

Left: Window at Harvard Divinity School, Andover-Harvard Theological Library-photo courtesy Barbara Kemmis

Library Tour 2.0

For the second year in a row, Kelly Campbell from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and ATLA Director of Member Services

Barbara Kemmis spent the week before the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) Meeting visiting ATLA member libraries and librarians. They traveled by plane, train, and automobile to see the various members of the Boston Theological Institute in and around Boston. Despite the chilly weather, the pair was warmly welcomed, introduced to faculty, and treated to a sampling of the treasures held by each library. The depth and diversity of each of the collections is quite astounding.

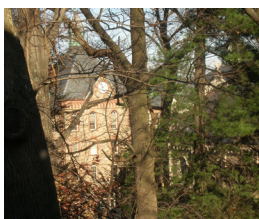


Left: Rare Book Room and Museum of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology-photo courtesy Barbara Kemmis

This year, eight member libraries welcomed the travelers:

- Ruth Pyne, Anna Maria College
- Meredith Kline, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Diana Yount and Jeff Brigham, Andover Newton Theological School
- Hilary Rogoler, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary/Hellenic College
- Claudette Newhall, American Congregation Association
- Jim Skypeck and Jack Ammerman, Boston University School of Theology
- Laura Wood, Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School
- Esther Griswold, Theology and Ministry Library of Boston College

A special thank you to the hosts and their colleagues who showed such gracious hospitality and shared their time and expertise so generously.



Left: View of St. John's Seminary from Theology and Ministry Library of Boston College (new home of St John's Seminary and Weston Jesuit School of Theology libraries)-photo courtesy Barbara Kemmis



Thanks to our December Sponsor

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From the President

"The right questions; the right answers"

When I had the opportunity earlier this month to spend some time with a theological library in a place completely new to me, naturally the differences were apparent first: different culture, different languages, different traditions, and so on.

Yet as I worked through with my gracious hosts some of the questions I had sent them for reflection ahead of time, these differences gradually came into balance with the affinities: what our work had in common was at every bit as important as what made it unique.

It was inevitable, for example, that the questions I asked of them were the questions I would hope guests to this library, where I work, might be curious about also; which is a vivid way of being reminded that good work, good questions, and good conversation about our vocation all "travel" well.

For me this visit was a timely, excellent reminder of how much we have to learn from our colleagues across the varied spectrum of theological librarianship: bigger and smaller, North American and elsewhere, newer and older: the right questions help all of us define what we expect of ourselves. Nobody knows everything; everybody knows something.

-David R. Stewart



From the Executive Director

Last Saturday afternoon (November 22), I had conversations with people from India, Argentina, Norway, Finland, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Minnesota, New York, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and many other locations.

They all came to the ATLA reception for members, publishers, and friends at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Boston. I estimate that more than 100 guests attended the reception, and it was a wonderful opportunity to visit about everything from scholarly publication to international relations.

ATLA is in a unique position to collaborate with any and all organizations that support theological and religious education in an ecumenical environment, and, through the years, it has become both more important and more possible to extend that collaboration throughout the world.

-Dennis A. Norlin

Member News

Committee Meetings in Chicago

The International Collaboration Committee met in Chicago on Thursday and Friday, November 6-7. Pictured below, left to right: Elizabeth Johnson, Eileen Crawford (Board Liaison), Paul Stuehrenberg (Chair), Margaret Tarpley, and Chris Beldan.



Members of the Theological Librarianship editorial board met at ATLA Headquarters on Monday and Tuesday, December 1-2. Below, left to right: Andy Keck, Melody Layton McMahon, Beth Sheppard, David Stewart, and Ron Crown.



Publication Grants Deadline Approaching

The Publications Committee will award up to \$4,000 in grants to support the development of works with a bibliographic focus or scholarly works that advance some aspect of theological librarianship. The deadline for submissions is January 16, 2009. (Go to http://www.atla.com/pub_com/grant.html for more information.) ATLA reserves the first right of refusal of publication for all projects receiving grants.

Poster Session Submissions

Try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues - they'll want to hear about your interesting, creative projects! Share your plans by presenting a poster session at the 2009 Annual Conference, June 17-20, 2009, in St. Louis, MO. Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians. Go to http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2009/posters_call.html to find out how to submit a proposal by the January 31 due date.

The upcoming annual conference in St. Louis promises to feature a variety of programs to appeal to everyone. Be sure to check the ATLA Annual Conference website for the latest information. Sessions and descriptions will be added to the schedule as information is finalized.

Theological Librarianship

The second issue of Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association is scheduled for publication this month. To view the first issue or to subscribe, visit the TL website at <http://www.theolib.org>.

2008 Summary of Proceedings

The Summary of Proceedings of the Sixty-second Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association is currently being prepared by the printer. Copies are scheduled to be mailed out around the holidays.

2010 IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Program

March 6, 2009 is the deadline for submitting an application and supporting materials for the 2010 Jay Jordan IFLA/OCLC Early Career Development Fellowship Program. This program provides early career development and continuing education for library and information science professionals, including theological librarians, from countries with developing economies. It is jointly sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), and ATLA. Applicants are not required to be ATLA members. Please forward notice of this opportunity to colleagues. Complete applications, which include a cover sheet, a resume, an essay of 1,000 words or fewer, and three letters of recommendation, must be submitted by March 6, 2009. Only complete applications will be considered. All application information is available here.

Association Milestone

A decade ago, on May 15, 1998, ATLA received its first-ever royalties from an online vendor—\$3,858. After ten years, the royalties we have received have just surpassed the \$25,000,000 mark. According to Executive Director Dennis Norlin, "That is an incredible accomplishment for our Association. Everyone who has worked on our online databases should take great pride in the remarkable reception our products have had in the marketplace. Congratulations to us all!"

November Newsletter Statistics

One of the advantages of this new electronic format is that the Member Services Department can now more precisely track your interactions with the ATLA Newsletter. In addition to knowing that more than half of you had opened the November issue within the first two weeks of delivery, we were also able to see which emails were bounced or blocked, thus assisting in the task of maintaining an accurate database. We will continue to monitor future newsletter statistics with an eye to delivering even more attentive service to you in the future.

ATLA Office Schedule

In the month ahead, the ATLA office will be closed as follows: on December 12 for the holiday party; on December 24-26 in honor of Christmas; and on December 31 for the New Year's holiday.

Routine Systems Maintenance

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, January 5, 2008. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE and the ATLA Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Job Postings Online

Whether you are looking for a new position or a new employee, the ATLA Job Posting web page is the place to look. Click here to see what's new online.

From the International Collaboration Committee ICC International Collaboration Grant and Theological Librarians' Wiki Award Deadlines Extended

The ATLA International Collaboration Committee (ICC) is extending the deadline for applying for the international collaboration grant and the ICC wiki contribution awards until May 31, 2009.

You might recall that ICC announced at the 2008 Annual Conference that it was seeking proposals for an international collaboration grant of \$1,000, and invited contributions to the Theological Librarians' Wiki, with the ten best submissions promised awards of \$100 each. We set the deadline for the end of October 2008, so that we could evaluate proposals and contributions at our November meeting.

A funny thing happened. At its meeting in Chicago on November 6-7, the ICC discovered, first of all, that we had received NO proposals for the international collaboration grant. And we discovered that the criteria we posted for the Wiki contributions were unclear. So we decided we needed to extend the deadline and to come back to you.

First, we are confident that there are libraries and librarians among our membership that are, in fact, collaborating with institutions abroad. We think you are just too shy to ask for money. Don't be! In addition to providing funding, another purpose of the grant is to increase awareness among ATLA members of the sorts of collaboration that are taking place. Please take another look at the criteria for the international collaboration grant at http://www.atla.com/international_collab/grantpage.html. Fill out the proposal and send it to me.

Secondly, when we first started thinking about setting up the Wiki, we intended that it would serve as an on-line manual providing "best practices" and other information that would be useful, especially, for theological librarians who lacked adequate training in either librarianship or theology. We know that many small schools (also in North America) have librarians whose training is not what they would like it to be, and thought of the Wiki as one way we as an association could provide an opportunity for professional development.

However, many of the submissions we received were not as focused as we had hoped. So we rewrote the mission statement of the Wiki and formed a Task Force that is fleshing out the Wiki's outline. In the meanwhile, please take a look at the Wiki (<http://wiki.atla.com/wiki/index.php/ICC>) and consider making a contribution. An example of what we are looking for is section 1.4, "Religion and Theology on the World Wide Web," which provides a succinct overview of how to find on-line resources. For other suggested topics, see the "Wish List" at the top of the page.

We want to thank all of you who submitted contributions, both to the English and the Spanish versions, and assure you that your contributions are still in the running.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at paul.stuehrenberg@yale.edu, or call me at (203) 432-5292

*-Paul F. Stuehrenberg, Chair
ATLA International Collaboration Committee*

ATLA Member Profile

Marisel Deluca Voth



Title: Library Director

Institution: Bethel Seminary San Diego

Years as a theological librarian: Since 1981 (I've been a professional librarian since 1977, but worked in the public library system).

Years as an ATLA member: Since 1996, because I was living in Buenos Aires until that year and could not afford the trips :)

How did you become involved in the field?

Libraries, books, and librarians seem to have been a part of my fabric since I was three years old. The two churches that I attended as a child and as a teenager had great libraries with huge reading tables and great books. I proceeded to systematically read them shelf by shelf! As an international student I could only work on campus, so the institution placed me in the library (a common practice still today); the college librarian also provided housing for me—and the rest is history! After I graduated from Bethel College, I applied to the University of Minnesota and received my Library Science master's degree.

What do you love most about your profession?

The students! I love to see the spark in their eyes when new concepts are understood or when new ideas are being processed! I feel fulfilled if I can be a part of those moments.

What has been the biggest change you've experienced while working in theological libraries?

The following quote, even though

it's 10 years old, still guides my thoughts and professional work, so as the quote says change, adaptability, and newness are really what being a librarian is all about!

A new kind of good professional who will be effective in the 21st century will be someone who: gets the most patron service for the library's buck, meets deadlines, acts objectively, shoulders responsibility, keeps an open mind, welcomes learning from others, seeks new ideas, reads widely, wants to experiment, writes and defends good proposals, develops a spirit of cooperation among the staff, empowers staff, inspires truth, and uses power judiciously for the good of the institution and its user.

-*American Libraries*,
March 1998, pg. 48

What has been the biggest challenge you've experienced while working in theological libraries?

My biggest challenge was leading a theological library in the mid-eighties when Argentina had more than 400% inflation!

Why did you join ATLA?

Because it seemed to be a serious professional organization.

What is the most rewarding benefit of your membership?

Meeting people and having the possibility of serving in different committees to serve a larger constituency. I have been chair of the World Christianity Interest Group and also a member of the International Collaboration Committee

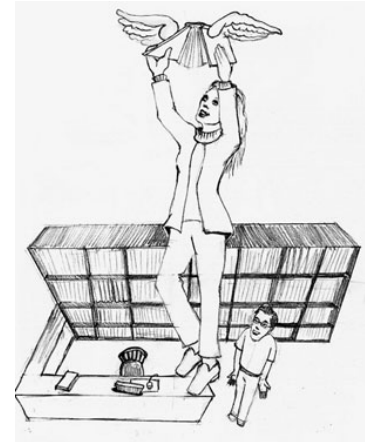
Would you recommend theological librarianship as a profession, and if yes, why?

Yes, I would for people who have a heart and an interest for adult students!

TLM Cartoon Contest

The votes are in! The two winning entries have been chosen in the second annual TLM Cartoon Caption Contest. Members voted for their favorite captions, deciding from among three finalists for each of the two cartoons.

And the winners are:



Cartoon #1. Elyse Hayes, for her caption "The finance committee was right! We CAN get by on a wing and a prayerbook." The two other captions ("Good catch! That book is always out when you need it." and Now that's what I call uplifting reading!") were submitted by Eric White.



Cartoon #2. The winner, with the caption "Man, get with it. How are you supposed to hyperlink between THOSE?," is . . . also Elyse Hayes! Bill Badke earned a runner up slot with "It's more fun watching the movie version." as did Pat Ziebart with "Classics build muscles."

The talented Ms. Hayes will receive two checks, each in the sum of \$100, for successfully penning both of the winning entries.

Have You Heard? **Input Sought for OLE Project**

Luba Zakharov, Reference and Serials Librarian at the Duke Divinity School Library, recently shared news of a new Open Library Environment project (OLE) that is being convened by Duke University. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the goals as stated on the project website are to "design a document to inform open source library system development efforts, to guide future library system implementations, and to influence current Integrated Library System vendor products." Project administrators are looking for input from anyone who is interested and have set up a website to keep participants posted on events in their areas: <http://oleproject.org/>.

The first webcast recording is available on the webpage and free regional workshops are being held nationally. The timeline for the final design document is right around the corner—July 2009—and the project is open to everyone.

Career Change Opportunity

St. John's University has partnered with the United States Government's Institute for Museum and Library Sciences, the Law Library Association of Greater New York and the New York Metropolitan Library Resource Council to offer a special part-time, evening, and Manhattan-based Master's of Library Science program for professionals who want to change careers and provide information support to their firms, companies and other organizations. This is a 36 credit master's program, two

evenings per week from 5:45 to 7:45 for two years at St. John's Manhattan Campus in the financial district near the Chambers Street station. It provides a scholarship for full tuition and fees, up to \$1,000 for professional participation, a laptop computer and software, and mentoring for 40 individuals.

Interested individuals can learn more by going to <http://www.stjohns.edu/informationsscience> and clicking on the link to the Special IMLS Scholarship, emailing IMLS@stjohns.edu, or calling 718-990-6200.

Special Libraries Association Award

The Asian Chapter of the Special Libraries Association in conjunction with the Science-Technology Division of the Special Libraries Association is offering a very unique award for one Asia based Master's level student in the field of Library and Information Science who has a particular interest in a career related to some aspect of the field of Science and Technology librarianship.

The award will fund the costs associated with traveling to Washington, D.C. in June 2009, to attend the Special Libraries Association's Annual Conference, which also happens to be the SLA's 100th Anniversary. The US\$ 1800 Award will cover economy class air fare, lodging while in Washington, D.C., conference registration, a one year membership in the SLA, and incidental expenses. For more information, email Scott Davidson, Awards Committee, SLA Asian Chapter at scottj davidson@gmail.com or go to <http://units.sla.org/chapter/cas/index.html>.

ATLA Calendar

December

- 1 Deadline for write-in candidates for 2009 ATLA Board of Directors Election
Submissions for inclusion in January ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 1-2 Theological Librarianship Editorial Board meets at ATLA headquarters
- 12 ATLA Office closed for Holiday Party
- 24-26 ATLA Office closed for Christmas holiday
- 31 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday

January

- 1 ATLA Office closed for New Year's holiday
Submissions for inclusion in February ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 14 ATLA Endowment Committee meets at ATLA headquarters
- 15 2009 ATLA Board of Directors Election opens and online ballots are distributed
- 15-17 ATLA Board of Directors Mid-winter meeting at ATLA headquarters

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We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the ATLA Newsletter. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication. Contact Sara Corkery (above) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.