PEETER MARTYR
NEWSLETTER

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THE NEW HERMENEUTICS OF PETER MARTYR VERNIGLI:
EXEGESIS & THEOLOGY
8-10 AUGUST 2007

Conference Planning committee of Torrance Kirby, Frank A. James and Emidio Campi have announced the Third International Conference of the Peter Martyr Society to be held 8-10 August 2007 at McGill University in Montreal Canada. The conference is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The aim of the Conference is to examine the unique contribution of the great Florentine reformer Peter Martyr Vermigli (1499-1562) to the emerging hermeneutics of Early Modern Europe, where Renaissance and Reformation engaged classical theories of interpretation with new methods drawn from Humanism and Hebraism. Vermigli’s biblical commentaries provide an extraordinarily rich mine for the confluence of Scholasticism, Humanism and Hebraism. An Italian Reformer whose distinguished career in the Catholic Church in Italy (until 1542) was followed by one equally distinguished in Protestant Europe, teaching in Strasbourg, Oxford, and Zurich, Vermigli was one of the pioneers in acknowledging the work of medieval Rabbis, just then becoming available through the Bomberg Bible (1523). During his lengthy training as an Augustinian monk he acquired significant tools—the three “biblical languages” of Hebrew, Greek and Latin, a thorough grounding in classical, patriotic and medieval literature, as well as in Aristotle as taught in the University of Padua which he attended for eight years. Thus he developed a unique hermeneutical method, faithful to the original texts but spiced with wide loci topics on a range of subjects relevant to controversies of the time. These latter were gathered in 1576 by Anthony Marten, a disciple in the French Church in London, into the four-volume Loci Com-munies, destined to become the favorite source for seminarians from Zurich to Harvard well into the 17th century, outselling Calvin’s Institutes for decades.

Key questions to be addressed will be: Why is Vermigli perceived as crucial in reconciling the tensions between humanism and scholasticism? Why was the Zurich school so influential both on the continent (Heidelberg theology) and in England (through Bullinger, Jewet, the Zurich student circle in Oxford)? Why was the Zurich theology so successful in early-modern English, continental, and American universities and seminaries? Responses to these questions will have a significant impact on early-modern studies.

Conference Participants

Scott Amos (Virginia)  
Michael Baumann (Zurich)  
Emidio Campi (Zurich)  
John Patrick Donnelly (Marquette)  
Gerald Hobbs (Vancouver)  
Gary Jenkins (Philadelphia)  
Torrance Kirby (Montreal)  
Joseph McLellan (Montreal)  
Christian Moser (Zurich)  
Peter Opitz (Zurich)  
Daniel Stute (Montreal)  
Jason Zuidema (Montreal)

Lucia Caschera (Zurich)  
Maurice Boutin (Montreal)  
Leonardo de Chincio (Padua)  
Max Engemann (Geneve)  
Frank James III (Orlando)  
Robert Kingston (Wisconsin)  
William Kempza (Montreal)  
Charlotte Methuen (Oxford)  
Annie Nobless-Rocher (Strasbourg)  
Herman Selderhuis (Apeldoorn)  
David Wright (Edinburgh)

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Salt Lake City Conference 3
Acta Vermigliana 4
Doctoral Dissertations 4
THE PETER MARTYR LIBRARY

Emidio Campi and Joseph McClennen have completed their work on volume 9 in the Peter Martyr Library: Vermiglio’s Commentary on Aristotle’s Ethics, $59.95 hardcover, 193111252X, 472 pp

Peter Martyr Vermiglio’s commentary on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics is methodical and probes into the scope, meaning, and terms of one of Aristotle’s most important works. This commentary was presented in a series of lectures and demonstrates the range of Vermiglio’s intellectual curiosity as well as provides a unique perspective on Aristotle’s writing. As a prominent theologian, Vermiglio incorporates a unique scriptural interpretation into his analysis.


Progress is also being made on new volumes in Series Two. Frank A. James III of Reformed Theological Seminary and Torrance Kirby of McGill University will serve as the General Editors of this series. James will be the editor of the Commentary on Judges; Gary Jenkins of Eastern University, is hard at work on the Deferens, Torrance Kirby of McGill University is editing and translating a volume of Vermiglio’s loci on Politics, Dan Shute of Presbyterian College, Montreal and T. Caldwell, Marquette University. The team of translators is growing steadily. Jon Balserak, University of Birmingham, UK has joined the team for I Corinthians. We are still looking for more translators and editors for the second series in the Peter Martyr Library. This is a particularly appealing opportunity for young scholars looking for a good project to enhance their career prospects. Project titles for the second series are:

- Commentary on Judges
- On the Church
- Vows on Celibacy
- On the Sacraments
- On Politics
- Moral Tracts

- Commentary on I & II Samuel
- Commentary on I & II Kings
- On Vows
- On the Christian Life
- Defense of the Eucharist

WHICH PETER MARTYR?

Peter Martyr Vermiglio (1499-1562) was named after a medieval martyr, Peter Martyr of Verona. Because he was from Vermiglio’s Florentine parish of S. Felicita, this martyr inspired other namesakes in this generation, particularly Petrus Martyr Mediolanensis, who became Bishop of the order in 1517. Indeed, McNair says that in the Dominican Order especially, “Peter Martyrs were three a penny.”

1 Peter Martyr of Verona (1203-52) was an Inquisitor whose strict oversight led to martyrdom by Patarane heretics near Milan. This schismatic sect was named “tragiclers” from the ragen’s quarter (Patarría) in Milan where they assembled. They were a type of Manicheans, opposing clerical celibacy and simony, and refusing sacraments from the corrupt clergy. Peter had been raised a Paterane himself, and his conversion to the Dominican rule made him a zealous advocate of his new faith. He was famous as a preacher throughout Italy. He was “canonized by Innocent IV, idealized by Fra Milan, and idolized by the faithful.” (continued on p. 3)


Emilio Campi, professor of church history and director of the Institut für Schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte at the University of Zurich reached a publishing milestone. In collaboration with Detlef Roth and Peter Stotz, all seven volumes of Bullinger’s Schriften (Theologischer Verlag Zürich) were published in June 2006 (after seven years work!). For further information please see http://www.der-nachfolger.ch/content/e1060/index.jsp.

It is the first German modern translation of Bullinger’s main works and serves as companion to the standard critical edition, which is also forthcoming.

Gary Jenkins, Professor of History at Eastern University and current translator of PMV’s Defensio, had his new book published: The Life and Times of Bishop John Jewel, (St. Andrews University Press, 2004).

Jason Zeidema, completed his doctoral dissertation on “Peter Martyr Vermigli (1499-1562) and the Outward Means of Divine Grace” under the supervision of Dr. Torrance Kirby in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University.

Octavian Jarcina completed a MA thesis on “Les Faits de Jesus Christ et du Pape: The Polonicae of Reform before Calvin” at McGill University.


IN JUNE 1542, he became Praetor, Peter Martyr Vermigli, simply “Peter Martyr” in the Anglophone world.

Giacomo Fantechi has informed us that the Protestant Cultural Centre in Florence has been named after Pietro Martire Vermigli. It was founded in 1991 through the co-operation of the Federated Churches (Waldensian, Methodist and Baptist) and the University of the Befreden. The aim is to promote the knowledge of Protestant culture through conferences, in partnership with a few Protestant scholars from the University of Florence (Prof. Salvador Cavonnetto, Prof. Domenico Maselli, Prof. Massimo Rubboli and Prof. Giorgio Vola). Conferences are the only activities of the Centre. Past conferences have focused on such topics as Juan De Valdés, the revision of the Italian translation of the Bible of Giovanni Diodati and on bio-ethics, since one of the members of the Waldensian Church in Florence is Prof. Marco Ricas, a well known cardiologist in Italy.
The New Hermeneutics of Peter Martyr Vermigli (1499-1562)  
Exegesis and Theology

McGill University, Montreal Quebec, Canada  
8-10 August 2007

WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2007
12h30  Registration begins (Foyer of Birks Building)
13h30  Formal Greetings (McGill University Chapel)  
- Dr John Visser  
  Director of the Montreal School of Theology  
  and Principal of the Presbyterian College
- Prof. Denis Thérien  
  Vice-Principal of McGill University (Academic Research)
- Prof. Barry Levy  
  Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies  
  (McGill University)
- Prof. Christopher Manfiedi  
  Dean of the Faculty of Arts  
  (McGill University)
- Prof. Gabriele Oegele  
  Director of the McGill Centre for Research on Religion (CREOR)

14h00  First Session: Career of the Exegete  
Chair: Emido Campi  
Professor of Church History, University of Zurich and Director, Institut für  
Schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte
14h00-14h30  Leonardo de Chirico  
Istituto di Formazione Evangelica, Padua  
Italy: Religious and Intellectual Ferment to 1542
14h30-15h00  Annie Noble-Granger  
Université Marc Bloch, Strasbourg II  
Strasbourg I: Martin Bucer Vermigli,  
commentateurs de la Bible
15h00-15h30  Charlotte Meather  
University of Oxford  
Oxford: the place of the Bible in  
the University
15h30-16h00  Discussion  
Tea served in the Senior Common Room  
16h00
16h20 First Session (Continued)  
16h20-16h50  Gerald Hobbs  
Vancouver School of Theology  
Strasbourg II: Vermigli and the  
Barnabites
16h50-17h20  Michael Baumann  
University of Zurich  
Zurich: Schola Tigurina

17h20-17h40  Discussion  
End of First Session

18h30 to 19h30  Vin d’honneur  
Foyer of Birks followed by casual  
dining, rue St Denis, Old Montreal, etc.

THURSDAY, 9 AUGUST 2007
07h30-08h45  Breakfast served in Hall

09h00  Second Session: Hermeneutical Method  
Chair: John Patrick Donnelly, SJ  
Professor of History, Marquette University
09h00-09h30  David Wright  
University of Edinburgh  
Exegesis and Patristic authority
09h30-10h00  Luca Banchera  
University of Zurich  
Aristotle and Scholasticism
10h00-10h30  Max Engemann  
Université de Genève  
Renaissance Humanism and  
Old Testament Hermeneutics
10h30-11h00  Discussion
11h00  Coffee served in the  
Senior Common Room

11h20  Second Session (Continued)
11h20-11h50  Scott Amos  
Lynchburg College, Virginia  
Scriptural Hermeneutics and  
Theological Method
11h50-12h20  Maurice Boutilier  
McGill University  
The Polymics of Reform
12h20-12h40  Discussion  
End of Second Session  
Lunchroom served in Hall
12h45-13h45

14h00-14h30  Emidio Campi  
University of Zurich  
Genesis Commentary: Interpreting the  
History of Creation
14h30-15h00  Gary Jenkins  
Eastern University  
Judges Commentary: Patristic and Medieval Antecedents
15h00-15h30  Daniel Stute  
Montreal School of Theology  
Lamentations Commentary: Theology
15h30-16h00  Discussion
16h00  Tea served in the Senior Common Room

16h20 Third Session (Continued)  
16h20-16h50  Jon Balserak  
University of Birmingham  
Commentary on First Corinthians:  
Exegetical Tradition
16h50-17h20  Frank James III  
Reformed Theological Seminary,  
Orlando  
Romans Commentary: Justification and  
Sanctification
17h20-17h40  Discussion  
End of Third Session
18h30 for 19h15  Sherry in the Senior Common Room  
and Dinner in Hall

FRIDAY, 10 AUGUST 2007
07h30-08h45  Breakfast served in Hall

09h00  Fourth Session: Theological Loci  
Chair: Frank James III  
Professor of Historical Theology and President  
Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando
09h00-09h30  Hermann Selderhuis  
University of Apeldoorn  
Anthropology: Hebrew and  
Greek Sources
09h30-10h00  William Klemperer  
McGill University and MST  
Classical Christology
10h00-10h30  Robert Kingston  
University of Wisconsin  
Ecclesiology: Excommunication and  
Christian Discipline
10h30-11h00  Discussion
11h00  Coffee served in the Senior  
Common Room

11h20  Fourth Session (Continued)
11h20-11h50  Peter Opitz  
University of Zurich  
Exegesis and Sacramental Theology  
Torrance Kirby  
McGill University  
The Civil Magistrate: Biblical Exegesis  
and the Canon
12h20-12h40  Discussion
12h45-13h45  Lunchroom served in Hall

14h00  Fifth Session: Oppuscula and Nachleben  
Chair: Torrance Kirby  
Professor of Church History  
McGill University
14h00-14h30  Patrick Donnelly  
Marquette University  
Prayers and Sermons
14h30-15h00  Christian Moser  
University of Zurich  
The Epistles: Theological Themes  
Jason Zuidema  
McGill University  
Reception History: Vermigli and  
French Reform
15h00-15h30  Chris Moser  
University of Zurich  
The Epistles: Theological Themes  
Jason Zuidema  
McGill University  
Reception History: Vermigli and  
French Reform
15h30-16h00  Discussion
16h00  Tea served in the Senior Common Room
16h30  Closing Address - McGill University Chapel)  
Joseph Robichaud  
McGill University  
Contemporary Hermeneutical Relevance
17h00  Closing Address - McGill University Chapel)  
Joseph Robichaud  
McGill University  
Contemporary Hermeneutical Relevance
18h30 for 19h15  Drinks and Banquet