

Scholarly and popular interest in Pilgram Marpeck, Anabaptist theologian, minister, and engineer, has grown significantly in recent years. This has resulted partly from the availability of new source material (below) but more so because of the themes that dominated Marpeck's thought. In Free Church circles today there is a new excitement about themes that are at the heart of Marpeck's thought, among them, the Trinity, the Incarnation, and their role in the relationship between the spiritual and material and their significance for sacraments.

Part of the impetus for a conference on Marpeck now is the publication of new texts and interpretations. In 2007 Heinold Fast and Martin Rothkegel brought out a critical edition of the *Kunstabuch*, forty-two long lost treatises by Marpeck and his Circle; it is the most significant publication of Anabaptist sources in a generation. That same year Malcolm Yarnell's *The Formation of Christian Doctrine* appeared, featuring Marpeck as a defining thinker, followed by Neal Blough's study of Marpeck's christology, *Christ in Our Midst*, in English translation. This year two Marpeck specialists, Walter Klaassen and William Klassen, co-authored *Marpeck: A Life*, sure to be the definitive biography. In spring of 2009 an English translation of the *Kunstabuch*, edited by John Rempel, will appear in publication.

The purpose of 'anabaptist convictions after marpeck' is to take the measure of recent scholarship and pursue its relevance for theology, spirituality, sacramental life, and the role of church in society today. We anticipate a conference that is inter-disciplinary as well as one in which established scholars, students, and ministers engage one another. These and others exploring theological and pastoral questions in light of Marpeck are warmly invited to submit a proposal for a paper.

As part of the conference there will be both graduate and undergraduate essay competitions. The top three papers in both categories will receive awards of 450, 200 and 100 dollars respectively. Travel and registration bursaries for students are also available. Selected papers will be presented in special conference sessions.

Call for Papers

Proposals are invited for papers that address the emergence and development of Anabaptist convictions in light of the work and life of Pilgram Marpeck and of the Marpeck circle. This interdisciplinary conference seeks to strengthen the development of contemporary Anabaptist convictions through a careful analysis of the emergence of historical Anabaptist convictions-especially those found in the Marpeck circle. The planning committee welcomes proposals from the standpoint of any academic discipline and solicits both presentations that are primarily descriptive as well as those that make prescriptive claims.

Suitable topics include, but are not limited to:

- the social and historical background of Marpeck and his circle
- the religious and political exigencies addressed by the texts of the Marpeck circle
- the theological and historical relationships between Marpeckites and other Anabaptist figures and groups
- the contemporary discovery and appropriation of Marpeck
- the illumination of historical and contemporary Anabaptist theological developments and controversies by the convictions of the Marpeck circle
- comparisons of Marpeckite convictions with those of other historical and contemporary Anabaptist circles

The conference will be held at Bluffton University, where a student center named after Pilgram Marpeck highlights the continuing visual and material impact of a once obscure sixteenth-century radical reformer. The conference is sponsored by Anabaptist-Mennonite Scholars Network (A-MSN), the Anabaptist Sociology and Anthropology Association (ASAA), and the Institute of Mennonite Studies (IMS). The conference planning committee includes the following members: Trevor Bechtel (A-MSN); Gerald Mast (ASAA); John Rempel (IMS, AMBS); John D. Roth (MHS); Hannah Kehr, Lydia Nofziger (Bluffton). Paper proposals should be sent to John D. Roth (johndr@goshen.edu) or Trevor Bechtel (bechtelt@bluffton.edu). Mail proposals to Box 141, Bluffton University, 1 University Drive, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Deadline for Abstracts: February 15, 2009

Student Essay Competition Deadline: April 15, 2009

for more information consult: <http://www.marpeck.com>