

Report of the Editor  
Wesleyan Theological Journal  
to the  
Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting  
of the  
Wesleyan Theological Society  
1-2 November 1991

As the cliché goes, "slowly but surely" the Wesleyan Theological Journal is returning to schedule. One has learned that precise predictions depend on the meshing of many contingencies, and so they are best not made. However, the Executive Committee of the Society, of which the editor of the Journal is a member, took some time in its April, 1991, meeting to refine a publication schedule for the next two and a half years which will conclude the "catching up" process and includes return to the regular two numbers per year.

As the September 1991, Newsletter stated, Volume 25:1, containing the papers from our meeting at Asbury College in November, 1989, is typeset. I may also add that the galleys have been proofread and returned to the Old Paths Tract Society, our excellent printer. So it should be in the mail within days. Volume 25:2 (the index volume) awaits only the editing of one author's final revisions and of a book review, and it goes on to Shoals, Indiana. Both of these items came in the mail to my sabbatical address this week, while I have been away, and I will get to them this coming Monday. So, within less than two weeks, D.V., 25:2 will be in Kenneth Montgomery's hands.

I should say of Volume 25:2 that it contains volunteer papers of a quality that honors us all and the cause to which this Society is committed. The Index, which is of critical importance to the use of the Journal in serious scholarship, will appear in two installments simply because it proved to be too massive for one number. The first installment will be quite traditional and complete: four indices, really--one listing by author first and title of all articles, then a listing by title then author; a listing of book reviews, first according to the authors of the books; then a listing of reviewers followed by author and title. The second installment will focus on the content of articles, including sources used, and looks much like the general index to a book. Some sample names appearing there (beside Charles, John, and Susannah Wesley!): Carl Bangs, Nathan Bangs, Karl Barth, William Edwin Boardman, Catherine Mumford Booth, William Booth, Phineas Franklin Bresee, John P. Brooks, and Emil Brunner. Obviously, not every name mentioned in articles is indexed--only those central to points being made. Topics include: ecclesiology, ecumenism, entire sanctification, and exegesis. Given the nature of the Society, I did throw some emphasis on names and terms important to the tradition. The traditional index, which is more like a table of contents with authors is better than 20 pages long. The more complex index is some 30 pages long. The basic question behind both indices is "What form will help the researcher most?"

Two areas of special concern do press to the front of the line these days. First is the paucity of articles in biblical studies and what has been variously called "practical theology,"



Report by the Editor of the WTS Journal

Page 2

3 November 1989

Editing time has not been a serious problem. I inquired into that before accepting nomination for the post. The burden of hours has lain elsewhere, except for the freak circumstance of having to edit two numbers twice.

Now the news that is easier to report. While the copy for the third number (the San Diego papers) is edited, we still have a few hours of work to be done on a comprehensive, twenty-five year index to the Journal. Also noticeable will be an increase in the number of book reviews. And I am working to include in all numbers, beginning with the current one, a list of books and articles by our members, a "Books Received" list, and an index noting where books and articles by our members have been reviewed.

I still am enthused about the Journal and about serving you as its editor. I regret the delays and suffer from them. Only Bill Arnett suffers more.

Sincerely,

Editor  
WTS Journal