

## FOREWORD

The essays in this magazine comprise most of the papers presented at the first Regional Conference of the World Methodist Historical Society held July 17-21, 1973, at Wesley College, Bristol, England. A few contributions are missing because the lecturers did not forward their material to the Committee on Publication or because the content did not lend itself to publication at this time. The published lectures have not been condensed in any way, but are presented substantially in the order and content as they were delivered at Bristol.

Sixty full-time delegates and lecturers attended the sessions of the Conference, and on two nights the attendance was enlarged by a group of about one hundred persons invited because of their interest in Methodist history. Wesley College provided an ideal setting for the first Regional Conference. During the week the delegates had opportunity to visit the New Room in Bristol, famous as the one building in the world intimately associated with John Wesley from the outset of his evangelical campaign to the closing year of his life.

As Executive Secretary of the World Methodist Historical Society, I wish to express my deep appreciation to Methodist History and the A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review for their assistance in making this publication possible and to all those who made the Conference a success.

--Frederick E. Maser

The Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Editor of the A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review have heartily endorsed this tangible expression of cooperation in a venture which we feel is of significant aid to the advancement of interdenominational activity. Not only is this our belief, but the undertaking naturally is of mutual interest to the two denominations involved.

The common heritage of The United Methodist Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church makes any historical work on early or contemporary events vital to both denominations. From the founding of Methodism in New York City and the inclusion of Blacks in the Society, this concern of one for the other has persisted, first in the twenty-five years of common worship from 1771 to 1796 and then in a shared ministry to the 1820s.

Instances of cooperation between the two denominations have not been lacking in the past, but to these experiences we now add this combined issue of the A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review and Methodist History with the News Bulletin of the World Methodist Historical Society.

--David H. Bradley, Editor-Manager  
The A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review

The editorial staff of Methodist History is pleased to join with the editors of the A.M.E. Zion Quarterly Review and the World Methodist Historical Society News Bulletin in producing this joint issue. By so doing we are providing our respective subscribers with a series of outstanding manuscripts at no extra cost. We are also showing forth that oneness which we recognize in our common Methodist heritage as sons and daughters of John Wesley.

The Bristol (England) Regional Conference was a milestone in Methodist historiography. Hopefully it will have set a standard for future historians' conferences of which a Regional Conference for the Americas is scheduled this month at Kansas City, Missouri. If by our cooperative endeavor we are able to enhance the quality of future conferences and afford such manuscripts to reach wider Methodist audiences, we believe that our decision is worth the effort and cost.

--John H. Ness, Jr., Editor  
Louise L. Queen, Assistant  
Methodist History