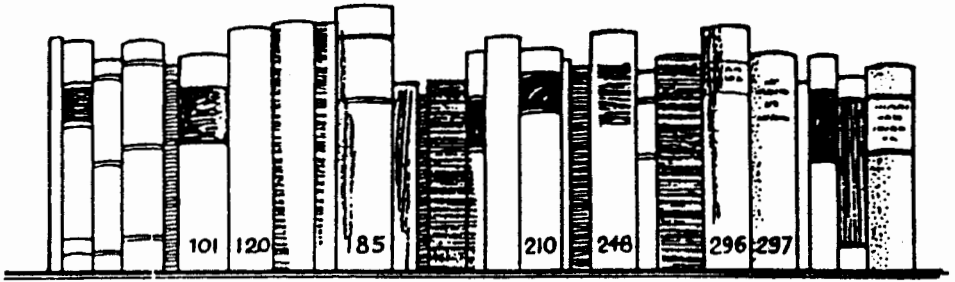


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# BULLETIN

*of the*

*Association of British Theological  
and Philosophical Libraries*

Volume 3, Number 1.  
March 1994

## BULLETIN 1994

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. Twenty four issues of the *Bulletin* were issued between 1956 and 1966. After a period of abeyance, the *Bulletin* was revived in a New Series [Volume 1] by John Howard in 1974. It has been published in its present form, three times a year (March, June and November), since that time. Numbers 1-40 of the New Series (to November 1987) have been construed as Volume 1 of the New Series; Volume 2 began with March 1988 and ended in November 1993. The *Bulletin* now has a circulation of about 300 copies, with about a third of that number going to libraries in Europe, North America, Japan and the Commonwealth.

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Mr. P. Larkin, University of Warwick Library, Coventry  
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*The Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and  
Philosophical Libraries*

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## Message from the Chairman

As winter rapidly recedes into the background, I should be writing this in a spirit of optimism. Spring usually brings with it a feeling of enthusiasm as the nights become lighter and colds become less frequent. However, this year I feel unusually (for me) pessimistic at the state of things in my library and wonder how many other libraries are facing similar problems. In April I shall be celebrating(?) 9 years as Librarian at Spurgeon's College. In 1985 when I came to the College I could not have envisaged such a situation as I find myself in now.

My problem is nothing to do with funding. I am fortunate in being in an institution which has always been generous to the Library within the College's limited budget. My depression is caused by the fact that books are disappearing from the Library at an alarming rate, a fact which should be surprising and indeed unthinkable in a theological college where every single library user is supposed to be considerate and caring for his/her neighbour. Spurgeon's is not unique in having a library which is open 24 hours a day throughout the year. This is a legacy from the time when the College was completely residential, but students and staff have become accustomed to access at all hours and would complain bitterly if this changed. Since the introduction of a computerised circulation system it could not be more simple for library users to issue books on a do-it-yourself basis and, as the computer is left on the whole time, there is no reason for books to disappear. But disappear they do! I recently had a 'book amnesty week' when I appealed to all users to check their shelves and to return anything not listed on their loan sheet. This should have meant that my subsequent stock check revealed very few missing books. Unfortunately I was horrified to see that well over 350 books have vanished in two years, including many Reference Library commentaries. The College is now having to consider various measures, such as locking the Library completely in the evenings and at weekends with a rot of staff/students/spouses to staff an issue desk during fixed opening hours, plus, possibly, a security system. These measures will be expensive and may cause the book fund to be reduced. Undoubtedly they will be extremely unpopular and will cause major headaches for me.

Another problem is caused by the change in study patterns. Nine years ago almost all our students were full-time. Because everyone was in the building 5 full days each week there was a strong sense of

community. Now more than half our students are part-time, some only coming in 1 day a week and staff find that they do not recognise all the people in the building. Because of the great demands for further course after first-degree level, many institutions (including Spurgeon's) are leaping onto the bandwagon and introducing MA or MTh courses. These courses are often carried out on a correspondence basis with the student living some distance from the institution. Inevitably the student will want to find a library/resource centre near his/her home, to enable them to carry out their studies with the minimum of effort and cost. During the past couple of years the numbers of requests to use Spurgeon's Library from people registered with other institutions has risen dramatically. At present I do not charge people to use the Library occasionally (they are not allowed to borrow). However this may have to change. I understand that the days of free access to academic libraries may well be ending. Some institutions are already charging quite high rates for 'outsiders'.

This leads me to conclude that as the 21st century approaches we may well all, large libraries and small, be facing the age of fixed opening hours, charges for use, electronic security systems, security cameras and identity cards. It is not a pleasant thought that we may not be able to trust our neighbour any more, or that we shall have to pay for access to libraries whose facilities and services we have taken for granted for years.

Judith Powles.

### **Laurie Gage - 1931-1994**

Laurie Gage, who died on January 3rd, took up bookselling as a second career in 1971 when he opened his book shop in the Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. He started off by filling the basement with books mostly from his own collection, and for several years traded in general stock, piled high and sold cheap, and acquired from the most unlikely sources. Laurie always had a knack for sniffing out large quantities of books, and was never afraid of filling his shop so as to make it virtually impossible for any potential customer to get in through the door.

As time wore on Laurie found himself more able to indulge his interest in Church History, in particular Methodist History, and began producing

catalogues. Gradually Catalogues began to play an increasing role in Laurie's business until eventually he decided to give up the shop altogether until eventually he decided to give up the shop altogether and deal solely by post, producing over 50 Methodist catalogues and something like 250 other theological catalogues in 20 years. Quite a staggering output by anybody's standards, and as the years wore on the pace quickened rather than slackened.

Known affectionately to many in the trade as "The Bishop", Laurie will be remembered for his encyclopaedic knowledge of church history and Methodist bibliography. He was a member of numerous learned societies including the Ecclesiastical History Society, and had established contacts with libraries and seminaries world-wide, although of course mostly in the United States, where he travelled widely and frequently, both buying and visiting customers and friends.

Laurie was very much a bookseller of the old school. He was never in it for the money, but had a genuine love of his subject and a scholarly interest in it. His Methodist catalogues in particular always took an age to finish because he was always finding a new and invaluable piece of information in some scarce tract or magazine which would send him scurrying for the photocopier in a mood of great excitement. He always saw the business as a service, was keen to maintain links with libraries in the theological field - hence his membership of both ABTAPL and ATLA - and often went out of his way to ensure that scarcer items went to the libraries where they belonged rather than taking a larger profit elsewhere.

As a bookseller Laurie was very much involved in the early days of the PBFA - indeed he was one of the pioneers of the itinerant style of bookselling - and he served the association in a number of capacities over the years. He was always prepared to give freely of his time and knowledge, and was involved in a great deal of voluntary work particularly for the Methodist Church, but also for the Scout Association and the YMCA. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him as a "real character", and also as a man of great loyalty and integrity.

Generous to the end, he bequeathed his substantial collection of Gloucestershire books and prints to the Dean Heritage Centre, and his similarly impressive collection of scouting books and ephemera was left to the Scout Association.

Simon Routh.

## Public Libraries - a threatened service ?

*This is the text of an information pack prepared by North Tyneside Libraries Management Team, reproduced here by permission of the Team. Although the proposed Library Commission, and therefore this pack, deal explicitly with public libraries only at present, there will undoubtedly be implications for all parts of the library network if the proposals by the Government are implemented in their current form.*

### Review of libraries

#### *Background.*

The Review was initiated in 1991 by the then Minister for the Arts. At that time some Local Authorities were being forced to cut library services through lack of resources and the Minister believed that certain Library Authorities were no longer meeting their obligations under the Public Libraries Act, 1964. One of the requirements of a Library Authority is that it should provide a "comprehensive and efficient service".

The Minister then discovered that there was no legal definition of what constituted "comprehensive and efficient" and he initiated the Review in order to garner sufficient information to enable a set of standards for the library service to be established.

#### *Aims of the Review.*

The Review's terms of reference are to "assess the scope and value of public library services currently provided by local authorities in England and Wales; to draw up guidelines and a framework for local choice for what should constitute a "comprehensive and efficient service" provided by a modern public library service; to consider the desirability of any changes in the requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act; and to identify key developments requiring national attention."

#### *The possibility of a hidden agenda.*

The terms of reference look likely to effect fundamentally only those library authorities which will not meet the resulting standards of service. Overall the effects could be to strengthen, support, financially enrich and raise the profile of the library service. If, however, one of the intentions is to hive off some services and pass them to other agencies

to undertake on a commercial basis (e.g. business information becoming the responsibility of the DTI through its emerging one-stop-shops) then the services which a Local Authority currently delivers, through its Library Service, will cease to be "free" and available to all".

### *Existing methods of monitoring.*

The public library service has grown out of the needs of its users. Library customers influence what books, periodicals and recordings are bought. Most libraries operate a requests service, a suggestions scheme and a complaints procedure. Statistics regarding performance are gathered on an annual basis by CIPFA, LISU and the Audit Commission. Library staff work outside their own facilities in the homes of housebound customers, in residential homes, with under-fives groups, in schools, with local voluntary groups, with other customer groups and with other information-giving agencies. They consistently feed back the needs of these groups and the service is shaped accordingly. In a sense, therefore, local choice is one of the founding principles of the library service.

### *Outcomes.*

The expected outcomes are recommendations on a strategic approach for the future library service. This approach will include guidelines and a framework for Local Authorities on what should constitute a comprehensive and efficient service and how it should be delivered.

But what if the framework is, in effect, something different which may reduce the services which a Local Authority can offer through its Library Service?

What if the guidelines deal only with quantity and not quality? (This is certainly the case with the Citizen's Charter performance indicators on library services currently gathered by the Audit Commission).

What if the term "comprehensive and efficient" is changed? Will this prevent library services from developing into new areas?

Will the term "how it should be delivered" reinforce moves towards compulsory competitive tendering?



Will the resulting standards raise the quality of public libraries or concentrate on quantity at the expense of quality?

*Making the Review work.*

Everyone, library professionals and general public, who believe that public libraries enhance the quality of life should find a way to ensure that the Review results in a stronger, more responsive and more effective library service. The alternative is that the library service, as we know it now, may not last into the next century.

*Timescale.*

The Consultancy which is to carry out the Review has been appointed by the Secretary of State for National Heritage, Peter Brooke. It has already started work. A draft report is due in May, 1994 with the final report due in December, 1994.

## **Compulsory Competitive Tendering in Public Libraries**

*Intention*

"The Government believes that the wider application of competition to the provision of local authority services will bring significant benefits in terms of quality and value for money for the public." (Department of National Heritage Press Release, 10 November 1992.

In this same press release the Secretary of State announced plans to commission pilot projects examining the scope for contracting out parts of the public library service. "My intention is to set out a range of competitive options for library authorities to choose between, according to their local circumstances". (Library Association Record, March 1994)

*Brief History*

The Government's first idea was to make only library support services (the acquiring, cataloguing, and preparing of books and other materials) subject to CCT. They abandoned this after close investigation showed that libraries had, over the years, negotiated and won a service

from their suppliers which was excellent value for money and of high quality, without the need for contracts. In fact the introduction of CCT would have resulted in a drop in the standards which the library service had already achieved.

The Minister agreed that there was no scope for CCT in library support services, but in furtherance of the search to find the best way forward for encouraging greater competition in the public library field, the terms of reference for CCT were expanded to embrace the whole of the Public Library Service. Library authorities were invited to offer themselves as CCT pilots. Only 5 of the original volunteers remain; these are Brent, Dorset, Hereford & Worcester, Hertfordshire, and Kent.

### *Comments*

The Review of Public Library Services can be seen as a precursor to CCT. If it sets and defines low minimum standards which a Public Library Authority has to provide under the 1964 'Public Libraries and Museums Act' this may open the door to bids which might provide only a minimal service.

The Public Library Service is a statutory local service which exists within a sophisticated network of professional co-operation. Because of this network a customer visiting the smallest branch library has access to nationwide and even international resources.

Each public library is also part of a local network of other local authority services, private sector organisations and other agencies. Customers use libraries on a complex itinerary along which many agencies are approached for information, knowledge and experience, in different ways and at different levels.

This network of co-operation and support will not be possible if each public library service is provided by a number of different contractors. Each Library Authority will be isolated, and the range of materials and services available will be drastically curtailed.

The emphasis of CCT on reducing costs and concentrating on the best commercial proposition is bound to result in a reduction in the range of services offered by libraries.

A concentration on measures of performance will focus the service in those areas which can be so measured. This could be at the expense of developmental, educational or promotional activities.

The likely high costs of tender specification preparation will also need to be kept in mind.

### *Timescale*

KPMG Peat Marwick, management consultants, in association with Capital Planning Information Ltd. (Library and information consultants) have now been chosen by the National Heritage Secretary to examine the options for contracting out parts of the public library service. They will specify the framework of the overall investigation and evaluate the lessons to be learnt from the five pilot projects.

The five pilot projects will continue.

The steering committee set up in 1993 to advise and inform the DNH will continue.

The consultants are due to submit an initial report in the autumn.

## **Proposed Library Commission**

### *The present situation*

Government interest in library and information service issues is diffused through a number of bodies. For public libraries, there are four Library and Information Service Councils (LISCs). Each has its own terms of reference, although these all involve advising the Secretary of State and guiding, advising, and commenting for providers and users of library and information services. Each reports to a different Secretary of State: LISC, for England, reports to the Secretary of State for National Heritage. LISC(NI), LISC(S), and LISC(W) report to the Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales respectively.

Other bodies involved are the Department of Education (for school and academic libraries), the Department of Trade (for business information), and the Department of Health (for Health information).

## *The proposed Library Commission*

The Library and Information Services Division of the Department of National Heritage issued a consultation paper on a proposed new Library commission. The Consultation paper is, in many aspects vague, and in many respects it is difficult to grasp what is being proposed. What follows is, therefore, our assessment of what is meant. Throughout this assessment, the word "library" is used to mean libraries and other information services.

### *Composition of the Commission*

The Secretary of State for National Heritage will select no more than 12 members. They will be appointed as individuals, not as representing particular organisations or interests. However, the members will be drawn from library providers, large library users, and independent experts.

### *Objectives of the Commission*

These are unclear, but there seems to be a large number of them. They divide into five areas :

- advice;
- authority;
- funding,
- research and development;
- cooperation; and
- liaison and collaboration.

#### *i. Advice objectives*

These objectives can be summarised as to advise The Government and Government Departments (if they so choose) on library issues, national and international.

### *Comment*

The Commission appears to have no powers of action or coercion, and its services can be used or ignored at the discretion of government,

## *ii. Authority objectives*

The Commission is envisaged to be a single, authoritative, and independent source of advice.

### *Comment*

As the Library and Information Services [Committees] for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales will continue, and as the Department of Trade will continue to have an involvement with business information, it is uncertain where the "single source of advice" will come from. Cooperation between libraries in the United Kingdom does not stop at internal boundaries, and they have common needs, problems, views, and perspectives. There is a need for a single, unified voice for libraries that can respond to, understand, and pass on the concerns of those involved, and thereby advise the Government in a genuinely authoritative manner. There are doubts as to whether this body could fulfil such an objective.

Questions have also been raised as to the independence of the Commission. The power of the Secretary of State to choose its members may undermine its independence.

## *iii. Funding, research and development objectives*

The Commission will, in accordance with Government policy, devise and fund a strategy for research and development requirements for libraries.

### *Comment*

It is vital that the interests of users and practitioners are taken into account and given equality of consideration with government policy. Also, at present, research and development is coordinated by the British Library. The taking away of the strategic role from the British Library could severely weaken the role of that body unless something substantial is put in its place.

There will be no additional money available to the Commission, but the spawning of additional sub-committees (three are already identified) will lead inevitably to an increase in costs. This can only be at the expense of other things. Research and development perhaps?

*iv. Cooperation objectives*

The Commission will cooperate as it sees fit with other bodies.

*Comment*

It must be hoped the Commission will not avoid bodies it does not see eye to eye with.

*v. Liaison and collaboration objectives*

The Commission will liaise and collaborate with those organisations it deems significant.

*Comment*

Selectivity must be expected, however it must also be comprehensive and authoritative.

*Conclusion*

The Commission, as we understand it, would extend the function of LISC(England), but would reduce the importance that LISC(E) rightly attaches to users and to practitioners.

*Interested individuals and bodies you may wish to contact:*

Association of County Councils,  
Eaton House,  
66A Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9BH  
Tel. 071-235-1200 Tel. 071-222-8100 Fax 071-222-0878  
Secretary, Mr. Rodney Brooke

Association of Metropolitan Authorities,  
Leisure and Tourism Section,  
35 Great Smith Street, LONDON, SW1P 3BJ

Department of National Heritage,  
Library and Information Service Division,  
2/4 Cockspur Street, London, SW1Y 5DH  
Tel 071-211-6127  
Secretary of State, Mr. Peter Brooke MP

The Library Association,  
7 Ridgemount Street, London, WC1E 7AE  
Tel. 071-436-7218  
Chief Executive, Mr. Ross Shimmon

The Library Campaign,  
Second Floor, 1-5 Bath Street, London, EC1V 9QQ  
Tel. & Fax 081-340-2224  
Campaign Director, Jill Wight

Dr. Marjorie Mowlam, M.P.  
(Shadow Spokesperson for National Heritage)  
14B Queen Street, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 1AE  
Tel. 0642-490404

Robert MacLennan M.P.  
(Liberal Democrat spokesperson on National Heritage)  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA  
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And, of course, your own M.P. and local and national press.

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## Jews' College Library - ABTAPL AGM 1993

On Monday 11th October, 1993, 17 members of ABTAPL visited the Jews' College Library in Hendon, north London. The group was welcomed to the College by Simon Goulden, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Principal, Rabbi Dr. Jacobs.

He outlined the historical background of the College which had first existed - from 1885 - as a secondary school and religious seminary in central London. After World War II it was housed in a splendid building in Tavistock Square (which subsequently became the Swedish Consulate) but had few students and very little money. Following several changes of location it has been in its present purpose-built premises since 1985 and now has 150 students. It is now part of the University of London, offering degree courses in subjects such as Jewish History and Philosophy, MA's, MPhil's and PhD's. It also has a rabbinic ordination programme (3-year postgraduate), Post-Graduate Certificate in Education and Diplomas in Jewish Studies. The Chief Rabbi of the United Synagogue is *ex officio* President, thus bringing together Eastern and Western traditions.

Ezra Kahn, the Librarian, said that the Library had a stock of 90,000 volumes of which 50% are in Hebrew, 25% in English and the remainder in other languages, but predominantly German. He concentrated on giving us an insight into the Library's collection of 4,000 rare books. Its earliest printed book was published in Naples in 1492. Mr. Kahn told us that the first printed Hebrew book was published in 1475 in Reggio di Calabria (southern Italy), *i.e.* 25 years after Gutenberg's first printing in Mainz.

Among other rare books he showed the group were a bilingual English/Hebrew book of prayers for the Jewish community to use during the period of the threatened Napoleonic invasion of England, and a Spanish prayerbook for the Sephardic community in this country at the time of the American Revolution. Also shown were a 19th century book of laws to govern the behaviour of those charged with the supervision of cheesemaking to ensure that it was kosher, and a 1924 publication for Russian Hasidim, of which very few were allowed to be printed in the USSR.

The Library, at 44 Albert Road, London, NW4 2SG, is open to the public for reference use Mondays - Thursdays, half days on Fridays



and Sundays in term time, with shorter hours during the vacations.

The collection is organised into the following sections:

- Bible and Biblical Studies
- Classical Judaica, Halakhah and Midrash
- Jewish Observance and Practice
- Jewish Education
- Hebrew, Jewish Languages and Sciences
- Jewish Literature
- The Jewish Community: Society and Arts
- Jewish History, Geography and Biography
- Israel and Zionism
- Reference Books, Bibliography, Manuscripts, Periodicals, Audio-visual material, and a cassette library of *shiurim*, *chazzanut* and special lectures.

The group much enjoyed the visit and would encourage other members of ABTAPL to visit and use the Library if they get the opportunity.

*Margaret Ecclestone  
Alpine Club Library,  
London.*

## **A Sabbatical Adventure**

Michael Walsh, Director, Heythrop College Library, graciously welcomed me to come to London on my sabbatical to investigate library co-operation, specially co-operative collection development. As a theological librarian I was interested to see how Heythrop College Library was related to the other libraries in the University of London. As events unfolded, I was also able to pursue some other projects while at Heythrop which I will describe later.

It has been both a frustrating and an interesting time to study co-operative collection development between the libraries of the University of London. The frustration has come from the fact that this is a time of reconfiguration within the University of London and, hence, a time of reassessing library co-operation. I will let Michael Walsh give you a

detailed report of that process and its outcomes. On the other hand, it was most interesting and informative to see the many levels of co-operation that exist between the libraries within the University of London and beyond.

Let me outline my situation in Chicago so that I can make some comparison between the two situations. North Park College and Theological Seminary (North Park) is part of a consortium of 12 seminaries, and a consortium of private liberal arts colleges in metropolitan Chicago. I will focus on our relationship to the other seminaries in this article. The Library Council of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS), have had long conversations, many committees and consultations, trying to enhance our co-operative collections development efforts. Other interrelated issues include financial pressures and space limitations. It is clear to the ACTS librarians that these issues are best addressed co-operatively both for financial and educational reasons. Presently ACTS is planning for retrospective conversion and the installation of an integrated on-line system. It is hoped that then we would be able to reduce our past duplication, thus helping to relieve our space problems and, with a shared on-order file, efficiently reduce current unintentional acquisition overlap. Educationally, it would be of immense benefit to both faculty and students.

It has been exciting to see how library co-operation has worked within the University of London, where they already have implemented some of the ideas of the ACTS librarians.

LIBERTAS, the automated library system for the University of London, provides basic library services such as cataloguing and circulation. From my viewpoint it has been wonderful to see Michael Walsh regularly consult LIBERTAS when he is doing collection development in order to avoid unnecessary duplication while providing coverage of the necessary subject areas. This is further enhanced by the work of the subject sub-committees which include not only relevant libraries within the University, but also other specialist libraries in London, *e.g.* Lambeth Palace Library on the History Sub-Committee.

One of the concerns for ACTS librarians is inadequate space for collections, which could be partially addressed by the elimination of unnecessary retrospective duplication. It seems to us that this requires access agreements, and efficient delivery system, and the completion

of retrospective conversion. The former two things are in place within ACTS and the University of London. The ACTS libraries are hoping to do retrospective conversion as we complete the plans for an on-line system. In contrast, Heythrop uses LIBERTAS for all the cataloguing of current acquisitions, and earlier titles are now being added as they circulate. In addition, the post-1800 Jesuit titles are now in LIBERTAS and ca. 800 pre-1800 titles have been added in the last year.

Another way to address space issues is to have a co-operative store, which the ACTS librarians have discussed. The University of London has the Depository Library in Surrey which provides storage in a purpose-built building at a reasonable cost. The utilization of these materials would be enhanced if they were all entered into LIBERTAS.

Having a central staff to work on library issues and projects is essential for co-operative library endeavours if they are to include things like the Depository Library and LIBERTAS. A local library director is perfectly capable of supervising such staff, but the press of needs in the local library, which must take priority, can hamper the ability to fulfil the role of supervision. The University of London central staff have helped envision future needs and have implemented the co-operative goals of the librarians. These latter functions are of the utmost importance to healthy co-operative efforts within a library consortium.

Because all of my time was not occupied by library co-operative issues, I was asked to develop a bibliography of titles for an expanded reference collection at Heythrop. I enjoyed learning more about Catholic reference materials and the educational needs of Heythrop. I recommend McCabe's *Critical guide to Catholic reference books*, 3rd. ed., Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited Inc, 1989, as a good overall resource.

Also, I was able to become involved in assisting in the cataloguing of ca. 800 titles published before 1800 using LIBERTAS. Most of these titles were written by Jesuits and were published all over Europe. The closer the imprint date was the 2800 the more likely that a vernacular language was used, rather than Latin. These works include commentaries, theology, philosophy, grammars, devotional literature and editions of the church fathers. To assist in the process of making these rare resources much more accessible to the scholarly world is rewarding.

No, my sabbatical was not exactly what I had planned. Rather, it was an unfolding adventure with more depth than I could have envisioned ahead of time in Chicago. I am grateful to North Park and to Heythrop College for their respective roles in providing this opportunity.

Norma L. Sutton, Seminary Librarian  
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USA

## Scotland's First Free Lending Library - the Innerpefferay Library

*Unto the Honourable Sheriff of Perthshire  
The Petition of Wm Young, 1823*

*... It is not the fortune of everyone to be born to the inheritance of a well-stocked library. It is a characteristic of the present age that almost every high station in literature is filled by men who inherited no more of a library from their parents than a Bible and a few popular religious volumes. ... Not a few of them were indebted to the very library in question. ...*

So states the petition of William Young, student of Auchterarder, written in 1823. The petition continues:

*... The library in question is the property of students and others, chiefly to obviate the many hardships above described, ...*

*The young student, the Petitioner, must in a short time enter into the world with what little information he has been able to acquire, and that benefit which the founder proposed by the library is totally defeated. ...*

Innerpefferay Library was the 'library'; David Drummond, 3rd Lord Madertie the 'founder'. William had been banned from using the library for some misdemeanour, by the librarian. His appeal to the Patron of the library, the Earl of Kinnoull, had been rejected. Now William was pleading with the Sheriff, hoping that he would intercede and allow him continued access to the store of knowledge contained

within the books.

The Sheriff's judgement came on 31st October, 1823. The decision was that the trustees of the library

*"... allow him to enjoy, in the meantime, the privileged [sic] of taking out books from the Library in question, he and the Librarian conducting themselves to each other in a becoming manner."*

William was thus able to resume his use of the Library at Innerpeffray, and continue, and hopefully complete, his education.

In 1823 lending libraries for the public use were very rare, and the use of such a facility highly valued. But circa 1680, some 140 years earlier, when Lord Madertie's Library was founded, it was quite unique in Scotland.

Innerpeffray Library, thus Scotland's first free lending library, was founded ca. 1680 by David Drummond, 3rd Lord Madertie, the great grandson of David, 2nd Lord Drummond of Drummond Castle. His grandfather, James, previously styled Lord Inchaffray and commendator of Inchaffray Abbey, had built Innerpeffray Castle in 1610, and taken the title Lord Madertie after the parish in which the abbey stood. David, who was born in 1611 or 1612, was brother-in-law, close friend and loyal ally of James Graham, 5th Earl and 1st Marquis of Montrose, the 'Great Marquis of Montrose', having married as his second wife, Beatrix, James' youngest sister.

Lord Madertie founded his library in St. Mary's Chapel, some half mile from his Castle on the route of the old Roman road connecting England and the Lowlands to the Highland Forts. The chapel of St. Mary was rebuilt by Sir John Drummond, Justiciary of Scotland and Governor of Stirling Castle, in 1508 on the site of an earlier chapel. The chapel has been used as the Drummond family burial place since its foundation, and was adopted and restored by Historic Scotland in 1968. Madertie made two wills, the first in 1680 and the second in 1691. The first states that he has

*"...erected a library partly in the west end of the chapel of Innerpeffray and partly in the new house built by me at the east end of the kirk yard thereof, which library I appoint and ordain to be augmented yearly in time coming for the benefit and encouragement of young students, and to be provided from time to time with a keeper ... as also I have built a schoolhouse a little be-east of said new house, which I ordain to be*

*kept in good habitable condition for the benefit and education of youth in time coming, provided by my successors with a schoolmaster well qualified for that office."*

The will sets aside 3,000 merks (approximately £165) for the purpose of this endowment. The will of 1691 increased the endowment to 5,000 merks (£277)

Lady Beatrix died in 1691, and when Lord Madertie died at 80 years of age in January 1692, both his sons had died before him. His title passed to his nephew, William Drummond, 2nd Viscount Strathallan, and it was the Viscount we find overcoming a legal formality which had been found to render his uncle's bequest void. Out of respect and affection for his uncle he vested, in 1694, 5,000 merks "*as a constant and perpetual stock for the preserving of the said library and maintaining a schoolmaster, and for augmenting the library and building a house*". One Andrewe Patoune was confirmed as 'keeper of the books', and a private trust, the Innerpeffray Mortification, was formed to administer the endowment. This trust, modified over the centuries, looks after the affairs of the library and the school to this day.

For some 70 years the library continued in the loft of the chapel and in the small house at the east end of the kirkyard. Then in 1762 the present library building was completed adjacent to the chapel, probably at the expense of another member of the Drummond family, Robert Hay Drummond, Archbishop of York, and heir to the Strathallan estates in Perthshire, including Innerpeffray. Many books formerly belonging to the Archbishop were presented to the library on his death by his son, Robert Auriol Hay Drummond, the 9th Earl of Kinnoull.

The books were now moved into this splendid new apartment and the library flourished for a century and a half. However, with the growth of public libraries in the early part of the twentieth century, the lack of available shelf space and financial resources at Innerpeffray and the rapidly changing reading habits of the population, use of the library reduced rapidly. After the First World War borrowings fell to minimal levels and, despite the best efforts of successive librarians and trustees to improve the readership, the governors took the decision to close the lending facility in 1968.

The books in the library include some 3,000 titles printed before 1800 and a further 1,400 printed after 1799. They are made up from

Lord Madertie's original family books given in 1680, many of the Archbishop of York's books donated by his son in 1792, books purchased by the Trustees during the library's greatest popularity, and donations by interested parties. Among the books are many rare or interesting volumes, though it contains no incunbula. The earliest printed work is:- P. Reginaldetus: *Speculm [sic] finalis retributionis noviter impressum*, Paris, 1502; unfortunately imperfect.

Of the more valuable works in the library some mention ought to be made of, in chronological order:-

J. Major: *Historia Majoris Britanniae ...* Paris, 1521.  
First edition

H. Boece: *Scotorum historiae ...* Paris, 1527.  
First edition

*La saincte Bible en Francoys ...* Antwerp, 1530. first edition  
The complete Bible as translated by J. le Fevre. The oldest Bible in the library.

R. Fabyan: *Cronycle ...* 2 vols in 1 London, 1533. second edition  
Printed by the famous William Rastell, nephew of Sir Thomas More.

H. Boece: *The hystory and croniklis of Scotland ... Compilit be H. Boece ... Translatit laithly in our vulgar and commoun langage be ... J. Bellenden ...* Edinburgh, T. Davidson, c. 1540

*The Byble in Englyshe of the largest and greatest volume ...* London, 1541.  
Sixth edition of the Great Bible with prologue by Cranmer.

P. Virgilius Maro: *The xii bukes of Eneados of ... Virgill. Translatet ... into Scottish metir, bi ... G. Douglas ...* London, 1553.  
1st edition.

*Les CL pseumes de David, mis en rime francoise par C. Marot et T. de Beze ...* Paris, P. Haultin, 1567.  
Very rare.

R. Holinshed: *The firste volume of the Chronicles of englande, Scotlande and Irelande ...* London, 1577.  
1st edition

King James 1: *The workes of ... James ... King of Great Britaine ...* London, 1616.  
1st edition

D. Browne: *The new invention, intituled calligraphia: or the arte of fair writing ...* Sainct-Andrewes, 1622.  
Very rare

*La Bible ...* Sedan, 1633.

The pocket Bible of James Graham, 'the Great Marquis of Montrose'.

W. Drummond: *Poems, by that most famous wit, W. Drummond of Hawthornden ...* London, 1656.  
First collected edition and extremely rare.

T.S.: *The second part of the Pilgrim's Progress, from the present world of wickeness [sic] and misery ...* London, 1682.  
Very rare.

*Ascanius: or, the young adventurer; a true history. Translated from a manuscript privately handed about at the court of Versailles. ...* London, 1746.

An account of Prince Charles Edward, the "Young Pretender".  
1st edition and very scarce.

Apart from these rare and valuable books there are many other volumes of interest. Many of the books still carry the founder's signature "Madertie", and the imprint DLM on the cover. "Montrose" signature is also to be seen on many volumes, presumably books acquired through the relationship with Montrose.

Of considerable interest to social and library historians are the library's borrowing records. These contain records of all borrowings from the library from 1747 until the closure of the lending facility in 1968. In these pages, along with the minister, teacher and student, are found the dyer, weaver, farm servant, shoemaker, gardener, wright and house servant, borrowing volumes that could not be considered light reading.

Between 1774 and 1778 one 'James Mitchell, student in Strageath' makes numerous borrowings of mostly religious and historical works.



This Mitchell was later to become tutor to Sir Walter Scott.

During the years 1747 - 1800 almost 300 people borrowed books from the library, but of these only 11 were women. The most popular book amongst that readership appears to have been Robertson: *History of Charles V*, borrowed 46 times, followed by Clark: *Sermons*, 37 times; Tillotson: *Sermons* 34 times; Sherlock: *Sermons* 30 times and Buffon: *Natural history*, 27 borrowings

The visitor's books are also of interest, recording as they do the visits of George Bernard Shaw and his wife, Charlotte, J.M. Barrie, and Bing Crosby in the 1920s. In 1859 Mark Napier records his visit by writing a piece on the books in the library which once belonged to James Graham, 'the Great Marquis of Montrose'. He had at that time already written his biography of Montrose, so his discoveries at Innerpeffray were included in the introduction of his biography of "Dundee".

The school was rebuilt in 1847, and was adopted by the state in 1889. It was closed in 1947 and handed back to the Innerpeffray Mortification. The library and school buildings are still the property of the original trust, set up in 1694, and now controlled by a group of governors in accordance with a constitution redefined by Parliament in 1936. It is interesting to note that one of the Trustees is a Haldane of Gleneagles, for another Haldane of Gleneagles, a son-in-law of Lord Madertie, was one of the original Trustees.

The Trust, despite having very limited funds, has succeeded in safeguarding this unique collection through the hazards and changes of three centuries. It now relies on donations and bequests, and on visitor admission fees for its income. However, the Friends of Innerpeffray Library (FOIL) has recently been established to assist the Governors to ensure the future of the library.

Here then, in this remote part of Perthshire, at the end of a farm track, situated upon a wooded eminence close to the River Earn, in a churchyard adjacent to a chapel where lie buried the founder and his two wives, is to be found a library of quite unusual interest: the oldest free public lending library in Scotland. Thomas Newte in his *Prospects and Observations on a Tour of England and Scotland: Natural Oeconomical and Literary*, published in 1791, put it well when he wrote:-

*It is quite impossible to pass over the venerable beauties of Innerpeffray, fronting Castle Drummond, in a concavity of the serpentizing Ern, its castle, the antient seat of the Lords of Maderty, its chapel, public library and school, both established for the good of the community and carrying back the mind to the antient situation and the genius of Scotland.*

E.W. Powell,  
Librarian  
Innerpeffray Library  
CRIEFF  
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The Library is open each day except Thursday from 10.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 4.45pm (Closing 4.00pm from October to March); Sundays 2.00pm to 4.00pm only.

The current admission charge is Adults £1.50; Children (under 15) 10p

Further information on all aspects of the Library and of FOIL may be obtained from the Librarian.