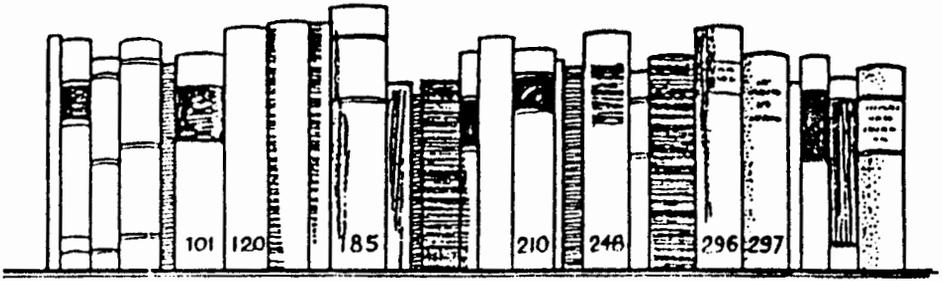


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# BULLETIN

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June 1995

## BULLETIN 1995

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. 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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**CONTENTS**

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Editorial	2
Message from the Chairman	2
The ABTAPL Spring Conference, 1995 - St Patrick's College, Maynooth	3
Oscott College - the Original Library	7
Health and Safety at work - the Law and the Librarian	12
National Review of Public Libraries	20
Notes and News	20

## Editorial

This issue of *The Bulletin* comprises articles based around this year's Spring Conference, which was held at Maynooth. It was, I believe, the first ABTAPL conference to be held outside Britain and provided a welcome opportunity to meet some of our Irish colleagues for the first time - hopefully not the last.

As well as the conference report itself, there is an article about Oscott College and its original library. St Mary's College, Oscott was founded the year before St Patrick's, Maynooth, and celebrated its bicentenary in 1994; the original buildings now house the Birmingham Diocesan Centre for Catechetics and Evangelisation (Maryvale House). The piece on Health and Safety at Work is in response to a discussion one evening during the conference weekend; its inclusion is an example of one of the ways in which ABTAPL supports its members.

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many thanks to all those who responded with such sympathy to my plight as reported in the March 1994 *Bulletin*. In one way it was reassuring to know that Spurgeon's is not unique in losing so many books. However it was rather alarming to realize that so many other libraries are having the same problems. (If anyone is interested, the College here is seriously considering fixed opening hours and a staffed issue/return desk.)

To turn to another issue, it is interesting to see how the role of the Librarian has changed so dramatically in a relatively short space of time. The Librarian is now expected to be an electronic genius and to know exactly how and where to find the most up-to-date information on any subject under the sun without moving from a computer screen. CD-ROMs, Modems, the Internet and E-mail are words which crop up, it seems, in every walk of life. To someone like myself, with a degree in Classics and whose library school training included one hour per week on 'Computers in Libraries' (20 years ago!), the technical demands being made are quite challenging, to say the least. Many of ABTAPL's members are relatively small institutions where the Librarian has to perform a number of tasks, ranging from Chief Accountant to Chief Shelver. There is rarely a Technical Services Librarian to do all the incredibly time-consuming background research on, e.g. which Internet agency to use or which CD-ROMs are worth purchasing.

Speaking from a personal point of view, I have found membership of ABTAPL invaluable in this respect. Over the last 18 months or so, I have had several very helpful discussions either at ABTAPL meetings or over the telephone with other ABTAPL members who have had experience of the latest electronic developments. Indeed at the Spring conference which took place at Maynooth this year we had a whole session on on-line and CD-rom databases (further details are given in the Conference Report). As can be seen

from the report, this year's residential conference was a great success and was, indeed, a mixture of the 'old' and the 'new'. It was quite amusing for us as we arrived to see signs everywhere displaying the words "Chaos and Creation". We wondered if this gave any indication what our conference was going to contain. However it turned out to be the title of another conference going on at the same time as ABTAPL's. It was fascinating to hear at mealtimes from delegates of this second conference.

If you are interested in building up contacts with other librarians in the same field, not necessarily for information on the latest technologies - many libraries do not have the funding to think about such things - but even for more mundane matters such as library suppliers, binders, etc., do think about attending the next meeting to be held in London in the Autumn or else the Spring Conference next year. I am sure that you will find the personal contacts made most helpful to you in your library, large or small.

*Judith Powles*  
*Spurgeon's College*

### THE ABTAPL SPRING CONFERENCE, 1995 - ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH

It was at our 1993 Conference at Glasgow that Dr. Thomas Kabdebo, Librarian at Maynooth, suggested that a visit to St. Patrick's College in 1995 would be highly suitable since they would then be celebrating the 200th anniversary of their foundation. The theme of the Conference was *Maynooth's 200 years: the old and the new* and the programme certainly demonstrated the contrasts clearly. Most sessions at Maynooth were held in one of their two libraries: the Russell Library, completed in 1861, and the John Paul II Library, opened in 1984.

Some 30 members gathered in the John Paul II Library at 8.00pm on Friday 7th April, to hear Monsignor P.J. Corish, a former Principal of Maynooth, open the weekend's programme with a talk entitled *Maynooth in context: an historical introduction*.

With a plan of the older buildings at Maynooth displayed by the overhead projector, Mgr Corish traced the developments and vicissitudes of the College as shown in its buildings. The original was Stoyte House - so called after its first occupant, one John Stoyte who was steward to the Duke of Leinster. Apart from the modern University Village and the John Paul II Library itself, the final construction was the second great quadrangle, designed by Augustus Welby Pugin and named St. Mary's Square, which was begun in 1848 during the Great Famine. Pugin died in 1852, and money was not plentiful so it was not until 1861 that the interior of the Library was fitted out by J.J. McCarthy, a former pupil of Pugin, and not till 1879 that the magnificent chapel - reputedly the largest stalled chapel in the world - was built, again by McCarthy.

Mgr. Corish explained the reasons for the names of the buildings of the Squares: Humanity, Logic, Rhetoric, from the subjects originally studied; Dunboyne because this building has always housed postgraduate students on a foundation established by Lord Dunboyne, Bishop of Cork. He became an Anglican on acceding to the peerage so that he could marry and have an heir but died childless in 1800, having returned to the Church of Rome.

St. Patrick's College, Maynooth is unusual in that it is two universities in one college. In about 1895, after at least one unsuccessful attempt, it became a Pontifical University. Then, in 1910, two years after the creation of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth was incorporated as a constituent College of the NUI. In 1966, the University admitted lay students for the first time since 1817, when the original lay college was suppressed. This has led to a tremendous growth, especially in the last decade - 1,767 students in 1983/4 to 3,946 in 1993/4, for example. It is a fascinating place and Mgr Corish's authoritative and witty talk enabled us to appreciate our surroundings, and made a suitable start to our weekend. AFJ

Our Saturday morning session was spent in the Russell Library, named after Charles Russell, President of Maynooth College 1867-1880. Since the opening of the purpose-built John Paul II Library, the Russell Library, formerly the main college library, has become a research library housing the College's collection of rare and older printed books, manuscripts and archives. A staff of 4 provides a service for 20 hours per week. The building itself was designed by A. W. Pugin, some of whose original plans were on display, and the interior completed by J. J. McCarthy. The decorative frieze running around the ceiling was most impressive. It appeared on the front cover of the Library guide, linking the old with the new. With Cardinal Newman's personal bookcases towering above us, the scene was set for our morning lectures.

Valerie Seymour, Librarian of the Special Collections, introduced us to the treasures held here and left several items on display for us to look at more closely. 22,000 volumes pre-1850 containing continental imprints are held here and 300 Irish manuscripts. The Bible collection includes 500 Bibles, the archives of the Hibernian Bible Society on permanent loan since 1984. The archive collection demonstrates the many links abroad which the College has, particularly with the Irish colleges in Salamanca, Santiago and Seville. Among the items on display we viewed from the 17th century were the Catholic Bible in English, the Bible in Irish and interlinear versions. Some items which appeared gritty and grubby were those rescued from a fire in 1878 by throwing them from a window.

Penelope Woods, Assistant Librarian and conference organiser, talked to us about finding the unexpected in the 18th century short title catalogue on CD-ROM. Penny's enthusiasm and dedication to her work was obvious to all and very infectious. No one would doubt the value of CD-ROMs after this. The ESTC will bring together all previous bibliographies on one CD-ROM, combined with the holdings of 15,000 institutions both small and large who have contributed to the database. The project is seen as an ongoing process and

the present CD-ROM will be updated. Access to the database can be by place of publication and language as well as by author, title and keyword searching. Searching for maps, illustrations and portraits is popular in pamphlet literature of this era. The 10,000 pamphlets held in the Library here were brought together by a combination of purchase, bequest, donations, and from auctions. They are bound together in volumes, on many subjects and reflect the interest in French affairs. We saw examples of funeral sermons and the work of widow printers, wives who kept the family business going on the death of their husbands, in order to support their families.

Paul Hoary then talked to us about the on-going preservation programme at Maynooth. We were able to view the equipment, materials (such as locally produced calfskin, goatskin and vellum from Celbridge) and solutions at close hand. Paul was working on some letters which were an important archive, demonstrating what life was like in the early years of the College. He estimated that from the various processes used he could add 300 years to the life on any manuscript. DW

Archbishop Narcissus Marsh (1638-1713) pioneered the public library in Ireland, leaving all his books in a purpose-built library whose interior has remained virtually unchanged, even to the three cages in which readers were confined while they consulted the volumes. Marsh's collections ranged widely including Arabic, Turkish and Russian texts; subsequent bequests have also widened the scope of the Library so that it is now a priceless resource for scholars in many fields. It was a privilege to visit and have the personal expertise of the Librarian, Muriel McCarthy.

By contrast, at Trinity College the Book of Kells and its relatives, the Books of Armagh and Mulling, are displayed for mass viewing in the impersonal surroundings of explanatory panels, subdued lighting and security guards anxious to move you on. One can marvel at the scribal skills but it is more difficult here to capture the atmosphere and spirit that led to the production of these remarkable 8th and 9th century manuscripts. SR

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday evening, following a splendid Conference Dinner. Mention was made of ABTAPL publications: it is hoped that the revised *Guide to Theological Collections* will appear later this year. The next meeting of the Conseil will be in Lille, France in September and we are hoping to send a representative. Suggestions for future meetings were made: York for Spring 1996 and Birmingham for Autumn 1996. The possibility of a Spring Conference to be held in Rome was again discussed.

Sunday morning gave conference delegates an opportunity to see the College's Palm Sunday procession and to join in the services in the Chapel or at the Church of Ireland, which stands at the gates of the College, or to go sightseeing. MS

The electronic databases workshop gave a useful glimpse of some databases available on CD-ROM and on-line as well as some of the wealth of

information available for theology and philosophy via the Internet.

Maynooth is trying to steer a middle course between access and holdings, and between databases on CD-ROM and on-line. They find that students prefer CD-ROM because they are able to use it themselves; on-line services are generally charged for by time and so access tends to be limited to experienced staff. However CD-ROMs are more expensive to set up initially and without training students may not find what they are looking for; on-line databases are more comprehensive and up to date.

On CD-ROM we were shown *Philosopher's Index* which indexes books and over 300 journals from 1940 to the present day and contains more than 155,000 records, and *CETEDOC*, a highly specialised tool which is an ongoing project containing the full text of a wide range of Christian Latin texts with the intention of creating a "computerised" Patrology.

The on-line service *FirstSearch Catalogue* was demonstrated. This is produced by OCLC and provides access to a wide range of databases including Worldcat, containing over 31 million records from 18,000 libraries across the world, ArticleFirst, ERIC and MEDLINE.

Finally we had a brief look at some of the facilities available via the Internet in religion and philosophy. These are available without charge to anyone with access to the Internet via JANET or any of the other possible gateways. By following the pathway through the Global Network Navigator, Whole Internet Catalogue, Humanities, Religion and Belief you are finally presented with options including Christian Resources on the Internet and Catholic Resources on the Net. The latter comprises a whole range of resources including the full text of a number of documents such as various papal encyclicals.

All the above were included in an hour's session and were a very useful introduction to some of the range of facilities that are becoming available. The glimpse of the Internet left me, at least, eager to return to try out our very new JANET link. As so often happens it is never as easy to do yourself; I eventually managed to track down the various resources on the Internet via the NISS Information Gateway but I do wonder how useful some of the information really is in this form as it can take quite a time to access. Perhaps a future ABTAPL conference could include a session on what members have found to be of real benefit on the Internet. [Could this become a regular feature in the *Bulletin*? Ed] JB

The final session of the weekend had as its theme of *Tales from the manuscripts and stories about them*. The manuscript tradition flourished in Gaelic Ireland well into the 19th century. Maynooth's Russell Library houses a fine collection and we were guided through them by Canon Padraig O'Fiannachta, who has compiled a bibliography of the collection. He showed examples of the different types of scripts and read aloud from different Celtic languages, describing the links and differences. There were stories of how some of the manuscripts came to be found and added to the collection, such as one which was found in a roof space when a house was re-tiled. It was a

highly entertaining talk and was a worthy conclusion to our visit, taking us back to the "old" and reminding us of the general theme of the conference. MS

*Jill Britton,  
LSU College of Higher Education, Southampton*

*Alan Jesson,  
Bible Society's Library, Cambridge University*

*Stella Rogers,  
Lyttleton & Thorold Library, Winchester*

*Marion Smith  
Birmingham Central Library*

*Dorothy Wright,  
Luther King House Library.*

### OSCOTT COLLEGE - THE ORIGINAL LIBRARY by George Every

Oscott College, which celebrated its bicentenary in 1994, is one of a number of Roman Catholic institutions in the British Isles whose foundation became feasible after the total eclipse of Jacobitism in 1787 and the closure of seminaries on the continent for British and Irish Catholics in and after the French Revolution. Some of these remained or were reopened later but the one at Douai, founded in the Spanish Netherlands in the Elizabethan age and under French control from 1677, closed finally in 1793. The last President of Douai, John Bew, was the first to preside at Oscott.

In Ireland the government made a grant towards the foundation of a seminary for priests at Maynooth in 1795. In Great Britain the problem was different. The Catholics were a minority, a smaller minority in England and Wales than in Scotland, but they had an aristocracy and a gentry who resented their exclusion from public life, from the House of Lords and the bench of magistrates, and from universities and schools. Their education depended on contacts with the continent, which coloured their cultural concerns and political aspirations. Measures that removed some of the penal laws, and enabled Catholic chapels to be licensed, like those of the Protestant Nonconformists in 1778 and 1791, did not satisfy them. In 1789 some of the more articulate made a Protestation, in which they disavowed claims to determine the succession to the throne that had been made by the Popes, or on their behalf, in the 16th and 17th centuries. These had continued to be a live issue in the 18th century, when Jacobites from Scotland twice invaded

England. They were kept alive by the insecurity of the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland, and in the mind of King George III by his belief that the Protestant succession to the throne would be undermined by allowing Catholics to be justices of the King's peace. The Cardinal Duke of York, the last legitimate descendant of King James II, had declined to be consulted about appointments to Irish Catholic dioceses after the death of his brother, Prince Charles, in 1787 and so disavowed any practical concern with British politics, but there were other Catholics with legitimate claims to the throne.

The Catholic gentry did not want to displace George III or to expropriate the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland. From 1791 to 1799, and again later, the Pope and Great Britain were allies against the Revolution, but the question of Catholic emancipation was complicated not only by the anxieties of King George and his mental instability, but by negotiations between the papacy and the French Republic. These led to the Concordat of 1801, with which French Royalist bishops in exile in England and elsewhere refused to collaborate, seeing in its terms the destruction of the ancient constitution of the Gallican Church. Pope Pius VII, who came to France for the coronation of Napoleon, proved in the end to be his most obstinate opponent, but the prospect of concessions to him, or of another papal election under his protection, made for controversy on the oath to be taken by Catholics in the service of the British government, between most of the gentry who accepted the royal supremacy in civil matters, making conscientious reservations, and clergy who saw this as capitulation to the Anglican establishment.

Such conflicts had earlier precedents in tension between the Jesuits and Vicars-Apostolic appointed from Rome in the reign of James II, to act as bishops in districts, not properly dioceses. These had to exercise their authority with the utmost caution after the Revolution of 1689, but they were not arrested or expelled because they were seen as a check on the much more dangerous Jesuits, who educated some of the secular clergy at the English College at Rome from 1579 to 1773. At the beginning of the 18th century Henry Tootell, a secular priest, was at work anonymously on *The History of the English College at Douai* (1713) and *The Secret History of the English Society of Jesus* (1715). He went on to collect material for a *Church History of England* from 1500, published at Wolverhampton with Brussels on the title page, under the name of Charles Dodd. The three volumes published in 1737, 1739 and 1742 went down to 1688 but the materials, with more for further volumes in manuscript and in print, were left at Harvington Hall, Worcestershire, from where some of them came later to Oscott.

In the same collection are pioneer works of biblical criticism in French and in English translations by the French Oratorian, Richard Simon. This is evidence that Tootell-Dodd saw further than his starting-point in tensions within and between the Catholic and the Anglican clergy, and their dissenting critics. Their continental education had given to British Catholics, at Rome and in Spain as well as at Douai, an awareness of developments in criticism that went beyond the classics and the Christian Fathers to books of the Bible. One of them, Alexander Geddes, began a new translation of the Scriptures.

## Cisalpines

The Cisalpines, as they called themselves in distinction from Ultramontanes, who made the most of the claims of Rome, have been represented as pioneers of liberalism but their leaders were educated under the ancien regime of enlightened despotism. They differed from their continental contemporaries in that they were not in the service of a great power or of lesser sovereign princes allied with Austria in Germany and Italy, but of Catholic lords and gentry who wanted some part in local government and therefore had to adapt themselves to the prejudices of their contemporaries and to the state of the nation.

Those who founded Oscott were not thinking only, or even primarily, of a seminary for the clergy. The Catholic gentry who had been educated abroad, with the clergy or elsewhere, wanted an education in England for their sons and daughters at Catholic institutions. They were also aware of a Catholic middle class who were growing in numbers in the industrial areas and sending children to school at Sedgeley park, not far from Oscott.

The first student at Oscott to be ordained, Francis Martyn, was patronised by Lord Petre, a Cisalpine peer, but he came from a commercial family at Norwich, the third city in England (after London and Bristol) before the industrial revolution, and had been at Sedgeley Park. He spent nearly the whole of his ministerial life from 1804 to 1838 at Bloxwich and Walsall, growing communities where one Anglican parish church, with a chapel-of-ease at Bloxwich, had few free seats for those who moved in from country parishes. There he found a Catholic community already expanding, which in his time became three Catholic parishes, four soon after his death. These belonged to a new reading public in search of skills to improve their prospects. The Catholics among them already had a literature of their own to suit their needs. The pioneer in this was John Gother, whose controversial writings in the reign of King James II against the misrepresentation of the Catholic religion were followed by spiritual works that could be sold in a variety of bookshops. Unquestionably but unobtrusively Catholic, they met the needs of Christians who wanted assistance in practical, moral and spiritual problems in a variety of occupations, including manual labour, by those who learnt to read to improve their technical knowledge and aptitude. They were published again and again, singly and in collections, in the course of the 18th century and followed by others. His pupil, Richard Challoner, became a Vicar-Apostolic and a prolific writer of meditations, memoirs of confessors and martyrs, and works of controversy. Other writers followed whose books were with Gother's and Challoner's in the libraries at Harvington and Oscott.

Some of these had French sources that could be found on the same shelves, including catechisms and moral essays and reflections by Nicole and Quesnel, which gave rise to suspicions of Jansenist influence among pupils and defenders of the Jesuits; but neither Gother nor Challoner were rigourist or Jansenist in their attitude to sacramental practice. They were not looking for elect souls but for those in need. Tootell was against the Jesuits but not a

Jansenist. Important for practice are collections of *Conferences ecclesiastiques sur les sacrements* in the diocese of Perigueux (1699) and Angers (1709) and *Consultations canoniques sur la sacrement de penitence* with a Gallican orientation, published in Paris in 1725. These the Vicars-Apostolic probably had to use in dealing with difficult cases when communications with Rome were delayed. They were almost certainly on the shelves at Oscott when Charles Berington, coadjutor to Thomas Talbot, Vicar-Apostolic of the Midland District lived there with his distant cousin, Joseph Berington, who was at work on *The Literary History of the Middle Ages*, and other books on cognate subjects, from 1785 to 1793, before the College was founded.

The Beringtons were indubitably Cisalpine, as were John Bew, the first President of Oscott, who succeeded Joseph in the chaplaincy there, and his Vice-President, Thomas Potts, who had published anonymously in 1790 *An inquiry into the moral and political tendency of the religion called Roman Catholic*. John Kirk, a close friend of the Beringtons and at Harvington Hall briefly in 1785 before taking charge of the school at Sedgeley Park, was a Cisalpine with a difference. He was the last student admitted by the Jesuits to the English College at Rome before Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Society of Jesus in 1773. He had there found in the room of the new Italian rector, hidden from the other students, the *Church History* and other works of Tootell-Dodd. He was allowed to borrow these. Soon he set out to supplement, correct and complete the *Church History*, collecting materials for this in books and manuscripts for the rest of his long life. Some of these found their way to Oscott but most of them went to Canon Marcus Aloysius Tierney, whose revised edition of Dodd's *Church History* in 1839-43 was stopped at 1625 by opposition from the restored Jesuit order and their friends in England and in Rome.

### Milner

John Milner, who became Vicar-Apostolic of the Midland District in 1803, was known to be hostile to the Cisalpines and friendly with the "gentlemen of Stonyhurst", who continued in the traditions of the Society of Jesus. However, he liked Francis Martyn and others who followed him to ordination from Oscott and, when in 1808 he took over the College after paying outstanding debts, he kept Thomas Potts as President in the place of John Bew. Thomas Walsh, who had been Milner's chaplain, became Vice-President and then President from 1819 to 1826, when he succeeded Milner as Vicar-Apostolic.

In the intervening years the whole situation changed. After the fall of Napoleon, the Papacy and the British government were anxious to work together in Ireland, India and Australia. The Papacy was a world power without any visible protector, in need of help from the British empire, and Milner's brusqueness in dealing with the Cisalpines got him into trouble with Rome. He irritated George Silvertop by calling him "copperbottom", a good illustration of his distaste for polite and pretentious gentlemen. Basing himself in Wolverhampton, he encouraged priests to take the lead in establishing chapels, churches and parishes in the industrial areas and not to leave this to

lay committees who imitated the Catholic gentry in their ways of employing clergy. In this he showed awareness that the future of the Catholic community lay in the urban working classes, who as yet had no leaders of their own. He agreed with Francis Martyn that literature within their competence was a more useful check on the activities of the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose Bibles without note or comment were sold cheap, than new editions of the Catholic translation, revised by Challoner, with a new selection of notes. These John Lingard favoured, at work on his *History of England*, but Francis Martyn, who admired this, had learnt from Thomas Potts that popular controversy over the Bible led to negative conclusions. Nothing could be proved by proof-texts. Milner's *The End of Controversy* shows that he did not agree. He thought Lingard's account of Anglo-Saxon England too close to Anglican ideas of the Church of England's origins; but he did not purge the library, where his controversies and Lingard's are found together.

At Milner's base in Wolverhampton was a Catholic library with books brought back from the continent by those whose education took them into the export trade. One certainly came from a pupil of the Jesuits, with other material from the Jesuit missions: *An historical essay endeavouring a probability that the language of the Empire of China is the Primitive language* by John Webb of Butleigh, published in London in 1669; this contains an account of the making of Chinese porcelain. This is now at Oscott, with an Italian translation of Henry Pemberton's *Essay on the Philosophy of Sir Isaac Newton*, published at Venice with an introduction and critical dissertations, and a large number of detailed diagrams, in 1733. Less certainly from Wolverhampton, but certainly related to exports, are the twelve volumes of Condillac's *Cours d'Etude* for the Prince of Parma, an outline of modern knowledge published at Zweibrucken in 1782. These in different ways illustrate the contribution of continental education, Catholic and Presbyterian, to the expansion of British exports which defeated Napoleon. Other dictionaries of modern knowledge in the 18th century came to Oscott as the College and the library expanded.

### Walsh and Wiseman

In 1818 the English College at Rome was restored to the secular clergy, for whom it was founded originally. It soon became the link between Catholic education in England and abroad, accessible as Douai had been, and in Rome. Nicholas Wiseman, who was Rector there from 1828 to 1840, was also Professor of Oriental Studies at the Gregorian University, and so involved with the background to studies of the Bible. He met Newman and Richard Hurrell Froude on their visit to Rome in the winter of 1832-3, and so became interested in the Oxford Movement before it began.

This gave him additional interest in plans by Bishop Walsh to move Oscott College to a new site, with room for expansion, in 1835-8. Before he came from Rome in 1840 to be President and Walsh's coadjutor bishop, he had already recommended the purchase of the Marini library. This contained collections of *Dizertationes Biblicae* and *Opuscula Theologica*, made by Giuseppe Garampi between 1749 and 1794. Many of these are from academic disputations

in Protestant universities in Germany and Holland between the end of the Thirty Years War in 1648 and the middle of the 18th century. Wiseman probably supposed that they would throw light on the origin and history of biblical criticism in Germany and England. He did not realise that intellectual links between England and Germany, which in his time were being resumed, were minimal under the first two Georges, whose German friends were suspected by insular Anglicans. The dissertations were little used.

Wiseman's attitude to biblical criticism was positive in 1837, when in *The Dublin Review* he praised *A new version of the Four Gospels by a Catholic* whom he knew to be Lingard. This was published in 1836 and has Lingard's name written in the copy in the Oscott library; but Wiseman in 1840 found at Oscott a school patronised by the gentry and by businessmen who had paid for the building, with a few young "divines" who helped with the teaching. He expected to flood it with converts from the universities. They came, but not in a flood, and found a library which could confirm an impression that Catholics did not believe in the Bible. Of the schoolboys one was stimulated into becoming an historian. His name was Acton.

The Cisalpines had hoped to renew contacts between Catholics and Anglicans in the governing classes. Milner knew that these did not matter. Wiseman agreed with him that the Establishment was coming to pieces but like the Cisalpines, including Lingard, he put his hopes in the educated classes and not in the toiling masses close at hand.

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK - THE LAW AND THE LIBRARIAN by Marion Gibson

### Introduction

In 1974 the Health and Safety at Work Act introduced a new legal code governing safety in the workplace. At that time the UK was ahead of much of the rest of the world in pushing for higher safety standards. Twenty years on and standards in Europe have overtaken us. That progress has been reflected in a number of recent EC Directives which in turn have eventually led to a number of new regulations being passed in the UK in 1992.

The 1974 Act remains in force, however, providing the basic rules governing safety in the workplace, supplemented with further provisions contained within various regulations, and codes of practice and guidance notes issued by the Health and Safety Executive. The provisions of earlier legislation, such as the Offices Shops and Railways Premises Act 1963, which

used to govern public libraries, have largely been repealed.

Both the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Regulations passed under it, such as the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 SI 1981/917, have the full force of law. Failure to comply with any of the provisions contained within them will amount to a criminal offence. Failure to comply with one of the Codes of Practice or Guidance Notes issued by the Health and Safety Executive on the other hand, may amount to evidence going towards proving an offence has been committed under the Act or Regulations but is not of itself an offence. In the same way, failure to comply with some provision of the Highway Code may suggest careless driving but the breach is not an offence of itself, unless stated to be one in the Road Traffic Acts and Regulations.

The whole code of health and safety law is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive. This is the relevant prosecutor for breaches of the legislation. However, it is fair to say that the Executive sees its primary role as educational and advisory. Its first aim is to promote good safety practice and prevent accidents. Policing the Act comes second to that and prosecutions are therefore always a matter of last rather than first resort.

It is the employer who will be prosecuted, not the employee. This is because it is the employer who is really in a position to set health and safety standards in the workplace and he alone who has the power to deal with problems brought to his attention in most instances. Thus, in one case, an attempt to prosecute a manager in Foyle's Bookshop was thrown out. The Court said liability under the Act lay with the decision makers in the organisation. True, the manager had day to day responsibility for running the shop but in the scheme of the organisation as a whole had neither the power nor the responsibility for setting policies and enforcing them. (Boal [1992]1QB 591)

In general, though, prosecution ensues only when advice and guidance on best practice has failed. If the situation is immediately dangerous, the Executive can issue Improvement or Prohibition Notices either requiring that a particular practice stops forthwith or certain improvements are carried out within a specified time. Breach of such notices is itself a criminal offence but there are provisions for appeal against the issuing of such notices.

### **Reporting Procedures**

There is a duty to report accidents and dangerous occurrences to the Executive under the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1985, SI 1985/2023.

Major accidents must be reported by telephone immediately, followed by a written report in the required form within 7 days. Major accidents include obviously those causing death but, perhaps more surprisingly, also include fractures, eye injuries, any loss of consciousness and any injury leading to a hospital admission of over 24 hours. Minor accidents, defined as injuries not included in the definition of major accident leading to 3 days or more off work, should be reported in writing in the required form within 7 days.

## General Duties of Employers and Employees under the 1974 Act

Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 imposes a duty on all employers to ensure, insofar as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all employees. The section goes on to list various areas of particular concern but emphasises that this is not intended to be a definitive list. The matters listed include provision of safe plant and machinery, safe systems of work, prevention of risk in handling, storage and transportation of articles and substance, safe means of access to and egress from working areas, and finally providing staff with information and instruction so as to further health and safety in the workplace.

The employer's duty is to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure health and safety. 'Reasonably practicable' is a narrower expression than 'physically possible'. It allows a balance to be struck between the degree of risk of accident or injury on the one hand and the cost, in time and trouble, as well as monetary terms, of averting it on the other. So in one case (*West Bromwich Building Society v Townsend* [1993] IRLR 147) an attempt to force the building society to fit bandit screens to the public counters in its Wolverhampton branch was stopped. The Court concluded that even in the wild West Midlands such a step was unnecessary, balancing the risk of violent attacks on staff against the cost of installing screens between them and customers. It follows that situations which are fluid, with a increasing degree of risk where perhaps none has existed in the past, need to be kept under review and appropriate steps taken once the balance of risk changes.

Indeed, that need to keep issues of health and safety under review is emphasised in a different way in a case in 1986 (*Allen v Avon Rubber Company* [1986] ICR 695) where the judge said that the relevant question to be asked was: 'Was it reasonably foreseeable that someone acting in a foreseeable way would sustain injury from this situation?' It makes good sense to try to look at the working environment from time to time, looking for areas of risk. Those accidents just waiting to happen: the trailing wire everyone ignores, until they fall over it; the precariously balanced shelving that will collapse if someone leans on it too hard. If the repair of such matters is outside your immediate control, then at least keep a record of the numerous memo's pressing those responsible to effect the repair and keep nagging. You have at least done everything you can to avert the danger.

There is also a duty upon employers to take all reasonably practicable steps to avoid risks to the health and safety of others not in their direct employment who may be affected by their activities. This duty could extend to the public at large. The duty concerns the avoidance of risk. This was defined recently as the possibility of danger rather than actual danger (*R v Board of Trustees of the Science Museum* [1993] 3 All E.R. 853). The Health and Safety Executive had prosecuted the museum because evidence was found of the bacteria which causes *Legionella* in the building's air cooling system. The museum appealed against the conviction because no member of the public had actually been infected but the Court of Appeal said it was sufficient for the Executive to show that the bacteria were there and might

escape. It did not have to go further and prove that they had.

### **The Assessment of Risk.**

Even under the 1974 Act, Section 2 required all employers with 5 or more employees to have a health and safety policy for the workplace. The Executive has always emphasised the use of the policy as a means of reviewing practice and procedure and setting down the various responsibilities of all employees. The requirement for such an overall policy remains. However, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 have imposed a further requirement upon all employers regardless of the number of people they employ. These Regulations came into force on 1st January 1993 with immediate effect.

Regulation 3 requires a risk assessment to be carried out. This assessment is to be suitable, sufficient and consider the health and safety of all employees and anyone else affected by the carrying out of the enterprise in question. The purpose of the assessment is to identify measures which need to be taken in order to comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations. The assessment must itself be kept under review bearing in mind any changes in circumstances. If the assessment does record any significant areas of risk then these must be recorded along with the steps taken to deal with them in the case of an organisation with 5 or more employees. Such record keeping is surely a good idea in any case to show that assessment has been carried out.

Under Regulation 5 employers are under a duty to provide appropriate health surveillance for their employees. This is especially important where the risk assessment has identified a risk of work related injury or disease, e.g. repetitive strain injury for keyboard operators. It is suggested that individual's conditions are monitored and health records kept.

Regulation 5 also requires employers to consider the capabilities of their employees as regards health and safety risks before entrusting tasks to them, e.g. not expecting someone with a back injury to keep moving heavy items. This is a person by person assessment. It is for the employer to ensure that the demands of any job do not put a worker at risk, bearing in mind his or her capabilities, level of training, knowledge and experience. The employer is also under a duty to provide his employees with adequate training on health and safety matters during working hours and in particular upon recruitment to the organisation, on exposure to new risks, when new technology is introduced and if there are any changes in the system of work.

Needless to say, these regulations are backed by an extensive code of practice from which further advice and guidance can be derived.

### **The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992**

These came into force with immediate effect on 1st January 1993 for all new workstations introduced after that date. There is a transitional period, however, in that for workstations in use on or before 31st December 1992, these do not have to be brought into line with the Regulations until on or before 31st December 1996. If a component is changed at such a workstation, only

that new equipment has to immediately comply with the Regulations. As ever, the Health and Safety Executive have produced a set of Guidance Notes on the operation of the regulations.

Display screens are defined so as to include not only conventional computer screens but also any screen whose main purpose is the display of text, numbers or graphics. Thus non-electronic display systems, such as microfiche, fall within the Regulations. However, as the Guidance Notes point out, if microfiche has been used to say retrieve documents where the originals are in poor condition as far as legibility is concerned, strict compliance with the Regulations may not always be possible. Screens which are used for film or television viewing are outside the scope of the Regulations. However, even if the equipment falls outside the scope of these Regulations, it would still have to comply with generally applicable health and safety requirements, e.g. a risk assessment being made of postural problems in using them.

Regulation 3 and a Schedule to the Regulations set out the requirements which workstations have or will have to meet. These are summarised below:

- the equipment must be safe to use
- the characters on the screen should be clear to read in terms of size, spacing, etc.
- the screen should not flicker
- brightness and contrast should be readily adjustable
- glare and reflection should be avoided
- the screen should swivel and tilt
- the keyboard should be separate from the screen and tiltable so that positional adjustments may be made with a work surface also sufficiently large to allow for the same
- the chair used should be height-adjustable and the back height and tilt should be adjustable, with a footrest available if the user requests

The Schedule then goes on to emphasise that the general environment in which the workstation is used should be such as to allow the operator freedom of movement, well-lit and free from distractions such as excessive noise, heat or humidity.

Apart from imposing physical requirements upon the equipment used, these Regulations are also primarily aimed at reducing health risks to those who are concerned with the use or operation of display screen equipment in their work. It is frequency and /or duration of display screen use which will bring about health problems associated with such work if they are going to occur in any individual. The Guidance Notes do actually cite the librarian as an example of a display screen user but the paragraph continues:

“Librarian carrying out intensive text input on dedicated equipment to add to information held on databases; accessing and checking on records held on databases, e.g. bibliographic and lending references; creating summaries and reports; combining data held on equipment

and new copy inputted into the system. Display screen work either intensive throughout the day on most days, or more intermittent but still forming at least half of the librarian's working time."

Having said that, however, elsewhere the Guidance Notes indicate that 3 hours screen use per day would be a guideline for qualification as a display screen user. In fact there is no reason why periods of shorter, more intensive screen use could not qualify as falling within the definition. Indeed the Guidance Notes indicate that factors to be taken into account in deciding whether or not someone is a user or not include:

- whether they have to use the equipment to do the job
- they needed training to use the equipment
- they would usually use the equipment for an hour or so at a time
- they use the equipment daily
- fast transfer of data between screen and user is part of the job
- they need to concentrate and attend to detail in using the screen.

Once a person is defined as a display screen user, then Regulation 4 requires their employer to ensure that their work is structured in such a way that they have breaks from the screen. Usually the nature of the job will allow that to occur naturally but, if not, deliberate breaks must be taken. The Guidance Notes suggest that breaks should occur before fatigue sets in and that frequent short breaks will be more effective than infrequent longer rest periods.

It is Regulation 5 which has had the most publicity. This provides for free eye tests for display screen users. The onus is on the user to request the test. If they do, then the employer must provide it. The purpose of the test is to ascertain whether any corrective measure, e.g. tinted glasses, are required by that person when using the display screen. It seems that only about 10% of users are likely to need such measures but, if they are required, the employer must also meet the costs of them, as well as of the test itself. However, the employer is only liable for the basic cost of the appliance in question. If something like designer frames are chosen, then it is for the employee to meet the additional cost. Anti-glare screens and 'VDU spectacles' are not classed as corrective measures for eyesight, being primarily intended to deal with risks of radiation.

Whilst the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992 undoubtedly bring in protections in an area where previously none existed, it is interesting to note that, notwithstanding the adoption of EC Directive 90/270 as to minimum health and safety requirements for display screen equipment, they do not go as far as that Directive in some particulars. The Directive suggests a specific risk analysis of every workstation with appropriate steps being taken to counter these. The Directive also suggests eye tests before regular display screen work begins and thereafter at regular intervals or if any problems develop.

As to possible health risks from display screen equipment, the most common are probably related to defective posture and eye strain, both of which may well have their origin in stress at work. Repetitive strain type injury is frequently associated with high volume work to tight deadlines. Anxiety about radiation from VDU screens is quite common, although the Health and Safety Executive suggests this is unfounded, adding that there is no scientific evidence that pregnant women need to stop working with computer screens. However, the Guidance Notes do suggest that women who are concerned and either pregnant or planning pregnancy should be given an opportunity to discuss their concerns with someone with a knowledge of the area. Presumably the Health and Safety Executive should be in a position to suggest someone suitable locally, if those concerned with ante-natal care cannot assist.

### **Photocopiers**

Many photocopiers are poorly situated in that they have been pushed into a corridor or cubby-hole which becomes hot, full of fumes and usually has a floor littered with half-used packs of paper, toner and rejected copies which missed the waste-paper bin. As the cleaning agents used in copiers are inflammable, all this paper represents an appreciable fire hazard. Adequate storage and a general tidy-up to remove all those things people are likely to trip over would benefit most photocopying areas. In addition, however, adequate ventilation of the area and good lighting - including ensuring that the photocopier is used with the lid down - will assist in reducing problems from over-heating, of machine and operator, and spots (or worse) before the eyes from the sudden flashes of light associated with the process.

The primary serious hazard associated with photocopiers is one of inhalation of fumes, again emphasising the need for good ventilation. The main risks are of ammonia fumes (aqueous solutions of ammonia are used in part of the process), carbon dioxide fumes as the carbon-based toner overheats, and ozone produced by the action of the fuser lamp. Symptoms will include irritation to nose and eyes with the possibility of headaches.

Regular servicing of the copier is to recommended and, if it is not possible to re-site the machine to improve ventilation, an exhaust system to ventilate the area should be considered.

### **General Points**

The safety of any office working environment will benefit from a regular check of the following and removal of hazards identified:

- trailing electrical leads
- torn floor coverings
- spillages quickly cleaned up
- handrails on stairs
- good lighting
- passageways and corridors kept free of obstructions
- sufficient power points and electrical overloads avoided

- damaged cables replaced
- electrical equipments switched off and unplugged when not in use, unless circuit-breaker plugs are fitted
- first aid box fully stocked and contents fresh and sterile
- that everyone does know what to do in the case of an accident or emergency - how to get help, etc.

### Further Reading

The following is a selection of booklets published by the Health and Safety Executive.

Ergonomics works: case studies showing successful interventions (1993) HS(G)121  
 Manual handling solutions you can handle (1993) HS(G)115  
 Electricity at work: safe working practices (1992) HS(G)85  
 Lighting at work (1987) HS(G)38  
 Seating at work (1991) HS(G)57  
 Work related upper limb disorders: a guide to prevention (1990) HS(G)60  
 Easy guide to VDU Regulations (1992) HS(G)90  
 Taking action on stress at work: a guide for employers (1993) HS(G)116

Health and Safety publications are available by mail order from:

Health and Safety Executive Books  
 PO Box 1999  
 Sudbury  
 Suffolk CO10 6FS  
 Tel 01787 881165  
 Fax 01787 313995

Other enquiries should be addressed to:

Health and Safety Executive Information Centre  
 Broad Lane  
 Sheffield S3 7HQ  
 Tel 01142 892345  
 Fax 01142 892333

*Marion Gibson  
 Birmingham*

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## NATIONAL REVIEW OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

On 16th May Stephen Dorrell, National Heritage Secretary, announced his interim conclusions on a report by Aslib Consultancy which forms part of the current review. He stressed the importance of libraries to all sections of the community and the crucial role they play in the UK economy. He told Parliament that he:

- had no intention of introducing charges for the present free core of the public library service;
- would be issuing guidance to local authorities to help them define more clearly the range of core services which their libraries should provide, although he believed that councils were still best-placed to decide *how* such services should be provided in the light of local circumstances;
- was not inclined to establish a new library inspectorate, as Aslib had recommended;
- had no plans to change present legislation governing public library services.

Although most of the recommendations in the Aslib report are addressed to local authorities, the Secretary of State made it clear that he supported the principle that they should:

- state explicitly what kind of library service they wish to buy, however that service is delivered;
- explore innovative ways of providing that service, including new technology and diverse sources of finance.

Interested parties, and local authorities in particular, now have until 30 September to comment on the report. A further statement will be made in the light of this consultation later in the year.

*Department of National Heritage News Release DNH 75/95*

## NOTES AND NEWS

### Academic Libraries - Funding

In response to the Follett Report, the Higher Education Funding Council for England agreed to provide an additional £34m to English university libraries. The Scottish Higher Education Funding Council will be providing £16m to 15 universities and colleges over the next three years, to be matched by contributions from the institutions themselves.

## **Alcuin Club**

The Alcuin Club will be celebrating its centenary in 1997. Special publications are planned (the Collections for 1996 and 1997) as well as a conference in Salisbury in July 1997.

## **Bookshops**

The **Christian Literature Crusade** bookshop in Aberdeen has moved to 22 Back Wynd, Aberdeen AB1 1JP (Tel 01224 641620, fax 01224 626332)

Formerly a branch of Mowbray's, the **SPCK bookshop** in Birmingham was forced to close its premises within the Dillon's bookshop when the latter closed its City Centre Plaza branch recently. SPCK have reopened at 12 Ethel Street, Birmingham (tel. 0121 643 2617), the premises which were vacated in their move to City Centre Plaza.

The Bible Bookshop in Wolverhampton is now the **CLC Bookshop**. Its address is 69 Worcester Street, Wolverhampton WV2 4LE (Tel/fax 01902 24020).

## **Christian Book Promotion Trust**

The trust has moved to 54 Roseford Road, Cambridge CB4 2AD (Tel. 01223 300065). Trevor Hames has been appointed as its national co-ordinator.

## **Conferences**

Association of Denominational Historical Societies and Cognate Libraries ADHSSL), Birmingham, 28th-30th July 1995. To be held at Westhill College, this is the association's first conference and takes as its theme *Protestant Nonconformists and the West Midlands of England*. Contact: Dr. E. Dorothy Graham, 34 Spiceland Road, Birmingham B31 1NJ.

BASR (British Association for the Study of Religions) 41st Annual Conference, Wolverhampton, 18th-20th September 1995. Details from the Conference Organiser, Peggy Morgan, Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT. The 1995 BASR Annual Lecture is to be given by Professor Margaret Chatterjee, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of Delhi.

Bhagavad Gita Conference, Cambridge, 30th June-1st July 1995. This is the Inaugural Conference at the Dharam Hinduja Institute of Indic Research (DHIIR) and has as its theme *The Fruits of our Desiring: an Inquiry into the Ethics of the Bhagavad Gita for our Times*. Further information is available from: Dr. J. Lipner, Director DHIIR, Divinity School, St John's Street, Cambridge CB2 1TW, Tel 01223-332590, fax 01223-332582.

International Association for the History of Religions Congress, Mexico City, 5th-12th August 1995. The preliminary programme contains proposals for 90 symposia. Contact: Dr. Kim Knott, Secretary of BASR, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Leeds LS2 9JT.

## Copyright

The Department of Trade and Industry has circulated a draft Statutory Instrument to implement the European Commission's directive which standardises the duration of copyright to 70 years after the author's death. The implementation date is given as 1st November 1995 but this may be delayed.

## Library and Information Commission

Established by the Government to advise it on library and information issues, the Commission is to be a single, authoritative source of advice on cross-sectional issues affecting different types of library and is to focus on UK-wide matters, most notably in the areas of research strategy and international links. It will have about 12 members taken from public, academic and commercial libraries, and is to be chaired by Matthew Evans, chairman and managing director of Faber & Faber. Stuart Brewer, City Librarian and Arts Officer for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is to be executive secretary.

## Net Book Agreement

The National Heritage Select Committee's report (June 1995) concluded that it did "not take the view that it would be appropriate at this time to recommend that the [Net Book] agreement be rescinded". In January the European Court of Justice upheld an appeal by the Publishers' Association against the European Commission's earlier decision not to allow the operation of the NBA in trade across European Union frontiers.

## Publications

BASR occasional papers are available from Dr. Terry Thomas, Open University in Wales, 24 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF1 9SA. Papers include: BANCROFT, A. *Hildegard of Bingen to Meinrad Craighead: a continuation of the truly feminine in conceptions of divinity*, AULES, P. *How to study religious experience in the traditions*. Copies cost £1 each or £4 for 5.

*Mormon Americana: a guide to printed materials on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Library*. Distributed free to academic and major public libraries in UK, this is published by the Eccles Centre for American Studies, British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG (Tel 0171-323 7551/7757, fax 0171-323 7792, e-mail eccles-centre@bl.uk)

*n.b.: the book magazine for librarians* is available from *n.b. magazine* Ltd, 5 Bloomsbury Place, London WC1A 2QA, Tel 0171 580 6733, fax 0171 580 6268. It is primarily aimed at public librarians.

## Spurgeon's College Library

Spurgeon's College has received a grant from the British Library towards cataloguing and conserving the archive of the College's founder, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. The College was delighted to receive the grant of £3,582 which was awarded after a fairly lengthy competition process. Part of

the award came from a grant from the Baring Foundation in support of the cataloguing work, which involves sorting and listing a wide variety of material, ranging from photographs to playing cards!

A major part of the conservation work is centred on a large scrap book of letters, newspaper cuttings, photographs, etc., which was discovered by accident in the College's bed-store room!

### Note from the Honorary Secretary

From time to time I receive new books and journals relevant to our readership for review. If anybody would like to assist with the task, on an occasional (and unpaid!) basis, I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Similarly, if you think that there are items which we *ought* to review, I would appreciate a note to that effect.

Alan F. Jesson