

REPORT OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHER FOR THE PAST TRIENNIUM (TO 2009)

During the past triennium I have continued to gather historical evidence at the request of the Presiding Bishop's chancellor for use in various court cases whereby certain would-be breakaway parishes have challenged the hierarchical nature of The Episcopal Church and its related jurisdiction of church property. This effort at protection has been greatly assisted by my junior colleague Professor Bruce Mullin, who is far more knowledgeable than me in the minutiae of diocesan and parochial histories in the USA, and it has been largely successful as the secular press has indicated. Professor Mullin has even created a public presentation on the value of such obscure evidence, entitled *In Praise of Dusty Books*.

On December 6, 2007, in Cairo, Egypt, I was grateful to be honored by Archbishop Williams with his award of the Cross of St. Augustine of Canterbury, in recognition of my services to the church, especially in historical and ecumenical scholarship. And shortly after returning I was privileged to be an invitee on December 18 to the New York firm of Sotheby for the auction of a copy of the Magna Carta (710 years old), for which \$21.3 million was paid (I was not among those bidding).

The journal entitled *The Weekly Standard* invited me to write, and subsequently published, an essay on the historical origins of Anglican evangelicalism in its issue of January 14, 2008, and the publisher Brill of Leiden commissioned from me an article on The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, which has appeared in the final volume of their "Encyclopedia of Christianity." My volume on the Wisdom Literature in the series *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture* has now passed a print-run of 17,000, and, so far, it has also appeared in Italian and Spanish translations, with other languages on the way.

In the midst of these activities, as well as my normal teaching, I tripped by a freak accident on a New York City curb in late March of 2008, managing to break my ankle in three places with the result that I was hospitalized some six weeks for rehabilitation, missing a pilgrimage to "London, Crossroads of Anglicanism," which I had been invited to lead, as well as an international conference of the Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius held at St. Vladimir's Seminary, where my paper on *The Anglican Understanding of Primacy* was delivered in my name. I had also been the designer of a major conference at General Seminary in April on the proposed Anglican Covenant, involving representatives from all the Episcopal seminaries with many different points of view, for which I also prepared a paper that was read on my behalf. And on April 18, I was taken to the ecumenical reception in honor of Pope Benedict XVI, where I caused some confusion, because the only place I could be seated in my wheel chair was in the midst of the College of Cardinals.

Once more ambulatory, in the fall of 2008, I resumed my overseas journeys (which are usually partly ecumenical and partly historical), traveling to Manila for the second international conference of The Episcopal Church on "Globalization and Catholicity" with the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, as well as with observers from the Lutheran Church of Sweden. And then in December, I traveled to Japan (Kyoto and Tokyo) to give a paper on *The Origins of Anglicanism* in a conference organized by the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, which will subsequently be published in Japanese translation with three other invited papers by scholars from other countries.

Historically speaking, for me in the past triennium the most significant event was the publication this past summer of my *Companion to Bede* (in 162 pages by Eerdmans). Bede (672-735) is the gateway book to the beginnings of Anglican history, and I am pleased that this new volume has gotten much attention as well as no fewer than three book-signing receptions.

The Historiographer also serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society of The Episcopal Church, and I have participated in many of their activities in service to the church over the past three years. Of particular importance is the continued growth of the African

American Episcopal Historical Collection, established by the Society in partnership with Virginia Theological Seminary. That partnership has been extended for another five years, and Virginia Theological Seminary has increased its support of the collection to enable funding a full-time archivist.

The Historical Society continues publication of its quarterly journal, *Anglican and Episcopal History*, of which I serve as an advisory editor. In 2007, John Woolverton retired after almost thirty years as the editor of the journal, and he was honored by the Society at its annual membership meeting, where I offered a tribute to his editorship. Succeeding John Woolverton is Edward L. Bond, Professor of History at Alabama A&M University.

The Historical Society awards annually small research grants to assist scholars engaged in new studies of the history of the church, and I have participated in their selection. The Society sponsors a dinner during General Convention that includes a speech by a prominent church historian. In 2006, Frederick Quinn, himself a director of the Society, titled his lecture '*Oh Brave New World that has such people in it!*' *Anglicanism's Global Future*. Society President Fredrica Harris Thompsett noted that Dr. Quinn's address inaugurates a new lecture series for the Society, the Manross Lecture, named for the Society's chief benefactor, W.W. Manross. Speakers for the 2009 convention dinner will be Daniel Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, Professor at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and the new Book Review Editor of the Society's journal, and Jane Shaw, Dean and Professor at New College, Oxford and visiting scholar in 2009 at the University of California, Berkeley. They will offer the perspective of young scholars upon the history of our church.

The Historical Society also jointly sponsors a triennial conference with the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists and the Episcopal Women's History Project. In June 2007, the conference *Legacies and Promises: 400 years of Anglican/Episcopal History* was held in Williamsburg, Virginia, in conjunction with the observance of the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Settlement. At the conference I delivered a paper on evidence of Anglican slaveholding in Brooklyn, and I served as celebrant and preacher for a service according to the 1559 Book of Common Prayer. The next conference will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 21-23, 2010, and will be devoted to setting the church's embrace of the Millennium Development Goals in historical perspective.

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