

TO HONOR JERALD C. BRAUER

It is not easy to edit an issue of a journal without the knowledge or participation of one of the two coeditors. But the editorial assistants, special editor, and I have done just that in the case of Jerald C. Brauer. He turns seventy late this summer, and in the name of the American Society of Church History, its Council, and the editorial advisory council of *Church History* and its staff, we dedicate this issue to him. Members of the Society and readers of this journal will be glad to hear that the Council asked him to remain in his coediting post and named him to another term.

Certainly an honor such as this modest one is due Professor Brauer, or Jerry as he is known to colleagues and fellow Society members. In the century-long life of the A.S.C.H. only founder Philip Schaff had more influence on its publications, and even the venerable Schaff cannot match Brauer for hours and years of service. He was named to the editorial staff in 1962.

During the years that I have been coeditor (with Robert M. Grant also serving through most of those years), Brauer has worked in many capacities. He has cooperated especially well with the graduate students who have assisted in editing. He has faithfully attended Society meetings, reported to the Council and the membership, and carried back direction received from those meetings. While "refereeing the referees" of article submissions is a task whose buck stops at my desk, he has participated in most evaluations, including all of the controversial ones.

Speaking of controversial roles, however, his task as book review editor has certainly positioned him well. Someone has said that authors do not remember favorable reviews; instead they recall the bruises and slights in unfavorable lines or reviews. Sometimes they carry their resentments over to the persons who chose the reviewer. In all the years that I have worked with him I have to say that Brauer has consistently striven for nothing but quality in reviews. He has no taste for literary feuds and gives no encouragement to *ad hominem* attacks. The record of fairness, judiciousness, and appropriateness that he has shown in choice of reviewers speaks for itself.

I want to thank John Corrigan, Ralph Keen, and Kenneth Sawyer, whose dissertations Brauer advised, for their initiative, their participation in editing, and in the first two cases their willingness to submit work of their own to the reviewing process and in the third instance for the bibliographic material. The articles in this issue are either by Brauer students or they deal with themes associated with him through his long career of teaching. Let it be said that in every case the same standard that we try to apply in all other issues was also here employed: we asked what would be of greatest interest and highest quality and thus what would best serve the membership.

His school and former students will no doubt find their own ways to pay their regard at this milestone; the present moment belongs exclusively to the

Society. But I cannot let this moment pass without paying personal respects to the coeditor with whom I have through the years shared a thousand confidences and ten thousand decisions. He was the professor who encouraged me to come to the University of Chicago, one of my thesis advisors, a counsellor to *The Christian Century* who nominated me to edit for them, the dean under whose administration I was brought to the faculty, the colleague with whom I have been teaching, examining, and advising through three decades. The fact that in all these relationships we could operate on the highest level of critical intention and with the deepest level of friendship signals the kind of reasons which motivate so many of us to pay respects.

And, since we have on hand the reviews he solicited for this issue, we are more than ready to go with the next one. That ought to make it possible for him to have an afternoon off, during which we shall toast him—no doubt with one of his own beloved German wines.

Martin E. Marty