

# LUCE LIBRARY BULLETIN

News of Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary Libraries  
Volume, 1, No. 1, Spring 2004

## Fifteen Years...and Growing

*Robert Benedetto*

The archives program of Princeton Theological Seminary was begun fifteen years ago when William O. Harris was appointed the first Seminary archivist and was charged with the tasks of organizing a scattered collection of Seminary archives, faculty papers, antiquarian books, Presbyterian newspapers, and artwork, and of setting up a new department within Speer Library. Now called Special Collections, the program has indeed flourished, with construction of the Henry Luce III Library in 1994 and with the addition of many important collections during the past fifteen years.

*Special Collections serves as the official repository for the archives of Princeton Theological Seminary and for rare books, papers, manuscripts, and special research collections that document the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition and ecumenical Christianity in the United States and abroad.*

*Supported by the vision and resources of Princeton Theological Seminary, the collection is housed in the Henry Luce III Library, joined to Speer Library on the Seminary campus.*

*For more information about the facilities and collections of Luce Library, see the Special Collections web page on the Speer Library home page: [www.ptsem.edu/grow/Library/collections](http://www.ptsem.edu/grow/Library/collections).*

Special Collections, as an enterprise, is no different from other modern endeavors in business, science, medicine, or teaching: innovation is the lifeblood that drives the work forward. So while we celebrate past success, we are also mindful of new ways of doing things and alert to advances in technology and communications that increase the fruitful exchange of ideas. With all our accomplishments, we are still changing and growing.

Only a few short years ago we held about 50,000 rare books and specialized theological works; through recent acquisitions we are now approaching 75,000 volumes and 3,500 linear feet of manuscripts and personal papers. We are also in the process of developing several Reformed research collections such as the Karl Barth Collection, the Abraham Kuyper Collection of Dutch Protestantism, the American Presbyterian Collection, and the Korean Presbyterian Collection. This “targeted growth,” intended to more fully document our Presbyterian and Reformed heritage, is being accompanied by a corresponding change in the way we deliver our services. While walk-in patrons will continue to be our primary audience for some years, we are now laying the infrastructure for a digital library, involving the creation of digital texts and images, that will allow Special Collections to deliver significant portions of its holdings and services over the Internet to a global audience.

The purpose of the *Luce Library Bulletin* is to keep our users and colleagues abreast of such changes in Special Collections, to introduce our activities and staff to new friends, and to reintroduce Special Collections to longtime supporters: faculty and administration, alumni/ae, visiting scholars, students, and researchers who come from all walks of life and from many countries around the world.

The *Luce Library Bulletin* will be published twice each academic year—in October and April—and will be a primary channel through which we communicate news of our collections, programs, publications, and staff. The content of each issue will also appear on our new web page (address below left), along with back issues. Whether you discover us through the hand-turned pages of the printed publication or in cyberspace on the web, we hope you will find useful information that will prove helpful in our common scholarly task in both the academy and the church.

## New Acquisitions

Special Collections has become an official sponsor of the new documentary film *Bonhoeffer*, currently in release throughout the country. A product of Journey Films, the documentary set attendance records at Chicago's Gene Siskel Film Center and won the award for best documentary at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. As part of the sponsorship arrangement with Journey Films, Special Collections has acquired rights to 22 interviews used to make the film, along with more than 600 photographs. The photographs are priceless, and the interviews represent a wide range of individuals who were influenced by Bonhoeffer, including his former student and biographer, Eberhard Bethge, South Africa's Bishop Desmond Tutu, and several members of the Bonhoeffer family. The Bonhoeffer Collection adds to the depth of our holdings of mid-twentieth-century Protestant theology, which already include the Paul Lehmann Papers and the Karl Barth Collection.

Several **antiquarian books** have been purchased to fill important gaps in our collections. These include John Calvin's *Commentarii in Acta Apostolorum* (1564), and, from Swiss-German Reformers, John Oecolampadius's *In Epistolam Ioannis* (1525), Heinrich Bullinger's *Sermonum decades duae* (1549), and Rudolf Gwalther's book of sermons, *De Jesu Christi Domini ac Salvatoris nostri et Christianorum vita et officio et orationes*

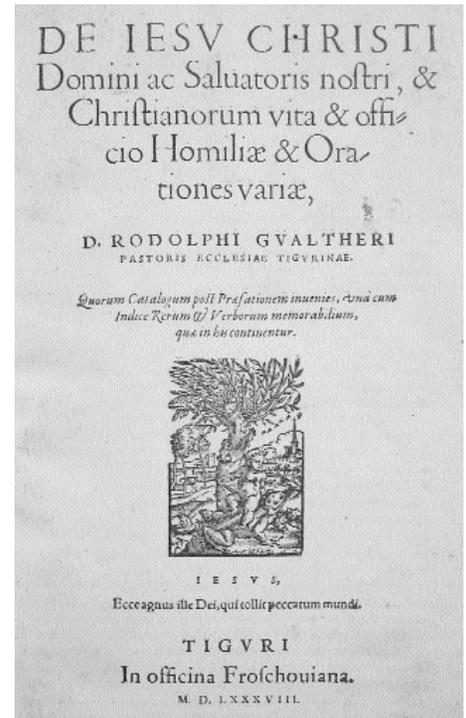
*nostris* (1588). Less well known than Calvin or Bullinger, Gwalther (d. 1586) was Bullinger's assistant, and in 1575 he succeeded Bullinger as leader of the Reformed Church in Zürich. His book of sermons was published posthumously and represents a transition from the free homily of the Reformers to a more artistic manner of expression.

Special Collections has acquired the papers of noted historian **Justo L. Gonzalez**, author of the widely used seminary textbooks *The Story of Christianity*, *A History of Christian Thought*, and *Church History: An Essential Guide*.

**James R. Tanis**, director emeritus of the libraries and emeritus professor of history at Bryn Mawr College, has donated 262 rare books to Special Collections. The donation consists of many eighteenth-century American imprints, including works by Jonathan Dickinson, Gilbert Tennent, Jonathan Edwards, and Charles Chauncy, all of which provide significant resources for the study of religion in early America. Over the last few years Dr. Tanis has also donated a number of rare pamphlets and portraits.

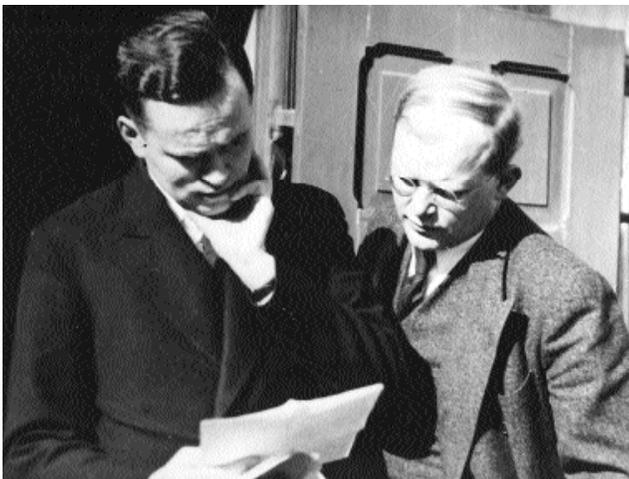
The **Center for Barth Studies** signed an agreement in 2001 with the Karl Barth-Stiftung and the Karl Barth Nachlasskommission in Switzerland to preserve and facilitate access to the legacy of Karl Barth by microfilming and digitizing his personal papers and manuscripts. While the Stiftung and the Nachlasskommission retain all rights to these materials, many may now be accessed, in Special Collections. There are more than fifty rolls of microfilmed documents in Special Collections, as well as a large collection of photos of Karl Barth and his contemporaries.

The publication of the thirty-ninth volume of *Karl Barth Gesamtausgabe* (Barth's collected works) makes available for the first time fifty-two sermons that Barth preached in Safenwil, Switzerland, during the period just



Title page from Gwalther's *Sermons*, featuring the printer's device of Christoph Froschauer, whose name means "the frog meadow." Frogs are figured prominently in the device.

subsequent to the publication of the first edition of his groundbreaking Romans commentary. Edited by Hermann Schmidt, *Karl Barth Predigten 1919* (Zürich: Theologischer Verlag, 2003) is now in the Barth Center.



Eberhard Bethge (left) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, ca. 1940

## Special Collections Staff

Director: Robert Benedetto

Curator of Reformed Research Collections: Clifford Anderson

Technical Services Assistant: Michael Paulus

Processing Assistant: Ken Henke

Special Collections Assistant: Christie Deming



Stephen D. Crocco, James Lenox Librarian for Speer and Luce Libraries

The *Luce Library Bulletin* is published two times a year (April and October) in cooperation with Speer Library. Current and back issues are available online.

## Kuyper Prize Awarded

Clifford Anderson

The Hon. Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, prime minister of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, visited Princeton Theological Seminary on Monday, March 15. The prime minister traveled to Princeton to receive the sixth annual Abraham Kuyper Prize for Excellence in Reformed Theology and Public Life. Established in 1998 through the generosity of Dr. Rimmer and Mrs. Ruth de Vries, the Kuyper Prize honors a scholar or public leader who has contributed to the development of Reformed theology, particularly as it bears on the spheres of public life, such as law, business, technology, education, government, the economy, and the arts.

Prime Minister Balkenende is the leader of the Christian Democratic Alliance parliamentary party. He was first appointed prime minister on July 22, 2002, and was reappointed to that position on May 27, 2003. He is a graduate of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and a former professor of Christian social thought there.

Balkenende and his delegation, which included the Hon. Dr. Bernard Rudolf Bot, minister for foreign affairs, visited Special Collections in the Henry Luce III Library after lunching at Springdale. The prime minister toured the newly opened exhibition of classic works of Dutch Protestantism, "*Voor God wil ik belijden...*" ("I confess before God..."), in the Luce Exhibit Room. He and his delegation also visited the Abraham Kuyper Collection Reading Room.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Balkenende gave an address on transatlantic relations at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. In his talk, he underscored the importance of maintaining the bonds of unity between the United States and the European community. "The Netherlands seeks to be a bridge between Europe and America," he said. "It is a role we can play with conviction." Balkenende will become the head of the European Union in July.

The Seminary hosted a gala dinner for the prime minister in the Mackay Campus Center. The dinner reunited

many scholars from the United States and abroad who have participated in events sponsored in prior years by the Abraham Kuyper Center for Public Theology. President Thomas W. Gillespie read a congratulatory letter from New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey, and Balkenende thanked his hosts for making him feel "at home" in Princeton.

President Gillespie awarded the Abraham Kuyper Prize to Prime Minister Balkenende in Miller Chapel that evening, after which the prime minister delivered the Kuyper Lecture, "Solid Values for a Better Future." He pointed out that he had been appointed to his position as prime minister exactly 100 years after Kuyper assumed that office.



Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, prime minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

"Today, with this award and the opportunity to deliver the Kuyper Lecture," he told his audience, "you have brought me closer to [Abraham Kuyper] than ever before." In his lecture, Balkenende drew upon the legacy of Abraham Kuyper to articulate his own moral and social vision.

Prime Minister Balkenende's visit to Princeton Seminary confirmed the living significance of Kuyper's thought. "We hope that our Abraham Kuyper Collection will not only foster study of the historical Kuyper," said Stephen Crocco, James Lenox Librarian, after the visit, "but will also promote contemporary Christian witness in every sphere of life. Prime Minister Balkenende combines interest both in the historical Kuyper and in contemporary Christian political witness in an exemplary way."

## Luce News

**Archives Expands.** Last summer 5,000 linear feet of compact shelving was installed in the lower level of Luce Library to accommodate archival and manuscript collections. The project included the installation of a new vinyl floor and the cleaning of air conditioning ducts throughout the building.

**Paulus Promoted.** Michael Paulus (PTS Class of 2002) will receive an M.L.I.S. degree from Rutgers University in May and will join the professional staff of Special Collections as technical services librarian in July. Michael is our primary cataloger and implements our conservation program. Before joining the staff of Special Collections last spring as technical services assistant, Michael worked in the cataloging department of Speer Library.

**Web Page Launched.** After a year of development work by staff, a new Special Collections web page debuted in March. Features of the site include catalog access to our holdings, access to digital texts, recent exhibitions held in Luce Library, and many helpful features for patrons. The site will be greatly enhanced during the next two years.

**ATLA Grant Awarded.** The American Theological Library Association awarded a grant to Special Collections to digitize early chapel sermons given by Princeton Seminary faculty. Represented in this selection of texts is the preaching of Archibald Alexander, Samuel Miller, Charles Hodge, James W. Alexander, J. Addison Alexander, William Henry Green, Caspar Wistar Hodge, William M. Paxton, Benjamin B. Warfield, Francis L. Patton, and John D. Davis. The digital collection will be added to the web sites of both ATLA and Special Collections in December 2004.

**Book Conservation Program Initiated.** As part of a new conservation program underway in Special Collections, several antiquarian books have been sent to the Etherington Conservation Center in Greensboro, North Carolina, for professional restoration. These titles include Peter Lombard's *Sentences* (1468), the *Geneva Bible* (1579), Erasmus's *New Testament* (1516, 1562),  
(Luce News continued on page 4)

John Calvin's *Isaiah Commentary* (1551), and Clement Marot's and Theodore Besza's *Psalms of David* (1562). The restored books will be returned to the collection this summer.

**Barth Bibliography Now Online.** Princeton Theological Seminary's Center for Barth Studies is cooperating with the Theological University of Kampen (ThUK) in the Netherlands to publish an online bibliography of literature by and about Karl Barth. The bibliography is maintained by Special Collections and may be accessed at [www.barthresearch.org](http://www.barthresearch.org).

Special Collections has prepared an exhibit of **masterworks of Dutch Protestant literature** from the Abraham Kuyper Collection. The exhibit features an early Dutch translation of Calvin's *Institutes*; works by formative figures (and theological opponents) such as Jacob Arminius and Franciscus Gormarus, and Johannes Coccejus and Gisbertus Voetius; prints from the James R. Tanis Collection; and texts and letters by Abraham Kuyper and Herman Bavinck. The exhibit is open from March 15 to April 15 in the Luce Library Exhibition Room and thereafter by appointment through July. Appointments should be arranged with Special Collections, located in Luce Library, Room 250.

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## From the Archives

Michael Paulus

For its first 89 years, Princeton Seminary was small enough to function without a president, relying on faculty members to administer as well as teach. In 1901, to facilitate a more efficient administration of the Seminary, the board of directors created the office of the president. The following year, Francis Landey Patton, an alumnus of and former professor at the Seminary, resigned his presidency of Princeton University, which had been successful but had become contentious. Since Patton had been appointed chair of the Seminary's presidential nomination committee, the faculty submitted the following letter directly to the board of directors:

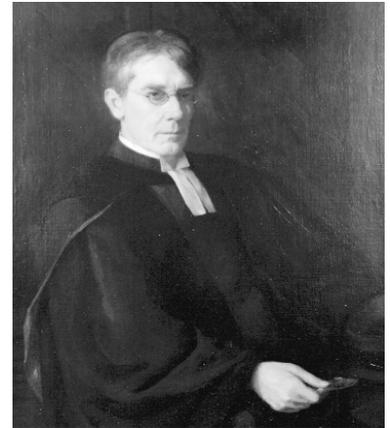
"All of us having been requested as individual members of the Faculty, by members of the Board of Directors, to express our views as to the election of a President of the Seminary, we take the liberty in the new circumstances that have arisen since the last meeting of the Board [viz., Patton's resignation], to speak as a Faculty and to address the Board itself.

We are unanimous in the belief that the interests of the Seminary will be promoted by the election of

our Colleague, Dr. Francis L. Patton, now your Lecturer on Theism. His convictions and opinions are in harmony with the historic position of the Seminary; and his eminent gifts as a Theologian, a Preacher, and an Administrator, and his distinguished career as one of its Professors, seem to us to point to him as the first incumbent of the new office....

We regard the Seminary as highly favored in having established the office of President just at a time when it is possible, with good ground for hope that he will be able and will be led to accept it, to elect Dr. Patton to the position...."

Source: *Minutes of the Board of Directors of Princeton Theological Seminary*, October 14, 1902.



Portrait of Francis L. Patton, 1901

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