



ANZTLA HOLDS 1990 CONFERENCE IN BRISBANE

The fifth annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, held at Pius XII Provincial Seminary, Banyo, Qld, following the 13th Joint Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and the Australian and New Zealand Society for Theological Studies, 5-8 July, 1990, brought together the most geographically diverse gathering of theological librarians ever assembled in this part of the world. To participate in the program of "Practicalities", participants travelled nearly 3000 miles from Perth, Western Australia (for the first time) and from the most southerly theological college in the world, in Dunedin, New Zealand; one person was present from Suva, Fiji (another first) and one from Columbus, Ohio.

As the theme suggests, there was a strong emphasis on the basics of theological librarianship, concentrating on subject cataloguing and classification. The cataloguer of Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic, Philip Harvey, shared a wealth of experience and insight in a thoughtful

and perceptive paper on the former, while the latter was dealt with in concurrent workshop sessions on the Dewey Decimal Classification and the Pettee Classification. The keynote address was presented by the Reverend Coralie Jenkin, Librarian of the Country Fire Authority, Melbourne and Statistician of the ANZTLA, on the subject of cooperation and rationalisation: "If Libraries Can Do It, They Can Do It Together". She suggested a wide variety of ways in which libraries might work together for mutual benefit and improved service to users.

Adding some variety to the program, the Reverend Richard Mintel, of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, gave a talk on "Current Developments in the American Theological Library Association", and John East, of the University of Queensland Library, gave an entertaining after-dinner speech on "The Bible in Malawi".

In other sessions, participants tackled such practical problems and issues as automation, cooperative collection development, journal indexing, the uses of CD-Rom technology (accompanied by demonstrations of GRAMCORD and REX), the work of Christian Research Associates, a directory of theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand, a world directory of theological libraries, and the collection and use of statistics. They also grappled with the question of how best to relate to and assist librarians in kindred institutions in Asia, Melanesia, and the South Pacific.

In a more relaxing vein, Saturday afternoon was spent touring the Blackall Ranges (including the spectacular Glasshouse Mountains) and the pleasant Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane. On a more cultural and educational level, participants also had a choice of an afternoon visit to St Stephen's Cathedral, St Francis Theological College, Trinity Theological College (with its Meta-Marc automated library system), or the Queensland Cultural Centre.

In the Annual General Meeting of the Association, it was decided:
to include up to two persons in institutional membership/
to note that the *ANZTLA Standards for Theological Libraries*
have now been endorsed by the Australian Library and
Information Association;

to promote the distribution of the revised *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections* (almost completed); to retain membership fees at A\$20 and newsletter subscriptions at A\$15. In the elections, Mara Goodall, Churches of Christ (New South Wales) Theological College was chosen as the Sydney representative on the Executive, and the first Western Australian (Marcia Harrison, Perth Theological Hall, replacing Hal Cain) was elected to the *ARI* Editorial Board; all other officers being re-elected, including Trevor Zweck as President and Val Canty as Secretary/Treasurer. The next conference is to be held at Morling College (adjoining Macquarie University), Eastwood, NSW, 5-8 July, 1991.

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President,
Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1989-90

The year 1989-90 has been one of consolidation, rather than of expansion of the Association's activities. The three developments which would seem worthy of special comment are the approval of the *ANZTLA Standards* by the Australian Library and Information Association, the development of the *Australasian Religion Index*, and the formation of the New Zealand chapter of ANZTLA.

The formation of the New Zealand chapter followed the conclusion of the outstandingly successful conference held at St John's/Trinity, Auckland, in July, 1989. This was the first conference held in New Zealand and became the catalyst for bringing unprecedented numbers of New Zealand theological librarians together. We welcome the New Zealand contingent as an established chapter of the Association.

The development of a set of standards for theological libraries had its origins in the ANZATS Library Consultation held at St Francis College, Brisbane in 1983, the impetus being provided by a paper delivered by the undersigned. It is significant that the issue of standards has been seen as so important that its origins actually pre-date the formation of