

## MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

St. Louis is considered by many to be the gateway to the South and Southwest. Tropical suits however, were definitely not the order of the day for the Annual Sessions of the E.T.S. held at Covenant College and Seminary, December 29-30, 1961. But though the weather was definitely northern, the hospitality of Dr. Robert G. Rayburn, his staff and the corps of willing students who helped was strictly southern. The accommodations, food and transportation offered were the best; and all in all, the traditions of both southern and Christian hospitality were upheld.

The sessions of the Society were called to order in the chapel of Covenant College and Seminary at 1:00 p.m., Dec. 29th., by President R. Laird Harris. The opening devotional service was led by Richard N. Longenecker, dealing with the theme "That in All Things He Might Have The Preeminence," Col. 1:13-18. The official greeting from the host institution was extended by its president, Dr. Robert G. Rayburn. The printed program (see *Bulletin of the E.T.S.*, II:3, p. 101) was adopted as the docket, with the interchange of time for two papers: those of Harvey E. Finley and Henry R. Moeller. The meeting then proceeded according to schedule, except that the paper of James D. Bales was omitted due to the author's absence, the paper of Robert D. Culver was moved up to fill the vacancy created above, and an unscheduled paper by Roger R. Nicole was presented to fill the spot formerly assigned to Culver.

The business session of Friday, Dec. 29th., convened at 3:00 p.m. The minutes of the 12th. Annual Meeting were received as printed in the *Bulletin* (IV:1, pp. 12-15). Presentation of reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer followed, and, after the insertion of the auditor's report by Gordon R. Lewis, all were received with thanks (see summaries below). The following members were elected by the Society to serve on the Nominating Committee: Martin J. Wyngaarden, Floyd E. Hamilton, Roger R. Nicole, Gordon H. Clark and Gordon R. Lewis. President Harris then appointed Gordon R. Lewis and Burton L. Goddard to serve as the Committee on Resolutions, after which the program proceeded as per the adopted docket.

The annual Fellowship Banquet of the E.T.S. was held at Concordia Theological Seminary. Vice-President Ralph Earle moderated, and under his leadership it was indeed a real time of fellowship. The evening devotions were presented by Theo. A. Kessel on the theme "We Know What We Worship," from John 4:19-26. Following the devotional period, President Harris stirred up the thought of the Society in his presidential address, "The Cosmology of the Hebrews." The members and friends of the Society then remained at the banquet hall for the reading of the paper by Wilber B. Wallis and the illustrated lecture on excavations in the Near East by Joseph P. Free. Fellowship and stimulation characterized the whole evening, as evidenced by the lengthy and informal discussions which followed the last lecture and which necessitated a rather late hour for the closing of the building. It appears that the Society will never become a great favorite with the local janitors' union; but then theologians have never been known to be brief of speech.

Saturday morning's session was called to order by the President, and, in the absence of Frederick Young, was opened with a devotional on Exod. 31:1-6 by Samuel J. Schultz. Following the devotional service, the program continued according to the adopted docket with the necessary alterations as noted above. Indicative of evangelical progress was the presentation of the panel on "Current Cooperative Projects of Evangelical Scholarship." Editors and writers reported on several major cooperative projects of conservative scholarship now in process, as follows:

1.) *The New Bible Dictionary*, sponsored by Tyndale Fellowship of England, Dr. J. D. Douglas, organizing editor, with contributors throughout the English speaking world, published in America by Eerdmans, 1 vol., scheduled for May, 1962.

2.) *The New Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, Dr. Merrill C. Tenney of the Wheaton Graduate School of Theology, general ed., Zondervan, 1 vol., profusely illustrated, now undergoing final editing.

3.) *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, revised "to strengthen the conservative element, especially by the exclusion of mediating views perceptible in the originals," Dr. Geoffrey W. Bromiley of Fuller Theological Seminary, gen. ed., Eerdmans, 5 vols., with Vol. I in 1963, others following.

4.) *Encyclopedia of Christianity*, the complete field of religion, with a Calvinistic theological emphasis, Dr. Edwin H. Palmer of Westminster Theological Seminary, gen. ed., Sovereign Grace Publishers, 10 vols., Vol. I ready for printing, one vol. to appear yearly until 1971.

5.) *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, Drs. Charles F. Pfeiffer of Gordon Divinity School and Everett F. Harrison of Fuller Theological Seminary, O.T. and N.T. eds. respectively, with contributors representing a cross-section of contemporary evangelical scholarship, 1 vol., with phrase by phrase notes, Moody Press, fall of 1962.

6.) *Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia*, Dr. Pfeiffer, gen. ed., 1. vol., with maps and illustrations, Moody Press, expected in 1965.

7.) *An Historical Geography of Bible Lands*, Dr. Pfeiffer, O.T., and Dr. Howard Vos of Trinity Theological Seminary, Chicago, N.T. eds., Moody Press, to be released in 1963.

8.) *The New International Commentary*, Dr. Ned B. Stonehouse of Westminster Theological Seminary, N.T. ed., Eerdmans, 9 of the 18 vols. released, II Cor. by Philip E. Hughes of London, 1962, and Dr. Edward J. Young, also of Westminster, ed. O.T., Eerdmans, 32 vols., with first due shortly.

9.) *Evangelical Bible Commentary*, Dr. George A. Turner of Asbury Theological Seminary, ed., Zondervan, 40 vols., Arminian emphasis and reflective of 18th. Century revival thought, Mark and Acts already out, Hebrews in the fall of 1962, and 4 vols. per year thereafter.

10.) *Wesleyan Bible Commentary*, Drs. Charles W. Carter of Taylor University, Wilber T. Dayton of Asbury Theological Seminary, and Ralph Earle of Nazarene Theological Seminary, eds., practical, homiletical, and devotional, Eerdmans, 6 vols., Vol. IV, Gospels, 1962, with 1 vol. per year following.

11.) *The Scofield Reference Bible*, with revised conservative chronology and notes clarified to stress salvation by grace through faith in all ages and a more modified typology while maintaining theological dispensationalism, Dr. E. Schuyler English, chm. of revision committee, Oxford Univ. Press, late 1964 or early 1965.

Notices were also given concerning the *Tyndale Commentaries*, Eerdmans; *Baker's Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*, summarizing a series of projected monographs; and *Encyclopedia of Missions*, sponsored by the faculty of Gordon Divinity School for its 75th. anniversary, Harper's, 1965. Plans for cooperation among evangelical libraries were also reviewed by the President, R. Laird Harris

The afternoon business session was convened by the President. Reports of the Regional Sections were given by Burton Goddard representing the New England section, Robert Knudsen for the Eastern ( as read by the President), Samuel Schultz for the Mid-Western and Ross Price for the Far-Western. The report of the Southern

Section, as sent in by Glen C. Atkins, was also noted. President Harris announced approval of the following Section officers for 1962:

	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Sec-Treasurer
New England	Carlyle B. Roberts	Everett L. Fullam	J. Ramsey Michaels and William Lane
Southern	Alfred A. Cierpke	John C. Anderson	Robert E. Picirilli
Eastern	Robert D. Knudsen	Claud A. Ries	Cornelius Van Til
Mid-Western	John C. Whitcomb, Jr.	John C. Wenger	Francis D. Breisch Jr.
Far-Western	Ross E. Price	Everett F. Harrison	Arnold D. Ehlert

J. Barton Payne, as Chairman of the Necrology Committee, read the memorial for Henry R. Van Til who died during the year (see below), and Martin Wyngaarden spoke to the memorial. The death of Kenneth S. Wuest was also announced, and a memorial for him appears below. The Society stood in tribute to these two stalwarts of the faith, and President Harris led in prayer for the families of the deceased and for the members of the Society that we might be strengthened to carry on the work which these our brethren so ably and nobly carried on.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Vice-President Earle reported on the proposed constitutional amendment with the recommendation from the Executive Committee that it not be accepted. The proposed amendment reads: "The B.D. degree or its theological equivalent shall ordinarily be required for membership in the Society . . . ." Presently the constitution reads "The Th.M. degree or its theological equivalent." Speaking for the proposal was George E. Ladd. Voicing opposition were Gordon H. Clark, Robert R. Nicole and Robert D. Culver. No action could be taken on the amendment according to constitutional procedure, with final voting scheduled for the annual meeting in 1962. Arguments in favor of the proposal were as follows:

1.) The Th.M. degree as envisaged by our constitution means a truly graduate degree of disciplined, post-graduate work, which can only be successfully pursued by a few of the best B.D. men. There are schools which offer the Th.M. as the basic theological degree for either three or four years of work. In these cases the Th.M. is a three or four year B.D. and not a graduate degree. Therefore it is difficult to enforce this by-law at it stands with consistency.

2.) The phrase "or its theological equivalent" has been very loosely interpreted in the past. Some have been approved who fall far short of having the equivalent of a truly post-graduate Th.M. degree.

3.) Broadening the basis of membership will not result in a deterioration of the quality of the Society. The quality of the Society depends altogether upon the quality of the papers presented at the annual and regional meetings, and upon the quality of the Bulletin. The S.B.L.E. has no such high standard for membership, and it has not suffered for this reason.

The arguments opposing the amendment were as follows:

1.) The vision of the founders and the desire of its members is that the E.T.S. be a truly learned and professional society. Such an amendment would open the sluice gates to many not qualified, and thus possibly bring the Society to the level of a ministerial association.

2.) The amendment would not alleviate the main difficulty in the article; i.e. in the interpretation of "or its theological equivalent."

3.) Rather than bring our policy within the scope of our practice, would it not be better to bring our practice, if such has been lax in the past, within the confines of the intent of our constitution?

Greetings from The Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical and Theological Research were read by the Secretary, J. Barton Payne, and instructions given for the conveyance of the Society's greetings to the Fellowship in return.

The Editorial Committee's report, prepared by the editor, John E. Luchies, and read by the President in the absence of the editor, was read. It stressed the difficulty of obtaining manuscripts from the members of the Society and mentioned that two works were now under consideration for inclusion in the Monograph Series. The President reported that the Executive Committee had appointed Samuel Schultz as Editor of the Bulletin, to be assisted by Steven Barabas and John Luchies.

The Nominating Committee's report was presented by Martin Wyngaarden, as follows:

President: Ralph Earle (incumbent vice-president).

Vice-President: Vernon C. Grounds.

Secretary: J. Barton Payne (incumbent).

Treasurer: Earl S. Kalland.

Executive Committee, term 1962-65: R. Laird Harris (retiring President).

Editorial Committee, term 1962-65: Charles F. Pfeiffer.

Membership Committee, terms 1962-64: Edward J. Young, Fred H. Klooster.

And to fill out the unexpired term of the late Henry R. Van Til, Leo G. Cox. Committee on Program and Arrangements, term 1962-63: Wesley A. Olsen.

Joint Committee with the A.S.A.: Kenneth S. Kantzer.

The report was received by the Society. Barton Payne requested that his name be removed from the list of candidates, since he had served the Society for 7 years as Secretary and has now found it quite impossible to so continue in view of his many other duties. He nominated Richard N. Longenecker. Various urgings and regrets were expressed regarding Barton Payne's decision, and, with no further nominations, the nominations were closed. In the election that followed, the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee, with the alteration of Richard Longenecker for Secretary, was duly elected. On behalf of the whole Society, the President thanked J. Barton Payne for his "energetic and competent leadership" in the work of the E.T.S., and the Vice-President moved that such be explicitly noted in the minutes of the annual meeting.

Burton L. Goddard presented the report of the Resolutions Committee, expressing deep gratitude to Covenant College and Theological Seminary for the "gracious hospitality extended to the Society and its members" and "sincere appreciation to the officers, committees and individual members of the Society for their generous labors in behalf of E.T.S." A word of appreciation was especially extended to "Dr. J. Barton Payne and Dr. Earl Kalland for their efficient and sacrificial labors in the offices of secretary and treasurer," and to our former treasurer, Dr. Alfred Cierpke, for "the Christian service so humbly and faithfully rendered prior to 1961." The report ended as follows: "That we urge members to cooperate actively in the membership program of the Society." There being no further matters presented, the business session was adjourned.

President-elect Earle took the chair, and the meeting continued according to the docket with the above noted revisions. J. Oliver Buswell, Jr., closed the session with the reading of Romans 8, and the members left the halls of Covenant Seminary with the Biblical notes of confidence and challenge ringing in their hearts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard N. Longenecker, Secretary.

### Registered Attendance

<u>Members:</u>	Ericson	Killen	Powell	Van Horn
Adams	Finley	Ladd	Price	Wallis
Anderson	Goddard	G. Lewis	Rayburn	Wessel
Andrus	Grider	J. Lewis	Reeves	West
Buswell	Harris	L. Lewis	Ross	Wyngaarden
Campbell	Hamilton	Longenecker	Sanderson	
Carter	Hiebert	Moeller	Schultz	<u>Associate:</u>
Clark	G. H. Johnson	Nicole	Smick	Sasher
Culver	W. H. Johnson	Nofer	Starkey	
Davis	Kalland	Omark	Stoll	<u>Visitors:</u>
Earle	Kessel	Payne	Taylor	c-40

### SUMMARIES OF REPORTS (13th. Annual Meeting of E.T.S., 1961)

#### A. TREASURER

Balance, January, 1961 .....	\$1365.68
Receipts: .....	<u>2625.38</u>
Due and subscriptions .....	\$2469.41
Sales (Books, papers, plaques) .....	96.24
Royalties .....	54.33
Refund for overpayment .....	5.40
	<u>\$2625.38</u>
Total Credit Balance .....	\$3991.06
Disbursements .....	<u>\$2016.66</u>
Balance of 1960 Treasurer's Expenses ....	\$ 38.15
Mailing and Stationery supplies .....	122.72
Membership Committee expense .....	13.22
To A.S.A., 1/2 reg. of joint mtg. ....	27.61
Refund on book order .....	12.00
Sectional meeting expenses .....	67.58
Membership dues refund .....	5.00
Chicago Bible Bindery .....	36.00
Bank Charges .....	12.25
Printing .....	1682.13
	<u>\$2016.66</u>
Balance on hand, December 1961 .....	\$1974.40