In Memoriam: David C. Steinmetz (1936-2015)
Founding President of the American Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek.

The Wolfenbüttel library and the American Friends are saddened by the recent loss of David Steinmetz (Emeritus Duke Divinity School), who died November 26th of last year. David studied at Harvard Divinity School under Heiko Oberman and taught at Lancaster Theological Seminary before going to Duke Divinity School. He was active in the Society for Reformation Research, the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, and served as president of the American Society of Church History. His two major areas of contribution were the history of biblical exegesis, where he cultivated in his students the ability to place sixteenth-century biblical interpretation into the context of medieval exegesis, and the theological development of both Luther and Calvin. As an eminent and internationally renowned Reformation scholar David was a frequent visitor to the Wolfenbüttel library throughout the late 1980s and the 1990s, both as a fellow and as a guest researcher. He was also a sought-after speaker at library conferences and in 1994 he organized an international "Arbeitsgespräch" on patristics, the proceedings of which he edited under the title "Die Patristik in der Bibelexegese des 16. Jahrhunderts" in the library series Wolfenbütteler Forschungen. David was not only himself an avid user of the library's holdings, he also pointed generations of his doctoral students and young colleagues towards the library, creating strong ties between Duke University and Wolfenbüttel. In 1996, together with other colleagues, David founded the American Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in St Louis, where he and the Library's Director Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer hosted an inaugural reception for the new society. In the years that followed David oversaw the selection of doctoral candidates who applied to the American Friends for travel support to Wolfenbüttel. The Dr. Günther Findel and the Rolf and Ursula Schneider Foundations were also established in 1986 and 1997 respectively to fund doctoral fellowships at the HAB. The American Friends and the Findel and Schneider foundations have always worked hand in hand to improve funding for young scholars and promote their careers.

David will be remembered at the library for his generous interest in the work of others, whether at coffee hour or during the fellows' colloquia, but above all for his wit and his humour. David's limericks on the trials of being a "Stipendiat" and grocery shopping at the supermarket PLUS are unfortunately lost to posterity, but they remain vivid in the minds of those who opened their computers in the morning to be greeted by them. In their dry wit, they reflected the varied experiences of a visiting scholar to the Herzog August Bibliothek. Providing others with an opportunity to experience the library themselves was his motivation to found the Friends of the Herzog August Bibliothek. Future generations of scholars will profit from this initiative.