

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE TO VOLUME 26

This issue of *AUSS* inaugurates our twenty-sixth year of publication, and completes my own fourteenth year as Editor. Especially in recent years, our staff has faced constantly increasing duties, with four of our Associate Editors now in heavy administrative responsibilities—two at East-coast and West-coast institutions, and two here at the Theological Seminary. I have recommended keeping these folk on the staff for the invaluable, though more limited, service they render. But the need has become obvious that in order to maintain—and hopefully to expand—our services (more on this below) additional input in the editorial role of the journal has become a vital desideratum.

Introducing a New Editor

It is with gratitude to our Seminary and University Administration and to our University Press Board and Board of Trustees that I am able at this time to introduce a new editor, George R. Knight, who will share with me full editorial responsibilities. Knight transferred several years ago from the School of Education to the Theological Seminary, at which time we arranged for him to join our *AUSS* staff as an Associate Editor. An accomplished and well-published research scholar, he brought with him a wealth of background in scholarly writing; but he also came to us with considerable experience and knowledge concerning both the editorial process and the production aspects of publishing. In the capacity of Associate Editor he has already provided *AUSS* with invaluable service, and it is my special pleasure to be able to introduce him to you at this time in this new role of full editorship. To him and to all members of our *AUSS* staff I am heavily indebted for the excellent service they render—service beyond their already excessively heavy programs of administrative, teaching, and other duties.

We should also add here that regretfully we must report the resignation of William H. Shea as Book Review Editor more than a year ago—at the time when he transferred from Berrien Springs to Washington, DC, to become an Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute. His name has been retained in our masthead throughout 1987, however, inasmuch as he was responsible for arranging most, if not all, of the book reviews that appeared in *AUSS* last year. We owe him a debt of gratitude for the years of service he gave us, and we look forward to receiving frequent articles and book reviews from him personally. George Knight has kindly taken upon himself the role of Book Review Editor (which he has approached with enthusiasm and vigor, in addition to his much-appreciated general co-editorship of the

journal) until such time as a new appointment to this office is made; and for this service, too, I am most grateful to him.

AUSS Plans for the Future

Over the years *AUSS* has been privileged from time to time to expand its areas of coverage—a process begun under Founding Editor Siegfried H. Horn, who during his long tenure gave the journal international recognition as an outstanding scholarly serial publication. Under Horn's editorship, the journal moved from an annual to a biannual publication, and added various new features as the years went by. In 1980, we were privileged to expand *AUSS* into a triannual publication, an event that allowed us opportunity for several further elements of expanded coverage. Currently we regularly provide articles, book reviews, and book notices treating the various theological disciplines listed on the inside front cover of the journal. In addition, we have been privileged from time to time to include Andrews University dissertation abstracts, and to incorporate various special features, such as the Catalog of Reformation-era Pamphlets in the Heritage Center of the James White library. Also, we have been able to publish oversize issues devoted to specific occasions (e.g., the Luther issue in 1984 and the Leona Running *Festschrift* issue in 1987).

There are other features we have planned to introduce, but which thus far we have been unable to incorporate because of time and staff limitations. These include reports on major bibliographical tools and theological resources worldwide, assessment and comparison of major Bible commentaries (currently partially cared for through book reviews), and details concerning a number of scholarly services available at Andrews University. We hope that we can now finally begin to include such items at appropriate times. Moreover, George Knight also brings to *AUSS* his own repertoire of ideas to make the journal an ever-more useful publication for you, our valued readers.

This Volume of AUSS

In the summer of 1987 the second season of archaeological excavation at Tell el-^cUmeiri in Jordan made various interesting discoveries. A report on this excavation had been intended for the present issue of *AUSS* but has been delayed in order to accommodate a more thorough assessment of some unique and important finds. The report, together with accompanying photographs, will be forthcoming in a subsequent issue of *AUSS* this year.

Andrews University will also soon begin archaeological work in Israel, and reports are planned concerning the progress of the surveys and excavations there. In the present issue of *AUSS*, Randall Younker, Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, provides a preview notice regarding a special archaeological survey planned for the summer of 1988. Also in this issue P. David Merling, Curator of the Horn Archaeological

Museum, presents a tribute for Siegfried Horn's 80th birthday, together with a report on the status of refurbishment of the Horn Museum.

In closing this preview of the 1988 volume of *AUSS*, I wish to thank both our readers and contributors, as well as our staff, for the kind support given to *AUSS*.

Kenneth A. Strand
Editor