

LIBRARIES WORKING TOGETHER AT ANZTLA CONFERENCE

A near-record attendance of fifty-one librarians from all states of Australia and from New Zealand sharpened their commitment to mutual cooperation at the seventh annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association, held at historic Luther Campus, North Adelaide, South Australia, 26-29 June, 1992. Professional development was very much to the fore in a tightly organized program, but some recreational activities were also included.

Euan Miller, Director, State Records and Information Policy for the South Australian Government, set the tone with a sympathetic but challenging key-note address on 'The second millenium - the place of theological libraries in the Australian and New Zealand library community'. He stressed the need to be involved with other libraries for mutual contributions and benefits and for theological libraries to take a strong lead in helping the community to grapple with moral and ethical issues. The theme of cooperation was picked up by Margaret Henty, National Conspectus Officer for Australia, introducing the concept of conspectus, by which libraries evaluate and assess their collections and describe them according to a commonly accepted coding system. Dr Gary Gorman, lecturer, School for Information Studies, Charles Sturt University, Riverina, followed up with a lecture on collection evaluation, expounding the principles on which a conspectus workshop would be based.

Lectures on the theoretical basis for cooperative efforts were balanced by two very practical reports from the field of cooperative collection development projects currently taking place. Barbara Frame reported on cooperative collection development efforts among libraries with theological collections in the Dunedin area of New Zealand. Gai Smith and Mara Goodall reported on the production of a coordinated collection development policy for the libraries of the Sydney College of Divinity.

Other key sessions featured practical issues of librarianship. A panel of four introduced a discussion on ways of choosing and setting up an

automated library system, featuring the Dynix, Ocelot, Oasis and Inmagic systems. In a different vein altogether, Margaret Bolton gave a fascinating talk on her work as Research Assistant in Religion Studies at the Underdale Campus of the University of South Australia. Other sessions included round tables on the Pettee and Dewey classifications and an open forum on the practicalities of librarianship. Trade exhibits included displays by the Open Book, St Paul's Bookshop and the Centre for Information Studies and demonstrations of Inmagic and of various CD-ROM products (the latter by Microconcepts).

Off-campus activities included a visit to a choice of three local libraries: the Joan Brewer Library, Underdale Campus, University of South Australia, (featuring the Dynix automated library system and several CD-ROM products), the Diocesan Resource Centre (featuring the Dynix schools system and an impressive audiovisual collection and the Catholic Archives; and the Mortlock Library (featuring the South Australian Archives). Some delegates also found time to take in visits of Lutheran Publishing House and Open Book bookshop and the Lutheran Church of Australia Archives.

A bus tour of the Clare Valley, taking in visits to the Jesuit Monastery and St Aloysius Church at Sevenhill, the Portlet Winery, and Martindale Hall provided a very pleasant diversion. The traditional conference dinner was held in the elegant Royal Coach Motor Inn, with Dr Tony Nancarrow as after-dinner speaker and a trio of flautists providing a musical interlude.

The most significant item of business resulted in endorsement of a network policy encouraging theological libraries to participate in the Australian Bibliographic Network and the New Zealand Bibliographic Network, rather than trying to develop separate networks. Margaret Grigg, Catholic Diocese of Auckland, Ponsonby, New Zealand, was elected to represent the host country on the executive of the next conference and all other office-bearers were reelected. The next conference will be held in New Zealand, either in Auckland or at Hawkes Bay, 10-13 July, 1993.

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President.