# BULLETIN

# of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries



Volume 10, Number 3 November 2003



#### BUILLETIN 2003

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. ABTAPIL 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 (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 ISSN 0305-781X Bulletin is indexed in LISA (Library & Information Science Abstracts).

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http://www.abtapl.org.uk

Mailing List: abtapl@jiscmail.ac.uk

http://www.theo.kuleuven.ac.be/beth

ABTAPL holds its mailing 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

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The front cover shows the Cathedral at Brixen, Italy

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### ABTAPL UNION LIST OF PERIODICALS

The Union List is now available on the internet at http://www.le.ac.uk/abtapl/

It includes the philosophy, theology and religious studies journal holdings of 45 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 links to free electronic journals are also included. It is updated regularly.

Amendments and new contributions can be sent to Evelyn Cornell, The Main Library, University of Leicester. E-mail: ec37@leicester.ac.uk

Copies of the 2000 printed edition with holdings of 41 institutions are available from

Mrs Judith Powles, Librarian, Spurgeon's College, 189 South Norwood Hill, London SE25 6DJ

> £14.50 for non-contributors and £12 for contributors. Cheques should be made payable to ABTAPL

Please note that some holdings shown in the printed list are now incorrect More accurate holdings can be found on the website.

# GUIDE TO THEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES COLLECTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

\* \* \* \*

The Guide is currently being revised. Questionnaires have been sent out to libraries with entries in the last edition; most have been returned but if you have not yet done so, please do. If you have not received a questionnaire, it is available on the ABTAPL website, or contact Wendy Bell.

Also please contact her if you know of a library which should be included.

Wendy Bell, Librarian, Oak Hill College, Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 4PS, tel: 020 8449 0467 ext. 253; email: WendyB@oakhill.ac.uk

#### NOTICE OF MEETINGS

# 2004 Spring Residential Conference and Annual General Meeting

will be held at

University of Leicester

from

Thursday 15th April to Saturday 17th 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.

2004 Autumn Meeting

will be held at

**Heythrop College, London** 

on

Thursday 14th October

\* \* \* \* \*

#### BLACKWELLS PERIODICALS

Some time ago, I reported that we were in negotiation with Blackwells Publishing over a discounted rate for 2 further titles in our subject areas. Rachael Street of Blackwells Journals Marketing Division has confirmed that the discount is now in operation for the following 5 titles.

Heythrop Journal; International Journal of Systematic Theology; Modern Theology; Reviews in Religion and Theology; Teaching Theology and Religion

There are different rates according to whether an institutional (various options) or individual subscription is required. These are the 2003 rates.

#### Institutions:

Journal Print + Premium Online/Print + Standard Online /Online only

The Heythrop Journal £99/ £90/ £82

International Journal of Systematic Theology £141/ £128/ £115

Modern Theology £206/ £187/ £169
Reviews in Religion and Theology £146/ £132/ £119
Teaching Theology and Religion £147/ £134/ £120

#### Individuals:

Journal Print + Premium Online

The Heythrop Journal £33

International Journal of Systematic Theology £34

Modern Theology £26

Reviews in Religion and Theology £33

Teaching Theology and Religion £26

In order to obtain the discount, members need to contact Blackwells and inform them of their ABTAPL membership. (Blackwell's Customer Services Department: tel: 01865 778315). If you use a subscription agent, you may find that it is difficult to organize the discount. When we first obtained a discounted rate, some members found that they had to cancel their arrangement with the subscription agency and open a direct subscription. However the long term saving outweighs the initial hassle of doing this. Please let me know if you have any difficulties with this and I will talk to Rachael.

Judith Powles,

Spurgeon's College Library, email: j.powles@spurgeons.ac.uk

#### COPYRIGHT

The new copyright legislation came into force on 31st October. It may be thought that many changes will not affect theological and philosophical libraries as such but may have a major impact on more general academic and all public libraries.

The right of communication to the public gives the copyright owner the exclusive right to control putting any material onto a website. This would include work done by students in colleges. Penalties for infringing this can be criminal in nature.

Any copying of any kind which has a commercial element (not only "business" but even copying to research raising money for charitable causes) will now need to be done under licence. The same applies to private study.

There are restrictions on off-air recording when not done under the Educational Recording Agency licence and some other fine tuning in areas of educating and also performers rights which are strengthened in the new law.

Anyone with real anxieties is invited to get in touch with Graham Cornish at Copyright Circle. (Graham@copyrightcircle.co.uk)

A seminar on copyright issues is to be held in Newcastle upon Tyne on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003; details are on the Copyright Circle website (http://www.copyrightcircle.co.uk)

#### REPORT OF ABTAPL AUTUMN MEETING 2003

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2003, 19 members of ABTAPL gathered for the Autumn General Meeting at King's College, London, at its new home on the site of the former Public Record Office in Chancery Lane. A tour of the Maughan Library preceded the meeting with members being guinea pigs for a new audio guide being tried out for the first time on the public. Instead of being in one big group trailing round after the Librarian we were able to walk round at our own pace, headphones on, listening to a commentary about the Library's stock and services and snippets of information about the historic building. The Library collection supports the teaching and research interests of the Schools of Law, Humanities, Physical Sciences and part of the School of Social Science and Public Policy. It holds 750,000 items including books, journals, music scores, recordings and microfilms, and electronic titles are available via the internet. There seems to be every technological facility you could ask for and, combined with the grand surroundings, makes it an impressive library in which to study and work.

## The main points which arose from the meeting are:

- ♦ The changeover of Hon. Treasurers has not gone smoothly; there were problems with the bank and in transfering the membership database.
- The Constitution has been amended (see below)
- Venues for future meetings will be: Spring 2004 at Leicester University; Autumn 2004 at Heythrop College, London; Spring 2005 at Durham or possibly Edinburgh. Prague seems to be the favoured location for the Golden Jubilee Conference in Spring 2006. The Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association hold a residential conference every three years and have suggested a joint conference with ABTAPL, possibly in Dublin.
- ♦ The Guide to Theological and Religious Studies Collections of Great Britain and Ireland is being revised by Wendy Bell, Librarian at Oak Hill College, London.
- A publisher (Ashgate) has been agreed for the proposed Guide to Theological Librarianship. Suggestions on what should be included would be welcome
- The website has been revamped; links to libraries' OPACs would be useful.
- A seminar on conservation at Birmingham Central Library in July had been cancelled because there were not enough people able to attend; it

may be possible to hold it at a different time of year. There is also interest in a course on HTML, probably at Newman College, Birmingham.

Elizabeth Williams Partnership House Mission Studies Library London

AMENDMENT TO ABTAPL CONSTITUTION

The proposed amendment to the Constitution was passed at the Autumn General Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2003, as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

In section 4. Officers & Committee, subsection Report and Accounts, for "audited" substitute "independently examined", the subsection then to read "The Committee shall present an annual report (which may be verbal) on the work of the Association during the preceding year and shall present independently examined accounts to the Annual General Meeting".

Please amend your copy of the Constitution.

All members should have received a copy of the Constitution revised in 1996. Extra copies are available from the Hon. Editor, Marion Smith, Social Sciences, Central Library, Birmingham B3 3HQ, email: marion.smith@birmingham.gov.uk

\* \* \* \* \*

WEBSITE: LINKS TO MEMBERS' ONLINE CATALOGUES

ABTAPL's website now contains links to a growing number of the online catalogues of ABTAPL members. This is already proving to be a very useful search facility. If you would like to add a link to your institution's catalogue, please send the URL to Stephen Dixon at Newman College of Higher Education, Birmingham, email: s.dixon@newman.ac.uk

# REPORT OF THE 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BETH

The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of BETH was held at Brixen in the beautiful mountainous, fruit-growing region of the Italian Tyrol from 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2003. There were nineteen delegates, nine guests and one representative from the American Theological Library Association in attendance.

One of the first items of business was to welcome into full membership of BETH the Unione Romana Bibliotheche Ecclesiastiche (URBE), which is the association comprising fourteen ecclesiastical institutes in Rome.

A number of projects were presented to the assembly including:

- the Theology Portal (http://www.teologiportalen.dk), an initiative of the Royal Library of Denmark under the direction of Henrik Laursen;
- the project of the Diocesan library in Köln, Germany, a collaborative project of the university and the archbishopric, to put the entire collection in the diocesan library, the Cathedral library and the oldest manuscripts from the parish of Köln (some 20 libraries) on the web;
- the project of the German Catholic Library Association (AKThB) to put all catalogues of the theological libraries into a virtual library, including the smaller church libraries, but with a priority given to the scholarly libraries;
- the move and integration of the Theological Library in Tilburg (Netherlands) into the university library—within two years the books will be mixed with the collection of the university but will remain the property of the Faculty of Theology—and the necessity for a new building to accommodate all the books;
- the need for a depository library for theological periodicals in Europe;
- the ATLA Serials Exchange mechanism;
- the exchange of librarians both within Europe and with regional associations within ATLA;
- the *Index Theologicus* from the University Library in Tübingen, Germany, and the need for a French translation assistant so that the glossary can be presented in a tri-lingual format.

There was some discussion on the present BETH website, with various suggestions for improvement coming from the delegates. The assembly was assured that these suggestions would be taken into consideration as soon as possible. In addition, it was confirmed that an up-dated version of

the BETH brochure would be prepared before the end of the year in progress.

Perhaps the most important item of business on the agenda this year was the amendment of the constitution. Fortunately, the President and the Executive Committee had studied the constitution and the necessary amendments well; thus the proposed amendments were carried without any undue difficulty. The new constitution will be on the website in the near future.

Dr. Dennis Norlin, the Executive Director of ATLA, addressed the assembly, bringing us news of the latest developments in ATLA; he assured the delegates of ATLA's intention to continue the collaborative association between ATLA and BETH. Some information was given from our other associative contacts in Asia (ForATL), and in South America (LATIN).

The Assembly agreed that the members of BETH should continue the exchange of bulletins and we were informed that those of the Polish association (FIDES) and the Hungarian association (EKE) will both be issued now with contents lists in English.

It was agreed that the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly would be held in Lyons, France, in September 2004, one week earlier than the 2003 Assembly, if possible.

Both Marion Smith and I wish to thank ABTAPL for sending us as delègates to the BETH meeting; we believe that it is important for ABTAPL to continue to play an active part in BETH.

Dr. Penelope Hall ABTAPL Delegate/Secretary of BETH

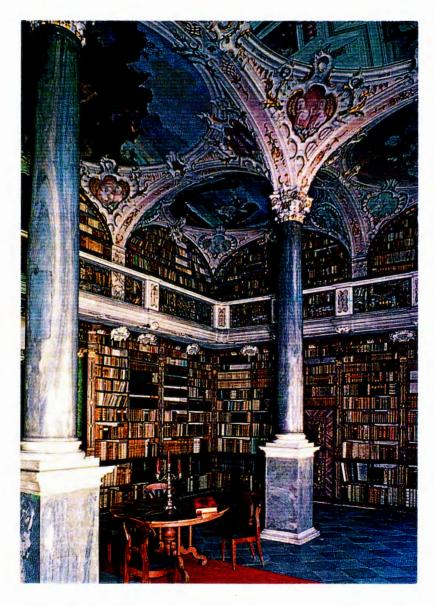
Brixen (Bressanone in Italian), was founded in 901 and is the third largest city in the South Tyrol (Alto Adige) region of north Italy. Evidence has been found of Stone Age inhabitants in the area, which became part of the Roman Empire in 15 BC. An episcopal see was transferred to the town in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century; in the 11<sup>th</sup> century it became the seat of an ecclesiatical principality, which was in constant conflict with the counts of Tirol. Brixen remained the centre of art and education throughout the Middle Ages; after its secularization in 1803 it became a provincial town, with its economic position finally recovering with the advent of tourism. The Alto Adige

region was part of the Tirolo province of Austria until it was ceded to Italy in 1918 and thus most people in the area have German as their first language.

The assembly was held at the Cusanus Akademie, situated next to the Priesterseminar. It was named after Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, who was Bishop of Brixen from 1452 to 1456 and one of the great theologians and philosophers of his time. Our host was Professor Stiglmair, Director of the Priesterseminar Library.

The Priesterseminar was founded in 1607, moving to new buildings between 1764 and 1771. These follow the design drawn up by Georg Tangl based on El Escorial in Spain, which we visited during last year's assembly. The Old Library, completed in 1772, is highly decorated, measures 11 by 8.8 metres and has two levels. The ceiling is supported by two pillars and has six panels, each surrounded by elaborate stucco work, depicting theology, ascetics, dogmatics, moral philosophy, jurisprudence, and rhetoric. Other panels represent saints and important figures from the history of the seminary. The Library houses more than 100,000 volumes, the oldest dating back to the private library of the Prince Bishops of Brixen. Illuminated manuscripts and early printed works are kept in a separate section and there is a large collection of Bibles in different languages. In recent years, new demands have been made on the seminary, such as the establishment of a theology course for trainee teachers of religion, and the provision of accommodation for the school of church music. These and the expanding collection of books necessitated alterations to existing buildings and the construction of lecture rooms and a new library, the work being completed in Spring 1990. The seminary church was restored in the mid-1980s.

The central focus of the town of Brixen is the Cathedral. Originally built in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, it underwent Romanesque alterations around 1200, with the new Baroque building and its frescoes completed in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The 14<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque Cloister contains some magnificent frescoes of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The "Hofburg" castle, formerly the residence of the Prince Bishops, now houses the diocesan museum, whose fine collection includes a vast array of cribs and scenes from the life of Christ.



This photograph (©Priesterseminar, Brixen) appears with the permission of Professor Stiglmair, Director of the Priesterseminar Library, Brixen.

Apart from conducting the business of the association, the delegates were treated to a number of interesting excursions and visits. Our arrival at the town of Dorf Tirol coincided with a colourful harvest festival procession. From there we walked through vineyards and apple orchards to the Schloss Tirol, which occupies an imposing site overlooking the valley below. Now a museum it was the ancestral castle of the Counts of Tirol, who gave their name to that region. It was the rulers' residence from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries but by the 16<sup>th</sup> century it had fallen into disrepair; during that period pilgrims continued to visit the miraculous relics kept in the chapel and people gathered annually to commemorate the dead rulers. In the 1880s restoration work began; in the 1960s an 11<sup>th</sup> century church was found in the crypt of the chapel and older remains were discovered in the 1990s.

The ancient city of Trent has had many rulers; occupied by the Romans who knew it as Tridentum, it passed from the Goths to the Lombards, and later became part of the Holy Roman Empire. From 1027 to the early 19th century it was an episcopal principality, until it was annexed to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and finally became part of Italy in 1918. This has resulted in a rich heritage of buildings in a variety of architectural styles, many decorated with frescoes, as well as important Roman remains including part of a theatre and of the town walls. The city became famous as the site of the 19th Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church held from 1543 to 1563, now known simply as the Council of Trent. Founded in 1903 the Diocesan Museum of Trent is housed in the Palazzo Pretorio, next to the Cathedral. From the early middle ages this had been the residence of the Prince Bishops of Trent until they moved to the Castello del Buonconsiglio in the mid 13th century. A special section of the Museum is devoted to paintings and objects relating to the Council of Trent, including Flemish tapestries representing the Passion of Christ, purchased in 1531 and used to decorate the hall where the sessions of the Council were held. Sessions were also held in the Cathedral and the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Our tour of the Cathedral included the Lower Basilica with its archaeological discoveries found during excavations made there between 1964 and 1977. The visit to Trent ended at the Castello del Buonconsiglio. now a museum, whose exhibits included a temporary exhibition of pianos and harps and where we were fortunate to be able to sit in on a short rehearsal for a concert.

A short bus journey from Brixen took us to Chorherrenstift Neustift, with its monastery founded in 1142 as an Augustinian canon foundation. It became one of the most important centres of learning, art, music and science in the

country; the foundation's economy was, and still is, based on viniculture. Our tour included a fine collection of the monastery's treasures; the monastery church, originally Romanesque, and redecorated in the Baroque style in 1742; the cloisters decorated with frescoes; and the library. Built between 1773 and 1780, the library is a well-proportioned room with a gallery, decorated with rococo stucco-work. Its stock of some 76,000 volumes covers eight centuries and provides a useful resource for modern writings and research. There is also a collection of illustrated manuscripts produced at the monastery from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Marion Smith ABTAPL Delegate

#### PROFESSOR P. DR. PAUL EISENKOPF

The death has been announced of Father Paul Eisenkopf on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003. From 1983 to 1987 and 1991 to 1997 he was the delegate of AKThB, one of the German theological library associations, to the Conseil International (BETH).

# REPORT ON THE 2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association was held in Portland, Oregon, from the 25th to the 28th of June. In the glorious natural setting of the Pacific Northwest, along the Willamette River, with views of snow-covered Mount Hood, it was tempting to spend more time touring than sitting in the meetings. Nevertheless, the host libraries in the Portland area - Multnomah Biblical Seminary, Western Seminary, Mount Angel Abbey and George Fox Seminary - did a very good job of organizing the conference and providing some time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

The plenary session on the first morning, entitled 'Formation for Christian Leadership: Wesleyan and Benedictine Reflections', gave us a glimpse of a

comparative and contrasting study of these two traditions. It was interesting to see how closely the two resembled one another, while remaining firmly within their two very distinct branches of the Church. The second plenary address, 'Searching for Paradise: Teaching and Media Culture in the Theological Context', was both entertaining and informative. Using many video clips from movies, television programs and pop music, Mary Hess illustrated the benefit of employing contemporary media in the classroom. Extrapolating from her premise, it is easy to make a case for establishing collections of contemporary media resources in the libraries.

Once again the ATLA Committee for International Collaboration hosted a luncheon for the international attendees. While we were eating we had opportunity to become acquainted with one another, and later we held an informal discussion on the needs of the libraries represented around the table, with some suggestions on how ATLA could be of assistance in meeting these needs. In an afternoon session on the following day, there was a formal panel discussion on international cooperation.

In the business sessions and the town meeting, the delegates discussed at some length the proposed amendments to their constitution, eventually coming to a majority decision on various points. The area of most interest to theological libraries and librarians outside of the United States and Canada was the creation of a new category of membership in ATLA. It is my understanding, this new international membership is particularly aimed at providing the possibility of membership in a theological library association to those libraries which are in areas of the world where no national organization exists; in addition, it gives access to the many invaluable products which are developed by ATLA. The ATLA leadership wants us to understand that in no way are they trying to encroach on their colleague associations in other parts of the world, but rather that because of a perceived need and a demand from libraries, most notably in Asia, they felt it both prudent and necessary to create a category for international members.

The closing banquet was held on the magnificent grounds of Mount Angel Abbey, where we were given a tour of the beautiful new library and a lovely meal, with dinner music provided by a string quartet.

Penelope R. Hall Representative of BETH

#### THE THEOLOGY PORTAL

The Theology Portal (http://www.teologiportalen.dk) offers quick and easy access to academic internet-based theological resources. It is primarily directed at researchers, teachers and students, but is also a tool for anyone searching for specific information in the field of Christian Theology.

Two different techniques are used to perform an automated selection from the resources on the internet.

Portal 1 makes a direct search in Google. The Portal delimits the search, so that it is a "search within results" in an existing search set which has been compiled by subject specialists.

In Portal 2 a search is performed within a delimited amount of resources on the internet, selected by experts.

The creation of the Theology Portal began as a national project under the auspices of the Danish Electronic Research Library; it is being developed in collaboration with the Royal Library of Copenhagen, the State Library in Aarhus and the Theological Faculty at the University of Copenhagen. More recently the project has been extended to provide a European Theology Portal with the collaboration of experts in different theological traditions from a wide range of countries.

The project coordinator, Henrik Laursen, is seeking more URL-selectors for Portal 2 and will be pleased to hear from librarians and members of the academic community.

More information can be found on the website or by contacting Henrik at the following address:

Henrik Laursen Det Kgl. Bibliotek Royal Library, 1016 Copenhagen Denmark Email: hhl@kb.dk

#### RESRELCH DATABASE

The Resrelch Database is now available on-line. To access it, you need to be a member of the Churches Theological Research Trust.

## The Churches Theological Research Trust

The Churches Theological Research Trust is a body that exists to promote cooperation in research in theology, religious studies and related areas amongst academics, and between academics and the churches. The chair of the Trust is the Rt Revd Professor Stephen Sykes, and other trustees are Professors Dan Hardy, David Fergusson and Drs Pamela Stotter, Paul Avis, Harriet Harris, Robin Greenwood, Paul McPartlan, Esther Reed and Adam Hood.

A primary activity of CTRT has been the setting up and maintenance of the Resrelch database of research in theology, religious studies and other areas relevant to the Christian churches. The Resrelch Database, which is owned by the Churches Theological Research Trust, has gone through 3 editions since it was first published in January 1997. The most recent edition contains around 5000 entries and aims to cover research going on in the UK and Ireland. Entries include those from most of the major university departments of theology and religious studies, many church and independent theological colleges, a number of church agencies and entries from people working in other spheres. The database has proved to be an invaluable resource for staff and postgraduate students.

The database has recently been put on the internet and is going through a further revision. Access to the database is via the CTRT website (http://www.ctrt.org). Access is given on payment of an annual charge, currently £80. This fee pays for membership of the CTRT and access to the database. The rate for CTRT membership and database access for individuals is £20. Institutional and individual members of CTRT are able to participate in the annual meeting of the Trust.

To arrange membership of CTRT and access to the Resrelch research database please contact: Dr Adam Hood, The Queen's Foundation, Somerset Rd, Birmingham, B15 2QH (e-mail: ah@queens.ac.uk)

## THE WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

by John A. Vickers

The creation of a library specializing in Methodist history was made possible when the Rev. Francis F. Bretherton, a long-standing and prominent member, bequeathed his library to the Wesley Historical Society in the 1950s. Its first location was in central London and its formal opening in the crypt of Wesley's Chapel, City Road, took place in April 1959. (It is a sobering thought that I may be the sole survivor of those present on that occasion!) When in 1972 the Chapel was found to be structurally unsafe and in urgent need of restoration, the library had to be hurriedly removed to a temporary home in the Methodist Archives Centre, then located in Epworth House lower down City Road.

The Chapel re-opened in 1978, but by then there were other ideas for the crypt, which now houses the Museum of Methodism. The Library found a new home at Southlands College, Wimbledon, before moving to its present location at what was then Westminster College and is now the Harcourt Hill campus of Oxford Brookes University, where it serves as the major resource for the Methodist Study Centre, recently renamed the Wesley Centre.

At the time of its opening Dr. Frank Baker had warned that it would be 'some months before a complete catalogue is available'. This proved to be a highly optimistic forecast! But during its rather troubled sojourn at Wimbledon the process of cataloguing began under Mrs. Joyce Banks, who is still the only professional among those who have held the office of WHS Librarian. A version of Dewey, modified for the purpose, was adopted. Not only books and pamphlets, but also leaflets, cuttings, illustrations and other ephemera were catalogued under her guidance and her work has more than proved its worth in making retrieval possible. Since the move to Oxford grants have made it possible to computerize the catalogue (now using TALIS). Work on the books and pamphlets is gradually nearing completion, but it seems unlikely that it will ever be possible to transfer the entries for the miscellaneous other items. At any rate, the card catalogue is being maintained and will continue indefinitely as a back-up.

In the early days security was not so much lax as non-existent, except that access was, at least in theory, restricted to members of the Society. Inevitably, books sometimes went astray and have continued to do so occasionally, but since the move to Oxford the bulk of the collection is in

locked stacks with restricted access. Only a selection of books likely to be needed for reference is on open shelving in the work room.

Over the years additions to the collection have been received from many individuals, and more recently from the Westminster College Library. Annual grants, first from Southlands College and more recently from Westminster College and now Oxford Brookes University, have enabled us to keep the collection up-to-date. An appeal to members of the WHS enabled us to set up a library fund, which has been used primarily for the rebinding of many volumes, making them safe to handle once more.

Until recently the Library had grown haphazardly and there was no collection development policy, apart from that of acquiring any new titles as they appeared. The existence of the catalogue has enabled us to identify many of the gaps in the collection, mainly by checking our holdings against standard bibliographies of Methodist literature. (Voluntary labour has been invaluable in this process.) The resulting list of 'missing' titles enables us to keep an eye open for any copies that may become available and some gaps have already been filled.

On the other hand, unwanted items have been identified and disposed of. These fall into two categories:

- (1) Because of the origin of the collection as a private library, a number of titles had no bearing on Methodism or its history. Many of these have been removed.
- (2) A set of duplicate copies has been assembled, but any further copies have not been retained. In both cases, the unwanted copies have been either offered to similar libraries or sold. This has helped to relieve the increasingly serious congestion on the shelves.

Originally it was possible for members of the WHS to borrow volumes for no more than the cost of any postage incurred. This was no longer feasible after the move from City Road, but with the development of the duplicate collection it may prove feasible to reintroduce this, despite an increasingly costly and unreliable postal service.

We have begun to broaden the scope of the collection in certain respects:

- (1) From the outset, its core was historical, rather than theological; but in recognition of the fact that its theology is part of Methodism's history we have begun to strengthen our holding of both academic and popular theological works. In this we have included biblical studies by Methodist authors, apart from biblical commentaries (with the exception of such important early examples as the commentaries by Wesley, Coke, Clarke and Benson).
- (2) We are also eager to extend our collection of popular Methodist writing, both devotional and general, as a reflection of what rank-and-file Methodists were reading, and also the contribution of Methodist authors to general literature.

This general trend is likely to continue under my successor, John H. Lenton, who took over responsibility for the Library in the summer of 2002. He can be contacted at jlenton@fish.co.uk.

For access to the library: Peter Forsaith at pforsaith@brookes.ac.uk.

Dr. John A. Vickers Emsworth

#### DOWNSIDE ABBEY LIBRARY

By Dom Daniel Rees

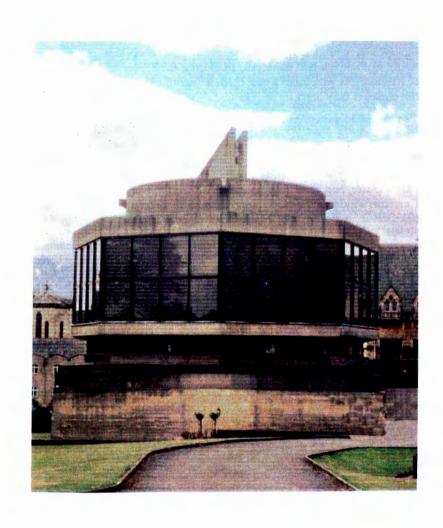
The members of ABTAPL took the occasion of their annual conference at Salisbury in April 2003 to visit the library of Downside Abbey in nearby Somerset. It must have been a rather unusual experience for many of them to see a library whose primary purpose is to serve the needs, spiritual, intellectual and even relaxational, of a community of about thirty monks, but which is at the same time available to outside readers who come in a steady trickle from all over the world to exploit its resources of books and manuscripts in many recondite areas, to research the history of their family or locality, to collect background information for television or film documentaries, or just to find a quiet place to write their sermons or prepare for examinations.

Benedictines throughout their history have always had a very special relationship with books, even in those times when, because of the material circumstances of their production before the age of printing and because of their cost in terms of human labour, books were very rare commodities. Nevertheless they had a great functional importance in the day-by-day life of the monastery. It is laid down in the Rule of St Benedict, written in the fifth century, that once a year at the beginning of Lent the Abbot should issue to each one of his monks a book to be read through from beginning to end, throughout the holy season. But throughout the year too the monks were expected to divide their waking hours, more or less equally, between the activities of prayer, manual work and lectio divina. This last practice, one which is regarded as a specifically Benedictine religious exercise, just as for Dominicans study is a form of prayer, is a special manner of reading which goes back to the Desert Fathers of Egypt in the third century. It means reading slowly, meditatively, savouringly, in order to surrender oneself to the Word of God which can be discerned in the particular author one has chosen. It is quite the opposite approach to that of many modern forms of reading which set out to master the material in a critical manner as rapidly as possible. Another reason for monasteries to have large holdings of books was that community meals always have to be accompanied by public reading. Finally there were all the different books that were needed for the daily liturgy. Books therefore were an essential part of a monastery's equipment, and at first it was customary to keep them in a chest (armentarium) in the cloister. Hence the play on words in the adage "Claustrum sine armentario est sicut castra sine armamentar" ("A monastery without a book-chest is like a fortress without an armoury"). In the cloister too would be found the Scriptorium, a few alcoves with desks, as can still be seen at Gloucester Cathedral, where monk-scribes copied books usually borrowed from other monasteries for that purpose. Sometimes the scribes have left personal traces in the marginalia of their manuscripts, complaints about the cold, their chilblains or the inferior quality of their ink and materials, imploring the reader to handle carefully the manuscripts which have cost them so many pains and threatening them with curses if they don't.

Monasteries are very long-lived, and, in the course of the centuries the number of manuscripts they owned could not fail to increase so that in time special buildings were needed to house their collections. A mediaeval monastic library was generally situated on the first floor of one of the sides of the cloister, and can easily be identified from the outside by its long row of narrow windows, regularly spaced, each to light up one of the bays of bookshelves, a pattern that can still be seen in the old library of Merton College, Oxford, and at Wells Cathedral.

When the monasteries were dissolved at the Reformation their great patrimony of books at first seemed fated to dispersal and destruction, as indeed happened to the books at the University's library in Oxford. Leland, in one of his itineraries, reports a visit to Malmesbury where he found torn pages of manuscripts littering the lanes and hedgerows. Wiser counsels later prevailed and many monastic books found a home in the royal library of Henry VIII who personally selected many of them, or in that of Archbishop Matthew Parker, no less discerning a collector, whose library is now to be found at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Three centuries later the suppressions by Joseph II and Napoleon of many monasteries in Central Europe brought about the transfer of their sumptuous Baroque libraries to centralised depots in universities like Munich. There were so many duplicate books as to create a glut in the antiquarian book market, and connoisseurs like Lord Acton were able to build up their own collections relatively economically.

The community now at Downside began its existence in 1607 at Douai, now in France, but then in the Spanish Netherlands, when some young Englishmen who had joined different Spanish monasteries were grouped together at a place where they would be poised for doing missionary work in their own country and where a school could be established at a convenient place for Catholic boys from England. Douai in many respects was like a transplanted Oxford or Cambridge with many colleges including



a number of English religious establishments. These comprised the University, now transferred to Lille; some of the English Benedictines were Professors. This academic orientation of the little English monastery required a continually growing library which by the time of the French Revolution comprised nearly 150,000 volumes. But when war broke out with England in 1793 the monks were expelled and their library plundered. Bonfires were made of all their theological books, as being especially contrary to Revolutionary principles, and the parchment manuscripts were used to make cartridges for bullets, their illuminated initials often being cut away by the girls working in the munitions factory for use on their birthday cards and valentines. When the fury subsided the books which survived were collected into some central depot and then apportioned to the departmental and municipal libraries where they remain to this day.

So the monks returned to England bookless; the few books which survive from the Ancien Régime did so because for some reason or other they were not in the Library when it was sequestrated, possibly because their borrowers had not been keeping the library rules. After a short interval at Acton Burnell in Shropshire, the community came to Somerset in 1814. The present library is housed in a six-storied polygonal building designed by Francis Pollen, the architect of Worth Abbey Church, and was completed in 1969 (see facing page). Previously the books were kept in corridors, cloisters, rooms and attics in the monastery, and it took eighteen months to relocate them in their new premises even with the help of twelve voluntary workers. Thirty years later the new library is itself almost replete with more than 100,000 books, about 200 incunables and fifty mediaeval manuscripts in addition to several hundreds of post-mediaeval provenance. Its holdings are very strong in Patristics, Scripture, Byzantinistics, Church History and Liturgy - those aspects of Positive Theology which were always favoured by Benedictines. The researches of Cardinal Gasquet, Abbot Cuthbert Butler, Abbot John Chapman and Dom David Knowles have ensured that its resources in Monastic History are unrivalled, but it is uneven in Systematic Theology, and weak in Moral Theology, Social Doctrine and Canon Law. There are also runs of about two hundred journals, most of them complete, and several thousand volumes of bound pamphlets.

Among the special collections are the Edmund Bishop Library, bequeathed by the great antiquarian liturgist of that name who had long hoped that Downside would evolve into a scholarly community like the famous Maurists, although this dream was unfulfilled because of the growth of the School. There is a virtually complete Recusant Collection of English

Catholic books published often secretly or abroad in Penal times, everyone of which is the equivalent of a detective story when it comes to cataloguing. This has been greatly strengthened recently by its being merged with the Gillow Library (formerly the possession of the Catholic Record Society), the library of St Scholastica's Abbey, Teignmouth (formerly at Pontoise, France), and the personal collection of David Rogers, formerly Keeper of Printed Books of the Bodleian, Oxford, and noted for the great Bibliography of English Catholic Books between 1558 and 1640 which he published jointly with A.F. Allison. He also bequeathed to us a great number of highly specialised books on Bibliography, as well as a collection of all the earliest editions of the works of St Francis de Sales, which matches the Cruise Collection of editions of the Imitation of Christ. Abbot Christopher Butler's books and papers on the Second Vatican Council are frequently consulted, as are also the seventeenth-century manuscripts of Dom Augustine Baker, so crucial for our knowledge of English fourteenth-century mysticism. There are many books and papers on the Modernist Controversy. Nonecclesiastical collections are one on sparrow-hawks donated by James Harting, a former pupil in the nineteenth century, and another of eighteenthcentury books on sun dials, which reached us through Mrs Alfred Gatty, who was the author of many Victorian children's books and an authority on English sea-weeds.

Visiting readers are always welcome, and the times of opening are very flexible, but they are requested to notify us in advance so that we can ensure that someone is available to receive them.

Dom Daniel Rees
The Library
Downside Abbey
Stratton-on-the-Fosse
Radstock
Bath BA3 4RH

Tel: 01761 235161; fax: 01761 235124

#### YORK MINSTER LIBRARY

In May 2003 the Dean and Chapter of York Minster announced its decision to close the Minster Library at the end of August for financial reasons. After much protest, the decision was reversed. The following is an extract from a statement to the press made by the Archbishop of York on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2003.

"Finally, perhaps the issue which has generated more media interest than any of the above, the Minster Library. As you know already I have had one meeting with the Chapter ten or so days ago and have just now come from a further meeting this morning. Both the Chapter and myself have received a considerable correspondence on this matter and I wish to express my thanks to all who have so corresponded. Many have made helpful and positive suggestions and I know that the Chapter has listened attentively and considered carefully all that it has received. The Chapter recognises that it has made an error of judgement. It got it wrong. I am pleased to inform you that at this morning's meeting the Chapter resolved that the Library will remain open and available for all with the one exception that the lending/borrowing facility will be withdrawn. All the books will remain where they are. They remain as accessible as they always have been. The Chapter intends to set up an Advisory Group which will contain outside independent members further to consider a wide range of matters for the future of the Library consequent upon this decision. I am sure that many associated with the Minster, this city of York and the wider world of study and scholarship will welcome Chapter's decision this morning."

The full press release, as well as a briefing paper regarding the future of the Library, dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2003, and details of the Advisory Group can be found on the York Minster website at http://www.yorkminster.org

#### REVIEWS

JONES, Wayne (ed) E-serials: publishers, libraries, users, and standards. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn. Haworth Press, c2003. ISBN 0789012308. \$39.95

The book comprises eighteen separate essays by different contributors representing different interests, covering nine aspects of electronic journals. An index is included as well as a detailed contents section, so it is fairly easy to find a relevant section. That having been said, I am not entirely sure why one would bother. I am at something of a loss to know for whom this book has been written. My instinctive feeling is that it might be suitable for those who need to bone up rapidly on the basics of e-serials, primarily, dare one say, students needing to write an essay. For the general reader, the fragmented nature of a collection of independent essays with minimal linking or overview is simply boring, if not frustrating, while for the practitioner with a need for specific information there are, I cannot help feeling, better ways of obtaining the relevant expertise. I was also disappointed by the uncritical attitude of some of the essays.

This second edition comes five years after the first edition, in which time there have been considerable developments in the field. My feeling, however, is that in such a rapidly moving field, a volume such as this is of limited value. Anyone interested in keeping up with developments will surely be scanning the journal literature anyway. The volume is, as intimated, fairly user friendly, although there is perhaps too much use of the "bullet-point" approach to essay-writing.

At £25 for a paperback version, however, I find it rather poor value for money. From the library acquisition point of view, it would be a necessary purchase if your collection policy covers electronic journals, or, conceivably, library operations. On a personal level, I would not buy it and it is a long way down my priority list for borrowing.

Robert Card The Librarian United College of the Ascension Birmingham LEICH, Harold M. (ed) Libraries in Open Societies: Proceedings of the Fifth International Slavic Librarians' Conference. New York: The Haworth Information Press, 2002. ISBN 078901968X. \$39.95

This book is a collection of the addresses given to the Fifth International Slavic Librarians' Conference which was held in Tallinn, Estonia, in July 2000. These papers, written by librarians who are working with Slavic collections in many different countries, reflect the most important developments in this field—Collection Development, Creation of Full-Text Databases, Aspects of Electronic Delivery, Exchange Mechanisms, Preservation, Digitizing, Website Development, and Journals in Slavic and East European Librarianship.

The majority of these papers contain valuable technical advice and, at the same time, provide helpful descriptive commentary on the implementation of various technical measures. It is apparent that librarians working in this field have had to overcome numerous obstacles and difficulties in maintaining and developing their collections, as well as in acquiring and setting up new information technology. Some of the most prevalent difficulties noted in these pages are: dealing with books and periodicals printed on highly acidic paper; destruction of collections by war, neglect, ignorance, political agendas and climate; the paucity of funding; communication difficulties in a multilingual context; and finding compatible cataloguing systems. The paper presented by the former Head Librarian of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kemal Bakaršić, entitled "Back Where We Started: Bosnia's Digital Archives," is particularly poignant in its description of the ravages of war on the library collections in that country and the heroic measures that librarians have taken to revive and restore the libraries there.

The accounts of international cooperation in these papers are inspiring; it is obvious that the multinational collaboration among librarians of Slavic and East European collections has been of great benefit to all involved. This book would be a valuable resource for any librarian working with Slavic and East European Collections.

Penelope Hall Edinburgh SMITH, Gregory A. (ed) Christian librarianship: Essays on the integration of faith and profession. Jefferson, N. Carolina; London: McFarland, 2002. ISBN: 0786413298. Paperback \$45.00

I first opened this book casually at page 52, my eye falling on the set of rules that used to be left on the table in the library at Westminster College, Cambridge University.

## Reading Room

- 1. Books and bound periodicals may be borrowed by members of the College by filling in a slip.
- 2. Unbound periodicals may not be borrowed.
- 3. If you decide to break the rule against unbound periodicals, please fill in and sign a slip.
- 4. Borrowed books and periodicals are to be returned to Bay B in the Library upstairs.

Now here is some good bed-time reading, I thought. It turned out to be rather more serious, however, addressing the weighty questions that confront the Christian professional at every turn in a society that is increasingly secular, and increasingly hostile to any form of religious commitment. Is there such a thing as "Christian librarianship"? If there is, what is its underlying philosophy? How in practical terms can one integrate personal Christian faith with one's day-to-day working practice in the field of library and information science?

The volume presents a collection of sixteen essays that together attempt to lay foundations for the discussion of the LIS profession from a distinctively Christian perspective. Some of the contributions have been published elsewhere, but are edited to fit the overall shape and purpose of this volume. The publisher's blurb states that the essays are divided into two main parts: the theoretical and the practical. In the event, however, there is a mixture of underlying principles and practical outworkings in both parts. The contributors are mostly LIS professionals, representing in addition a range of roles in religious and secular institutions, and diverse Christian

denominational backgrounds. There is a clear American bias: only three out of fourteen contributors are British (Rod Badams, Graham Hedges and Geoff Warren); the remainder are all American. Many issues are common to both sides of the Atlantic; but the discussion of Christian liberal arts colleges may be poorly understood by British readers, while American readers may not grasp the strength of the secularism that characterizes present-day British society.

Many of the topics touched on by the different authors are familiar and already much debated. They include the importance of an emphasis on service to library-users, ethical questions raised by collection-building and access to information, encounters with modern and postmodern cultures, multiculturalism, and Sunday opening. It was good to see an essay included on the less popular but equally important topic of partnership with library services in the developing world. I had misgivings about the contribution on "The role of the library in the character formation of the Christian college student". Such an agenda of conscious, deliberate input to the moral development of our student library-users is distinctly foreign to British culture and smacks to me of paternalism; but maybe it is appropriate within the context of an American Christian College, and maybe my reaction is influenced by the very postmodernism that we are warned against in other parts of the book.

As LIS workers, we are good at the practical bits, and like to talk about them. As Gregory Smith points out in his key essay (Chapter 6: A philosophy of Christian Librarianship), many people consider library science to be no more than "a complex of technical skills", and therefore not a fully-fledged academic discipline, and not something that needs philosophical underpinning. We are often much more interested in implementing technology and systems, than in the values that ought to characterize all our work. For this reason, while academic disciplines such as history and science have an increasingly solid philosophical base, there have been comparatively few attempts to develop a thoroughgoing philosophy of librarianship, with or without the distinctive Christian component. It seems to me, therefore, that the most interesting and innovative essays in this book are those that try to formulate just such a philosophical framework, or, at least, to define the principles that might undergird the daily practice of our profession.

In chapter 6, Gregory Smith summarizes and briefly critiques some of the attempts that have been made over the years to provide a principled

framework. These include the concept of professional excellence, the principle of sharing resources, the values of stewardship and service, the practice of virtue in the workplace, and the importance of positive interaction with other people, whether library-users or colleagues. These approaches, desirable as they are, do not appear to apply more particularly to the library environment than to any other working environment. Smith proposes an alternative approach that is especially relevant to the academic library, and that is based on what he calls "the apprehension of truth". This, he maintains, should be "the highest concern of the Christian college and university", and the academic library plays a key role in apprehending truth and in making its multiplicity of forms available to its readers, enabling them to become "lifelong Christian thinkers". He then unpacks how this philosophy affects what the library does, and how it does what it does.

Here at last we have a framework that opens up possibilities for further discussion, along with the important reminder that the concepts and presuppositions that underly our work do have far-reaching effects on the library and information services that we run and on the people who use them. For those who wish to develop the debate further, the book includes a thorough index and an excellent selective bibliography.

Elizabeth Magba Tyndale House Cambridge

#### **NEWS AND NOTES**

# American Theological Library Association

The ATLA Religion Database, already containing more than 1,400,000 records, continues to expand as more pre-1949 indexing is added and new journal titles are selected for indexing in the future. The Ten Year Subset of the Database contains nearly 400,000 records, including citations for book reviews, journal articles and essays from 1993 to 2003. The institutional subscription price for the Subset has been reduced to \$1,000 for the year 1st September 2003 to 31st August 2004.

Coverage of titles in the ATLAS serials database continues to expand. From August 2003 it will be updated quarterly, rather than bi-annually. For more information see the ATLA website (http://www.atla.com)

# **Changes of Address**

The Inter Faith Network for the UK is now at 8A Lower Grosvenor Place, London, SW1W 0EN; tel: 020 7931 7766; fax: 020 7931 7722; email: ifnet@interfaith.org.uk; website: www.interfaith.org.uk.

Thorold and Lyttelton Library, Winchester Cathedral. The contact address is now: c/o Church House, 9 The Close, Winchester, SO23 9LS.

## **Edinburgh Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies**

The ECMCS is an independent study centre with the aim of facilitating Christians in the academic study of Islam and Muslim-Christian dialogue, and of promoting Muslim-Christian studies, in cooperation with Edinburgh University's department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. Contact: ECMCS, PO Box 23510, Edinburgh EH8 9ZA, tel: 0131 668 3222; email: info@ecmcs.org.uk; website: http://www.ecmcs.org.uk

## Index Theologicus Database

This CD-Rom database compiled by the University Library in Tübingen currently contains more than 210,000 bibliographical references from articles in journals, Festschriften and conference volumes. It is published by Mohr Siebeck, PO Box 20 40, D-72010 Tübingen, Germany, fax: +49 707151104. Single site version €49; network version €199 per annum.

## Librarians' Christian Fellowship

LCF's 2004 Annual Conference, with the theme "Spreading the Net", will be on 24<sup>th</sup> April at College Hall, Malet St., London. See the LCF website at http://www.librarianscf.org.uk

#### **Publications**

Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures is a 6 volume work published by Brill. (ISBN 9004132473) Volume 1 is published in November 2003. Further details at http://www.brill.nl

The publication is planned in February 2004 for Lamspringe: an English Abbey in Germany comprising essays by members of the English Benedictine Congregation and others to mark the second centenary of the suppression of the Abbey in 1803. Contact The Archivist, Ampleforth Abbey, York YO62 4EN, email: archive@ampleforth.org.uk

#### WEBSITES

ATLA COOPERATIVE DIGITAL RESOURCES PROJECT

http://www.atla.com/digitalresources/

Provides free access to digital resources of some 2500 images.

BRITISH PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION http://www.britphil.ac.uk

CHURCHES THEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TRUST http://www.ctrt.org

COLUMBA PRESS

http://www.columba.ie

#### CONSORTIUM OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH LIBRARIES

http://www.cerl.org

Aims to share resources and expertise to improve access to, preservation and exploitation of, the European printed heritage.

ENRICH UK http://www.EnrichUK.net
Gateway to 150 websites supported by the New Opportunities Fund digitise programme

FIND A CHURCH http://www.findachurch.co.uk Directory giving information on 33,000 UK churches

MOVING HERE http://www.movinghere.org.uk
Information and images of 200 years of migration to England

NATIONAL ARCHIVES http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

SIKH CYBER MUSEUM http://www.sikhcybermuseum.org Celebrates 300 years of Anglo-Sikh history

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF AUTHORSHIP, READING AND PUBLISHING http://www.sharpweb.org

THROSSEL HOLE BUDDHIST BOOKSHOP

http://www.buddhistsupplies.co.uk

UNIONE ROMANA BIBLIOTHECHE ECCLESIASTICHE http://www.urbe.it

Association of Ecclesiastical Libraries in Rome

# 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 2003. Includes results of a member survey and an article offering advice on defence against computer hackers.

Association des Bibliothèques Chrétiennes de France Bulletin de Liaison, no. 123, June 2003.

Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association Newsletter No. 49, April 2003 and no. 50, August 2003. No. 49 has the theme "One-person libraries" and has a report on the ForATL conference. No. 50 includes papers from the 2003 annual conference on the theme "Nurturing Theological Education" and the 2001 ANZTLA statistics.

Diözesan- und Dombibliothek Köln Analecta Coloniensia No. 1, 2001.

Forum of Asian Theological Librarians ForATL News Vol. 1, no. 1, June 2003. Covers the 3<sup>rd</sup> ForATL Consultation

Librarians' Christian Fellowship Christian Librarian, No. 27, 2003 and Newsletter Summer/Autumn 2003.

Vereniging van Religieus-Wetenschappelijke Bibliothecarissen VRB Informatie 32 (1-4) 2002.