

ABTAPL SPRING WEEKEND 1987

In April 1987 I was able to attend the Spring Weekend of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL) held at Lancaster University. It was a packed day and a half, from our arrival in time for an evening meal on Friday until the end of the final session after 10 p.m. the next day. The strong Quaker links of this area of England were emphasized by two of the papers presented and supplemented by a visit to the Friends' Meeting House in Lancaster. A third paper touched on the links between literature and theology and was presented by Dr. Michael Wheeler, associate editor of the new Oxford University Press periodical, *Literature and theology*. As well, we toured the University Library and went by bus to the Library at Stonyhurst College, a famous Jesuit boarding school with a wonderful collection of older books.

The papers presented were scholarly rather than practical, interesting if not particularly relevant to my situation in New Zealand. There was a pleasant balance struck between sitting and absorbing the contents of the papers and moving off on the various scheduled outings. As with most events of this kind, it was the chance to talk informally and exchange ideas with colleagues that I found most stimulating. This was enhanced by the Conference being residential, giving maximum opportunity to meet the 20 or so participants over meals or as we moved about the corridors of the university hostel. I was struck by the warmth of my welcome from ABTAPL members and the lengths to which everyone went to make me feel included.

I had hoped to visit some other libraries whilst in Britain. Unfortunately, family commitments meant that I could call in only briefly at New College, Edinburgh (whose librarian was a very recent appointment) and at the USPG Library in London (which was being packed up for the move to a new building).

It is encouraging to see the contacts being established between our two associations, through my attendance at Lancaster and Patrick Lambe's at the Melbourne meeting of ANZTLA.

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