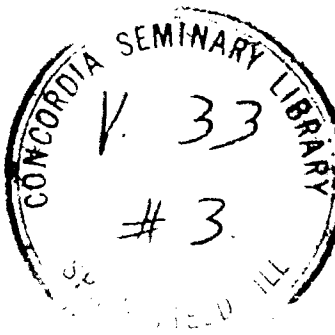


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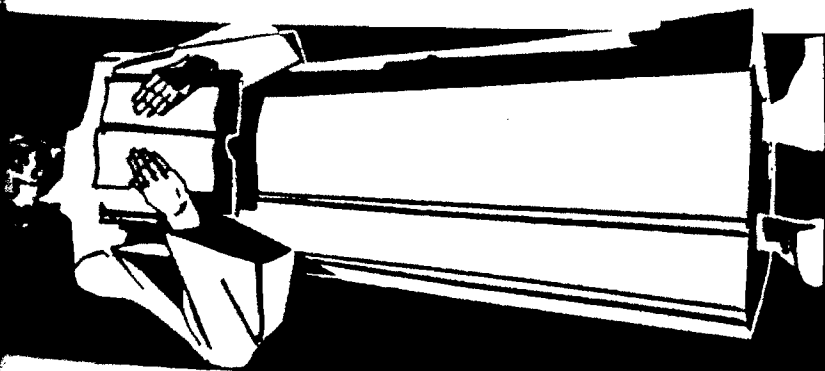
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VOL. XXXIII • NO. 3
DECEMBER, 1969



Editorials

"E.H.H."

ARITHMETICALLY SPEAKING, the present volume of *The Springfielder* has its place for posterity as XXXIII. However, if we were to speak existentially on the numerical significance of *The Springfielder's* volumes, we would have to label this issue as issue X, for it was ten years ago this December that the Faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, during the presidency of Dr. George Beto, resolved to change the format of *The Springfielder*, then a general news publication of the seminary, to a theological voice of the seminary.

The man who was responsible for the metamorphosis in format has been Dr. Erich Heintzen, the editor of *The Springfielder* for these ten existential years. As editor, he articulated well the idea that the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, must also have a theological voice that speaks to the trends that shape the direction of the Missouri Synod. As a measure of his success, Dr. Heintzen's efforts were recently recognized by the Denver Convention of the Missouri Synod. *The Springfielder* and the older and more well-known *Concordia Theological Monthly*, a publication of the faculty at Concordia, St. Louis, stand officially recognized as theological journals of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

As we look back over the editorial years of E.H.H., we can readily see that *The Springfielder* was really more than the voice of the faculty. It was what the original faculty resolution wanted it to be. It was the theological voice of the seminary. Contributions came regularly from faculty members, members of the faculty at Concordia, St. Louis, and from other seminaries as well.

Then, as now, *The Springfielder* was aimed directly at the ministerium of the Missouri Synod. With the aim of providing perspectives for pastors, *The Springfielder* has kept its pages open to contributions from pastors of congregations. In the spirit of building up the church, both faculty and pastors exchanged materials through *The Springfielder*.

Will E.H.H. disappear into the classroom and never be heard from again? Perish the thought! Dr. Heintzen has consented to serve on the editorial committee as Associate Editor. Although D.P.S. will replace E.H.H., the former will rely on the latter's wisdom and will attempt to carry on the tradition of the existential years.

A special editorial on Worship Supplement

EDSEL SYMPATHIZERS, UNITE!

AS A FORMER Edsel owner, I can sympathize with the old axiom: "If enough people are against something, it must be worth considering." When I remember my beloved Edsel, I am proud to say

that my Edsel was a loyal, reliable, and valuable friend. In fact, I'm more than pleased that Edsel is now considered to be a superior automobile, because it stood the test of time. However, before buying Edsel, I found myself painfully astride the horns of a dilemma which pointed out the tension of deciding whether I should buy Edsel or follow the warnings of highly vocal opposition. Well, I didn't follow those warnings, and I've never been sorry for that decision.

I find myself in a similar dilemma in regard to what seems to have become another Edsel, the *Worship Supplement*. Grumblings soft, medium, and loud have been vocalized, but again my Edselian nature has swayed me in the direction of giving *Worship Supplement* the college try. In so doing, I began my study with as open a mind as my Lutheran confessional prejudice would allow. I would ask those with similar natures to do the same.

Let me share with you some of the discoveries I have made. Before you begin, you should know that the barriers to official acceptance have been removed. The controversial "He went to the dead" in the Apostles' Creed, and "Save us in time of trial" in the Lord's Prayer have been erased from the printer's plates. We will be supplied with gummed paper for the appropriate places in *Worship Supplement*, and will have the more traditional "He descended into hell" and "Lead us not into temptation" in the proper places. So, if you have had theological *Bedenken* about the controverted articles, relax, and make the changes even if you were avant garde and had early copies.

If you still love Edsel, think about the purpose of *Worship Supplement* for a moment. *Worship Supplement* is intended to be a supplement to *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. You will readily recognize the supplemental characteristics when you notice the auditor's audacity of fresh, contemporary tunes and settings. You might even say that they witness to the rather "suspicious" notion that perhaps God has in this time blessed His Church with creative offerings that deserve more than a polite nod.

Edsel fans, I ask you, how will your psyche respond to such comments as, "But these new melodies are strange, unsingable, and difficult to learn"? These *sogeanante*, self-acclaimed musical analysts have had as many as four or even five experiences with the music. It seems to me that these experts are reflecting on their mundane and carnal desires for immediate musical self-gratification, with no concern for that which endures. I ask you, is that Edselian?

Perhaps an analogy would be instructive. Our non-Edselian brethren can be compared to a person who would refuse to want to know more about someone else after only a casual first acquaintance with them. He may just have deprived himself of the possibility of acquiring a knowledge of inner beauty and strength not readily seen through the facade of human personality or appearance. The analogy is obvious, but with it goes an exhortation: "Beware of immediate negative impressions, whether they be in life relationships or in your acquaintance with the arts. If you are only moved by the immediate.

you may very well rob yourself of having experiences of enduring worth and quality, the likes of which the immediate could never hope to provide."

Fellow Edselians, remember the slogan, and pursue *Worship Supplement* with vigor. At the same time, however, be cognizant of the risks involved, for you may very well find another friend whose qualities are worth knowing and sharing!

Daniel G. Reuning