

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEMINARY STUDIES
1963-2002

They say that time flies when you're having fun. And the years have flown by since *AUSS* first emerged on the scholarly publication scene in 1963. Editors have come and gone, technology has changed, but articles continue to arrive from around the globe. Regarding technology, Leona Running likes to recount how, in the "good old days," the journal was prepared on a typewriter, packaged, and the only copy shipped to Brill Publishing of the Netherlands. Running recalls how the staff would pray that the sole copy would reach the printers safely. In those days, photocopies, fax machines, and computer disks were nonexistent. Incredibly, not one manuscript was ever lost in transit.

Founding editor Siegfried H. Horn noted in *AUSS* volume 1 that throughout its then nearly 30 years of existence, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary "has had no regular outlet for articles of a scholarly character written by members of its faculty, students, and alumni." Thus, "there has been a growing sense of need for a suitable journal sponsored by the Seminary. This new publication, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* is launched to meet this need."¹

He and his associates, Earle Hilgert and Douglas Walther, envisioned a scholarly publication that would provide up-to-date theological scholarship in "Biblical linguistics and its cognates, textual criticism, exegesis, Biblical archaeology and geography, ancient history, church history, theology, philosophy of religion, ethics and comparative religions."² Scholars from around the world were invited to participate in this new venture "regardless of . . . creed," with articles accepted in English, French, or German.

The table of contents from volume 1 is impressive. Not only were the authors of that first volume representative of the larger international community (Swiss, Australian, German, Korean, and American), but they also came from prestigious backgrounds. For instance, E. R. Thiele unlocked "The Synchronisms of the Hebrew Kings." Kenneth A. Strand, a versatile scholar of church history and theology, would later become editor of *Seminary Studies* and the second most prolific writer for the journal (exceeded only by William Shea of the Biblical Research Institute, retired). William B.

¹Siegfried H. Horn, "Introducing *Andrews University Seminary Studies*," *AUSS* 1 (1963): 3.

²*Ibid.*

Bishai of the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, provided commentary on "Sabbath Observance from Coptic Sources." Desmond Ford, a young Australian scholar, in his article "Ethics, Chaos, and Cosmos,"³ anticipated the influence of existential thought on what would later come to be called the postmodern generation when he noted that "the dominant conceptual myths found in literature today are (1) Voyage, (2) Hell, (3) Isolation, and (4) Doubt," and in his agreement with Dostoevsky that the source of this crisis lay in the lack of "agreed-upon ethical values."

The first two volumes were each a single issue of 168 pages. With volume 3 in 1965, the frequency increased to two issues per year, of about 100 pages each. Throughout the years, the editors of *Seminary Studies* have continued a tradition of presenting current and relevant scholarship that spans the theological encyclopedia, presented not only by theologians within the Adventist community, but also by others sharing similar views of Scripture. While the overall purpose of the journal, as articulated by the founding editor, has been to provide a particularly Seventh-day Adventist forum,⁴ *Seminary Studies* has been pleased to also feature other scholars such as Walter C. Kaiser Jr. (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary), Elmer A. Martens (Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary), Bruce Waltke (Regent College), Josephine Massyngbaerde Ford (University of Notre Dame), Gregory K. Beale (Wheaton College), and Steven Moyise (University College, Chichester, England). These, and many others like them, help to inform our readership on the latest debates and issues in a wide variety of fields of study.

This commitment to excellence has been the goal of each editor, who has brought his or her unique style and strengths to the journal. Siegfried H. Horn (founding editor, 1963-1974), who exhibited an unbending Germanic devotion to academic rigor, was an adventurer. Among his many and diverse ventures, he served as a minister in Holland, and in 1932 accepted a post as a missionary in the Dutch West Indies. During World War II, he was interned as a political prisoner of war for nearly seven years. During his imprisonment, he taught Greek, Hebrew, and other courses to his fellow prisoners, and prepared book manuscripts for later publication. When released at the end of the war, Horn continued his education, earning a Ph.D. in Egyptology from the Oriental Institute in 1951.⁵ He subsequently laid the foundation for a strong Seventh-day Adventist presence in the field of middle eastern archaeology. His original



³Desmond Ford, "Ethics, Chaos, and Cosmos," *AUSS* 1 (1963): 33, 35.

⁴Horn, 3.

⁵Nancy J. Vyhmeister, "Siegfried H. Horn: 1908-1993: A Tribute," *AUSS* 32 (1994): 4-6.

excavation at Tall Hisban, Jordan, has grown to three major sites, now known as the Madaba Plains Project, including Tall Hisban, Tall Al-'Umayri, and Tall Jalul.⁶ *AUSS* continues to be the venue for the project's preliminary dig reports.

Kenneth A. Strand (Ph.D. in Church History, University of Michigan) served as editor from 1974 to 1987. In the spring of 1981, he introduced a visual facelift for the journal. The original cover design, from 1963 to 1981, had placed the table of contents on the front, in blue ink on pastel-green cover



stock. The new design in 1981 has continued unchanged to the present. Also in 1981, Strand announced an increase to three issues per year, totaling 220-240 pages. In 1988, Strand became co-editor, first with George Knight (1988-1991) and then with Nancy Vyhmeister (1991-1994). Strand brought to *AUSS* the strengths of a truly multidisciplinary expertise. He eventually chaired the

Church History department, but also taught for the NT department and the School of Education at Andrews. His first specialty was the Lutheran Reformation, but he also worked on broader historical-theological issues such as the history of the Sabbath and Sunday; NT exegesis (especially structural analysis of the Apocalypse), other areas of biblical interpretation, and Mediterranean world views. Strand published twenty-three books, edited others, and wrote numerous articles and book reviews. In 1995, the journal published a *Festschrift* in honor of his retirement. In that issue, Nancy Vyhmeister called him "Mr. *AUSS*," a fitting tribute to his years of editorial service.⁷

George R. Knight (Ed.D., University of Houston; co-editor with Strand from 1988-1991) is professor of Church History in the Andrews University Theological Seminary. Both a prolific writer and a popular teacher, Knight



specializes in educational philosophy and related issues, American church history, religious liberty, Seventh-day Adventist history, development of Adventist theology and lifestyle, and the relevance of all of these for current issues in the church. His frank appraisals continue to exert a well-known influence on Seventh-day Adventist thought.

Nancy Vyhmeister (Ed.D., Andrews University), began her *AUSS* career as co-editor with Strand from 1991-1994. With Strand's retirement, she became editor-in-chief until her (first) retirement in 2000. Vyhmeister has served at many posts throughout her tenure as an educator. Also an

⁶See the 1998-1999 dig reports in *AUSS* 38 (2000): 9-58.

⁷See *AUSS* 33 (1995): 164.

adventurous person, she served with her husband Werner at posts in South America, the Philippines, India, and the United States. Her specialities include NT, world mission, and, of course, research methods and dissertation writing. She continues to work with doctoral students around the world.



Jerry Moon (Ph.D. in Adventist Studies, Andrews University), current editor of *AUSS*, is also associate professor of church history. His areas of interest include Seventh-day Adventist history, development of Adventist theology and lifestyle, Ellen G. White studies, and the Lutheran and Anabaptist movements of the sixteenth-century Reformation. He is co-editor with Denis Fortin of the forthcoming *Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*.

As the staff at *Andrews University Seminary Studies* reflects on the rewards and challenges of the past forty years, one especially bright light is that of former associate editor (and current copy editor and ANE- and modern-language specialist), Leona Glidden Running (Ph.D. in Semitic Languages,



Johns Hopkins University, 1964). As *AUSS* celebrates forty years, Dr. Running also celebrates forty years with *AUSS*. She is not only a distinguished ANE scholar (as well as a student and biographer of W. F. Albright), but also bears the distinction of being the first woman professor in the Andrews University Theological Seminary. At the conclusion of spring semester 2002, she retired again from teaching, but continues her expert editing for *AUSS* and other entities as well. We greatly appreciate her support and encouragement, along with her many hours of careful copy editing.

The editorial team at *AUSS*, with the support of authors from around the world, commit ourselves to upholding the tradition of excellent biblical scholarship.

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