

BULLETIN

of the

Association of British Theological

and Philosophical Libraries



Volume 23, Number 1
Spring 2016



BULLETIN 2016

The *Bulletin* is published by the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries as a forum for professional exchange and development in the fields of theological and philosophical librarianship. ABTAPL was founded in 1956 to bring together librarians working with or interested in theological and philosophical literature in Great Britain. It is a member of BETH (European Theological Libraries). The *Bulletin* is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Autumn) and now has a circulation of approximately 250 copies, with about one third of that number going to libraries in Europe, North America, and the Commonwealth. The *Bulletin* is indexed in LISA (Library & Information Science Abstracts). ISSN 0305-781X

Subscriptions: Institutions £30.00 / US\$60.00 / €50.00 per annum
 Personal members £15.00 / US\$25.00 / €32.00 per annum (not posted to library addresses)
 Unwaged personal members £10.00 (not posted to library addresses)
 Payments to Ian Jackson, Assistant Treasurer (address below)

Articles & Reviews: The Honorary Editor welcomes articles or reviews for consideration.

Advertising: Enquiries about advertising should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary

Copyright: The Copyright of articles in the *Bulletin* rests with the author; that of illustrations with the named source; the remainder rests with ABTAPL.

COMMITTEE 2015/16

Chairman: Carol Reekie, Librarian, Cambridge Theological Federation, Ridley Hall Library
 Ridley Hall, Sidwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9HG. E-mail: cr248@cam.ac.uk

Hon. Secretary: Honor Hania, H.Hania@btinternet.com

Acting Treasurer: Donald Mitchell, Librarian, Wales Evangelical School of Theology, Bryntirion
 House, Bridgend, CF31 4DX. Email: librarian@west.org.uk

Hon. Editor: Richard Johnson, Hirilondë, 185 Longford Lane, Gloucester, GL2 9HD
 E-mail: richard@qohelethresources.co.uk

Conf. Secretary:

Elected Members: Michael Gale, Librarian, Queen's Foundation, Birmingham
 Dr. Penelope Hall, Edinburgh
 Amanda Hodgson, Librarian, St John's College, Nottingham
 Ian Jackson, Librarian, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Rd,
 Birmingham, B29 6LJ
 Chris Leftley, Librarian, Wycliffe Hall Library, Oxford
 Helen Stocker, Librarian, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

ABTAPL Website: <http://www.abtapl.org.uk> E-Mailing List: abtapl@jiscmail.ac.uk

BETH Website: <http://www.beth.be>

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

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

Volume 23, Number 1
March 2016

CONTENTS

Notice of Meetings	2
Conservation on a Shoestring	3
Common Awards Librarians' Conference: a report	8
The Copyright Licensing Agency's Digital Content Store – a welcome step forward	12
Meissen in Durham	14
Farewell to ABTAPL	17
'40 Years and Counting' – CLIS' Annual Conference	19
Newsletters Received / News	21
Websites	22

The photograph on the front cover is by Stephanie Dawson, and shows rare "grey literature" from the Meissen Library Collection.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

2016 ABTAPL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Thurs 3 November 2016 at 2.30pm

Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London

2017 ABTAPL SPRING CONFERENCE & AGM

Thurs 30 March – Sat 1 April 2017

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

www.woodbrooke.org.uk

2017 ABTAPL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

November 2017

CONSERVATION ON A SHOESTRING

In Dorothy L. Sayers' novel *Busman's Honeymoon*, Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane are finally married in St Cross Church, Oxford, on 8th October 1937. Jump forward 78 years to 19th Nov 2015, and you will find nine ABTAPL members descending on the same church, but for a very different purpose. In 2011 the church had been taken over by Balliol College in order to house their archives; and the ABTAPLers were there to learn basic skills of conservation. Anna Sander, the Balliol College Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts since 2004, and Anna James, from Pusey House, were the presenters for the day.

In the first session, led by the 'Balliol' Anna, there was a minor disappointment for some members when it quickly became apparent that the topic of book repairs would not be covered. We were told that these needed professional conservators, and well-meaning amateur attempts to repair old books would almost certainly result in more damage. The topics that would be covered included handling and storing old books, and preventing further damage.

A useful resource for quickly learning good practice in this area is the series of British Library Collection Care videos available online [<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/videos/>]

It was frequently emphasized that when storing valuable material, proper archival-quality packaging should be used (so no more trips to Poundland, I'm afraid); useful suppliers of conservation materials include:

Secol [www.secol.co.uk]

Conservation by Design [www.conservation-by-design.com]

Preservation Equipment [www.preservationequipment.com]

There were many detailed do's and don'ts during the session, which it would become tedious to go through in order, so here are ten things to be reminded of:

1. Wearing white gloves can cause more damage to fragile material than not wearing them, as the sense of touch is blunted and they make people careless. Clean dry hands are all that is needed most of the time.
2. Only write on archival manuscripts in pencil (e.g. to number them when received); and never rub anything out; you'll only damage the surface.

3. If you need to use a number of paper clips to sort a pile of papers, only use solid brass ones and spread the clips evenly across undamaged parts of the top edge so that the pile remains as flat as possible.
4. Don't remove old sellotape; you'll only do damage.
5. Packaging is essential for fragile material. Adjustable 4-sided Western Manuscript Folders (search google images to see what they are!) are good for flat items.
6. Piles of papers or folders should be stored in boxes; putting string or tape around them will damage them. Use *foolscap* sized boxes with detachable lids; there is more room for your fingers when getting items out.
7. Always keep pages flat when turning manuscript pages.
8. Environmental stability is key; paper and parchment should be c16-17 degrees C, with 50%-60% relative humidity.
9. Only use a daylight or cold light desk lamp.
10. For the really keen, PD 5454:2012 (Guide for the Storage and Exhibition of Archival Materials, published by the British Standards Institution) will probably answer every question you might reasonably think of. But it'll set you back £234!

Anna James then led a session on the practical preservation of rare books; beginning with a discussion on what constitutes a rare book (which may vary from one collection to another.) Some key points:

If you are displaying material, always use a rest; either a properly manufactured rest, such as the Clarkson book support system, or the Norfolk book sofa; or just some rolled up towels! (quote: 'It is more important to use the rest correctly than to use the correct rest.') Both the spine and the boards must be adequately supported. You should never leave an item on permanent display, and change the page on view each day to prevent undue wear on one page or one part of the spine.

A few keys to preserving old books:

- a) Shelf books of the same size together; a small book next to a large one will eventually distort the boards.

- b) Use 13mm white cotton tape to tie loose boards on to a text block. Use two strips (one at the top and one at the bottom), and tie the knots between the board edges opposite the spine.
- c) Use natural hog's bristle brushes for cleaning away dust, or pony hair brushes for very fragile items.
- d) Use natural fibre brushes and a dry-chemical sponge to remove mould (never use water!). Do this outside, preferably in sunshine. If there is a major problem call in professionals.



After lunch Anna Sander continued with a session on allowing access to the collection. The key (which you must ensure your users are aware of) is: ALWAYS HANDLE BOOKS WITH CARE ('Careful handling is free; conservation repair time is expensive')

- a) always take care when removing books from a shelf and carrying them. Never hurry!
- b) turn pages from the middle of a page, not from the corner
- c) Do not allow coats, bags, cases, food, drink, ink, erasers, correcting fluid, etc, anywhere near old books or manuscripts [remember Mr Bean in the library...!]

It may be useful to do a survey of the collection and the priorities that are needed for its conservation. A useful questionnaire 'Benchmarks in Collection Care' can be downloaded from the Collections Trust at www.collectionstrust.org.uk/collections-link/collections-management/benchmarks-in-collections-care.

Finally, Anna James led a session on conservation.

She mentioned various organizations that run courses for conservators, such as:

National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS)
West Dean College (in conjunction with the British Library)
Bendix Library Conservation

Some brief hints for conservation:

In looking at a collection, decide which books need conserving. For each book, you should ask:

How stable is it? (Will it deteriorate if untreated?)
How urgent is it? (What demand is there for it?)

You would then need to ask: How much will it cost? Who should do the work?

Choose a member of ICON (The Institute of Conservation)

If just rebinding (not repairing), look at The Society of Bookbinders

Use LIS-RAREBOOKS@JISCMail.AC.UK

(NB A conservator will never give a quote prior to seeing a book.)

You will need to make a decision how much conservation is required:

A complete rebind is cheapest, but only if the original cover is not worth keeping;

alternatively, a book may be rebacked; which involves rebinding the old boards on to a new spine;

or, the original cover can be conserved as much as possible; the best option.

Final practical notes:

Always ask the conservator for a written confirmation of the timescale.

Ask for a conservator's report

Only pay the balance when a book is returned.

Explore various trust funds for helping to pay for conservation; or ask library users to 'adopt a book' (but beware of excessive administration; and ensure you choose the books that need conserving, not the donor!)

All-in-all the day proved to be a very useful experience for those who attended, and we are grateful to Chris Leftley for organizing it, and to the two Anna's for their presentations during the day.

Richard Johnson
Qoheleth Resources

COMMON AWARDS LIBRARIANS' CONFERENCE: A REPORT

On 3rd February a group of Common Awards librarians met at Lambeth Palace for a day conference convened by Dr Ken Farrimond, VLE and Blended Learning Officer for the Ministry Division of the Church of England. The 'Common Awards' are a suite of programmes launched in September 2014 as part of a new partnership between the Church of England and Durham University. Previously, institutions training Anglican ordinands had their programmes validated by a variety of – usually local – universities, with a corresponding variety in the level of library provision on offer. Under Common Awards, those institutions – which include colleges offering full-time training as well as regional courses offering part-time training – now look to Durham. This doesn't mean that every institution offers identical courses. There is plenty of scope for individual tailoring to suit the needs of each institution. But with nearly two thousand students currently registered on Common Awards programmes, it does provide an opportunity for the Church of England in partnership with Durham to share expertise and resources across the institutions and to negotiate better deals on their behalf. The purpose of the conference was to explore ways in which those benefits could be extended to library provision.

Online Journals and the Common Awards Hub

In the first session, Ken Farrimond introduced the new Common Awards 'hub'. Two years ago an attempt was made to set up a Common Awards VLE ¹ (called 'CAVLE'), but this proved too challenging, and the new idea is to set up a hub within Moodle, the VLE which is already used by most Common Awards institutions. Students will log on to their own institutional Moodle, from where they will be able to click through to the Common Awards hub to access shared library resources. In the longer term it is hoped that the hub can also be used for discussion forums and for sharing other resources such as annotated subject bibliographies and information about placements.

So what library resources will be available via the Common Awards hub? Durham has already agreed to fund access to JSTOR, and negotiations are currently taking place for access to Ebsco's Religion & Philosophy collection and the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials. This will require some delicate footwork. Some Common Awards institutions

¹ Virtual Learning Environment

currently subscribe to these databases independently (an ABTAPL consortium deal was negotiated some years ago), so any deal will need to compensate the suppliers appropriately. On the other hand, not all students at Common Awards institutions are registered on Common Awards programmes. We know that they will not have access to JSTOR. I understand that they will have access to Ebsco's Religion & Philosophy collection. And Ken is still in negotiation with ATLA. So it is not clear cut.

Ken was also keen to hear our views on the relative merits of the two databases. His view is that ATLA is important for students on Masters' level programmes, but less so at undergraduate level. Institutions will have their own perspective on that, but my sense is that students at all levels tend to use both databases fairly indiscriminately. The latest figures show that our students actually view more full text articles from ATLA than they do from the Religion & Philosophy collection.

Copyright

In recent years the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) has loomed large in the lives of many of us as we have taken on responsibility within our institutions for compliance with the CLA scanning licence and for maintaining a record of digital copies posted on our institutional VLE. Copyright was one of the obstacles to the original vision of resource sharing among the Common Awards institutions, but in the day's second session Amanda Hodgson, librarian of St John's School of Mission ², reported on CLA plans to introduce a Digital Content Store, the idea of which is to reduce the workload on individual institutions, something which will be welcomed by us all. Amanda reports on this and other developments elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

Online Books

In the third session Michael Addison, Sales and Marketing Director of Hymns Ancient & Modern, talked to us about e-books. Hymns Ancient & Modern is the umbrella group for a variety of publishers with which theological librarians will be familiar, including SCM Press, Liturgical Press, and the church publishing houses. One of our constant refrains is our frustration that these publishers, whose books are core reading for many of our students, are rarely available on library e-book platforms such as Dawsonera.

² Formerly St John's College, Nottingham

It is not as if these titles are not available electronically. Michael noted that everything published in the last three years is available for individual purchase on the Kindle, Apple, and ePUB platforms. But one reason for their absence on library platforms is the complexity surrounding contracts and providers' different metadata requirements. Another reason must surely be that publishers have no wish to undermine their print sales.

Common Awards provides us with a new opportunity to negotiate with publishers such as those within the Hymns Ancient & Modern group, and in particular with SCM Press, whose new commissioning editor, David Shervington, joined us for part of the day. Two thousand students represent a significant market, and Common Awards thus has the potential to wield far more influence than individual institutions. We could invite publishers to explore working with existing platforms such as Dawsonera (e.g. SCM Press might make available a "wish list" of titles, which institutions could choose to purchase at the market rate), or we could invite them to explore alternative models, such as that provided by Cambridge Collections Online.

Ken articulated a wider vision – of content being made available to resource the church more widely – but even the short term goal of theological text books being made available on library e-book platforms could benefit the wider ABTAPL community.

ABTAPL

The conference also gave us the opportunity to showcase ABTAPL, and Carol Reekie, Chair of ABTAPL and librarian of the Cambridge Theological Federation, did a short presentation in the afternoon. It is worth noting that not all conference delegates were librarians, and not all institutions represented are ABTAPL members. The Common Awards institutions are a diverse group, some of whom depend on relationships with partner institutions for library resources. It was in this context that Carol highlighted the benefits of ABTAPL membership, which will be well known to readers of the *Bulletin*. If one of the purposes of the conference was to begin to build a network of Common Awards librarians, then the existing ABTAPL network is a good place to start. Current members will benefit from the new membership, and new members will benefit from our experience.

Durham

While Common Awards appears to have the potential to offer greater parity of access to resources, in practice those expectations have not always been met. It was in this context that Christine Purcell and Neil Davies spoke from a Durham perspective in the final presentation. Christine has been a welcome presence at ABTAPL meetings over the past two years, and has worked tirelessly to mediate between a major higher education institution and a myriad of theological librarians each with our own hopes and expectations about what Common Awards can deliver.

Sconul³ membership has been a particular bugbear. Originally conceived for the benefit of students at home on vacation, the idea of Sconul membership is that students of one university can use the library of another university. But it is dependent on both partners playing ball. Some universities are not members of Sconul at all. Others offer conditional access. So the fact that Durham offers Sconul membership to Common Awards students does not mean that all Common Awards students can join their local university library. Part of the problem is that Durham classifies Common Awards students as campus-based students, not as distance learners. This means that some Common Awards students have borrowing rights at Durham but not at their local university. For some students, this means that they are actually worse off than they were before.

Groups and reflections

In the final session of the day, we broke into three groups to talk about the issues which had arisen, and to report back. Nine institutions were represented in the group which discussed e-books, and I was struck by the fact that only four of those institutions currently have e-book collections. It highlighted the potential within the new network for the sharing of experience, and the potential benefits for students across the institutions.

I was also struck by the broader vision which seemed to lie at the heart of the conference, which encompassed lifelong learning and making content available to the wider church community. It is a vision which the churches, librarians and publishers can all share. The challenge is to find a model which works for all parties, and Common Awards is already giving impetus in the right direction.

*Michael Gale (Librarian)
The Queen's Foundation*

³ Society of College, National and University Libraries

THE COPYRIGHT LICENSING AGENCY'S DIGITAL CONTENT STORE – A WELCOME STEP FORWARD

(This article is based on a presentation I gave to the Common Awards librarians' conference at Lambeth Palace, February 2016. I have added a little more information gathered from subsequent discussions with the CLA.)

Many ABTAPL members are administrators (“designated persons”) for their institution’s licence from the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA). For most of us, this is the Independent Higher Education licence. It allows us to make multiple photocopies of extracts from books and journals and to scan material to be delivered electronically, generally on the institution’s VLE. There are significant limitations on what can be copied under the licence. It is the designated person’s responsibility to ensure that copying and scanning is carried out only in so far as the licence allows – a task that can on occasions be challenging!

As “designated persons” we also have the doubtful privilege of collating every summer details of scanned material that has been made available to students during the academic year and reporting it on a spreadsheet to the CLA. This checking and reporting process can be complex and is always time-consuming.

Now the CLA is planning to implement a system that should make life easier. They are creating a Digital Content Store (DCS): a silo of scanned material available to all higher education institutions. Instead of uploading scans to our institution’s VLE, we shall upload them to the DCS. The DCS then generates a link which we distribute to students. Students clicking on the link will be taken straight to the article or extract they want. The DCS will know which extracts have been used and how often, and thus can pay appropriate royalties to the copyright holders. No more reporting – no more spreadsheets. This is seriously good news.

There’s more. The administrators’ interface with the DCS will do swiftly and simply a lot of the work involved in preparing new scans. This includes:

- checking bibliographic details (against WorldCat)
- checking for permissions
- checking extent limits
- checking ownership of the original – if our library catalogue is linked to the DCS. This service will initially only be available to

institutions using one of the major library management systems – but I'd like to think that it might work eventually with Heritage Cirqa which many ABTAPL members use.

If there is already a scan in the DCS of something we want, so long as we also own the original (this requirement remains) we can link to that existing scan rather than having to make our own. Another time-saver – and a possible route for the sharing of resources among institutions, for instance between those offering similar modules under Common Awards.

There will also be a direct link from within the DCS to the British Library's scanning service EHESS, so that institutions can out-source their scanning (should they wish to) or easily request copyright fee-paid copies of items they do not own.

The only problem some of us may have is that of authentication. The DCS is currently designed to operate using Open Athens or Shibboleth. Many of us, as small institutions, don't use these. I know that several ABTAPL institutions have had conversations with the CLA about access. It is hoped that a suitable alternative form of authentication can be found.

It will not be compulsory to use the DCS, but institutions that don't use it will have to continue reporting scans on spreadsheets as before. From what I have seen so far, the DCS looks like a very welcome improvement on the existing system. Institutions can start uploading their content now – there will be a sandbox environment in March and the DCS is scheduled to go live in June.

Information on the DCS is available on the HE section of the CLA website at <http://he.cla.co.uk/your-he-licence/your-he-licence/digital-content-store/>

*Amanda Hodgson
St John's School of Mission*

MEISSEN IN DURHAM

On 22nd July 2015 an event took place in Durham to celebrate and promote the **Meissen Library**. This is a special collection held in Durham University Library (DUL), which had its origin in the gift of the Evangelische Kirche Deutschland (EKD) to the Church of England, following the 1991 Meissen agreement between the two churches. The Meissen Library was previously part of Durham Cathedral Library, and was housed in a series of rooms in the Cathedral precinct, with limited access. Its move to the Bill Bryson Library (DUL's main library) in autumn 2012 opened up the collection to many more scholars and researchers.

As stated on the DUL website⁴, the Meissen Library contains:

The largest gathered German-language collection of theology in England (approx. 15,000 titles).

Particular strengths are the theology, history and practical life of the Protestant Church in Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries.

It also includes many kinds of books that would not normally be available outside Germany (such as sermons and pastoralia), and provides potential for some unrivalled insights into the nature of German Christianity at some key moments in its history (e.g. Deutsche Christen, under communism etc.)

The original collection has been added to over the years, and while at the Cathedral was catalogued on a dedicated database and classified by a team of volunteers, with the catalogue available online. After the move we have built on that work, and are gradually enhancing and updating the catalogue records, adding them into the DUL online catalogue⁵, and reclassifying into Dewey 23. When this work is complete most items will be borrowable, and we will discontinue access to the separate Meissen catalogue.

We have a Meissen Library committee which is chaired by the Venerable Peter Townley, Archdeacon of Pontefract, and includes representatives from

⁴ <https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/meissen/>

⁵ <http://library.dur.ac.uk/>

Durham Cathedral, the University's department of Theology and Religion, and one of the Meissen volunteers, as well as colleagues from DUL. During our discussions we identified the need to promote the Collection, and so organised a study day on July 22nd entitled '**Meissen in Durham: The Meissen Library, its Significance, and Value**'.

A small team planned the day, and organised publicity. In the end we opted for a half-day in the Bill Bryson Library, followed by Evensong in Durham Cathedral. This was a perfect way of drawing together the two parts of the English history of the Collection. We had about 30 people present, a mixture of university researchers, librarians, clergy, former Meissen volunteers and our invited speakers, notably Right Reverend Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds and Chair of the Meissen Commission, and Revd Dr Ulrich Lincoln, pastor of German Protestant Ministries in London (East) and the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Kirche, London. We also had as special guests the Very Revd John Arnold, now retired, but Dean of Durham when the Meissen Library started up, and retired EKD Bishop Dr Heinz Joachim Held, a great supporter of the collection and source of many donations to it.

After a welcome from Jon Purcell, the University Librarian, Ms Dorothea Mische from the British Library gave a talk entitled *The Meissen Library: a librarian's view*. The co-operation and exchange between Britain and Germany, which are the essence of the Meissen Library, were warmly recognised in the message which was then read out on behalf of the Consul General of Germany, Verena Gräfin von Roedern. Bishop Baines then followed with a talk entitled *The Germans are coming: the futures of Meissen*. A refreshments break included the opportunity for half the group to go the area of the Library where the Meissen collection is shelved, and we repeated this opportunity later in the afternoon for the remainder of participants. On hand at the shelves were the two colleagues who are leading the project to recatalogue and reclassify the collection, and they were able to answer questions about this work.

Between the two breaks Dr Lincoln presented his paper entitled *Books, people and theology: German Protestantism finding a home in England*, and the last talk was by Dr T.J. Lang, Lecturer in New Testament at Durham University entitled *The importance of old books in other languages*.

In an unscheduled part of the afternoon, Bishop Held presented some relevant books and artefacts, and Dr Arnold also kindly presented some books to add to the collection. These gifts were unexpected but very

welcome. The Meissen Library has developed considerably over the years by means of donations, and Bishop Held in particular has had a considerable part in building up the collection.

We transferred to Durham Cathedral for Evensong at 5:15, in the course of which the delegates were warmly welcomed. The music, led by a visiting choir, included items by German composers, thus continuing the theme of the day.

Throughout the day there was a real sense of goodwill and enthusiasm for the Collection, and a very useful exchange of views and ideas. As my colleague and co-organiser Christopher Skelton-Foord reported afterwards:

“We are still only beginning to recognise the importance of this exceptional collection of largely German-language theology materials, as we develop and promote access to it and encourage usage of it, following its transfer from Durham Cathedral to the University Library. This event was an important step along that journey and has helped set the Meissen Library on a new dimension as an active collection within the University Library’s ever strengthening and enlarging focus on theology materials, alongside two other important, co-located library collections in Durham – Durham Cathedral and Ushaw College”.⁶

The event took a fair amount of organisation, but the success of the day definitely justified the time and effort. We felt that we fully met our aim of promoting the Collection, and hope to hold other events to promote the Meissen Library in the future.

*Christine Purcell
Academic Liaison Librarian
Durham University Library.*

⁶ Skelton-Foord, C. (2015) ‘Meissen in Durham’, *Durham University Library and Heritage Collections Staff Information Bulletin* (no.1839), 23 July 2015.

FAREWELL TO ABTAPL

It was in 1974 that I organized the first very tentative ABTAPL conference as the newly appointed Secretary. That affair was a sort of Awayday with B&B in Durham. How things have changed!

I always felt that I was a bit of a fraud, being of necessity a generalist. At King's College London in those days the system of subject specialization meant that you looked after areas of the library not only corresponding to your degree but anything you were remotely interested in if no-one else had got there first. At times I was responsible not only for classics, but Byzantine and Modern Greek, philosophy and music as well as theology. This wasn't too awkward on the home front, but was somewhat of a disadvantage when I attended the Conseil International des Associations des Bibliothèques de Théologie (now known more succinctly as BETH). My fellow-attendees all worked in specialist theology libraries, so in no way did I feel that I was a true counterpart. I am very grateful for their acceptance of one not totally devoted to theological librarianship, and for putting up with my halting French.

Some highlights of my time with ABTAPL – all connected with conferences:

- Alison Howard having to find a pair of warm pyjamas for Goma, now sadly no longer with us, so that he could withstand the cold of Coates Hall in Edinburgh.
- The conference at St Deiniol's, now Gladstone's Library, held under the stern eye of the then Warden, who believed in strict punctuality and dress code for meals and reproved me for helping myself to the 'wrong' fish pie.
- At that same conference, the visit to Chester Cathedral Library. A huge sink hole had opened in the path to the Cathedral 'and we had been as Korah, Dathan and Abiram' exclaimed the delightfully Trollopian sub-Dean.

- A second visit to Durham, and the wrath of the Cathedral Librarian as he recalled that the Vikings had sacked the Library – still resented hundreds of years later!
- The Conseil conference at Louvain, when the late Fr Morlion gravely presented me with what he described as essential reading – *Asterix chez les Belges*, and the lunch on the final day when I had to uphold the honour of Britain by coping with the amount of food – and drink – that our hosts seemed to regard as normal.
- Prague 2006: Alan Linfield’s amazing ability to cope with snags of every kind and still keep smiling. The awakening of a city that was still half asleep when I had visited it in 1991. The memorable conference dinner.

I’m so sorry that I can’t make it to the Diamond Jubilee Conference in Rome because of diary clashes. But in any case librarianship has moved on so much that I feel that now is the time to say goodbye to all ABTAPL events, to thank you all for the good fellowship that I have enjoyed over the years, and to wish the Association Godspeed for the future.

Mary Elliott

**‘40 YEARS AND COUNTING’ – CLIS’ ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2016, AT THE REGENT HALL, LONDON**

Members of Christians in Library and Information Services (founded in 1976 as the Librarians’ Christian Fellowship) met on this date to celebrate their fortieth anniversary.

The formal part of the Conference consisted of two talks, the first being ‘*Doing God: ten years and counting*’ – a fascinating presentation by Nick Spencer of Theos, the Christian think-tank which has been researching and publishing information about the place of religion in public life for the last ten years.

Nick showed us some surprising statistics which challenged received views about religion in the UK. We need to distinguish between church affiliation and church attendance, and one of Theos’ conclusions is that more people are now claiming ‘no religious affiliation’, rather than settling for ‘C of E’ as in previous centuries. The rather depressing UK statistics on church attendance tend to be based on Anglicanism, but it has long been known that other expressions of Christianity are growing, often at the expense of the established church. But whatever the statistics, religion cannot be sidelined as moribund, as immigration and globalisation are bringing in strong, though not necessarily Christian, religious influences.

After lunch it was the turn of Will Morris to speak to us; his day job is with General Electric, but he is also part of the clergy team at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, and he spoke to us on ‘*What does it really mean to be a Christian in the workplace?*’

God is interested in all of his creation, and he created the world of work. We’re told in the Bible that at the end of time, everything will be made perfect, not just our spiritual lives – ‘*a new heaven and a new earth*’. We are called to work with God towards the perfect creation, and that includes the world of work. It may be a struggle to find God in some jobs, but it is necessary to find something that will push the work towards the perfection of creation. Witnessing can be as much about doing or not doing as about speaking, and even a hostile workplace can offer space for acts of kindness. Churches should be enabling people to work towards this, but if their focus is on the form of worship or the building, that gets in the way of bringing God to those outside.

How do we Christians find answers to, for instance, ethical challenges at work? Will suggests that we work out for ourselves which are our core beliefs, and what we are prepared to negotiate on; we can witness by being prepared to absorb pettiness. We can usually let people know our beliefs in an unobtrusive way.

In reply to a question about compartmentalised Christianity (where our beliefs are kept in our private lives) and finding support in the wider world, Will said that support systems have greatly changed, there being lots of new ways of keeping in touch with fellow Christians through IT. But face-to-face contact still plays an important role, especially for older people.

One member of the audience remarked that a building he'd worked in seemed to become a much better place to work in after some Christians had prayed for each part of the building.

Diana Guthrie

THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS RECEIVED

Christian Librarian: Number 71 (Spring 2016)

Contents:

Eddie Olliffe: For the Love of Good Books

Robert Foster: Precious to God

Graham Hedges: From Communist to Christ

(review of Abigail Santamaria '*Joy: Poet, Seeker and the
Woman who Captivated C.S. Lewis*')

Donald Drew: Holding Up a Mirror to Nature: Some Thoughts on
Literary Criticism and the Purpose of Literature (The LCF Annual
Public Lecture held on 10 Oct 1981)

Please contact the Hon. Editor if you would like to read any of these
articles.

NEWS

The union list of Australian and New Zealand library periodical holdings
can be found on the ANZTLA website. Key in the title term(s) and search
for holdings, then click on the journal title to see a list of libraries holding
the journal:

<http://www.anztla.org/AulotsSearch.aspx>

WEBSITES - General

ABTAPL

<http://www.abtapl.org.uk/>

ABTAPL Bulletin online

http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_abtapl_01.php

ANZTLA Ejournal

<http://ejournal.anztla.org>

ATLA

<http://www.atla.com>

ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/atla-religion-database-with-atlaserials>

BETH

<http://www.beth.be>

Christians in Library and Information Services

<http://christianlis.org.uk/>

Theology on the Web

<http://theologyontheweb.org.uk>

WEBSITES – Specific to this issue

ANZTLA Union List

<http://www.anzsla.org/AulotsSearch.aspx>

British Library Collection Care:

<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/videos/>

Collections Trust Benchmark Questionnaire

<http://www.collectionstrust.org.uk/collections-link/collections-management/benchmarks-in-collections-care>.

Conservation by Design

<http://www.conservation-by-design.com>

Copyright Licensing Agency Digital Content Store

<http://he.cla.co.uk/your-he-licence/your-he-licence/digital-content-store/>

Durham Cathedral Library

<http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/heritage/library>

Durham University Library: Meissen Collection

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/meissen/>

National Libraries Day

<http://www.nationallibrariesday.org.uk>.

Preservation Equipment

<http://www.preservationequipment.com>

Secol

<http://www.secol.co.uk>

Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>