

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MISSIOLOGY

(in process of formation)

## Continuation Committee

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Dear Alan:

I was pleased to find your 27 July letter on my desk when I arrived back from vacation this week. It is encouraging to know of your willingness and ability to serve as editor of the proposed new journal of mission studies to be sponsored by the American Society of Missiology. We are also grateful to Fuller Theological Seminary for its willingness to assist in the provision of your editorial services for this project.

I have just returned from the meeting of the IAMS in Holland where they decided to postpone a decision about a new journal they were considering until after their next meeting in 1974. I heard that no definite decision concerning the future of the IRM will be made until the end of this year or possibly when the CWME meets in Bangkok in January. Therefore it seems to me the field is wide open for us to move ahead and meet a widely felt need for additional periodical literature of a scholarly nature that would be of usefulness not only to scholars such as Professors of Missions but also to those engaged in actual missionary service overseas. The big remaining question, however, is that of finance. We do have enough encouragement in this regard that I think we should tentatively lay plans for launching the journal in early 1973, subject to a final decision within the next 60 days. I expect to have word within 30 days about a grant from The United Methodist Board of Missions World Division for the journal and I have received preliminary unofficial word that we can likely count on a favorable reply.

The first two issues of a new journal would be exceedingly important in establishing its reputation and setting a level or tone as to its scope and scholarship, as well as format and design.

While I think of it let me report that George Peters told me in Holland that William Reyburn who spoke at our meeting there told him that Practical Anthropology is likely to cease publication in the near future and they might be willing to consider some sort of deal with us whereby we would inherit their subscription list in return for some commitment from us that our new journal would carry forward a section or regular interest in missionary anthropology. You probably know the editors of that journal better than anyone and I would suggest that you might want to explore this.

I am enclosing a copy of the paper read by William D. Reyburn at the Holland meeting, "Secular Culture and Spiritual Values--A Six Continent View," which I felt was the best paper read at the Conference, which you

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might want to consider for publication in the journal. You should contact Reyburn, however, for permission to publish it and also he may want to make some revisions in light of critical comments during the discussion at the Conference. Also enclosed is a report that was given on "Missiology in the Netherlands," which I believe would merit publication in the journal also, though probably not in the first issue. It is very well done and the author told me he would be glad to have it published in our journal.

I have not yet written to the persons who were proposed for membership on the editorial board, to serve in an advisory capacity to the editor. These persons were: Beaver, Forman, Peters, Shepherd, Guy, Luzbetek, Hillman, Dulles, Katherine Hockin (Canada), Wi Jo Kang, James Scherer, and myself. Can you or Ralph provide me with addresses for Shepherd, Luzbetek, Hillman, Dulles, and Hockin? I will prepare a letter and send immediately to those whose addresses I have and to the others as soon as I get the addresses from you. I think it will be very important in all aspects of our work on the journal, including the nature of manuscripts published as well as contributors of material, that we seek to maintain a balance among the three traditions represented in our supporting constituency, namely, conservative evangelicals, Roman Catholics and ecumenical Protestants (an inadequate designation, I recognize). I know you are sensitive to these matters.

I mentioned to Ralph Winter in June here that you might want to try to get an article for the first issue of the journal from R. Pierce Beaver. He gave a series of lectures in Asia two years ago tracing the history of the Christian attitude and approach to men of other faiths which he hopes to work into a book in the near future. This is always a subject of great interest and relevance for our work and perhaps he could do something along this line that would be very appropriate for the initial issue of the journal. I personally feel that a good section of book reviews would be of greatest importance and value. There might also be a place for some brief items of news and comments about conferences, meetings, symposia, historical collections, other publications, and personal notices, such as are included in The Catholic Historical Review. We will also want to be in touch with publishers and others about advertising. As soon as a decision is made to move ahead, I would be glad to contact Abingdon here about an ad in the first issue. Of course, we have the whole question of a title for the journal to be decided. What are your thoughts on this? I am quite open on the subject but would be inclined toward something rather simple and straightforward, such as, JOURNAL OF MISSIOLOGY or MISSIOLOGY--AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW.

I look forward to working with you on this important venture and am exceedingly grateful for your willingness to give it your creative leadership.

Very cordially yours,

*Gerald H. Anderson*  
Gerald H. Anderson

GHA:K

Copies to Dr. Ralph Winter  
Fr. Donald Wodarz

Enclosures

*P.S. First issue might be on "Bangkok and Beyond" (Tracy & Jones?)  
and something on the Chinese situation of Christianity by  
David Stowe, Donald Macdonald, or Robbins Strong (WCC).*