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# Church History

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# CHURCH HISTORY

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## Preface to a Special Issue

Now and then a journal of history ought to be permitted to make history, or at least to make the attempt. This issue of *Church History* sets out to do that, for it is to serve also as an instrument for the society in its annual Spring meeting, to be held at Chicago on April 23 and 24, 1971. It has a theme, devoted as it is to religious and historical perspectives on "the counter culture." In a sense, it has a guest editor: Professor Clyde Manschreck of Chicago Theological Seminary, head of the host committee, cajoled papers on these themes from a distinguished group of historians and did so five months ahead of conventional deadlines! It has a different format (no book reviews, for instance) and presents some materials in different *genre*, as "work in process."

The occasion for this issue grew out of suggestions by members of the American Society of Church History, people who had grown weary of the unvarying formula for professional society meetings: a long sequence of long papers, followed by brief questions led off by one appointed critic. Many of us are better trained to scan with the eye than to endure with the ear for a period of a couple of days at a time, especially if what is to be read is thoughtful and manifests research. Could not the A.S.C.H. experiment once, at least, with a different approach?

The papers in this issue will provide the substance of the April meeting in Chicago. They will not be read there. Each author-lecturer will open the session, taking a few minutes to accent high points, describe more recent findings, make minor revisions, and suggest motifs for discussion. His appointed critic will do the same. Thereafter, conference participants, who will have had an opportunity to read the paper in advance, will be able to discuss it on the level of a post-doctoral seminar. Those who plan to come should bring this journal with them, since the publisher cannot guarantee that extra copies will be available.

If the March issue was to be designed for the large minority that comes to Spring meetings, the editors did feel obliged to give equal attention to the majority that cannot. It would be unfortunate if the attempt to do service for some would be a disservice for others. For one thing, almost half the subscribers are libraries and not private citizens and members. They should be guaranteed a journal of quality equal to that which comes every three months. For another, these issues of the journal are not supposed to have ephemeral character alone, so the papers had to merit publication on their own terms.

If non-attending readers' interests had to be protected, so did the integrity of the authors. Few of us would be venturesome enough to expose ourselves to the kind of discussion which can develop at Chicago, where the lecturer will not have the traditional kinds of advantages over the audience. Even fewer could meet a sudden and surprising deadline five months earlier than what had been expected. We have assured the authors that we would underscore the obvious: not all papers are in final form. Eleven of the thirteen that will be read in Chicago are here; eight of these are complete; one is an extended outline, one a precis, one a sketchy proposal. Together these all suggest the excitement of unfinished "work in process." As editors we are as pleased with them as we think readers will be.

R.M.G.

J.C.B.

M.E.M.

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## 1971 BREWER PRIZE CONTEST

The American Society of Church History announces that its next Brewer Prize competition for a booklength manuscript in Church History will conclude in 1971. The award will be announced at the annual meeting of the Society in December of that year. It will consist of a subsidy of \$1,000 to assist the author in the publication of the winning manuscript which shall be described on its title page as the "Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize Essay of the American Society of Church History" and shall be published in a manner acceptable to the Society. If competing essays are otherwise of equal quality, preference will be given to those dealing with topics relating to the history of Congregationalism. Complete manuscripts in final form, fully annotated, must be in the hands of the secretary, Professor James H. Smylie, Union Theological Seminary, 3401 Brook Rd., Richmond, Virginia by June 1, 1971. No manuscripts previously submitted will be considered.

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Bound copies of former Brewer Prize publications, still available at \$1.00 a copy, are as follows:

*Episcopal Appointments and Patronage in the Reign of Edward II*

By Waldo E. J. Smith. 1938

*The Reformation Refugees as an Economic Force*

By Frederick A. Norwood. 1942

*The Great Awakening In Nova Scotia. 1775-1809*

By Maurice W. Armstrong. 1948

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