EDITORIAL

The Jubilee issues of the *Tyndale Bulletin* have provided the opportunity for the editorial committee to review something of its history and format.

While the *Bulletin* was first published in 1956 its history goes back to the genesis of Tyndale House in 1944. In that year brief *Theological Notes* were produced, followed by the old series of *Tyndale Bulletin*, issued between 1945 and 1948, which incorporated *Theological Notes*. These were privately circulated for the interest of members of the Tyndale Fellowship and the small biblical research library that had been established in Cambridge.

In 1956 came the first issue of the *Tyndale House Bulletin*, the first three issues of which were each eight pages in length. It was published thereafter slightly more frequently than annually. The issues steadily increased in size until in 1966, volume 17 contained some 120 pages and took its final name, the *Tyndale Bulletin*. Since then it has been published annually. When the Tyndale Fellowship separated from the Tyndale House Council, it became a joint publication.

The purchasing of a desktop publishing facility by the Tyndale House Council in 1987 meant that production of camera ready copy could be done in house. In the following year the Cambridge University Press became the printer of the journal for Tyndale House. A year later it was decided to increase its size and to produce two volumes a year, making it into a more regular scholarly journal. Prior to that period it had published primarily the annual lectures in biblical and allied theological fields of the Tyndale Fellowship. With the production of two issues per year the *Bulletin’s* circulation rose rapidly to approximately 1200 institutional and personal subscribers.

At that time the *Bulletin* also began publishing abstracts of doctoral dissertations which had been completed at Tyndale House either for the University of Cambridge or for other universities in the United Kingdom. Many of these scholars had been supported by financial grants from the Tyndale House Council and the rapid publication of a
summary of their thesis was intended to inform the academic community of the fruits of their labours.

The *Tyndale Bulletin* has never operated a two-tier price structure, with a high institutional price and a much reduced individual subscription rate. While learned journals have increased their prices on average by at least 10% per annum according to Blackwell’s Annual Surveys, the *Tyndale Bulletin* has maintained its price for the past fifteen years at £5.95 per issue even with a 20% increase in pages. This has been possible because of desktop publishing facilities and because the editorial work has been carried out by the House’s Research Fellows of Old and New Testament, also Affiliated Lecturers respectively in the Faculties of Oriental Studies and of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, as well as by the Warden and by former Librarians.

In recent years it was decided to print a summary at the beginning of every article published in the *Tyndale Bulletin* in order to assist the reader, as well as the journal abstractors, grasp the essence of the argument especially in an age which has witnessed such a proliferation of scholarly discussion.

In the interests of ease of reading, page layout has become a major concern for publishers, as have type faces. A new format for the *Tyndale Bulletin* has been recommended with a larger page, an easier layout and a reduced print size. This has been demonstrated to facilitate the absorption of information by the reader. While the length of the new *Tyndale Bulletin* is shorter by some thirty pages, the actual amount of print in the *Bulletin* has been increased slightly with the new layout. The cost of production remains unaltered, as does the subscription price.

I must express my appreciation to the University Printing Services for their advice on cover design and layout of text. My thanks go to the two assistant editors and valued colleagues who, in my absence on sabbatical leave, have worked so hard to bring into being this new and attractive format for the Jubilee issues of the *Tyndale Bulletin*.

The Editor