

BULLETIN

of the

Association of British Theological

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BULLETIN 2005

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. It is a member of BETH (European Theological Libraries). The *Bulletin* is published three times a year (March, June and November) and now has a circulation of approximately 250 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 0305-781X

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

***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and
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The front cover shows the Great Reformed Church, Debrecen, Hungary

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 can be sent to Evelyn Cornell,
The Main Library, University of Leicester. E-mail: 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.

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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.

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BETH PERIODICAL EXCHANGE LIST

An email list for exchanges, particularly of duplicate periodicals, has been set up for members of BETH (European Theological Libraries Association)
To register contact Penelope Hall at Prjhall@aol.com

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

2006 Golden Jubilee Conference and Annual General Meeting

will be held at

**The International Baptist Theological Seminary
Prague, Czech Republic**

from

Thursday 6th April to Monday 10th April

For more information and to register interest (no obligation to attend)

contact Alan Linfield, London Theological College

email: a.linfield@lst.ac.uk

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

*** * ***

2006 Autumn Meeting

will be held at

Westminster Abbey Library, London

on

Wednesday 25th October

*** * ***

2007 Spring Conference and Annual General Meeting

will be held at

The University of Edinburgh

Dates to be announced

*** * ***

Training Day on

Conservation

Thursday 2nd March 2006

2.00 – 5.00 pm

Birmingham Central Library

This will be free of charge. For information or to book a place contact
Marion Smith, Social Sciences, Central Library, Birmingham
B3 3HQ, tel: 0121 303 4545; email: marion.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

Golden Jubilee Conference
6th - 10th April 2006
International Baptist Theological Seminary
Prague, Czech Republic

Information Update

Preparations for ABTAPL's Golden Jubilee Conference in Prague are now well advanced, and we are confident that this will be a highly enjoyable celebration of ABTAPL's 50th anniversary year. Highlights of the conference will include visits to four libraries in the city, including the famous Theological Library of Strahov Monastery. We will also be marking 50 years of ABTAPL with a Golden Jubilee Dinner at an elegant Prague restaurant on the Saturday evening of the Conference, the cost of which will be included in the conference fee - as is also a special 'surprise' lunch on Sunday at a secret location, which we are confident you will enjoy too! There should also be some time for general sightseeing in this lovely city, either as a group or independently.

As you know, our conference fees are normally announced when booking forms are sent out early in the New Year, but we are aware that this time a number of you would like to get this information a bit earlier, in case more protracted funding negotiations may be necessary! So this is to inform you that the 2006 Conference has been *provisionally* priced at **£210**. This is not yet absolutely set in stone, but barring a huge shift in exchange rates or some other fiscal catastrophe we do not expect any *significant* variation from this, making this figure sufficiently reliable for you to quote in any negotiations. Considering that the cost of this year's two-night Durham conference was £180, we believe that £210 for four nights plus the special dinner/lunch outings represents excellent value. Current information suggests that you should be able to get a return flight to Prague from a UK airport near you for around £100 including taxes, not a lot more than some of us might spend travelling to a UK conference.

We are planning to send out booking forms and more details of the programme, including final confirmation of the fee, soon after Christmas.

Alan Linfield
Conference Secretary
London School of Theology
email: a.linfield@lst.ac.uk tel: 01923 456192

GOLDEN JUBILEE EDITION OF THE *BULLETIN*

In the June issue of the *Bulletin*, I asked for contributions and suggestions for next year's jubilee issue. Many thanks to those who have already contacted me.

I would very much like to include our overseas members in this, so please get in touch - descriptions of your library, important events (e.g. Finding a "lost" Beethoven manuscript), etc.

I look forward to hearing from you

Marion Smith

Social Sciences, Central Library, Birmingham B3 3HQ,
tel: 0121 303 4545; email: marion.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

* * *

THE UNITED LIBRARY

It is with great regret that I have to announce the expected closure of "The United Library" in December 2005. The situation has been precarious for the past two or three years, and it is intended to vacate the current premises by the end of February 2006.

A number of options were investigated, but only one practical one for the students and staff of both the Theological Institute of the Episcopal Church (TISEC) and the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College (SURCC), the main constituency of the Library, has emerged. Negotiations are in progress with another institution to provide a service for them, and it is expected that some of the stock from the United Library will be housed with that institution. The remainder will be stored elsewhere or disposed of as deemed appropriate. The subscription service is being withdrawn from 30th November 2005. Further developments will be detailed in due course.

On a personal note, I am taking early retirement and shall be leaving my post at the end of December 2005.

Michael Buck

Librarian

The United Library

Edinburgh

ABTAPL AUTUMN MEETING, OAKHILL COLLEGE, LONDON, 27th OCTOBER 2005

This year's Autumn meeting was held in the academic centre of Oak Hill College, a ministerial training college in the leafy suburbs of north London. The centre houses the library, as well as lecture and seminar rooms and a coffee bar, and was opened in 2002 (see the *Bulletin* vol. 9, no. 1, March 2002). The day finished with a visit to the library.

In the morning a meeting of THUG (Theological Heritage User Group) was held and the ABTAPL meeting began with a talk entitled "Theology for Amateurs" by Dr. Mike Ovey, College Dean and Kingham Hill Lecturer in Doctrine, Apologetics and Philosophy.

The following are the main points arising from the meeting:

- Both Ian Jackson (Hon. Treasurer) and Marion Smith (Hon. Editor) are looking for people to work with them with a view to taking over in the future.
- Alan Linfield was able to provide information on the progress of plans for the Golden Jubilee Conference to be held in Prague in 2006. The Autumn 2006 meeting will be held at Westminster Abbey Library on 25th October and the 2007 Spring meeting is to be held at Edinburgh University.
- Evelyn Cornell said that she is still able to make minor amendments to the *Union List of Periodicals* and Wendy Bell reported that the updates provided recently for the online *Guide to Theological and Religious Studies Collections of Great Britain and Ireland* had been made.
- Interest had been expressed in training in conservation; Marion Smith would try to arrange this with colleagues at Birmingham Central Library.
- Judy Powles provided an update on her discussions with various publishers about institutional subscription rates for journals. Sage had again offered a reduced rate for ABTAPL members. However her negotiations with Brill, Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press had been unsuccessful. Members at the meeting thanked Judy for all her efforts.
- The inter-library loans and document supply service offered by Tübingen University had ceased. The Subito service which they suggested as an alternative was apparently unavailable to Great Britain and USA.
- Penelope Hall reported on the BETH Assembly and the Indian Theological Library Association Conference which she had attended.

Marion Smith
Birmingham Central Library

REPORT TO BETH OF THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, AUSTIN, TEXAS, JUNE 15th-18th 2005

The 2005 ATLA Conference was held in Austin, the capital of the state of Texas, where all the delegates were given a very warm welcome with temperatures ranging in the mid to high thirties on the Celsius scale. There seemed to be good representation of the ATLA membership, similar to the attendance in the previous two years, despite the fact that the location was in the far south of the country.

As always, the conference was well organised and everything fell into place nicely as the days progressed. A good number of the ATLA staff from Chicago, as well as a number of people from the local hosting institutions, were always available to help direct the delegates, answer any questions that arose and generally assist in any way necessary.

The first plenary session was most entertaining, when Nancy Pearl, a well-known librarian in the US addressed the subject of *The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Books*. In the second plenary session, Lindsay Jones gave us some insight into the *Remaking of an Encyclopaedia*. One of the most interesting presentations that I attended, apart from the sessions directly associated with international collaboration, was a presentation on *Dissertations from the Past*, which was led by a librarian from Emory University who has done considerable research into early theological dissertations in post-Reformation Germany.

This year it was very easy to find all of the related sessions because the programme was divided into 'Tracks', which clearly grouped together the discussions and sessions centred around a theme; one of these themes was 'International Interests'. As the representative of BETH to the ATLA conference, I attended all of the sessions listed in this 'International Track'. The international delegates were once again treated to a lovely lunch by the International Committee and given a number of opportunities to tell what is happening in their various areas of the world. We were encouraged to hear that there is now a well-established theological library association in Korea, where the member libraries have already cooperated in producing a national on-line catalogue and set up the mechanism for inter-library loans within the country. We heard about the struggles of the Jamaican Library Association and their battle for recognition from the Caribbean Association of Theological Schools. The representative from Taiwan, also explained that they, too, have now set up a consortium of thirteen member institutions

with a union catalogue. In another session there was considerable discussion on the benefits and the difficulties of inter-library loan, difficulties particularly in Singapore, South-East Asia and Indonesia. We were reminded that LATIN, which has changed its name to Red Latinoamericana de Informacion Teologica (RLIT), the theological library association of South and Central America, will be holding their conference next year in Argentina.

In a separate session on the current projects and events within World Christianity, we heard presentations on the Africa University, on a project of cataloguing Spanish documents, and a digitalisation project currently taking place in Bulgaria, where they are endeavouring to digitise all of the ancient manuscripts that are in jeopardy of being lost. In connection with this latter project, we were given a glimpse of some of the treasures that they had digitised, beautiful illuminated manuscripts of both Ancient Christian and Islamic origins.

In the second business session it was brought to the attention of the delegates that the Professional Development Committee has established a course in theological librarianship and has implemented some intensive short-term sessions for new theological librarians. It was announced that October has been selected as Theological Library Month in the United States, and this will be officially launched in 2006.

I believe this covers the salient points for the purpose of this report, although by no means adequately does it report on all that was accomplished at the ATLA 2005 conference. The details will be published in the *Proceedings*.

Again we would acknowledge the excellent working relationship that we have with ATLA, the beneficial cooperation and collaboration that we have between us and among our members, the bonds of friendship and networking that have grown up between us, and above all our gratitude for the continued warm welcome that ATLA extends to BETH to participate in the annual conference.

Penelope Hall, Ph.D.
Secretary of BETH

THE HUNGARIAN ECCLESIASTICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (EGYHÁZI KÖNYVTÁRAK EGYESÜLÉSE: EKE)

The Hungarian Ecclesiastical Library Association was established in 1994, five years after the fall of communism in 1989, with 23 member institutions. The Association has expanded rapidly in recent years; in 2003 it had 62 members and it currently has 71, including 3 outside Hungary: from Transylvania and Carpatho Ukraine. Thus, at present virtually every significant ecclesiastical institution in Hungary is among its membership and member libraries have more than 4 million volumes over the country combined. EKE's ecumenical membership represents many religious traditions and denominations: membership is open to Catholic, Reformed, Evangelical, Unitarian, Baptist, Orthodox and Israelite¹ libraries with collections of theological, religious or ecclesiastical materials. The foundation of the Association of Church Libraries in 1994 was a significant event since this association organised all member parties regardless of their denominational stance, thereby creating a forum which represented the interest of the church-run libraries.

Member libraries are maintained by ecclesiastical institutions; however, they serve various functions. Among the members one can find monastic, diocesan and church district research institutions, as well as university, college, grammar school or regional reference libraries. A great number of these libraries operate in historic buildings; their ancient and rare holdings form a remarkable part of the national cultural heritage. However, there are also recently founded research libraries that function in modern buildings. Most of the member libraries are open to the public, but some of the institutions do not admit the public. There are member libraries where more than ten librarians work in a modern computerized environment, but there are some institutions where only one librarian has to take care of the huge holdings.

The Association consists of libraries, each holding one vote. The issues of the Association are dealt with through a body which includes the president, the secretary, the treasurer and the presidential board of 10 people. The president is nominated for 3 years, and the Catholic and Protestant denominations hold the presidency in rotation. The denominations are represented according to their proportion in society. The main executive power of the Association is the General Assembly; Assemblies and related conferences are organised annually, always in the last week of June and always hosted by a different denomination. The meetings last for some days

and there are more and more libraries which send delegates as observers. Apart from the General Assembly there are sessions for special consultations, discussions about various topics and, of course, an excursion is always included. The conferences have a special role in the annual cycle which always covers various topics. The most important presentations are published in EKE's yearbook, which also includes an official directory every year. In a given year they have dealt with cultural history, cultural heritage, the protection and conservation of collections held in Hungary's museums; another year lectures were given on various aspects of the challenges of technological development (the use of internet in the work of libraries, computerizing databases, digitalisation of materials, the use of modern software, and the evangelisational role of the churches in the 21st century).

In 1995 EKE established contact with the International Council of Associations of Theological Libraries, now named European Theological Libraries (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie: BETH). EKE's first president was Pater Maximilian Bánhegyi, who represented the association for many years at the BETH conference. The latter organization held its annual conference in Hungary in 1996, which was the first meeting between BETH and EKE. It was held in Pannonhalma, in the Benedictine monastery, the oldest Catholic church centre in the country, which was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1996 in celebration of its centenary. EKE had just been founded and for a few years EKE took part in the work of BETH only as an observer. It has been a long journey to 2002, when it became an Ordinary Member of BETH, and thence to the present.

Like anywhere in the world, the materials of libraries in Hungary have a unique value. The very history of libraries in Hungary started with the libraries belonging to the churches. Most of the materials held in collections of EKE member libraries are part of the Hungarian national cultural heritage.

The church was the principal task of those responsible for libraries and the primary aims of the denominations were to evangelise and carry out social work; however, later in its history other aims such as spreading culture became significant. The primary task of these libraries shifted according to the changes in society, economics and politics.

As in the other former communist countries, the fate of the churches, their institutions and naturally their libraries was really dramatic. This is

especially true for the second half of the 20th century. The churches were deprived of their institutions, their organisations were in a bad state, some people were persecuted, others became martyrs. These churches fought for their survival. It is no wonder that some of its tasks, such as the cultural aspect, were hindered or made impossible to carry out by the state. The churches could only continue their primary task of evangelisation using illegal means, or if they continued legally their original role was profoundly altered and defiled by the political interest of the atheist state. The church was deprived of the opportunity to carry on its former social task. In addition to this it lost its schools; thereby church education became entirely impossible. Other aspects of cultural involvement were forbidden or heavily controlled, such as publishing. Many of the valuable materials of the church libraries were confiscated by the state, although some were left at these libraries in order to show the goodwill of the state towards the churches. Nonetheless, one can say that the state was not really keen on maintaining and supporting the collections held by various churches. One of the most challenging tasks of EKE's first years was to recover the confiscated books that had been kept in state repositories. These books then had to be returned to their rightful owners. Hence, the Association also promotes the interests of similar institutions. At the request of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, it has also been providing preliminary reports on library laws. EKE strives to take a common point of view, i.e. independent of denomination, with respect to professional, ecclesiastical and social matters. To achieve that it has created professional workshops, providing opportunities for sharing different views and exchanging information on professional matters.

After the collapse of communism in 1989, the church was freed and could legally carry on with its former tasks. A vital gesture for the church institutions, including the libraries, came from the new government when it passed a bill on the freedom of religion in 1990 and signed a treaty with Vatican in 1997.

Under the communist dictatorship - in common with other communist countries in the region - the fate of libraries run by the churches developed in a special way, differently to that of Western Europe. After the change in the political system, from the middle of 1990 the fast spread of Information Technology, the trends abroad in library circles and Hungary's new membership of the EU made it imperative to change and reform the entire system of library work.

In 1990, when church libraries were really allowed to continue their work, they had to work hard to overcome the former disadvantages. They had to

catch up with the trends of libraries run by the state as well as be ready to be open to the introduction of new systems, up to now foreign to them.

The work of EKE member libraries, as in other communist countries, was not easy and is still challenging. When one looks at the history of the libraries from 1950 up to 1989, and that of the past fifteen years, one can say that they have achieved a lot, taking advantage of the opportunities given to them and at the same time they have endeavoured to adapt things to their own circumstances.

1 The author uses "Israelite" here rather than "Jewish" because of the nature of Jewish history in Hungary.

Ilona Ásványi
President of EKE
The Library, Pannonhalma

Botond G. Szabó
College Library of the Transibiscan Reformed Church District
Debrecen

EKE's website is available in English at <http://www.eke.hu>

This article combines an International Report by Botond G. Szabó, published in the *ATLA Newsletter* Volume 52 Number 3, May 2005, with the welcome speech delivered to the BETH Assembly by Ilona Ásványi, President of EKE.

REPORT ON THE 34th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BETH, 2005

This year the BETH Assembly was held in Debrecen, eastern Hungary from 3rd to 7th September. The host was the Library of the Transtibiscan Reformed Church District and the Reformed College of Debrecen, and specifically Dr. Gáborjáni Szabó Botond, the head librarian. Debrecen, the second most populous town in Hungary, is also known as “the Hungarian Geneva.”

The first business session came to order on Sunday afternoon, when we began to gradually work through the agenda that had been prepared for the Assembly; 26 delegates were in attendance. Both Marion Smith and I represented ABTAPL at this meeting.

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer and there followed a discussion on the need for seeking more sponsorship for the association, as well as a discussion on the feasibility of inviting some of the publishing houses to attend our meetings. It was agreed that we would invite them to attend within certain limitations which must be made clear when the invitation is extended.

Perhaps one of the more important items that was passed was the opening of a new category of membership, that of the personal member. On a careful reading of the constitution, it was determined that the provision for such a category of membership had already been included in the statutes and that, therefore, there was no need to alter or amend the constitution in any way to open up this category. The Assembly immediately voted to receive ten new personal members from among the persons who have had a long-standing relationship with BETH and who are continuing to take an interest in the association, some even in retirement.

Another very important event was the signing of a new Agreement between the American Theological Library Association and BETH, which will be in effect until 31st August 2010. The text of this Agreement can be found on the BETH website (<http://www.beth.be>)

Always the most interesting part of the business sessions is the time we devote to hearing about what is happening in the various associations and libraries represented at the meeting. This year was no exception and there are a number of newsworthy projects and happenings recorded in the full

text of the minutes of the meeting, which can also be found on the website, with the October Newsletter where a number of current projects are listed.

The delegates heard a presentation from Kurt Berends of the Theological Book Network on the support that this organisation gives to libraries in the developing nations. More information on this worthy cause can be found at <http://www.theologicalbooknetwork.org>

The 2006 BETH Assembly will be held 9th - 14th September in Rome, hosted by URBE (the association of Roman Catholic Libraries in Rome) and plans are underway to hold the 2007 Assembly in Emdem, Germany, at the Johannes a Lasco Library.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of BETH, I bring warm greetings to all the members of ABTAPL. May we continue to work together for the benefit of all our members throughout Europe, and beyond our borders, to support the efforts of our colleagues in other parts of the world.

Penelope Hall
ABTAPL Delegate and
Secretary of BETH

The Assembly began on Saturday 3rd September with an evening reception and welcome from the Bishop. On Sunday, an ecumenical service in the Oratory of the College was followed by an introduction to Debrecen and the Reformed Theological College, including a tour of the Library with its Baroque reading room and modern library, which houses reference material for the College students and a lending library for the Grammar School. (The Reformed Theological University of Debrecen and the Reformed Grammar School operate in the College.) We then saw the permanent exhibitions of the history of the school and of Reformed ecclesiastical art, both part of the College museum. The latter exhibition includes colourful, flower-decorated furniture, pulpit sounding boards, coffered ceilings, wooden grave-markers and painted coffins, as well as a rich collection of precious metalwork and 17th and 18th century textiles.

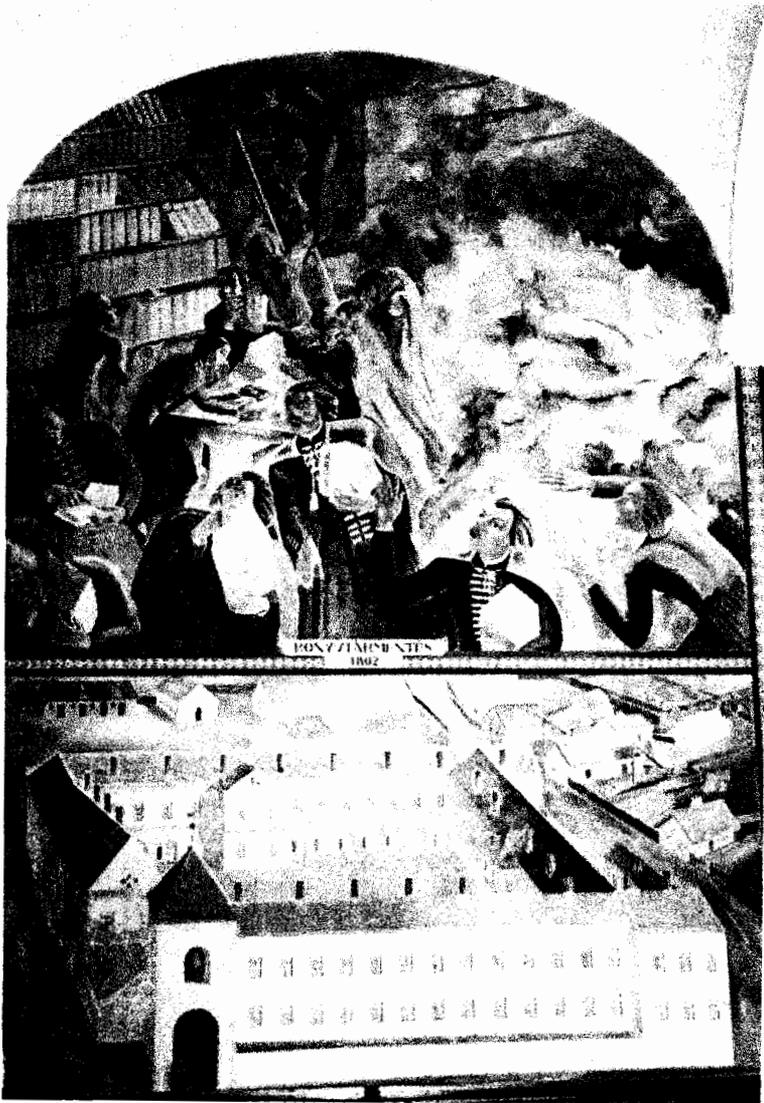
The College was founded in 1538 and is one of the most ancient repositories of Hungarian historical culture. The Library would have been founded at the same time but a fire in 1564 destroyed the heritage of mediaeval books. Wall paintings on the main staircase leading to the Baroque reading room and the Oratory show scenes from the history of the

College and its Library. A significant point in the history of the Library was the appointment in 1744 of a professional librarian as its director. He founded the Baroque-style reading room, which was also made available to educated citizens, interested in reading. The second half of the 18th century is considered the golden age of book collecting in Hungary, the Library holdings multiplying tenfold from the beginning of the century, when it had about 2,000 items. Today the holdings comprise almost 600,000 items; since 1759 the Library has received deposit copies of items related to the Reformed Church which are produced by the Debrecen printing house.

On Sunday evening we were invited to a concert given for us by the Choir of the Reformed College. Founded in 1739, it was the first Hungarian youth choir and is the longest surviving, having worked continuously since then. The average number of members is 60 to 70, all students at the Grammar School or the University. Several Hungarian composers have written or dedicated compositions to the Choir, which has been awarded various distinguished prizes in international contests. Their repertoire is secular and ecclesiastical, from ancient to modern times; this was well represented in the fine concert they gave us which was much appreciated.

Our first introduction to the region was a trip to the Hortobágy National Park, part of the Great Plain. A saline grassy plain, it was declared a national park in order to protect its flora and fauna, much of which is unique to that area; it has great significance because of the large number and variety of nesting and migrating European birds seen there. We toured the park in horse-drawn carriages and saw traditional breeds of domestic animals (grey long-horned cattle, sheep with "dreadlocks", nonius horses and "woolly" pigs), as well as a demonstration of traditional horse-riding skills.

Our second visit was to the Archiepiscopal Library in Eger, an archsee in the northern part of the country. It is the third largest Catholic library in Hungary, with more than 160,000 items in 30 languages. The Library was opened to the public in 1793 with 20,000 volumes in the Lyceum, built by Bishop Károly Eszterházy, who intended to establish a university there; unfortunately his plan failed. He collected books and documents from all over Europe in a wide range of subjects. On entering the Library, the first thing we noticed was its impressive size, two storeys high, with wooden bookshelves from floor to ceiling. The latter is decorated with a fine fresco, representing a session of the Council of Trent. During the communist era, the beautiful chapel in the Lyceum was empty for ten years but in 1959 it



This painting on the wall of the Reformed Theological College, Debrecen, shows students and tutors saving books from the Library in a devastating fire during the Whitsun break of 1802.



This fresco on the ceiling of the Archiepiscopal Library, Eger, depicts a session of the Council of Trent.

became part of the library, being used for book storage, which preserved it for future generations. After an excellent lunch, we took a tour of a local wine cellar, before returning to Eger for a short look at the Baroque sights of the town.

The final destination of the Assembly was Budapest, where we visited the National Széchényi Library, located in the Buda Castle. Established in 1802 by Count Ferenc Széchényi, it now holds some 7 million items and is the legal deposit library for material published in Hungary, no matter what the language. They also collect all works published in Hungarian, as well as all works written by Hungarian authors, or with the collaboration of Hungarians, or with Hungarian aspects, published abroad and in foreign languages. From 1808 until 1949 the Library was incorporated into the Hungarian National Museum, moving into the refurbished Buda Castle Palace in 1985. During our tour we were able to see some items from the Library's Special Collections and visit the reading rooms; we were told that in the last 12 years the Library staff has halved from 1,000.

Penelope and I were grateful to our hosts in Debrecen and to the members of EKE (the Hungarian Ecclesiastical Library Association) for their warm welcome and friendliness, for the interesting programme of library visits and for a successful conference.

Marion Smith
ABTAPL delegate to BETH

Websites:

College Library of the Transtibiscan Reformed Church District, Debrecen,
Hungary <http://silver.drk.hu/eng/indexe.htm>

Debrecen town information <http://www.debrecen.hu>

National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary <http://www.oszk.hu>

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK – "THE LAW AND THE LIBRARIAN" REVISITED

by Marion Gibson

Can it really be 10 years since I wrote an article for the *Bulletin*¹ on the Health & Safety at Work Act and its subsidiary legislation? Much of what was said there remains valid but there are a number of reforms under way so a further article is timely.

The Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 had its origins in the Robens Report on Safety at Work (Cmnd 5034/1972) and together they introduced a revolutionary approach to workplace safety. The idea was that people should be persuaded to create a culture of safety in the workplace. The Health and Safety Executive, which was created to "police" the Act, was there to advise on good practice and encourage employers and employees to follow it. Prosecution was very much seen as a last resort. Breach of Health and Safety law is a criminal matter enforced by the Health and Safety Executive. It is still true that it is the employer who is most likely to be prosecuted rather than the individual employee since it is the employer that is in a position to control the methods of work. However, the Executive traditionally saw its role as advisory and educational with prosecution very much as a last resort if other methods failed. However, in 2000 the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) issued a new policy statement signalling that they are now inclined towards a more investigative and coercive approach to enforcing health and safety standards. This is probably a response to the rising accident toll in British workplaces and recent high profile incidents such as the Potters Bar rail crash and the Morecombe Bay cockle pickers disaster. Last year there were 235 fatalities at work in Britain, 160,000 accidents classified as serious and 2.2 million people were off work because of work related illness or injury losing 39 million working days as a result.

Certainly the HSE is taking a more pro-active approach and has started targeting what it regards as problem sectors for detailed inspections without warning. Plant nurseries in Yorkshire and Lancashire were singled out for special attention last year for example. So if you become aware of a sudden spate of accidents in British libraries expect an inspector to call – as he already might in response to a reported accident or a complaint about a safety related issue, which can be made by anyone. Section 1 of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 gives express protection against dismissal, selection for redundancy or "other detriment" to employees who report genuine concerns about health and safety issues to the Executive. If a

prosecution ensues the penalties have undoubtedly increased in recent years as has the overall number of prosecutions in the wake of the HSE's new policy statement. At present the maximum penalties in the Magistrates Court are a fine of up to £5,000 and /or up to 6 months imprisonment. The Crown Court can impose unlimited fines and/ or a maximum of 2 years imprisonment.

The 1974 Act was ahead of its time but the British have since stood still and the impetus for reform now comes from the European Commission. Sadly, these reforms have been met with protests from British press and industry alike complaining about "meddling from Europe." Health and safety seem to have become dirty words in some circles. Like employment law before it, an essentially simple legal frame-work has been taken over and made to appear complex by hoards of "experts" with a vested interest in selling their advice. Something which ought to be in everyone's interest has become yet another tiresome imposition from "them" who know nothing of the reality of work at the counter for "us."

The legal framework of Health and Safety law is actually very simple. The Act itself obviously has the force of the criminal law behind it but criminal sanctions apply to breaches of the Regulations made under the Act too, e.g. the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. Various regulations were reviewed during the 1990s – producing a group of statutory instruments sometimes referred to as the "six pack." These regulations are currently undergoing review, so expect a steady stream of new rules and standards in the detail of health and safety practice. Behind the regulations the HSE issues Approved Codes of Practice. These are not obligatory standards but a failure to follow the guidance provided is admissible as evidence of a breach of the Act and regulations. The situation is rather akin to road traffic law where a breach of the Highway Code (an approved code of practice) is not a criminal offence but it is pretty good evidence of say dangerous driving if you ignored it and took to driving on the right. On top of the Approved Codes of Practice the HSE issues Guidance Notes. These have no legal force and are not admitted as evidence. However, since they set out best practice in plain English they do provide an excellent starting point for accident prevention that bluntly only a complete idiot would ignore.

The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 sets out basic duties that apply to employers, employees and the self-employed. The employer has a duty to ensure the safety and welfare of people at work in so far as it is reasonably

practicable for him to do so. People are at work if they are employed or self-employed. However, the employer must also protect anyone else (who is not at work as defined) against risks to their health and safety arising out of or in connexion with the activities of people at work, again insofar as it is reasonably practicable to do so. So this duty would extend to taking care that work is carried out in a way that does not put library users at risk as well as say volunteers assisting a library short of staff and cash. However, this employer's duty to ensure that people are not adversely affected by the actions of people at work goes even further than that. There does not have to be an accident or injury. The duty is to take all steps that are reasonably practicable to avoid the possibility of a danger arising out of workplace activities. So in *R v Board of Trustees of the Science Museum* ([1993] 3 All.E.R. 853) the Museum was successfully prosecuted because they had failed to take the steps that could and should have been taken to avert the risk that passers-by walking along the street outside might be affected by the germs of Legionella infection from the Museum cooling system even though, thankfully, nobody had been infected.

The employees' duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act are quite straight-forward. They have a duty to take reasonable care of their own health and safety at work and that of anyone who might be affected by what they do, or fail to do, in the course of their work. Employees also have a duty to co-operate with the health and safety requirements laid down by the employer and not to misuse health and safety equipment provided. The Act is specific that an employee is someone at work under a contract of employment and since a contract of employment requires certain essential elements, not least the duty to pay the stipulated wages, it follows that a volunteer is not an employee any more than a student using the library. Thus we have a situation where there is a duty on you the librarian to, say, put up tapes to keep anyone out of the area below the shelves where you are moving books lest they have some sense knocked into them by a volume falling on their heads but no similar duty placed upon the mischievous volunteer who moves the tapes so that a reader deep in study knocks over the step ladder you are perched upon. It is unlikely that the volunteer who caused the accident would be worth suing by you and the reader, he is probably an impecunious pensioner. The reader is in some measure to blame for his accident by failing to notice his surroundings in a sensible way and he could have any damages reduced as a result. If the Court took the view that his injuries were completely his own fault he could lose 100% of his possible award. The hapless librarian has no recourse against the volunteer who owes him no duty under the Health & Safety at Work Act

(although he might have a personal civil liability for his negligence but is not worth suing as he has no money.) The librarian has done everything s/he can to prevent the accident by taping off the area and so is unlikely to be blamed. However, the employer (or more precisely his insurers who will have the money to be worth suing) may be liable for having failed to have a safe system of work in place whereby volunteers are supervised and instructed so that all steps have been taken that are reasonably practicable to ensure the safety of their employees at work.

The phrase “reasonably practicable” recurs within health and safety legislation like a mantra. It is very easy to become confused looking at different cases arising out of very different workplaces as to exactly what is required. However, a Judge in the little known case of *Allen v Avon Rubber Company* ([1986] ICR 695) gave some very clear and easy to follow guidance. He said **look at the risk in question and ask yourself is it foreseeable that somebody acting in a foreseeable way is going to be harmed.** If the answer is yes then you need to take all practicable steps to remove the risk. Whether a step is practicable or not hinges on a sensible balance between the level of risk and the cost of removing it. So to take two extremes it is entirely foreseeable that a library user is going to trip over the trailing photocopier lead that was not hazard-taped to the floor. Here the risk of accident is high, as Murphy’s Law dictates, and it is relatively cheap to take sensible steps to avoid the foreseeable tripping accident. However, imagine for a moment a college library on the 2nd floor with glorious leaded windows reaching from about 5 feet above the floor up to the ceiling. Is it reasonable to expect that a deranged librarian driven mad by years of serving students is going to crack one afternoon and hurl himself through a window to his death in the quad below. Need the college spend money ensuring the windows are fenced off? Even after a bad week at work it is not a reasonably foreseeable accident and so the risk is not worth guarding against. It is a possible accident though. Such an incident occurred in a mental hospital some years ago. Even though the risk of a mental patient becoming deranged is somewhat higher than that of a librarian nonetheless the Court concluded that it was not reasonable for the hospital to have foreseen that a patient would make a superhuman leap through a closed window.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations imposes a duty on employers to make “suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to health and safety arising out of their work “ which might affect their employees or anyone else who might be affected by their activities. Having assessed the

risks the employer must take appropriate measures in so far as it is reasonably practicable to guard against them. It is not a case of having made an assessment in 1999 in the first flush of excitement when the regulations came in and filing it away. It is important to keep the working environment under constant review and make further assessments when any circumstances change. This is even more important now with the changed policy of the HSE in making impromptu workplace inspections.

There are no fixed rules for carrying out a risk assessment. So long as an honest effort has been made to assess likely risks and take appropriate practical steps to combat them the HSE is unlikely to take any action against you. However, assessments do need to be made in writing and filed until superseded by the next review of the situation. The assessment ought to cover the following issues:

- What is the hazard from this task? A hazard is something which has the potential to cause harm – something it is predictable will hurt someone behaving in a foreseeable way
- How likely is it someone may be harmed?
- Who is likely to be harmed? – library staff, users, the general public etc
- What steps can you take which are both reasonable and practicable to reduce the risk and control it? Do you have to perform the job in this particular way or can the risk be avoided by doing the job differently? If there is an unavoidable risk then take steps to combat it at source. Thus it is far more effective to clear the steps of ice than put up a sign saying “warning slippery surface”.

The guiding principles are:

- Avoid risks wherever you can
- Evaluate risks you cannot avoid
- Combat risks at source with proper control measures that are planned, organised, and reviewed

In reviewing health and safety in the workplace it pays to walk around with your eyes open and your brain engaged since familiarity makes it all too easy to cease to notice the hazards. Ask colleagues who may have noticed things too. Check the accident book as a reminder of what has gone wrong in the past and review manufacturers' instructions to see what risks they

have highlighted in the use of their equipment. You can ignore trivial hazards but pick up on anything that could cause serious harm or affect a number of people. It may be helpful to mention possible areas of risk in a library environment:

- Access Equipment – Falls, dropping things from height
- Mobile Presses – Trapping people, injuries from the mechanism
- The Building – Fumes, noise, dust, access and egress etc
- Display Screen Equipment – Eye strain, repetitive strain injury, stress, posture etc
- Electrical Equipment – Shock, burns
- First Aid – Trained and identified personnel, are supplies in date and sufficient?
- Furniture – sharp edges, wear and tear, malfunction
- Lone Working – Accident or illness or physical danger, emergency provision
- Manual Handling – Musculo-skeletal problems including back strain
- Lifts and escalators – Emergency provisions, shock, burns, moving parts
- Safety Signs – incorrect or insufficient
- Temperature & Humidity – Discomfort, heat stress, hypothermia
- Traffic Routes – Blocking emergency exits, tripping, collisions
- Violence and Aggression to Staff – Injury
- Visitors, Volunteers and Temporary Workers – Unfamiliarity heightens risks

People become hazards because they are unfamiliar with the environment so careful induction and training procedures are invaluable for volunteers and new employees. They become hazards too because they are tired or complacent – “I’ve never had an accident in 20 years.” Remember they may not have heard you or understood what you meant even if they did. They may have seen the sign but chose to ignore it or lacked the skill and training to understand the risk involved. There may even be some peer pressure not to bother with the safety equipment or other precautions.

Approximately 1/3 of all reported accidents at work involve poor manual handling. Most are back injuries but hands, arms and feet are also

vulnerable and many injuries arise over time rather than from a single incident. The need for manual handling should be avoided wherever possible but where it is unavoidable the risk of injury needs to be properly assessed. The risk should then be reduced insofar as it is reasonably practicable to do so. Thus the risk should be reduced to the lowest possible level until to do anything else would cost far too much in terms of time, trouble or money in proportion to any safety gain that might be achieved.

The employee needs to stop and think before lifting anything. Most accidents occur because of impatience – not planning the lift, not checking for obstructions along the route to be followed carrying the item(s), not asking for help where you need it or laziness such as not being bothered to fetch the trolley. Assess the load – is it awkward or unbalanced? What is the environment like? – is it too hot, are there tripping hazards or changes of level to negotiate or narrow corners to squeeze through? Think about how you will deal with these before you start and plan where you can stop and rest if needs be. Know your own limitations and remember that as a rough rule of thumb trying to lift 50% of your own weight is a risk, as is any lift that involves twisting or a lift from the floor to above head height or at arm's length. The more you bend your knees the less you bend your back and keeping your back straight (not necessarily vertically) will transfer strain from your back to your calf and thigh muscles.

Noise and vibration are areas where the law is under review. The current noise regulations require that personal protective equipment is used above 90 decibels. As a rough guide noise is at this level if two people standing at arm's length and facing one another cannot have a conversation without raising their voices. In 2006 a new regime on noise at work will be introduced with a lower exposure limit without protection. Vibration is a risk that is finally starting to be recognised. In case there are offending pieces of equipment in your library (or for all we know staff cutbacks might mean you are responsible for strimming the college grass) and because the risks tend to be unrecognised but severe, it is worth just mentioning the following points. Many power tools cause vibration and low frequencies can cause nausea and discomfort in the diaphragm. Higher levels can cause discomfort in the head, shoulders and neck and between 60-90Hz the eyes are affected. However, many power tools such as strimmers vibrate at an even higher rate and this can cause the blood vessels in the hands to contract. Early symptoms include whiteness in the fingers followed by numbness and pins and needles. The fingers may become red and painful and there can be tingling, numbness, loss of grip and lost sensation. The

tendency has been to ignore this sort of thing. However, there is a risk of permanent damage and even amputation because gangrene can set in. If you experience any tingling or numbness after using equipment you may be at risk of permanent injury. Do not ignore symptoms and discuss the problem with your employer, seeking further medical advice if they persist. Do not grip equipment tightly, take frequent breaks and ensure the equipment is properly maintained.

However, working at height is certainly a risk in libraries. Last year 67 people were killed and 4,000 people were seriously injured as a result of falls at work. New regulations, The Work at Height Regulations 2005, are now in force. The over-riding principle is that the employer must do everything that is reasonably practicable to prevent falls. The rules are simple

- Avoid working at height wherever you can
- Use equipment designed to prevent falls if working at height is unavoidable
- Use equipment and any other measures you can to minimise the distance you might fall and the risks of injury in such a fall
- Working at height must be planned and organised
- Workers must be trained and competent (and that would include volunteers)
- The equipment used needs to be regularly checked and inspected and safely set up
- The risk from falling objects has been controlled eg by taping off the area
- You have a plan in place to deal with rescue and assistance in an emergency – this may be especially relevant for a sole librarian about to scale the highest shelves. How would you get help if you were to be incapacitated by a fall? Would it help to have someone check you are OK if you haven't phoned reception after 30 minutes?

The basic rule is never work at height if it is reasonable and practicable to do the job without working at height.

Above all the object should be to encourage a safety conscious attitude within the library. That means persuading everyone to think about the safety implications of everything they do and try to minimise the risks to

themselves and everyone around them. Communication is vital and people should be encouraged to point out problems – or do something about them if they can. Thus if you have the skills to mop up the spilled coffee do it rather than waiting for the cleaner. Someone will be bound to slip while you wait. However, if it is something like a damaged sash cord, keep nagging maintenance until it is repaired – and keep the memos pointing out you have asked for assistance. In the meantime if you can minimise the risk from the window in any way, for example putting up a sign saying “do not touch” do that as well. People can do the stupidest things. I know someone who found a sash window propped up with a piece of wood and lost the tip of his finger when he removed it. People have different knowledge and experience. To me, growing up in houses with sash windows that was pretty obviously a stupid move but the young man concerned had never encountered a sash window before and neither had any of the people he was working with. If only the older members of staff had thought to point out something that was blindingly obvious to them.

The Health and Safety Executive publishes a number of useful leaflets obtainable from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA, telephone 01787 881165, website: <http://www.hsebooks.com>. Many of these are free and can also be downloaded from the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk>. These can be a useful source of guidance for managers, staff, volunteers and users but above all try to persuade everyone to think about their own and others' safety in everything they do around your workplace so as to create a culture of safety. Your lives and health may one day depend on it.

1 *Bulletin of ABTAPL* Vol 3 No 5, June 1995 pages 12-19. Copies are still available from the editor on request.

Marion Gibson
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NEWS AND NOTES

Auckland Castle

The Zubaran paintings of the Patriarchs which we saw during this year's Spring Conference visit to Auckland Castle, the home of the Bishop of Durham, will remain in situ and not be sold.

Beethoven Manuscript

A "lost" manuscript of one of Beethoven's works has been found in the library of Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University (formerly known as Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary), Pennsylvania, USA. It is due to be auctioned at Sotheby's, London and is expected to raise up to \$2.6 million. It is part of a collection presented to the Seminary in 1950, which also contained original music manuscripts by Mozart, Haydn, Strauss, Meyerbeer and Spohr. These were sold at auction for \$1,576,000 in the early 1990s. The library is a member of ABTAPL.

Database

The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England (Pase) database and its website document more than 11,000 people mentioned in contemporary records, including bishops, priests, nuns, etc. See <http://www.pase.ac.uk>

Digitisation

JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) has announced a digitisation programme of 6 projects to make material available to further and higher education; they include British Library Newspapers for 1800-1900, British Official Publications for 18th-20th centuries and Census Data for 1801-1937. See http://www.jisc.ac.uk/digitisation_home.html

Electronic Theses Online Service

EThOS is a 18-month project set up by JISC, CURL (Consortium of Research Libraries in the British Isles) and the British Library to preserve printed and electronic theses centrally and make them more easily accessible to researchers in higher education, science and industry. Its main focus is developing a supply service for e-theses, but it will also begin a programme of retrospective digitisation of theses.

Exeter University

A gift from the Blavatsky Trust has enabled Exeter University to establish a chair in Western esotericism, as part of the Centre for the Study of Esotericism Worldwide.

Exhibition

From 26th July to 30th December 2005, the Fitzwilliam Museum and Cambridge University Library is holding "The Cambridge Illuminations" exhibition of mediaeval illuminated manuscripts. The exhibition closes with an international conference from 8th to 10th December 2005. For information see: <http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/ci.html>

Methodist Anniversaries

2007 marks the tercentenary of Charles Wesley's birth, the bicentenary of Primitive Methodism, and the centenary of the United Methodist Church, as well as the 150th anniversary of the United Methodist Free Churches and the 75th anniversary of the Methodist Union.

See <http://www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk>

Preservation of Online Journals

Access to entire back runs of electronic journals could be lost to educational institutions when subscriptions are cancelled or when journals cease publication, because libraries can only lease access to electronic journals, in contrast to their print equivalents. JISC and CURL have launched an extended pilot project which will see the LOCKSS system deployed in selected libraries in the UK from January 2006. LOCKSS - 'Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe' - is a low-cost system that preserves access to a library's online journals in a manner acceptable to publishers.

Publications

English Catholicism, 1680-1830 edited by Michael Mullett is to be published as a 6 volume set and includes rare texts from the holdings of the Talbot Library, the Diocesan Library of Lancaster. Published by Pickering & Chatto at £495 (if ordered by May 2006) ISBN 1851968245. For further details see: <http://www.pickeringchatto.com/catholicism>

Reconciling Mission: the Ministry of Healing and Reconciliation in the Church Worldwide edited by Kirsteen Kim has been published as volume 1 of the Selly Oak Mission Series. Birmingham: United College of the Ascension; Delhi: ISPCK, 2005. ISBN 817214850X.

Facet Publishing has announced the publication earlier this year of *Setting up a Library and Information Service from Scratch* by Sheila Pantry and Peter Griffiths. Price: £29.95; ISBN 1856045587.

“Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies”

The Methodist Church and the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel have announced the creation of a new Mission Studies Centre as part of the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, from September 2006. U.S.P.G. have had a Training College in Selly Oak since 1923, and ten years ago the Methodist Church closed their own Kingsmead College to create with USPG the United College of the Ascension. Now that work will be transferred to the new ‘Selly Oak Centre for Mission Studies’, alongside the ecumenical Theological College, the West Midlands Ministerial Training Course and the Research Centre which help make up the Queen's Foundation in Edgbaston.

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. 52, no. 4, August 2005

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Katholisch-theologischer Bibliotheken / Verband kirchlich-wissenschaftlicher Bibliotheken *Kirchliches Buch- und Bibliothekswesen Jahrbuch* 2004. Yearbook published jointly by the two German associations AKThB and VkwB

Associazione dei Bibliotecari Ecclesiastici Italiani *Bollettino di Informazione* Vol. 14, no. 2, 2005

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Newsletter No. 56, August 2005. Includes papers from the 20th annual conference

FIDES *Biuletyn Bibliotek Koscielnych* No. 1/2 (18/19) 2004. Includes articles on library computerization, processing collections, research on information users, and the confiscation of books from ecclesial libraries by the communist government in 1960 (Polish text)

Librarians' Christian Fellowship *Christian Librarian*, No. 29, Summer 2005 and no. 30, Autumn 2005.

Theology and Philosophy from Oxford



The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy

Edited by Frank Jackson and Michael Smith

The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy is the definitive guide to what's going on in this lively and fascinating subject. The coverage is broad, with sections devoted to moral philosophy, social and political philosophy, philosophy of mind and action, philosophy of language, metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of the sciences.

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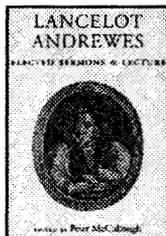
920pp Oct 2005 0-19-924295-X / 978-0-19-924295-5 £55.00, Hbk

Lancelot Andrewes: Selected Sermons and Lectures

Edited by Peter McCullough

This is the first annotated critical edition of works of Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626). Peter McCullough, a leading expert on religious writing in the early modern period, presents fourteen complete sermons and lectures preached by Andrewes across the whole range of his adult career.

552pp Nov 2005, £90.00 Hbk 0-19-818774-2 / 978-0-19-818774-5



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The Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics

Edited by Gilbert Meilaender and William Werpehowski

The Oxford Handbook of Theological Ethics offers the most authoritative and compelling guide to the discipline. Written by an international group of thirty scholars, and unlike any other book now available, the Handbook's unrivalled breadth and depth make it the definitive reference work for all students and academics who want to explore more fully essential topics in Christian ethics.

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WEBSITES

ARCHIVES MADE EASY <http://www.archivesmadeeasy.org>
Practical and updatable guide to archives world-wide

“THE CAMBRIDGE ILLUMINATIONS” EXHIBITION
<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/ci.html>

**COLLEGE LIBRARY OF THE TRANSTIBISCAN REFORMED
CHURCH DISTRICT, DEBRECEN, HUNGARY**
<http://silver.drk.hu/eng/indexe.htm>

EKE: Egyházi Könyvtárak Egyesülése <http://www.eke.hu>
Hungarian Ecclesiastical Library Association

LISJOBNET.COM <http://www.lisjobnet.com>
CILIP's recruitment website

METHODIST ANNIVERSARIES 2007
<http://www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk>

NATIONAL SZECHENYI LIBRARY, HUNGARY <http://www.oszk.hu>

PROSOPOGRAPHY OF ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND (PASE)
<http://www.pase.ac.uk>

RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES GROUP NEWSLETTER
<http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/rag/>

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