

International

# NEWSLETTER

Bonhoeffer Society *for Archive and Research*

*English  
Language Section*

Number 20, December 1980

Editor: Clifford Green

Secretary: Geoffrey Kelly, La Salle College, Philadelphia, PA 19141

## THE DALLAS MEETING

1980 was the centennial celebration of the Society of Biblical Literature, and many special lectures and events in the AAR/SBL convention resulted in unusual program arrangements for Affiliated Organizations like the Bonhoeffer Society. This Society has no objection to the study of the Bible, but members were less than happy to have a marathon four-hour Friday night session which not only competed with other Affiliated Organizations but also with Hans Küng! In spite of this a good session was held, though with about half the usual number attending. The officers have since been assured by Jill Raitt, President of the AAR, that this was a one-time, unusual circumstance and that the AAR does not intend to marginalize the Affiliated Organizations (cf. "Der Blick von unten").

Spirited and fruitful discussion followed the two papers by Dena Davis ("Bonhoeffer, Gandhi and Pacifism") and Clarke Chapman ("Bonhoeffer and Liberation Theology," a variant of his Oxford paper); responses by Burton Nelson and Harry Booth, respectively, introduced the discussion.

After a necessary break the Ethics Seminar group and other interested members met. Working papers by John Godsey ("Bonhoeffer's Understanding of Love"), Clifford Green ("Supplement to 'Bonhoeffer's Ethics: A Research Brief'"), Patrick Kelley ("One Reality: the Trajectory of Bonhoeffer's Course from Churchly to Worldly Forms of Thinking in his Ethics") and Geoffrey Kelly ("A Priori Use of Revelation in the Shifting Structure of Bonhoeffer's Ethics Text") were briefly summarized; and oral reports on work in progress for this project were made by Harry Booth, Jim Burtness and Bill Peck. The group, under the convenorship of Bill Peck, will continue its work in the coming year in the hope of having finished papers essentially ready for publication at the next AAR meeting in December, 1981.

The Executive Committee met for a luncheon meeting on Saturday. More news on publication projects, the Oxford proceedings volume, next year's meeting, and dues is found below.

## NEW MEMBERS

The dust of Oxford has almost finally settled, and membership and mailing lists are now in order. Some of the following new members, who are cordially welcomed in public to the Society, have joined many months ago. (Apologies to any who missed previous Newsletters--Geffrey Kelly will be happy to supply those who notify him of missing copies.) Society membership now stands at 195, with an additional 100 on the general mailing list.

Rev. Campbell Stamp, 3 Grosvenor Villas, Jesmond, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England NE2 2RH  
Lisa Sarracino, 7 Charles St., Burgettstown, PA 15021  
Steven D. Fratt, 121 W. Arrellaga St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Dr. LeRoy Friesen, Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, Elkhart, IN 46514  
Rev. Terrence Reynolds, 19 Mount Ave., Providence, RI 02906  
Clinton E. Stockwell, 2224 Annunciation, New Orleans, LA 70130  
Dr. John F. Byerly, 1603 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23220  
Donald Louie, 3599 Pennsylvania (#226), Fremont, CA 94536  
Dr. Nancy Lukens, c/- Dept. of German, College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691  
Lloyd H. Steffen, Dept. of Religious Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912  
Pastor Donald Wahlgren, R.R. 1, Monticello, IA 52310  
D. A. Kemalyan, 2208 41st. Avenue, Oakland, CA 94601  
Craig Shull, 99-856 Lalawai Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 76701  
Robert E. Ecklund M.D., 11806 Frances St., Omaha, NE 68144  
Pamela Huff, Wesley Theological Seminary, 4400 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20016  
Paul Hymes, 517 Highview Drive, Fox River Grove, IL 60021  
Rev. Donald Ricketts, 1250 S. Lynhurst Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241  
Dr. Chris Thomas, Department of Religions, University of Ghana, P.O. Box 66, Legon, Accra, Ghana  
Ian Wallace, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, IN 46517

All members and friends of the Society are invited to send news of work in progress, and other events and information of interest, to the Editor for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter.

[The two following items were kindly supplied by Patrick Kelly, Lynchburg College.]

## BONHOEFFER STUDY TOUR

Shared previous interests in Bonhoeffer again proved a special catalyst to form a diverse group of pastors, professors and lay persons from all over the U.S. into a "Bonhoeffer Study Tour" led by Society member F. Burton Nelson last August 31 - September 14. Their two weeks of intense experience of life together began with a conference with West Berliners, East Germans, a Turkish economist, and a bishop of the Church of Kerala on "The Significance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in 1980 with particular attention to the Socialist Countries and the Third World." These sessions met at the Evangelische Akademie, a Study and Retreat House of the church in West Berlin, whose garden fronted on the beautiful

Wannsee, itself decked out in all the splendor of Berlin's early autumn. Leaders included Akademie Director Franz Hammerstein (confirmed by Martin Niemoeller in the midst of the Church Struggle), his predecessor Winfried Maechler (Bonhoeffer's student both in the University of Berlin and in the Zingst-Finkenwalde Seminary), Eberhard Bethge, Martin Kuske, Dieter Kraft (whose 1979 dissertation under Hanfried Mueller dealt with Bonhoeffer's theological epistemology), and Tom Day.

Visits to Berlin sites important in the Church Struggle and the Resistance were interspersed with receptions and a performance of the New York City Ballet in the City Opera! Conversation with Hanfried Mueller and Carl-Juergen Kaltenborn at the Humboldt University, and visits to the Wedding area of Berlin (now in the German Democratic Republic) were arranged for the tour group.

Its second week travelled the tradition Luther Tour route under the East German Travel Bureau's auspices. Special additions for this group included visits with church officials and to Buchenwald where Bonhoeffer was held from February to early April of 1945. Close bonds of friendship were established among the tour participants in spite of the brevity of their two weeks together. Burton promises an even better tour for those who might be interested in future years. If you are interested, contact him at: North Park Seminary, 5125 North Spaulding Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.

#### BETHGES TO VISIT UNITED STATES IN 1981

Eberhard and Renate Bethge will be "Scholars in residence" at Lynchburg College in Virginia for the Fall Semester of 1981. Their activities there will begin with leadership of an Institute for ministers and Scholars on "What Bonhoeffer Means to the Church Today," August 12-14. As additional conferences and lectures in Lynchburg permit, the Bethges will also be able to accept invitations to lecture in churches and other institutions during the semester which ends before Christmas. Further information about the Institute, or the possibility of arranging for the Bethges to lecture elsewhere, should be directed to: J. P. Kelley, Department of Religious Studies, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA 24501; (804) 845-9071 x291, or (804) 845-1032. F. Burton Nelson (North Park Seminary, 5125 N. Spaulding Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625) is helping to coordinate a projected visit by the Bethges to the Mid-west. Persons interested in having them visit their institutions in this area may contact either Kelley or Nelson.

#### DUES FOR 1980-81 NOW PAYABLE

Despite galloping inflation dues have remained at \$10 for seven years. The Executive Committee, at its meeting in Oxford last April, decided that rising costs required an increase in dues

4/80 dues

to \$15. This will go into effect on February 1, 1981. Any members paying their dues before then may pay at the old rate. Please note that, according to our established policy, those who have a hardship paying the full dues (because they are students, retired, unemployed, etc.) may keep their membership active by a smaller payment; please inform the Treasurer if this provision concerns you. Anticipating the results of the election of officers (see below), dues from now on should be sent to: Rev. Ronald F. Christian, 9813 Covent Court, Fairfax, VA 22030. ~~Members and friends~~ are reminded that dues bring the following benefits: several Newsletters per year; annual conference papers; use of the Bonhoeffer Archive at Union Seminary library without charge; assistance with research; and Society publications at preferred rates.

Now for the good news: dues-paying members of the Society will receive, at no charge above the \$15 annual dues, a series of books on Bonhoeffer studies planned for publication over the next few years. The Executive Committee has concluded a publishing plan with the Edwin Mellen Press, directed by Professor Herbert W. Richardson of the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto. Geffrey Kelly and John Godsey are currently editing the first volume, the proceedings of the Oxford Conference. Projected future volumes include papers from past conferences, an occasional dissertation, the book resulting from the Ethics project, Bonhoeffer texts, etc. These books will normally sell on the open market for \$16 to \$20. In light of this the increase in dues is more apparent than real--where could you find a better bargain? To make this plan work we must appeal to all members to keep their dues paid up. In the past we have carried on the membership roll those whose dues are a year, or sometimes more, in arrears. Obviously it will not be possible to provide free books to those whose dues are not current. So send your check, payable to "Bonhoeffer Society," now to Ron Christian.

USE OF THE BONHOEFFER ARCHIVE AT UNION SEMINARY LIBRARY

Since the Bonhoeffer Archive at Union Seminary was officially opened in 1977, there has been some uncertainty about arrangements for use and borrowing of materials by scholars doing research at the Seminary. This has now been clarified by the new director of the Library, Mr. Richard Spoor. The Library is obviously anxious to preserve maximum availability of materials, and for this reason prefers scholars to use materials at the Library itself rather than checking them out. However, it also recognizes that scholars visiting for limited periods wish to make maximum use of their time, which might involve using books at weekends or other times when the library is closed or on reduced hours. Accordingly it has been agreed that members of the Society doing research at the Seminary may request permission to borrow books for local use during the duration of their stay, and such permission will normally be granted. Mr. Spoor, or Ms. Barbara Griffis, would be the first people to ask for when seeking such permission. Be sure to identify yourself with your Society membership card.

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BONHOEFFER SOCIETY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE SECTION

[Since the Newsletter is the "journal of record" for the Society, we print here the Constitution ratified by vote of members last summer.]

Article 1 Name The society herein constituted shall bear the name "International Bonhoeffer Society, English Language Section."

Article 2 Purpose The purpose of the Society shall be to encourage scholarship concerning the theology, life and influence of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and to foster constructive theological and ethical studies stimulated by his legacy, by such means as

- a) organizing archives and research collections of Bonhoeffer's writings and literature about him
- b) cooperating with scholarly societies in North America (such as the American Academy of Religion) and overseas
- c) conferences
- d) publications

Article 3 Membership Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons interested in fulfilling the purposes of the Society upon payment of annual membership dues. (Special dues provisions may be made by the Board for students, retired persons, and others.)

Article 4 Meetings Meetings of the Society, normally one per year, shall be held at the direction of the Board of Directors.

Article 5 Board of Directors The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Society and shall consist of at least eight persons; it may include corresponding members. Election to the Board shall ordinarily be for a term of four years, two Directors retiring at each annual meeting of the Society; retiring Directors shall be eligible for re-election. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once annually to further the work of the Society; a quorum shall be four persons. The Officers of the Society, and other Directors who can conveniently meet with them, shall constitute an Executive Committee to transact the business of the Society in between annual meetings of the Board of Directors.

Article 6 Officers Officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors, and proximity of officers to facilitate meetings of the Executive Committee shall be considered. The Board of Directors will determine the term of office. The signing officers will be the Treasurer and one other officer.

Article 7 Amendments The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members, either at any meeting of the Society after due notice, or by mail ballot if the Board deems this more appropriate.

Article 8 Official status The Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt educational organization as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (C) (3). Should the Society ever dissolve, any assets must be distributed for tax-exempt purposes as defined in Section 501 (C) (3) of the Code.

#### ELECTION OF BOARD

Due to the relatively small number of members present at the Dallas meeting because of the program problem, the Executive Committee decided that the Board should be elected by a mail ballot; this is found on the following page. It was felt simplest at this point to nominate the presently serving committee, plus Patrick Kelley and Burton Nelson. Note the space on the bottom for nominations for the next election. Dues-paying members are urged to send their votes as soon as possible to: Dr. Geoffrey Kelly, La Salle College, Philadelphia, PA, 19141; simply return the bottom section of the ballot with your vote.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

The next meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AAR which will be held in San Francisco, December 19-22, 1981. (The AAR apologizes for the date, but it was necessitated when another hotel withdrew at the last minute.) We plan two or three papers, and members and friends are requested to send their proposals, in the form of a 1-2 page precis, to Geoffrey Kelly as soon as possible; you will be informed of a decision in the spring. Members of the Ethics Seminar are asked to keep in touch with Bill Peck about the progress of their work.

#### NEWS ITEMS

Translation and editorial work on the English edition of Bonhoeffer's Fragmente aus Tegel has been completed, and Fortress Press plans publication in 1981; the probable title is Fiction from Prison. Gathering up the Past. The translation was made by Ursula Hoffmann, the commentary was written by Ruth Zerner (as in the original German edition), and the English translation was edited by Clifford Green.

No international news has been supplied for this Newsletter. F. Gerald Downing writes from Britain to say that formation of a Bonhoeffer group there is still in the early stages. Members and friends in Britain should note Gerald's new address: 44 Cleveland Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, England M8 6QU.

INTERNATIONAL BONHOEFFER SOCIETY: ENGLISH LANGUAGE SECTION

Ballot

The following candidates are proposed by the outgoing Executive Committee to constitute the Society's Board of Directors. Members of the Board elect the officers from their own number and such officers, together with other Directors who can conveniently meet with them, will constitute the Executive Committee. (For this first formal election, the Directors will decide on individual terms of office; maximum term is four years, two Directors retire annually, and are eligible for re-election.) This vote will be supplemented by a mail ballot of dues-paying members not present at Dallas.

James Burtness, Luther Theological Seminary

Ronald Christian, Fairfax, VA (has agreed to serve as Treasurer if elected)

John Godsey, Wesley Theological Seminary

Clifford Green, Baltimore, MD

Geffrey Kelly, La Salle College (has agreed to serve as Secretary if elected)

J. Patrick Kelley, Lynchburg College

F. Burton Nelson, North Park Theological Seminary

William Peck, University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill

Larry Rasmussen, Wesley Theological Seminary

Ruth Zerner, Herbert Lehman College

Corresponding Members

Tom Day, West Berlin

John de Gruchy, University of Cape Town, South Africa

British group: to be chosen by its members

Nominated from the floor, write-ins

Nominations for 1981 election

I vote the entire slate \_\_\_\_\_. I vote the candidates checked \_\_\_\_\_.

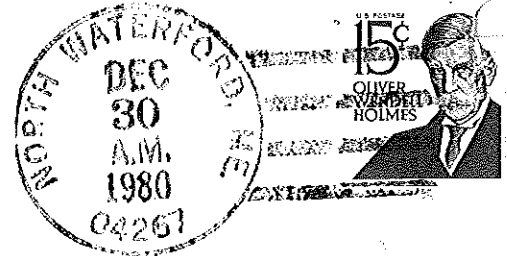
NEWS ITEMS (CONT.)

It is hoped that the next issue of the Newsletter will be devoted to a bibliography update. Those who have items for inclusion should send them to Clifford Green as soon as possible.

Under the special editorship of Franklin Littell (with Irene Shur and Marvin Wolfgang), the July, 1980 volume of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science is devoted to "Reflections on the Holocaust." Its many contributions include Franklin Littell on "Fundamentals in Holocaust Studies," John Conway on "The Holocaust and the Historians," Armin Boyens on "The Ecumenical Community and the Holocaust," Robert Drinan on "The Christian Response to the Holocaust," and Alan Davies on "Racism and German Protestant Theology." It is available from the Academy at 3937 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Burton Nelson is working on arrangements for a U.S. lecture tour by Werner Koch in October-November, 1981. Dr. Koch, who was a student of Bonhoeffer, is willing to lecture on the Church Struggle and the resistance movement and also to preach. For fuller details and arrangements, contact Burton at North Park Theological Seminary, 5125 North Spaulding Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625.

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