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From the editor

It is a very special pleasure for me to write this brief introductory note as I have had nothing to do with the production of this issue. It is entirely of book reviews. Very many thanks indeed to Faye Kert, whom I recruited as the book reviews editor more than fifteen years ago, and to Walter Lewis, for putting this issue together.

There have been problems with the flow of articles (more below) and several of us independently arrived at the idea of a book reviews issue to get something out. After all, if we can have an issue, in fact a “double issue,” of just articles, why not one of just book reviews?

Almost from the inception of the journal, we have thought of the conference as being a source for articles. Grand as the theory might be, in practice it has not worked. I know that at first hand, as I am one of the culprits. I have published in the journal I think three times, yet I have given many more papers at CNRS conferences. And those papers that were turned into articles, frequently took five or more years. At every turn we are dependent on the time lines of others - authors to write and submit, referees (once found) to review and authors to revise. Maritime history is not a big field. I can only remember with envy, the anecdote my father told me about his last article. The title, as I recall was “Patristic Quotations and Early Gospel Sources,” published in the Journal of New Testament Studies in 1985. (That was in addition to his being both a military and a fur trade historian. He described the piece as an “Agatha Christie” that he worked on for twenty years.) After the piece had gone through the full editorial process, the editor advised him that it would “be put in the queue to be published.” That took two years! Oh to have such an abundance of material. There would be no excuse for the journal being as much as a day late! It would appear that maritime history is not on quite the same footing as theological history.

In addition to thanking my colleagues Faye and Walter, thanks also to all our members who are understanding of our publishing delays.

Bill Glover
March 2019