

*SNTS, its Origins, and Robin McL. Wilson's Contribution to the Society.*

**An Address given by former Secretary, Dr William R. Telford, on the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations for Prof. Robin McL. Wilson, held at the School of Divinity, St Mary's College, University of St Andrews (Saturday, 18 February, 2006)**

**A. INTRODUCTION.**

I am delighted to have been invited to this occasion, and to have my own opportunity to pay tribute to Robin Wilson. Robin has been a wonderful inspiration and encourager to myself and others over the years, and I am grateful to Richard [Bauckham] and his colleagues for making it possible to express our thanks to him in this way. Richard asked me to speak for about half an hour and to say something about a) SNTS, b) particularly its beginnings, and c) Robin's contribution to it. What I plan to do is to divide my time into three, and to say something about a) the Society, b) the contribution of the University of St Andrews and St Mary's College in general to the development of the Society, and, finally, c) something about the contribution of Robin in particular to SNTS.

**B. SNTS.**

**1. Name.**

For those of you unacquainted with *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*, let me say that the Society for New Testament Studies or SNTS, as it is commonly referred to in its abbreviated form, is a Learned Society. Its full Latin name '*Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*' has not always been uncontentious. One of the intriguing remarks to be gleaned from the Committee Minutes of 1959 was the statement:

The Committee considered that the Treasurer had shown that the Latinity of the Society's title could be questioned; and suggested that he should take the opinion of expert Latinists and raise the matter again.<sup>1</sup>

**2. Aims.**

The Society's constitutional purpose is the 'furtherance of New Testament Studies' and in pursuit of this aim, I think it is fair to say, it is the premier society in its field.

**3. Origins and History.**

A proposal to establish the society was first put forward at the Faith and Order Conference at Edinburgh in 1937 by Professor J. de Zwaan of Leyden, a letter was sent out to interested parties, and the first formal meeting to turn that proposal into a reality took place at Carey Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham, from 14-16 September, 1938. A motion to found the Society was proposed by C. H. Dodd and H. G. Wood, this proposal was unanimously carried, and the first general meeting was planned for 20-22 September of 1939. As the first Secretary stated it in the initial Bulletin of the Society:

We were well set for the raising of the curtain on the first full act of our play; but alas, instead September 20th saw us not in conference in Birmingham but shut up in our own countries, debarred from contact with one another by "the dread arbitrament of war".<sup>2</sup>

The Second World War interrupted its proceedings, therefore, and the society didn't hold its first general meeting until 1947 in Oxford, after which it has met on a regular annual basis.

#### **4. Criteria for Membership.**

Membership of the Society is by election and extends to those who are deemed to be making, or are expected to make a creative and constructive contribution to New Testament Studies. Nominations for membership (on the part of two current members) are welcomed in respect of scholars of any nationality, or language, and from a broad range of scholarly traditions. Prospective members are normally expected to have published at least one major scholarly book in the field of New Testament studies, and members considering proposing a person for membership are asked to allow sufficient time to have elapsed for the quality of that book to become clear in reviews and in direct advice to the Committee. A prospective member is also expected to show by a range of articles in major scholarly journals (or by a second scholarly book) a diversity of interests within the field.

#### **5. Current Membership.**

In terms of numbers, the Society's membership is currently just less than a thousand. Membership is international, and representative of some thirty to forty countries throughout the world. The majority of members are from Europe and North America, although we have members also from South Africa, South America, the Middle East, Japan and Australia.

#### **6. Constitution.**

##### **a) Officers.**

##### **(i) President.**

The Society's President is elected every year and is invariably a distinguished figure in the New Testament world. The Society's current President, for example, is Professor Barbara Aland (Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung, Münster, Germany). Past Presidents have included such eminent figures in the New Testament world as T. W. Manson, C. H. Dodd, R. Bultmann, V. Taylor, J. Jeremias, W. G. Kümmel, O. Cullmann, C. F. D. Moule, B. M. Metzger, E. Käsemann, C. K. Barrett, F. F. Bruce, W. D. Davies, G. Bornkamm, R. Fuller, R. E. Brown, M. D. Hooker, F. Neirynck, J. A. Fitzmyer, M. Hengel, G. N. Stanton, U. Luz, P. Borgen and H. D. Betz.

##### **(ii) Secretary.**

The Society elects three other office-bearers for a five-year term of office (renewable for five years only): A Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer. The Society's first Secretary was Dr George Boobyer of Newcastle University, who died in 1999. The current Secretary is Professor Martinus de Boer, of the Free University of Amsterdam. I myself have been the Secretary for ten years, and Professor de Boer took over from me at the beginning of this year. The Secretary's remit is to administer the Society's business and to provide some continuity in its affairs and procedures. One of the Secretary's tasks is to maintain the archive, and I'll say something in a moment about the fruits of my research into the files in relation to Robin.

##### **(iii) Assistant Secretary**

The Secretary's work is aided by the Assistant Secretary, Professor Ronald A. Piper of this University. His responsibilities are threefold: a) taking our Committee and Editorial Board Minutes; b) preparing the dossiers of proposed new members for consideration by the Committee, and c) processing guest requests for our annual

meetings. This is an enormous job, generating today a considerable amount of paperwork, and so Ron might be interested in the nature of the archives for the Society in its initial years. These are they for the first twenty-eight years of the Society's life—two, thin, foolscap, loose-leaf binders, covering the years 1938/1947-1956 and 1957-1973 respectively.

**(iv) Treasurer (and Regional Treasurers).**

The fourth office-bearer of the Society is the Treasurer, currently Dr Bruce Longenecker, again of this University, and he has a team of Regional Treasurers throughout the world to assist him in processing members' subscriptions and other matters.

**b) Committee.**

The Society's full Executive body is its Committee, which meets once a year during the annual meeting. This comprises the (current) President and the Office-bearers, the Past President, the President-Elect, the Editors and Associate Editors of the Society's Journal and Monograph Series, and six other members who are appointed on a three year rotating basis.

**c) Editorial Board.**

The Society's Editorial Board meets once a year, too, at the annual conference. It consists of the (current) President of the Society, who chairs the Board, the officers of the Society, the Editors and the Associate Editors ex officio, together with not less than nine elected members, each of whom holds office for a period of three years.

**(i) Journal.**

As intimated, the Society has its own Journal, *New Testament Studies*, which is published four times a year by Cambridge University Press. Its current editor is Prof. Judith Lieu of the University of London.

**(ii) Monograph Series.**

It also publishes a Monograph Series, which is one of the jewels in the crown of Cambridge University Press's academic enterprises. Five years ago it issued its one hundredth volume, H. K. Bond's *Pontius Pilate in History and Interpretation*, and it has been publishing volumes at a respectable rate every year since then. The current editor is Dr John Court, formerly of the University of Canterbury. Prior to this, the Editor was Prof. Richard Bauckham, again of this University, who served on the Committee and Editorial Board between 1997 and 2002.

**7. Annual Conferences.**

I have mentioned our conferences. These meet each year, at the invitation of our members, in various Universities throughout the world, particularly in Europe and North America. Recent conferences have convened in Atlanta, Göttingen, Cambridge, Dublin, Milan, Bethel, Madrid, Chicago, Edinburgh, Strasbourg, Birmingham, Copenhagen, Pretoria, Tel Aviv, Montreal, Durham, Bonn, Barcelona and Halle. In 1995 SNTS held its Fiftieth General Meeting in Prague. Although the meetings are attended almost exclusively by members and their spouses or partners, guests can be invited by members, with the approval of the President, and the processing of such guest applications, as already mentioned, is one of Ron Piper's responsibilities. Future meetings are planned for Aberdeen (2006), Sibiu (Romania, 2007), Lund (Sweden, 2008), Vienna (2009), Berlin (2010), and the Hudson valley in New York State (2011).

The conference programme consists of the Presidential Address, four invited main papers and two invited short main papers. These papers may be in English, German

or French, the Society's official language areas. There are usually between six and nine additional short papers, and these are selected by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor from those offered by our members. The programme also includes some fifteen to twenty seminars. These run for a minimum of three years and a maximum of five, and meet three times during the conference on a variety of New Testament and NT-related topics. Each seminar is conducted by at least two international experts on the topic, usually from two separate language fields. Occasionally the Society has special presentations, the Committee inviting a distinguished scholar to address the membership on a special subject, area of expertise, or new publication of interest to the scholarly community.

The annual meeting has its administrative features, too. It begins and ends with two general Business Meetings at which various aspects of the Society's business are transacted, including the election of new members, officers, Committee and Editorial Board members, the confirmation of future meetings, and so on. There are also two executive Committee meetings and an Editorial Board meeting for those appointed to such, as I have mentioned.

While life may not be relaxing for office-bearers or Committee members (as Ron, Bruce and Richard well know), one of the attractive features of SNTS is the way that our annual meetings combine to a very satisfying degree the academic and the recreational. While the conference itself is going on, there is a full accompanying persons' programme, with orientation to the country and venue, and a range of excursions to suit all tastes. Also during the meeting, there are civil and University receptions, concerts etc. On the last day of every conference, there is a general excursion for all members. The programme is constructed so that maximum time is allowed for scholars to confer with each other in informal as well as formal ways. From time to time, longer pre- and post-conference excursions are arranged, and a number of members bring their families with them, and build their holidays around the meeting.

#### **8. Special Initiatives.**

There are three special initiatives that SNTS has pioneered and which might be worth mentioning to you. The first is our support for our colleagues in Eastern Europe. Special regional symposia have been arranged to facilitate dialogue between SNTS members and, for example, Orthodox scholars (one such was held at the Neamt Monastery, Romania in 1997). SNTS (under the vigorous leadership of Professor Ulrich Luz of Switzerland) has also been instrumental in establishing libraries in Sophia and St Petersburg, to which members have contributed money and books.

The second is the Society's support for African scholars, which has now been institutionalised in the Liaison Committee for Africa. The meeting in 1999 was held in Pretoria, and special arrangements were made to invite as many black African scholars and guests on that occasion, and to a further post-conference meeting on black theology at nearby Hamaanskraal.

Thirdly, the Society has built up over the years a substantial International Fund that allows members with financial difficulties or lack of resources to attend our meetings. This fund is administered by Bruce Longenecker.

#### **9. Website.**

Finally, I should mention the Society website which was launched in 1999. Its current web address is the following <<http://www.th.vu.nl/deboer/snts>>. There members can find information on the Society and its organization, procedures and history, the names of the Committee, Editorial Board and current officers, a list of general meetings and presidents, instructions on making proposals for new members as well as for the organization of SNTS general meetings (for those who wish to issue an invitation to the Society), the notice of subscriptions, annual reports and minutes of recent general meetings and a current Membership List. Links are also provided to CUP in Britain and in North America. Dr Boobyer's article on the early history of the Society in the first Bulletin is also posted there.

### **C. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS AND ST MARY'S COLLEGE TO SNTS.**

Having given you a thumbnail sketch on the current operation of SNTS, let me now say something about Robin's contribution to the Society. To do so, let me begin by putting that contribution in a slightly wider context, namely, the contribution of St Andrews University, and particularly of St Mary's College overall to SNTS. I have already referred to the current and recent contributions made by Ron Piper, Bruce Longenecker and Richard Bauckham, but there is more. The Society was, of course, hosted here in St Andrews in 1961 under the Presidency of Professor W. C. van Unnik.

#### **1. G. S. Duncan.**

St Andrews and St Mary's have played, however, an even more significant role. I mentioned at the start that a letter was sent out to interested parties in 1938 promoting the very idea of the Society. It might interest you to know that that letter was sent out from St Mary's College, St Andrews, by one of the major founding members of the future society, the then Principal of St Mary's, the Rev. Professor George S. Duncan. I have this letter here, and it reads:

St. Mary's College,  
St. Andrews  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, 1938.

My dear Boobyer [the letter was a circular, but addressed in this instance to George Boobyer],

During the Faith and Order Conference at Edinburgh in August a small informal group met together to consider the possible formation of a New Testament Society. The moving spirit was J. de Zwaan, Leyden. The others were C. H. Dodd; H. L. Goudge; T. W. Manson; H. G. Wood and G. H. Boobyer of Woodbrooke; W. Manson, Edinburgh; E. P. Dickie and myself from St. Andrews; E. F. H. Clavier, Montpellier; E. G. Gulin, Helsingfors; H. L. MacNeill of Hamilton, Ontario.

It was strongly felt that such a Society was desirable; and various opinions were mooted regarding the form it should take. Much might be achieved by a large Society, designed *inter alia* to stimulate interest in New Testament study, and open to all who cared to join. Professor de Zwaan's aim seemed rather to be a select Society, including certain Continental scholars, but with British scholars taking an especially active part. These two proposals need not be mutually exclusive. Professor de Zwaan has

also in mind the issue of a new International Quarterly for N. T. Study; and he even hopes to arrange for the first issue to appear in a few months time, published by Brill of Leyden.... [The letter goes on to mention the meeting of interested parties mooted for September, 1938, to inform them of the proposal and to solicit their views and cooperation with respect to the proposal]

Some of you may wish to examine it further later, or to consult the Society's website where, as already mentioned, a fuller account of the origins of the Society by Dr Boobyer can be found. Duncan, whose death was reported to the Society in 1965,<sup>iii</sup> played an influential role in these early days, and was its second President at its Oxford meeting in 1948, after de Zwaan. As the Minutes of that Second General Meeting state:

Prof. Dr J. de Zwaan took the chair and made a short speech inducting the new President for 1948/9, namely, Very Rev. Principal G. S. Duncan of St Mary's College, St. Andrews. Principal Duncan thanked the Society for the honour done to him, and then gave his presidential address ['Some Pauline Problems']

## 2. M. Black.

Another major founding member of the Society was a further Principal of St Mary's College, the Rev. Prof. Matthew Black. Professor Black is listed among the members at the First General Meeting in Oxford (1947), and was the Treasurer of the Society between 1948 and 1954. As well as being President at the Newcastle upon Tyne meeting in 1970, he rendered distinguished service on the Committee and Editorial Board for a period that stretched from 1948 until 1977. Of the three office-bearers in 1948-9, then, two were from the University of St Andrews and St Mary's College (Profs Duncan and Black). If our current Treasurer were here, he might be interested to learn from the General Minutes of 1952 that 'Dr. Black...announced that the committee had decided...that the membership subscription for 1952-3 would be £1'.<sup>iv</sup> He might be even more interested to learn that one year later 'Prof. Black...announced that the committee had decided to reduce the membership subscription for 1953/54 to 15/-d, as it was hoped that there would be a reduction in our expenses for the coming year'.<sup>v</sup>

Black was also Editor of the Journal, *New Testament Studies*, from 1954 onwards, overseeing its launch in 1955,<sup>vi</sup> and that of the Monograph Series, which followed it in 1965.<sup>vii</sup> His period of office ended in 1977. His service to the Society was noted, with characteristic generosity, by Robin and Ernest Best in the Preface to the Festschrift in his honour, *Text and Interpretation*, which both colleagues edited and published in 1979:

Many scholars have learned from him the beginnings of their trade. Others have been generously encouraged and guided when they presented their papers to him as Editor of *New Testament Studies*. Under his direction this journal has reached a pre-eminent position and he has thereby made a major contribution to the advancement of New Testament scholarship.<sup>viii</sup>

The Festschrift itself was presented to him at the 1978 SNTS meeting in Châtenay-Malabray, near Paris, by the then President, Gunther Bornkamm. The Minutes record:

Professor E. Best spoke of the many years of service to the Society by Professor Black as President and also as Editor of New Testament Studies and the S.N.T.S. Monograph series. In appreciation of this a Festschrift edited by Professors Best and Wilson, and entitled Text and Interpretation, was presented to him by the President. Professor Black responded and expressed his gratitude for this gift and for the help and co-operation he had received from the Associate Editor and other assistants, and from the Cambridge University Press.<sup>ix</sup>

In thanking his colleagues for this gift, Professor Black, you will note, expressed his gratitude for the help and co-operation that he had received from the Associate Editor, and this, of course, was Robin.

### **3. E. Best.**

This reference to Ernest Best, however, also calls to mind another of Robin's former colleagues at St Mary's, and his contribution, too, to SNTS. The second volume in the Society's Monograph Series was Best's own *The Temptation and the Passion. The Markan Soteriology* (1965) and this volume had contributed to its initial success, according to the Committee Minutes of 1966.<sup>x</sup> Best also chaired one of the Society's seminars on 'The Social World of Early Christianity'.<sup>xi</sup>

### **D. THE CONTRIBUTION OF ROBIN McL. WILSON TO SNTS.**

Having sketched in the wider context of SNTS's debt to the University of St Andrews and St Mary's College, let me now say something about the man who has been a supreme and enduring epitome of that link over the years, Robin himself. Robin's contribution to the Society can be summarised under four main heads, viz.

- a) Academic Programme (1956, 1964, 1971, 1981).
- b) Committee and Editorial Board (1967-83).
- c) Editorship of the Journal and the Monograph Series (1959-83).
- d) Presidency of the Society (1981).

Robin was first elected to membership of the Society in 1955, at the meeting at Neuadd Reichel, Bangor, North Wales, which was chaired by Vincent Taylor. A record number of members were added to the Society that year, some forty-one, indeed, and among the others admitted with Robin were H. J. Cadbury (Wallingford), H. Conzelmann (Zurich), F. C. Grant (New York), J. Knox (New York), P. S. Minear (Newton Centre, USA),<sup>xii</sup> C. L. Mitton (Birmingham), A. D. Nock (Harvard), A. N. Wilder (Harvard) and E. Stauffer (Erlangen).

Robin gave his first paper to the Society one year later at the Society's Eleventh General Meeting in Woudschoten, Zeist, Holland, 4-7 September, 1956. The meeting was hosted by the University of Utrecht, attended by fifty-eight members, along with twenty-three visitors, and presided over by the Very Rev. E. G. Selwyn (Winchester) who took over from Prof. J. Jeremias. Papers were given by P. Benoit (Jerusalem), W. Eltester (Tübingen), F. L. Cross (Oxford), J. de Zwaan (Leiden) and M. M. Parvis (Emory), and a Short Study by H. J. Cadbury (Wallingford). Reports were given on the International Greek New Testament Project (by M. M. Parvis) and on the Corpus Hellenisticum (by K. Aland and W. C. van Unnik). The programme also records that brief communications (not exceeding 15 minutes) were given by Bishop Cassian (Paris) on 'John xxi' and Rev. Dr R. McL. Wilson on 'New Testament Quotations in the Gnostic Gospel according to Mary'.

An incidental flavour of the nature of the meetings in those days is given by the instruction in the programme that '[r]esidents must provide their own soap; and should bring their own towels, sheets, and blankets or hire them from the house at an extra charge of fl. 1,50 (3/-) for the whole period'. If luxury was not one of the hallmarks of these early meetings, then there were compensations of a more academic kind, as this note from Robin's first meeting indicates:

The Editor [Prof. M. Black]...reported the publication of the second volume of the Journal, containing the papers read at the Bangor General Meeting and other contributions from members of the Society and from non-members...[and noted that] the Journal appears to be establishing itself as an international periodical of high scholarly standard and repute.<sup>xiii</sup>

Robin's next contribution was at the Louvain meeting in 1964 where he gave a report of his work in progress on newly discovered Gnostic documents. Matthew Black also reported on the publication of the Greek New Testament and the Greek Enoch.<sup>xiv</sup> A further contribution was the main paper that he gave at the meeting held at the Leeuwenhorst Congress Centre, Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, 23-26 August, 1971.

The President that year was Prof. B. M. Metzger, the Secretary R. S. Barbour, and it was at that meeting that the suggestion was first made that Robin be co-opted on to the Committee along with N. Perrin, R. Leivestad and the retiring President, Matthew Black.<sup>xv</sup> Thus began a distinguished period of service on the Committee that was to last until 1983, which was preceded by his equally distinguished period of service on the Editorial Board from 1967, and which culminated in his Presidency in 1981 (of which more anon).

Robin's third major contribution to the Society was his Editorship of the Journal and the Monograph Series. Matthew Black had edited the Journal since its inception in 1953 until 1977,<sup>xvi</sup> but had been assisted in this task by Robin. In recognition of this fact, and following a suggestion to this effect from Matthew Black himself, the Committee agreed in 1959 that Robin 'might informally act as review editor'.<sup>xvii</sup> In this capacity, he attended the Committee on at least one occasion (1963) to give the Editorial Report in the absence of the Editor.<sup>xviii</sup>

In further recognition of the very great assistance that Robin had given the Editor, and again on Matthew Black's recommendation, the Committee appointed Robin Associate Editor in 1967 and he was co-opted on to the Editorial Board that year.<sup>xix</sup> During the year of 1976-77, Robin was then appointed Acting Editor while Matthew Black was on sabbatical.<sup>xx</sup>

In 1977, on Matthew Black's final retirement, Robin was appointed Editor of the Journal and the Monograph Series for an initial five years, with Margaret Thrall as Associate Editor for the same period.<sup>xxi</sup> He carried on, however, until 1983, and received the warm appreciation of the Society through its then President, Professor R. H. Fuller.<sup>xxii</sup> Thus, for the first thirty years of the life of the Journal and the Monograph Series, the editorship of these prestigious and influential SNTS publications was in the hands of these two St Mary's men here at St Andrews. When Robin took over, the Journal had reached a circulation figure of 2172, and the Monograph Series had extended to 31 volumes.<sup>xxiii</sup> Both subsequently flourished



under his guiding hand, and that of Margaret Thrall, to become the flagship academic publications of CUP that they are today.

Something of that 'guiding hand' might be discerned in the following Minute from the Editorial Board in 1981:

It was suggested that members of the Board might in future play a more active role in assessing material submitted for publication and thus relieve to some extent the Editor and the Associate Editor of the very heavy load they had been carrying. This would have the editorial advantage of bringing a wider range of specialist interests to bear on the process. The Editor stressed that he would still feel the need to read everything himself and, moreover, that there were problems of expense, possible delay and the checking of correct use of the English language in the case of material written in English. Equally, not all persons to whom manuscript material was sent reported in detail and in such a way as to permit the Editor to respond helpfully and informatively.<sup>xiv</sup>

Robin's final contribution to the Society was the year of his Presidency, which began with the Rome meeting in 1981 (24-28 August) and was attended by about 100 members.<sup>xv</sup> The records show that he conducted prayers between 8.45 and 9, was inducted immediately thereafter as President, and then went on to give his Presidential address on 'Nag Hammadi and the New Testament'.<sup>xvi</sup> In that same meeting, he presented his Editor's Report, thanking among others his secretary, Mrs Elaine McLaughlan, for her assistance. That was not only an active year for him but an auspicious one, and might have been even more auspicious if illness on the part of the Pope had not prevented Robin and SNTS being granted a papal audience.

The Minutes of the First and Second Business Meetings recorded with regret:

Arrangements...included a visit to Ostia Antica instead of an audience of the Pope at Castelgandolfo as originally planned...The President [X. Léon-Dufour presided at the First Business Meeting, Robin at the Second] read a message from the Pope conveying his greetings and expressing his regret that it had not proved possible for members of the Society to be received in audience...The draft of a reply to the Pope's message, sending the Society's greetings and best wishes for a speedy and complete return to health, was approved.<sup>xvii</sup>

## **E. CONCLUSION.**

Robin, SNTS owes a great debt to you for all your sterling work on its behalf. Although I am no longer Secretary, and hence unable to speak formally for the Society, I am sure our members would endorse all that I have said by way of appreciation for your efforts. On Monday [20 February], I shall be meeting the current Secretary, Professor Martin de Boer, and I shall convey to him the import of this meeting. Our thanks to you.

18.2.06

Dr W. R. Telford  
Dept of Theology & Religion  
University of Durham

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<sup>i</sup> Norwich, Committee Minutes, 1959, 59/10.

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- <sup>ii</sup> G. H. Boobyer, 'The Early History of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas', p. 4. A copy of this seminal essay is to be found on the SNTS website: <<http://www.th.vu.nl/deboer/snts>>.
- <sup>iii</sup> See Committee Minutes, Heidelberg, 1965, 65/8.
- <sup>iv</sup> Minutes of the Seventh General Meeting, Durham, 1952, 2.
- <sup>v</sup> Minutes of the Eighth General Meeting, Cambridge, 1953, 1.
- <sup>vi</sup> At the Bangor meeting, it was reported that '[t]he first volume of New Testament Studies was completed by the May number 1955...' (Minutes of the Tenth General Meeting, Bangor, 1955).
- <sup>vii</sup> 'The Monograph series', it was reported at the Twentieth General Meeting, 'had made a good start' (Editorial Report, Committee Minutes, Heidelberg, 65/13).
- <sup>viii</sup> Preface by E. Best and R. M. Wilson (eds.), *Text and Interpretation. Studies in the New Testament presented to Matthew Black* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979).
- <sup>ix</sup> Minutes of the Thirty-Third General Meeting, Châtenay-Malabray, 1978, 78/5.
- <sup>x</sup> 'The Monograph series had so far been a success with ... II. E. Best. The Temptation and the Passion. The Markan Soteriology' (Committee Minutes, Cambridge, 1966, 66/13).
- <sup>xi</sup> 'Professors E. Best and H. Riesenfeld would respectively chair the seminars on 'The Social World of Early Christianity' and 'Hermeneutics' (Committee Minutes, Rome, 1981, 81/3/(b)).
- <sup>xii</sup> Professor Minear, incidentally, celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year (2006).
- <sup>xiii</sup> Minutes of the Eleventh General Meeting, Woudschoten, 1956, 56/11.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Committee Minutes, Louvain, 1964, 64/2.
- <sup>xv</sup> Committee Minutes, Noordwijkerhout, 1971, 71/14.
- <sup>xvi</sup> Nowadays the burden of Editorship is not inflicted upon its willing volunteers for more than a statutory ten years, but in those days, things were different, as this Committee Minute records:
- Professor Black drew attention to the termination of his five-year period as Editor in 1961 (Minute 56/11). He would by then have edited the Journal since September 1953; and was raising the matter at this stage so that the Society would have time to choose a successor. In view of the success of the Journal and the distinction which Professor Black brings to it, the committee was very unwilling to consider replacing him; and felt that continuity of Editorship would be in the best interests of the Journal (Norwich, Committee Minutes, 1959, 59/9).
- <sup>xvii</sup> 'The Committee heard with appreciation of the assistance which the Editor [M. Black] had received from Dr. R. McL. Wilson; and approved the Editor's suggestion that Dr. Wilson might informally act as review editor' (*ibid.*).
- <sup>xviii</sup> 'Dr R. McL. Wilson attended [the Committee] in the afternoon for the Editorial Report...In the absence of the Editor, Dr. R. McL. Wilson reported a circulation [of the Journal] at June 1963 of 1320 (cf. 1266/at August 1962)' (Committee Minutes, Nottingham, 1963, 63/5).
- <sup>xix</sup> 'The Editor asked the Committee to recommend that Dr. R. McL. Wilson, who was giving very great assistance, should be appointed Associate Editor until such time as a new Editor [in place of M. Black] may be appointed...The Committee agreed that Prof. Black should be re-appointed Editor, and that Dr. Wilson should be appointed Associate Editor and be co-opted on to the Editorial Board' (Committee Minutes, Gwatt am Thunersee, Switzerland, 1967, 67/11).
- <sup>xx</sup> 'The Editor announced that he would be taking sabbatical leave for the academic year 1975/76 [*sic*, but this should surely read 1976/77], and signified his intention of resigning the Editorship thereafter. The Board agreed to recommend the

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appointment of the Associate Editor as Acting Editor for the coming year' (Editorial Board Minutes, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 1976, 76/4).

<sup>xxi</sup> 'It was agreed to recommend that Professor R. McL. Wilson (St. Andrews) be appointed Editor for 5 years, and that Dr. Margaret Thrall (Bangor) be appointed Associate Editor for the same period. At the same time the Society's gratitude was expressed for Professor Matthew Black's services as Editor throughout the 24 years of the Journal's publication' (Editorial Board Minutes, Tübingen, 1977, 77/3).

Cf. also 'Professor R. McL. Wilson was appointed Editor and Dr Margaret Thrall was appointed Associate Editor, both for a five year period' (Minutes of the Thirty-Second General Meeting, Tübingen, 1977, 77/9).

<sup>xxii</sup> 'The President [R. H. Fuller] expressed the Board's thanks to Professor Wilson for the work he had done for the Journal, both as Associate Editor and during the last six years as Editor' (Editorial Board Minutes, Canterbury, 1983, 83/2).

Cf. also 'It was agreed that, in appreciation of the devoted service of Professor Wilson and Dr. Thrall as Editor and Associate Editor, a present should be given to them by the Society consisting of books to the value of £100 and £50 respectively' (Committee Minutes, Canterbury, 1983, 83/15).

<sup>xxiii</sup> 'Professor R. McL. Wilson presented his Report. Circulation of NTS had risen by 62 during 1976-77 to a figure of 2172... The Monograph series had reached 31 volumes in March, 1977' (Minutes of the Thirty-Second General Meeting, Tübingen, 1977, 77/9).

Cf. also 'The monograph series had extended to 31 volumes by March 1977' (Editorial Board Minutes, Tübingen, 1977, 77/2 (b)).

<sup>xxiv</sup> Editorial Board Minutes, Rome, 1981, 81/4.

<sup>xxv</sup> 'The President, Professor R. McL. Wilson, was in the Chair [for the Second Business Meeting] and about 100 members were present' (Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth General Meeting, Rome, 1981).

<sup>xxvi</sup> 'Prayers were conducted by Professor R. McL. Wilson [at 08.45 and at 09.00]...Induction of Professor R. McL. Wilson as President, followed by the Presidential Address: Nag Hammadi and the New Testament' (Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth General Meeting, Rome, 1981).

<sup>xxvii</sup> Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth General Meeting, Rome, 1981, 81/4 & 81/13.