

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

Newsletter

It was a great pleasure to witness the appearance of the first issue of the ANZTLA Newsletter. Congratulations, Kim! I believe the newsletter has the potential to do more than any other venture we are likely to undertake for the benefit of theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand. I would encourage your support, not only as a reader, but also as a contributor. Send in news items of people and libraries in your region and new developments in your own library and "scholarly" or "not-so-scholarly" articles on the theory and practice of librarianship. Perhaps you could begin with the story of your library (its history, buildings, collections, and special features). Every library has something unique about it. What is special about yours?

Constitution

Although there may not have been much sign of it, there has been much activity involved in getting the association properly constituted. There have been some knotty problems to overcome. The ANZATS Executive proved to be less than enthusiastic about the laterations to the Constitution proposed at our meeting in Canberra last August. Basically, they argued that ANZATS should nto be obligated to give financial support to an association whose membership is drawn from a much wider circle than the ANZATS constituency. Other problems were detailed in the minutes of the ANZATS Executive meeting of 13th February.

Following intermittent correspondence which was fast assuming book-like proportions (four letters totalling 10 x A4 pages), it was decided that the President and Secretary of ANZTLA should meet with the ANZATS Executive to try to sort out the problems. At this meeting at Hunter's Hill on 15th May it was decided that from 1/1/88 ANZTLA should be financially independent of ANZATS. This decision has a number of important implications:

1. While ANZATS will collect a levy from ANZATS schools for ANZTLA funds in 1987, this will not happen in 1988. ANZTLA will then have to make its own appeal to ANZATS libraries for membership subscriptions. (We will have to decide what to do about those libraries which either choose to, or through default, fail to join ANZTLA)
2. There will be further revision of the ANZTLA Constitution. Those clauses which would have put ANZTLA under specific obligations to ANZATS will be modified to speak in terms of support and co-operation rather than obligation. A proposed revision (draft 4) is included in this newsletter as the formal proposal of the President and Secretary to the General Meeting (as required by the Constitution).
3. ANZTLA will not be able to depend on ANZATS for funding the cost of travel to ANZTLA Executive meetings. (As it turned out, this was not possible in the current year either, and it has not yet been possible to hold a meeting of the whole Executive).

Finances

As is hinted at above, funding ANZTLA in its first year has been extremely difficult. The revenue received from ANZATS turned out to be considerably less than had been anticipated, and, at the time of writing, subscriptions have not been solicited from non-ANZATS interests. (More about that elsewhere in this mailing for those to whom it applies).

Conference 1987

The Committee organizing the 1987 conference at Ridley College has done an excellent job and has drawn up a very interesting and varied program. Since the publication of the program in Issue No. 1 it has come to our notice that Patrick Lambe, Librarian of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London, will be attending, and he has kindly consented to give a paper on theological libraries in Britain. I look forward to seeing you in Melbourne, 23rd-25th August.

Conference 1988

Meanwhile, give some thought to the 1988 conference, scheduled to be held at Burgmann College, Australian National University, Canberra. The date will have to be changed due to the introduction of the four-term year in New South Wales. The date for the ANZATS/ANZSTS conference has been altered to 4th-9th September. This special conference to commemorate the Bicentennial of Australia will have as its theme "**Australian and New Zealand religious history**". Should we join with ANZATS and ANZSTS for the full conference on this special occasion? Major themes suggested at this stage are:

- (a) Australian and New Zealand religious history (survey, historiography, place of theological formation);
- (b) the philosophical and ideological environment (shaping of the traditions);
- (c) the Australasian tradition of Biblical studies and hermeneutics;
- (d) the sociology of Australian and New Zealand religion;
- (e) the changing tasks and goals of the trained ministry (and their effects on theological education);
- (f) theological and religious study, research and publication (overseas study, local publishing);
- (g) expectations and function of theological libraries (past and future);
- (h) speculation on likely future developments.

Is this the sort of program with which librarians could readily identify? Opportunity would be provided during elective sessions (e.g. meetings, members' papers) to include specifically library-oriented topics, workshops, and our General Meeting. Problems might be getting fundings and work-release for four or five days. Give it some thought and be prepared to decide at the August conference.

Conference 1989

We also have to decide what to do about the 1989 conference. ANZATS is scheduled to meet in Perth, which involves high transport costs. The New Zealand contingent at the 1986 conference put in a plea for a visit to the Land of the Long White Cloud. Travel to Auckland would be substantially cheaper than to Perth. Should we go east instead of west in 1989?

Gorman Proposal

Gary Gorman's proposal for an Australasian reference work was published in Newsletter No. 1. Be prepared to offer your opinion at the August conference.

Till we meet at Ridley, I wish you much joy in your special area of service.

Rev. Trevor Zweck
PRESIDENT