

A VISIT TO LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

- A Papal Indulgence, dated 1516, issued by Pope Leo X for the building of St Peter's, Rome.
- *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum Adversus Lutherum*, 1521 - Henry VIII's attack on Luther which gained for him the title of Defender of the Faith from the Pope - Archbishop Cranmer's own copy!
- Calvin's Sermons on Genesis. A contemporary account of Calvin's sermons on Genesis. (Calvin's sermons were given extempore, but were taken down and transcribed. There are 44 volumes of sermons in the Bibliothèque Publique in Geneva).
- Calvin's *Institutes of Religion*, first edition, printed 1536.
- *Book of Common Prayer*, first edition, 1549, composed by Archbishop Cranmer.

These were just some of the texts and manuscripts arranged on display in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace, when delegates of the Conseil International visited the Palace Library in late September, 1990 during their short sojourn in London for their annual meeting. About a dozen of us seemingly took a step backward into the pages of history as we were ushered by the Assistant Librarian through the grounds of the Palace into the Great Hall, and there treated to a *resumé* of the Library's history before accepting the invitation to inspect the exhibits specially displayed for our visit.

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury. It was founded as a public library in 1612 as the direct result of Archbishop Bancroft's bequest in 1610 of "all the books in my study over the cloisters to my successor and to the Archbishops of Canterbury successively for ever".

The buildings themselves date from the thirteenth century -- chapel and crypt, as well as the Great Hall, though the latter has been subject to many alterations through the centuries, particularly in the Post-Restoration period, after the Palace had fallen into disrepair during the time of Cromwell. Archbishop Juxon was responsible for the re-building of the Great Hall in which the Library's large and leather bound texts

and manuscripts are now accommodated. Other materials are housed in a new reading room and other storage locations.

The contents of the Library include over 3,000 volumes of manuscripts dating from the ninth century to the present day; the registers of the Archbishops of Canterbury from the thirteenth century, and their official correspondence mainly from the eighteenth century; archives of the Province of Canterbury, amongst which are those of the Vicar-General, the Faculty Office, the Court of Arches, and Convocation. A good part of these archival materials date from the 1660s onwards, since many records were lost in the Great Fire of London. The Library also contains the records of the Lambeth Conferences, and extensive collections concerning Colonial America. The primary focus of the collections is ecclesiastical history.

In 1836 the endowments of the see were handed over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At this time financial responsibility for the Library also passed to them, this being underlined by statute in 1866. The Library is staffed by two permanent archivists, two permanent librarians and three part-time assistants, with office staff. A most memorable visit!

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ANZTLA CHAPTERS - PERSONNEL 1991

It may be of interest to members to know the names of the chairperson and secretary of each of our chapters. Apologies that information on NZ chapter is incomplete. Consult AULOTS for full addresses. I realise that new office bearers may be elected early in the new year and thus this list will soon be superseded. Do let me know of alterations so that they can be included in the April Newsletter.