

# BULLETIN

*of the*

*Association of British Theological*

*and Philosophical Libraries*



**Volume 11, Number 3**  
**November 2004**

# ABTAPL

Association of British Theological  
and Philosophical Librarians

## BULLETIN 2004

The *Bulletin* is published by the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Librarians as a forum for professional exchange and development in the fields of theological and philosophical librarianship. ABTAPL was founded in 1976 to bring together librarians working with or interested in theological and philosophical literature in Great Britain. It is a member of BETLI (European Theological Librarians). The *Bulletin* is published three times a year (March, June and November) and now has a circulation of approximately 270 copies, with about one third of that number going to libraries in Europe, North America, and the Commonwealth. The *Bulletin* is indexed in LISA (Library & Information Science Abstracts). ISSN 0950-0222

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## COMMITTEE 2004/2005

- Chairman:** Mrs Judith Pyhles, Librarian, Spurgeon's College, 189 South Norwood Hill, London SE25 4DN
- Hon. Secretary:** Ms Judith Shield, Information Services Department, John Rylands University Library, Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL
- Hon. Treasurer:** Mr Ian Jackson, Librarian, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 4LJ
- Hon. Editor:** Miss Marina Smith, Social Sciences, Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3JQ
- Conference Secretary:** Mrs Rosemary Pugh, Salisbury. Email: [rosemarypugh@btopenworld.com](mailto:rosemarypugh@btopenworld.com)
- Elected Members:** Ms Wendy Bell, Librarian, Oak Hill College, London  
Ms Evelyn Cornall, The Main Library, University of Leicester  
Dr Fuschigna Hall, Edinburgh  
Dr Andrew Lacey, Trinity Hall, Cambridge  
Mr Alan Litchfield, Librarian, London School of Theology, Northwood, Middlesex  
Miss Elizabeth Williams, Partnership House Library, London
- ABTAPL Website:** <http://www.abtapl.org.uk> **Mailing List:** [abtapl@icloud.com](mailto:abtapl@icloud.com)  
**BETLI Website:** <http://www.bhs.kalmar.se/betli>

ABTAPL holds its mailing list on a computer, this is used for no other purpose than to generate mailing lists for use by the Association.

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The front cover has a view of Heythrop College main building, showing the  
Philosophy Library

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **ABTAPL UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS**

The Union List is now available on the internet at  
<http://www.le.ac.uk/abtapl/>

It includes the philosophy, theology and religious studies journal holdings of 47 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 links to free electronic journals are also included. It is updated regularly.

Amendments and new contributions can be sent to Evelyn Cornell,  
The Main Library, University of Leicester. E-mail: [ec37@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:ec37@leicester.ac.uk)

Copies of the 2000 printed edition with holdings of 41 institutions are  
available from  
Mrs Judith Powles, Librarian, Spurgeon's College, 189 South Norwood Hill,  
London SE25 6DJ  
£14.50 for non-contributors and £12 for contributors.  
Cheques should be made payable to **ABTAPL**

Please note that some holdings shown in the printed list are now incorrect  
More accurate holdings can be found on the website.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ***GUIDE TO THEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND***

The new edition of the *Guide* is now available on the ABTAPL website at  
<http://www.abtapl.org.uk/pub.html>

Amendments should be sent to Wendy Bell, Oak Hill College Library,  
Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 4PS. Email: [wendyb@oakhill.ac.uk](mailto:wendyb@oakhill.ac.uk).

## **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

**2005 Spring Residential Conference  
and Annual General Meeting**  
will be held at  
**Collingwood College, The University of Durham**  
from  
**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Details will be sent to UK members. Members not resident in the UK who would like further information should contact the Honorary Secretary. Please send items for inclusion in the agenda to the Honorary Secretary

**\* \* \***

**2005 Autumn Meeting**  
will be held at  
**Oak Hill College, London**  
on  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**\* \* \***

**2006 Golden Jubilee Conference  
and Annual General Meeting**  
will be held at  
**The International Baptist Theological Seminary  
Prague, Czech Republic**  
from  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April**  
For more information and to register interest (no obligation to attend)  
contact Alan Linfield, London Theological College  
email: [a.linfield@lst.ac.uk](mailto:a.linfield@lst.ac.uk)

**\* \* \***

**National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, London**  
A visit has been arranged for members of ABTAPL on  
**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 at 2pm**  
Visitor numbers are limited.  
Please contact Marion Smith, Social Sciences, Central Library, Birmingham  
B3 3HQ, tel: 0121 303 4545; email: [marion.smith@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:marion.smith@birmingham.gov.uk)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Following our very successful meeting at Heythrop College in October, I realized that ABTAPL has gained a number of new members in the past couple of years. These are either people coming into post at existing ABTAPL libraries (as replacements for librarians who have moved onto other jobs or who have retired) or those whose institution is totally new to the Association. It seems to me that there is renewed enthusiasm about ABTAPL which is very encouraging. It is also good to see that many colleagues who retire after many years in a post still retain their links with the Association as personal members.

As a means of getting to know other members, especially valuable if you work in an institution as a solo librarian/information professional, the residential conference held each year in the Spring, is highly recommended. Next year's conference is being held at Collingwood College, University of Durham. Although the programme has not yet been finalized, there is going to be a good mix of talks and visits. The full details will be sent out to all members in the New Year. Many of you will also be aware of ABTAPL's Golden Jubilee Conference to be held at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague in April 2006. This will be a very exciting occasion and I do hope that you will think seriously about coming.

Some of our newer members may not yet have discovered ABTAPL's email discussion list which many of us find absolutely invaluable. It is a very useful way of communicating with other members, for example to ask questions about best practice or to inform colleagues about surplus journals on offer. Full details on the simple joining procedure are given by going to ABTAPL's website (<http://www.abtapl.org.uk>) and clicking on "Discussion List". If you want to know more about the kind of messages sent, there is an archive which can be searched by month or topic.

I do hope that you all find membership of ABTAPL rewarding. Please let me know if there are items/projects which you would like the committee to consider. It is always good to have feedback, positive or otherwise. Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank you all for your good wishes during my period of ill-health over the summer months. I am pleased to say that I am almost back to full health and am more or less back to normal working hours.

*Judith Powles*

## **REPORT OF ABTAPL AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING 2004**

On 14th October 2004 twenty-eight members were present at the Autumn General Meeting of ABTAPL held at Heythrop College, London.

There was further news about Jews' College, London, following the announcement at the last meeting that it had closed in September 2003 . The Montefiore Collection has been auctioned and bought by the Oxford Centre for Jewish Studies. The Library itself is winding down gradually.

Under the grants policy agreed at the previous meeting THUG (Theological Heritage User Group) had been awarded a one-off grant to provide site licences to enable them to produce a web-based union catalogue. Wendy Bell provided an update on progress so far. Two libraries are on the database with another four set to join. The catalogue is hosted by Sarum College and an inter-library loans policy is being set up.

The matter of copyright and the supply of copyright declaration forms were raised in the hope of clarifying what is supposed to happen to the forms once signed by the requesting library. Libraries should charge for copies and the forms should be kept for 6 years. (See below for clarification)

The ABTAPL Spring Meeting in 2005 is to be held at Collingwood College, Durham from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. The conference will be centred round archives and there are visits planned to the County Record Office and the Cathedral Library. The Autumn 2005 meeting will be at Oak Hill College on Thursday 27th October. The suggestion of holding the meeting in the National Art Library at the Victoria & Albert Museum would not be practical, as they cannot accommodate more than 20 people. The visit to the NAL will still place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 but just as an extra for those who are interested.

It was confirmed that the Golden Jubilee Conference will be held at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic from Thursday 6th April to Monday 10th April 2006. Judy Powles mentioned a conference for theological librarians being held at the IBTS in January 2005; further information can be found on the Seminary's website at <http://www.ibts.cz>. Judy, Alan Linfield and Rhys Morgan are hoping to attend.

*The Guide to Theological and Religious Studies Collections of Great Britain and Ireland* has been published on the internet, linked to the ABTAPL website. This edition is solely on-line. Any alterations should be sent to Wendy Bell at Oak Hill College.

There was a discussion on journals, particularly the huge differences between institutional and personal subscription rates which makes it very expensive for small libraries to afford to buy many periodicals. (See below) It was agreed that Judy should write to CILIP on ABTAPL's behalf to appeal for a small institutions rate or ABTAPL rate. A training session on electronic journals has been suggested.

Penelope Hall reported on the recent BETH conference. She was concerned that she had not heard from anyone about the ATLA Religion Database and the deposit library that was hopefully going to be set up for those periodicals not available in Europe. She appealed for people to email her with what they do or not have that appears on the ATLA Database. Three places have been suggested for the deposit library – Leuven, Cologne and Tübingen. If anyone does not have access to the ATLA Database then they could ask someone else to check it for them. Concerning the exchange of duplicate periodicals, similar to the ATLA serials exchange, she reported that a prototype will shortly be set up.

### **Copyright and the Supply of Copyright Declaration Forms**

Graham Cornish of the Copyright Circle has clarified the matter.

"The signed declaration form should be sent to the supplying library together with the request from the requesting library. This justifies the supplying library in making the copy and is its defence. In the case of the British Library, it would be impossible for them to store the millions of declaration forms so the responsibility is passed to the requesting library under an agreement between the requesting libraries and the British Library, i.e. it is not part of the normal legal procedure."

Therefore the situation is as stated on the ABTAPL website. If you supply a photocopy for another library you need to have (and retain) a copyright declaration form signed by the reader of the other library. In an ideal situation this should be sent to you with the request from the requesting library, as Graham states above. However because many of us ask for photocopies on behalf of our readers by email, the normal practice will be



for the supplying library to send a copyright declaration form with the photocopy to the requesting library. The latter should then get their reader to sign it and return the form, plus payment to the supplying library.

There is a sample form which you can download from ABTAPL's website. You can then add your own logo as required. The form is available from the Publications section at <http://www.abtapl.org.uk/pub.html>. The recent legislation has not led to any change in wording.

### **Periodical Prices and the Small Institution**

At ABTAPL's Autumn meeting, the subject of institutional periodical subscription rates was raised, together with the new arrangement for UK subscriptions to Brill's journal titles to be paid via an agent, Extenza-Turpin. According to the small print on Extenza-Turpin's invoices, institutional subscriptions for 2005 could no longer be paid using a credit card and all payments had to be made by cheque in euros, not sterling. Following the meeting I contacted both Brill and Cambridge University Press to discuss the issues raised and to request that the publishers should consider offering a "small institutions" subscription rate for titles in ABTAPL's subject areas. I am pleased to say that both publishers have responded positively and appear to be taking this request seriously. Although it is too late to make any changes for 2005, the publishers have said that they hope to be able to come to some arrangement for 2006. I have also been assured by Linda Empringham, from Customer Services at Brill, that Extenza-Turpin have agreed that institutional payments can be made by credit card and also that they will accept sterling payments. By the time this appears in the *Bulletin*, I hope also to have made contact with Oxford University Press.

I would also like to remind you all that Blackwells Publishing offer a 20% institutional discount to ABTAPL members on 5 of their titles: *The Heythrop Journal*, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Modern Theology*, *Reviews in Religion and Theology* (including *Conversations in Religion and Theology*), *Teaching Theology and Religion*. Please note that this discount price can only be obtained by subscribing directly not through an agent.

If you need further information, please contact me.

Judith Powles

Email: [j.powles@spurgeons.ac.uk](mailto:j.powles@spurgeons.ac.uk); tel: 020 8653 0850

## **HEYTHROP COLLEGE LIBRARY**

By Chris Pedley, S.J

At the Autumn Meeting on 14th October ABTAPL members had an opportunity to tour Heythrop College Library and also see a little of its rare book collection.

In order to understand Heythrop College Library it is necessary to have some idea of its history. The College was established in 1614 for the training of Jesuits for the English Mission in Philosophy and Theology. This was a time when being a Jesuit in England was a capital offence, so the College was founded in Louvain but quickly moved to Liège. Despite the suppression of the Jesuits in 1773 the College continued in existence thanks to the support of the Prince Bishop of Liège. However, with the arrival of the revolutionary armies in 1773 the College had to flee, together with the school which had earlier joined it from St.Omers. It travelled to, a now more tolerant, England, although in the process part of the Library was left behind. However, some at least of the books now in the collection made the journey. The College established itself at Stonyhurst in Lancashire and in 1803 the former Jesuits were able to rejoin the remnant of the Society of Jesus which had survived in Russia.

At various times in its history the College also taught Philosophy, in its broad sense, to lay men as well as Jesuit students. With the establishment of the University of London, the College began to prepare both groups for London external degrees. The collection has inherited books on a wide range of topics from this time as well as from later general studies courses undertaken by Jesuit students at the beginning of their training. The collection also includes a wide range of donations, in particular the library of Edward Baddeley (d. 1868) a specialist in ecclesiastical law.

By 1848 numbers had expanded and theology moved to St. Beuno's in North Wales with Philosophy staying at Stonyhurst. It was at St. Beuno's that the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins did his theology. In the nineteenth century roles had been reversed, Britain was a home to various "asylum seekers", and it was not just English Province Jesuits who did their studies in Britain. At various times exiled Jesuits from France and Germany set up Colleges at Ditton, Hastings, Mold and on Jersey; Teilhard de Chardin, for example, studied at Hastings and Jersey. There are some books in the Library from these establishments too.

By 1926 numbers had again grown and it was felt it would be better to reunite Philosophy and Theology on a new site. Heythrop House in Oxfordshire was purchased for the purpose and the Jesuits moved in. It is from this incarnation that the College takes its name. It is clear from a look at the collection that the Library also took in the libraries of a number of other Jesuit institutions now closed. For example some parishes ran general lending libraries in the days before municipal public libraries were quite so common.

In the 1960s the College became a Pontifical Athenaeum, able to give its own Roman Catholic Pontifical Degrees (previously its Philosophy and Theology degrees had been those of the Gregorian University). It opened up to members of other religious orders and to lay people. As part of this expansion a new, purpose-built library was opened with space for 400,000 volumes. However, this was just at the time when the numbers entering religious life plummeted and the whole approach to their training changed. Rather than being isolated in the kind of "total institution" that the College had been up until then, it was felt that it would be better for them to be trained alongside other students in an urban setting. What is more, lay people would also be more likely to be attracted to a College which was part of a British University offering British degrees. The College, therefore, entered negotiations with the University of London and in 1970 moved into the former teacher training college in Cavendish Square off Oxford Circus. In 1971 it received its royal charter as a College of the University, open to all but specialising in Philosophy and Theology.

In Cavendish Square the College had around 150 students mainly undergraduates. By 1993, however, it was on the move again and about to expand considerably. It moved to another former teacher training college, Maria Assumpta in Kensington. At the same time it began to provide a wide range of theologically related, part-time, MA degrees.

The College now has around 630 students, about two thirds of whom are post-graduates. This includes some 34 research students. These students are spread over 5 undergraduate degree programmes, 14 master's programmes, a post-graduate diploma and a non-University of London certificate for catechists. The College still fulfills its original role, there are 23 Jesuit students, but this is now part of a much wider service of the Christian Church and of society as a whole. The staff and the student body are now ecumenical and indeed inter-faith.

The Library remains the property of the British Province of the Society of Jesus who provide a specific grant for acquisitions, the College covering the running costs. The Library holds approximately 200,000 volumes, very large relative to the size of the College. Of these about 160,000 are on two sites on campus and about 40,000 at the University of London Depository Library at Egham. There are about 40 incunables in the collection. There is around 6,500m of shelf space - not really enough for the present collection and much of it on movable stacks. Most items are now on a Web OPAC which is part of an INNOPAC library system shared with the University of London Research Libraries Senate House Library. The remaining items, mainly at Egham, are on a card catalogue. The Library takes about 400 current periodicals.

There are 6 full-time and 2 part-time staff library (including 2 full-time project staff) plus a team of students who help to cover evenings and weekends in term time.

The Library is also used by psychotherapy students of the Westminster Pastoral Foundation, which is based on the same campus. In 2003/4 there were also 79 external borrowers, mainly staff and research students of London area higher education institutions who have borrowing access under the M25 scheme. The Library generally gives reference access to those who wish, free for single visits, although a charge is made for regular usage.

More information about the Library and the College can be found on the College website at <http://www.heythrop.ac.uk>

*Chris Pedley, S.J*  
*Heythrop College Library*  
*Kensington Square*  
*London W5 5HQ*

## **REPORT OF THE 33<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BETH, 2004**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of BETH was held in Lyon, France, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2004. Hosted by l' Association des Bibliothèques Chrétiennes de France, it was attended by nineteen delegates, two representatives of the American Theological Library Association, and twelve guests and observers.

Situated at the confluence of the Rhône and the Saône rivers, Lyon has been an important centre for twenty centuries and has a wealth of Roman remains and buildings from all periods. In 1998 it was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site. The Assembly was based at the Jean Bosco Centre in the Fourvière district of Lyon, near the Basilica of Notre Dame. A famous pilgrimage site, the Basilica was constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, combining elements from byzantine and medieval styles. From the Centre, which is on a hill, opposite a museum and excavation of Roman remains, there is a stunning view across the city to the hills beyond. The old city of Lyon, with its picturesque buildings, was a funicular ride away.

The formal business sessions took place on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. The executive committee brought a motion to the floor to increase the membership of the executive committee by one additional member; Dr. Heinz Finger was elected to the committee for a term through to Assembly 2007. There was also mention of the archives of BETH, and a decision to bring all of the archives together at KADOC in Leuven.

There were reports on official visits by the Board: the Vice-President (Étienne d'Hondt) had attended the meeting of AKThB (the German Catholic Library Association); Andre Geuns reported on his visits to the Italian associations; the Secretary (Penelope Hall) and the President (Pierre Beffa) attended the ATLA Conference in Kansas City; the President reported on his visit to the ABCF meeting and the ABTAPL meeting in Leicester. He proposes visits to Poland and to Spain within the coming year.

There was a discussion on relations with the ecclesiastical authorities in Europe and similar problems experienced by members. Some discussion ensued about possible ways in which BETH could act, and things we could do to urge the ecclesiastical authorities to become more proactive on behalf of the libraries. It was decided that the Executive Committee should begin by making contact by way of a letter of introduction to the European

Conference of Catholic Bishops, and to the Conference of European Churches.

There were reports on current projects:

- a) There continues to be a felt need for a deposit library of the periodicals listed in the ATLA Religion Database.
- b) The Serials Exchange: Clarification was given that the program which ATLA uses would be impossible to install in Europe, but ATLA has offered to run a separate section for Europe

Three new Extraordinary Members were accepted:

- The Library of the Reformed District in Debrechen; Debrechen is the largest ecclesiastical library in Hungary (eastern region) with a collection of 600,000 volumes.
- The Royal Library of Denmark in Copenhagen
- The Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Thomas Riplinger, from the University of Tübingen announced his retirement and expressed his thanks for the support and encouragement he has received from BETH.

For 2005 the Assembly has been invited to Debrechen. The dates have been tentatively been set for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005, to be confirmed later. For 2006 we have an invitation to go to Rome.

Demonstrations to the Assembly included

- AKThB's project of cataloguing and preserving theological resources, particularly ancient manuscripts
- AKThB and VKwB's virtual catalogue of theological and religious special libraries of churches in Germany and Austria (<http://www.vthk.de/en/>)
- the ABTAPL online *Union Serials Catalogue*
- the English website of FIDES - the Federation of Polish Church Libraries (<http://www.fides.org.pl/indexa.html>)
- the ATLA Selected Religion Web Sites (ATSRW) project, a collaborative endeavour to make selected web sites in theology and religion accessible through local OPACs (see <http://www.atla.com>)

Mention was also made of the American Theological Book Network project (<http://www.theologicalbooknetwork.org>) which aims to ship academic books to under-served colleges and universities around the world.

Full Minutes of the Assembly and Members Reports are available on the BETH website at <http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/beth>

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September group visits were arranged to the central public library at Part-Dieu, the Printing Museum and one of the university libraries, followed by a reception at the Catholic University, hosted by ABCF, the French theological libraries association. The Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire Lettres et Sciences Humaines moved to its present location in the Denis Diderot Library after a serious fire in 1999. It is home to a modern collection and the subjects covered include history, geography, philosophy, linguistics, language and literature.

In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century the city of Lyon entrusted the care of its principal educational college to the Jesuits; by 1789 the library had more than 40,000 volumes. This later formed the nucleus of the collections of the present public library which opened in the new Part-Dieu quarter in 1972. It houses more than 1,800,000 documents, with seven floors of public access and seventeen floors of stacks. The Jesuit Library, formerly housed at the Centre Culturel des Fontaines at Chantilly is on deposit there. The collection, with almost 500,000 items, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, covers a wide range of topics, and includes hand-written travel diaries, a complete library of Chinese novels, a first edition of the *Mariage de Figaro*, as well as more than 3,000 periodical titles. Transferred to the Library at Part-Dieu in 1999, the library at Les Fontaines opened in 1952, bringing together several Jesuit libraries from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Lyon was one of the principal European centres of printing and book production in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Printing Museum, one of the most important in Europe, is housed in the Ancien Hôtel de la Couronne, a fine Renaissance mansion house. Founded in 1964 its collections include European printed books from the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, engravings, prints, and printing machines from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the 1950s. It is now part of the public library system.

Our final visit was to l'Institut des Sources Chrétiennes which co-ordinates research and publishes the *Sources Chrétiennes* series of the works of the Church Fathers; these are in the original language, with French translations

and notes. The publication programme began in 1942, with almost 500 volumes published to date. The Institute holds a collection of the complete series and has a library of some 15,000 volumes which is open to the public.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September, there was an excursion to Vienne, beginning at the amphitheatre, one of the biggest in Roman France, seating more than 13,000. Restored in 1938, it is still in use for concerts and other events. Our walking tour led us through the streets where there is evidence of Roman buildings, among those of later eras. We also saw a modern building painted in trompe l'oeil, which is also a feature of several buildings in Lyon. Across the river is St Romain-en-Gal where we visited the archaeological museum; this houses material preserved from the remains of a Roman community, dating from 100BC to AD300 including mosaic floors, murals, and household artefacts.

Our thanks are due to our hosts ABCF, in particular Michèle Behr, and to Penelope Hall, Secretary of BETH for ensuring the smooth-running of the Assembly.

*Marion Smith  
Birmingham Central Library  
Birmingham B3 3HQ  
ABTAPL Delegate*



## ON THE ORIGINS OF L'ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES CHRÉTIENNES DE FRANCE

By Père Irénée Noye, PSS

This is a translation of an article which appeared in the *Bulletin de liaison de l'Association des Bibliothèques Chrétiennes de France* number 124, December 2003.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association provides the opportunity for the current membership to remember – or to learn – how it has developed. I shall not look at the history, as much as the pre-history; the foundation in 1963 was, in fact, the result of a long effort, clearly in evidence from 1956. Everything resulted from the vision and tenacity of a Jesuit from Lyon, Father Paul Mech (1911-1999)<sup>1</sup>.

Ordained a priest in 1940, he took a course in library science at Chartres and in 1946 obtained a diploma in librarianship (the highest degree, at the time, of training for the profession in France). Immediately given responsibility for the library of the Jesuit Faculty of Lyon-Fourvière, where he remained from 1954 to 1971, he was also coordinator of libraries for the Jesuit province of Lyon, before becoming director of the library of the Biblical Institute of Rome, then that of the Sèvres Centre in Paris. From Lyon, he quickly noticed the sad state of several of the large seminary and theological training college libraries: staff with no specialist training, no continuity of management, insufficient budgets for essential purchases, lack of contact between neighbouring libraries, etc.

At the beginning of 1955, he asked the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Mgr. Jouassard, to arrange for the Catholic Faculties of Lyon to create a training course for librarians from religious studies institutions. At the same time as this project (which fell through) Father Mech nurtured one of consultation, that is of cooperation between librarians. In a Church of France whose higher realms were almost inaccessible and without combined authority (the Assembly of Cardinals and Archbishops), he used “ground level” contacts to the maximum. Through the Superior of the University Seminary of Lyon, Georges Villepelet, he made contact with the Sulpicians; their studies committee were also concerned about libraries and had links, via professors’ meetings, with most of the French seminaries and theological colleges. This committee acted as intermediary, on behalf of Dean Jouassard, to invite the librarians of the religious studies institutions to a meeting which was held in September 1957 at the University Seminary at

Lyon. For about forty participants, the subjects covered were either theoretical (role of the librarian, specific nature of a large seminary library, contacts with public libraries, links with religious bookshops) or practical (budget, bibliographical information, list of journals for stock, a seminarists' library). Having described the attainments of the associations of the Catholic institutions of Germany, the USA and the Netherlands, Father Mech outlined the services which could be provided by a similar association of libraries of the large seminaries, theological colleges, and abbeys in France.

The idea was mooted but it took some time for it to be widely accepted. However the beginnings of mutual aid had been made; a few months after the meeting, Father Pierre Jay, librarian of the large seminary at Nantes, sent a packet of index cards of duplicate books to a colleague, to be sent on to other colleagues, each removing the cards for items requested from predecessors and adding cards for books on offer to successors. The system was a bit cumbersome and in 1958 Father Mech suggested replacing it by lists of offers and requests sent simultaneously to all members; thus the "SEBE" was created long before the Association.

At the same time collaboration was set up between libraries of French Catholic institutions "with a research character in the field of religious studies"; there again, Father Mech was the mainstay, contacting the theology faculties of the five Catholic institutes and those belonging to religious orders, abbeys and theological colleges known for the level of their studies, as well as certain organisations open to researchers (Centre de Pastorale Liturgique, the Capuchins of Paris, and the Library of Saint-Sulpice). Immediately, the participants of the first meetings (Paris in 1958) decided to form an Association of Libraries of Religious Studies (ABSR), whose statutes were drawn up, although it was not registered; it was more worthwhile to set up common projects first. So began: the *Clavis Periodicorum*, detailed descriptions of each periodical of religious studies or philosophy; a union catalogue of journals received by member libraries; a directory of religious studies libraries; a loan system between Association members; regular information on works of scholarship in progress; an annual list of important books appearing in France (primarily for foreign religious libraries, who belonged to similar associations and who exchanged lists of useful titles from their own countries). The ABSR elected a committee, with Father Mech as President, Abbot Raymond Etaix, Librarian of the Catholic Faculties of Lyon as Secretary, and Father André Duval, o.p. There were some twenty members, and about ten annual meetings.

However, the example of the ABSR contributed to the progress of an idea launched in 1957 for seminary and theological college libraries; at a new meeting held in Paris, at the Seminary of the Catholic Institute in September 1960, a stirring speech by Father Villepelet provided a reminder of the need to abandon individualism and of the possibilities offered by common studies of difficulties and their solutions. The audience agreed on the formation of an association which libraries of monasteries and of other church organisations could join. First it was necessary to draw up the draft statutes which would be submitted to the next meeting for approval; a group was set up to do this. The 1963 meeting, attended by 62 librarians, discussed, amended and passed the statutes, which were then deposited in the Paris Prefecture and published in the *Journal Officiel*. The meeting also elected the committee, with an additional member to the original group of six. In July 1964, when the minutes of the meeting were distributed, ABEF (l'Association des Bibliothèques Ecclésiastiques de France) had 102 members (the SEBE already had 240).

Meanwhile, in 1961 the ABSR had organised, along the same lines as the SEBE, a service of offer and request for books of a high standard, on an international level (TEOL) which fulfilled its role well for about 40 years, with distant participants, e.g. libraries in India or Argentina. Then a permanent card index system of offers and requests for single issues of periodicals (DOPPEC) was created, but this proved difficult and lasted only three years. The few really active members of ABSR unfortunately found themselves unable to continue as a separate association; the 1969 meeting of ABEF accepted their request to become a section within the Association. At the same time the closure of numerous large seminaries and several theological colleges, especially between 1967 and 1985, deprived ABEF of a significant part of its membership, but this loss has been more than compensated for by the organisation of diocesan libraries and by the number of libraries of religious orders which have joined. The acronym ABCF<sup>2</sup> expresses this recent development.

*Father Irénée Noye*

<sup>1</sup> Father Mech's obituary appeared in the *Bulletin* of ABTAPL Vol. 7, no. 1, March 2000

<sup>2</sup> ABEF became ABCF in 1998

## **CATHOLIC CENTRAL LIBRARY**

The Catholic Central Library is in the process of moving to St. Michael's Abbey, Farnborough, Hampshire, where it will reopen in early 2005. The lease ran out on the location at Euston on 31st January 2004; we had hoped to go to a premise nearby, but this fell through and the books were put into storage. Since then I have run an office of the library from my home to which all post and telephone calls are re-directed.

The advantage of St. Michael's Abbey is that the whole collection can be housed on one site which had not been possible since we left Victoria in 1997. We will be housed in part of the Abbey buildings but keep our independence as before. The Prior is very keen on the move, and though we would have preferred to remain in Central London, no suitable building could be found. Farnborough is a 35 minute rail journey from Waterloo and the Abbey is only minutes away from the station. We will continue to run a postal service for those unable to make the journey and the catalogue will be available online via our web-site for the benefit of members and researchers.

Our new address will be:  
Catholic Central Library at St. Michael's Abbey  
Farnborough Road  
Farnborough  
Hants  
GU14 7NQ  
librarian@catholic-library.org.uk  
www.catholic-library.org.uk  
no phone number as yet

*Joan Bond*  
*Librarian*

## **THE UNITED LIBRARY**

Following the closure of SCOC in October 2003, the Church of Scotland withdrew funding for The United SCOC Library at the end of April 2004. Owing to the legal agreement between the funding partners, that library ceased to exist from that date and the Librarian, Michael Buck, was made redundant.

However, the good news is that the Library is still continuing, now known as The United Library, to serve the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC), the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College, and The Open College Counselling Training Trust. This latter trust was set up for the students of the former counselling courses run by SCOC to enable them to complete their diplomas. The Librarian is now employed by the Scottish Episcopal Church, but with reduced hours of 14 hours per week.

Owing to these new hours, the Library is only open from 9 am to 12.30 pm, Tuesday to Friday, when the librarian can be present. The postal address, telephone, email and web site addresses are the same (but the fax service is now withdrawn):

The United Library  
Old Coates House  
32 Manor Place  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7EB  
Tel 0131 225 4911

Email: [scocllibrary@britishlibrary.net](mailto:scocllibrary@britishlibrary.net)  
Website: <http://pages.britishlibrary.net/~scocllibrary>

Owing to space considerations, I have had to weed out some back periodicals. The following are offered free to anyone who might like them. However, it would be appreciated if carriage could be paid for.

**List of periodicals for disposal (September 2004)**

(\* means holdings incomplete)

**TITLE HOLDINGS**

Anvil 1984 - 1985  
China Study Journal 1991 - 1995  
China Study Project Bulletin 1979 - 1986\*  
China Study Project Journal 1986 - 1990  
Christian Action Journal 1978 - 1994\*  
Church Music Quarterly 1989 - 1995\*  
Common Ground (Journal of the Council of Christians & Jews)  
1991 - 1995\*  
Dharma Deepika 1995 - 2000\*  
Discernment 1986 - 1993\*  
Expository Times 1971 - 1995\*  
International Bulletin of Missionary Research 1991 - 1995\*  
Journal of Theological Studies 1958 - 1971  
Ministerial Formation 1978 - 1987  
The Month 1980 - 1995\*  
New Blackfriars 1980 - 1990\*  
New Internationalist 1988 - 1999\*  
One World 1985 - 1995\*  
Religion state and society 1995 - 1997  
Selly Oak Journal 1984 - 1989  
Studia Liturgica 1962 - 1987  
World Faiths Insight 1988 - 1991\*

*Michael Buck  
Librarian  
The United Library*

## **YORK MINSTER LIBRARY ADVISORY GROUP REPORT**

Last year the Dean and Chapter of York Minster set up an advisory group, chaired by Lord Habgood, to advise about the future of the York Minster Library. It made a report to the Chapter on October 21st 2004. The Dean and Chapter have accepted the advice offered in the report, and confirm that their core responsibilities in relation to the Library are:

- The housing, conservation and access to its own archives and those donated in the past, almost certainly within the present building for the foreseeable future.
- The housing, conservation and access within the present building of its collections of early printed and modern books. They also believe that the book holdings should continue to be a living library and not a 'frozen' collection.
- To ensure the maximum use of the conservation facilities given the public funds made available for their fitting out and construction.
- The development of properly worked out acquisitions, gifts and disposals policy for both archives and book holdings [including other collections of playbills and tracts] in order that the collections may develop and improve in what they can provide for its users. This is a fundamental element in the work of any library or archive. They will work to develop clearer policies about the work of the conservation studio and its priorities.

The group have also advised the Dean and Chapter to develop a modern records management system within the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. This would be a complementary process to that being developed in respect of the historic holdings.

The Dean and Chapter have also agreed on the basis of the recommendations in the report that:

1. the idea of housing the City of York's archives should not be pursued.
2. a specific collection devoted to modern or contemporary theology should not be built up.
3. the University of York be approached for a new service level agreement.

## **ASSISTANCE SOUGHT FOR LIBRARY IN INDIA**

The Bishop Stephen Neill Study and Research Centre was started in 1992 to preserve historical materials concerning the history of our diocese. For the last 12 years materials (books, pamphlets, xerox copies of missionary reports, proceedings of meetings, etc) have been collected and kept in the Centre's library. In addition it was intended for the library to be a source of education for clergy and laity in this area. Therefore, hundreds of books (mostly old ones) were collected from people who donated their personal libraries. In the mean time, some historians in our area managed to go to other libraries and xerox materials relating to the history and have them bound in books.

None of these are really catalogued in any accessible sense. They are entered in big note books under their own ways of numbering. For example, devotional books are number in 2000, 2001, etc. We need to get some decent cataloguing done so that these things become accessible to any visitor. Now our present librarian who is library trained has all stored in his mind, and when visitors come he can point them to relevant materials from his memory. We have got a computer with CD Rom with a decent amount of memory but we do not have the software to get anything organized. So in a sense, we do not know where and how to even to begin this process of cataloguing. We may need someone to do a couple of visits - the first visit to assess and start the process of cataloguing, and the second to see it toward some kind of completion.

We do not have any money to pay any expert. We can provide a place to stay when volunteers come to help us.

**Dr. M. Thomas Thangaraj**

**D. W. & Ruth Brooks Associate Professor of World Christianity**

**Candler School of Theology, Emory University**

**Atlanta, GA 30322, U. S. A.**

**Tel: 404-727-6345; Fax:404-727-2494.**

**India Address: Bishop Stephen Neill Study and Research Centre**

**St. John's College Hostel Campus, High Ground Road,**

**Palayankottai, Tirunelveli - 627 002,**

**Tamilnadu, INDIA.**

**Tel: 98944-83821.**



## **APPEAL FOR CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY OF THE MOLLUCAS, AMBON, INDONESIA**

The library of the Christian University of the Mollucas, Ambon, Indonesia was destroyed by fire during rioting in April this year. Many valuable and unique materials have been lost and the library must begin again from nothing.

A worldwide campaign has been launched to help restore the library so that the University can function again as a place of learning and hope for the future. The University has four departments: Civil Engineering, Economics, Social and Political Science, and Theology. Theological librarians in Indonesia are working to assist in the restoration of this library and to encourage their Ambon colleagues.

Support in the form of books and money is being sought. Lists of books offered can be sent in advance.

The appeal is being coordinated by Ms Nurdiana Sari Wijaya,  
Head Librarian, Jakarta Theological Seminary, Indonesia  
Email: [teologi@bit.net.id](mailto:teologi@bit.net.id)

The Dean of the Faculty of Theology is Rev Dr Margaretha Henriks  
Email: [MARGAHUS@yahoo.com](mailto:MARGAHUS@yahoo.com)

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### **Ana-Amalia Library, Weimar**

More than 30,000 books some dating from 16<sup>th</sup> century were destroyed in a fire at the Ana-Amalia Library, Weimar, Germany in September this year. The library had recently been renovated.

### **Bequests**

According to *The Scotsman* newspaper, Pat Mugliston left £2.1million in her will, mostly to charity. She retired from Aberdeen University Library in 1988 and was a member of ABTAPL for almost 30 years, attending many conferences. Her obituary appeared in the *Bulletin of ABTAPL*, March 2004.

In August 2004 the *Sunday Mercury* newspaper reported that a retired librarian from Shrewsbury left almost £1million, again mostly to charity. She was not a member of ABTAPL!

### **Freedom of Information**

UkeIG (UK eInformation Group) have released details of the event "Two Pillars of Wisdom: Freedom of Information and Copyright - What Information Professionals Need to Know". This will be held at CILIP Headquarters on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Costs: UkeIG members £130 +VAT; others £160 +VAT. Further details are available on the UkeIG website at <http://www.ukolug.org.uk> Interest can be registered or a place reserved by emailing: [meetings@ukolug.org.uk](mailto:meetings@ukolug.org.uk).

### **History of Religiosity in Latin America, c 1830-1970**

The CIDOC collection includes imprints that reflect local devotions and syncretist rituals, religious iconography and poetry, and the pastoral campaigns of various churches and sects. In the early 1960s, Ivan Illich began to search for them and to collect them in the CIDOC Library of Cuernavaca, Mexico. The filming of a selection of material from this collection has been done in many libraries throughout Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. The result is a prime collection of 3,200 titles documenting a wide array of expressions of popular forms of religion. For more information on this collection, contact [info@idc.nl](mailto:info@idc.nl)

## **Montefiore Collection**

The Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies has bought the Montefiore Collection of almost 4,000 books and rare pamphlets. 450 rare Hebrew manuscripts from the Collection were sold at auction in October this year, having been on deposit at Jews' College, London since 1899. The proceeds will be used for higher Jewish education in UK.

## **Periodicals**

*Material Religion: the journal of objects, art and belief* is to be published 3 times a year by Berg, from March 2005. For more information see <http://www.bergpublishers.com>

## **Publications**

The Baptist Historical Society has announced publication of *The English Baptists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* by Dr Ian Randall, completing the series on English Baptist History from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Catholics in Birmingham* by Christine Ward-Penny has been published by Tempus Publishing, in their *Images of England* series. (ISBN 0752433628, price £12.99). It documents the life of Birmingham's Roman Catholic community, and contains almost 200 photographs, including previously unpublished ones as well as many from the collections of Birmingham Central Library.

*Lamspringe: an English Abbey in Germany* comprises papers given by the History Commission of the English Benedictine Congregation and others at their 2003 Symposium to mark the second centenary of the suppression of the Abbey in 1803. Published in March 2004 at £24.00, copies are available from The Archivist, Ampleforth Abbey, York YO62 4EN  
email: [archive@ampleforth.org.uk](mailto:archive@ampleforth.org.uk)

## ***Saint John's Bible***

A project has begun to produce the first illuminated manuscript of the Bible for 500 years. Scheduled to take 8 years, it will be in 7 volumes. For more information see <http://www.stjohnsbible.org>

### **Slavonic Bibles**

A unique collection of Slavonic Bibles and religious books printed from the 16th to the 19th centuries, including beautiful editions of Gospels, New Testaments, Acts, Epistles and Psalms is now available for research. Almost 50 Bibles and Bible translations, published in major Slavic languages - Church Slavic, Russian, Byelorussian, Czech, Polish, Slovenian, Bulgarian, Upper and Lower Sorbian - have been included. For more information, contact [info@idc.nl](mailto:info@idc.nl)

### **Thomas Hall Collection**

The joint winners of this year's BBC *Restoration* series were the Saracen's Head and the Free Grammar School, both in Kings Norton, Birmingham. The Rev. Thomas Hall became schoolmaster there in 1629 and made his library of about 600 books available to his parishioners; the collection is now housed in Birmingham Central Library.

### **Valmadonna Trust Library**

The Valmadonna Trust Library, containing more than 9,000 printed books and nearly 300 manuscripts, and thought to be the world's most important private collection of early Hebrew books, will probably leave Britain and be sold to the Library of Congress.

## **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** Vol. 51, no. 4, August 2004.

**Arbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisch-theologischer Bibliotheken / Verband kirchlich-wissenschaftlicher Bibliotheken *Kirchliches Buch- und Bibliothekswesen Jahrbuch*** Jahrgang 4, 2003. Yearbook published jointly by the two German associations AKThB and VkwB

**Association des Bibliothèques Chrésiennes de France *Bulletin de Liaison***, No. 126, June 2004 and No. 127, November 2004.

**Associazione dei Bibliotecari Ecclesiastici Italiani *Bollettino di Informazione*** No. 2, 2004.

**Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Newsletter** No. 53, August 2004. Includes papers from the 19th annual conference and the ANZTLA Statistics for 2002.

**FIDES *Biuletyn Bibliotek Koscielnych*** No. 1/2 (16/17) 2003

**Forum of Asian Theological Librarians *ForATL News*** Vol. 2, no. 1, June 2004. (Available online at: <http://geocities.com/foratl>)

**Librarians' Christian Fellowship *Christian Librarian***, No. 28, 2004 and *Newsletter* Summer/Autumn 2004.

## **WEBSITES**

**24 HOUR MUSEUM**     <http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk>  
Gateway to 3,000 British museums and galleries

**ARCHIVE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**  
<http://www.archiveawareness.com>

**EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY TEXTS**  
<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/>  
Major texts in early modern philosophy, edited by Professor Jonathan Bennett, available free of charge.

**FRANCIS ASBURY**     <http://www.francisasbury.org>  
The life and ministry of Bishop Asbury

**HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY**  
<http://www.prs.heacademy.ac.uk>  
Includes Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies

**LYON PUBLIC LIBRARY, FRANCE**     <http://www.bm-lyon.fr>

**ST. ALBANS PSALTER WEB PROJECT**  
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/stalbanspsalter>

**ST JOHN'S BIBLE PROJECT**     <http://www.stjohnsbible.org>

**SAPIENS**     <http://sapiens.strath.ac.uk>  
Not-for-profit provider of web-based e-content from publishers of cultural and humanities periodicals, offering online publishing service.

**SOURCES CHRÉTIENNES ONLINE**  
[http://www.mom.fr/sources\\_chretiennes](http://www.mom.fr/sources_chretiennes)

**THEOLOGICAL BOOK NETWORK PROJECT**  
<http://www.theologicalbooknetwork.org>

**VIRTUELLER KATALOG FÜR THEOLOGIE UND KIRCHE**  
<http://www.vthk.de/en/>  
English language access to virtual catalogue of theological and religious special libraries of churches in Germany and Austria