

## FRIENDS OF THE ANGUS LIBRARY

The Angus Library, located at Regent's Park College in Oxford, has for many years been the main storehouse of information about the Baptist heritage in Britain. The heart of the Library is a large collection of books by Baptist authors left in 1902 to the College by Dr Joseph Angus, Principal from 1849 to 1893. This collection was catalogued and enlarged by Dr George Gould, Principal from 1896 to 1920. It includes many Baptist publications of the last four centuries and is especially rich in seventeenth and eighteenth century books. Among the manuscripts are Association Records from the seventeenth century onwards and collections of letters from such leaders as William Carey and Andrew Fuller. In 1984 the Baptist Union Library became part of the Angus Library, bringing more early manuscripts and greatly enriching the holdings of nineteenth century printed works.

With the enlargement and expansion of the Library, and with its greater use by research students and visiting scholars, it has become necessary to provide a full-time librarian/archivist, whom the College hopes to appoint by 1989. It is also intended to redevelop part of the site to create larger premises for the Angus Library and a students' room associated with it.

The *Friends of the Angus Library* is a Society formed for the purpose of encouraging and supporting the work of the Library. Membership is open to individuals and institutions interested in the preservation of Baptist history and heritage. Subscriptions of members will initially go toward the payment of a librarian/archivist and later will provide for new acquisitions, together with the binding and repair of older volumes and manuscripts.

Recent donations to the Library include eighteenth century manuscripts, correspondence and church books. Members of the Society are themselves encouraged to give books and correspondence and other documents to the Library. All Friends of the Angus Library will receive a newsletter each year about the work of the Library with information about recent acquisitions and the collections housed there.

Subscriptions The minimum annual subscription is £10 (\$15). The minimum payment for life membership is £100 (\$150), or £120 (\$180) for married couples. The minimum annual subscription for corporate bodies is £25 (\$40).

Please make cheques payable to the *Friends of the Angus*, and send to The Librarian, Angus Library, Regent's Park College, Oxford OX1 2LB, England.

*Hon. Secretary in Great Britain:* Mr Paul Harris, Regent's Park College, Oxford OX1 2LB

*Hon. Secretary in North America:* Dr Karen Smith, Box 1984, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280, United States of America.

## REVIEW

Paul Barnfield, *Protestant Nonconformity in Twickenham, Whitton, Teddington and the Hamptons*, Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, 44 pp, £2 (from 59 Park House Gardens, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2DF).

Mr Barnfield, a member of the Baptist Historical Society, provides through this fascinating study an overall view of the trends discernible within and the impact made (or not made) by Nonconformity in the old Borough of Twickenham from the seventeenth century to 1900. The statistical analysis is handled with great care. Although Nonconformity greatly increased in the latter end of the nineteenth century, it was in fact in serious decline when compared with the population growth over the same period. Compared with the country as a whole, Twickenham was not receptive to Nonconformity. Only 15% attended Nonconformist chapels in 1851, compared with a national figure of 44% - mostly due, the author concludes, to the weakness of Methodism in the area.

This area survey is very useful, and it includes among the nonconformist fringe a chapel of the Southcottians and the strangely named 'Religion of the Bible's True Christianity', both in Hampton.

ROGER HAYDEN

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