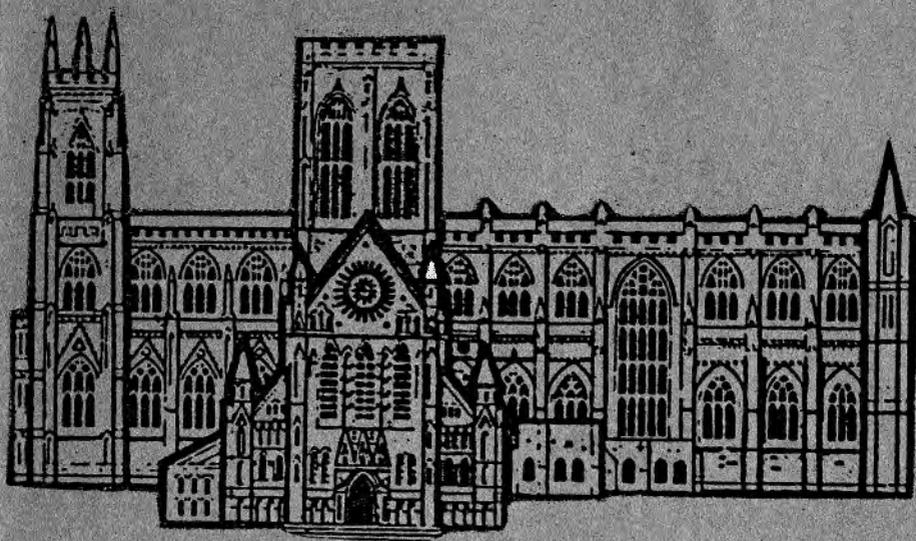


BULLETIN

of the

Association of British Theological

and Philosophical Libraries



Volume 7, Number 3
November 2000

BULLETIN 2000

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. 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)
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***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and
Philosophical Libraries***

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The front cover features a sketch of York Minster

PUBLICATIONS

GUIDE TO THEOLOGICAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Compiled and edited by David A. Kerry & Evelyn Cornell
ABTAPL Publishing, April 1999, ISBN 094894501X

£15/\$25 for ABTAPL members; £17.50/\$30 for non-members (inc. p+p)

Copies available from
Dr. A. Lacey, Hon. Sec. ABTAPL, Trinity Hall, Trinity Lane, Cambridge CB2 1TJ

* * * * *

ABTAPL UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS

The Union List now includes the philosophy, theology and religious studies journal holdings of 41 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 it is hoped that the coverage of bibliographical details will increase with future editions.

£14.50 for non-contributors and £12 for contributors.

Copies of the edition for 2000 are available from
Mrs Judith Powles, Librarian, Spurgeon's College, 189 South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6DJ

Cheques for both publications should be made payable to ABTAPL

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AMENDMENTS

Cambridge University Faculty of Divinity has moved to West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP, tel: 01223 763041 (direct line to library) and fax: 01223 763003

London Bible College has new telephone and fax numbers - tel: 01923 456190 (direct line to the library) and fax: 01923 456001

Partnership House Mission Studies Library, London has a new e-mail address phmslib@FreeNet.co.uk

NOTICE OF MEETING

2001 Spring Residential Conference and Annual General Meeting

will be held at

University of Exeter

from

Thursday 5th April to Saturday 7th April

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

Details will be sent to UK members. Members not resident in the UK who would like further information should contact the Honorary Secretary.

* * * * *

MAILBASE

With effect from 27th November 2000 the Mailbase service will be succeeded by a new service called JISCMail.

The e-mail address for the ABTAPL discussion group will change to abtapl@jiscmail.ac.uk

The website address for the ABTAPL mailing list will be <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/abtapl/>

More information on the change in service can be found at <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/docs/bulletin-1.htm>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

After the last issue of the *Bulletin* I had been looking forward to including in the November issue a report on what I had hoped were going to be excellent conferences, due to take place from 30th August until 4th September at the University College of Ripon and York St John. Unfortunately, although the conferences themselves went extremely well, as you will see from the various articles in this issue, some very unfortunate events took place which inevitably overshadowed the latter part of the proceedings.

However I will begin with the positive and say how much ABTAPL enjoyed hosting the BETH conference. A number of ABTAPL members attended and were delighted to meet our European colleagues, together with delegates from the USA, Kim Robinson, President of ANZTLA, and Goma Ndamba, Librarian of the Protestant University of the Congo. The proceedings, both formal and informal, were most enjoyable and I think it is fair to say that international co-operation has taken a big step forward. Various languages flowed (the words "Tower of Babel" were used at one point!) and laughter abounded. None of us will forget our outing to Ampleforth Abbey, complete with commentary as supplied to Penny Hall by our friendly coach driver, followed by a magnificent meal at the Fauconberg Arms in Coxwold (highly recommended). The plates of Yorkshire lamb ordered by a large number of our company will certainly never be forgotten!

We were delighted that the majority of BETH delegates were able to stay on for the ABTAPL conference. It was a great pleasure to have Graham Cornish, a long-standing committee member and currently President of the Library Association, as our speaker at the Saturday night conference dinner. Unfortunately later that evening most people had their sleep disturbed as the college in York had, incredibly, booked a student reunion party into the adjoining accommodation block. This party rapidly turned into a late night rave and the one porter on duty was unable to put an end to the loud noise, drinking and drug taking. It was plain then that security at the college was almost non-existent. This sadly became even more apparent the following evening when Rev. Goma's room was broken into and a large sum of money stolen, plus travel documents, tickets and passport. We now understand that burglaries are common at this particular college, although no warning was given to any of us, either verbally or on notices within the rooms or accommodation blocks. This very sad occurrence cast an inevitable shadow over the conference. The good news is that our friend Goma did eventually manage to obtain a replacement passport, tickets and visa, but the stolen money is a matter of great concern. At the time of writing we have contacted the Basler Mission who had raised the money for Goma's library to

see if there is any way that ABTAPL can help to contribute towards helping Goma, whose library was completely destroyed only a few years ago in the looting that took place in Kinshasa.

As I write now it is hard to equate the York of our conference with the flood-stricken city of our television screens. We just hope that all those people in York who went out of their way to help us during our time there have not suffered too much damage to their homes and places of work. The two policemen in particular who spent hours trying to assist us after the burglary deserve especial praise. One good thing that did come out of this whole experience was the helpfulness of complete strangers. Despite the difficulties encountered we must remain positive. I have been greatly encouraged by the comments of all those delegates who, after leaving York, contacted me to say how much they enjoyed the conferences, despite the sad events which took place. It is clear that a number of new contacts have been made. I would also like to record here my own personal thanks and those of the Association to our Hon. Secretary, Andrew Lacey, for all he did during Goma's difficulties. He and his wife, Vanessa, took on the responsibility of accommodating Goma at their home near Cambridge and did more than anyone else to try to resolve the situation.

We are now looking forward to next Spring's conference which will take place from Thursday 5th until Saturday 7th April in Exeter. Rosemary Pugh in her new role as Conference Secretary has been doing sterling work already and the programme is almost complete. Please put the dates in your diary. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Judith Powles

REPORT OF THE 29TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BETH AND THE ABTAPL ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2000

This year ABTAPL hosted the 29th General Assembly of Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie (BETH) held in York from 30th August to 2nd September. This was followed by ABTAPL's own Annual Conference from 2nd to 4th September, with the theme "Theological Libraries in the International Context". Some 40 delegates attended part or all of the joint conference at the College of Ripon and York St John. Our overseas colleagues were from libraries in Europe, Scandinavia, USA, Australia, and Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Some attended as BETH delegates, some represented their national theological library associations (ATLA and ANZTLA), some were there as observers; some are also overseas members of ABTAPL.

On the evening of 30th August, we were welcomed to York by Canon Edward Norman of York Minster. The same evening André Geuns, President of BETH, welcomed delegates to the Assembly. BETH has 20 members, representing some 1,500 libraries. It was the first meeting with the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association (ANZTLA) represented by their President, Kim Robinson; he is also a member of the executive of the Forum of Asian Theological Libraries. The Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA), Dennis Norlin, had attended several Assemblies of BETH and this time he was joined by another member of the Board of ATLA, Melody Mazuk, as an observer; this year's ATLA conference had proposed setting up a committee on international librarianship, which would have links with BETH and RLIT, the Latin American theological libraries association. Father Suarez Alba said that the Spanish theological libraries association (ABIE), which he represented, wanted to foster links with libraries in South America.

The remainder of the BETH meetings were held over the following 2½ days. André Geuns announced that he would be stepping down as President of BETH in 2001. The member associations of BETH presented their annual reports. Barbara Wolf-Dahm presented a report on the MACS (Multilingual Access to Subjects) project, which involves the British, French, German and Swiss national libraries. Penelope Hall reported that there had been little progress with the Etherli project. Funding was being sought and a working group was set up. It was agreed that co-operation with the MACS project should continue and develop.

Kadoc (Catholic Documentation and Research Centre), Belgium, the Johannes Lasco Bibliothek, Emden, Germany and Lausanne University Library, Switzerland were

accepted as Extraordinary Members of BETH. The Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt, Germany had become an Extraordinary Member with effect from 1st January 2000. The BETH Assembly for 2001 would be held in Erfurt, Germany from 5th to 10th September, for 2002 in Salamanca, Spain, from 21st to 26th September (dates to be confirmed) and for 2003 in Italy. The minutes of the Assembly and related reports would be posted on the BETH website.

There were presentations by Eileen Crawford from Vanderbilt University on the Technical Services Website for Theology and Religion, by Thomas Riplinger on Tübingen University information and documentation services and by Dennis Norlin on the ATLA website and ATLA products which are available, including the new Serials Project (ATLAS). The latter presentation took place in the York public library where we were able to use their Room 18, a suite of 18 computers which are available free of charge for public use, offering a wide range of software, including access to the internet. This also gave delegates an opportunity to look at the BETH website and to recommend others to colleagues.

Many of the ABTAPL delegates arrived on Saturday 2nd September; that evening a Conference Dinner took place with Revd. Graham Cornish as guest speaker. Graham is President of the Library Association for the year 2000 and for several years he has been a member of the Committee of ABTAPL. ABTAPL's Autumn General Meeting was held on 3rd September. Andrew Lacey reported that just over one-third of the copies of the *Guide to Theological and Religious Studies Collections of Great Britain and Ireland* had been sold. Publicity information and copies of a review had been sent to various publications and other suggestions for promoting the *Guide* would be welcome. The next edition of the *Union List of Periodicals* was due for publication early in 2002. John Howard had written an article about ABTAPL for a Librarians' Christian Fellowship publication; Judith Powles suggested that it could be adapted for inclusion in the Library Association *Record* and Margaret Ecclestone suggested that the LA *Branchlines* might be interested in publishing an article about this Conference. The Spring 2001 Conference would be held in Exeter.

This meeting was preceded by a panel session based on the theme of the ABTAPL conference "Theological Libraries in the International Context", chaired by Michael Walsh, Librarian at Heythrop College. Some of the papers presented appear in this *Bulletin* and it is hoped that others will be published in a later issue. Dennis Norlin spoke about ATLA, outlining its membership (850); an international relations committee was to be set up. Rev. Goma Ndamba, Librarian of the Protestant University in the Congo (DRC), had attended the ABTAPL conference in Edinburgh in 1983. The main stock of the Library at the University is theology, but also includes

economics, law and science; in 1993 the Library and its stock were destroyed in lootings. As one of the delegates said, listening to him speaking put our "problems" into perspective. Kim Robinson then talked about ANZTLA, its activities and plans for the future, including the preparation of a website; their next annual meeting will be in Auckland, New Zealand in July 2001. Sue Parkes, Director of SPCK Worldwide, described its work and Pierre Beffa, Librarian at the World Council of Churches, spoke about his library which operates in the context of a worldwide organisation. André Geuns closed the session with his thoughts on how religious libraries cope with diversity in Europe.

Several visits to libraries in or near York had been arranged and the reports follow. Our thanks are due to colleagues at the British Library Boston Spa who organised the conference and visits on our behalf.

Websites referred to above:

ATLA <http://www.atla.com>

BETH <http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/beth>

MACS Project <http://infolab.kub.nl/prj/macs>

Technical services website for Theology and Religion

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/TTLA/TS/technical.htm>

University of Tübingen <http://www.uni-tuebingen.de>

Marion Smith
Birmingham Central Library

Ampleforth Abbey

Perhaps all librarians have their favourite information sources, their trusted websites. If so, Friday afternoon may have been a salutary reminder that we may find interest and information in unexpected ways and places. I'm not sure what we expected of the visit to Ampleforth Abbey, but it was probably more than to see the Great Hall of Gilling Castle, the school library, and to observe vespers from a safe and silent distance.

Yet, exploring a beautiful area of Yorkshire, we had a wonderful and instructive afternoon. We found our sense of the ecclesiastical history of the area at the magnificent ruins of Rievaulx Abbey, one of the earliest Cistercian buildings in England, and at the ruins of Byland Abbey, silhouetted against the sunset. We marvelled too at the human endeavour which had created the White Horse carved

into the chalk hill (and photographically preserved for posterity from every possible angle by Thomas Riplinger!)

We watched the meeting of two members of different nationalities of a great tradition, as Father Suarez of Spain embraced Father Anselm of Ampleforth, and we were reminded of how members of religious orders fleeing Henry VIII were welcomed by their European brothers. Those members of the group who preferred not to attend the Latin vespers sung according to a rite unchanged since the 6th century walked instead in the glorious valley and found perhaps 'sermons in stones.'

Above all that afternoon, we had the benefit of a 'mediator' to all this in the form of a coach-driver who knew the area well and just loved to open up its treasures for us. Inspiring. And salutary.

Gwenda Bond

International Christian College, Glasgow

York Minster Library

On Saturday 2nd September a group of ABTAPL and BETH members met at York Minster Library for a guided tour and a free viewing of the St Gall exhibition, currently on display. The Library is the largest cathedral library in the country containing about 90,000 books, many from the 17th and 18th centuries and even earlier. It is housed in the chapel of the medieval palace of the Archbishops of York, sadly no longer in existence.

Splitting into 3 groups, we were shown round by the Librarian who explained that the Library really began when Archbishop Tobie Mathew died in 1628 and bequeathed his library to the Minster. It was hoped that this would be the foundation of a university but, in fact, the University did not come into being until the 1960s.

After a look round the beautiful illuminated manuscripts from the Abbey of St Gall in Switzerland, we were given a guided tour of the premises, including the impressive new extension. With no stewards working on a Saturday we were trusted, as fellow librarians, to look at and pick up books if we so chose. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant paid for 75% of the new building and the rest was paid for by the Dean and Chapter and the Friends of York Minster. The facilities for visitors are very good with a triple glazed reading room, lockers and relaxation area. We were shown the Special Collections Room containing Civil War tracts and items going back to the early 16th century, many of them stored in pine cabinets and wooden rolling stacks which have

been sealed with non-toxic products. Staff are waiting for the seasons of the year to be completed before deciding whether the Library's incunabula should join the stock.

The Library employs 54 volunteers working on a variety of tasks, some of them in the workshop where they even have a microscope to examine illuminated manuscripts. A spacious conservation workshop is nearby.

After this tour of the new extension the library catalogue was demonstrated to us. Using Dynix, it is linked to the University catalogue and can be accessed via the internet. The indexing is very detailed and there is even a provenance option on the catalogue. 50% of readers are York University students and they have access to three collections - the Historical Sources, the Periodicals and the General Loan Collection. This last contains general theology, Christology, church history books etc and is the only section from which books can be borrowed.

Anyone visiting York Minster Library to use its facilities will find a very interesting library, helpful and enthusiastic staff and a wealth of valuable treasures for the dedicated researcher.

Elizabeth Williams

Partnership House Mission Studies Library, London

The Bar Convent

While most of the delegates were visiting the Minster Library, a small group of us went to the Bar Convent, where we were shown round the museum and chapel by a very knowledgeable guide who explained the history of the Convent and the order of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary founded by Mary Ward in 1611. Despite many difficulties, the Convent has remained on the same site for more than 300 years, and has run a school there for most of that time. In the chapel were able to view the relic preserved there: the hand of Saint Margaret Clitheroe.

Our tour ended in the 'antique library' where we were shown some of its treasures by the sister who looks after it (a very sprightly 90 year old). It is "a collection of some 2,000 volumes, dated between 1508 and 1850. The majority are 17th- and 18th-century books. They represent the reading matter of the Sisters and include formative, devotional and doctrinal works. There are Bibles, commentaries, service books, sermons, catechisms, lives of saints and prayer books, as well as historical publications. All are well-worn and were obviously much used. Most retain their original bindings, but a few have been carefully mended with old kid gloves, and

some have been professionally repaired in recent years. They tell a great deal about the early members of the house, who clearly were well-educated women, able to read French, Latin, Greek and Italian. On some of the fly-leaves and title-pages there appear the signatures of the Superiors and Sisters whose names occur in the history of the Convent, for example, Dorothy Paston Bedingfield, the second Superior, who was imprisoned for her faith, Elizabeth Stanfield, whose fortune paid the Community's debts in the mid-18th century, Mother Rouby who gave hospitality to French emigré priests and to three groups of refugee nuns during the French revolution, and Louise Guyon de Beaufort whose parents and brother died under the guillotine. There are, in addition, 19th- and 20th-century religious books of all kinds; their subjects include Church history, recusancy and the records of old Catholic families and religious communities.”

MS

British Library Boston Spa

ABTAPL members were no doubt responsible for at least a tiny proportion of the 3 million document requests received last year by the British Library Document Supply Centre in Boston Spa, which we toured on the final morning of the conference. As can be imagined it is an extensive site, occupying several acres, and the older buildings have very thick walls, by virtue of having been originally constructed as a munitions factory during the Second World War! It was an enlightening experience to find out at long last what exactly happens between the dispatch of our requests and (in most cases!) the arrival of the item a few days later. Our guides took us through the process by walking us through the relevant sections, where departmental specialists then explained in detail the procedures involved at each stage. Some of us for whom a well-defined subject-based shelf arrangement is a *sine qua non* of librarianship might have found it strangely unsettling to find that the huge BLDSC monograph collection is shelved simply in order of accession; but since there is no need for subject-based retrieval, an arrangement that would be nonsensical in most libraries is entirely logical in this context. The bindings of bound periodical sets are colour-coded according to a set colour-sequence, which makes it much easier and quicker for a specific year to be visually located on the shelves. The intricate transport systems provided for the speedy transfer of books, request forms and photocopies to other floors of the complex were also impressive. All of us who made the visit now feel much more informed about 'what goes on at Boston Spa' - and should our requests ever fail, at least we can now decipher some of the cryptic notes which appear on the returned request forms!

*Alan Linfield,
London Bible College*

A NORTH AMERICAN ATTENDEE'S REFLECTIONS ON THE BETH/ABTAPL YORK CONFERENCE

As the grandson of English-born immigrants to Canada, a trip to England represents a trip to what would have been home if those people had seen aright and stayed put. Combining this sentiment with a special millennium-celebration theological/philosophical librarians' conference and having that conference on the door-step of my ancestral home, allowing for some post-conference family research, made for a much anticipated voyage.

While the returns on family research are diminishing as greater effort is required to gain each piece of information, the returns on attending the combined conferences of BETH and ABTAPL came as surprises and beyond expectation. In the same way as attending a national professional conference helps one see one's own situation within that broader context, attending an international conference goes several steps further. The first taste of this broadened context was simply hearing delegates at the meal table speaking in a variety of languages. The greater thrust of this was to hear various ones recount the situations that are theirs on a daily basis.

My own situation is that of Assistant Librarian for Reference and Systems in a Reformed church seminary in a smaller Pennsylvania city known for its Amish/Mennonite population. The Seminary has quite an attractive campus adjacent to a prominent private liberal arts college. This year we are celebrating our 175th anniversary. Our 107 year-old Lark Hall is an architectural landmark in the area. With a small student population of just over 100 full-time equivalent, our operating budget is to our perception quite bare-bones. However the Seminary is very good at attracting significant foundation grants. Consequently we live in a split world of austerity on one hand (including salaries and other operating items), and sometime relative bonanza for special projects on the other. I came to this seminary from a Canadian school where the austerity side was familiar but the bonanza side was foreign. The Lancaster Seminary's beautifully refurbished library of 140,000 items, and soon-to-be installed library automation was a dream-come-true. However these items created something of a honeymoon blindness which soon passed. Growing issues of creating campus web pages, Y2K crisis with need to replace non-compliant equipment, and expanding computer needs within the campus forced my systems manager position component to overshadow my other responsibilities as theological librarian. Growth in campus automation has meant my library tasks are to a considerable extent spread to an already overworked staff of two besides myself. The honeymoon gave way to the treadmill running at an ever increasing speed. With this as frame of reference, hearing the situation of others while at the BETH/ABTAPL

conference broke the self-absorption of trying to keep on top in my own daily workplace situation and awoke compassion for others whose situations were more challenging than my own.

Stepping out of North America into the UK is useful to librarians on this side of the Atlantic as we need from time to time to reconnect our own history with that of the countries from which we have emigrated. The visits to Ampleforth Abbey with surrounding ruins, York, and York Minster helped make real the continuity of history between our current day in North America and our ancestral past in Europe and the UK. Beyond the value of seeing from a broader perspective, the York 2000 conference provided some significant learning that will impact our serials collection at Lancaster, allowed me to meet some other librarians who care about what they are doing, and simply added to the closet in my mind where myriad bits of information are stored until such time as needed.

The Conference provided ample indication of good planning and care to make it a worthwhile time for those who attended. Whereas some conferences I have attended have crammed too many intense learning sessions into too short a period, this conference provided ample time to visit with other librarians and experience the conference location, making it a refreshing time to which my mind frequently returns. On behalf of those who attended from this side of the Atlantic – many thanks!

Chris Beldan

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania

FROM ECCLESIASTIC TO THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES: HOW RELIGIOUS LIBRARIES COPE WITH DIVERSITY IN EUROPE

by André Geuns

This article is a slightly edited version of a paper presented at the American Theological Library Conference 2000, which will be published in the conference proceedings. It formed the basis of Dr. Geuns' presentation at the BETH Assembly.

Introduction

At last year's annual ATLA Conference, the main theme of this year's meeting was announced in rather general terms: international theological librarianship. This theme has been a focus of attention for both ATLA and BETH (formerly known as the Conseil) because it is considered "beneficial to both Conseil and ATLA

members".¹ The organisers of this year's Conference added a complementary element to the general theme: "Embrace the diversity". This expresses ATLA's conviction that international theological librarianship involves coping with diversity, a proposition that European librarians can surely endorse. Without being technical and overly precise, "to embrace" has something poetic that leaves it open to a myriad of interpretations.² To embrace implies at least two participants, each of whose individuality remains intact in the action. In the best cases, the "hug" could lead to the creation of a completely new creature, again with its own individuality. Should the event result in the elimination of one of the partners, one could speak of a deadly embrace, a case surely not intended by the theme given to our meeting.

In Europe national, geographic, cultural and religious diversities are numerous and deep. Our history shows that in many cases the embrace of our diversities has tended to be a deadly one. The most evident manifestation in recent history of the suppression of diversity is National Socialism and its absolutist theory that, when put into practice, suppressed other races and left destruction and disarray throughout Europe. Differences were effectively recognised and indicated. Prisoners in the Austrian Mauthausen concentration camp were required to wear a triangle having a distinctive colour according to group: Jews, Gypsies, political prisoners. This practice both displayed diversity and established inferiority to the dominating race.

I refer to this negative example because it resulted ultimately in the conviction that Europe had to change and led to the creation of a new spirit of union and solidarity among European peoples and their diverse cultures. This diversity is an element we will always carry with us. This year, Europe is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary (18 May 1950) of its first steps toward a major integration of our diversities, when twelve NATO foreign ministers adopted a programme for strengthening ties between western nations. We have started out in a new direction, have commenced a new adventure. No one knows where this will end. Old habits are not easily abandoned, the need to discard old certainties and reactions force us to question our willingness and determination to work in this new spirit. It is evident that a monetary union on its own will not suffice. Some form of political, social and cultural integration will be required. The question is how theological libraries and librarians can play a role in this stunning process.

The Rise of Associations of Religious Libraries

The origin of religious libraries on the European continent lies a long way back in human memory. Although church libraries had worked for centuries to collect and preserve theological documents, often preserving ancient manuscripts, there was

initially little concerted co-operation and no form of association. The libraries of those times jealously guarded their valuable and often impressive collections, their independence and their limited access. The disastrous situation following the Second World War forced them to go beyond their own enclosures and seek support from similar libraries and colleagues. Consistent with the general political and cultural climate that urged Europe's political leaders to strive for greater unity, librarians felt for the first time the urgent need for much closer co-operation. Faced with the need in 1947 to rebuild what had been thoroughly destroyed, the librarians of private universities, seminaries, abbeys and monasteries in (then West) Germany decided to found the "Association of Catholic Ecclesiastical Libraries" (AKThB). Libraries in other countries followed suit, gradually growing toward a federated body in 1961: the "International Committee for the Co-ordination of the Associations of Libraries of Catholic Theology" (C.I.C.). This is where we now stand.³

The twelve associations now operating within Europe represent about 1500 libraries. Ten of these comprise the institutional members of BETH; the other two are affiliated to BETH and represent libraries in Hungary (EKE) and Switzerland (SUISSE). Nine major theological libraries unlinked to national associations are the individual members. BETH still has much work to do. Numerous European countries have no association for existing libraries; many libraries have not yet opted to join their national association. The most noteworthy case is Italy whose national directory lists 1500 ecclesiastical libraries while only 300 are members of ABEI. It is estimated that about 3000 religious libraries, with a stock of 100 million often historically valuable volumes, are active in Europe.

To open its doors to this great variety of theological collections and welcome this many-sided diversity, BETH has been obliged to change its official name on at least three occasions. It started in 1961 as an exclusively Catholic institution (International Committee for the Co-ordination of the Associations of Libraries for Catholic Theology). In 1972, it was opened to the libraries of theological institutions that have no direct link with the Roman Catholic Church (International Council of Associations of Theological Libraries). Finally, two years ago, the European Association decided to stress its European character while opting for a shorter, more striking title (BETH or European Theological Libraries). The three-fold name change demonstrates the increasing need to include the different types of libraries spread throughout Europe. It is an expression of the need to embrace diversity. Associations affiliated with BETH had done the same earlier. While only two of them modified their name, a majority of them gradually adopted an affiliation policy that was not directly linked to a specific church or faith. The French librarians recently abandoned their ecclesiastic attribute, replacing it with the more general

term "Christian". The Dutch association, which started in 1946 as an ecclesiastical organisation, adopted the more general expression "Theological" in 1974. While these changes might seem unimportant, they indicate the librarians' desire to enlarge their co-operation to include a greater range of libraries.

The Typology of the European Associations

BETH's institutional members, being national associations, do not share identical characteristics. A first and major distinction relates to their belonging to a particular church. They can be divided according to their links to churches as follows:

One church	Christian churches in general	No direct links to a church
ABEI (Italy) R.C.	ABCF (France)	ABTAPL (UK)
ABIE (Spain) R.C.		ABTIR (Belgium)
AKThB(Germany) RC		EKE (Hungary)
FIDES (Poland) RC		VRB (Belgium)
VKWB(Germany) Reformed		VTB (Netherlands)
		SUISSE (Switzerland)

There is, however, no clear-cut line. In most cases, church-related associations reflect the situation in a country that has a clear majority presence of one church and a minor presence of members of other denominations.

A second distinction encompasses the associations' attitude toward non-Christian religious libraries. The by-laws of eight of the twelve associations (ABCF, ABEI, ABIE, AKThB, EKE, FIDES, VKWB, VRB) only accept Christian libraries. Although some may be willing to be more lenient, no non-Christian libraries are listed as members. Four associations, however, (ABTAPL, ABTIR, VTB, SUISSE) are open to non-Christian libraries, although only two (ABTAPL and SUISSE) have enrolled a few Buddhist, Islamic and Hebrew libraries. It would not be unrealistic to posit the future membership of non-Christian libraries, given the increasing immigration from other countries, cultures and religious traditions.

A third aspect that should not be underestimated in Europe is the presence of theological literature in institutions that have no direct connection with any

ecclesiastical organisation. In many cases, these are libraries run by public authorities, such as national and/or university libraries.

While some of the 12 European associations have no significant impact outside their national frontiers, seven have a certain appeal for foreign libraries or librarians: AKThB has 18 foreign partners (11%); VKWB, 3 libraries (2%); ABCF, 9 (4%); VRB, ABEI and SUISSE each has one. Only ABTAPL claims a considerable quantity of foreign associates: 70 of the 190 libraries (27%). This is probably due to the open policy ABTAPL has pursued and to the widespread accessibility of the English language. The presence of foreign libraries in ABTAPL clearly surpasses the proportion of foreign institutional affiliates in ATLA: 17 of the 284 institutional members (6%).⁴

ABTAPL is the association with the greatest active response to a modern multi-cultural society. I am convinced that the experience acquired by our British colleagues can be of assistance to other European nations who now or who will soon confront changes arising from augmented social and cultural diversity. Increasing immigration and the need for integration pose one of the major challenges to European nations. Libraries can and should play an eminent role in this process of harmonisation in human society.

Are our libraries equipped to answer the numerous demands of a culturally diverse community? The answer to this question is still rather vague and incomplete due to a lack of sufficient data.⁵ One element in the response is the great variety of theological libraries, and the rich heritage of documents they possess. An analysis of these holdings reveals two main categories. First there are libraries that serve ecclesiastical institutions directly (e.g. libraries of religious orders and monastic, diocesan and seminary libraries). These libraries generally operate for a specific group of users and have limited accessibility. Second are libraries orientated toward a wider public and not directly linked to any particular ecclesiastical organisation. This two-fold division has implications for the co-ordination and functioning of theological libraries in Europe.

Challenges for the Future

1. Co-operation among Ecclesiastical and Non-Church Libraries

Neither category has a monopoly position in Europe. While the public sector's role in fostering integration and harmonisation in a multi-cultural society is easy to predict, it is logical to assume that church organisations would be concerned first

with their own flock, on condition that they do not become exclusive or hermetically closed to the presence of other religious convictions or communities. Libraries containing religious literature that are run by more neutral or public authorities are not urged to limit their accessibility to any specific segment of society. By definition, they are required to serve a broad public without regard to creed. European libraries have a rather long tradition in this field. Many libraries continue to care for collections of religious documents, although the situation is not identical everywhere. Some nations have a consistent policy on this matter. Within the context of legal deposit, Germany, France and Switzerland have assigned certain libraries to collect all religious literature published in the country as well as a large selection of original language theological publications from other countries. Germany, for example, has "Sondersammelgebiete". For religion this has been assigned to the library of the University of Tübingen. In France, the National Library of Strasbourg has the same responsibility (Pôle d'Excellence). This policy has contributed greatly to making a wide range of theological literature available to a very broad group of users. This task is one that ecclesiastical libraries would likely be unwilling or unable to perform.

Among conditions for the harmonious organisation of theological library services is that ecclesiastic and general theological libraries respect one another, co-operate, and try to complement one another in their undertakings. This is the main motive in the change from 'ecclesiastical' to 'theological' in library names: the desire to involve both categories in common action. It is encouraging to note the recent increased participation of public libraries in BETH, brought about, in part, by the greater openness and accessibility of ecclesiastical libraries. The recent evolution in European society urges us to go further in this direction. Political leaders in Europe are increasingly convinced of the importance of a well-functioning multi-cultural and multi-faith society. Some recent examples: the President of the French Republic received an official visit from four high-ranking representatives of the Islamic community, implicitly recognising that Islam has become the second religion in France. Starting this academic year, Islam is being taught in some German schools. The University of Bologna (Italy) inaugurated a library for its Centre of Islamic Sciences on 13 January 2000. Yet much remains to be done to foster a greater understanding of diverse cultures and traditions. Even when religion cannot be considered the unique underlying factor in this comprehensive attitude, culture and civil society have an important role to play in the process. Theological libraries of all types will have to contribute to this process.

2. An International Project: ETHERELI or Multilingual Thesaurus for Religion

In the framework of this Conference, it seems fitting to stress the intercultural aspects of this project. Previous thesauri and cataloguing systems, such as U.D.C. or Dewey have certainly proven their value, but they can be considered children of a time when cultural and theological trends were mainly dominated by western Christian traditions. Approaches to religious reality are, and will increasingly be, different. The influence of other traditions, the reactions of other ethnic groups have an impact on theological reflection. Religious beliefs are numerous and sometimes are mutually exclusive. A common language - essential in this case - does not yet exist. This is an obstacle to mutual understanding and exchange of thought. This difficulty exists firstly within the Christian tradition, even before taking into account the properties of non-Christian religions. For example, Catholics prefer to speak of "Eucharist" or "Mass" while Protestant traditions tend to refer to a similar reality as the "Last Supper" or "Evening Meal". Many misunderstandings have been caused by this disparity of terms. Attention to terminology coming from non-Christian traditions might cause still greater problems for traditional or new cataloguing systems. The contribution of emerging countries is certainly positive, and confronts us with the question of our willingness and ability to reach mutual understanding. This applies also to theology and thus to theological librarianship. If ETHERELI intends to "embrace the diversity" authentically, these factors cannot be overlooked. International librarianship will have an important role to play here. It would be hard to imagine the production of this kind of thesaurus without the co-operation of people from different countries, cultures, languages and religions. I am convinced that we stand at the start of a new and exciting experience. Given the multitude of languages and cultures present in Europe, we should take the lead here, but I would like to invite peoples from other continents to provide the contributions that arise from their point of view. This may make the solutions to problems more intricate, but they will certainly be more rewarding for all. To navigate more easily and more accurately the enormous amount of available information on each religion, in itself a vast and diverse world, libraries and their users need better tools for accessing this variety. ETHERELI is not the only such effort. The University of Derby's Religious Resources and Research Centre is making a serious effort in the same direction with its *"Religions in the U.K.: A Multi-Faith Directory"* (Weller, ed. 1997). This deals with the principal world religious traditions with significant communities in the UK and other inter-faith initiatives in Great Britain. Another example is *MultiFaithNet*, a newly developed internet gateway to global electronic resources and interactions of world religious traditions and communities and the practice of inter-faith dialogue.⁶ These European initiatives should be compared with efforts in this field being made in other parts of the world. The co-operation of many will be urgently required.

It is therefore a pleasure for me to announce that ETHERELI has recently been integrated in a wider project. The national libraries of Great Britain, France, Germany and Switzerland launched the MACS project, a multilingual access application for all fields of science. BETH has been asked to take charge of defining terminology to be used in the various sectors of theological knowledge, while relying on the technical support of the general project. This contact between MACS and BETH shows that broad projects of this kind depend on large-scale international co-operation. BETH alone does not have available the means necessary to provide the required technical support, while single ecclesiastical library structures might not be ready or able to take care of all the implications of multi-cultural and inter-faith approaches in this vast matter.

3. Co-operation in Europe and Beyond

The assumption of a new name aims to express more clearly the European context in which we operate. As demonstrated, co-operation among theological libraries in Europe does work, even with its geographic limits and with the majority of libraries operating in a Christian context. We will have to repeat our appeals to the libraries of Eastern Europe, still poorly organised because of their limited means. Two factors make this situation stressful: increasing secularisation and the expansion of a pluralistic society. Yet libraries have a great opportunity here. Although many people have lost real contact with the churches, some of them are still attracted to the cultural and artistic phenomena these churches have produced and continue to produce. Libraries are part of this picture; people who seek an answer to life's questions can frequent them.

Immigration and the geographical confluence of beliefs it brings are still a recent phenomenon. Most "new" religious communities operate in a sphere of propaganda and proselytism. Many of the "new" churches' libraries may not yet be in a position to commit themselves to an authentic dialogue with their Christian colleagues. The UK, with a longer history of settlement and migration, has already confronted the integration of new religious resources into national life in the form of the great world religions. This makes ABTAPL the only European national religious library association with inter-religious membership, even if the numbers are not yet great. Slowly but surely other nations will undergo the same evolution. In the near future we can expect a discussion of, and policy for, enhancing our understanding of and sensibility for the multi-ethnic and multi-faith milieu in which we will be living. We can only hope that our answers will be more genuine and generous than in the past. It will not be easy for some Europeans to modify routine; it may be difficult to change customs and attitudes. The experience with assimilating Jewish libraries into religious library associations is not really a positive omen. Although there have long

been Hebrew libraries on the European continent, only a few of these libraries participate in the associations, and then only in the UK and Switzerland. No contacts exist as yet in other countries.

We, like ATLA, consider ourselves an association of theological libraries without regard to creed or church affiliation. This makes it difficult to explain why these libraries are absent. To be honest, inter-religious dialogue runs the risk of becoming a question of pure brainstorming when librarians of different religions never meet, do not know one another or never work on a common project. Dialogue without practical applications, such as shaping library policy, could become a sterile exercise that only adds fuel to prejudice, intolerance and disrespect. We have had enough of these sentiments in the past.

As to geographical limitations, it should be noted that BETH did not completely abandon its international ambitions. Recent contacts, mainly with ATLA but also with RLIT (Latin American theological libraries) and ANTZLA (Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association) should be interpreted as efforts in this direction. After all, European co-ordination is also international since we are still different nations. Yet we must admit that, in practice, we have not gone very far. Except for ABTAPL, contacts with libraries on other continents are still rare and only occasional. Very often they are reduced to the exchange of books relegated to the closed stocks of out-of-use volumes. Surely these documents might still find a new and, in some cases, positive destination and thus serve a good cause. But honestly, dumping our surplus is not really a generous and authentic contribution to international librarianship, with all respect for the people who provide this service. Little is currently being done in Europe for the exchange of theological librarians between various countries. Only ABTAPL has sponsored a few exchanges. The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Germany) promotes international exchange and offers financial help. To my knowledge, no one from the theological sector has thus far applied.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I wish to repeat the appeal I made to you and to colleagues in Europe at last year's conference to consider the creation of an international federation of associations of theological libraries, in a form and with a structure open to discussion.⁷ My impression is that the idea has made little headway since then. Of course we should not create another co-ordinating body just to hold meetings and tour the world but our ideas about "embracing the difference" could remain very abstract and provide little enrichment. What will happen, once this Conference closes? Do

we return home with lofty proposals that will change nothing because of a lack of follow-up? It is already difficult to keep up with all the ideas, trends, opinions and creeds that are in circulation in a particular region of the world; it is still more problematic to intercept feelings, reactions, customs and ways of life that are geographically and humanly very far from our own. Librarians are supposed to be in a good position to play a key role in this exchange of opinion, mentality and attitude in a spirit of open confrontation and respect for one another.

The new reality in Europe has taken the first steps in recognising, harmonising and integrating its numerous differences, the authentic treasures of its culture. There is still a long and hazardous way to go, but it is worth trying. Theological librarians should not make the mistake of falling behind. Once we have set off in this direction in Europe, we will be better equipped to share ideas and projects with colleagues from other parts of the world.

- 1 ATLA *Annual Report* 1998-1999, p. 15.
- 2 Note its etymological origin (em+bras/brachium in Latin): to take or clasp in the arms (*The New Hamlyn Encyclopedic World Dictionary*) ISBN 060050297 X
- 3 See SCHMALOR, Hermann-Josef. *Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft katholisch-theologischer Bibliotheken (AkthB)* in GINNEBERGE, G. (ed.) *Conseil International des Associations de Bibliothèques de Théologie, 1961-1996*. Leuven: Bibliotheek van de Faculteit Godgeleerdheid van de K.U. Leuven, 1996, p. 9 (ISBN 90-73583-17-3)
- 4 *Summary of Proceedings of ATLA 1998 Conference* (Leesburg) pp. 237-242 and 1999 Conference (Chicago) pp. 247-252.
- 5 The main data of this paper have been furnished by a recent questionnaire sent to all institutional members of BETH, complemented by data from the national directories of ABTAPL, AKThB, VKWB, VRB and VTB.
- 6 For further information on both projects see the article: WELLER, Paul *Multi-Faith Information Resources, Religions in the UK and Multifaithnet*, in *Bulletin of ABTAPL*, vol. 5 no. 2, June 1998, pp. 19-33. (ISSN 005-781X)
- 7 See the article: GEUNS, A. "What shall we do with the Conseil?" in *Bulletin of ABTAPL*, vol. 7, no. 1, March 2000, pp. 7-10

Further information on BETH and its membership can be found on the website at <http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/beth>

André Geuns
President of BETH

THE PROTESTANT UNIVERSITY IN THE CONGO

The Protestant University in the Congo was founded in 1959 on the initiative of the Protestant Church in the Congo (Eglise du Christ au Congo - ECC), gaining its legal statute in 1965. Its history reflects the socio-political development of our country.

Named the Protestant Faculty of Theology of the Belgian Congo and of Rwanda-Urundi in 1959, the institution became the Protestant Faculty of Theology of the Free University of the Congo (ULC) in 1963, then one of the faculties of the ex-National University of Zaire (UNAZA) in 1971. As a result of the secularization of education by the government of the time, the Protestant Faculty of Theology was expelled from the latter in 1974 and in 1975 the 3rd National Synod of the Protestant Church (ECC) decided to make it an associated organisation of the Church with its own governing body. In 1989, the opening of the Faculty of Social Sciences alongside the Faculty of Theology changed the name of the institution from the Protestant Faculty of Theology to the Protestant Faculties. At its general meeting in 1994, the governing body opted for the name Protestant University in Zaire (UPZ), now known as the Protestant University in the Congo (UPC), a decision ratified by the National Synod of the ECC during its general meeting in August 1994.

The Protestant University in the Congo aims to provide higher education to train managers of vision, a national elite capable of responding to the needs of society and the Church. Aware that the crisis in our country is essentially of a moral nature, the University places particular emphasis on the Christian ethical dimension in order to produce competent scientific workers, inspired by a fear of God and ready to serve the community in faith and truth.

Organisation of Studies

The Faculty of Theology comprises the departments of Practical Theology, Systemic Theology, History of the Church and Religions, Old Testament, and New Testament. It offers three programmes: two year degree, three year graduate, and doctorate of at least four years.

The Faculty of Business Administration and Economic Sciences offers a graduate programme of three years' study which has a core curriculum for all teaching within the Faculty. The degree course takes two years within the two departments: Business Administration, with seven options, and Economic Sciences, with four.

The Law Faculty offers a graduate course of three years, with a core curriculum for all teaching within the Faculty, and a two year degree programme, with three options. The University also offers the "Agrégation" diploma in teaching at higher degree level, aimed at anyone who is interested, with degree in any subject.

Library

The Central University Library is an important resource for intellectuals in general and the Protestant University community in particular. The reading room has long opening hours for students, professors and other researchers registered in higher and university education.

Centre for Research and Publications

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Publications (CRIP) aims to initiate, support, and co-ordinate research at the University, by encouraging an interdisciplinary approach. It also organises conferences, seminars and workshops. The results of all researches are published in the Centre's *Cahiers et Revues*.

Women's School

The School receives the fiancés of future ministers and administrators of the Church in order to make them responsible wives and mothers. As well as its traditional programme centred on lessons in biblical studies, sewing, knitting, house-keeping and hygiene, the School organises a literacy programme for mothers and young girls in the capital.

Chaplaincy

The main role of the University's Chaplaincy is to support and co-ordinate a permanent spiritual atmosphere at the heart of the University, to add a Christian dimension to the students' training and the life of the staff.

The above is based on a leaflet about the University. Anyone wishing to donate material to the library, the contents of which were destroyed in 1993, should send a list of the items, including date of publication, to the Librarian as follows:

Rev. Goma Ndamba, Bibliothécaire/Directeur, Université Protestante au Congo, BP4745, Kinshasa 2, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC/RDC)

There is a Liaison Office for North America & Canada at PO Box 523 Penney Farms, Florida 32079, USA

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION IN THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN TUBINGEN

Mindful of its responsibilities as one of the world's greatest libraries for theology and religious studies, the Tübingen University Library maintains a number of information and documentation services making its collections available to scholars around the world.

Information Services for Books

Basic bibliographic information about books recently published or cataloged in these fields is provided by our monthly new acquisitions lists, *Neuerwerbungsliste* (<http://www-work.ub.uni-tuebingen.de/neuerwUB.htm>), for Theology, Religious Studies and Ancient Near East, South Asian religions (Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism) and Islamic studies - a more comprehensive list for Islamic studies has been published since 1998 by the Universitäts-und Landesbibliothek Sachsen-Anhalt in Halle http://webis.sub.uni-hamburg.de/cgi-bin...file-bib.3/ssg.6_23/wwwforms/neli.html. These listings are not subject catalogued in the monthly issues nor are they equipped with a search engine; you can however use the 'find in page' function of your browser to search for authors and keywords in titles.

Comprehensive bibliographic information (subject cataloguing included) is provided for books and serial productions (Journals, yearbooks etc.) by our OPAC (<http://opac.ub.uni-tuebingen.de>) which you can consult free of charge on this website. At present, the OPAC covers

- all journals and yearbooks
- all works published from 1501-1850
- all non-oriental language works from 1975 on
- oriental language works from 1987 on.

Full subject cataloguing with the descriptors drawn from the standard German subject headings list (Schlagwortnormdatei) is available in the OPAC for books and serials catalogued since June 1994, with sporadic coverage for works catalogued prior to this date.

Visiting scholars in Tübingen can use the Library's local Eppelsheimer Sachkatalog, a conventional classificatory subject catalogue for books catalogued between 1961 and 1994, organized according to the Eppelsheimer method. This catalogue is recommended to visiting scholars as a most efficient tool for bibliographic research in the period covered. A further local source of comprehensive bibliographic information in theology from 1945 to ca 1987 is the Forschungskatalog of the Institut

für Oekumenische Forschung, which is now housed in the Theologicum Library. Unlike the University Library's catalogues, the Forschungskatalog lists articles as well as books.

Information Services for Articles

Because the above mentioned services do not access individual articles contained in collections and serials, the Tübingen library has been publishing a current contents service, ZeitschriftenInhaltsDienst (ZID), for theology and religious studies since 1975. Originally in printed form, these monthly issued listings are now available on this website (www-work.ub.uni-tuebingen.de/neuerwZID.htm) for use free of charge by scholars and librarians around the world. Each monthly issue contains bibliographic records for some 1200 articles found in the latest journal issues and the most recent Festschriften and congress publications which were catalogued by the library during the preceding 4 weeks. Well over 600 journals and yearbooks are indexed regularly. Listing is according to the tables of contents of the works catalogued; they are not structured as a database. However, subject headings are assigned to the documents indexed, and these, like authors and title key words can be searched, admittedly rather clumsily, using the find-in-page function of your browser. Monthly issues of the ZID are maintained for 6 months on the website. Back issues are cumulated in the ZID database.

Semiannually, the ZID data is cumulated into the ZID-Database. (For a description see www.uni-tuebingen.de/ub/db/description/zid.htm). The foundations for the ZID database were laid in 1994 with the conversion to electronic data processing to produce the monthly ZID. As of now (August 2000) the ZID database contains some 135,000 article records going back to 1990. For subject cataloguing, a broad classification by disciplines and major subject fields was introduced in 1995. A year later, detailed subject indexing with the narrow descriptors provided by the Schlagwortnormdatei was introduced. For works catalogued before mid-1996, only descriptors for persons and for biblical and parabiblical texts are supplied. The database is not just for German speakers. It has a complete English interface with but one exception: the subject headings and class titles are only in German. But with the aid of a good German-English dictionary, even a user with little or no knowledge of German can find the appropriate descriptors in the corresponding indices.

The ZID-Database is made available online only within the Tübingen University campus intranet. For clients outside this local network, the database is marketed as a CD-ROM database with semiannual updating. The Windows version requires a 32-bit operating system; for the DOS version, a 16-bit system will do. A free demo-

version will be supplied on request. You can order the CD-ROM from one of the following addresses:

If you or your institution are outside North America, the price is DM 350 for individuals and institutions alike. To order, please contact:

Universitätsbibliothek Tübingen
(Abteilung Publikationen)
Postfach 2620
D-72016 Tübingen
GERMANY
Tel: +49 707/297-6499; Fax +49 707/29-3123
Email: vertrieb@ub.uni-tuebingen.de Website: www.uni-tuebingen.de

If you or your institution are within North America, the price is \$210 for individuals and \$310 for institutional subscriptions, with a surcharge of \$300 for networking 2 to 5 simultaneous user nodes, plus \$150 for each additional node. To order, please contact:

ATLA
250 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60606-5834
USA
Tel: Toll-free (North America): (888) 665-ATLA
Outside North America: +01 312 454-5100
Fax: (312) 454-5505
Email: atla@atla.com Website: www.atla.com

Document Delivery Services

The Tübingen library is integrated into the national and international inter-library loan systems. Please consult your local library. In addition, the Tübingen library participates in the Subito (www.subito-doc.de) program, which at cost provides express delivery by mail, fax or file transfer for documents found in the German research library system. At present there is an express delivery service for books called 'TOBIAS-DoLi' which can be accessed directly at http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/ub/docdel/doli_htm. Later in the year this will be replaced by the Subito service.

Thomas Riplinger
University of Tübingen
Germany

It is now possible to submit orders online to the document delivery services. Both Judith Powles, Librarian at Spurgeon's College, and Alan Linfield, Librarian of the London Bible College, have used this service and been impressed by its speed and efficiency. Tübingen's periodical holdings seem to include plenty of US titles which are as yet unrepresented in the ABTAPL *Union List of Periodicals*. The document delivery service is not restricted to articles; books can also be loaned to UK institutions. Although the actual document ordering screen is only in German at present, both the Tübingen OPAC and document delivery service have English interfaces and can be reached from www.uni-tuebingen.de/ub/ind_such_.htm. The delivery service appears under 'Services'.

TECHNICAL SERVICES WEBSITE FOR THEOLOGY AND RELIGION by Eileen Crawford

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/TTLA/TS/technical.htm>

This url hosts the prototype of a website addressing the specialized documentation needs of technical services staff working in the areas of theology and religion. It was first presented at the American Theological Library Association's annual conference in June 2000. The purpose of the website is to serve as a depository for the expertise of ATLA members and their international colleagues. In this early stage, its primary usefulness is the over 100 links to institutional OPACs. The denomination, classification system, and collection strengths for each institution are added to enhance the usefulness of the links as a working tool.

The section of the website with the greatest potential for future development is the "Technical Services Links." Currently, the links are mostly to general documentation created by the Library of Congress or various universities libraries. A page on deciphering Hebrew copyright dates and subsequent formatting of the MARC imprint 260 field was created for the June presentation as an example of documentation for our specialized area. Additions to this section are widely requested from library staff wishing to share their local documentation or create new documentation.

Another section, which currently exists in a skeletal version on the website but that deserves priority attention, is the development of conversion tables in religion and theology from LC's B schedule to the Dewey 200s. The possibilities for shared cataloguing increases as more library OPACs become web accessible, thus creating a

need for a detailed conversion table. While LC is more prevalent in the United States, Dewey is the more dominant internationally. Other classification systems used in religion and theological libraries could also be mounted on the website or added to the Dewey-LC conversion table. The internet offers the possibility that this project could be co-ordinated as an international effort of individuals interested in committing themselves to particular sections of the classification schemes.

Denominational genealogies, authority headings, and serial notices which post title changes, cessations, frequency changes and numbering problems are other ideas in the original proposal. However, the contents of the website will hopefully evolve to reflect the expertise and talents of the many individuals who work in our libraries. All submissions are welcome, as well as critiques and suggestions for additional contents.

Send these submissions or comments to
Eileen Crawford,
Divinity Library, Jean and Alexander Heard Library, Vanderbilt University,
419 21st Ave., South, Nashville, Tennessee 37240-0007, USA
email crawford@library.vanderbilt.edu

*Eileen Crawford,
Vanderbilt University*

This presentation was made at this year's ATLA conference and the above will appear in the *ATLA Newsletter* or *Proceedings of the ATLA Conference*

Eileen is happy to add as many institutions that wish to have links from the website. It would be very helpful if each institution would include their URL, collection strengths, classification (or accession number system) and automation system. She will replace the denomination designation with affiliation (BETH) unless the institution directs her to use a denomination.

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE, BERKELEY, 21st - 24th June 2000

The theme for the 2000 Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association which took place in Berkeley, California, was "Embrace the Diversity". The meetings were held on the campus of the University of Berkeley and hosted by the Graduate Theological Union.

Although we had understood that the theme was to promote discussion about international librarianship, it seemed that the topics under consideration dealt more with the diversity within North America than with any global issues. This is not a criticism of the conference, but rather an observation, and perhaps those of us who were in attendance who came from other parts of the world were prejudiced in our expectations.

There were several interesting presentations, both in the plenary sessions and in the smaller round-table and interest groups. Topics addressed included Leadership Issues for Theological Libraries, Acquisition of Foreign Language Materials, Creation and Nurture of Friends of the Library Groups, Theological Librarianship as Ministry, World Christianity, Texts, Sacred and Profane, Librarians and Archivists as Partners in the Globalization of Theological Education, just to mention a few.

On the closing evening we were treated to an interesting evening of Mexican entertainment and a delicious banquet which was held at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Before dinner we viewed a traditional dance to the sun which was staged outside on a beautiful expanse of lawn in front of the main seminary building.

As always happens at conferences, the time for visiting, seeing old friends, making new ones, and the person-to-person discussions of problems and experience often prove to be the most rewarding aspects of the time spent together. This year at Berkeley was no exception, for it was there that I was given some good ideas to try to implement into our BETH project. It is important that we continue to value and nurture this closer relationship that we in Europe have established with ATLA.

Penelope R. Hall
BETH Delegate

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

The Revd. Graham Cornish is President of the Library Association during the year 2000 and is a member of ABTAPL's committee. His speech from the President's Reception held on 15th June at the British Library (St Pancras) follows.

Many people have seen the opening of the new Millennium as an opportunity for a new start. The world has made many noises about trying to improve the lot of humanity with resolutions about doing things generally much better. A good example of this is Jubilee 2000 which is working for the reduction or elimination of debt in third world countries. This led me to wonder what role libraries had to play in this "new year's resolution" type atmosphere. It seems to me that the basic goal of any library or library service is to improve the well-being of humanity generally. Whether we deliver recreational reading, DIY materials, books for students, statistical data or advanced academic scientific research papers we are doing something to improve the well-being, either of the community in general, or of the individual concerned. Essentially the library is there to maximise access to the creativity of the human mind.

I am not going to get hung-up on the physical manifestation of the concept of the library - this will change enormously over the next few years as it already has done. But the basic concepts of the library as a place which is both mutual and neutral will become ever more important. It is mutual because it is always funded by the community which it serves for the benefit of that community. This is true whether the library is a public library in a town or city, academic library, located in government or industry. At the same time the library is a place of neutrality in that it brings together, either by acquisition or providing access to, materials which are relevant to the needs of its users regardless of the source from which those materials come. At the same time it serves all those who may legitimately use its services with total impartiality and without fear or favour.

For me as a Christian this creativity has a special significance. If you believe, as I do, in a creator God who has made humanity in his own likeness then the creativity of the human mind is in fact an expression of the creator Himself. Therefore librarians have a role and duty in maximising access to this aspect of creation. It is this personal belief which has made me such an enthusiast for the library and information profession for over 30 years.

I am aware that many people in the room do not share my personal views and I have discussed these with them in many lively and stimulating debates. This does nothing

to prevent us from being good professional friends and colleagues. If you take a humanist point of view of the creation then I believe you will still want to maximise access to this human creativity for the well-being of all humankind. Whatever our personal beliefs, we want to make the world a better place to live in and this can only happen if the results of imaginative and innovative thinking are available to everybody.

The creativity of humankind is rather like a jigsaw puzzle. Every time we fail to retain or make available any part of it we spoil the total picture. It may be a very small part that is missing or we may actually fail to deliver quite significant elements of it. The significance, of course, depends upon which part of the puzzle you are working on. If you are working on the sky then the fact that a piece of cart wheel in the bottom right-hand corner is missing may not seem significant to you - until you yourself start to work on the cart.

There has never been a time when the creativity of the human mind has been so extensive or so extensively recorded. Therefore the role of the library and librarian is going to become ever more important. The unique skills which the library and information profession have of organising information to become knowledge and, hopefully, knowledge to become wisdom, combined with the ability to listen, analyse and understand the needs of their users and then map those needs onto what is available or possible, will become more and more crucial in a society where access to information is becoming so easy and unmediated.

Library skills and the whole concept of librarianship will be at the centre of society in the 21st century. We need to grasp the challenges which new technology and changing economic environments provide for us. But I would say to everybody "Enjoy using libraries, enjoy being a librarian or being associated with our profession and enjoy the challenges of the 21st century."

Graham P. Cornish

NEWS AND NOTES

Birmingham Christian College has been formed from a merger of the Birmingham Bible Institute and Springdale College, part of the Selly Oak Federation. It is housed in Springdale's premises at 54 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6RB, tel: 0121 472 0726

Changes of Address

American Theological Library Association has moved to 250 South Wacker Drive, Suite 1600, Chicago, IL 60606-5834, USA, e-mail: atla@atla.com

Cambridge University Faculty of Divinity has moved to West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DP, tel: 01223 763041 (direct line to library) and fax: 01223 763003

London Bible College has new telephone and fax numbers - tel: 01923 456190 (direct line to the library) and fax: 01923 456001

Partnership House Mission Studies Library, London has a new e-mail address phmslib@FreeNet.co.uk

Jewish Studies Centres

The Arts and Humanities Research Board has awarded grants for the development of two centres. The Parkes Centre at Southampton University has received a grant to form the Centre for Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations which will undertake major new research projects in conjunction with other institutions including Reading University, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, the University of Cape Town and the University of Uppsala. The Centre for Transdisciplinary Cultural Analysis, Theory and History at Leeds University aims to link Jewish studies with fine art, art history, cultural studies and material culture in order to avoid the Jewish aspect of history being marginalised or segregated.

The Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies has opened a new teaching and research unit.

People

Rev. Alan Jesson, former Hon. Secretary of ABTAPL, has been appointed Rector of the Anglican Fenland parishes of Upwell and Outwell, in the Diocese of Ely.

Public Libraries

This year is the 150th anniversary of the passing of the first Public Libraries Act. A commemorative 50 pence coin has been issued.

Leeds Metropolitan University's School of Information Management recently commissioned research, funded by the Library and Information Commission, from the Mass-Observation Archive at the University of Sussex with the aim of providing an open-access commentary on the public library. A report is available from Resource: the Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries.

Publications

Accessing our Humanities Collections: a Subject Guide for Researchers is a new JISC publication for researchers, librarians, support staff and learners in humanities and social sciences faculties of higher and further education institutions within the UK. Shortly to be available online, copies are available free of charge by contacting the Humbul website <http://www.humbul.ac.uk/nff/>

Encyclopedia of Philosophy, published by Routledge, is now available on-line. Information is available at www.rep.routledge.com

ITER: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance is a database of some 230,000 articles and reviews from a selection of more than 400 journals on medieval and renaissance studies. For information see <http://inter.library.utoronto.ca/inter/>

Journal of Religious and Theological Information is published by The Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, USA

In 1997 the Runnymede Trust established the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain to "consider the political and cultural implications of the changing diversity of British people". The Commission has published the *Parekh Report* giving its findings and policy recommendations. It is available on the internet at <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/meb/TheReport.htm>

Publishers

Bowker-Saur, publisher of leading reference and abstracting and indexing services, has followed its recent announcement of a new electroic publishing strategy by changing its company name to Bowker and unveiling a new corporate identity.

RSLP Revelation Project

The University of Birmingham has been awarded a Research Support Libraries Project grant of £469,460 to manage the cross-institutional Revelation Project, the purpose of which is to enhance awareness of and access to the most substantial collections for research into 19th and 20th century church history and Christian theology. The project will have two main outcomes: the creation of machine-readable

bibliographic records for 145,950 monographs held in ten university libraries across England, Scotland and Wales, and the development of web-based collection-level descriptions of major collections housed in at least 36 university, public or specialist libraries across the United Kingdom. To find out more about Revelation, visit the project web site at <http://www.is.bham.ac.uk/rslp/revelation.htm>.

Seminar

Arts and Humanities Online is a one-day seminar, introducing the full range of nationally-funded online resources and services. Costing £85, the first will be held at the British Library, London, on 14th December 2000. Others will be held in Bristol (25th January 2001), Edinburgh (22nd February 2001) and Manchester (22nd March 2001). Information on <http://www.humbul.ac.uk/events/>

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 August 2000. Includes a review of *ITER: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance* and an article, "Naming" Internet Resources: Or, More Acronyms and Initials Explained.

Associazione dei Bibliotecari Ecclesiastici Italiani Bollettino di Informazione Number 2, 2000.

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Newsletter No. 41, August 2000. Contains the proceedings of the 15th annual conference, including an article, "Subject clusters: synonymous terms in Library of Congress Theological subject headings".

Centre Informatique et Bible (Maredsous, Belgium) Interface September 2000.

Librarians' Christian Fellowship Newsletters Summer/Autumn and Winter 2000. The former includes articles on Westminster Abbey Library, the Christian roots of public libraries in Britain, and the Commission for International Library Assistance (CILA), part of the (American) Association of Christian Librarians.

WEBSITES

BELFAST BIBLE COLLEGE www.belfastbiblecollege.com

BLACK AND ASIAN HISTORY MAP OF BRITAIN www.blackhistorymap.com

CHRISTIAN AID www.christian-aid.org.uk

Includes reports published by Christian Aid

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND www.churches-together.org.uk

FATHOM www.fathom.com

Consortium of prestigious universities, libraries, museums and publishers, offering online courses and authenticated content

INFORM www.religiousmovements.org

Home Office funded information network on religious movements

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS www.ifla.org

INGENTA <http://www.ingenta.com>

UK's largest online search service of published content from reliable research sources

INTERNET ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY www.utm.edu/research/iep/

ITER: GATEWAY TO THE MIDDLE AGES AND RENAISSANCE

<http://inter.library.utoronto.ca/inter/>

Database of articles and reviews from journals on medieval and renaissance studies.

Journal of Buddhist Ethics

<http://jbe.gold.ac.uk> (UK address) <http://jbe.la.psu.edu> (US address)

JUST BOOKS <http://www.JustBooks.co.uk>

Largest internet marketplace in Europe for secondhand and antiquarian books

MASS-OBSERVATION ARCHIVE

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/homesearch.html>

MYSTICISM IN WORLD RELIGIONS www.digiserve.com/mystic

NETWORK BIRMINGHAM www.networkbirmingham.com
Information on churches, Christian organisations & businesses around Birmingham

THE PHILOSOPHER'S MAGAZINE www.philosophers.co.uk

PHILOSOPHY AT LARGE www.liv.ac.uk/Philosophy/philos.html

REVIEW OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE <http://bookreviews.org>
Comprehensive database of book reviews, produced by Society of Biblical Literature

ROUTLEDGE *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY* www.rep.routledge.com

RUNNYMEDE TRUST www.runnymedetrust.org/meb/TheReport.htm
Report of the Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain, published 2000

STANFORD ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY <http://plato.stanford.edu>

STRICT BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
<http://www.strictbaptisthistory.org.uk/>

E-MAIL DISCUSSION LISTS

'Buddha-L' or 'Buddhist Academic Discussion Forum' - to subscribe send e-mail message to: listserv@listserv.louisville.edu with the message: subscribe buddha-l [your name].

'Buddhist' or 'Forum on Indian and Buddhist Studies' - to subscribe send e-mail message to: listserv@lists.mcgill.ca with the message: subscribe buddhist [your name].