



ATLA NEWSLETTER

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From the President Final Thoughts



Submitted by Kelly Campbell, ATLA President

At the June conference, my term as ATLA President will come to an end. As I started on this year long journey, I was intimidated by the thought of writing eleven columns; however, I was able to survive it. When I was made aware of this responsibility, I reflected on a theme, and these words kept coming back to me as I reflected: mentoring, leadership, advocacy, legacy, transition, change, and hospitality. With this final column, I believe I have written something on each word during the year. Finally, I want to share that serving ATLA as a Board member and as the President has been an honor and a learning experience which I will treasure. Thank you!

This is the PDF version of the ATLA *Newsletter*. Please visit the ATLA *Newsletter* (newsletter.atla.com) for the latest content.

From Staff Leadership

A Conferencing We Will Go



Submitted by Gillian Harrison Cain, Director of Member Programs

We stuffed envelopes and packed boxes today. Conference is coming!

It's always amazing to me how much planning and work takes place over the course of a year (actually 3+ years) to make a few days each year happen. Conference organizers never

want the attendees to know all that goes into making those days run smoothly, our goal is for you to have an amazing experience, for you to be able to focus on learning and networking, and for you to leave thinking, "That was great! I'll be attending next year for sure!"

But for all the work that we organizers do... having a great conference largely is up to you, the attendee. This really hit home for me as I attended a conference this Spring... I wanted to have a great experience, I had walked away from this conference the year before thinking, "What a great couple days, I learned so much, I met so many great people, I'm for sure going to this again!" But this year I found myself questioning my choice to attend. Reflecting on the experience a few months later, I realize that while there were some issues with the conference itself, the main thing getting in my way of getting the most out of the conference was, well, me.

Right after we returned to the office after the conference in Denver last year, a great article appeared in Harvard Business Review entitled "How to Get the Most Out of a Conference." I shared it with my team and said, "We've got to remember this to share with our members next year!" Dutifully, one of my staff members floated the link back up to me a couple weeks ago... reminding me of our plan, and triggering me to remember that, be it our conference or another one, I have to allow myself to be in the moment to have the best conference experience.

For those of you that have met me, you might be shocked to learn that I'm an introvert. While I love interacting with people, my energy comes from inward focus. One of the aspects of this article I found most inspiring is to "make time for yourself." I think something important for all of us to remember as we go into a couple intense days. Ultimately attending a conference should be about developing you... your knowledge, your network. As organizers, we'll do everything we can to keep you from seeing our feet madly paddling under the water so that you can focus on gliding smoothly through the next week. But it's up to you to make sure you're ready to ride the wave... See you in Long Beach!

A Proposal from the Board of Directors to Revise ATLA's Bylaws

In early 2015 the ATLA Board of Directors approved a new Strategic Plan (<https://www.atla.com/about/who/Pages/ATLA-Strategic-Plan.aspx>). As part of their development of the plan, they deliberated on bylaws implications of the new vision and core statements. In addition to changes prompted by strategic planning that primarily focused on ATLA's institutional identity as projected by membership categories, they found additional revisions were required by Illinois non-profit law and best practices.

The Board of Directors, in consultation with legal representation, has developed a proposed revision of the ATLA Bylaws (<https://www.atla.com/community/atlabylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>). The proposed bylaws will be voted on at the ATLA Business Meeting (<http://sched.co/6aZX>) to be held Friday, June 17, 2016, from 3:30pm – 4:30pm PDT during the ATLA Annual Conference in Long Beach, California. This communication serves as your official notice in writing prior to the vote as per Article 12.2 in the current ATLA Bylaws.

To learn more about the rationale for the proposed revision and the process undertaken by the board to draft this revision, we encourage you to read the article “*Adding Structure to Vision: How Strategic Planning Led to Proposed Bylaws Revisions*” (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2016/proposedbylaws/>) by Andy Keck, Board of Directors and Chair of Bylaws Committee.

Click here (<https://www.atla.com/community/atlabylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>) for the Proposed ATLA Bylaws for Consideration (you will need to login to access the Community section of the ATLA website. If you have trouble logging in, please contact us at memberrep@atla.com).

In collaboration with ATLA's legal firm, the proposed bylaws follow a contemporary framework with best practices for non-profit corporations in the state of Illinois, where ATLA is incorporated. Some entire articles and sections are new, other sections are expanded, and other parts are dropped entirely. There is no redline edition of the old ATLA Bylaws – this is a wholesale replacement. To learn more about the proposed revision, please read the Top Ten Changes in the Proposed ATLA Bylaws (<https://www.atla.com/community/atlabylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>).

The Board welcomes your feedback and has established several communication channels and venues for discussion.

- Via email at bylaws@atla.com
- During an Open Forum webinar hosted by Andy Keck, Chair of the Bylaws Committee
 - Friday, June 3, 2016 – 11:00am – 12:00pm CDT (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1982927814107457794>)
 - Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – 1:00pm – 2:00pm CDT (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4875613164414142978>)
 - Thursday, June 9, 2016 – 12:00pm – 1:00pm CDT (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4647121454022816002>)
- At the ATLA Association Update and Business Meeting (<http://atla2016.sched.org/event/6aZL/atla-association-update-and-bylaws-open-forum>) – Bylaws Discussion to be held Thursday, June 16, 2016 from 1:00pm-2:00pm PDT during the ATLA Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA

All Individual, Institutional, and Lifetime Members in good standing as of 5:00pm CDT on Friday, June 3, 2016, will be eligible to vote. Per the current ATLA Bylaws, voting by proxy shall not be permitted. If the Member Representative of an Institutional Member is not attending the ATLA Business Meeting during the ATLA Annual Conference in Long Beach, CA, they may assign a delegate to vote on behalf of their institution by informing ATLA by Friday, June 10, 2016, in writing, via one of the following methods:

Email: MemberRep@atla.com

Fax: 312.454.5505

Mail, messenger or other delivery methods (must be received by the deadline) sent to:

Member Programs Department
ATLA
300 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60606

A detailed FAQ (<https://www.atla.com/community/atlabylaws/SitePages/Home.aspx>) is available in the Community section of the ATLA website to address any other questions you may have and will be updated as new questions arise.

Adding Structure to Vision: How Strategic Planning Led to Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Submitted by Andy Keck, Board of Directors and Chair of Bylaws Committee

“ATLA is the hub of worldwide scholarly communication in theology and religion” is a vision that covers a lot of ground. A vision is necessarily abstract as it tries to be vivid without being too limiting. The newly articulated core values and purpose statements help further clarify the character of ATLA and provide some appropriate boundaries to this expansive vision statement.

The Board of Directors began to deliberate bylaws implications of the new vision and core statements long before we fully comprehended further bylaws changes required by Illinois non-profit law and best practices. The bylaws changes prompted by strategic planning primarily concern our institutional identity as projected by our membership categories.

First, let’s deal with “worldwide.” The first theological library on Mars will apparently not be a member of ATLA. But perhaps a broader subset of libraries on this planet should be welcomed equally as a members. Our current (old) bylaws have a distinction between United States and Canadian Institutional Members and International Institutional Members. For an association that wants to be a worldwide hub, is that a distinction with a difference?

Second, the Board considers “scholarly communication” to expand our conversation to all persons and places where scholarship in religion and theology is created, described, discovered, and preserved. We want to be inclusive of libraries and librarians but also expansive to other actors like journal editors, digital humanists, and scholarly communication officers. How do we signal this new inclusivity in our Individual and Student Member categories?

ATLA’s new vision looks to position the association and its members as integral to the teaching, learning, and research of theology and religion worldwide. Thus, Institutional Membership can be simplified to include libraries connected to any appropriately accredited institution of higher education (or non-degree granting organization). And Individual Membership can be expanded to explicitly include individuals engaged in scholarly communication. With the vision of “ATLA is the hub of worldwide scholarly communication in theology and religion,” ATLA must expand the role of libraries and librarians by expanding our set of conversation partners and colleagues in this work.

Roger Morales, ATLA Member Programs Librarian

ATLA welcomes Roger Morales as the new Member Programs Librarian. Roger will focus on the areas on membership engagement, retention, and recruitment. Among his many responsibilities, he will respond to inquiries regarding membership and focus on clear communication of membership benefits; facilitate relationships with regional groups, committees, interest groups, and other groups of members; support development of new membership programs and benefits; and represent the association at events.

If his name sounds familiar, it’s because Roger previously was a Metadata Analyst in ATLA’s Production Department. Roger completed his MLIS from the University of Illinois and received his masters from Naropa University with a concentration in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Sanskrit language. He finished his undergraduate studies at Florida International University with a concentration in early Christianity. Roger has experience working in both public and academic libraries and is an active volunteer, which includes volunteering as a youth basketball coach and at the Shambhala Meditation Center. He is also fluent in Spanish.

Roger will join the Member Programs Department Monday, June 13. He’ll spend it on a plane heading to Long Beach to attend the conference. And speaking of conference, if you are attending, please feel free to introduce yourself.

Please join us in congratulating Roger and welcoming him to the Member Programs Team.

Ethnic Religious Communities in the Puget Sound Region — PNWRTLA 2016 Annual Meeting

Submitted by Fr. Tynan Peter, St. Martin's University

The Pacific Northwest Religious and Theological Librarians Association (PNWRTLA) held its annual meeting at the Suzzallo and Allen Libraries at the University of Washington (UW) on May 11, 2016. The program's two major presenters were Dr. Devin E. Naar and Elizabeth Russell. Dr. Naar is the Sephardic Studies Program Chair at the UW and presented on the history and archival records of the Sephardic Jewish community in the Pacific Northwest highlighting several items in the Sephardic Studies Digital Library Collection (<http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-studies/sephardic-studies-digital-library-museum/>). Ms. Russell is the archivist for the Washington State Jewish Historical Society (WSJHS). Her presentation focused on the history and nature of the Washington State Jewish Archives (WSJA) (<http://guides.lib.uw.edu/friendly.php?s=research/jewish>) and its relationship with the UW.

The presentation by Dr. Devin E. Naar opened with a historic overview of Sephardic Judaism. Dr. Naar explained how Sephardic Judaism began in Spain. The Spanish Jews developed a strong culture that even had its own language called Ladino. Ladino is a language based on medieval Spanish and is written in Hebrew letters much like the Yiddish language of Central European Jews. A major event in Sephardic Judaism occurred in 1492 when they were exiled from Spain. The community then settled primarily in Ottoman Empire with small contingents settling in the Low Countries. Within the multicultural Ottoman Empire, the Sephardic Jews established themselves an important part of several important cities.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Sephardic Jews began to migrate to the United States due to nationalist pressures that were straining the Ottoman Empire. While many settled in New York City, Seattle, Washington was second most popular destination for Sephardic Jews. These immigrants brought with many cultural items written in Ladino. In cooperation with the Sephardic Jewish community in Seattle, the UW began to collect materials and recordings for preservation. UW now holds the second largest collection of Ladino language books after Yeshiva University.

The second presentation by Ms. Elizabeth Russell focused on the WSJA. Begun in 1968 the WSJA is wider in scope than the Sephardic Judaic collection. Its focus is on the oral histories and photos of Jews from all origins who settled in Washington State. Ms. Russell serves the WSJA on a part-time basis helping to preserve and promote the collection in cooperation with the UW. Its records, including over 400 oral histories and sacred music recordings, can be accessed through Archives West (<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/>).

The PNWRTLA annual meeting also included a business meeting which allowed members to formally introduce themselves and talk about their work at their respective institutions and a brief presentation on the ATLA Strategic Plan by Gillian Harrison Cain, ATLA's Director of Member Programs and Steve Perisho, Theology and Philosophy Librarian at Seattle Pacific University and current member of the ATLA Board of Directors. After lunch, Paul Constantine, UW Associate Dean of Distinctive Collections / Director of Special Collections, led the group on a tour of UW's archives and then PNWRTLA president Linda T. DiBiase, UW Classics and Comparative Religion Librarian, spoke about UW's other ethnic religious collections and including a few items from the Japanese American in the Pacific Northwest collection (<http://guides.lib.uw.edu/friendly.php?s=research/nikkei>). The day then wrapped up with a tour of UW's new, state-of-the-art conservation center.

The purpose of the PNWRTLA Annual Meeting is to meet three objectives. The first is to help the religious and theological librarians in the Pacific Northwest build up a network of cooperation among themselves. Second is to make members aware of the different resources and collections held by their various institutions. With an understanding of what resources are available in the region, religious and theological librarians are better able to aid and direct researchers at their own institutions. Third, the meetings allow members to share professional advice and techniques with each other. The 2016 annual meeting of the PNWRTLA was able to deliver all three.

In closing, the PNWRTLA would like to thank the American Theological Library Association. Our annual meeting was deeply enriched through the grant funding awarded by the Professional Development Committee of the ATLA. We hope to continue to work closely with the ATLA in developing the professionalism and outreach of religious and theological librarians throughout our region.

Joint NYATLA and SEPTLA Meeting Held April 21, 2016 in Princeton

Submitted by Jenifer Gundry (SEPTLA President) and Suzanne Estelle-Holmer (NYATLA President)

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, two regional groups held a joint meeting at Princeton Theological Seminary Library, Princeton, New Jersey. Though geographically proximate in the Mid-Atlantic region, the New York Area Theological Library Association (NYATLA) (https://www.facebook.com/New-York-ATLA-359217534144035/timeline?ref=page_internal) and the Southeastern Pennsylvanian Theological Library Association (SEPTLA) (<http://www.septla.org/pages/home.php>) have not had the opportunity to meet together in many years. Since both NYATLA and SEPTLA are currently in the process of defining the future identity, shape and mission of their respective regional groups, the two organizations decided that the time was ripe to gather for a day of reflection and discussion on how regional groups can work together and learn from each other. Altogether, 42 librarians from 16 institutions participated in the day. After morning coffee and networking, the program began with an overview of ATLA's new Strategic Plan by ATLA's Director of Member Programs Gillian Harrison Cain and ATLA Board of Directors Member Dr. Amy Limpitlaw (School of Theology Library, Boston University). Mrs. Cain and Dr. Limpitlaw responded to questions from participants about the rationale and shaping of various elements of the new Strategic Plan: Context, Vision, Core Purpose, Core Values, and Strategic Goals (for Next 3-5 Years: Global Collaboration, Open Access, Inclusive and Diversified Membership, Hub Capacity).

Over a shared lunch, SEPTLA and NYATLA members gathered in small group tables to brainstorm together around key issues related to the future of regional associations and the changing landscape of theological librarianship, including topics like changing business practices, incorporating as a non-profit, changes in membership demographics and applications, resource sharing in the context of new consortia and technologies, professional development and networking, and new directions for regional associations.

After lunch, SEPTLA and NYATLA broke into two groups for a library building tour and their respective business meetings. The highlight of the day was the new Princeton Theological Seminary Library. The library was drenched in sunshine, which displayed the dramatic architecture and furnishings to great effect. There are wonderful spaces for almost every type of library activity.

NYATLA members expressed the desire to meet with Gillian at a future NYATLA meeting to help in the work of defining the mission and future of the organization. NYATLA member libraries are geographically distant, which makes communication and cooperative projects a challenge. Several new librarians were in attendance, and hiring freezes at several NYATLA libraries have been lifted.

SEPTLA held its Cataloging and Metadata Interest Group and Research Services Interest Group meetings before gathering for its business meeting. During the business meeting, SEPTLA awarded its annual SEPTLA Scholarship for first time ATLA Conference attendees to Elizabeth Miller (Research Instruction & Seminary Liaison Librarian, Moravian Theological Seminary), elected new officers, heard an update from the SEPTLA Future Task Force, and shared institutional news.

The Ohio Theological Library Association (OTLA) Spring Meeting

Submitted by Ken Cochrane, OTLA President (2015-2017)

Greetings from Ohio! The Ohio Theological Library Association (OTLA) met in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday, April 8, 2016, for our spring conference. The meeting was held at the A.T. Wehrle Library of the Pontifical College Josephinum, a Roman Catholic seminary and graduate school of theology founded in 1888.

Present at the meeting were 20 attendees from 11 different academic libraries across Ohio, including ATLA representatives Brenda Bailey-Hainer and Tracy Iwaskow who shared a presentation on ATLA's new Strategic Plan and organizational initiatives. The business meeting was followed by an afternoon tour of the Josephinum's campus and library hosted by Wehrle Library Director, Peter Veracka.

The spring meeting was concluded with a brief celebration ceremony in recognition of service honoring two long-serving OTLA members: Ray Olson, Director of the Hamma Library at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, who retired in March 2016, and Jim Lloyd, former library director at Cincinnati Christian University, who served as OTLA Treasurer for the past several years. Both men played a crucial role in the establishment of OTLA, as well as supporting and contributing to its organizational endeavors over the past three decades, and their efforts and services on behalf of the organization are greatly appreciated.

ATLA Calendar

ATLA is around the globe this season. Check out the ATLA Calendar (<https://newsletter.atla.com/events/>) for a list of events, deadlines, and meetings.

As a reminder, routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, July 11. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (CDT). Services that will be affected include ASE, listservs, the ATLA website, and member community sections. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

Features

Notes from the Road: The Coalition for Networked (CNI)

Submitted by Andy Carter, ATLA Digital Projects Manager

The Coalition for Networked (CNI) Information held its spring meeting this April in San Antonio, Texas. The weather was lovely, and the Riverwalk provided a relaxing backdrop to an engaging conference program. CNI showcases diverse points of view on the latest projects related to research data management/curation (“big data”), scholarly communication and publishing, digital preservation, and digital library platforms.

Sessions at CNI ranged from the technical to the theoretical. Librarians from Indiana and Northwestern Universities explained their co-development of an open source audio/video digital library called Avalon (built using Fedora and Hydra software). While a professor from the University of Illinois discussed complications faced by archivists attempting to preserve the “intangible culture” of indigenous communities, such as traditional craftsmanship, rituals, and performing arts that are passed down from generation to generation.

CNI is good about documenting their conferences online, and if you are curious you can find video of some presentations at <https://www.cni.org/events/membership-meetings/past-meetings/spring-2016>. You can also find all session descriptions and links to their PowerPoints at <https://www.cni.org/events/membership-meetings/past-meetings/spring-2016/s16-project-briefings-breakout-sessions>.

A few more highlights from the conference:

Runaway Slave Advertisements: One Vision, Two Approaches

<http://tinyurl.com/zn9dmwe>

Insight into how Cornell University and the University of North Carolina Greensboro learned to work together upon realizing they were both developing digital libraries around collections of runaway slave advertisements.

Building “Full-Stack” Collaboration on a Digital Foundation: ‘Explore Chicago Collections’ and the Chicago Collections Consortium

<http://tinyurl.com/zdmsuyj>

How multiple libraries and archives came together to build a “one-stop shop” for anyone interested in primary source materials about the history of Chicago.

National Web Archiving Programs in the U.S.

<http://tinyurl.com/znp9wox>

An overview of two different initiatives attempting large scale web archiving, and one that is creating tools for reusing materials found in web archives.

Notes from the Road: Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries and a Vatican Secret Archives Visit

Submitted by Gregg Taylor, ATLA Licensing Manager

At the beginning of April, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries’ annual conference (<http://www.newman.ac.uk/abtapl/>). The conference was fortunate to enjoy a range of interesting presentations. I had the opportunity to speak on “Copyright and licensing issues in scholarly communication.” When presenting on this topic, I always find it is helpful to get “into the weeds” and talk about ways that copyright issues affect my day-to-day work for ATLA. In my experience, there’s nothing like trying to implement copyright law to provide opportunities to learn.

This year marked ABTAPL’s 60th anniversary, which was marked by a special, extended Spring Conference in Rome, Italy. The group planned some wonderful activities, to which they kindly let me come along. The most extraordinary was a rare visit to the Vatican Secret Archives. The archives are not secret in the usual sense, but secret in the sense of “private.” These archives belong personally to the Pope. Unlike most sights in and around the Vatican, the Archives are not open to the general public. Thanks to some ABTAPL connections, we were able to pass the Porta Sant’Anna and past the rather impressive Swiss Guard, up into the Archives themselves. We had to lock away our cameras and other contraband, and then we were able to enter the Archives, with the company of a very knowledgeable guide in front and a friendly escort in the back to make sure no curious librarian wandered off.

Much of the archives were notable for how un-notable they looked. It’s a comfort to know archives look the same even in the heart of the Vatican. That said, the floors of archives went up rather than down into any basement levels (in case of flooding, we were told). Eventually, we reached some beautiful open rooms that housed documents like letters from Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis on the outbreak of the US Civil War. The other group saw a petition from 1530 from 85 English clergymen and lords asking Pope Clement VII to annul Henry VIII’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon (he refused). The sense of grand history was overwhelming.

My favorite place was at the top of the archives: the Tower of the Winds, an observatory that was used to provide confirmation for visiting dignitaries of the need for the Gregorian calendar reforms. It was, of course, covered in beautiful frescoes which, in turn, had been marred with graffiti from Charles V’s troops during the 1527 sack of Rome. Although we couldn’t take pictures, I encourage you to find the official images online.

I would like to thank all the members of ABTAPL who were so welcoming, and I would like to thank especially Carol Reekie and Alan Linfield for their organizational gifts and personal kindness.

How to Network as an Introvert

The 2016 ATLA Annual Conference is less than a month away and we have scheduled many networking opportunities throughout the conference (see SCHED <https://atla2016.sched.org/>), but sometimes this can be overwhelming. How does one person fit in presentations, conversations, small talk, lunch meets, and networking events without feeling exhausted?

Introvert Expert and author of *QUIET: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, Susan Cain (<http://www.thepowerofintroverts.com/>), offered tips on how to best network as an introvert in an interview with Marie Forloe. These tips are a valuable resource for both extroverts and introverts alike. We recommend watching the full interview below (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcvleuvJD0w>) but here are some of our biggest takeaways.

Don't think of it as networking; think of it as seeking out kindred spirits.

Our conference attendees loves librarianship. Whether you love technical services, special collections, or you just want to talk about your favorite book series, you will find a kindred spirit at the conference. So, if you attend one of the many networking events, such as a luncheon or the Opening Reception, search out one of your kindred spirits. We have helped the process by offering ribbons you can stick onto your badge, such as "let's talk about special collections" or "let's talk about library instruction." Be sure to grab one at the registration desk!

Act out of character for work you really love, but do it mindfully and restore afterwards.

Talking to new people or presenting your ideas in front of people may cause you anxiety and that's okay. Focus your

energy toward your passion but make time to take a break afterwards to recharge. It's important to maintain self-care, such as eating well, exercising, and getting enough sleep during your conference stay. We also recommend taking a walk on the beach outside the conference hotel or trying one of the many coffee and tea shops in the area (http://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=coffee&find_loc=200+S+Pine+Ave%2C+Long+Beach%2C+CA+90802&ns=1).

Train yourself to gracefully exit social situations when you feel done.

We've all been there before. You begin a conversation and then you realize your next session is about to begin or the exhibit hall is about to close or you just feel done. Try the following statement:

- "Well, it was nice meeting you..."
- Do you have a business card?
- I need to take a break and look over my schedule.
- I need to get to my next session and get a good seat.

Here is an exhaustive list of different ways to exit a conversation gracefully (<http://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-gracefully-exit-a-conversation-2014-7>).

Give yourself permission to leave an event early.

The idea of adding one more thing to your schedule can be overwhelming. Instead of skipping the networking events, we recommend leaving early. The conference does not need to be a sprint, but a marathon. Enjoy it and take time for yourself. You will need time to process the information and all of your new ideas, as well as re-energize yourself from a long day of high stimulation and socializing.

Learn more about the 2016 ATLA Annual Conference, June 15-18, 2016, Long Beach, CA (<https://www.atla.com/Members/conference/Pages/default.aspx>).

The Biography of Patriarch Severus of Antioch (512-538) Written by the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Cyriacus of Tikrit (793-817)

Submitted by Iskandar Bcheiry, PhD, ATLA Metadata Analyst

During the spring of 2014, I had the opportunity to examine a particular Syriac manuscript (A. 12008) at the Oriental Museum in Chicago, which had not been fully described or published. Among the unpublished subjects that this manuscript contains, is a historical biography regarding the life of Severus of Antioch (d.536) composed by the Syriac orthodox patriarch Cyriacus of Takrit (d. 817). Severus, patriarch of Antioch, widely known as “crown of the Syrians,” has been hailed as one of the greatest orators of the early church. Actually, Severus of Antioch is by far the most prolific and well known theologian of the non-Chalcedonian churches. He spent most of his life defending the anti-Chalcedonian Christology and because of it endured difficulties and exile until his death in Egypt in 536. Although his life and writings came to our knowledge in Syriac, gaining him the title “Crown of the Syriac Literature,” many texts relating to his life and works survived in Coptic and Arabic as well. Severus’s life and deeds were narrated in a collection of *Biographies* composed by different authors. All these accounts were edited and translated, except his *Biography* written by the Syriac Orthodox Patriarch, Cyriacus of Tikrit (817) in a form of ‘Tūrgomō’/discourse, which has been frequently mentioned; however, the text has never been published or translated.

The Syriac manuscript in the Oriental Institute, in Chicago, shelf marked A 12008 is a collection of homilies mainly by Jacob of Seruj. The manuscript was described by Vööbus as “a giant tome, a volume on parchment of enormous measurement as well as weight”. The text is written in Eṣṭrangēlō script in three columns per page, and an average of 51 lines per column. Originally the manuscript had at least 42 quires; however the first seven quires are lost. The date, origin and copyist are not provided since the colophon did not survive. However, based on paleographical consideration, the Eṣṭrangēlō script of the manuscript is of such a form that it can be assigned to the 12th or 13th century. Besides

the homilies by Jacob of Serug, it also includes homilies by John Chrysostom, Severus of Antioch, Basil of Caesarea, Ephrem the Syrian, and George bishop of the Arabs. Among these homilies, you find Turgomo/discourse in the form of a biography which narrates the life of Severus of Antioch. The work is titled: *a discourse on the Saint and God-clad, patriarch Mor Severus which was composed by Cyriacus*”.

The author of this account is patriarch Cyriacus who was born and raised in Tikrit. He became a monk at the monastery of the *Pillar* near al-Raqqa (Callinicus). He was elected a patriarch in 793 and administered the patriarchal See for twenty-four years, during which time he ordained eighty-six metropolitans and bishops. He died in Mosul in 817 and was buried in Tikrit. Patriarch Cyriacus produced many writings; among them is the discourse on *the life of Severus of Antioch*, which was composed probably at the end of the 8th century.

By the end of the 7th century, an interesting ethnic-cultural feature began to emerge in the writings of some local Christian Aramaic speakers in Syria and Mesopotamia, who took a stand against the Christological doctrine which was recognized by the Byzantine emperors. In this period, a sentiment of aversion against the Greeks was expressed by the local monks in Syria and Mesopotamia who protested against teaching Greek literature and language in their monastic circles. This sentiment of aversion against the Greeks and the emphasis on a local Syriac cultural-ethnic identity is expressed in the account of the life of Severus of Antioch by Cyriacus. In writing the life of Severus of Antioch, the author took into consideration the political, social, cultural, and ecclesiastic circumstances of his time. Patriarch Cyriacus expressed through the life of Severus his own Syriac ethno-cultural interest which emerged in a historical frame distinct from the political reality during the Byzantine rule. He reshaped the story of his church heroes in a form that matched the actual reality of the post-Byzantine era in the region. After the second half of the 7th century, and with the noticeable decrease of the Greek culture and demographic aspects within the anti-Chalcedonian church in Syria and Mesopotamia, the Chalcedonians were associated with the Greeks in the Syriac anti-Chalcedonian sources, who at the same time highlighted their Syriac cultural identity.

Member News

Joan Blocher Retires from the University of the South

Joan Blocher is retiring from the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, effective June 30, completing almost ten years as Theology Reference Librarian. Before moving to Sewanee, she was Assistant Librarian at Chicago Theological Seminary, 1972-2006. Joan attended her first ATLA Annual conference in 1971. She served on the Tellers Committee and has attended United Church of Christ, Anabaptist, and Anglican denominational groups. Joan and her husband, Jim Dunkly (an ATLA romance!), will retire to Claremont, California, in July.

Please join us in congratulating Joan (and Jim!).

Dennis Swanson Named Library Dean, University of North Carolina Pembroke

Dennis Swanson was appointed as the Library Dean of the Mary Livermore Library at the University of North Carolina Pembroke beginning June 20.

Dennis has served 24 years with the Master's Seminary in Southern California. Most recently, Swanson served as vice president for Library, Educational Assessment and Operations. He has previously served as seminary librarian, director of the Seminary Library, director of Israel Studies and director of Academic Assessment.

He completed his associate's degree in Public Administration from the College of the Canyons. He earned a bachelor's degree in biblical studies from The Master's College. He holds a master's of divinity degree from The Master's Seminary and a master's of library and information science from San Jose State University. He earned a doctor of ministry from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2012.

Dennis has been with ATLA since 1995, and most recently, has served on the Endowment Committee since 2012.

Please join us in congratulating Dennis on his new appointment.

Please read the full press release here (<http://www.uncp.edu/news/uncp-board-trustees-approves-hiring-three-faculty-deans>).

ATLA Job Board

- ATLA, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Metadata Analyst (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Metadata-Analyst.aspx>)
- The Bishop Payne Library, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, is looking for a Technical Services Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Technical-Services-Librarian.aspx>).
- Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX, is looking for an Access Services Manager (Manager 3) ([https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Access-Services-Manager-\(Manager-3\).aspx](https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Access-Services-Manager-(Manager-3).aspx)).
- Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, is looking for a Director of the Lapp Learning Commons (Library Director) (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Library-Director.aspx>).
- Cincinnati Christian University, Cincinnati, OH, is looking for a Technical Services and Systems Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Technical-Services-and-Systems-Librarian.aspx>).
- Corrigan Memorial Library, St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, is looking for a Director – Corrigan Memorial Library at St. Joseph's Seminary (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/The-Archdiocese-of-New-York.aspx>).
- First Church, UCC, West Hartford, CT, is looking for a Library Director (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Library-Director--First-Church.aspx>).
- Jerry Falwell Library, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, is looking for an Electronic Resources Librarian (E-Books) ([https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Electronic-Resources-Librarian-\(E-Books\).aspx](https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Electronic-Resources-Librarian-(E-Books).aspx)), Graduate Research and Instruction Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Graduate-Research-and-Instruction-Librarian.aspx>), Coordinator of Graduate and Scholarly Communications Services (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Coordinator-of-Graduate-and-Scholarly-Communications-Services.aspx>), and Associate Dean, Research and Customer Services (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Associate-Dean.-Research-and-Customer-Services.aspx>).
- King's University College, London, Ontario, is looking for a Director of Libraries (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Director-of-Libraries.aspx>).
- Moody Bible Institute, Spokane, WA, is looking for a Theological Reference and Instruction Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Theological-Reference-and-Instruction-Librarian.aspx>).
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX, is looking for a Public Services Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Public-Services-Librarian.aspx>).
- Trinity International University, The Rolfing Memorial Library, Deerfield, IL, is looking for a Theological Librarian (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Theological-Librarian.aspx>).
- Union University, Jackson, TN, is looking for a Director for Library Services (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/jobs/Pages/Director-for-Library-Services.aspx>).

Programs and Projects

ATLA's On Demand Learning

We are pleased to announce the inception of ATLA's On Demand Learning (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx>), a collection of free professional development webinars on topics in librarianship, theological librarianship, technology, and other related fields.

If you missed the Winter/Spring Webinar series (<https://newsletter.atla.com/2016/upcoming-webinars/>) or would like to re-watch them, we have taken a portion of the recorded sessions and have uploaded them to our website (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx>).

Please feel free to share with colleagues and friends. A special thank you to the presenters for their great work. Stay tuned for future webinars.

Five Free Webinars

The webinars include (<https://www.atla.com/Members/development/OnDemandLearning/Pages/default.aspx>):

- ***Succeeding in the Library Job Market*** by Jennifer E. Knievel, Director of Arts & Humanities at the University of Colorado Boulder
- ***Work-Life Balance of Women Leaders in Association of Theological Schools*** by Kelly Campbell, Associate Dean of Information Services and Director of the John Bulow Campbell Library
- ***Developing a Mutually-Enriching Library Volunteer Program*** by Rebekah Bedard, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University
- ***Preparing for a Linked Data Future – The Importance of ATLA's NACO and CONSER Funnel Projects*** by Richard Lammert, Technical Services and Systems Librarian, Concordia Theological Seminary, Anna Appleman, Cataloger, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Judy Knop, ATLA NACO/CONSER Funnel Coordinator
- ***APIs for Theological Librarians: A Basic Introduction*** by Richard Manly Adams, Jr., Head of Public Services, Pitts Theology Library, Emory University

Participate in Selecting Titles for the ATLA Special Series within ACLS Humanities E Book

The American Council of Learned Societies and the American Theological Library Association have had a long and cordial relationship dating back to the 1940s with the inception of ATLA. Because we share a common goal of supporting digital scholarship in the humanities, particularly focused on religious studies scholarship, ATLA and ACLS Humanities E Book (HEB) have partnered together to bring forth a highly regarded collection of Ebooks. The ATLA Special Series will be a searchable subset as distinct series from the special series page (<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/the-collection/special-series.html>) or searchable by individual title within the larger ACLS HEB collection.

The ATLA Special Series within the ACLS Humanities E Book (HEB) is developed by the members of ATLA. Titles in the series are selected by ATLA members from the current list (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BQUmEXuXV3Q7YEd8INr4AHzLGKcqldKFBaQPX1MjVQ/edit?usp=sharing>) and forthcoming list (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A4otUukXaJPhFvERWLkoBP-kojF8FehNW5S2ascqTk/edit?usp=sharing>) of religion and philosophy titles in the ACLS HEB collection. ATLA members are welcome to make selections from either of these lists by either editing and saving the list with their selections online or sending a copy of the list via email to memberrep@atla.com.

Creation of the series is an ongoing project, and ATLA members are also encouraged to participate in the curation of future inclusions by submitting recommendations for new titles (<http://goo.gl/forms/sFB6DPVrtbJcKtGT2>).

ACLS HEB collection development works on a yearly cycle. Book titles recommended should be scholarly, of high quality and lasting merit. While recommendation does not ensure inclusion, all recommendations submitted by ATLA members will be reviewed by the ACLS HEB Collection Development Librarian during the next round of review.

If you have any questions, please contact ATLA at memberrep@atla.com.

Theology Cataloging Bulletin Available

The May 2016 issue of *Theology Cataloging Bulletin (TCB)*, a benefit of membership, is now available. Please click here (<http://www.atla.com/community/ATLA%20Member%20Publications/TCB%2024.2.pdf>) to access this issue in the member restricted section of the ATLA website.

Section one of each issue lists new and changed subject headings and genre/form terms and section two lists new and changed classifications. Both are selected and compiled by Ann Heinrichs (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Illinois). Section three includes general information, including professional development opportunities, and is edited by Leslie Engelson (Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky).

Thank you to the Technical Services Interest Group (TSIG) (<https://www.atla.com/Members/divisions/interest/Pages/Technical-Services.aspx>) for their work on this publication.

Click here to access the Member's Only publication (<http://www.atla.com/community/ATLA%20Member%20Publications/TCB%2024.2.pdf>)

Announcing Additions to ATLA Products – June 2016

The American Theological Library Association (ATLA) is pleased to announce the addition of titles now available in *ATLASerials (ATLAS®)*, *ATLA Religion Database® (ATLA RDB®)* and *ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (ATLA CPLI®)*.

New full-text titles in ATLAS

- *Indo-Iranian Journal* by Brill
- *Themelios* [and *Themelios (Online)*] by The Gospel Coalition

New indexing titles in ATLA RDB

- *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies* by THL
- *Sobornost* by Fellowship of Saints Alban and Sergius
- 구약논단 = *Journal of Korean Old Testament Society* by [Korean Association of Old Testament Studies]

New indexing titles in ATLA CPLI

- *Carmelus* by Edizione Carmelitane

Read the full press release (<https://www.atla.com/about/pressroom/Pages/Announcing-Additions-to-ATLA-Products-%E2%80%93-June-2016.aspx>)