

Hans Arns

Honorary Life Membership

Hans commenced work at what is now the Catholic Institute of Sydney in October, 1976 and retired at the end of 1996 after supervising the move from St. Patricks College at Manly to new premises at Strathfield at the beginning of that year.

His work for our Association has been from its formation and in conferring this Honorary Life Membership we take the opportunity of outlining his work on the wider theological library scene.

In 1977 a group of librarians in Sydney formed the Association of Theological and Religious Studies Libraries and Hans was elected the inaugural President. He also edited the last issues of the Association's journal *Syndesmos* in 1978-79.

In 1978 he, together with Robert Withycombe (of St. Mark's Library, Canberra), initiated a national consultation of theological librarians held in Melbourne. A further consultation was held in Sydney in 1979. It was not until 1983 that a further national consultation was held. This was held in Brisbane and was the first of the consultations held under the auspices of ANZATS. At this consultation Hans presented a survey of theological libraries in Australia.

He was involved in the two further consultations held in 1984 (Sydney) and 1985 (Adelaide). At the Adelaide consultation the decision was made to establish the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association and Hans was elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Provisional Executive.

Hans was elected to the same position on the Executive at the inaugural Conference held in 1986 and held the position until 1989. He has been actively involved in most of the Conferences since then both as participant and on a number of occasions as speaker. He also contributed a number of articles to the Newsletter.

Hans' most outstanding contribution to our Association would be in connection with AULOTS. In the early 1980's the need to update the listing of journal holdings compiled by Fr. John O'Rourke was apparent and the task of editing this update was undertaken by Hans. In 1983 the first edition of AULOTS was published by the Association in conjunction with the National Catholic Research Council. At the 1987 conference it was decided to update this edition and again Hans was appointed editor. The second edition appeared in 1990 this time in conjunction with the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Hans' commitment to our profession and to its highest standards together with his willingness to share his enthusiasm and expertise with others more than qualify him for this Honorary Life Membership.

Kim Robinson

