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AN EDITORIAL NOTE

Through the thirty-five years that we have edited *Church History* we have taken care that it remain nothing but a scholarly journal and the log for American Society of Church History proceedings. This means that we have always kept personal references and notices to a minimum.

In this rare exceptional instance, the two of us wish to pass on a word of greeting as we retire from joint editorship and turn the work over to a very capable new team. It has been an unparalleled honor for us to serve the Society and the profession in this way. We leave the position without regret over the fact that we will now be relieved of the duties and work that go with our offices. At the same time we regret that we will no longer be at the crossroads where, through attendance and reporting at all annual meetings (and informally at many spring meetings), personal contacts, telephone conversations and correspondence, we have established so many lasting friendships within a profession that also values criticism and the making of judgments.

We have both received a liberal education, M.E.M. through having read thousands of manuscripts and J.C.B. through having made judgments about books to review and the reviews themselves. We envy the new editors the learning that will come their way as they take up these roles.

This is the moment to thank the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of those who in over a third of a century have written articles or refereed them and reviewed books; those who on the Council of the Society and an editorial board counselled the editors; the officers and especially the secretary-treasurers; our colleague until his retirement, Robert M. Grant.

Most of all, this expression of friendship and gratitude reaches to the succession of University of Chicago Divinity School graduate student Assistants to the Editors. Most of them have gone on to careers in church history teaching and writing themselves, whence they also continue to educate us and from which positions they regularly send greetings to the Society members with whom they became acquainted through their demanding but, as in our case, rewarding work.

Historians of all people know about passages of time, ephemerality, and transience. We have been honored to have had our thirty-five year moment on this corner of the historians' stage, and now will begin to lean back and enjoy the work of successors in their turn.

Jerald C. Brauer and Martin E. Marty

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