

Kessler Collection Update

M. Patrick Graham

The Kessler Reformation Collection has added sixty-six books and pamphlets this year, bringing the total number of pieces in the collection to 3,346. Forty-two percent of 2006–2007 acquisitions do not appear to be held by any other American library. In addition, the twenty titles by Luther that were added this year bring the total number of items by the great reformer in the Kessler Collection to 972. Five titles by Philipp Melanchthon were also acquired, including two printings of his most famous theological work, the *Loci communes* (1525, 1536). Two publications each by John Eck and Erasmus were added, as well as several items by other opponents of Luther. Finally, the Collection added one item each by Calvin and Zwingli.

The 1548 edition of Veit Dietrich's *Summaria vber die gantze Bibel* (*Summary of the Entire Bible*) was the subject of a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Theological Library Association in Philadelphia this June and so opened up an interesting Kessler Collection piece to a wider audience. Dietrich studied under both Luther and Melanchthon at the University of Wittenberg, was Luther's private secretary, and became famous as a Lutheran preacher at Nuremberg. His summary was an attempt to comment on the theological significance of each chapter of the Bible for the benefit of young people and other laity. It was reprinted many times in the sixteenth century, and even as late as 1859, and so exerted substantial influence. The Pitts copy has the signature of two owners, a German immigrant named Herman Zubke who came to America in 1868, and that of his son Arthur. Joel Thoreson, chief archivist for management, reference, and technology at the Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, found the pair in the 1880, 1900, and 1910 census records, as well as the later draft registration of the son, and so enabled us to piece together an important part of the story of this volume. The generous gift of Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Caron Morgan, in honor of Pastor Robert Sims, subvented the cost of the book. Photographs and narrative from the presentation are available at <http://veitdietrichsummaria.blogspot.com>.

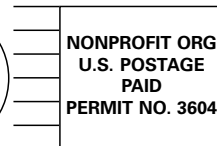
More than 16,500 images—many from the Kessler Reformation Collection—have now been digitized and mounted on the Internet at the library's Digital Image Archive (accessible from the Pitts Theology Library homepage at <http://www.pitts.emory.edu>). About half of these images illustrate the Bible and are searchable by biblical text or by the names of the persons depicted. These and thousands more are searchable by keyword and may be downloaded for printing or use in digital presentations. The last year has witnessed a 100 percent increase in the use commercial publishers have made of this resource.

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



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Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
505 Kilgo Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30322





REFORMATION NOTES

News for Partners of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection

Fall 2007, Number 40

Twentieth Annual Reformation Day at Emory

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 8:00 P.M.

Timothy Albrecht

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 3,300 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 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:
M. Patrick Graham
Pitts Theology Library
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
404.727.4165
libmpg@emory.edu

For the third consecutive year, the Reformation Day evening concert takes place in Emory's elegant Cherry Emerson Concert Hall at the Donna and Marvin Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, located at the corner of North Decatur and Clifton roads. As with other events scheduled for the 2007 Reformation Day at Emory University, the concert is free and open to the public.

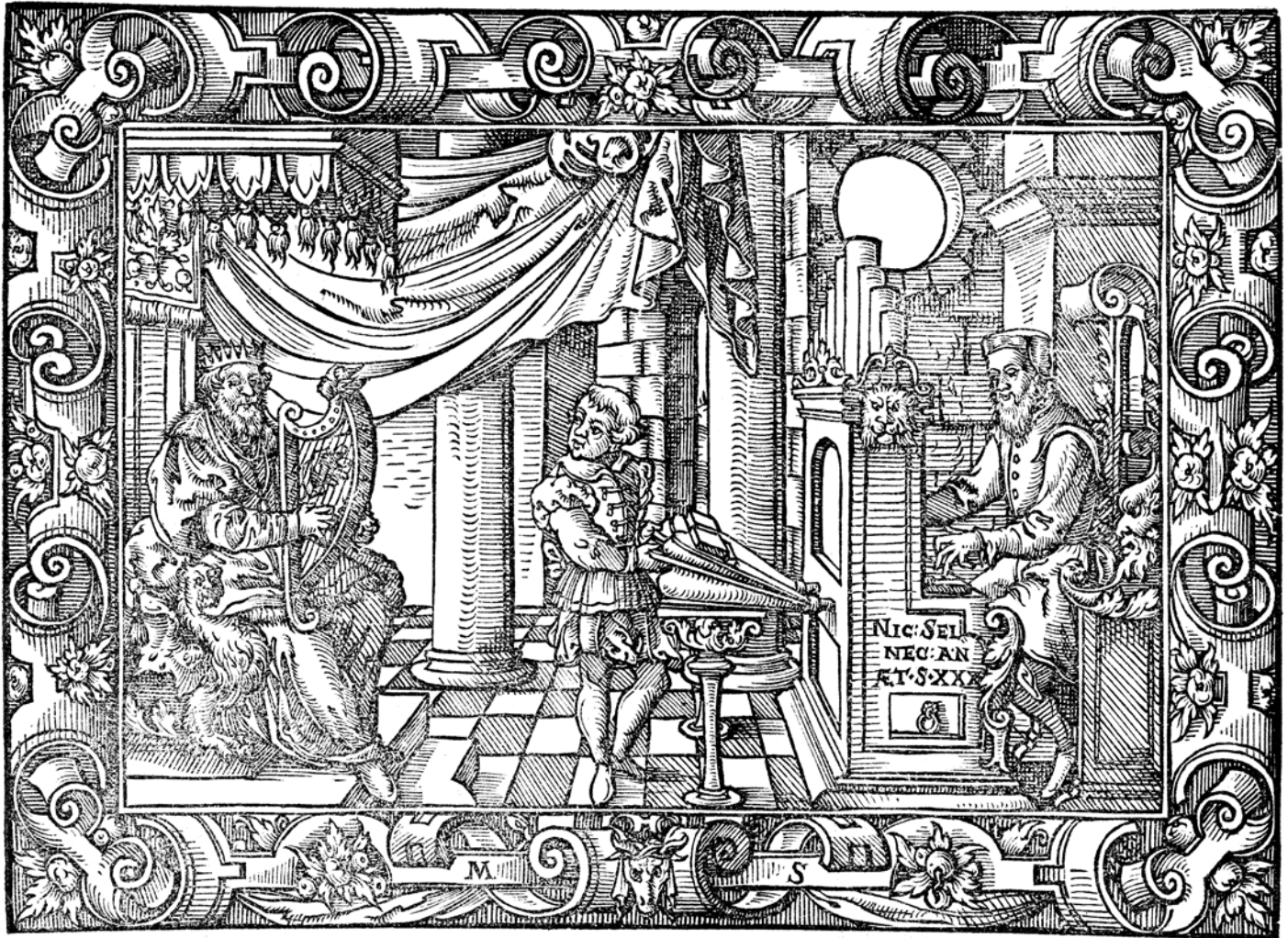
Following the tradition of earlier Kessler concerts, this performance combines Kessler Collection chorales of German reformer Martin Luther (1483–1545) with musical monuments for organ and chorus by the German Baroque composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750).

Emory University Organist Timothy Albrecht performs Bach's organ *Sinfonia* BWV 29 and *Prelude and Fugue in D Major* BWV 532 in the hourlong concert. Eric Nelson, director of choral activities, leads the Emory Concert Choir, soloists, and orchestra in Bach's most famous cantata, *Ein' feste Burg*. The composer wrote this cantata, which includes all four stanzas of Luther's chorale, for a Leipzig Reformation celebration.

The evening also affords the entire audience the opportunity to sing two of Martin Luther's hymns, one of which has become a Kessler tradition, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Timothy Albrecht is Emory University Organist and Professor of Church Music at Candler School of Theology.

David and the Organist



Armin Siedlecki

Among the recent acquisitions of the Richard C. Kessler Reformation Collection is a first edition of a commentary on the book of Psalms by Nikolaus Selnecker (1530–1592). *Der gantze Psalter des königlichen Propheten Davids aussgelegt und in drey Bücher getheylt* was printed in Nuremberg in 1565 by Christoph Heussler. This attractively bound book, in blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, is in a style very characteristic of sixteenth-century German volumes and a prime example of the importance of both music and the graphic arts in the Lutheran Reformation.

Selnecker, who had studied theology under Philipp Melancthon at Wittenberg, was one of the principal authors of the Formula of Concord. He is perhaps best remembered, however, as a musician and composer of numerous Lutheran hymns. Both interests, theology and music, come together in his commentary on the Psalms, which was quite influential and was reprinted several times. The interpretation of the Psalms offered by Selnecker is representative of sixteenth-century Lutheran biblical interpretation, which views the Psalter as a collection of songs pointing to Christ as the fulfillment of the law.

Very striking is the title page of this volume, which is maintained in several

subsequent printings of the work. Printed in black and red, it contains a half-page woodcut image. On the left is King David seated on his throne and playing the harp. Facing David on the right is an image of Nikolaus Selnecker himself playing the organ, which is powered by a young boy operating a bellows. Placing David and Selnecker next to each other in the same picture, the woodcut offers an artistic representation of the Lutheran understanding of the continuing theological significance of sacred music both in ancient Israel, as exemplified by the Psalms, traditionally attributed to David, and in the contemporary church, as represented by Selnecker's hymns.

Armin Siedlecki is catalog librarian for the Kessler Reformation Collection.

Reformation Day program

- 9:00–9:45 A.M.** Reception
Formal Lounge, Cannon Chapel
- 10:00–10:45 A.M.** Lecture Recital: “Luther and Bach Pray Psalm 46”
Timothy Albrecht, Emory University Organist and
Professor of Church Music
Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel
- 11:00–11:50 A.M.** Chapel Service
Michael Foss, Senior Pastor, Lutheran Church of the
Redeemer, preacher
Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel
- 12:15–1:30 P.M.** “Scripture for the Eyes”
Walter Melion, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Art
History, Emory University
Cox Hall, Third Floor Dining Hall
- 1:45–2:45 P.M.** “A Joy Worthy of Their Destiny”
Martin Marty, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago
Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel
- 2:45–3:15 P.M.** Refreshments and Break
Formal Lounge, Cannon Chapel
- 3:30–4:30 P.M.** “Luther and the Veronica”
Herbert L. Kessler, Professor of Early Christian and
Medieval Art, Johns Hopkins University
Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel
- 4:30–8:00 P.M.** Invitation to explore Emory Village
- 8:00–9:00 P.M.** Kessler Reformation Concert
Timothy Albrecht, organist; Eric Nelson, conductor;
Emory University Concert Choir, soloists, orchestra
*Emerson Concert Hall, Donna and Marvin Schwartz
Center for Performing Arts*



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