

President's Report

1999 / 2000

On the occasion of the fifteenth annual conference I take the opportunity to advise members of the work that the Executive and others have done since we last met in Adelaide.

The Executive has been able to meet on three occasions during the year. At the meeting in July the decision was made to establish a sponsorship programme for theological librarians of the Pacific region. The programme is available to subsidise attendance at ANZTLA conferences, for the purchase of professional resources, for training or education (including travel) and to subsidise expert assistance or consultancies. The scheme was advertised and the Executive approved the application of Semiti Ravatu of the Pacific Theological College for assistance in attending the 2000 conference. Recent political events in Fiji have meant that, at the time of writing, we are unsure if Semiti will be able to attend the conference. If he is unable to attend the offer will be held over for the 2001 conference.

The issue of an ANZTLA home page was raised and the Executive feel that this is a matter of prime importance. The issue is to be discussed as part of the New ANZTLA Projects paper being delivered on Saturday morning and it is hoped that at that meeting progress will be made for the establishment of a home page at the earliest possible date.

The production of ANZTLA brochures to promote the Association and its publications is another area the Executive has been working on. It is envisioned that two brochures be produced – one to promote membership and the other to promote the Association's publications. The issue of membership of the Association is of concern to the Executive. Currently there are about 93 members (with approximately 30 of these being non-financial). We need actively to promote the Association and its work to encourage new members. The changing nature of tertiary education in Australia and New Zealand opens the way to the possibility of seeking membership from the various faculties and departments in which theology and religious studies are taught. It was always the intention of the Association to include these types of libraries so adding a broader viewpoint to our work.

The other major issue which the Executive has been involved with is the *Australasian Religion Index* (ARI). During the year the Editorial Committee resigned and the Executive appointed an interim Committee to produce the current volume. A further committee was appointed to review all aspects of the compilation and production of ARI. The committee, consisting of Stephen Connelly, Lynn Pryor and Tony McCumstie, is progressing in their work in ensuring the continuation of this most valuable publication. A new Memorandum of Agreement of Association between ANZTLA and CIS is being negotiated and the Executive feels that until this process is completed it should assume the role of the Association representation on the ARI Editorial Board. Accordingly there will be no elections to the Board at this meeting.

Work on the ANZTLA Standards for Theological Libraries continued during the year with a final draft being circulated to members in April. This draft is to be presented at the AGM for ratification. My thanks go to the various chapters, the Committee which supervised the final preparation and especially to Lawrence McIntosh for the final polishing.

This year has seen a number of long standing members leave the theological library scene. Barbara Frame, Gillian Forwood, Janet Bell, Ann Close, Susan Lockeridge, Natalie Schwarz have all moved

on to new areas and we wish them all the best for the future.

I record with sadness the death of Pam McIntosh. Pam took a keen and active interest in the Association and often accompanied Lawrence to our conferences. We extend to Lawrence and his family our deepest sympathies. We honour a lady who was a friend to many of us.

*Kim Robinson
July 2000*

The Vice President's Plenary of the 15th ANZTLA Conference Sunday 9th July 2000

On Thursday afternoon, 6th July, the usual person (Philip Harvey, Joint Theological Library, Parkville) gave two and a half hours of cataloguing opinions for nothing. ANZTLA cataloguers were warned of the deteriorating international standard of Cataloguing-In-Publication information and pre-publication MARC records from agencies. They were overwhelmed with the complexities of subject clusters and the proper definition of the mystical land Oceania. Runners-up in 'The Worst Subject heading of the Year' were 1. 'Pride and vanity - History of doctrines - Early church, ca. 30-660.' Pride and vanity is what we are trying to overcome, so turning them into doctrines does not make much sense. Then an old favorite, 2. 'Catholic Church - Algeria - Hippo (Extinct city) - Bishops - Biography.' No prizes for guessing who. Placegetters were, 3rd 'Tents', from a book entitled 'The social context of Paul's ministry : tentmaking and apostleship / R. F. Hock'. Judge's opinion: It is not even graced with '-Biblical teaching' or '-Religious aspects.' Is this a book you take on a weekend bushwalk? Not my first choice. It certainly won't help me pitch a tent. 2nd Prize: 'Bible. O.T. - Prophecies - Commonwealth countries', and 1st. place: 'Cowboys, Australian aboriginal'. Small 'a' Aboriginal to begin with. This touches on the whole question of specific Australian and New Zealand subject headings. Why not 'Stockmen'?

After apologising, Fr Austin Cooper (Master of Catholic Theological College, East Melbourne) said 'Apologies' was not the topic of his keynote address. Despite its outward appearance as a history of the late Habsburg Empire, this lively address asked the question: is there a way of breaking down racial and national rivalries?, what Austin called "the 19th century heresy of nationalism." In what must be the longest twenty minutes in quite a while, we were shown how the Austro-Hungarian Empire was an example of multiracial and multinational peaceful cooperation, something achieved through the living out of Christian values. We should operate against enclaves. The Empire had its symbols and people identified with that. Personal opinions were on offer, for example, anyone who didn't appreciate sitting in a high baroque church listening to Mozart would have to be tone deaf and stupid. Through the slide show some delegates realised that once more we had been left in the dark about C.S. Lewis.

Friday morning Judith Bright (St John's College, Auckland) opened the session on archives, asking is a theological institution an appropriate place to store records? She argued that librarians and archivists have the same objectives but different management practices. Where "appropriate" archives are established you need a collection development plan, one that can be seen in context and so Judith used her own library of St John's as the example of how that can be made to work.