

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

In May of this year the Swedish Theological Institute celebrated the centenary of its building, "Beth Tabor". At the same time the Institute itself celebrated its 30th anniversary, even though its activity actually started in 1951. Still another anniversary could be added, namely, that of ASTI. Twenty years ago the first volume of our yearbook was published, and since then another ten volumes have appeared. Of these eleven volumes, eight were published under the editorship of our late director, Dr. Hans Kosmala, who completed his task in 1971, passing away last year. His openness, fervour and scholarly rigour will be my guiding light as I begin the difficult task of continuing the editorship of ASTI. It is my fervent hope that the yearbook will hereafter appear on a regular basis, every second year.

It goes without saying that it is a most fruitful experience to study the Bible, Rabbinic Literature and Judaism in their land of origin. The unique possibilities offered in Jerusalem of a personal meeting with a living Jewish people and imbibing from a vital Jewish scholarship, fills in a serious gap in the education usually provided at theological faculties. It is our desire and hope that this basic aim of the Swedish Theological Institute will promote an ever increasing mutual respect and understanding between Christians and Jews, based upon living personal experiences and deeper knowledge of our common origin. By presenting primarily contributions of theological scholarship in Scandinavia and Jewish research in Israel ASTI hopefully will reflect this purpose.

Finally, it is a pleasure to give my thanks to Mr. Jakob Helsing, M.A., and Mr. Bruce A. Lorence, M.A., Jerusalem, who assisted me in the editorial work regarding matters of style.

GÖRAN LARSSON

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