

MR. AUSS

In this special issue, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* pays tribute to Kenneth A. Strand. Since Strand's retirement in 1994 we have surreptitiously been preparing this issue, not only to honor Strand, but because we want to savor once more his incurable delight at a surprise! With love and admiration we present these pages to Mr. AUSS!

Although AUSS was founded by the well-known archaeologist and professor of ancient history, Siegfried H. Horn, Strand's tenure as associate editor, coeditor, book-review editor, and editor-in-chief spans nearly three decades. Besides numerous book notices and introductory paragraphs here and there, Strand has contributed 39 articles and 72 book reviews to AUSS. Recently he spoke to me of some ideas for future articles. His massive scholarly contribution is delineated in the bibliography. Appropriately, Strand's biography has been drafted by historian George Knight, Strand's colleague in the Department of Church History and AUSS collaborator.

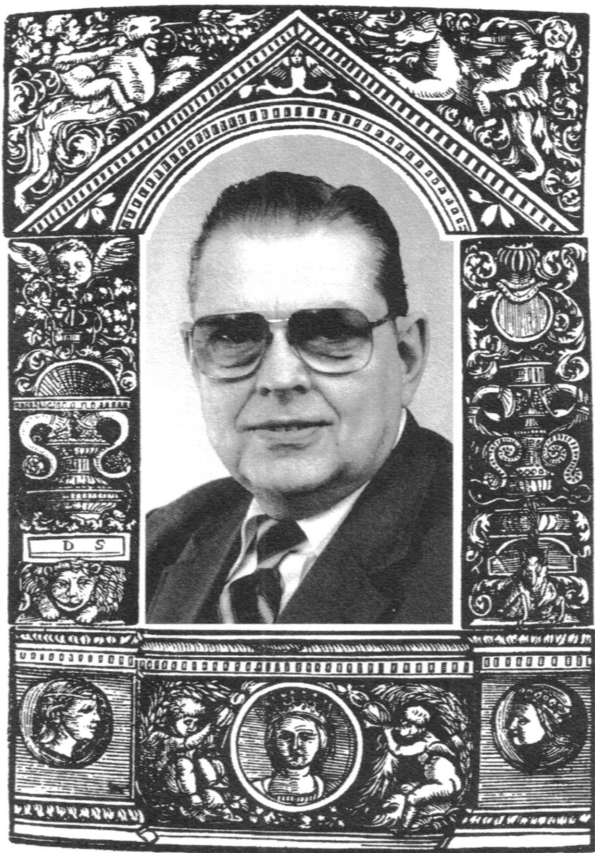
When we began to discuss the contents of this number, we wondered if we might center the articles on a theme. As we reviewed Strand's interests, we decided instead to bring in items representing some of his major pursuits. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to include them all. A glaring omission involves the Brethren of the Common Life.

John Baldwin's article on the *Heerpredigt* stands for Strand's interest in Luther studies, which he has taught to generations of students. Robert McIver explores the Sabbath in Matthew in honor of Strand's work on the Sabbath, in both history and theology. Nancy Vyhmeister's article on patronage in James relates to Strand's passion for biblical interpretation, as well as the Mediterranean world with which Strand is so familiar.

Two articles on the Apocalypse speak to the rich contribution to Revelation studies made by Strand over the years. Josephine Massingbaerde Ford writes as a colleague; Jon Paulien is a former student who now teaches courses Strand once taught.

The dissertations abstracted in this issue of AUSS represent Strand's years of service on the Ph.D.-Th.D. Committee. He either chaired the dissertation defenses or was a member of the doctoral committees of candidates whose dissertation work appears in this issue.

Given the broad scope of book reviews written by Strand through the years, we felt no need to limit the topics of books reviewed. Truly a Renaissance man, Strand was and is well-versed in all these areas and more.



KENNETH A. STRAND
appropriately framed in a woodcut from the title page of the
1524 Augsburg New Testament.

To Mr. *AUSS*: Thank you for the toil and sleepless nights, your patient teaching, the postcards from faraway places, the boxes of chocolates for no good reason at all, and the inspiration you have been to all of us at *AUSS* and the Seminary. May God bless your retirement years and make them fruitful!

Nancy J. Vyhmeister



The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. A woodcut by Lucas Cranach in *Luther's September Bible*. Reproduced from Strand, *Woodcuts from the Earliest Lutheran and Emserian New Testaments*, p. 27.