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This Bulletin is a revival of one published by the Association from 1956-1966. It is intended to issue three numbers a year (Spring, Summer and Winter) and to be brief, informative and cheap.

Subscriptions have been received from an interesting variety of libraries and personal members in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, New Jersey, Kentucky, Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Georgia, California and Finland. The greatest scope for expansion, even though higher education in the U.K. has to suffer its share of financial reductions, is in university and college libraries. ABTAPL can offer a useful service to all who are concerned with the bibliography of religion and philosophy.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (*University, College & Research Section*)

Annual conference, Guildford, 1975

On an extremely bleak weekend (4–6 April) the University of Surrey was our hospitable host. Many of us felt that the trendy campus was more suited to a Mediterranean climate, but at least we were reasonably warm indoors. The conference was devoted to various aspects of publishing; there were papers by Mr. A.N. Boyd, the Senior Editor of a firm of medical publishers, Mr. D.P. Brooks of the Staples Printing Group, who dazzled us with the marvels of Compuscan, Mr. B.J.S. Williams of the National Reprographic Centre for Documentation, Miss Lonsdale-Cooper, Director of Publishing at the Open University, and Mr. C.P. Auger of Joseph Lucas Ltd., who spoke on the problems of non-published material (reports, conference papers etc.)

One of the visits was to Chichester Cathedral where Mr. Francis W. Steer was host to 20 of us in the newly re-housed Cathedral Library, bringing out many bibliographical treasures from their hiding-places, to the accompaniment of the Southern Youth Orchestra rehearsing Wagner. On the Saturday evening, for those who did *not* sneak off to a concert at Guilford Cathedral, were various discussion groups, one of which was introduced by the Chairman of ABTAPL. The Revd. John Bowden, Managing Director of the SCM Press, talked informally on religious publishing and invited questions and discussion. It was interesting to have present, Mr. Lueders and Mr. Hjelm, from Fortress Press, Philadelphia, who could talk about the American scene. Topics covered in the discussion included the difficulties of reprinting books only wanted by a few students doing a particular option; whether more funds (or too much of funds) were spent on periodicals and standing orders rather than books, and why there seemed to be a glut of German theological works (the questioner had not realized that German theological publishing is subsidized). About 14 people joined the discussion group – what we lacked in numbers we more than made up for in length, as we were the last group to close, at 10 p.m.

We can reasonably say that ABTAPL made a successful, if modest, contribution to the Conference, and we hope this will not be the only such effort we can make.

E.M.E.

ABTAPL TO VISIT BIRMINGHAM

On Wednesday, 5th November, 1975, members and friends are invited to the Library of Selly Oak Colleges (Miss Frances Williams) and the Philosophy and Religion Department of Birmingham Public Libraries (Mrs J.P.R. Henderson).

Programme: 11.30 Selly Oak Colleges Library (9.10 train from Euston arrives Birmingham 10.41).

2.30 Annual General Meeting at Birmingham Central Library.

3.30 Philosophy & Religion Department.

Further details from Miss Mary Elliott, King's College Library, London (01-836-5454), who also wishes to receive *nominations for the 1976 Officers and Committee* by the date of the A.G.M.

BOOK FAIR FOR LANCASTER CONGRESS

At the 13th Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (publishers of *Numen*, *Studies in the History of Religion*, and the *International Bibliography of the History of Religion*) a book fair has been arranged. Publishers of 14 abstracting and indexing services in the field of religion will be exhibiting, and in some cases selling, their wares. The arrangements have been made by Graham P. Cornish of the British Library, Lending Division. The Congress takes place at the University of Lancaster from 15th – 22nd August, 1975.

LIBRARIES – 4

Saint David's University College, (University of Wales)
Lampeter, Dyfed, SA48 7ED. 0570-422 351

Librarian-in-Charge: Mr. R.C. Rider, M.A., F.L.A.,

History: College founded 1822, opened 1827, incorporated by Royal Charter 1828. Empowered by Charters of 1852 and 1865 to confer B.D. and B.A. degrees. Accorded affiliation by Oxford 1880, and Cambridge 1883. Remained an independent college when the federal University of Wales was formed in 1893. Recognised by UGC in 1961, and became a constituent institution of the University of Wales in 1971, its degree-granting power being suspended by the Supplemental Charter of that year, whilst the College remains within the university.

Function: Provision of library facilities, lending and reference, for members of the College and its associated institution, the Bishop Thomas Burgess Theological Hall (Anglican : closing at end of 1975/6 session).

Coverage: Subjects taught at College (including theology and philosophy).

Stock: Of a total stock of 90,000 volumes, about 25,000 are philosophical or theological works. c. 120 current periodicals in these fields.

Special collections:

Tract collection. 828 bound volumes containing 11,395 items, ranging in date from c.1520 to 1843, more than three-quarters being from the years 1641-1720. A general collection but many are naturally religious or philosophical, and non-juring literature is particularly well represented.

Small manuscript collection, including eight liturgical and devotional manuscripts of the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.

Welsh Bibles, Prayer books, hymnals and catechisms. Welsh denominational periodicals, chiefly of the nineteenth century.

Classification:

Main Library (chiefly material published after 1850): Dewey decimal.

Old Library (pre-1851 material): Unclassified.

Catalogues:

Main Library

- (i) Name and classified catalogues with alphabetical subject index; all on cards.
- (ii) Periodicals catalogue on cards – alphabetical sequence for all holdings whether in Main or Old Library; classified sequence for all titles taken *in or at any time after 1851*.

Old Library

- (i) Name catalogue on cards (In progress. Complete from 1501-1800. For incunabula and 1801-50 material there is an incomplete manuscript catalogue also on cards, made 1902-5).
- (ii) The catalogue of the Tract collection is to be published this year by Mansell.

Access: As under *Function*. Reading facilities granted also to members of the general public on application to the Librarian-in-Charge.

Publications: *Notes for readers; Accessions lists.*

(For history of College *see*)

Archdall (H.K.) : *St. David's College, Lampeter: its past, present and future*. 1952.

Saint David's University College, Lampeter. *Undergraduate prospectus* (current issue).

(For articles on the Library, *see*)

Rider (R.C.) : *The Library of St. David's College, Lampeter* (Libr. Assoc. Rec. 66, 1964).

Rider (R.C.) : *The Library of St. David's College I* (Trivium 1, 1966 with further notes in 2, 1967).

Harris (L.J.) and James (B.LI.) : *The tract collection at Saint David's University College, Lampeter* (Trivium 9, 1974).

Rider (R.C.) : *Lampeter tracts catalogue* (Libr. Assoc. Rec. 77, 1975).

Arbeiten) could easily become *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta!* Secondly, such a system, when taken beyond very simple and well-known titles in any particular field, requires constant coding (for the writer) and de-coding (for the reader) as it is in no way self-explanatory.

This contrasts strongly with the shortform system used by World List of Scientific Periodicals, and the International Bibliography of the Social Sciences; for example, *Journal of the Royal Central Asian Society* becomes JCAS in the group-initial system but J.Roy.Centr.Asian Soc. on the Shortform system. Although longer to write, the latter is difficult to mis-interpret and can reasonably be constructed by someone using basic principles without a reference manual.

This brings out another point of criticism of this system. If it is to be used internationally and interdisciplinarily then uniformity is essential and this cannot be achieved without a central reference point rather like a library classification scheme. Such uniformity does not exist at present as is shown by the various abbreviations used for such a simple title as *Norsk Teologisk Tidsskrift*. Index to Religious Periodical Literature used NTTid. Internationale Zeitschriften-schau fur Bibelwissenschaft und Grenzegebiete uses NorTT; Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus gives NorTTs and Schwertner agrees with International Ecumenical Bibliography and International Bibliography of the History of Religions in giving simply NTT.

However, having opted for the group initial system, it would have been better to take the plunge and give each serial a code according to a proper set of rules instead of modifying these according to what seems to be common usage. This results in certain irritating inconsistencies. For example Mennonite is abbreviated to Menn. for all journals except *Mennonite Research Journal* which becomes MRJ; adjectives denoting royalty are ignored (says the preface) but JRSA is used for *Journal of Royal Society of Arts*: common usage over-rides Schwertner's own guidelines but nearly every scholarly source uses ETL for *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* but Schwertner insists on EthL. Additionally, the general consensus for the *Bibliotheca* series attached to ETL seems to be BETL but again the Glossary gives EThL.B.

The actual list of serials is very comprehensive and includes many discontinued as well as current titles. The demise of the *Hibbert Journal* (1967) and *Church Quarterly* (1971) have not been noticed, though the *Journal of the United Reformed Reformed Church Historical Society* (1972-) does appear in the short Nachtrag. However, it is very selective in the "related subjects". There are many minor and obscure serials listed which makes it a useful tool bibliographically but the omission of, say, *Teilhard Review* or *Christian Scholars Review*, leaves one wondering how many other items are waiting on Schwertner's doorstep to be allotted

continued on page 13

HISTORICAL EXHIBITIONS: TISCHENDORF, MATTHEW PARKER and BLAIRS

Three exhibitions of books from notable collections have been held in recent months, in Glasgow, Cambridge and Edinburgh.

In Glasgow University Library the centenary of the death of **Konstantin von Tischendorf** (1815-1874) was marked by the display of 61 items from the 3,000 volumes of his personal library which had recently been permanently deposited there by the Church of Scotland with the rest of the 75,000 volumes and 14,000 pamphlets comprising the former Trinity College Library. In addition to selections of biblical texts and commentaries, works of the fathers and Tischendorf's own works, there were 15 historical accounts of travels to the Holy Land, from S. Feyerabend's *Reyssbuch dess Heyligen Lands* (Frankfurt, 1584) to Prince Radziwil's *Jerosolymitana peregrinatio* (Györ, 1753). A well-annotated catalogue of 23 pages was issued.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, are holding an exhibition of manuscripts and printed books from the collection of **Matthew Parker** (1504-1575) Master of the College under Henry VIII and Edward VI, and Archbishop of Canterbury under Elizabeth. The Queen gave him authority to seek out 'auncient recordes or monumentes written' from the recently dispersed monasteries, abbeys and priories of Britain, which were then studied with a view to justifying the Church of England in the light of history. The superb collection was given under strict conditions. Three members of the College, with different keys, all had to be present before any consultation was possible, and an audit by members of two rival colleges was carried out annually, with fines of 4d. for each MS leaf missing, and, for major default, the ultimate sanction was to be the transfer of the whole collection to Gonville and Caius College.

There is a *Handlist of exhibits* and a handsome illustrated catalogue, *Matthew Parker's legacy: Books and plate*, by R.I. Page and G.H.S. Bushnell (£1.20 post-paid, from the College). The exhibition is open till 15th August, 1975, (Monday — Friday, 2 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.)

The National Library of Scotland held an exhibition from March to May of books from **Blairs College Library** which was deposited in Edinburgh in 1974. As this is probably less well known than the other two collections, a fuller account is given in the following pages.

J.V.H.

of Balquhain and the donor of the Blairs estate, John Menzies of Pitfodels.

The Manuscript collection contains nine illuminated codices, mainly Books of Hours, and including the so-called 'Hours of Anne de Bretagne', part of a Roman *Horae* written for Marie de Rieux (d.1466), wife of Louis d'Amboise, and possibly intended as a wedding gift. The book later came into the hands of Philippe de Bethune (who was in Scotland in 1599 as ambassador to James VI). At about this time the manuscript was divided into three separately-bound parts; spurious heraldic devices were added to each part to suggest that they had belonged to Louis XII of France and his Queen, Anne de Bretagne. Another part of the manuscript came to the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, and a third to the Bibliotheque Municipale, Tours, where it was destroyed during the Second World War. The manuscript contains a large number of fine half-page miniatures surrounded by borders of foliage and flowers etc. One item of peculiarly Scottish interest is Andrew Lundy's Primer, a later 15th- and early 16th-century prayer-book with five half-page miniatures whose work, although not of a very high quality, is Scottish and consequently rare.

Manuscripts represent only a small part of the collection, the bulk being made up of printed books amounting to approximately 27,000 volumes. These include a number of incunabula, many 16th-century printed books, and several books with interesting provenances such as pre-Reformation monastic or episcopal libraries.

An analysis of the collection by subject reveals an expected emphasis upon biblical, patristic and controversial material, but includes also some interesting books on agriculture, botany and medicine. One of the more unusual books is John Weddington's *A breffe instruction, and manner, howe to kepe marchantes bokes*, printed in Antwerp in 1567, the only known copy of one of the earliest books on accounting to appear in English. Another unique item is *Ane godlie exhortatioun* by John Hamilton, Bishop of St. Andrews, printed there or in Edinburgh about 1559, and nicknamed 'The Twapenny Faith'. Two books with strong Scottish associations are a Missal, printed in Paris in 1684, and used by Mary of Modena, Queen of James VII, and a Breviary owned by Henry, Cardinal York, brother of Bonny Prince Charlie. Of great interest is a volume of nine small devotional tracts, printed in London by R. Copland between 1522 and 1531; all are the only known copies.

The Blairs' Library is rich in Gothic and Renaissance bindings. Later periods are also well represented. Many of these have interesting associations. Some of the most notable have been described by Dr. W.S. Mitchell, former Librarian of the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in *Aberdeen University Review*, Spring 1949.

It can be seen from its background and the brief description of its contents that the Blairs College library is an unusual collection, a monument to the pre-Emancipation scholarship of Catholics in Scotland, and as such is of very great historical and sentimental value to Scottish Catholics. For this reason the people of Scotland must be grateful to the Trustees of the College for their generous and public-spirited gesture in depositing the books in the National Library.

T.A.Cherry

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a code. The certain thing is that we dare not do it for ourselves as we would hardly agree on the outcome. This is certainly *not* a major contribution to Universal Bibliographical Control.

G.P. Cornish

The *ISO Bulletin* (January 1975) gives news of an International Standard (ISO 833) which specifies abbreviations for some 7,000 words. This will be a basis for assigning unique abbreviations for serial titles and has been accepted by UNESCO as a basic standard for the proposed World Science Information System known as UNISIST. It is a revision of a previous draft (ISO/R 833) published in 1968.

J.V.H.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION !

The Saint Andrew Press, the publishing house of the Church of Scotland, issues publications of interest to a wide range of Christian readers. Notable in its list are the 17 volumes of William Barclay's DAILY STUDY BIBLE (now beginning to appear in a Revised Edition), which cover the whole of the New Testament. We also publish Dr Barclay's AND JESUS SAID, THE KING AND THE KINGDOM, THE OLD LAW AND THE NEW LAW, GOD'S YOUNG CHURCH, AND HE HAD COMPASSION and AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST, together with many other books by equally gifted authors. Recently, we have introduced a series of cassette recordings and further details are to be had on request.

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RELIGIOUS MATERIAL IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF A SURVEY

R.J. Duckett

Introduction

In May and June last year the staff of the Department of Philosophy and Religion of Birmingham City Libraries carried out a survey into the provision of religious material in West Midlands Public Libraries. As librarians specialising in religious material we were curious to know what sort of provision was being made in our subject field in other libraries. This interest was not purely a personal one since the Department functioned as a regional reference and resource centre, and as part of our job we needed to know what the situation was like within the West Midlands as a whole.

The Libraries

Thirty-two public library authorities were surveyed. This represented all but four of those in the counties of Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire which were in existence prior to local government re-organisation in April 1974. In addition, two checks were done using the resources of the Regional Library Bureau whose records covered 54 library systems including university, polytechnic and college libraries. The public libraries surveyed ranged from large county and city authorities with 20 or more branches to small one branch town libraries.

This account

In the short compass of this article I can give no more than a sketch of our findings. A full report of the survey was made and has been issued by the West Midlands Branch of the Library Association to libraries in the area. For those interested in acquiring the report, they are invited to contact the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Birmingham City Libraries.

The survey

The survey was done in three phases —

First: A brief questionnaire was sent to the libraries requesting information which would not be apparent on a visit.

Second: The libraries themselves were visited. Catalogues were checked for important reference works and for subject coverage and balance. We also looked at the shelves to determine the proportion of space taken up by

religious books, and also to make qualitative assessments of the stock for attractiveness, up-to-dateness and bias.

Third: Two checks were made using the records of the West Midlands Regional Library Bureau. The first was to assess regional coverage of newly-published books. The second was to see how good book selection was.

The Questionnaire

Question 1. "What religious newspapers and journals are taken currently?"

This question gave us a large amount of data and most of it was disappointing. 12 library authorities took no denominational newspapers at all and 24 (out of 32) took 3 or less. Half the libraries took the *Church Times*, 10 took the *British Weekly* and *Methodist Recorder* while none outside Birmingham Reference took *Reform* (United Reformed Church) or *Inquirer* (Unitarian). The most popular Catholic paper was *Universe* (7 libraries). Journals outnumbered newspapers but were an untidy collection characterized by zealous minority groups. Of the 22 titles taken outside Birmingham Reference library, half had only one location and only 5 or 6 of the total did we regard as having much serious intellectual content. Many libraries accepted gift donations which doubtless accounted for *Plain Truth* being the most popular, followed by *Christian Science Journal* and *New Church Magazine*. Non-Christian religions were ignored by all save 3 libraries.

Question 5. "How many titles did you add to your stock in 1973 in Dewey Class 200?"

Of the 17 authorities for which we had figures, 12 added 100 titles or less. Top was an urban borough with 778, two county libraries added 381 and 223 respectively. Lowest was 8!

Question 10. "Does religious material present any problems?"

My two favourite answers are: "Yes, not a very popular subject on the whole.", and "No, except that the proliferation of material is difficult to reconcile with the paucity of demand."

Question 11. "Are religious books used? Do you have figures relating to loans and issues?"

Only two libraries could give us figures although another 4 gave us estimates. Two large urban authorities gave us figures of 5,617 and 5,708. Lowest was "Between 2 and 5 books issued each Saturday." Another figure obtained was "2.8% of non-fiction." Of the subjective comments an intriguing one was "So far as Christianity is concerned, Roman Catholics use the library in this section more than Protestants."

Other questions related to subject specialists, liaison, special displays and collections, book-fund allocations and book selection policies.

Reference Stock

On our visits we checked a list of 47 reference books against the catalogues to see how good libraries were at providing important reference material. All libraries had at least ten of the books, and 6 library authorities had more than half. Three libraries had no *Revised Standard Version* of the *Bible* and only one had *Good News for Modern Man*. Nine library systems had no *Book of Common Prayer*, about half had no edition of the *Talmud*, even in selected texts form, and 3 had no *Koran*. Yearbooks and directories were sometimes out of date and the existence of just one or two non-conformist denominations on the reference shelves gave the impression that their appearance depended on particular staff affiliations. One library had (in 1974) only the 1960 edition of *Crockford's*, the *Catholic Directory* for 1963, the *Friends Book of Meetings* for 1964 and the *Jewish Yearbook* for 1963.

Balance, bias and coverage

How adequately are the various religious groups catered for on the library shelves? Is any bias evident? We made three approaches to this problem. The first was to check classified catalogues for books on the various religions and denominations. This approach probably told us more about the catalogues than about subject coverage! The Roman Catholic Church just tipped the Anglican Church in terms of gross title coverage; a long way behind came the Buddhists just ahead of the Jews. The Baptists fared particularly poorly. At individual library level, the balance varied greatly. One small town library had the Anglicans and Catholics running neck and neck (36 and 35 titles), followed by the Mormons in third place (18 titles), Quakers (6), Methodists (4) and Baptists (3).

The second approach, again at individual library level, was just to look at the shelves, and here our comments included "Nothing between 292 and 299" (i.e. no books on Islam, Judaism and Indian religions), and "Mormons and Christian Scientists much in evidence."

The third approach was most productive and this was to check the records of the Regional Library Bureau against items from the 1972 edition of the British National Bibliography. This check told us what percentage of current publications were not being acquired in the region. Dewey classes 280 and 290 were chosen and we excluded items such as facsimile reprints and foreign language texts which were not appropriate to public libraries. Of the 166 new titles, a third were not held in any of the 54 member library authorities.

Another third were held by only one or two. Most popular were biographies with Sir Tresham Lever's *Clayton of Toc H* topping the list with 27 locations. Of the items not purchased we noticed that the majority were issued by small publishers or specialist organisations which would probably fall outside the normal on-approval systems operated by local booksellers. The Society of Friends and Judaism suffered on this account.

Book selection

How up-to-date is library book selection? Are recent worthwhile books being purchased? An attempt was made to tackle these questions by taking a section of the recently published Library Association *Readers' Guide to Religion* and checking it against library holdings. The section we chose was on Evangelicalism which, excluding three reprints of classics, gave us 22 titles. 23 library authorities (out of 54) had none of the titles and 15 had only one. At the other end of the scale, one library authority had 7 titles and two had 6. Most popular were F. Schaeffer's *True Spirituality* and G. Target's *Evangelism Inc.*, both with 12 locations.

Other findings

Other topics covered concerned the size of religious holdings which varied from 8,000 titles to 360, with ten public library authorities having less than a thousand titles; the proportion of religious books to total adult stock – which averaged between 1% and 1½%; physical appearance, quality and up-to-dateness of stock.

Results

One result of the survey was to further encourage the Department of Philosophy and Religion to widen its field to cover the numerous items not collected elsewhere. Items such as documentary material, pamphlets, annual reports, conference proceedings, back files of religious newspapers, non-Christian journals, even Jesus cards and microfiche Bibles!

A second result was to encourage the staff to give a lead to other libraries, to show by their success that religion is a popular subject, and that by good stock control and exploitation the 200's "will go".

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