

# Calvin Library Receives Rare Bible

A LARGE folio-sized Dutch Bible, printed in 1690 and once in the family of the famous Dutch artist, Sir Anthony Van Dyck, later brought to this country and used by the Reverend Koene Vanden Bosch, has recently been donated to the Calvin Library by the descendants of the late T. Cornell Vanden Bosch of Grand Haven, Michigan.

Hand written in the fly leaves of the Bible is a family chronology which begins with Jacob Van Dyck, son of the artist, who is believed to have purchased the Bible in deference to a wish of his famous father for a family Bible. By marriage the Van Dyck and Vanden Bosch families were joined together, and in due time the Bible passed into the hands of the Reverend Koene Vanden Bosch who used it in his American pastorate and as a teaching resource in the early days of the Christian Reformed Church.

## Brought to U.S. in 1856

Reverend Koene Vanden Bosch came to the United States after becoming discouraged in the pastoral work in the king's court. Reverend Vanden Bosch left the Dutch court in 1856 and took his family first to Paris and then to New York City. He stayed briefly in the Englewood, New Jersey region and preached among the Dutch settlers. On leaving the East, he traveled by water to the Great Lakes, stopping at Mackinac Island and Chicago before arriving at Holland, Michigan.

Rev. Koene Vanden Bosch took his family, and the heirloom Bible, to a log cabin home at Noordeloos, four miles northeast of Zeeland, where he was the first pastor of that church. Later he became the first pastor of the First Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven, Michigan.

History records that Reverend Koene Vanden Bosch was not only the first Christian Reformed pastor, but for some years the only one after Reverend H. G. Klyn returned to the Reformed Church in 1857. Vanden Bosch not only served four or five congregations but began the instruction of ministerial candidates which led eventually to the founding of Calvin Seminary. In his pastoral and pedagogical labors the old

family Bible served its turn. Now, at length, the old volume, still sturdy and clearly legible, with its brass clasps shiny, comes to a permanent home in what is planned as the Colonial Origins Collection to be displayed and used in the new Knollcrest Library.

## Flyleaf Entries Date Back 300 Years

It is evident that after the purchase of the Bible, the Van Dyck family engaged in some retrospection, for the first entry on the flyleaf reads (in translation) as follows: "Jacobus Van Dyck is married to Maya N. Diepenhorst on the first of May, anno 1667." The next two entries, not entirely legible, record first the birth of a son, Willem, and then the death of his mother, both in 1676. Thus sunshine and sorrow hand in hand, quietly enshrined now in faded ink, are still speaking almost three hundred years after.

Three years later Jacobus Van Dyck took himself another wife, Aaltje Bonten, married on July 7, 1679; and a daughter named Maya is born on 22 February, 1686. On 29 September 1699, Aaltje died, followed by her husband on December 22 in 1701; both passed away "in the Lord," and Wil-



Rev. Koene Vanden Bosch

More than a century ago, Rev. Koene Vanden Bosch brought heirloom Bible from the Netherlands to a log cabin home at Noordeloos, Michigan



Displays Heirloom Bible

Dr. William Spoelhof, President of Calvin College, displays heirloom Bible given in 1690.

lem inscribes all these things in the great Bible on 6 of December 1701.

For display, for history, for safekeeping, the Bible now has prospect of a safe, long home. But for a book that has outlived generations, what is its ultimate future may be determined.

## Colonial Heirlooms Wanted for Knollcrest Library

Along with the Bible came to the Calvin Library a collection of the sermons of Reverend Koene Vanden Bosch. From these the historian will learn what spirit, faith, and courage inspired the young church on its way in the early days. Included also are papers of Reverend K. Vanden Bosch and his wife who labored to stave off persecution at his side in the dark days of Afscheiding (Separation). These treasures will be stored until they can be displayed in the new library.

It is for the storage, safekeeping, and supervised use of materials such as these that special quarters have been designed in the plans for the new Knollcrest Library. To Mr. and Mrs. John Dirkse and the other heirs of the T. K. Vanden Bosch estate go the sincere thanks of the Library and the institutions it serves. It may be hoped that so others who have materials which may in time enrich our scholarship will also provide them with care and preservation in the Colonial Origins Collection. It is thus that the dead yet speak, and the living are inspired to renewed service and dedication.