

\$452,000 Grant for High School Program

In December Calvin Theological Seminary received a grant of \$452,000 from Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant will be used to engage high-school-age young people in theological study and inquiry. Calvin Seminary is one of eleven seminaries receiving a total of \$1.8 million to implement programs immediately in the Lilly Endowment's new project "Theological Programs for High School Youth." Eleven other seminaries received grants to plan programs which the Endowment will consider next summer.

The seminary's proposal benefitted from discussions with leaders of denominational agencies, Christian Schools International, and Youth Unlimited. It was formulated in detail and submitted last summer.

The Endowment program challenges seminaries to create imaginative programs that give gifted young people a serious intellectual encounter with the best thought of the Christian faith. Through the program students explore in depth theology's significance for their own lives,

including their vocational choices.

The Calvin Seminary program will begin next July. It will be a one-month, all-expenses paid experience on the seminary campus and in Israel. The program will be limited to 35 high school juniors and seniors who must be nominated by their pastors, church councils, or Christian high school administrators or religion teachers. De Jong emphasized that the competition welcomes nominations of both public and Christian high school students who meet the

program criteria. A description of the program and of the nominating process was mailed to potential nominators in early January. The deadline for nominations is February 28. Selection of the 35 participants will be announced in late March.

The director of the program is Mr. Daniel Hutt, an M.Div. student working under the supervision of Daniel Devadatta. Information is available from nominators or from either of these two men.

1545 Copy of Calvin's Catechism Found

This past November librarians Harry Boonstra and Conrad Bult were working through a collection of uncatalogued books on the Hekman Library's ground floor when they came across a book they could not identify. It appeared to be an Italian play printed in 1547, an odd book to find lying around in the library. Conrad Bult examined it more closely and discovered that after the last page of the play a second book began, but with no author, printer, or publication information. Since he recognized scripture references in the margins, he decided to take it to the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin

Studies, which is located on the fourth floor of the library.

There, Curator Paul Fields and Director Karin Maag looked over the mystery text and identified it as an Italian catechism printed in 1545. In fact, it was an early Italian translation of John Calvin's *Genevan Catechism*, an even more unusual and rare find than the tragedy. It is so rare, in fact, that only three other copies are known to exist, all of them in Europe.

It is not clear when the two books were bound together. The current binding is about 200 years old but may have replaced an earlier binding. Since sixteenth century books were sold

unbound, the first owner of the catechism may have hidden it inside the play and had the two bound together to conceal the catechism from the eyes of Catholic censors.

In any case, the catechism is a significant find because it bears witness to Calvin's influence in the predominantly Roman Catholic Italy of the sixteenth century. And, it is a valuable addition to the



Paul Fields, Harry Boonstra, Karin Maag, and Conrad Bult (clockwise from top left) admire their treasure.

Meeter Center, which already boasts one of the finest collections of works written by and about John Calvin.