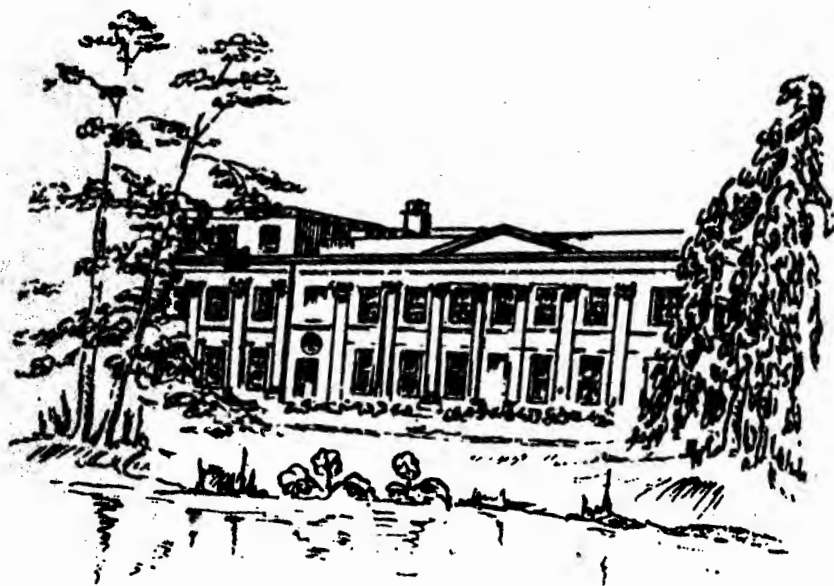


BULLETIN
of the
**Association of British Theological
and Philosophical Libraries**



Volume 6, Number 3
November 1999

BULLETIN 1999

The *Bulletin* is published by the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries as a forum for professional exchange and development in the fields of theological and philosophical librarianship. ABTAPL was founded in 1956 to bring together librarians working with or interested in theological and philosophical literature in Great Britain. The *Bulletin* is published three times a year (March, June and November) and now has a circulation of approximately 300 copies, with about one third of that number going to libraries in Europe, North America, Japan and the Commonwealth.

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ABTAPL holds its mailing list on a computer; this list is used for no other purpose than to generate mailing labels. On occasion we will sell the list on labels for one time use to selected publishers and library related organisations for relevant items only. If you object to being included in such a list, please write to the Honorary Secretary at the above address.

***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and
Philosophical Libraries***

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PUBLICATIONS

GUIDE TO THEOLOGICAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Compiled and edited by David A. Kerry & Evelyn Cornell
ABTAPL Publishing, April 1999, ISBN 094894501X

£15/\$25 for ABTAPL members; £17.50/\$30 for non-members (inc. p+p)

Copies available from

Dr. A. Lacey, Hon. Sec. ABTAPL, Trinity Hall, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TJ

ABTAPL UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS

The next edition of the Union List is due to be published in January 2000.

The Union List now includes the philosophy, theology and religious studies journal holdings of 41 different institutions in the UK and should prove a useful tool in tracing the locations of titles.

Publisher details are given for some titles and it is hoped that the coverage of bibliographical details will increase with future editions

Further inclusions in the Union List would be welcome; contact Evelyn Cornell for more information.

The cost of the **ABTAPL Union List of Periodicals** is **£12**.

Cheques should be made payable to **ABTAPL**

and sent to: Ms. Evelyn Cornell
The Main Library
University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 9QD
tel: 0116-252 2042; email: ec@leicester.ac.uk

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

2000 Spring Day Conference

will be held on

Monday 17th April at 2.00 p.m.

at the

British Library, London

Please send items for inclusion in the agenda to the Honorary Secretary

* * * * *

**2000 Autumn Residential Conference
and Annual General Meeting**

will be held at

**University College of Ripon and York St. John
York**

from Saturday 2nd September to Monday 4th September

This will be preceded by the

**Annual Assembly of
BETH/International Council of Theological Library Associations**

to be held from

Wednesday 30th August to Saturday 2nd September

Members of ABTAPL are welcome to participate in this meeting.

Details of both meetings will be sent to UK members. Members not resident in the UK who would like further information should contact the Honorary Secretary.

Advance notification of attendance will be required, as places are limited.

MEMBERSHIP OF ABTAPL: INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES

The Committee of ABTAPL is proposing to look at the current membership of ABTAPL in more detail over the next few months with a view to widening membership, especially in the area of philosophical libraries and non-Christian religions. With this in mind a breakdown of the membership has been obtained which is as follows.

Membership

(Based on figures for the end of 1998)

Theological Colleges (includes bible colleges, seminaries)	66
Universities	37
Colleges of Higher Education	12
Public Libraries	3
Religious Orders & Church Bodies	12
Cathedrals	5
Societies	5
Religious Education Centres	3
Buddhist	1
Jewish	1
Others	3
Personal Members (includes librarians, academics & theologians)	36
Total Membership	184

Destinations of Copies of the *Bulletin*

In addition to the copies sent to ABTAPL members, a number of complimentary copies of the *Bulletin* are sent out. Also copies of the *Bulletin* are exchanged with other theological library associations. The following is a breakdown of all copies sent out by country.

UK

(These are very rough geographical divisions)

Scotland	16
Wales	4
Northern Ireland	2
England:	
North-west	8
Yorkshire & North-east	11
Midlands	28
East	12
South-west	8
South	8
South-east	38
UK Total	135

UK Cities with 5 or More Members

(These are included in the above total of 135)

Birmingham	13
Bristol	5
Cambridge	7
Edinburgh	7
London	28
Oxford	11

Overseas:

Australia	6 (1)
Belgium	4 (2)
Canada	1
Costa Rica	1 (1)
Cyprus	1
Eire	2
France	1 (1)
Germany	5 (3)
Indonesia	1 (1)
Italy	4 (2)
New Zealand	2
Poland	1 (1)
Singapore	1
Spain	2 (1)
Switzerland	2 (1)
Tonga	1
USA	39 (1)
Overseas Total	74

(Figures in brackets show the number of complimentary or exchange copies; these are included in the total of 74)

Total Copies Distributed (UK and Overseas) 209

If anyone reading this, who is not already a member of the Association, would like further information about ABTAPL, please contact the Hon. Secretary (address inside the front cover of this issue) or consult our website (web address inside the front cover of this issue) where a membership form can be downloaded. Also if you know of any libraries or individuals who would benefit from ABTAPL membership, please let me or one of the other Committee members know.

Judith Powles
Spurgeon's College
London
Chairman of ABTAPL

1999 AUTUMN MEETING

This year's Autumn Meeting was held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham on 16th November, followed by a visit to the Orchard Learning Resources Centre, Selly Oak Colleges.

Evelyn Cornell, who has recently taken up a new post at Leicester University Library, reported that the new edition of the *Union List of Periodicals* should be available in January 2000. She would be pleased to receive details of holdings of libraries not currently in the list. Andrew Lacey reported that about one-third of the copies of the *Guide to Theological & Religious Studies Collections of Great Britain & Ireland* had been sold. Judy Powles had contacted the Library Association about the inclusion of a review of the *Guide* in the *LA Record*, but this had been refused as it is a revised edition not a new publication. Marion Smith agreed to ask a colleague to write a review which could then be offered to various journals: suggestions for journals to contact would be welcome. Professional development was discussed; Judy Powles thanked Stephen Dixon of Newman College for the training course on web-site design and asked for other suggestions for training, use of the internet being an obvious one. A short report was presented on this year's International Council meeting in Montpellier; delegates to the Council had been very interested in the plans for next year's autumn meeting to be held in York as it will be preceded by their conference. ABTAPL's Spring Meeting will be a half-day meeting held at the new British Library, London on 17th April 2000; as numbers are limited prior notification of attendance will be necessary. Suggestions for future conferences include Exeter (Spring 2001) and Leo Beck College, London (Autumn 2001).

After the meeting, Mary Jo Clogg, Librarian at Woodbrooke spoke to us about the collections (an article appears elsewhere in this issue) and very kindly allowed us to look around the library. This was followed by tea and scones and a walk up the hill to the Orchard Learning Resources Centre. Built two years ago, the centre houses the collections of the Selly Oak Colleges Central Library and Westhill College Library; it has recently become part of the University of Birmingham Library. Here we were shown around by Gordon Harris, Director of the Centre, and Michael Gale. At the end of the visit a few of us were able to look at the Mingana Collection of Oriental Manuscripts, described to us by Meline Nielsen. Our thanks are due to all of them for making us welcome.

Marion Smith
Birmingham Central Library

WEB AUTHORING COURSE, NEWMAN COLLEGE, JULY 1999

On Wednesday 21st July, a number of ABTAPL members met at Newman College of Higher Education in Birmingham to participate in the Web Authoring Course run by Stephen Dixon, Electronic Information Manager at the College. We were shown to the impressive teaching suite where each of us was allocated his/her own computer terminal for the day, linked to Newman College's network. Steve began by assuring us that by the end of the day much of the mystery about web authoring would have been removed. Initially Steve took us through the basics of web page design using AOL Press, which is available free on the Internet. This piece of software automatically "translates" ordinary documents into HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and thus does away with the need for more specialised knowledge and expertise. By lunchtime all of us had produced our own basic web pages, complete with Internet and email links. It has to be said that some were rather more impressive than others!

After a very good buffet lunch, we returned to our websites to work on more advanced techniques, e.g. inserting graphics. Steve introduced us to some useful websites from which you can download royalty-free animated graphics. It is fair to say that these caused some amusement, to put it mildly. We then went on to create an interactive quiz, again using free software. Finally, on an even lighter note, one of Steve's colleagues introduced us to the delights of "The Hamster Dance" website.

By the end of the day, all of us felt that we were now well equipped to return to our various places of work with a good working knowledge of web page design. Obviously one cannot learn everything there is to know in a one-day course, but we have an extremely good grounding in the subject and can "boldly go" (to quote from a certain TV programme - sorry about the grammar!) onto the next stage without fear. All of us want to thank Steve for giving us such a good day and indeed for taking the mystery out of the subject, as he had promised. ABTAPL is also grateful to Newman College for allowing us to make use of their excellent facilities.

*Judith Powles
Spurgeon's College
London*

REPORT OF THE 28th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS/BETH 1999

This year's conference was held in Montpellier, France, from 9th to 12th September and followed the annual meeting of the Association des Bibliothèques Chrétiennes de France (ABCF). Penny Hall and I represented ABTAPL at the Council's conference and I also attended the ABCF meeting. ABCF meets every two years and this year was attended by some 50 delegates, many of whom were there for the first time. Their committee has only seven members, two of whom have recently resigned and another one was unable to attend. Unfortunately there seems to be an unwillingness among members to join the committee thereby putting more responsibility onto those who remain. This year's conference had the theme of the Judeo-Christian tradition and books. There were three very interesting talks relating to this theme as well as others by representatives of ABES (the bibliographical agency for higher education) and local publishers and booksellers. Visits were also made to the Library of the Faculty of Medicine, which houses a wonderful collection of prints, and the Library of the Faculty of Protestant Theology as well as a tour of Montpellier's impressive new public library, the Médiathèque Gutenberg, which is still under construction (hard hats were issued all round!). We were given the opportunity to look at ABCF's new website, which includes information on member libraries with links to online catalogues, and photographs of the committee! Most members of the International Council had arrived by 10th September, when a trip had been arranged so that we could see something of the surrounding area while both groups got to know each other. It was a long, hot day but fascinating and gave us an awareness of the local religious history, primarily the persecution of protestants.

The business meeting of the Council was held over the next two days and included the following decisions. The Council will now be known as Beth (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie - European Theological Libraries). The question of international relations will be discussed at next year's annual conference (York) and it was noted that the American Theological Library Association's conference in June 2000, to which the Council intends to send a delegate, will have the theme of international theological librarianship. Penny Hall was co-opted to the Committee of the Council as co-ordinator of the Ethereli project; the Library of the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University, Tilburg, Netherlands, the Sankt Andreas Bibliotek, Copenhagen, Denmark, and the Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt, Germany were accepted as extraordinary members. There was a discussion on the development of Beth; it was noted that the number of extraordinary members (primarily single institutions) is increasing whilst the number of ordinary members (theological library associations) is likely to remain constant. Sympathy was expressed about the theft of

computers, etc, from the Centre Informatique et Bible, Maredsous, Belgium (see News & Notes).

Penny Hall reported on the current state of the Ethereli project (see following report) and there were contributions to the discussion by Dag Tjemsland (Norway) who described the Sphere project (website <http://www.uio.no/~dagtj/sphere/>) which is investigating the study of theology using the internet and includes the possibility of classifying websites by subject, and Barbara Wolf-Dahm (Deutsche Bibliothek) who told us about the MACS (Multilingual access to subject headings) project, set up by the national libraries of France, Germany, Switzerland and Britain. Dennis Norlin (Executive Director of ATLA) spoke about ATLA's projects and their interest in a multilingual thesaurus. It was agreed that Beth should set up co-operation with the MACS project whilst maintaining contact with the Sphere and ATLA projects. Funding of Ethereli was discussed and it was agreed that a separate fund should be set up. ATLA has arranged that for every subscription to their Religion Data Base CD-Rom they will donate \$100 to Beth for Ethereli and that national associations will receive \$100 for each member who subscribes. ABTAPL has already agreed that this latter amount (22 subscriptions) should be allocated to Ethereli and Penny Hall expressed her thanks to ABTAPL for their support in this.

A website for Beth has been set up (<http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/conseil/>) by Étienne D'Hondt at the University of Leuven; he would welcome comments and suggestions (email: etienne.dhondt@theo.kuleuven.ac.be). I outlined the programme for the conference in York next year and our plans were well received. Future conferences will be held in Erfurt, Germany (2001) and Salamanca, Spain (2002).

I very much enjoyed taking part in both conferences and I am very grateful to our French colleagues for their kindness and hospitality. It was very interesting to meet colleagues from Europe, America, and Scandinavia and to exchange experiences and views on the future of theological librarianship; I would urge anyone who can to participate in Beth's next conference which precedes the ABTAPL meeting in York next year.

Marion Smith
Birmingham Central Library

CURRENT STATUS OF THE ETHERELI PROJECT: REPORT TO BETH/ INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

This report covers the past year since the meeting of the Council in Krakow, September 1998. Unfortunately there is not a great deal to report because the project has been floundering due to lack of funding.

In October 1998, I spent several days in Maredsous with Brother Ferdinand Poswick, the former co-ordinator of the project, when together we reviewed the progress thus far and made some plans for the future. I returned home with as many of the files of the project as I could manage to carry and proceeded to go through them carefully in order to fully understand what had been accomplished and what the next step should be. From this exercise it was evident that the pressing needs were for funding and for the development of the electronic component. Without good financial backing, however, we would not be able to get the work done.

Brother Poswick had written many letters of appeal and I continued addressing the various organisations and foundations that might be amenable to lending us their support. We also continued to have contact with the European Commission, attending two meetings that were specifically organised to introduce the Fifth Frame programmes in the Information Technologies sector.

By the end of March we finally received the proper forms and procedures for submitting our proposal to the EU. This did not leave us much time to compile all the necessary data. I appreciated the help of the staff in the library of the Catholic University in Leuven, who patiently worked with me downloading all the necessary documents and forms from the Fifth Frame website. Once I had all the documents and forms, I made a valiant effort to amass all the pertinent data, only to be foiled by a freak storm that played havoc with the computer and the complicated documents on which I was working at the time. I appealed to the Commission for consideration under the unusual circumstances but never had any reply to my request. To date, although I have continued to seek support from many different avenues, we have not received any favourable responses to our plight.

In March we were offered a place to work on the project within the confines of the Theological Library at the Catholic University in Leuven; thanks to the kind offices of our Vice-President, Etienne D'Hondt. Brother Poswick agreed that Leuven would be a very convenient place to locate the project. At that point we also discussed the merits of setting up a non-profit organisation for handling the administration of the

project. I believe that we are still in agreement that this would be a sensible move to make, should we have the funding to go ahead with the work.

In May I met with a team of taxonomists at Napier University in Edinburgh and introduced them to our project and its objectives. This team of computer experts is most eager to be involved in the project and is ready to design or modify any software that we may need to make the programme run. Like ourselves, however, they too need funding to be able to dedicate time and effort to this project. At the conclusion of several days' work together, we did draw up a realistic schedule of work for the development of the needed technology; the plan covers three years beginning this autumn. The only hindrance is the lack of funds.

I have discussed the situation with Dennis Norlin (Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association), and with the indexers at the ATLA headquarters. In those discussions, we came up with some ideas that might help us to further our work without abandoning the project altogether for lack of support. These ideas, however, have not been developed as yet, and would need to be discussed in detail with the executive committee of the Council and with the Board of Directors of ATLA before any implementation would be considered.

Another interesting connection which we would very much like to pursue and support is that proposed to us by our colleague from Norway, Dag Tjemsland, who is the co-ordinator of the Sphere project, an on-line gateway for religious information. We have also to pursue the present situation of the MACS project and the possibility of continued collaboration with that effort.

Penelope R. Hall

Co-ordinator of the ETHERELI Project

AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO, JUNE 9-12, 1999: REPORT TO BETH

The Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association was held in Chicago on the Lake Shore Campus of Loyola University from June 9-12. The theme for this conference seemed to focus on theology in the public arena; the three plenary addresses were— "Serving the Religion Information Needs of the Public", "Theology and Virtual Reality", and "Redefining Librarianship as a Profession".

Unfortunately en route to the conference I tripped and fell, breaking my elbow and my nose, and as a result I arrived in Chicago a day late. Nevertheless, I did arrive in time to participate in the panel presentation, "International Theological Librarianship" (see following article), on the Friday morning and to have ample opportunities to discuss on a one-to-one basis some of the issues pertinent to the development of our profession in the current global scene. The panel presentation on "International Theological Librarianship" was well attended, though because of the schedule constraints there was very little time for questions from the floor. A number of people stayed to converse with the panel members after the session, and again there was considerable interest expressed in attending the International Council meeting in York next year.

There was a noted concern about the way in which electronic communication is affecting our communication skills in real time in the real world; so much of life for the younger generation is spent in the virtual world where identities can be hidden and/or falsified. In her plenary address, Susan Thistlethwaite, President of Chicago Theological Seminary, gave us much to think about in relation to these problems.

It was apparent that the people at the Simpson Living-Learning Centre did not expect any librarians to want to read much because the lighting in the rooms was so bad it was impossible to do so. Chicago treated us to some very hot muggy days and the Architectural River Cruise was thoroughly soaked under a heavy thunderstorm. The 'windy city' showed us her capricious nature in fine style.

We are very grateful for the invitations that the Americans extend to us and for their financial support which enables us to attend their conference. These encounters promote excellent co-operation between our organisations and bode well for future collaboration.

Penelope R. Hall
International Council Delegate

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP AND THE ADVANCE OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

by Penelope R. Hall

During the past ten years great advances have been made in the field of communications. Today it is a common occurrence to experience almost instantaneous connections with far flung parts of our world; messages which used to take weeks to reach their destinations can now arrive in less than a minute, with the possibility of an immediate response winging its way back to the initial sender in less time than it would take to place a stamp on a letter and drop it into a post box. Such progress has brought with it infinite possibilities for the sharing of information and resources found in print.

In addition to the advances in communication networks, present global political alliances are bringing the peoples of the world into closer contact with each other every day. Perhaps the most note-worthy of these political pacts is found in the European Union, although the close working agreements which have been in existence for more than a century between Canada and the United States of America have brought two vast territories into close co-operation and produced the longest undefended border in the world. In addition, under the auspices of the Organisation for the American States, we see a growing co-operation between Canada, the United States of America, Mexico and the other countries of Central and South America. Along with the prevalence of trade treaties and cultural exchanges, information is shared much more frequently and freely than ever before in the history of the world. In such a climate of ready communication it is essential that we who are part of the information society think seriously about our usage of this technology.

Devising a common interface for library catalogues in North America where the majority of the users are fluent in English is not such a difficult problem. In Europe, however, where there is a multitude of languages in common use, we are faced with the problem of writing a multilingual thesaurus to provide a basis for a multilingual interface system. Once such a multilingual index is established, it would conceivably be possible to expand it even further to include the principle languages of Asia and Africa. However, even a European multilingual interface programme would provide for a much broader access globally than one available in English only.

With all of the foregoing in mind, the International Council of Theological Library Associations in Europe has proposed the development of a multilingual thesaurus for the establishment of a multilingual interface for theological libraries. The project has been named *ETHERELI*, the European Thesaurus for Religious Libraries. This

system of indexation is to be made available via the internet and on CD-ROM for the use of students, researchers and other professionals.

The project began with a pilot project in which we developed a limited thesaurus for "Religious Ethics" in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Unfortunately we were unable to simultaneously develop the necessary software to make this pilot project available immediately on the internet. Nevertheless the pilot study pointed out the areas in which we needed to improve our methodology and the necessary tools that we needed to complete this colossal undertaking.

Apart from the multilingual aspect of this project which is seen when viewing the whole, this programme will also produce individual thesauri for each participant language. These individual thesauri in themselves could prove to be of benefit in many areas where a common system for indexation has yet to be developed. Many of the smaller libraries found in monasteries, convents, rural parishes and in other remote quarters have extremely valuable collections of manuscripts dating from the Medieval Period, along with other rare books. Although these small libraries have been catalogued—usually by author and title only—the systems that have been used are often unique to the particular library and are, therefore, not readily available to the broader academic world.

Not only the readers in Europe, however, but also readers and scholars around the world will ultimately reap the benefits from this project. By making the wealth of the theological and religious resources found in the libraries of Europe available on the internet, we will be able to support the education and training of religious leaders throughout the world. Many small Bible schools, seminaries, and training institutes in the developing nations are struggling to provide adequate materials for their students; some are relatively cut off from the broader context of theological scholarship and are unaware of many of the publications and texts which could be of help to their teachers and students alike. With a great number of library catalogues available to them via the internet, these small schools and colleges should be able to make wiser choices for the acquisition of new books for their libraries. Such a wealth of information might also inspire some inquiring minds to delve further into their study and research.

Religion is a universal phenomenon. Wherever one goes in the world, whatever language group one encounters, some form of religion and/or religious reflection will be found. As the communication networks increase and the speed of travel brings us in closer contact than ever before, it behoves us to seek for better understanding among the nations and peoples of the world. Thus, making the religious and

theological resources of the West readily available, we can promote the exchange of ideas, the sharing of histories, a meeting place for discussion and mutual understanding.

To our knowledge, no multilingual research programme, either within a national, European, or international domain, has been operationally established to serve the needs of those who are working within the field of religious studies. It falls to us, therefore, to urgently pursue the means by which such a programme can be mounted. I am convinced that we are just beginning to understand the possibilities that are open to us in this age of burgeoning technology for global communication.

The majority of the old established universities in Europe, and indeed, in the United States also, began as theological institutions. The study of theology established the basis for investigation into the other sciences. Should we not once again take our position on the cutting edge of academic endeavours? In so doing we shall make our great theological heritage available to all peoples, tongues and nations in the spirit of Pentecost, for each shall be able to search for information in his or her own language.

Penelope R. Hall

International Council of Theological Library Associations

WOODBROOKE QUAKER STUDY CENTRE: THE LIBRARY

The library at Woodbrooke is an oasis within an oasis, a place of peace set aside for quiet reflection, study and research within the faith community of the College. Its stock is large: 15,000 Quaker items, and a further 30,000 items focusing mainly on issues of special concern to Quakers.

The Quaker Library

The second largest in Britain, next only to Friends' House Library in the wealth of its collection. It holds over half of all items published in the seventeenth century by and about Quakers. Its includes the following collections.

The Bevan Naish Collection

5000 early books, tracts, and some manuscripts by Quaker authors and on Quaker topics; many of them from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This is not only a resource for scholars of the period, but an exciting source for all Quakers.

The Rendel Harris Collection

A part of the personal library of James Rendel Harris, the eminent biblical scholar and religious writer. His is a valuable antiquarian collection, in which the Greek new testaments, over ninety in number and dating from 1516, are especially noteworthy.

The Powicke Collection

A valuable collection of books by and about Richard Baxter, the seventeenth century theologian. This is probably the second most complete set of books on Baxter in the country. This collection also contains a number of important works by the Cambridge Platonists.

The Quaker Library

In addition to the special collections, about 10,000 items dating from the seventeenth century to the present day. All substantial British Quaker publications are stocked, as well as many more ephemeral items from this country and many important books from abroad. Full runs of major pamphlet series, over one hundred Quaker periodicals, some microfilms, and a number of relevant PhD theses are also kept.

The Main Library

These holdings reflect the interests and concerns of Quakers today, with good sections on peace, conflict resolution, theology, gender and sexuality issues, biblical studies, and areas of faith in action. It seeks to provide the books needed for the teaching in the College, and with further and peripheral reading for the student.

Use of the Library

The library is open to Woodbrooke residents twenty-four hours daily, and much of its material is available for use at any time. Non-residents are welcome during normal office hours or by arrangement; they must register with the librarian before using the library for the first time, so it is advisable to make an appointment. Borrowing is restricted to certain items, and is at the discretion of the librarian.

Woodbrooke is part of the Selly Oak Colleges Federation, Birmingham, and will be the venue for the ABTAPL autumn meeting this year.

Mary Jo Clogg

Librarian

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

1046 Bristol Road

Birmingham B29 6LJ

Tel: 0121 472 5171; Fax: 0121 472 5173; email: enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/woodbrooke

THE CMS LIBRARY

by Jean Woods

The Church Missionary Society was founded in 1799 (see *A Proper Confidence* in the *Bulletin* vol. 6, no.2, June 1999). Although its first missionaries were not sent out until 1804, the minutes of the committee meeting of 4th November 1799 record that 13 publications (books, periodicals and reports) were to be purchased to assist the committee in acquiring missionary information. At the committee meeting of 10th February 1800 the books which had been purchased were directed to be bound and labelled as the Society's property and Mr. Goode (committee member) appointed librarian. At first the library had no permanent home. In 1811 it was moved from Mr. Goode's house to that of the Secretary for the purpose of being arranged and catalogued, and eventually to the headquarters building after that was established in 1813.

In 1803 the committee empowered the Secretary "to purchase such books or periodicals and occasional publications relative to Missions as he may think useful" but in 1906 Irene Barnes reported in her book *In Salisbury Square* (a description of the life and work of the headquarters building) that "a very slender advantage had been taken of this permission for economical reasons". Nevertheless she reports a library of c. 10,000 volumes and the appointment of a librarian for overhauling, re-arranging and systematically cataloguing the library. The library acted as a deposit library for CMS publications. Other books had been purchased and a considerable number had been acquired through bequests, often of puritan literature. It also housed some manuscripts of books and sermons, and autographed papers, which were kept in a special cupboard. The account given of the library in 1906 suggests a club atmosphere. It was a place for social gatherings, a waiting room and meeting place for missionaries present for interview and a place where visiting clergy and laity could come to look up references. Occasional enquiries came from learned institutions and other outside bodies.

Independently of the reference library at headquarters a lending library had grown up under the aegis of the Gleaners' Union. The Union was formed in 1886 as a semi-autonomous body for supporters of CMS. A circulating library was established, with a catalogue, and run from a private home in Hampstead. In 1900 it was handed over to the Study Department at CMS and became the nucleus of the Department's lending library. In 1916 there were 8,000 books, boxes of which were continually sent out to study groups and received back. There were multiple copies of popular books and the whole enterprise was flourishing; lantern-slides, maps and curios were also lent to the groups.

At some point during the next thirty years, the two libraries were amalgamated. Shortly after World War II the first professional librarian was appointed. She immediately started to classify the books by Dewey, initiated a proper card catalogue and was instrumental in finding good homes for many of the duplicate books, as well as overseeing the sale of some books which the library had acquired but had no space for and which were of little relevance to the main subject matter.

When I was appointed in 1959 some parcels of books were still being sent to study groups but this was a limited service due to the small demand. A lot of time was spent preparing the library for the forthcoming move to new premises. The archives and library were beginning to be used by research students and in the 1950s the Society appointed the first archivist. It was not until the Society's move from Salisbury Square to Waterloo Road in 1966 that the trickle of students became a flood. The library in the new building was given just enough space for its current

needs, but little for expansion. The librarian and archivist shared an office and the reading desks in the library were often fully occupied, especially in summer. The Secretariat, aware of the growing use of the Society's archives and library by academics and anxious to encourage it, saw the continued provision of these facilities as a service to scholarship.

For a variety of reasons, by the late 1970s the Society felt unable to make such a large amount of space available to the growing library and archives. The archives available for research were deposited in Birmingham University Library (an ongoing process). The reduction of space available for the library meant that difficult and painful decisions had to be taken. Every effort was made to deposit in other libraries books and periodicals not considered essential to the library's core subject - mission studies in the widest sense of the term. It was not possible to make a single deposit, but deposits were made in several libraries. The books not wanted by any library were sold once it had been established that copies were available for students to consult in other libraries.

The library became more pro-active in selling its services to headquarters' staff and missionaries and provided more resources including annotated book lists and abstracts of journal articles. New books and periodicals continued to be purchased, especially those written by Third World authors or published in the Third World. One of the earliest sources was the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society founded in Bangalore in 1957. It produced important books and engaged in a search for Indian Christian theology. Other similar institutes and study centres were founded around the world in coming years. In 1971 Gustavo Gutierrez's landmark study *A Theology of Liberation* was published, paving the way for many more books of contextual theology from Africa and Asia and from women. Books on the world religions and inter-faith dialogue also came increasingly from Africa, Asia and South America. In 1974 the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization was held and delegates from South America and Africa placed new, and to some unwelcome, questions on the agenda; at the same time John Gatut of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa proposed a moratorium on missionaries. The shifting ground of mission work was reflected in the books, reports and periodicals received in the library, and in the developments which gradually took place within CMS. As well as CMS users and academics, the library also began to be used more by schools and the media and much more by overseas visitors wishing to research the history of their own churches.

Another decade passed and then came a third upheaval for the library, which was packed up and put into store whilst the CMS headquarters building was gutted between 1986 and 1988 and new open plan offices provided. The refurbished

building, named Partnership House, was able to house the other large Anglican missionary society, the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. USPG also had a large library. After much discussion it was decided to amalgamate the post-1945 publications from the two libraries and form a new library, Partnership House Mission Studies Library, which opened in 1988. 1946 was chosen as an appropriate publication date for the commencement of stock in the new library because it is symbolic of the end of Britain's imperial power and the new relationships gradually forged within the Commonwealth and beyond. The pre-1946 USPG collection was deposited in Rhodes House Library, Oxford, with the Society's archives. The pre-1946 CMS collection is still housed within Partnership House Mission Studies Library and contains 5 of the volumes originally purchased in 1799. It is administered by the librarian, whilst remaining the property of CMS. It is named the CMS Max Warren Collection in honour of a former General Secretary (1942-1963), a missionary statesman and historian who always gave the greatest possible support to the library. In addition to the pre-1946 stock, new CMS publications are added to it and occasional volumes of specific interest to CMS. Partnership House Mission Studies Library has been enriched by combining the strengths of the two collections, and begins a new chapter in what will be, hopefully, a long history.

Bibliography

BARNES, Irene H. *In Salisbury Square*. London: CMS, 1906.

HOLE, Charles. *The Early History of the Church Missionary Society . . . to the end of AD 1814*. London: CMS, 1896.

STOCK, Eugene. *The History of the Church Missionary Society*. Vol. 4. London: CMS, 1916.

Jean Woods
London

Jean Woods worked in the CMS Library from 1959 to 1992 when she retired from her post as Librarian of the Partnership House Library. An appreciation of her work and contribution appeared in the *Bulletin* (vol. 2, no. 15/16, Nov. 1992/March 1993). In June this year, she received a Lambeth Degree of Master of Arts, awarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury for her service with the society. Rosemary Keen, former Archivist of CMS received the Lambeth Degree of M.Litt at the same ceremony.

REVIEWS

HARVEY, John F. *Scholarly Religious Libraries in North America: a statistical examination.* Lanham, USA, & London: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1999. \$95.00
ISBN 0-8108-3341-7

John F. Harvey's book is a detailed and extensive statistical examination of libraries in North America. The book has been compiled, in part, with the assistance of research student Jo Ann Mouridou, who also adds her views and opinions on various aspects of the research in one of the final chapters.

The book has been compiled, Harvey writes, with various organisations or groups in mind, such as libraries, publishers or journalists, which may benefit academically from statistical data and from conclusions drawn. It may, for example, open discussion or stimulate research.

There are two main sections which are directly concerned with the analysis of data and they cover different aspects of investigation. These sections are preceded by a preface which includes, amongst other things, a concise description of or introduction to each religion or denomination which will be included in the main body of the book. Harvey gives a short history of each of these and also includes membership numbers for North America. The introduction which follows covers a range of topics and, for instance, looks at the importance of religious libraries in the context of the world of religion and discusses similarities and differences in secular and religious libraries. In addition the author outlines criteria for analysis and other issues surrounding his selection methods for data. The data used is taken from the *American Library Directory (ALD)* for 1978 and 1988, and this allows for, in some instances, projection for 1998.

The analysis itself is fairly extensive and Part I covers geographical and demographical aspects of the areas where libraries are found. The section opens with a discussion of the content to follow and identifies aims and what the author intends to show. For John Harvey, these figures are "essential characteristics" for "understanding libraries" more fully.

Part II concentrates on libraries themselves and provides data and analysis on personnel (which includes professional library staff and paraprofessionals), material holdings and expenditure. Part II, as is the case in Part I, is made up from tables and detailed discussion.

There are four appendices following on from Parts I and II; appendix C is a discussion by John Harvey's co-author Jo Ann Mouridou and she considers the limitations and interpretations in research of this nature. Appendix B is a very useful glossary. There is an extensive bibliography. There is a good index and this is followed by a numerical listing of tables and their headings.

Harvey writes that he hopes the book will receive a "friendly opinion" and this occasional type of comment fits easily with his analytical style combined with personal approach. The book is interesting in that it provides information that hitherto would not be available, at least not in this form, and although it naturally includes vast amounts of data and figures, it is very readable. The author and co-author write with an understanding of the scope and limitations of their task and with an informed and thorough understanding of religious libraries and the work of librarians in this field.

HARVEY, John F. *Popular Religious Libraries in North America: a statistical examination*. Lanham, USA & London: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1999. \$110.00 ISBN 0-8108-3342-5.

There are a number of parallels between John F. Harvey's two books, *Popular Religious Libraries* and *Scholarly Religious Libraries*, particularly in terms of the organisation of contents, where each has an almost identical chapter and appendix sequence, and both books open with chapters introducing the religious world and followed by geographic and demographic explorations. There are other similarities creating strong links between the books, such as methodology and data sources used but while these similarities of approach provide a common basis, each book has its own identity and the subject matter of each, i.e. types of library, gives rise to different and varied scope and conclusions. Ultimately both books explore the very essence of libraries discussed, their holdings and staff or personnel. In addition to similarities mentioned above both books are beautifully bound and are published as a matching set.

Popular Religious Libraries in North America is extensive in both its research and analyses and the book itself is almost 750 pages long. Harvey's view that "popular religious libraries" is a library or information field "not previously defined" underpins much of the thinking. Following from that the function or purpose of the book is to produce a comprehensive view of the "fundamental characteristics" through analysis and description and to assign new definitions for or perspectives on these types of libraries.

As noted above, in the same way that Harvey examines regions where libraries are located through geographic and demographic analysis in *Scholarly Religious Libraries*, he does so here, stating as he sees it that these facts are basic to the understanding of popular religious libraries in this context. This chapter (Chapter Two) together with the introduction sets the scene for discussion to follow and here the libraries themselves are examined, amongst other things, in terms of type of library; region; denomination; expenditure and quantities of resources.

In Chapter Three the main data sources are introduced. These are taken from the *American Library Directory* (ALD) and the *Church Synagogue Library Association* (CLSA) and are produced as tables, later indexed numerically (and thus chronologically in terms of the book), together with discussion. In this chapter there are examples of areas of growth in library use in one way or another. Chapter Four considers the characteristics of popular religious libraries and uses tables and data, and includes discussion in much the same way as chapters two and three. Here the study is expanded by inclusion of three additional major themes: personnel; library material; and library expenditure. In some instances this type of data demonstrates vast differences between the libraries as a whole for example, for these types of library there are large numbers of clerical workers and comparatively fewer professional staff.

There are six appendices including a comprehensive glossary which also lists acronyms, an annotated bibliography and following these there is a good index. Jo Ann Mouridou's main contribution appears as an appendix and here she comments on the limitations that this type of research is likely to be subject to. She considers, for example, the assumptions of definition using data from different years but she also supports the reliability of projections for smaller areas of surveys in, for instance, Canada.

The book is primarily a reference tool serving the field of librarianship and those concerned with research. Harvey's work provides a new exploration of a newly defined view of that field of librarianship which he calls an "emerging professional and paraprofessional field" but what makes the book more than simply an extensive piece of research is Harvey's clarity of approach and intelligent assessment which always gives a sense of his appreciation of religious librarianship.

Margaret Hanson
Birmingham Central Library

NEWS AND NOTES

Centre Informatique et Bible, Maredsous, Belgium

In August, the Centre suffered a professional break-in and theft of computers, pcs, scanners, printers, telephones, and fax machines, worth millions of francs. Also stolen were c-ds which contained six months' work on research tools and databases. Partial back-up information is preserved elsewhere. The Centre is renowned for its work in developing electronic tools for using and exploring the Bible and is a member of BETH.

Conferences

"From Strangers to Citizens: Integration of Immigrant Communities in Great Britain, Ireland and the Colonies 1550-1750" to be held at the Dutch Church, Austin Friars, London EC3, 5th to 7th April 2000, an international historical conference convened by the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland. Contact: Dr C.G.D. Littleton, Huguenot Library, University College, Gower St, London WC1E 6BT (E-mail: c.littleton@historybbk.ac.uk)

"Lost Libraries" is the theme of a conference hosted by the Cambridge Project for the Book, to be held at Magdalene College Cambridge from 15th to 17th September 2000. It will examine the circumstances of the disappearance of great libraries, ranging from ancient times to the present. Further information from Lost Libraries, Conference Administrator, CPBT, The Malting House, Newnham Road, Cambridge CB3 9EY. A review of past conferences and continuing projects is available on <http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/related/CPBT>

Dewey 21: Guide to 200 Class

The following book may be useful to users of the Dewey Classification Scheme: MITCHELL, J.S. (ed) *DDC 200 Religion Class, reprinted from Edition 21 of the Dewey Decimal Classification*. New York: Forest Press, 1997. ISBN 0-91-060860-1.

Jewish Book Week 2000

Organised by the Jewish Book Council, this will take place from 5th to 12th March. Further information from Marion Cohen, Jewish Book Council, PO Box 20513, London NW8 6ZS; tel/fax: 020 7483 2092; e-mail: info@jewishbookweek.org.uk

London School of Jewish Studies

The LSJS has completed an association agreement with the School of Oriental and African Studies, and will now be able to offer degrees through SOAS; they had

ceased to be able to offer University of London degrees. This reorganisation should create one of the strongest centres of Jewish study in Europe.

Lyons University, France

The University has launched an appeal to rebuild its library after a fire in June this year destroyed an estimated 350,000 out of 480,000 volumes of books, journals and manuscripts.

New Testament Abstracts CD-Rom

Release 1.0 contains all abstracts and book notices published in NTA from 1988-98 (vols. 32-42) and is available to current institutional subscribers (multi-user licence) at \$250 plus \$8 shipping. Information from NTA, Weston Jesuit School of Theology, 3 Phillips Place, Cambridge MA 02138, USA. E-mail NTAweston@aol.com; web page <http://members.aol.com/ntaweston/nta.html>

Russian Orthodox University of St John the Divine, Moscow

A project to support the University Library has been set up, co-ordinated by the Keston Institute. The University was founded by the Department of Religious Education and Catechesis of the Moscow Patriarchate and opened in 1993. The University is hoping to catch up on the lack of teaching or study of theology in Russia during recent decades by acquiring appropriate books published in the West. A list of books required has been compiled and donations are invited. A copy of the list, and further information on the project can be obtained from Keston Institute, 4 Park Town, Oxford (tel. 01865 311022), who would welcome suggestions on sources of books and cash, and about the scheme generally.

SPCK Archives

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge archives were deposited in Cambridge University Library in October 1998.

Tübingen University Library, Germany

The library holds one of the largest collections of literature on religion and theology in the world and offers the following services: Monthly lists of new books and articles, on-line public access catalogue for books acquired since 1994 (both available free on the internet), c-d rom of articles since 1991, supply of copies of articles. Prices of printed materials and c-d rom available from Universitätsbibliothek, Publikationen, Postfach 2620, D-72016 Tübingen, Germany.
Library website: <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ub/>

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS & OTHER PERIODICALS RECEIVED

Copies of the following have been sent to Marion Smith, Editor of the *Bulletin*.

American Theological Library Association Newsletter August and November 1999

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisch-Theologischer Bibliotheken Mitteilungsblatt 1999

Asociación de Bibliotecarios de la Iglesia en España Boletín Interno, no. 3, October 1999; includes a list of member libraries.

Association des Bibliothèques Chrétiennes de France Bulletin de Liaison, no. 113, October 1999. Includes a report on this year's conference at Montpellier, as well as papers presented there.

Associazione dei Bibliotecari Ecclesiastici Italiani Bollettino di Informazione Number 1, 1999.

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Newsletter No. 38, August 1999. Includes the proceedings of the 14th annual conference on the theme "Oral, Print and Digital Cultures: bound together in Theological Libraries"

Centre Informatique et Bible (Maredsous, Belgium) Interface June and September 1999.

Librarians' Christian Fellowship Christian Librarian, No. 23, 1999 and *Newsletter* Summer/Autumn and Winter 1999. *Christian Librarian* includes addresses given at the LCF Conference: K. Tondeur - What Price the Lottery?; R. Badams - Keeping Sunday Special in the Contemporary Workplace Culture; N. Horley - Changing Perceptions: how librarians understood their professional purpose and values between 1960-1997.

Verband kirchlich-wissenschaftlicher Bibliotheken Informationen für kirchliche Bibliotheken No. 50, 1999.

WEBSITES

ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES CHRÉTIENNES DE FRANCE

<http://www.ccf.fr/abcf>

BETH / INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
ASSOCIATIONS

<http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/conseil/>

BOOKS FOR ACADEMICS www.ex.ac.uk/bfa/

Provides links, indexed by subject categories, to publishers' online catalogues for students and academics

CAMBRIDGE PROJECT FOR THE BOOK

<http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/related/CPBT>

CENTRE INFORMATIQUE ET BIBLE, MAREDSOUS, BELGIUM

<http://cibmaredsous.be>

NEW TESTAMENT ABTRACTS <http://members.aol.com/ntaweston/nta.html>

ORTHODOX FELLOWSHIP OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST <http://www.ofsjb.org>

PHILOSOPHERS' MAGAZINE www.philosophers.co.uk

SEARCH ENGINE WATCH <http://searchenginewatch.com/sereport>

Free subscription site, updated monthly, includes comparisons of search engines

SPHERE PROJECT <http://www.uio.no/~dagtj/sphere/>

Project investigating the study of theology using the internet; includes the possibility of classifying websites by subject

THARPA www.tharpa.com

Suppliers of Buddhist materials

TUEBINGEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, GERMANY

<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ub/>

WATCH <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/WATCH>

Writers, Artists and Their Copyright Holders - database of copyright holders

WOODBROOKE QUAKER STUDY CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM
www.woodbrooke.org.uk/woodbrooke

BLACKMORE, Vernon (compiler) *God on the Net: a guide to the best sites for study, inspiration and resources*. Year 2000 edition. Marshall Pickering, 1999. ISBN 0551032146.

HUTCHINSON DIRECTORY OF WEB SITES Oxford: Helicon Publishing, 1999. ISBN 1859862985.

The front cover features a sketch of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham, by Kathleen Tucker. It originally appeared on the front cover of the *Friends' Quarterly*, Volume 23, Number 2, April 1983, an issue which was devoted to the theme "Woodbrooke and Religious Education".

WEBSITES

ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES CHRÉTIENNES DE FRANCE

<http://www.cef.fr/abcf>

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ORTHODOX FELLOWSHIP OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST <http://www.ofsjb.org>

PHILOSOPHERS' MAGAZINE www.philosophers.co.uk

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