



Left: The courtyard of International Baptist Theological Seminary. Photo courtesy of Hermann-Josef Schmalor.

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TLM 2009 Recap

By the Numbers

To date, here are some statistics regarding participation in TLM's various programs and activities:

- Fifty-three institutions have reported their participation in TLM 2009.
- Fourteen institutions applied for and received TLM Mini-Grants to help fund their TLM activities.
- We received 60 entries in the TLM Cartoon Caption Contest.
- At least 24 institutions have submitted plans, photos, and summaries of their campus activities. Be sure to email your ideas, photos, stories, and other items to scorkery@atla.com so we can feature them

on the TLM website.

find it here



TLM Cartoon Contest: Time to Vote!

Three finalists have been chosen for each of our two

cartoons, and now it's time for you to help select the winning captions. The two finalists will receive \$100 each. Go to http://www.atla.com/member/librarians_tools/TLM/TLM_09/tlm_cartoons.html to vote.

From the President



Notes from the Field

It has been enlightening in the past year and a half to visit a number of ATLA libraries (I think there must be close to ten) for the very first time: "enlightening" in the general sense that visiting a new place never fails to be interesting, one way or another. But more particularly in how it provides a close-up view of what good theological librarianship looks like in a given setting.

What I take away from this is a renewed appreciation of context - what makes a particular setting unique - and of opportunism - the capacity of ATLA colleagues in all these disparate situations to read their situation adroitly and work accordingly. What would be a great library collection for one setting would be of little use in another; the services that are effective and appropriate in my library would not be so well-received in yours, and so on.

We have, as ATLA colleagues, a great deal in common, and can benefit greatly from every "best practice" that has been developed. But the capacity to go further and apply that wisdom in a particular setting and culture, for a particular group of people, requires a mixture of insight, poise, and diligence that is absolutely invaluable.

-David R. Stewart

From the Executive Director



Recently I had the opportunity to review the applications of 24 ATLA members who applied for the Colloquy for New Theological Librarians, to be held at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion in April 2010. Just reviewing the applications gave

me a great deal of confidence about the Association's future.

These new theological librarians (none in the field more than seven years) have already amassed a most impressive record. In addition to their library science degrees, the group has earned seven Masters of Theological Studies degrees; eight Master of Arts in various other fields, four Master of Divinity degrees, two Master of Philosophy degrees, one Master of Fine Arts degree, and two Ph.Ds. Four have published books or chapters in books; eight have published articles in refereed journals; seven have published book reviews, and four have published articles in professional proceedings.

The 2010 colloquy will be the third such gathering (the others two were in 2004 and 2007), all welcoming new theological librarians to the profession.

For five years we have also supported an Introduction to Theological Librarianship class through the University of Illinois LEEP Program, and to date there have been more than 100 graduates of that class.

The new energy, creativity, and commitment of all of these new theological librarians is evident in recent annual conferences. Each year we have had more proposals for papers, panels, presentations, roundtables, and workshops. When the Annual Conference Committee, Education Committee, and Local Host Committee met with ATLA staff last month, they had to evaluate more than 70 proposals for programs, the highest number of submissions ever.

I have no doubt that ATLA will continue to flourish as the primary professional association for theological librarians for a long, long while to come. Our future is in strong, capable, and talented hands.

-Dennis A. Norlin

To register to receive regular Friday updates of my blog, go to http://edblog.atla.com/?page_id=62.



Approaching ATLAS for ALUM Program Deadline

Over the last several months, we've signed many of our members up for the newly expanded ATLAS for ALUM program. ATLAS for ALUM provides a way for institutions to offer lifelong research tools to their alumni/ae, by providing them with a subscription to ATLASerials® (ATLAS®), our online collection of more than one hundred and forty major religion and theology journals selected by leading religion scholars, theologians, and clergy.

The ATLAS for ALUM program is supported by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., and is now offered on the aggregator platforms. Through this initiative, institutional members of ATLA who are also accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) qualify for a three-year grant to offer ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) subscriptions to their alumni/ae for free.

If you haven't had a chance to sign up for the ATLAS for ALUM program, now is the time to get started. In order to participate in the full three-year grant period, you must submit your ATLAS for ALUM Inquiry Form (http://www.atla.com/products/atlasalum/atlasalum_inquiry.pdf) to Laura Wrzesinski by December 31st, 2009.

For more information about ATLAS for ALUM, please visit <http://www.atlasalum.com/>, or contact Laura at atlasalum@atla.com, or by phone at 312-775-9435.

New Member Benefits

Member Loyalty Program Introduced

The American Theological Library Association is proud to introduce a Member Loyalty Program. We developed this program to thank our current Institutional, International Institutional, and Affiliate members for your involvement in ATLA and to welcome our new members.

During these challenging economic times, we hope this program will allow you to become an Individual member again if you haven't been for three or more years, register a new person on your staff who hasn't been an Individual member before, or attend the upcoming 2010 Annual Conference if cost has been holding you back.

Loyalty benefits are based on your library's ATLA product subscription level and include:

- Individual membership
- Conference registration
- Gifts to the Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund.

We encourage you to register for the Member Loyalty Program by December 1 - all you need to do is complete the form available here. Your registration will be confirmed and you will be invited at that time to redeem the loyalty benefit of your choice.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Barbara Kemmis at 888/665-2852 or bkemmis@atla.com. Thank you for your dedication to ATLA as a member and as a subscriber. We are pleased to be able to provide you with a range of products and services.

Oxford University Press

ATLA is pleased to partner with The Oxford University Press to offer a 20% discount to ATLA members who want to subscribe

to Oxford Biblical Studies Online, your companion to teaching Biblical Studies. For those that wish to own the content, OUP is extending a 10% discount on the one-time purchase perpetual access option.

Full descriptions and sample lesson plans integrating Oxford Biblical Studies Online into courses are available at <http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/Public/Home.html?url=%2Fapp%3Fservice%3Dexternalpagemethod%26method%3Dview%26page%3DHome&failReason=>. As an ATLA institutional, international institutional or affiliate member, you are eligible for the 20% discount. Existing Oxford University Press subscribers may participate in this benefit at subscription renewal. Contact Oxford University Press library sales team at 800.624.0153 or librarysales@oup.com to participate. Identify yourself as an ATLA member to get the discount.

Westminster John Knox Press

Get a 25% Discount with Westminster John Knox Press's Standing Order Program. As publishers, Westminster John Knox Press truly values your institution and the critical role you play in providing theological resources to your community. To show our appreciation, we offer a Library Standing Order Program designed to save you both time and money. We offer several ordering options, including affordable subscription plans and a 25% discount. Please visit our Web site at <http://www.wjkbooks.com/atla> to view our catalog of fall 2009 academic titles. At the top of the page, you'll find a link to Library Standing Order Program details. For those of you who already participate in the program, this site includes a bibliography of academic titles that will ship as soon as they become available.

From the Publications Committee



The Publications Committee is charged with promoting professional and scholarly publication by ATLA members through publication grants, programming at the annual conference, and other professional development opportunities.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to invite you to apply for a 2010 publication grant. One of our favorite responsibilities is the awarding of grants to help potential authors accomplish their publication goals. Each year, we award grants of up to \$4000 for reimbursable expenses. These awards are given to aid in the development of scholarly work that advances some aspect of theological librarianship or provides bibliographic access to a significant body of literature within theological or religious studies.

The upcoming deadline for application is January 22, 2010. For more information on the grants, visit the ATLA Publication Grants webpage.

- Beth Bidlack, Chair
Publications Committee

ATLA Newsletter
Contact Information:
Sara Corkery
Communications Specialist
scorkery@atla.com •
888.665.2852

Member News



ATLA Committees Meet in Chicago

Members of the Theological Librarianship Editorial Board met at the ATLA office on Wednesday and Thursday, October 7-8 (Above left) Bottom row, left to right: Ron Crown, co-editor, Andy Keck, and Beth Shepperd; top row: Melody Layton McMahon, David Stewart, co-editor).

On Thursday and Friday, October 8-9, the Publications Committee held its meeting at the ATLA office. Members of the committee are (Above right) Left to right: Michelle Spomer, Beth Bidlack, chair, and Amy Limpitlaw.

Direct Inspection Team

The ATLA Board of Directors engages in on-site monitoring of the organization through a process of direct inspections, the focus of which rotates yearly. On October 15 a team of three members of the Board visited ATLA Headquarters for a Direct Inspection of Personnel. The Direct Inspection team included Roberta Schaafsma as team chair, Carisse Berryhill, and Sandy Ayer. The Direct Inspection team considered its visit "as an opportunity to confirm that established policies and procedures are being followed and to facilitate positive change, as needed, for ATLA."

SBL Meeting

If you are attending this year's Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21-24, 2009 (<http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/default.aspx>), be sure to check in with ATLA. Executive Director Dennis Norlin is hosting a breakfast on Sunday, November 22 at the Café Du Monde (French Market, 800 Decatur Street, New Orleans, La, 70116), from 7:30 - 9:30 AM. All members and friends of ATLA are invited to attend for fresh beignets, coffee, and conversation. To RSVP, please email memberrep@atla.com.

AAR Annual Meeting

ATLA is pleased to support student activities at the AAR Annual Meeting again this year. ATLA will sponsor a series of round-table discussions organized by AAR's Graduate Student Committee. Christopher Anderson of Drew University is scheduled to conduct a roundtable on A Career on Campus: Considering Academic Librarianship. The AAR meeting takes place November 7-10 in Montreal, Canada.

Routine Maintenance Reminder

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, December 7, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE, ListServe and the ATLA Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

2010 Annual Conference Planning Meeting



The Annual Conference Committee and the Education Committee experienced "the greatest" October Planning Meeting as they were treated to "southern hospitality" by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. From October 22-24, members of both committees met in Louisville with Meeting Specialist Denise McFarlin and Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis to plan for the 2010 ATLA Annual Conference. The theme is "atla louisville 2.0."

Local Host Committee

(Pictured above, left to right) Front row: Barbara Pfeifle, Dan Kolb; Back Row: Bruce Keisling, Chair, Ken Boyd, Doug Gragg

Annual Conference Committee

Sara Meyers, Chair, Ken Boyd, Vice Chair, Bruce Keisling, Matt Ostercamp, Julie Hines

Education Committee

Kelly Campbell, Chair, Richard Lammert, Secretary, Jenny Bartholomew, Jennifer Ulrich, Dan Kolb, Local Host Representative

New Conference Video Online

At a recent meeting, the local host committee spent a few minutes talking about why atla louisville 2.0 will be The Greatest. "We thought you would like to know early why this will be the greatest meeting, so we made a short video with some of our reflections," said committee member Bruce Kiesling.

You can view the video on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=piDdP7CAjjU>) or at the ATLA Louisville 2.0 Facebook event (<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=89900927644&index=1>).

ATLA's Old Equipment Helps Students

ATLA recently donated some of its old computer equipment to PC Rebuilders and Recyclers Computers for Schools Programs. ATLA's Systems Manager Jim Butler received the following letter in response:

Thank you for the computer equipment you passed along to us and for your efforts in coordinating the pick-up on your end. You can be certain that your retired equipment will be put to the best use possible. Whether it's through refurbishment and reuse, or through responsible recycling, we're committed to turning e-Waste into e-Opportunity. Your support is appreciated!

I thought you might like to hear about some of our recent involvement. Along with our ongoing commitment to school children in Chicago, we are now working with a London based not-for-profit, Computer Aid International. Schools in Malawi, Zambia, and now Nigeria have received our refurbished computers! A recent recipient of refurbished computers is Our Lady of Fatima Secondary School. All of the children at the school come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and many have parents that have been affected by the Aids epidemic.

Computers for Schools Program

One pupil at the school, Linda Adhiambo Otieno, was abandoned by her mother at the age of 11 and is now supported by the local church, which pays her school fees. Like the majority of the children at the school, this is the first opportunity Linda has had to use a computer. She says she enjoys using computers to learn about the outside world.

Please keep us in mind next time you have retired computers to unload. We would love to work with you again in the future!

We couldn't do it without you.
Thanks for your support!

Michelle, Equipment Manager
PC Rebuilders and Recyclers
Computers for Schools Program (<http://www.pccr.com/pcsforschools.asp>)



2009 BETH Conference

Report from the Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie (BETH) conference in Prague, Czech Republic:



BETH (<http://theo.kuleuven.be/beth/page/2/>) is an ecumenical association of the national theological library associations in Europe, with additional members gathered from among the various individual theological libraries that are recognised as extraordinary in their scope, either from their collections or from their influence in the international sphere. The recent assembly was held in Prague, Czech Republic from September 19-23.

Margot Lyon, ATLA's Director of Business Development, gave greetings to the attendees on behalf of ATLA's executive director and staff. She gave an overview of the relationship with BETH and a history of ATLA's products and services, consortial opportunities, and relationships with the aggregators. She also expressed gratitude to EBSCO Publishing for sponsoring the conference. Eileen Crawford (ATLA Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration), Melody Mazuk (Palmer Seminary), Kurt Berends (TBN), Greg Heynen (TBN), also attended. The complete list of attendees included:



- Rebecca Abel, North American Pontifical College, Rome, Italy
- Pierre Beffa, former president of BETH, Geneva, Switzerland
- Kurt Berends, The Theological Book Network, Grandville, Michigan, U.S.A.
- Svein Helge Birkefelt, FTRB, University of Oslo, Norway
- Renata Blazowska Wroclaw, Poland
- Eileen Crawford, ATLA, Vanderbilt Divinity School Library, Tennessee, U.S.A.
- Etienne D'hondt, Vice-President of BETH, VRB, KULeuven, Belgium
- Barbora Drobikova, Charles University, Prague
- Hervé Dupont, Paris, France
- Odile Dupont, President of BETH, ABCF, Institut Catholique de Paris, France
- Anja Emmerich Barke, VkwB, Evangelische Kirche von Westfalen, Bielefeld, Germany
- Penelope Hall, Secretary of BETH, ABTAPL, Edinburgh, Scotland; U.K.
- Geert D. Harmanny, VTB, Kampen, The Netherlands
- Marcel Haverals, VRB, Leuven, Belgium
- Greg Heynen, The Theological Book Network, Grandville, Michigan, U.S.A.
- Laszlo Kontos, EKE, The Collections of the Transdanubian District, Pàpa, Hungary
- Rita Kuu, EBSCO
- Anne Claire Langlois, Paris, France
- Christophe Langlois, BNF Paris, France
- Jan Luprich, EBSCO
- Margot Lyon, Representative from ATLA, Chicago, U.S.A.
- Marina Milovanovic, EBSCO
- Melody Mazuk, ATLA, Palmer Seminary, Philadelphia, U.S.A.
- Tanya Nankovic, EBSCO
- Dusica Otkovic, EBSCO
- Marian Papavoine, VTB and Tilburg University, Tilburg, The Netherlands
- Katharina Penner, IBTS, Prague, Czech Republic
- Marek Rostkowski, URBE, Urbaniana Library, Rome, Italy
- Hermann-Josef Schmalor, Treasurer of BETH, AKThB, Paderborn, Germany
- Gabriel Segui i Trobat, ABIE, Mallorca, Spain
- Paul Sindermann, personal member, Rome, Italy
- Marion Smith, ABTAPL, Birmingham Central Library, Birmingham, England, U.K.
- Botond Gáborjáni Szabó, Board member, EKE and Reformed District College, Debrecen, Hungary
- Kris Van de Castele, VRB, Antwerp Seminary Library, Antwerp, Belgium
- Maaïke van Rossem, VTB, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Jerzy Witczak, FIDES, Pontifical Theological Library, Wroclaw, Poland
- Renata Wlodarczyk, EBSCO

Have You Heard?

ACL Annual Conference

On June 7-10, 2010 the Association of Christian Librarians 54th Annual Conference will take place at Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN. The conference theme is "True North: Illumination, Inspiration, Information." For more information, contact April VanPutten at conference@acl.org or 937-766-2255. You can also visit <http://www.acl.org/conference.cfm> on the web.

Backlist Blog

A new blog, www.shelfrenewal.com, provides suggestions for back-list (primarily fiction) titles on your library shelves linked to topical library or media stories. While geared toward readers' advisory librarians in public libraries, this site provides great tips for quality leisure reading and further exploration of Dusties - those books that someone, somewhere, will love, if they only knew it was still on your shelf.

2010 National Leadership Grant

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting grant applications for the agency's 2010 National Leadership Grant (NLG) program. Applications, guidelines, and examples of successful proposals can be found on the agency's website. The deadline for submitting applications is February 1, 2010.

Editor Needed

Catholic Library Association (CLA) seeks candidates for the part-time position of General Editor of Catholic Library World (CLW), the official quarterly publication of the Association. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of two years editorial experience with journals; dynamic interpersonal and communication skills; knowledge of the various

interests of CLW's readership; strong organizational skills; the ability to work well with paid staff and volunteer committee members across the U.S., and commitment to the Mission of the CLA. This position reports to the Executive Director of the CLA.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Administer all aspects of the journal
- Select new print and non-print media received from publishers for review
- Solicit potential manuscripts and book reviewers
- Evaluate all manuscript submissions and, for major articles, oversee the jury process
- Edit entire contents of each issue
- Send copy for each issue to designer/production editor
- Along with editorial committee, proofread entire contents

Qualifications include a Master's degree in library and/or information science, English, or related field, and a minimum of two years editorial experience. Candidate should be detail oriented; have working knowledge of Microsoft Office, style manuals, and copyright law; and possess the ability to meet deadlines. Excellent oral and written communication skills are also required. Previous library experience is preferred. This is an excellent part time career opportunity with a starting salary of \$25,000.

For consideration, please submit a cover letter, resume, and credentials with three professional references to CLW Search Committee at the address above. Application Deadline: January 15, 2010. The starting Date is April 1, 2010

ATLA Calendar

November

- 5-6 Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration meets at ATLA Office
- 7-10 AAR Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada
- 9 Board Policy Governance Committee meets at ATLA Office
- 12 Margot Lyon attending Minnesota Theological Library Association meeting in Minneapolis, MN
- 21-24 2009 SBL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA (ATLA breakfast reception Sunday, November 22)
- 26-27 ATLA Office closed for Thanksgiving holiday

December

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in January ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 24-25 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
- 15-17 ATLA Board of Directors Meets at ATLA Office
- 18 ATLA Office closed for Martin Luther King holiday

Member Profile



Anthony Elia

Title: Associate Librarian for Reference and Instruction
Institution: JKM Library, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Years as a theological librarian: Almost four years.

Years as an ATLA member:

I've been a member of ATLA for almost four years, but have been affiliated with ATLA since 2004, when I took my first job as an Indexer-Analyst.

How did you become involved in the field?

As an undergraduate in the mid-1990s, I studied Religious Studies. After a semester living and studying in East Africa, I came back with a decision to pursue graduate work in Biblical Studies. I spent three years (1997-2000) living in Jerusalem, Israel, where I received an M.A. in Religious Studies with a concentration in Biblical and Jewish Studies. In the 2000-1 academic year, I went to Rome, Italy to study Latin with Father Reginald Foster, Pope John Paul II's chief English language Latinist. I finally made my way back to the states, and began work on a Ph.D. in Church History at the University of Chicago. While in this program, I worked in the University's main library on a project to digitize the major works of Italian women writers in history. I had a lot of fun on this project, and it made me think more about the library field as a career opportunity. I ended up not finishing my Ph.D., but in 2004 began working at ATLA. And in 2005, I enrolled at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign's GSLIS for the MSLIS degree. I took Carisse's Theological Librarianship course, which helped me focus on the profession more keenly. After almost two years at ATLA, I got a job at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The rest is history.

What do you love most about your profession?

The most...that's a hard one. There are so many things: the students, the faculty, all of my colleagues. There are always many challenges, but in theological librarianship I often find a bit of a hidden world, which non-theological librarians or non-library folks don't know about. And that may be a question of vocation, which we like to speak of in our profession, but it may be something else, too. Nevertheless, I like the intellectual and theological engagement with people who are excited about what they are studying, reading, and writing about, and ultimately living out each day. It's refreshing to be part of that world on a daily basis.

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

Financial cutbacks and learning how to deal with people who don't understand libraries, librarians, or what we do. But also, how to make these individuals (and institutions) more aware of our pedagogical and community-serving purposes.

Why did you join ATLA? I guess someone twisted my arm! It was a natural decision. "Everyone else was doin' it." Well, it was a no-brainer, as the kids say. If you're part of a community of theological librarians, why wouldn't you join?

What is the most rewarding benefit of your membership? The networks, the camaraderie, the conversations, the colleagues--both domestically and abroad--and the friends I've made.

How has ATLA assisted you as a writer? Greatly. From my work in Carisse's Theological Librarianship class, which was often writing-intensive (and I love to write!) to the bibliography grant which I received from ATLA a few years ago, which funded my work on a bibliography of Kabbalah, ATLA has afforded me tremendous opportunities to write and think in more ways than I can detail at this very moment. The bibliography grant was a great honor, and now, after some years of working on it, the product will be published in this December's Theological Librarianship journal. I'd also say that having participated several times in ATLA conferences as speaker and panelist has given me both a forum to think and talk with other people who share my interests, but it is an opportunity for sharing your writing and getting good, solid, and theological attuned feedback. And I cannot forget to mention the role of the Wabash Center Colloquy, which I had the privilege of attending back in 2007--that too had some influence on my writing.

Would you recommend ATLA membership to other theological librarians? Absolutely.

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 (scorkery@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.