

## THE REVIEWS

RICHARD A. SHORE

The Association for Symbolic Logic began publishing reviews of books and articles in symbolic logic with the first issue of *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* in 1936 under the direction of Alonzo Church. (For a very good history of the reviews under Church and somewhat beyond we recommend “Alonzo Church and the Reviews” by Herbert Enderton, this *Bulletin*, vol. 4 (1998), 172-180, on which we have based our remarks about this period of the reviews.) The endeavor began with the goals of serving as a complete bibliography of the field of symbolic logic as well as providing competent and critical analyses of the works listed. Over the past decades the reviews underwent a number of changes in both scope and approach as well as in the organization of the reviews office.

The 1950’s saw an explosion of the publication rate in symbolic logic that resulted in a backlog of unreviewed material. Beginning in 1961, with the financial assistance of the NSF and later U.S. Steel, Church hired assistants and was able to publish the 25-year index, institute systematic procedures for the reviews office and tackle the backlog of material. Church faced mandatory retirement from Princeton and, in 1967, he and the entire reviews operation moved to UCLA with the understanding that the Reviews would be housed and supported there as long as Church remained its editor. The size of the review section grew considerably during this period but even with outside support it was not possible to review everything in the vastly growing literature. As the support from NSF ended, it became clear in the early 70’s that the situation as it then existed could not be maintained.

At the request of the ASL Council, Church brought the reviews operation to “an orderly close” with the 1975 volume. In 1976 it was announced that the scope of reviewing would henceforth be limited by financial resources and a system of reviewing books only was instituted and continued until Church’s retirement as reviews editor in 1979. The Council appointed Herbert Enderton (who had worked with Church from 1968 to 1973 and again from 1975 onward) and William Craig as review editors. During their first terms, the Council instituted a new policy of reviewing selected articles or groups of articles. Enderton became the coordinating editor for reviews in 1982 and the number of editors working with him was expanded to four.