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Editor: Clifford Green, Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Society Meeting in St. Louis, October, 1976

An interesting program has been prepared for the two sessions of the Society during the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in St. Louis, October 28-31. Full details will be available in the program booklet and Bulletin of the Academy. Meanwhile, here is the list of papers:

"Bonhoeffer and the Trajectories of Faith," Robin Lovin, Harvard Divinity School, and Jonathan P. Gosser, South Bend, Indiana.
(Respondents: Geoffrey Kelly, James Burtness.)

"Bonhoeffer and Pacifism," Dale W. Brown, Bethany Theological Seminary.
(Respondents: Ruth Zerner, Burton Nelson.)

"The Influence of Reinhold Seeberg on Bonhoeffer's Theology," John P. Beal, Louvain, Belgium. (Respondents to be announced.)

"Psycho-history and Bonhoeffer Scholarship," William Jay Peck, UNC, Chapel Hill. (Respondents: Clifford Green, Harry Booth.)

Papers will be mailed out in advance, probably in early October. This allows the full time of the sessions to be given over to discussion. Those who plan to attend the sessions are asked to send a note or card to Geff so that he can compile the mailing list for the authors. If you cannot attend the sessions but would like to have one or more papers, please indicate this to Geff also; papers are free to subscribing members; others are asked to remit one dollar per paper to cover costs of printing and postage (make checks payable to "Bonhoeffer Society").

We expect Eberhard Bethge (who will be teaching in New York in the fall --see last Newsletter) to be present with us. A social gathering is also planned to give members an opportunity for informal conversations.

The Executive Committee will meet at the breakfast session scheduled on the program. Geoffrey Kelly has reserved the table and will be purchasing the tickets. Any members of the Committee who cannot attend are asked to inform Geff so that visitors can be invited to sit in on the meeting.

Members of the Society who are also members of the AAR will receive their program materials and registration information in the Academy's fall mailing. Those who are members of the Bonhoeffer Society but not members of the AAR are welcome to attend the sessions, but must register for the convention. Write, in September, to: Council of the Study of Religion, Executive Office, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; this office will also provide forms for reserving rooms at the convention hotel in St. Louis.

This will be the third annual gathering of Society members in conjunction with the AAR convention (the Society is an Affiliated Organization of the AAR). Discussions in the past have been lively, well-prepared and friendly. We look forward to more of the same next October, and an opportunity to meet many of the new members who have joined the society since our gathering in Chicago last fall.

Please act now! Send your requests for papers etc. to our Secretary, Geoffrey Kelly, La Salle College, Philadelphia, Pa. 19141. There will not be another Newsletter before the October meetings, so this is your one and only reminder!

New Members

Membership in the Society continues to grow impressively, in considerable part due to the indefatigable efforts of our secretary. Subscribing members now total 94 people, and the membership is quite diverse: professors, undergraduates and graduate students, pastors, church executives and other students of Bonhoeffer from various professions. This is a good point to remind all members that the assistance of the Executive Committee and other members is readily available (within human limits!) on a variety of projects, and that your suggestions and news for the Newsletter are always welcome. The most recent group of new members is:

Dr. John F. Boogaert, 4648 N. 6th St., Fresno, California 93726

Rev. Jonathan Gosser, 921 N. Cleveland Ave., South Bend, Indiana 46628

Jonna Gosser (same address)

Lawrence Fry, Box 209, Beattie, Kansas 66406

Miss Mary Brake, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va. 22304

Charles A. Oehrig, Divn. of Church Education, American Baptist Churches
USA, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481

Professor Harry Booth, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. 17013

Mrs. Sara Engle, 223 E. 3rd St., Waynesboro, Pa. 17268

Ernst E. Klein, 335 Harvard St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Rev. Lloyd Kalland, Gordon-Conwell Seminary, So. Hamilton, Mass. 01982

Robin W. Lovin, 67 Hammond St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Rev. Edward G. Hampson, 3481 University St., Montreal P.Q., Canada

Professor Charles Spring, Colorado Women's College, Denver, Colorado
80220

Dena S. Davis, 5094 Victoria Ave., Montreal P.Q., Canada

Melanie Morrison, 27 Braddock Park, Boston, Mass. 02116

Rev. John H. Spencer, First Baptist Church, Greenville, Pa. 16125

Floyd A. Loomis, 28 Greenwich Park, Boston, Mass. 02118

Robert P. Anderson, Jr., 19 Latham Lane, Noank, Connecticut 06340

Robert L. Short, 3030 Isabella St., Evanston, Ill. 60201

Michael Potter, Drew University, Box 1351, Madison, N. J. 07940

William B. Gould, Department of Philosophy & Religion, University of
Dubuque

Mrs. Judy Holy, 1339 Melrose Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Rev. David Riffe, United Campus Ministry, University of Delaware,
Newark, Delaware 19711

Donald G. Vincent, 633 6th Avenue North, Glasgow, Montana 59230

James K. Duane, 3344 Ft. Independence St., New York, N.Y. 10463

Sister Sharon Kassing SL, 590 E. Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. 63119

Milton O. Kassing, 6478 Lloyd Ave., St. Louis, Mo. 63139

Pastor Hubert J. Nelson, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rockford,
Illinois, 61107

Bonhoeffer's letters to his fiancée

"The Other Letters from Prison," an article by Maria von Wedemeyer-Weller containing excerpts of Bonhoeffer's letters to her from Tegel, was first published in Union Seminary Quarterly Review XXIII.1 (Fall, 1967) and then reprinted in Peter Vorkink (ed.), Bonhoeffer in a World Come of Age (Fortress, 1968). After an initial flurry of excitement in Time, Newsweek and The New York Times, more serious students of

Bonhoeffer began to wonder if the letters were available for research. A number of inquiries began reaching Mrs. von Wedemeyer-Weller, who lives in the United States--and who has recently become a member of this Section; members of the Executive Committee have also received inquiries. And, unfortunately, unfounded rumor has lately had it that those with privileged contacts could somehow gain access to the letters. This is not the case. There are 35 letters from Bonhoeffer to his fiancée in Houghton Library, Harvard University; other letters and manuscripts are also housed there (see below). The librarian has not been given permission to release the letters for study, and has not done so. Nor has Mrs. von Wedemeyer-Weller, with whom authority over the letters resides. It is solely a matter of due privacy protecting expressions of feelings in letters which are, first of all, personal correspondence before they become documents of public history and subjects of scholarly curiosity. Our readers will surely understand and respect this situation.

In addition to the letters from Bonhoeffer to his fiancée, the Houghton holdings include:

Six letters to Karl Bonhoeffer, April-August, 1943;

One letter to Hans von Dohnanyi, April 5, 1943;

One letter to Max von Wedemeyer;

The manuscripts of the following poems: "Von guten Mächten";

"Jona"; "Der Tod des Mose"; "Vergangenheit"; these have all been published

The manuscript of the Tegel piece, "Die erste Tafel der Zehn

Worte," published in the Gesammelte Schriften.

News Items

John de Gruchy, a corresponding member of our Executive Committee from South Africa (and editor of Bethge's Bonhoeffer: Exile and Martyr) has just completed a study of Bonhoeffer's English Bible. This was used by Bonhoeffer during his London pastorate, and John was interested to see what could be gleaned from the marginal notes, underlinings, and so on. He hopes to publish it in the near future. John and his family will be in the United States next year, teaching at Bethel College, Kansas, from August to December, 1977. Those who might wish to invite John for lectures on the church and theology in South Africa may write him at: Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch C. P., South Africa.

Peter Adam, a research student with Prof. Stephen Sykes at St. John's College in the University of Durham, England, has written intimating his present work on the concept of "the imitation of Christ" in Bonhoeffer. He would appreciate correspondence from other working in

this area.

Two recent dissertations, which didn't quite make it into the bibliography first time round, are: Darby Cannon, "The Concept of Religion in the Theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher, Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer" (Ph.D., Drew, 1974); K. A. Paulson (a member of our section from India), "A Bonhoefferian Corrective of Karl Marx's Critique of Religion" (Th.D., Graduate Theological Union, 1974).

We expect the publication of the summer, 1976, issue of the Union Seminary Quarterly Review any day. As the last Newsletter indicated, this contains a comprehensive, analytical bibliography of Bonhoeffer's works in English translation, and all the English-language secondary sources. Also included is Ruth Zerner's article on Bonhoeffer's American experiences, and several book reviews on Bonhoeffer literature. Those who wish to order copies should send their checks to Geoffrey Kelly as soon as possible (\$1.75 for members, \$3.00 for others); those who have already placed their orders should expect to receive their copies in the near future.

A fairly recent German study of Reinhold Seeberg sounds provocative: Günter Brakelmann, Protestantische Kriegstheologie im Ersten Weltkrieg. Reinhold Seeberg als Theologe des deutschen Imperialismus; Witten-Ruhr: Luther Verlag, 1974.

Pastor David Manrodt of Baltimore reports work on translations of two of Bonhoeffer's seminar papers from Berlin. An announcement of their availability will be carried in a future Newsletter.

A recent letter from Dan Hardy, Department of Theology, University of Birmingham, reports his efforts on behalf of the Society in England. Dan is the corresponding member of the Executive Committee for Britain, and is spreading the word about the Society, monitoring Bonhoeffer publications and dissertations in progress, and exploring translation possibilities. We hope that his efforts will strengthen the British representation in the Society.

The last meeting of the Executive Committee was held April 14 at the home of John Godsey in Bethesda, Maryland. Present were John, Larry Rasmussen, Geff Kelly and Clifford Green. Most of the discussion concerned plans for the regional archive at Union Seminary, and the meeting in May with the new Director of the Seminary Library, Dr. Robert Maloy. (A meeting with Dr. Maloy was held in New York early in May, and we are now awaiting final word on a proposed agreement.) Also on the docket was the bibliography, a foundation proposal, a "proceedings" volume from the Geneva conference (no final word yet) and plans for the St. Louis convention.

A recent letter from Herr Bissinger of Kaiser Verlag indicates that the German volume from Geneva is in the press; details will be given in the next Newsletter when the volume should be published. Kaiser, incidentally, plans a book display in St. Louis in conjunction with Fortress Press.

Among the new members listed in the last Newsletter was C. H. Yeh of

Chicago. Mr. Yeh is a native of Taiwan, where he wrote a thesis at Tainan Theological College on "The Theological Basis of Political Action in Dietrich Bonhoeffer." He thinks this may have been the first Bonhoeffer thesis in his country. Mr. Yeh, a Presbyterian, an active member of The Formosan Church in Greater Chicago which recently has been much occupied with concerns of political oppression and religious freedom in Taiwan. He has thought about the possibility of a future Chinese Language Section of the Society, reminding us that Chinese covers "more people than that of any other spoken language"!