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CALVINUS PRAECEPTOR ECCLESIAE

Papers of the International Congress
on Calvin Research

Princeton, August 20-24, 2002

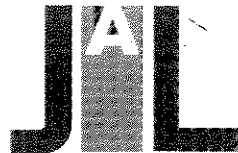
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To Wilhelm Neuser

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PREFACE

It is with great pleasure that I present this book to you. It contains the papers of the Eighth International Calvin Congress, which took place during August 20-24, 2002 at Princeton Theological Seminary. Working on this volume brought back to me memories of the good time that all the participants had in Princeton, and I wish to express here our thanks for the hospitality and generosity of Princeton Theological Seminary. The warm words of welcome by its President Thomas W. Gillespie were the introduction to a stay that made Princeton home for a week. Prof. Elsie McKee, Archibald Alexander Professor of Reformation Studies and the History of Worship, deserves much praise for the way she did all the preparatory work and for being such a fine host. The topic of her introductory paper fits her completely, since she proved to be an always helpful colleague.

The outward form of this volume reveals immediately that it is a product of Librairie Droz at Geneva. I want to thank the people at Droz and its director, Dr. Max Engammare, for their care to make it such an attractive book. Thanks also to Drs. Christa Boerke of the Institute for Reformation Research in Apeldoorn for her editorial assistance. The finances for the book were completely covered by the Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek at Emden and therefore I want to thank the director of this Library, Dr. Walter Schulz, for his generous support.

During the congress at least three things became clear. In the first place it once again became evident that much research on Calvin, his times, his person, his influence and his theology is being done, and that this research is constantly finding enthusiastic new scholars. Secondly, it also became clear that much research remains to be done. In the third place Princeton demonstrated how theologians and historians can and should work together, and how fruitful their joint labours are in the field of Calvin studies. These three elements make it all the more interesting to see what the program at the next congress, to be held in 2006 in Apeldoorn (Theological University/ Institute for Reformation Research) and Emden (Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek), will bring.

Finally, Princeton also was the place where the praesidium of the International Calvin Congress underwent some changes. Prof. Dr. Wilhelm H. Neuser, who has been the president-secretary of this institution for more than twenty-five years, thought that it was time to step down. For many participants Neuser has been the person to encourage them in their research and bring them into contact with others through these congresses. Neuser deserves praise for the tremendous work he has done for the International Calvin Congress and for Calvin research in general, and therefore this volume is dedicated to him. His friend and colleague Prof. Dr. David F Wright also withdrew from the