

New Society to Translate Kuyper's Works¹

Grand Rapids, MI (CRCNA)—Scholars from Calvin Theological Seminary, Calvin College and Kuyper College, all in Grand Rapids, MI, have helped form a new organization whose focus will be to translate and promote books, articles and other materials written by Dutch theologian Abraham Kuyper.

Kuyper (1837-1920) was an influential figure in the history of the Netherlands and modern Protestant Thought. He founded a political party and a university, and served as the prime minister of the Netherlands from 1901-1905. In his writing Kuyper worked to develop a Reformed theology for the general public, arguing that God's creation is good and emphasizing Christian involvement and service in all fields of human activity.

Called the Abraham Kuyper Translation Society, the new organization includes scholars from across North America and abroad. Also deeply involved in formation of the society is the Acton Institute, a Christian research, educational and outreach organization in Grand Rapids.

Several of the participating scholars recently met at Calvin Seminary to discuss and form the society. The group is in the process of identifying other scholars who have an interest in Kuyper.

Major influence on Kuyper scholarship

“The society promises to be a major influence on English-language Kuyper scholarship as well as having a huge impact on the next generation of Christian leaders who desire to engage culture,” says Melvin Flikkema, provost of Kuyper College. Kuyper College has agreed to administer the work of the society.

“Many decisions will have to be made over the years dealing with selections to be made, whether translations should cover the complete text or be in paraphrase form, or whether only certain sections or chapter should be included,” Flikkema continued.

¹*Christian Courier*, Dec. 26, 2011.

To help launch the new society, the Christian's Library Press released copies of its new book, *Wisdom & Wonder: Common Grace in Science & Art*, a freshly-translated, newly-produced collection of newspaper pieces written by Kuyper. The book launch occurred on Dec. 10 at Calvin Seminary.

The publication of *Wisdom & Wonder* represents the first published English-language selection from a broader project to publish a complete translation of Abraham Kuyper's three-volume, 1700-page work on common grace. Volume one of *Common Grace* is scheduled to appear in Fall 2012.

Meanwhile, an annotated bibliography of Abraham Kuyper has recently become available through translation and editing spearheaded by Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition, several new books on Kuyper are or will soon be available. These include Calvin College historian James Bratt's biography of Kuyper and Fuller Theological Seminary president Richard Mouw's book on Kuyper's main ideas.