

Editorial

The Evangelical Theological Society was organized in 1949 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The doctrinal basis and purpose for its organization are succinctly stated as published in the inside cover of each Journal.

By 1957 the efforts to make available the research and contribution of those vitally interested in participation in biblical scholarship resulted in the publication of mimeographed copies of papers read at the annual meeting: Two monographs and one symposium listed on the back cover had been published for wider circulation. Significant was the action taken at the ninth annual meeting held at Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, to publish a bulletin beginning in 1958. The stated purpose was that this would replace the mimeographed "volumes of annual papers and that it should include selected papers from the section meetings and such miscellaneous releases as the annual minutes and reports, the directory and its supplements, and the announcements and programs of various meetings." As a result of this action the first volume of *The Evangelical Theological Society Bulletin* was published in 1958.

Unanticipated developments at the annual business meeting in 1961 necessitated the immediate appointment of a new editor. Due to the circumstances of this request, I reluctantly accepted this responsibility, assuming it as a temporary interim service. Little did I realize the attending responsibilities of complying with changing postal regulations, the problems of contracts for printing and mailing. Fortunately, Wheaton College has extended the service to our Society for mailing throughout these years as a courtesy to the editor as a member of its faculty.

In 1965 a new format was adopted and renamed the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. Our basic contract provided for a minimum of four 64-page issues—Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall—making a total of 264 pages per volume.

When plans developed for adding a book review section to our Bulletin I accepted continued responsibility as editor on the condition I would publish the book reviews as supplied and edited by a book review editor, realizing that time would not permit an expansion of my service. To the best of my knowledge, we have been able to publish all book reviews made available.

As to the articles that have been published, we have generally complied with the stated policy as papers were offered from our national and regional meetings as well as those voluntarily submitted by interested individuals. As editor, I have appreciated the evaluations available from the editorial committee.

At various periods the articles available to us for selection were limited for lack of contributors. This was especially so in 1974 in the wake of selecting most of the papers prepared for our 25th meeting for

publication in the volume, *New Dimensions in New Testament Study*. A similar situation prevailed when the choice selection from the 20th meeting appeared in *New Perspectives on the Old Testament*. As society members, we are indebted to those who freely rendered their services in making these volumes possible for more accessibility to modern scholarship than could be offered in our Journal.

The policies of publication and program planning needed critical evaluation for some time. Commendable indeed was the appointment of an *ad hoc* evaluation committee. With appreciation those who attended the 26th meeting in Dallas listened to the panel discussion which in part is shared in this volume by our secretary. For progress in making our Society more effective in achieving its goals and purposes, it is hoped that constructive implementation will follow.

The suggestions for change in policy concerning our Journal are crucially significant. Personally, I would appreciate the appointment of a new editor for next year provided adequate plans are made for printing contracts, arrangements for mailing and compliance with postal regulations transition. Should a new policy include advertising of books in our Journal, careful evaluation of mailings permits would need consideration. Realizing that these arrangements had not been made, I assured our executive committee that I would continue to serve as editor for this current year.

Program planning may need more continuity than we have had in past years. Modifications of policies regarding our officers and length of service may make it possible to relate our efforts to the areas in scholarship that need our attention.

The opportunities and challenge for our Society are greater than ever. The need for constructive biblical scholarship is evident by the increasing requests that come for what the Evangelical Theological Society has to offer. Toward this end may our efforts be directed in order to serve this generation more effectively.

S.J.S.