

EDITORIAL

Under ordinary circumstances I write only one editorial per year and publish it in the March issue. But the circumstances that prompt this effort are, if not extraordinary, at least somewhat out of the ordinary. The current issue of *JETS* concludes our thirtieth year of publication and therefore deserves a modest celebration. Jewish tradition has it that no one should be allowed to read the book of Ezekiel until he is thirty years old. Thirty, in some sense, represents seasoned maturity.

A lot has happened in the trial and error of thirty years' attempts at presenting in permanent written form the results of various forays into the world of Biblical scholarship mounted by members of the Evangelical Theological Society. If some of our articles have been a bit underwhelming, others have made a more permanent mark in the scholarly arena. If formerly our papers were virtually ignored outside our own circles, today *JETS* is regularly and routinely quoted at all levels of the theological spectrum. We take no special credit for this, of course. It is simply one more reflection of evangelical scholarship come of age and therefore earning the right to be heard.

Earlier numbers of our thirtieth volume have been of particular interest and have been received with appreciation. The March issue concentrated on the knotty problem of the place of women in Christian ministry in a reasonably balanced (we hope!) way. The editorial at the beginning of that issue promised "at least one more article on the subject in a forthcoming issue." As it turns out, the current issue more than fulfills that promise by presenting three such articles, including a slightly revised version of an invited guest lecture (thus reflecting oral style) delivered by David M. Scholer during the ETS annual meetings in November 1986.

The September issue, in a similar way, concentrated on a single focused topic by offering a series of articles on "The Hermeneutics of Prophecy and Fulfillment," the theme of the annual session of the midwestern section of ETS in March 1987. Held at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago under the capable chairmanship of John Walton, the meetings attracted a total of ninety attendees. Again we included the manuscript of an invited guest lecture, this time given by John J. Collins of Notre Dame University.

This fourth fascicle of *JETS'* thirtieth volume has a sadder side as well: It marks the conclusion of the tenth and final full year of our relationship with our printer, Bethany Fellowship. The rapid growth of their own publishing division has forced them to terminate the printing not only of our *Journal* but also of books submitted to them by other external customers. *JETS* and Bethany House Publishers have grown exponentially in the ten years of our happy association together. Less than 96 pages in length when we began, each issue of our *Journal* has now been 128 pages long for the past several years. Lowell Lindsay, Fred Renich, Dick Easterday and others at Bethany have put up with

our idiosyncrasies in good humor, always expressing their willingness to go the extra mile in order to provide prompt service as well as a product of the highest professional quality. I for one will miss them greatly.

Ronald Youngblood