Habent sua fata libelli

HAVE BOOKS THEIR DESTINY OWN

Essays in honor of
Robert V. Schnucker

EDITORS
Robin B. Barnes,
Robert A. Kolb, and
Paula L. Presley,
and a Dedication by
Robert M. Kingdon

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FOREWORD

I HAVE KNOWN DR. ROBERT SCHNUCKER for more than four decades as a childhood acquaintance, neighbor, pastor, teacher, scholar, and colleague; most importantly, however, I have known him as a friend in the highest sense of the word. I recall that when I first assumed the presidency of Truman State University, he immediately expressed concern about my health. In fact, for several weeks he appeared on my front porch at seven o’clock in the morning and invited me to walk briskly with him. My family was really impressed and grateful. My feelings were somewhat mixed! Seriously, I gladly join in honoring Bob, whose dedication, vision, and years of service have made such a positive difference in the lives of so many.

Dr. Schnucker can easily be described as a leader and an innovator. He has utilized his skills for the betterment of the Kirksville community, the Truman State University community, and the worldwide community of higher education. However, he does not focus on only the macro; he impacts very positively the life of each individual with whom he comes in contact.

As the state’s liberal arts and sciences university, Truman State University is dedicated to student development, which includes instilling in each student the importance of lifelong learning. What a fit Dr. Schnucker is with this fine institution! He embraces this philosophy wholeheartedly. He has written: “I am convinced that it is now imperative for education to meet new challenges and new needs with imagination, experimentation, and courage…. The teacher must become one who stresses the position of being the consultant or stimulator for the learning process of the student. The output should be a person who is in the process of achieving intellectual independency and who possesses a zest for self-education throughout life.”

Bob’s former students describe him as highly effective, but certainly not easy. They praise him for his unwavering commitment to student development. His effectiveness can be measured partially by the numbers of students he inspired to pursue advanced degrees. They are now historians, clergy, faculty members, lawyers and other professionals who readily attest to his positive influence on their lives and career choices.

Bob’s dedication to learning led him into the realm of publishing in the early 1970s. Since then, he has become an expert in this field. He oversaw the creation and the success of the Thomas Jefferson University Press at Truman State University. Over the years, his expertise in the management of a small press has been recognized by the American Council of Learned Societies, the
Organization of American Historians, the Conference of Historical Journals, and other professional organizations. Bob has brought great honor to this University, as well as to himself, through his many years of dedicated service to scholarly publication.

Now that I have talked about the educator and publisher, I would like to tell you a little more about the man, Bob Schnucker. I could always count on Bob to give me honest and well-thought-out advice when I needed assistance (and sometimes even when I didn’t need it!). Rarely did I have to wonder about his opinion on a topic. I like that kind of forthrightness.

Bob’s work ethic will long be discussed on our campus. He was the first to arrive at work in the morning, and frequently he could be seen on campus on holidays and weekends. He put in the hours to please his toughest critic, himself. He set very high standards for himself and for others.

As this book honors the life and contributions of an amazing individual, I wish to thank him for the many years of friendship he has given me personally and for the selfless dedication he has bestowed upon Truman State University. He has enhanced our institutional success and greatly enriched our lives. The entire University community joins me in wishing Bob, Anna Mae, and their family an abundance of blessings. We shall eagerly watch as Bob begins another stage of an already incredible life.

Jack Magruder
President

Truman State University
Kirksville, Missouri
ROBERT V. SCHNUCKER

An Appreciation

Robert M. Kingdon

This book celebrates the remarkable career of a remarkable man. Robert V. Schnucker has carved for himself a unique place as an organizer and publisher of scholarship in the considerable variety of disciplines dealing with the period of the sixteenth century.

Schnucker was born in Iowa in 1932, in a family that had been active for generations in the Reformed faith. It thus came as no surprise that after earning an A.B. from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) and a B.D. from the University of Dubuque, in 1956 he became the minister of the United Presbyterian Church in Springville, Iowa. He soon developed a thirst for more intellectual stimulation than he could find in a parish, however, and enrolled in the graduate program in the School of Religion at the University of Iowa. That was where I first met him. I had just arrived, in 1957, from my first teaching position at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, lured in good part by the prospect of teaching graduate students for the first time. Although my teaching appointment was in the Department of History, many of my students were from the School of Religion, drawn by my special interests in the history of the Reformation. One of the first was Bob Schnucker. I still remember what a pleasure it was for me to have him in class. I still treasure the compliments he paid me on a lecture I delivered on the Calvinist doctrine of predestination, compliments that meant a great deal to me as a scholar without any formal training in theology coming from a student who had already studied theology for several years. He then asked me to act as supervisor of an M.A. thesis he was planning on “English Intervention in the Scottish Reformation.” That turned out to be a mistake. I simply did not know enough about English history of the period to supply the kind of guidance he needed. He was awarded his degree, but then switched over for his Ph.D. to James Spalding of the School of Religion, a fellow Presbyterian and eminent specialist on ecumenical initiatives designed to bring Christian
churches back together in seventeenth-century England. The dissertation with which Schnucker won that Ph.D., in 1969, was on “Views of Selected Puritans on Marriage and Human Sexuality, 1550–1635.” It reflected a growing concern he had developed as a working minister, dealing with teenagers grappling with problems of sexuality in a period when American standards in this field were shifting swiftly, asking him as their pastor for information on subjects like birth control.

A few years later, Schnucker published as a spin-off of his dissertation an important article on the early Puritan views of adultery. It appeared in what was then the most distinguished scholarly periodical in the world in the relatively new field of “total” history, the French Annales. In the same issue of that periodical appeared articles by Delumeau, de Certeau, and Flandrin, as well as Genicot and Trexler, and yet others, many destined to become leading stars in the firmament of great historians of the twentieth century. Bob was in distinguished company indeed. He had already begun teaching with a joint appointment in both history and religion at his alma mater, then Northeast Missouri State University. All the signs pointed to a distinguished career of a traditional type for him as both teacher and publishing scholar.

But Schnucker's interests were already veering off in another direction. He became very concerned about scholarly publication, about the preparation of published materials that could be used in classrooms. He became deeply involved in the Forum Press, a corporation created to publish books for historians written by historians. And he came to the attention of Carl S. Meyer, a professor of Church History at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Meyer was one of a group of ecumenically minded scholars at this flagship institution of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod determined to cultivate contacts among scholars of many confessional backgrounds. Meyer organized several scholarly conferences on the campus of his seminary; he was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Foundation (now Center) for Reformation Research, located very near to the seminary, and became its director; he helped organize a new scholarly society designed to bring together scholars of many disciplines and backgrounds interested not just in the Reformation but in the entire period in which it had emerged, accordingly named the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference; he was determined to launch a program of publication that would give scholars with these interests the wider attention they deserved. In Schnucker, Meyer detected a young scholar with precisely the kinds of energy and vision necessary to realize these ambitions.

In a few years, however, Carl Meyer died suddenly and unexpectedly. He was succeeded at the Foundation for Reformation Research by an erudite col-
An Appreciation

league in Church History at the Concordia Seminary, Arthur Carl Piepkorn, who within another year also died suddenly and unexpectedly. And the seminar began to be ravaged by the schism within the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod which shook that generation of Lutherans to their roots. The work of the Foundation remained in the hands of Robert A. Kolb, who had been hired right out of graduate school as an assistant to the director. He had been trained within the educational system of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, up through its seminary in St. Louis, and then had come to the University of Wisconsin–Madison to earn degrees in history with me. Kolb and Schnucker together faced the problem of what to do with the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and with the publication program it had planned to sponsor. A few issues of a journal had already been published, made up largely of papers read at the annual meetings of the Conference, but it had only a handful of subscribers and depended financially on subsidies from a Foundation with very few resources of its own.

Schnucker at that point took charge. He organized both the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference and The Sixteenth Century Journal as not-for-profit independent corporations in the state of Missouri, separate from the Foundation for Reformation Research with its shaky finances and the Concordia Seminary with all its problems. He and Kolb turned to me, as a former teacher of them both, to become the chief editor of The Sixteenth Century Journal. For more than twenty years, from 1973 to 1997, we worked together as a team, sometimes referred to as The Three Bobs. For most of that time, I made the final decisions on what would appear in the Journal, and Kolb served as associate editor, supervising the process of receiving and soliciting the opinions of specialists on manuscripts. For all of that time, Schnucker served as both book review editor and managing editor. He made himself an expert on the publishing business and on the printers allied to it. He took over supervision of both composition and distribution of every issue of the journal. He found ways of doing this at costs far lower than most other scholarly journals, in good part because he and his wife and other associates in Kirksville did so much of the work themselves. The end result was a journal far more successful than most of us had believed possible, with a subscription list growing from the low hundreds into nearly three thousand, submissions coming from both promising and established scholars all over the world, and a growing international reputation.

Not content with managing a successful scholarly journal, Schnucker then turned to editing scholarly books. In 1982, he set up a series titled Sixteenth Century Essays and Studies. We recruited Charles Nauert to be the first
general editor of this series of monographs. With this book that series now totals fifty volumes. This particular book may well be the first for which Schnucker did not assume personally most of the managerial functions of arranging for composition, advertisement, and distribution. The series has turned into a considerable success, with several of these books winning prizes, many winning favorable reviews, most selling in gratifying numbers. The publishing acumen Schnucker displayed in building up this series was also tapped by his home institution in building up a university press, the Thomas Jefferson University Press. Schnucker became its director. That made it possible for scholars in yet other disciplines to benefit from his formidable managerial skills in the field of publication.

Meanwhile for a dozen years Schnucker also supervised the compilation and distribution of an annual newsletter, the Scholars of Early Modern Studies, designed to circulate informal information on scholars from all over the world interested in this period. This newsletter had been created by De Lamar Jensen of Brigham Young University, who, after a few years, wanted to pass it on to someone else. Schnucker with his usual energy made it ever larger and wide-reaching, and yoked it usefully to the programs of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference.

That Conference, indeed, was closely tied at many points to this program of publication. From the beginning the annual meetings of the Conference have generated much of the scholarship published by the Journal and in the Essays and Studies series. In its beginnings, the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference was a modest regional meeting, held on the campus of the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, drawing the participation of only a few dozen scholars from the immediate vicinity, most of them historians and theologians. It increasingly attracted scholars from other disciplines interested in the sixteenth century, notably from a considerable variety of literary disciplines, also from the histories of art and science. Its meetings have grown considerably and move about the continent from city to city. They are among the largest in the relevant fields in all of North America. Every year the Conference now draws together hundreds of scholars of every generational cohort from all over this continent, and increasingly from Europe as well, to read research papers, to comment on papers, and to exchange ideas in less formal ways. Most of this spectacular growth has been organized and directed by Schnucker as executive secretary of the Conference.

Schnucker has even won respect for the Conference well beyond its own membership. He personally drafted an application for membership on behalf of the Conference in the American Council of Learned Societies, an umbrella
organization coordinating the activities of all sorts of scholarly organizations in this country. The former president of the American Council of Learned Societies, Stanley Katz, told me that he found the application presented for the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference to be a real model of the genre, very likely the best application he had ever seen, describing every activity of the Conference with an impressive clarity, setting it with admirable precision in the spectrum of organizations represented in the Council. That application helps explain Schnucker's rise to a position of eminence within the governing circles of this Council for years thereafter.

Meanwhile despite all these managerial and executive activities, Schnucker continued to teach a heavy load of courses at the university that now calls itself Truman State University. He also remained a minister, serving the Labelle Methodist–Presbyterian Church for more than thirty years. He also managed to help raise a large and flourishing family, and to support his devoted wife, Anna Mae, through a series of illnesses that would have daunted many.

It seemed to us obvious that the best way to celebrate the career of this specialist in producing books on the sixteenth century would be to produce a book about sixteenth-century publishing. That is precisely what this is. It contains chapters by thirteen of Schnucker's friends and associates. Many of these chapters grow out of projects in which he was himself closely associated. They cover every part of Europe and range from overviews of selected types of publishing to microstudies of particularly interesting individual publications.

We find it difficult to imagine Bob Schnucker in retirement—and on an Iowa farm—raising vegetables and spoiling grandchildren. We find it impossible to imagine him without books. We hope this particular book will give him pleasure and win a place of honor in his own personal library. We trust the general community also finds that it supplies fitting evidence of the immense respect and admiration an entire profession holds for him.
THE CONTRIBUTORS

BRIAN G. ARMSTRONG is emeritus professor of history after thirty-one years of service at Georgia State University. He is author of Bibliographia molinaci: An Alphabetical, Chronological, and Descriptive Bibliography of the Works of Pierre Du Moulin (1568–1658) (1997), editor of Probing the Reformed Tradition (1989), and coeditor of Calvinus sinceris religiosis vindicis/Calvin as the Protector of the Purer Religion (1997) as well as a frequent book reviewer, contributor to Festschriften, and contributor to history and church history journals. He is president elect of the International Congress for Calvin Research.

ROBIN B. BARNES is professor of history at Davidson College in North Carolina. He is the author of Prophecy and Gnosis: Apocalypticism in the Wake of the Lutheran Reformation (1988) as well as numerous essays on the cultural history of the Reformation and early modern religious mentalities. His recent work has focused on astrology in the Reformation era. He is associate editor of The Sixteenth Century Journal.

ROBERT G. CLOUSE is professor of history at Indiana State University, where he has served for more than thirty-five years. His publishing career began in 1965 with Studying Modern Civilization. With Bonniedell Clouse, he coedited the popular War: Four Christian Views (1981), translated into German as Der Christ und Der Krieg as well as Women in Ministry: Four Views (1989). He also coedited Two Kingdoms: The Church and Culture Through the Ages (1993), and is a frequent contributor of chapters and articles, including “A Little Victory Over Death: Reflections on Organ Transplants,” Christianity Today 32/5 (March 1988). His most recent work includes The Millennium Manual (forthcoming).

RICHARD COLE is professor of history at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. He is author of “Renaissance Humanists Discover America” in A Humanist’s Legacy: Essays in Honor of John Christian Bale (1990). His research interests center around the dynamics of printing vis-à-vis the early decades of the Reformation in sixteenth-century Germany.

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Contributors

Carol: Renaissance and Reformation Studies for Charles G. Nauert (1998). His articles dealing mainly with German humanism, have appeared in such journals at The Sixteenth Century Journal, Renaissance Quarterly, Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Humanistica Lovaniensia, Archive for Reformation History, and Publishing History. He is also editor of Interdisciplinary Humanities, the journal of the National Association for Humanities Education.

Raymond A. Mentzer is professor of history at Montana State University. He is the author of several books, including Blood and Belief: Family Survival and Confessional Identity among the Provincial Huguenot Nobility, (1994) and he edited Sin and the Calvinists: Morals Control and the Consistory in the Reformed Tradition (1994). His current research focuses on social discipline within the French Protestant community during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. He is general editor of the Sixteenth Century Essays & Studies series, now published by Thomas Jefferson University Press of Truman State University.

Charles G. Nauert is professor of history at the University of Missouri–Columbia. He has worked for several years as an historical annotator for the ongoing publication of the letters and collected works of Erasmus by the University of Toronto Press and was author of the introductions and notes for volume 11 of The Collected Works of Erasmus (1994). His most recent book is Humanism and the Culture of Renaissance Europe (1995). From the late 1970s through 1996, he served as the general editor of the Sixteenth Century Essays & Studies series, then published by Sixteenth Century Journal Publishers, Inc.


Peter D. Sandler is the owner of Peter D. Sandler Editorial Services in Glenside, Pennsylvania, is fluent in most western languages and Latin, and has been the proofreader for Sixteenth Century Publishers, Inc., and Thomas Jefferson University Press since 1991. He edits, copyediits, and indexes books, writes newspaper articles, and translates and interprets between French and English. His applies meticulous scrutiny to each and every publication of the Sixteenth Century Journal, and he generously donated time to proofreading this book.
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Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks is professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She is coeditor of The Sixteenth Century Journal and is author of Working Women in Renaissance Germany (1986), Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe (1993), Gender, Church, and State in Early Modern Germany: Essays by Merry E. Wiesner (1998), and more than forty articles and other publications on various aspects of women’s lives and gender structures in early modern Europe, especially in Germany.
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