's collected works (twelve volumes in sixteenth century bindings), and two manuscript letters from the 1540s—one from a Lutheran (C. Cruciger) and one from a Roman Catholic (J. Cochlaeus). Moreover, it seems especially appropriate in this

year, the 450th anniversary of Luther's death, that sixty-two of these items derive from the pen of Martin Luther himself. These acquisitions bring the total number of pieces in the Kessler Reformation Collection to 1,750.

As for publications related to the collection, Professor Robert L. Marshall's address, *Luther, Bach, and the Early Reformation Chorale*, which was delivered on the afternoon preceding the 1995 concert, was published and distributed to leading university and seminary libraries and to members of the American Bach Society. In connection with the upcoming concert on October 29 and its commemoration of the anniversary of Luther's death, the

Pitts Theology Library will publish a facsimile of the first edition of Johann Bugenhagen's funeral sermon for Luther, along with an introduction to the sermon and its translation into English by Kurt K. Hendel, Professor of Reformation History at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. In addition to the print copies of this publication, an electronic version will be made available to the international community via the World Wide Web (<http://www.chaucer.library.emory.edu>).

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

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 also may 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.

Geystliche Lieder. Mit einer neuen Vorrede M. Luth. Leipzig.
Colophon: Gedruckt zu Leipzig durch Valentin Babst. M.D.LXVII. [1567].

Psalmen und Geistliche Lieder, welche von frommen Christen gemacht und zusammen gelesen sind. Auff's neue vbersehen, gebessert, und gemehret. Leipzig. M.D.LXVII. [1567].

Perhaps the single finest addition to the Kessler Collection this year, this two-part piece is a copy of the last hymnal to be published under Luther's direct

supervision and with a preface by him. It first appeared in 1545, a year before his death, but in 1553 it was reissued with a revised second part, expanded by thirty hymns. The 1567 edition is the last for this hymnal. At the center of Luther's understanding of Christian worship was the singing congregation. In his introduction he encourages printers to lavish their finest gifts on the production of hymnals, so that lay people will be taken with their beauty and will want to sing the hymns in them. He points to this hymnal, produced by printer Valentin Babst of Leipzig, as an especially fine example of the genre. Not only are there lavish wood-engravings on each page (outstanding for the time), but the sixteenth-century binding is striking as well. It is done in alum-tawed, blind-stamped and tooled pigskin, a rather ordinary binding style for the time, but the quality is extraordinary. The binder included portraits of Luther and Melancthon, attached especially attractive clasps, and stained the edges a striking dark red. The book also contains a variety of ownership marks from several periods, including

that of a known composer and organist, Johann Christoph Schmügel of Lüneburg (1727–1798).

Luther, Martin, 1483–1546.
D. Martini Lutheri Theologi, Catechismus, lectu dignissimus, latinus factus per Vincentium Obsopoeum. Huic adiectus est alius quoq[ue] Catechismus Iohannis Brentij Ecclesiae hallensis, iam recens scriptus. M.D.XXXVI. [1536].
Colophon: Haganae [i.e. Haganeau] in aedibus Petri Brubachii anno M.D.XXX.VI.

In the wake of last year's acquisition of a 1551 copy of Luther's Small Catechism for the Kessler Collection comes the even more exciting purchase of this copy, printed during Luther's lifetime. The Small Catechism first appeared in 1529 and was widely used in the instruction of children. Catechisms typically saw heavy use, and consequently few have survived. In this edition of the Catechism, Johannes Obsopäus, a Nürnberg (and for most of

his life, Ansbach) humanist, schoolmaster, and friend of the Reformation, presents Luther's text supplemented by that of his fellow Reformer and close supporter, Johann Brenz, in traditional Humanist dress: in octavo (pocket-size) format and cursive typeface. Once the first Latin classics arrived in this dress from the press of Aldus Manutius of Venice in the first years of the sixteenth century, many other representations of what was then considered modern learning also came to be produced in this sort of packaging. This copy also includes an attractive, architectural title page border, depicting the symbols of the four Gospel writers.

Luther, Martin, 1483–1546.
 Von Ordnung gotes dienst in der gemain. D. Mar. Luther. Wittemberg. [Augsburg: Heinrich Steiner], 1523.

This eight-page leaflet is both an attack on abuses of public worship in the Catholic Church of Luther's time and a guide for how worship ought to be conducted in a congregational setting. Luther emphasizes the preached Word so much in these pages that he says a congregation ought not to come together at all unless someone preaches, even if only for a short time. Luther also recommends a weekly celebration of the Mass, or Lord's Supper, and he advises that the daily Mass be abolished and replaced by two or three daily services (he recommends 4 or 5 A.M. and 4 or 5 P.M. as good times for these). These services should attract smaller groups, including clergy, teachers, school children, and those who might make good candidates for the ministry. He suggests a continuous reading of the Bible, verse by verse, one testament in the morning, the other in the evening, with someone preaching on a small portion of each reading. With these readings he suggests the praying of Psalms, responsories, and antiphons. The title page of the leaflet features a fine architectural border that invites the reader to a serious consideration of the Word of God, found within the booklet's pages.

Luther, Martin, 1483–1546.
 Eyn Sendebrieff von dem harten buchlin widder die bauren. Martinus Luther. Wittemberg: [Michael Lotter], (June) 1525.

In this little book, Luther responds to attacks on him for taking the part of the princes against the peasants in the Peasants' War. Although he condemns the cruelty with which the uprising was suppressed, he refuses to retract a single word of his original treatise, *Against the Thieving and Murdering Hordes of Peasants*. The title page border is a striking representation of two lions, one in each of the lower corners, together with cherubs and leaves framing the title itself. It is a close copy of a border by the famous artist of the period, Lucas Cranach.

Luther, Martin, 1483–1546.
 In Epistolam S. Pauli ad Galatas Commentarius ex Praelectione D. Mart. Luth. collectus. Iam denuo diligenter recognitus, castigatus, &c. Adiecto etiam Indice. M.D.XLIII. [1543]
 Colophon: Francoforti Ex officina Petri Brubachij, Anno XLIII.

In this book we find a rare printing of Luther's large commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. It is fully three times as long as the small commentary of 1519 and must be regarded as a completely new work. Luther described his preoccupation with the Epistle to the Galatians as a "betrothal" and compared his feelings for it with those that he had for his wife, Käthe von Bora. The work was edited from transcriptions of his lectures by Georg Rohrer, Luther's student and later collaborator on the German translation of the Bible and on other projects. Rohrer was also an editor of the Jena edition of Luther's works, which was issued after Luther's death.



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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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Marginalia

Daniel J. Rettberg

As the article notes on page two, fully sixty-two of the pieces purchased in the last year for the Collection are books and pamphlets by Luther himself. They represent a wide variety of materials both in terms of genre and subject matter, including sermons, biblical commentaries, polemical tracts, doctrinal studies, published letters, a hymnal, and the Small Catechism. Though space



does not permit an extended discussion of each, I call your attention to four of the pieces that I have found particularly interesting.

Luther's Small Catechism did not see the light of day until 1529, but he had been occupying himself with those portions of Scripture that would form his catechism for a long time before. An example of this "pre-catechism catechism" is his German explanation of the Lord's Prayer, printed in 1519. First preached in Lent 1517, it was printed without his knowledge by his student, Johann Agricola. In it, Luther openly declares his intended audience with the phrases: "Für die einfältigen Laien (for simple lay people)" and "Nicht für die Gelehrten (not for scholars)."

Next is Luther's open letter to King Henry VIII of England. Henry had written a treatise on the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church, in which he attempted to refute Luther's views. Luther responded in kind, revealing his own earthy sense of humor and giving the king his due by addressing King Henry as "Heinrich, von Gottes Ungnaden König von Engeland (Henry, by God's un-grace, King of England)!"

In another tract Luther inquires whether soldiers can be saved and proceeds to develop what would later become the Lutheran "Doctrine of the

Two Kingdoms." He takes a conservative approach, affirming the Christian's obligation to obey the commands of the magistrate, unless they are contrary to God's Word. In the latter case, he suggests emigration rather than armed resistance.

Finally, there is a piece that is small in size but great in significance: Luther's appeal to Pope Leo X for an ecumenical council. Luther presented the request formally before witnesses and then released a copy to the press. He had intended to wait until he received the document of his excommunication before publishing the appeal, but the printer had other ideas and released the document immediately. The council that Luther so desired as a young man would not come until the end of his life (the Council of Trent, beginning 1545/46), far too late to effect any real reconciliation in the church.

We invite you to visit the Pitts Theology Library to see these pieces and others in the Collection and to consider becoming a partner with us in the work of preserving these treasures of the Protestant Reformation for the Church and for scholars throughout the world.

Dr. Daniel J. Rettberg is Rare Book Librarian at the Pitts Theology Library.



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