

EDITORIAL: NEW STAFF, NEW DESIGN, NEW WEBSITE, AND NEW GUIDELINES

Every now and then, in the ongoing process of building and maintaining work teams, a point of synergy is achieved where the whole equals more than a sum of the parts. Such it is with our current staff at *Andrews University Seminary Studies (AUSS)*. We have had a number of excellent student and staff workers over the years that have kept the journal on course and publishing well. The current team contains three excellent student workers. It is the combination of these three, Rebecca Murdock, Dominic Bornand, and Matthew L. Tinkham Jr., along with the two editors, Martin F. Hanna and John W. Reeve, and the three copyeditors, Bonnie Beres, Madeline Johnston, and Jennifer Payne, that gives this team its combined effect.

No doubt you noticed the new cover design by Pastor Javier Maldonado starting with the Spring 2016 issue. Completing the transition to this new cover was the first of many achievements that have been made possible by this new team. The new branding, as indicated on the new cover, emphasizes the abbreviation *AUSS*, which has long been the scholarly moniker for the journal, especially as used in footnotes and bibliographies.

This summer we launched a newly designed website (www.andrews.edu/auss), a new interactive communication system between the editors and writers and referees (via the website), and new guidelines for writers of articles and book reviews and began work on subscriber digital access (which will even include preprinted access to the latest journal also via the website). These major steps forward were completed with speed and alacrity, but they are not the end. Though most subscribers will never see it, the whole office has been transformed, including a change from a mostly paper-based tracking system to an electronic records system. Even the stacks of back issues have been reorganized, reboxed, and reshelfed. The day set for the office organizing party lasted from midmorning until early the next morning with the whole team (and my daughter, Madeleine Reeve) working nearly twenty-four hours straight, and with only a few small screwdriver injuries during shelf reconstruction.

The new website has greatly improved editorial interactions with authors and referees, making them more convenient going forward because of the semi-automated system on the new website. The one drawback is that each referee or author has to set up an individual online account. All article and book review submissions can now be uploaded at www.andrews.edu/auss. Referees receive invitations and instructions from the system for refereeing articles and can upload their referee reports directly to the new website via the unique URL that they receive. Authors can download those reports when they are made available and upload their revised drafts through the system as well as check on the status of those drafts. Once the final versions of articles are published to the online archives, the authors will receive a unique URL for their articles that can be used for sharing or posting to their professional

websites. Thus, this new website functions as an effective communication hub between authors, editors, and referees and should prevent anything from “slipping through the cracks.”

It has been a number of years since the *AUSS* guidelines for authors and book reviewers have had a thorough revision. They have now been revised, largely in accordance with *The SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition, *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition, and Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers*, 8th edition, while retaining a few long-term style decisions particular to *AUSS*. Part of the reason for the new guidelines is that the Society of Biblical Literature released the second edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style* in 2014, and it promises to be a leader for style in the world of biblical studies and biblical theology. One of the corrections from the first edition is to place the publishing information within the parentheses in footnotes and endnotes, which puts them in line with Turabian and *The Chicago Manual of Style*. This second edition not only improves the great lists of abbreviations for use by scholars, but it also greatly improves the examples of references for the areas of biblical and theological studies. Thus, the *SBL Handbook of Style*, 2nd edition, becomes the primary source for style in *AUSS*. The new guidelines for authors of articles and book reviews can be found on the next few pages of this issue. They can also be found on the new website at www.andrews.edu/auss.

The *AUSS* community of scholars, editors, and supporters has been in conversation with the larger academy for fifty-five years and remains committed to objectivity in research and writing within the context of biblical faith. We want to thank the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University for providing the bulk of the financial support for *AUSS*, which allows the journal to be truly academic. We also depend on our readers to complete the community conversation and on our subscribers to complete the financial support needed to continue the high quality of scholarly publication. For this we, the *AUSS* editorial team, want to thank you. We invite you to comment, subscribe, or renew at any time at www.andrews.edu/auss.

JWR