

REPORT re: LIBRARY of the Theological Seminary of the Canadian Reformed Churches

4 pages

Esteemed Brethren:

The duties of the Librarian are:

- a. to receive from the clerk of the Governing Staff the list of books which the teachers ordered;
- b. to order the books;
- c. to register them;
- d. to hand out the books to the teachers and others who want to make use of them;
- e. to keep a record of the books noting where they are;
- f. to send a report about the library to the Governing Staff annually.

Ad. a List of books requested by teachers

August 25, 1966, I received from the clerk of the Teaching Staff a list of books required by the teachers. Three teachers had a list of books; one handed in some suggestions.

October 18, 1967, I sent a letter to the Teaching Staff to inform them:

1. that the Board of Governors deems it necessary that only such books be ordered which a minister normally does not, or cannot buy;
2. that till then I received a list from only three teachers. I request the teachers who did not request any books to do so, reminding them of the decision of the Board of Governors "to make available for the Library \$300.00 per teacher for the period til the next General Synod."

Since October, 1967, one teacher sent in a request for three books, one student sent in a request to order books which he had been assigned to study by the teachers.

Conclusion: Apparently the Teachers don't need too many books in the Library, or they forgot to make their needs known.

Recommendation:

1. The Board of Governors request the Teaching Staff to be diligent with regard to the upbuilding of a Theological Library;
2. To request the Teaching Staff's clerk to send the list of required books to the clerk of the Board of Governors, who passes it on to the Librarian, after the Board has given its consent.
3. To request the Teaching Staff not to let students order books for the Library, but that they do this.

Ad. b To order the books

Books have been ordered according to the requests received. Not all of them, because of the decision of Governors mentioned under "Ad. a, 1".

There are now about 100 volumes in the Library. The total amount spent on the Library up till now is \$491.53.

Your Librarian became an agent of several Publishing Companies which give us a discount. e.g.: Eerdmans, 40% on most volumes. We are continuing to order books from the lists which came in. The decision of Governors, "that only such books be ordered which a minister normally does not or cannot buy," makes it sometimes hard to make a decision. Most books now in the library were bought before this decision was made. In one case, a teacher did buy some books directly from a Book Store and notified the Librarian afterwards that he had the books at home. We kindly requested him not to do this anymore because of the discount we mostly receive and the

danger that this way books get lost.

Conclusion: Taking into consideration that General Synod, 1965 allotted an amount of \$6,000 to Governors to set up a library, I conclude that only a fraction of this amount has been spent, which is also due to the fact that the Librarian, when buying books, is limited to the list(s) he receives.

Recommendation: The Board of Governors consider the desirability of appointing a "Library Committee" instead of one Librarian, which committee is, in the ordering of books, not limited to buying those books which are required by the Teachers. To authorize this committee to also purchase books which should be in the Library of a Reformed Theological College (e.g. Corpus Reformatorum) and allot them a certain amount for this purpose. To choose the Books which should be bought is too great a responsibility for one person; therefore we suggest a "Library Committee" of persons who are able to discuss this matter from time to time.

Ad. c To register the books

A beginning has been made with the registering of the books. Advice has been asked at the "Theol. Hogeschool" of "De Geref. Kerken" in the Netherlands. There are quite a few systems of registering. In Kampen they put them in the order as they have been bought. Here it is mostly the practice to order them on the shelves according to the different subjects: dogmatics, ethics, etc. This method creates problems too, because it is sometimes hard to decide under which heading a certain volume should be placed. We are still in the stage of exploring what is the best for us. For the time being we confine ourselves to keep a "Accession Book" in which the books are registered according to the date of purchase and arrival. Up till now we were able to store the books at may place; in the future we will need some extra book shelves.

Conclusion: The books are registered according to date of arrival. When the Library is growing, we have to decide upon the matter of further set-up and setting-up of an index of titles, subjects and writers.

Recommendation: To authorize the Librarian to buy the necessary equipment for the storing and registering of the books.

Ad. d To hand out the books

Up till now a modest use has been made of the available books. One teacher received some volumes and one student is borrowing books regularly. More use would be made when a kind of Catalogue would be published, but it is of no use to do this since we are still in this very early stage.

Conclusion: A very modest use has been made of the Library, which is due to the fact that the Library is still in its infancy.

Recommendation: To request and authorize the Librarian to prepare and publish a Catalogue when he sees the time fit for such a "publication".

Ad. f To send a report annually

The last report was delivered (orally) at the meeting of the Governors, held in Burlington, July 1967. That no report was sent in any earlier was due to the fact that there was very little to report.

Recommendation: The Board of Governors request the Librarian to send in his report before the end of September, 1969.

Miscellaneous:

The last time I visited Neerlandia, the daughter of the late Rev. G. Ph. Pieffers told me that Rev. Pieffers' Library will be donated to the Library of the Theol. Seminary of the Canadian Reformed Churches. This was according to Rev. Pieffers' will. They would send me the books in the near future. We expressed our heartfelt gratitude for this donation. The books did not arrive yet. They also sent me part of Rev. Pieffers' correspondence and sermons with the request to preserve these in the Library. More was to follow. We are planning to make a separate list of these items when this collection is complete.

Recommendation: The Board of Governors send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Pieffers, c/o Mr. Adrian Hamoen, Box 63, Vega, Alberta, to thank her for this donation to the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

COALDALE, September 25, 1968.

J. Mulder, Librarian

A P P E N D I X

LIST OF BOOKS - LIBRARY - THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - CANADIAN REFORMED CHURCHES  
September 25, 1968

New Int. Commentary N.T. - F. F. Bruce, Editor (standing order)	12 Vols.
New Int. Commentary O.T. - E. J. Young, Editor (standing order) #	1 Vol.
Keil and Delitzsch Old Testament Commentaries	25 Vols.
Kittel Theological Dictionary of the N.T. (standing order)	5 Vols.
Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah - Edersheim	2 Vols.
Bible History O.T. - Edersheim	2 Vols.
Israel and the Nations - F. F. Bruce	1 Vol.
Principles of Conduct - J. Murray	1 Vol.
Studies in Dogmatics - G. C. Berkouwer (standing order)	9 Vol.
Koehler's Hebrew Lexicon - Koehler-Baumgartner	1 Vol.
With Supplement	1 Vol.
Divorce - J. Murray	1 Vol.
Society of the Future - VanRiessen	1 Vol.
New Critique on Theoretical Thought - Dooyeweerd	4 Vol.
Introduction to Christian Philosophy - H. J. Spier	1 Vol.
New Testament Commentary - W. Hendriksen (standing order)	6 Vols.
Ministry of Mercy - P. Y. DeJong	1 Vol.
Creeds of Christendom - Schaff	2 Vols.
Basic Writings of St. Augustine - W. J. Oates	2 Vols.
Church Order Commentary - Monsma	1 Vol.
Taking Heed of the Flock - P. Y. DeJong	1 Vol.
Religious Ideas of the O. T. - W. Robinson	1 Vol.
Reformed Dogmatics - Herm. Hoeksema	1 Vol.
The New Testament from 26 Translations	1 Vol.
The Meaning of Ethos - Van Meyenfeldt	1 Vol.
The Story of Philosophy - Will Durant	1 Vol.
The New World of Philosophy - A. Kaplan	1 Vol.
Christian Perspectives, 1962 - Duyvene de Wit a.o.	1 Vol.
The Old Testament World - M. Noth	1 Vol.
Tell el Amarna and the Bible - C. F. Pfeiffer	1 Vol.

Essays on O. T. Hermeneutics - Claus Westerman, Editor	1 Vol.
The O. T. and the Christian Faith - B. W. Anderson	1 Vol.
Christianity and Barthianism - C. VanTil	1 Vol.
Creative Minds in Contemporary Theology - Ph. Hughes	1 Vol.
Geschiedenis der Kerk - Berkhof	1 Vol.
The Christian Church in Canada - Walsh (standing order)	1 Vol.
The Coming of the Kingdom - Herman N. Ridderbos	1 Vol.
Paul and Jesus - Herman N. Ridderbos	1 Vol.
The Interpretation of the N. T. - St. Neill	1 Vol.
The Relation of the Bible to Learning - H. E. van Runner	1 Vol.
Dictionary of the Bible - James Hastings, Editor	5 Vols.

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TOTAL 104 Vols.

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 Coaldale, Alberta

# (p. 3) 1 Volume on ISALAH