

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Michael Piggott (Melbourne University Archives) then took the floor, saying archivists had to be shamelessly opportunistic, as there is no money in archives and little recognition. Archival materials are unique, therefore needing greater concern for preservation. Access and confidentiality are of much greater prime importance to an archivist than a librarian. Archives and records are inextricably linked so archivists need to connect with the people who make the records. He alerted us to the fact that archives of the future are already being created electronically, something not all of us are instantly aware of.

Lynn Pryor (Churches of Christ, Mulgrave) expanded on her study of the State Library of Victoria, shedding further light on that pillar of Victorian Victoria Sir Redmond Barry. That august institution was founded with 3,000 books; by Barry's death in 1880 it held 100,000. It was a practical insight into the collection delegates were to visit that afternoon. One was left to conjecture, in the session that followed, how Barry would have managed the new environment of electronic serials.

Anne Morris-Bannerman (St Mark's, Canberra) warned us of the obsessed and spreading empire of technological change. She confronted us with our own financial constraints in such a world, which are leading us to problematic choices when we see precious information being put into the control of private businesses and operators over whom we have no control or influence. This, in turn, sends nervous tremors through a library world concerned by the reality of too much information. Gayle Villaume (DA Books) helped us to put into focus our own means of dealing with this environment. She advised that the same criteria in the print environment applies to the electronic. What access do we want? Special libraries with dispersed clientele can use the internet and other resources to their advantage. 7,500 E-journals are now available; they are already moving into specialised areas (meaning also expensive) though they have a definite problem with archiving that does not effect hardcopy. Gayle saw big changes in the next three years, though when asked why three explained that was about as far as we can be confident of predicting, given the volatility of the whole situation. Clear models will emerge and publishers have started making firm decisions already.

On Friday afternoon the conference diverged, one group visiting the libraries of College Crescent in Parkville - Trinity, Ormond and Queens - each with their special theological collections, while the other group went downtown to the SLV. Of the hundreds of thousands of books in the SLV our group found the one book misshelved, which the guide, trained for any contingency, instantly whisked to a shelving trolley. A splendid and noisy visit was only interrupted once when the normally affable Rare Books librarian Brian Hubber was rendered speechless after one of our number said anyone could tell it was a John Knox Bible by the tartan bookmark. Delegates returned in the evening for the shortest AGM in living memory.

Next morning, at the first Joint Session for many years, Davis McCaughey and Geoff Jenkin invited us to look at the future and the past and to consider the centrality of theological libraries through time. Davis McCaughey (retired Professor of New Testament at the Theological Hall, Ormond College) spoke of the joy of reading in itself. He drew a historical picture of information change, speaking of the effects when print took over from orality in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We were taken through the modern crises of faith and literary studies with all their paradoxes, only then to have reinforced the need for libraries, whether old-fashioned or not. Not all communication is of the same kind. What is at stake is humanity, thinking, talking and writing in the presence of God and of fellow members of the human race, a world that by definition includes Karl Barth's CD collection. Geoff was introduced as the immediate past Director of the immediate past Centre for Ancient and Classical Languages at Melbourne University. He introduced us to the very early history of the theological library. The invention of the codex in the 4th century altered both the concept of information management for the Ancients and the means by which they talked theology. We learnt of Origen's classifying skills and Saint Jerome's reputation for not returning books on time. Geoff emphasised the need for "creative control" in our librar-

ies and what occurs when that is not happening. He gave us the sobering warning that you must put people in charge of libraries who believe in them.

Tony McCumstie (Mannix Library, East Melbourne) related the trials and tribulations of planning a new library and the corresponding 'dabda' of the librarian: denial, anger, blame, depression and what was that last one again? oh yes of course, acceptance. Relations with architects must be dogged. Always know which way the doors swing. Watch the building process at all times if you want an office bigger than a broom closet. Function versus Aesthetics does not have to be a stand-off, but they must both be given proper consideration. Tony and his staff appear to have survived the shift from Clayton, wiser for the experience. He implored us, when building, to seek all the advice we can get.

The ANZTLA President and Vice President had collected ideas during the year for new Association projects. Kim Robinson (Moore College, Newtown) presented the list, which was discussed in the Practicalities session on Sunday afternoon. (1) The possibility of a consortium of libraries sharing databases or other means for access to electronic serials. (2) Maintenance of a thesis list for new theses in the subjects of religion and theology. (3) Union Catalogue of Books for those without access to Kinetica. (4) An ANZTLA website which would be both promotional and also give access to other relevant information, e.g. the ARI Thesaurus of descriptors. (5) A New Zealand bibliography of religious titles. (6) An updated edition of the Pettee Classification on disk.

On Sunday morning the Joint Theological Library at Ormond College conducted internet sessions. Stephen Connelly talked on the ever-expanding access to reference materials via this electronic medium, while Philip Harvey and Hal Cain demonstrated the marvels of OCLC and Kinetica. That afternoon Lawrence McIntosh and Stephen Connelly gave a joint report of the Conspectus work on the evaluation of Melbourne College of Divinity libraries. This was considerably enhanced by the arrival, hot off the press, of the Conspectus report itself.

Other highlights of the conference included a site insight from Kathy Caddy of the Bible College of Victoria, Lilydale. A trade fair involved some of the best religious bookshops in Melbourne as well as computer demonstrations. A tour of Newman College helped familiarise delegates with the architecture of Walter Burley Griffin and his wife.

*Philip Harvey*

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