

EDITORIAL

With this issue, *JETS* begins its twentieth year of publication. Although a bit younger than our Society itself, the *Journal* continues to try to match the fondest expectations that its doting parent has for it. Its success or failure in doing so depends in large measure on the articles submitted to the editor, whether personally or through the mails. It has been increasingly gratifying to me during the past year to read the articles that have been crossing my desk. Some of them have already been published, and others will be in the future (whether near or remote). If you have sent me an article that has not yet appeared in these pages, that in itself should not be a cause for despair, since we intend to eventually publish every article in our backlog. But if you are anxious to have your article published sooner rather than later, and if you find another forum that can give your ideas earlier exposure, go to it. I only ask that you let me know of your decision so I can remove your article from my files.

1976 witnessed only the most modest sort of face-lifting as far as *JETS* is concerned. Except for the first issue, we standardized its size to 96 pages per quarter. Since the beginning of 1976, book reviews have been set in smaller type than articles, making it possible for us to run more material of all kinds per issue. We also tried to publish as wide a variety of articles as possible in order to meet the needs and interests of our multifaceted constituency within the Society. Judging from your enthusiastic response we succeeded to some extent, although we are sure that there is still room for a great deal of improvement. And we would very much appreciate receiving your suggestions and proposals for making the *Journal* better. Production difficulties have resulted in unfortunate delays in getting each issue of the *Journal* into your hands during the past year. We can only say that we are working hard on that problem, and we hope to get on top of it by the end of this year.

If you are more observant than the average person, you will notice a few additional changes in the current issue. We have decided to designate each issue by the month in which it is supposed to appear rather than by its season, as previously. We have included a section entitled "Instructions for Contributors" (see pages 57-72), to which we encourage all writers to conform their manuscripts from now on. The retiring editor of *JBL*, Joseph A. Fitzmyer, kindly gave us permission to publish the section (which originally appeared in *JBL* 95/2 [June 1976] 331-346), with minor modifications and a few additions, in our own *Journal*. Since some other journals are already using it and still others will doubtless follow suit, the resulting standardization of technical matters such as punctuation, abbreviation and the like will make it easier for a writer to send a rejected article on to the journal of his second choice. As always, we will do our best to select and publish those articles in our possession that we consider to be of the highest quality, broadest interest

and most timely relevance. But the chances of having *your* article published soon will increase markedly if you conform it to the "Instructions for Contributors" (unless, of course, you had already sent it to us before you read this page).

Other information on the covers of the current issue is also worthy of note. Vernon Grounds, our faithful and hard-working secretary for the past thirteen years, retired as of December 31 last. Always gentle and self-effacing, he offered his many talents and his professional expertise to the Society in ways that provided us with the year-by-year continuity that we so sorely need as far as our organizational structure is concerned. The Executive Committee accepted his resignation with deep regret. Fortunately, last year's ETS president, Simon J. Kistemaker, graciously accepted the Committee's invitation to become Vernon's successor. He plunged into the task with gusto and has already proved to be well equipped, in terms of both disposition and determination, to handle the multifarious details of the office. We wish Vernon well as he turns his attention to other pursuits, and we wish "Sam" Kistemaker well as he continues to work at the task he has begun with so much promise.

Among the fine articles in the present issue we especially call your attention to Sam Kistemaker's presidential address as well as to the contribution by Stanley N. Gundry, our new vice-president. So settle back in your easy chair for a pleasant time of inspiration and interaction!

Ronald Youngblood