



BULLETIN

of the

*Association of British Theological
and Philosophical Libraries*

New Series, no.1 December 1974

BULLETIN 1975

Subscriptions: Libraries £2.00 (or \$5.00 U.S.) per annum
Individuals £1.00
to the Honorary Treasurer (see below)

News items, notes and queries, advertisements and contributions to the
Chairman (see below)

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**BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH
THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARIES**

New series, no. 1, Edinburgh, December, 1974

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This Bulletin should explain itself. Its history from 1956-66 and the purpose of the Association are discussed in the chairman's article on page 12. It is planned to issue three numbers a year, in Spring, Summer and Winter. It is intended to be brief, informative and cheap.

This issue is being distributed free to libraries and librarians interested in religion and philosophy. Nos. 2, 3 and 4 will be sent to those who pay the subscription at the appropriate rates for 1975. Individuals (who are asked to give their private address as well as that of their library) will also receive invitations to meetings. Libraries where philosophy and religion are in any way separately administered from the main collection are invited to name an ABTAPL representative.

ABTAPL in 1974

King's College visit

On 28th March about 20 members gathered at King's College Library, University of London, for a talk on the library by Mr Kenneth Garside, the Librarian. He explained the history and relationship of the numerous subject department libraries, and the concentration into two properly supervised areas made possible by the occupation of the New Library on the Strand front in 1971. The theology library with ecclesiastical history and the related classics and Byzantine and modern Greek libraries remained in the Old Library, close to the Theology Department and that masterpiece of Victorian ironwork, the College Chapel. The visit included a tour of the New Library block which housed the main administration, reading rooms and stackrooms. (A fuller account of this reorganization was given by Mr Garside in the ABTAPL Newsletter of June, 1972.)

Bible House visit

Miss Geraldine Coldham, librarian of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was hostess to 23 members of the Association on 8th November. She gave an introductory talk on the unrivalled historical collection of Bibles, the vicissitudes of its cataloguing and the struggle for adequate and secure shelving. Ample opportunity was given for examining the large permanent exhibition of Bibles and related material in many languages, together with other bibliographical treasures, some only recently acquired. It is hoped to include this library in ABTAPL Bulletin's libraries series soon.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM preceded the Bible House visit on 8th November. A new vice-chairman and secretary were elected. (The list of officers and committee is on the front inside cover.) Institutional and personal subscriptions were decided, the treasurer's accounts were approved and he agreed that the first issue of the new Bulletin could be issued free. The chairman's plans for publication of the Bulletin on the lines agreed at the previous AGM were approved. A number of suggestions for future meetings were noted for action by the officers.

MEETINGS IN 1975

Publishing of religious books

Following the two London visits in March and November, 1974, to King's College and the British and Foreign Bible Society, it is planned to hold a meeting in the context of the annual conference of the University, College and Research Section of the Library Association on Saturday 5th April, 1975.

Personal members of ABTAPL and representatives of libraries who/which are not L.A. members will also be invited to all or part of the conference which lasts from 4th-6th April and will be held at the University of Surrey at Guildford.

The main theme of the papers given will be publishing as it affects college and research libraries. Topics include the present and future economics of book production, the Open University publishing programme, micropublishing and non publishing! On the Saturday evening the conference will divide into five or six parallel discussion groups. One of these is to be led by the Rev. John Bowden, managing director and editor of S.C.M. Press, on the publishing of religious books.

The Saturday afternoon will be occupied by a choice of excursions, one of which will be to Chichester Cathedral's historical library. Further details will be circulated early in the New Year.

A meeting in London will also be arranged for the autumn, 1975.

LIBRARIES – 1

Birmingham Public Libraries – Philosophy & Religion Department
Paradise, Birmingham, B3 3HQ. 021-235 4547

Reference Library founded 1866; Philosophy & Religion Dept.,
organized 1971.

Librarian of Philosophy & Religion Dept: Mrs J.P.R. Henderson,
B.A., A.L.A.

Function: Regional reference library for general public and
university and college students. Diocesan Record Office.

Coverage: Philosophy, Christian and non-Christian religions.
Acquires most major works in English and a selection in
major foreign languages.

Stock: 50,000 volumes, 200 current periodicals. MSS in Local
Studies Library and Diocesan Record Office. Newspaper cuttings
file (national and denominational).

Special collections: Rosicrucian collection, c. 300 items; Evangelical
library, c.150 items; British Israel World Federation, c. 80 books
and pamphlets; Thomas Bray Library, parish of Sheldon,
c. 380 vols; Thomas Hall Library, parish of King's Norton,
c. 1,100 vols.

Classification: Dewey Decimal.

- Catalogues: 1a. Name catalogue for items acquired 1879-1963
b. Name catalogue for items acquired 1963-1973
c. Cassette microfilm name catalogue 1974-
2. Alphabetical subject index
3a. Classified catalogue for items acquired 1879-1963
b. Cassette microfilm classified catalogue 1973-
4a. Serials catalogue
b. Union serials cassette microfilm catalogue
(includes holdings of Birmingham Univ. Lib. and
Aston Univ. Lib.)
5. Catalogue of MSS in process of compilation

Access: Open for reference only to all members of the public, Mon. – Fri.
9 a.m. – 8.30 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Inter-library loans through
BLLD for reference use only. Member of Birmingham Libraries
Co-operative Mechanization Project (for computer based catalogues).
Xerox, photostat, microfilming, etc. available.-

continued on page 6

LIBRARIES – 2

Sion College

Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y ODN. 01-353 7983

Librarian: Miss J.M. Owen, B.A., A.L.A.

History: Sion College was founded at the bequest of Dr Thomas White, Rector of St Dunstan-in-the-West (c. 1624) as a college for the clergy of the City of London, and was established in 1631 on a site in Aldermanbury. The present building, designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, was opened in 1886.

Function: To provide lending and reference facilities for readers with general or specialist interest in the subjects covered by the library.

Coverage: Theology and Church history, particularly Anglican.

Stock: Approximately 100,000 volumes, 50 periodical titles.

Special Collections: The Port Royal Library (about 400 works relating to, or by, members of the Abbey of Port Royal); Bishop Edmund Gibson's pamphlet collection of about 400 volumes of late 17th-early 18th-century general pamphlets; the Rev. J. Russell's collection of (mainly) early 19th-century pamphlets of general interest, in another 400 volumes, and the Rev. W. Scott's 200 volumes of pamphlets of ecclesiastical interest from the early to middle 19th century.

Classification: W.H. Milman's scheme, 2nd ed. 1889.

Catalogue: Current card catalogue to cover all subjects in the Library when completed; John Spencer's printed catalogue of 1650, William Reading's printed catalogue of 1724, a printed catalogue of the Port Royal collection (1898), and manuscript catalogues for the pamphlet collections.

Access: Members of the college, clergy and lay, may borrow books on payment of a nominal subscription (particulars from the Hon. Secretary). Available to public for reference purposes. No facilities for documentary reproduction.

Publications: Leaflet containing a brief description of the College and Library: J. Russell: *Sion College* (1859); W.H. Milman: 'Some Account of Sion College' (*London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Transactions* vol. 6, 1890); E.H. Pearce: *Sion College and Library* (1913); E. Edmondston: 'Unfamiliar Libraries IX: Sion College' (*Book Collector*, vol. 14, no. 2, 1965).

continued from p.4

- Publications:
1. Guide to the Department
 2. Information sheets on special collections and sources of frequently requested information
 3. Book lists
 4. Guide to religious periodical literature (bi-monthly)
- Other features:
1. Index to c. 2,500 national and local philosophical and religious organizations, with a file of their publicity
 2. Analytical indexing of major theological journals
 3. Index and file of c. 3,000 specimen periodicals
 4. Index to patron saints by subject

SOCIETIES – 1

Institute of Religion and Theology of Great Britain and Ireland

Founded: 1973

Officers: (1974)

President – Prof. H.D. Lewis, King's College, London

Vice-President – (England) Prof. H. Chadwick, Christ Church, Oxford.

(Ireland) Prof. E. McDonagh, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

(Scotland) Prof. T.F. Torrance, New College, Edinburgh.

(Wales) The Most Rev. the Archbishop of Wales (Dr G.O. Williams)

General Secretary – Prof. N. Smart, Lancaster University.

Assistant Gen. Secretary – Rev. I. Calvert, Forton Rectory, Newport, Shropshire.

Treasurer – Rev. J. Langdon, Moray House College of Education, Edinburgh.

Aims: (1) To collect and distribute information helpful to the teaching of and research in religion and theology among the institutions of higher education in Great Britain and Ireland.

(2) To facilitate co-operation between such institutions and the learned societies concerned.

(3) To provide a focus point for individual scholars.

Publications: (1) Handbook, 1974-75 – lists member institutions and courses available (published November 1974) £2.00 (£1.00 for those belonging to member institutions).

(2) Current research (publ. 1974) – lists academic theses in theology and religious studies in progress or recently completed. 35p.

(Both available from the Assistant General Secretary).

(3) [Proposed] Occasional bulletin.

- (4) [Proposed] Reports of proceedings, papers communications, etc.

Other activities [proposed]: Conferences, exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes and discussions.

Membership: Open to (1) Faculties and Departments of Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies in British or Irish universities

- (2) Departments in Colleges offering tuition leading to a degree
(3) Learned societies
(4) Individuals concerned with the scholarly study of religion and theology at a level acceptable to the Membership Committee.

Recently published

THE SCOTTISH CHURCH, 1688 - 1843

THE AGE OF THE MODERATES

Andrew L. Drummond and James Bulloch

This study, the first for many years to deal with this intriguing period of Scottish church history, is concerned not only with the life of the Christian church but also with its relationship with the secular community, and, consequently, with the nature of Scottish nationality after the country had been deprived of its parliament in 1707, thereafter suffering neglect and indifference by Westminster for a century and more. The broad approach of the two noted authors will commend itself as much to general readers and historians of secular affairs, as to church historians.

Cased £4.00 net

THE SAINT ANDREW PRESS: EDINBURGH

BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND REFERENCE BOOKS – 1

Handbook, Institute of Religion and Theology of Great Britain and Ireland

Subject: University and college teaching of theology, etc.

Publisher: Rev. I. Calvert, Assistant General Secretary, Institute of Religion and Theology, Forton Rectory, Newport, Shropshire.

Frequency: Annual (first ed., 1974/75, publ. November, 1974).

Coverage: Institutions of higher education in Great Britain and Ireland.

Contents: Foreword

List of Officers and Council

Address list of institutional and individual members

Aims; membership qualifications; constitution

List of learned journals

List of learned societies

Acknowledgments and explanations

List of institutions (without addresses) arranged by type (universities, theological colleges, colleges of education) and sub-arranged geographically (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland).

List of courses in religion and theology (pages 26-76) at degree or higher levels arranged by type of institution and sub-arranged geographically. Details given of faculty or department responsible, qualification obtainable, choice of subjects at each level.

Indexes: None

Comment: Chiefly useful for its principal element, the list of courses in religion and theology in British and Irish universities and colleges. Incomplete because based on questionnaires, but a high response rate appears to have been achieved.

Entries are much fuller than those of the U.C.C.A. annual handbook *How to apply for admission to a university* (Universities Central Council on Admission, Cheltenham, 1974); or the *Handbook of Colleges and Departments of Education, England & Wales, 1975* (publ. Bradford, June 1974); or *Graduate studies 1974/75*, ed. J.C. Tomlinson and Jenny Knight (Careers Research & Advisory Centre, Cambridge, 1974); but naturally not so full as in calendars and prospectuses of the universities and colleges themselves. I.R.T. Handbook is the only one which attempts to bring together information on higher university degrees and all the university and non-university courses available in this subject field.

The institutional/geographical arrangement would be easier to follow if the other otiose lists of institutions were turned into indexes to the main sequence, in the style of *A directory of religious studies programs. Departments of Religion in North America*, compiled by Robert Wright (Council on the Study of Religion, Waterloo, Ontario, 1973). A subject index to courses in the style of the U.C.C.A. handbook would make the list doubly valuable.

It is difficult to see the purpose of the very incomplete lists of learned societies and journals. Nothing but the titles are given, and the journal list looks like the holdings of a backwoods college of monoglot English-speakers specializing in anthropology.

The production, by an anonymous litho printer, in reduced typescript, is very neat and clear, but vitiated by poor proof-reading.

Cost: £2.00 (£1.00 to those belonging to member institutions).

OTHER RECENT BRITISH PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE *World religions in education, 1974* selected by Brian E. Gates, principal lecturer in religion, University of London, Goldsmiths' College. Produced in conjunction with a travelling exhibition available from the N.B.L. (7 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BB, 35p — 30p for members).

A 26 page booklet listing 260 currently available books in English from U.K. and U.S. publishers. Not annotated, but carefully arranged by subject: A The religions of the world (12 sub-sections); B Themes in Religion (e.g. Ethics and war; Treatment in novels); C Teaching religion (again sub-divided by religious tradition and subject).

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES *A guide to the religious serials and periodicals held in the Metropolitan Special Collections, 1974* A second edition listing A yearbooks and directories; B periodicals; C learned society publications; D title index. A somewhat bizarre selection of titles with holdings in many cases spasmodic until recent years emphasizes the financial and geographical limitations of the scheme.

The list is very useful however for the descriptive annotations on each title by Peter G. Jackaman. The clear duplicated typescript (26 pages, foolscap) does not disappoint the expectations raised by its striking green, white and black cover.

INSTITUTE OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND *Current research*, 634 titles of theses and dissertations in theology and religious studies, July 1974 (35p I.R.T., Forton Rectory, Newport, Shropshire).

36 valuable pages based on returns from I.R.T. member institutions in Autumn 1973. Lists work in progress or recently completed. Arranged by broad subject headings followed by a detailed index. Future editions are intended annually. If they avoid blurred pages and misprints and include indexes of authors and institutions they will be of greater value. Perhaps the University of Durham will also agree to identify its band of anonymous thesis writers.

The Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries – a personal view of its past, present and future – Part 1

John V. Howard

Original aims

ABTAPL was founded in 1956 to bring together librarians working with or interested in theological and philosophical literature in Great Britain. Its purposes were to improve the bibliographical information available, to bring to light some of the little known collections on these subjects, and to help the smaller libraries that lacked professional expertise.

The Bulletin

An assessment of the Association's success or failure, and the reasons for either, seem to me a useful part of any discussion of its future. The chief evidence on which any assessment must be based is the written record, which in this case is the file of twenty four numbers of the *Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries* issued between November, 1956, and September, 1966. In my opinion, the Bulletin is not only the evidence, it was also the success of ABTAPL.

It achieved, in varying degrees, all the three purposes mentioned. It published a long series of articles describing theological libraries in London and other parts of Britain, it carried notices of bibliographical and reference works, and there were features on professional matters like classification (of theological libraries, of Indian religions, and of the Dead Sea Scrolls) and the national library system and inter-library lending. It also carried organizational news, announcements, reports of meetings, and other notices for members.

Local meetings

The organization of local meetings was another successful aspect of the Association, though strictly speaking, the London meetings were arranged by SCOTAPLL, the *Standing Conference of Theological and Philosophical Libraries of London*. There was also one meeting each in Oxford, Canterbury and Durham. All these meetings naturally added to the professional or subject knowledge of the members, but also provided the essential personal contact which is necessary for carrying on any cooperative enterprise.

R. Thomas and R.L. Collison

The leader of this enterprise was the Rev. Roger Thomas, formerly

Librarian of Dr Williams's Library, who was also one of the organizers of SCOTAPLL in 1948. Also associated with both organizations was Robert L. Collison, then Reference Librarian of Westminster City Libraries, later Librarian of the B.B.C. and, till 1972, Professor of Library Science in the University of California at Berkeley.

SCOTAPLL

SCOTAPLL achieved success with working party type meetings which led to cooperative projects such as the 1951 Directory of the relevant London libraries, showing service and stock, and the introduction, in 1953, of a joint reader's ticket which served as an introduction to a whole group of libraries. After 1956 it existed alongside ABTAPL as a regional branch of the national association, functioning in the spheres of library cooperation and the arrangement of local visits. In 1964 it ceased to have a separate existence and its funds were transferred to ABTAPL. Regional branches were also proposed for East Anglia and Oxford, but even the latter held only one meeting.

R.J. Hoy and Julia Statham

The most sustained individual contribution to ABTAPL was that of Reginald J. Hoy, a member of the library staff of the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London). He edited the Bulletin with infectious enthusiasm from 1956 till just before his early death in 1962. Mrs Julia Statham of King's College Library (University of London) succeeded him, publishing a series of scholarly articles of bibliographical and bibliothecal interest until she had to relinquish the editorship in 1966.

1966 – 1973

The importance of the Bulletin to the Association is shown by the fact that with no Bulletin there was virtually no Association. Miss Irene Feltwell of the National Central Library, the honorary secretary, continued the correspondence of a central inquiry office, but until 1974 the only meetings held have been the Annual General Meetings of 1967, 1971, 1972 and 1973, and a visit to Heythrop College Library newly transferred to London, in Cavendish Square.

Why in the doldrums

This cavalier account has omitted many events and most of the participants, though some of each can yet be mentioned in discussing the future. If ABTAPL was becalmed, it was not that the crew were resting on their oars, but that the active members were too few and had been claimed by

vessels on more urgent courses. This lack of leaders was the weakness then, and is still. In this country there are many theological libraries, and very many libraries with collections on philosophy and religion. But many libraries in small theological colleges and seminaries do not have the funds to support a full-time qualified librarian, and the staff member responsible usually has other more pressing responsibilities. At the other end of the scale, the large general libraries, national, university and public, have substantial collections but few are organized on a subject basis which allows qualified staff to devote themselves particularly to these fields. In between these two types of library there are few independent or quasi-independent libraries which are sufficiently well staffed to employ more than one qualified librarian. This is the main difference between the British and the American scene, where the number of libraries in this third category provide the American Theological Library Association with a personal membership of 388, of whom 269 attended their 1972 conference (in Canada). Yet in Britain there are too few professionally qualified librarians, too few employed full time, and too few subject specialists.

Future membership

But there are signs that the position is changing. The number of small theological colleges in several denominations has diminished by closures and amalgamations, reducing the number of part-time librarians and perhaps increasing the size and effectiveness of the libraries remaining. The number of university libraries has increased, more qualified staff are employed in all of them, and some have an element of subject specialization in their development of stock and staff. In 1956-66 there were few ABTAPL members from university libraries. I hope these libraries will now contribute an increasing number of members to the Association.

Institutional or personal

Membership in the past appears to have been based on institutions rather than individuals, and when most of the active member libraries were small, their librarian was the representative. Individual membership was available at half the institutional rate, but when the main benefit was receipt of the Bulletin there was less encouragement to other individuals to join. Perhaps this emphasis should be altered.

“And Philosophical”

Another point of emphasis that might be altered is the neglect of the “Philosophical” half of the Association’s title. Most of the contents of the

Bulletin and most of the other activities and proposals have revolved round theology and religion. This is probably because the interests of the smaller theological libraries have been uppermost. If the future programme is to be of value to the larger general libraries, public or university, the bibliography of philosophy will have to be cultivated as well as that of religion, for if they flourish in that soil at all, they tend to bloom together.

Future programme

The new committee of ABTAPL, following the resolutions of the Annual General Meetings of 1972, 1973 and 1974, propose future activities along these lines:

1. Regular talks and visits to appropriate libraries in Greater London;
2. Revival of the *Bulletin*, for current information on the bibliography and librarianship of religion and philosophy;
3. Publication of a *Directory of Theological Libraries in Britain*;
4. Possible compilation of *British Union List of Serials in Religion*.

Comments on the programme

(1) I referred to the double value of such meetings earlier. The limitations of distance, time and money oblige us to concentrate efforts in the area where the greatest number of likely libraries exist. But I hope that meetings in other centres may be possible occasionally, perhaps in conjunction with other associations.

(2) The revived *Bulletin* is here at last. But it will be a short revival if all the work is left to one person, as happened before.

(3) Preparations for this *Directory* began in 1964, when students attending the course for the Library Association's examination in the literature and librarianship of religion and philosophy were helping Mr Philip W. Plumb in surveying relevant libraries. When the subject was omitted from the L.A. professional examinations, the work lapsed. Mr Plumb circulated a revised questionnaire in November, 1972, which has had a good response. We hope to publish some of the information separately in the *Bulletin* as well as in *Directory* form.

to be concluded

HANDBOOK OF THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES

Over 250 replies have been received to the questionnaire sent out for ABTAPL in November 1972. Editing of these is still in progress, but it is planned that publication of a handbook or directory of libraries actively interested in, or with significant theological collections, will be ready for publication in 1975. This project is assisted by a grant from The Library Association.

Any librarian with such a collection in Great Britain or Ireland who has not returned (or has not received) a questionnaire should write immediately to —

Mr Philip W. Plumb,
Polytechnic Librarian,
North East London Polytechnic,
Forest Road,
LONDON, E17 4JB.

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