

## EDITORIAL

We who are members of the Evangelical Theological Society prize that membership as a sobering privilege and a sacred trust. As we enter the decade of the 1980s we do so determined to strengthen our bonds of fellowship within the Society and to foster its continued robust growth. We intend also to maintain our historic commitment to the high view of Scripture enshrined in the doctrinal statement that constitutes our *raison d'être*.

The *Journal* has an extremely important role to play in all of the above. It provides a welcome forum for the publication of articles and book reviews written by our members (as well as by likeminded scholars) both long-standing and recent. If the sharing of ideas is part of what fellowship is all about, the pages of the *Journal* are open and accessible to such sharing. Scholarly interchange both oral and written has been the lifeblood of ETS in the past and will continue to be so in the future.

The healthy growth of our Society in recent years is graphically reflected in the mailing statistics of the *Journal* for 1979. Our offices sent out 1806 copies of *JETS* 22/1, 1862 copies of 22/2, 1892 copies of 22/3 and 1914 copies of 22/4. The average increase in *quarterly* mailings for 1979 was 2.22 percent, a truly commendable growth. Your gratifying recommendations of the *Journal* to colleagues and students alike, reports of which frequently arrive in our offices via that amorphous but necessary communications medium known as the grapevine, are largely responsible for increased distribution of the *Journal*. Two thousand copies—an unimagined quantity for a specialized publication like ours just five years ago—are now routinely printed every three months.

Changes in the *Journal* during 1979 were minimal and cosmetic. We decided to remove the special book review table of contents at the beginning of the book review section because it took up space that could be more efficiently used to increase the number of reviews themselves. Don Carson and Bill Luck, our new book review editors, have been doing commendable work in keeping us supplied with ample (and mostly excellent) reviews, only a few of which appeared in 1979 because of the backlog remaining from their predecessor's submissions. But from now on all reviews published in *JETS* will be those garnered by Don and Bill.

We welcome back to the onerous tasks of the secretary-treasurer Sam Kistemaker, who was on sabbatical leave in Great Britain for much of 1979. George Van Groningen, who filled in for him so capably during his absence, has recently accepted the position of president at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, and Sam himself was appointed to another three-year term as our Society's secretary-treasurer. We offer our warmest congratulations to both of these choice servants of our Lord.

It is with an exhilarating sense of optimism and confidence that your editor looks forward to serving you in this first year of the new decade through the pages of the *Journal*. With your help ETS will continue to be staunchly *evangelical* as we adhere uncompromisingly to the truths of Holy Scripture and exemplify them in life and witness. With your help ETS will remain rigorously *theological*, in the best sense of that term, as we develop increased sensitivity to the task of making

sure that our teaching says the same things the Bible says. And with your help ETS will always be the *society* we have learned to love and appreciate as we continue to combine *koinonia* with *kērygma*.

As always, I want to thank you for supporting the *Journal* with your articles and your reviews, your kindly suggestions and your constructive critiques, your encouragement and your prayers. Without them we could not succeed; with them, and under God's direction, we cannot fail.

Ronald Youngblood