
Editorial

As President, Tony McCumstie brings several matters to our attention regarding the forthcoming conference and annual meeting.

There's nothing like 'striking while the iron is hot'! When Ruth Millard indicated she would not be able to have the 2002 Statistics ready (sorry, folks) for this issue, I gently suggested that she might like to reflect on her recent experience of convening the Consortia Task Group. As the episode was so fresh in her mind, it seemed good that the 'ups and downs' (as she says) be recorded—to become part of our history.

History has been on my mind as well over recent years and particularly the early years of association of theological librarians in Australasia. As I wrote in past editorials, 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the first consultation of theological librarians ever held in Australia, and I presume also New Zealand. Thanks to several people, I have been able to draw out of many reports, minutes and papers and emails, some of the background to ANZTLA. However, I hasten to add there is more which needs to be written by others! Maybe what I have been able to record will inspire others to take up the task.

One of the major 'players' in the pre-history of our association is Dr Robert Withycombe, late of St Mark's in Canberra and now retired. He has written some of his recollections of 25 years ago which give a different slant on developments.

Philip Harvey alerts us to the news that a major collection of works on the great Danish theologian, Søren Kierkegaard, has recently been given to the Joint Theological Library, Parkville.

There are two items of news from chapters—South Australia and Victoria. I am sure the other chapters are discussing and/or doing something interesting!

My 'swan-song' is another project I have had in mind for a while. It suggested itself really in that last year we produced Newsletter No. 50. Using the items extracted from the *Australasian religion index* (very kindly supplied by Tony McCumstie) as a starting point and with a great deal of expertise from my husband Graham (who knows more about databases than anyone I know!), I have been able to produce author, subject and review indexes for the ANZTLA Newsletter Nos. 1-51.

You may notice that the names of ANZTLA people feature—for example—in the subject and review indexes. It seemed important to me to know who had written articles. It was also a useful way of compacting some of the data. I hope that the rather unorthodox arrangement doesn't offend too many people. (I think Philip has forgiven me.) My hope is that the information will prove useful in discovering many of the issues we have dealt with over the years since the first issue of the Newsletter was produced in 1987.

Finally, a personal testimony—worth putting on a website, or somesuch!

My grateful thanks for all their support and encouragement over the last two years go to my colleagues at the Adelaide Theological Library, Wendy Davis and Beth Prior, to Jan and the other members of the SA chapter, to those who have chased up articles, provided amusing clip-art as illustrations, and in other ways have helped to produce a result which has been quite gratifying. I am sure my husband will be glad to have access to his computer again now.

Val Canty