

John Calvin and the Reformation in Italy: influence and conflict

Torre Pellice, 4-6th September 2009

Several conferences have been organised worldwide for the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. These meetings will deal with his image and his influence on the international Protestant community both in the past and at present from different perspectives.

The Waldensian Studies Society invites you to an international conference that will consider and evaluate current studies on the relationship between the Reformer and the area now known as Italy.

It is believed that Calvin visited Italy for the first time in 1536 on his way to the court of Renée of France. After that first trip he kept in close contact with Italy and France, two countries he initially regarded as possible areas of development for his ideas and in order to convince those who were interested in the Reformation. Through the translation and the distribution of several of Calvin's and other reformers' works, with the propaganda of the spoken and the written word, and the exchange of opinions about escape and martyrdom, Geneva deeply influenced pro-Reformation communities in the valleys of Northern Piedmont and in the southern area of the Italian peninsula.

Considering that several communities considered Calvin's thought as a point of reference and that propaganda depicted Geneva as the anti-Rome, can we identify Calvinist communities in Italy? How was Calvinist ecclesiology perceived and welcomed?

To what extent did Italian intellectuals and clerics compare their views with Calvin's thoughts? In what way did Geneva's Reformer become the object of religious dispute?

Calvin's relationship with the exiled Italians varied greatly: he co-operated with some of them but with some others their different views lead to conflict and violent rejection. How did Calvin influence the people on the Italian side of the Alps and how did Italian heretics influence him? Is the well-known contrast between them worth new reflection and research?

Scientific committee: Prof. Emidio Campi, Prof. Lucia Felici, Prof. Ugo Rozzo, Prof. Silvana Seidel Menchi, Prof. Alain Tallon, Prof. Michaela Valente.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Susanna Peyronel (e-mail susanna.peyronel@unimi.it; telephone 02/70001643)

Waldensian Studies Society, office: segreteria@studivaldesi.org

PROGRAMME

Friday 4th September

3.00 p.m. Opening

First Session Readings and Interpretations

Chair: Massimo Firpo.

3.30 p.m.

Emidio Campi (University of Zurich): *Calvin: issues and perspectives in current studies.*

4.00 p.m.

Michaela Valente (University of Molise): *Calvin's image in Catholic debate*

4.30 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.00 p.m.

Chiara Franceschini (Warburg Institute): *Historiography of the "case" of Renée of France.*

5.30 p.m.

Alessandro Guerra (University of Roma-La Sapienza): *Calvinism: the challenge of revolution.*

6.00 p.m.

Paolo Simoncelli (University of Roma-La Sapienza): *Fascism and post-fascism: notes for a political reading of Calvin's historiography.*

6.30 p.m.

Questions and discussion

Saturday 5th September

Second Session
The diffusion of Calvin's thought in Italy

Chair: Susanna Peyronel.

9.00 a.m.

Jean-François Gilmont (Université catholique de Louvain): *Un hérésiarque en pays catholique. Quelles anciennes éditions de Calvin peut-on trouver dans les bibliothèques italiennes ?*

9.30 a.m.

Silvana Seidel Menchi- Lorenzo Lambardi (University of Pisa): *Italian readers of Calvin's writings: how many, where, how?*

10.00 a.m.

Massimo Firpo (University of Torino): *John Calvin and Juan de Valdés*

10.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.00 a.m.

Eleonora Belligni (University of Torino): *The Genevan Reformation and Nicodemism at the court of Renée of France.*

11.30 a.m.

Giorgio Tourn (Waldensian Studies Society): *Olivétan's Bible and the Waldensians.*

12.00 a.m.

Albert De Lange (Historian: German Waldensian Association): *Waldensians in Calvin's letters.*

12.30 p.m.

Questions and discussion

Saturday 5th September

**Third Session
Calvinism and anti-Calvinism**

Chair: Achille Olivieri

3.00 p.m.

Daniele Tron (Waldensian Studies Society): *The creation of the Waldensian pastoral system and the Calvin's Geneva.*

3.30 p.m.

Vittorio Frajese (University of Roma-La Sapienza): *The Calvinist presence in Venice from the time of the Interdict until the return of the Jesuits.*

4.00 p.m.

Claudia Donadelli (University of Roma La Sapienza): *Diffusion of Calvinism: Nunciatures' maps.*

4.30 p.m.

Simonetta Adorni Braccesi (Lucca): *Between Erasmus and Calvin: The humanist Gaudenzio Merula da Borgo Lavezzaro: Research in progress.*

5.00 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.30 p.m.

Michele Cassese (University of Trieste): *A Distant Contest: Calvin and Girolamo Seripando on justification, predestination and the Church.*

6.00 p.m.

Giorgio Caravale (University of RomaTre): *Pelagianism and anti-calvinism in Italy in late 1500's.*

6.30 p.m.

Emanuele Fiume (Roma): *Calvinus arianus? Tirano's dispute between Catholic and Reformed scholars (1595-1596): Calvin's Christology brought to public trial.*

7.00 p.m.

Questions and discussion

Sunday 6th September

**Fourth Session
Calvin and the Italians**

Chair: Paolo Simoncelli

9.00 a.m.

Daniela Solfaroli Camillocci (University of Geneva): *“Profligata romani Antichristi tyrannide”*: Rome and the Pope in Geneva during Calvin’s time .

9.30 a.m.

Luca Baschera (University of Zurich): *Girolamo Zanchi (1516- 1590) reads Calvin: reactions and analysis of the “Institutio” in the “Compendium praecipuorum capitum doctrinae christianae”*.

10.00 a.m.

Achille Olivieri (University of Padova): *The “Eusebius captivus” (1553) by Jeronimus Marius (Massaria): Political Ideology and the Calvinist movements*.

10.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.00 a.m.

Lucia Felici (University of Firenze): *Curio and Calvin: the debate on tolerance and predestination after Servetus’ sentence*.

11.30 a.m.

Natalie Szczech (Université de Paris): *Calvin contre Valentino Gentile: polemique et défense de la Trinité dans la Genève réformée (1558-1561)*

12.00 a.m.

Mario Biagioni (Pistoia): *«Deus auctor perditionis»: The interpretation of Calvin’s “De aeterna Dei praedestinatione” in Francesco Pucci’s “De praedestinatione”*.

12.30 p.m.

Questions and discussion