

ATLA

newsletter

American Theological Library Association



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Contents

Member News

President's Message	3
Board Members Elected for 2007–10.....	4
2007 Annual Conference Updates.....	5
Welcome to New ATLA Members	6
Member Notes	7
ATLA Endowment Fund Donors.....	12
ATLA Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund Donors	13
Reference Review	14
Perspectives on Professional Development.....	16
Diktuon.....	17

Product News

ATLA Product Notes	18
Preservation Products.....	20

Staff News

From the Executive Director	22
From the Editor	23
ATLA Calendar.....	24

ATLA Newsletter

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Mission Statement

The mission of the American Theological Library Association is to foster the study of theology and religion by enhancing the development of theological and religious libraries and librarianship.

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ATLA Member News

a professional association of theological libraries and librarians

President's Message



Dear Colleagues:

The last time I was not seriously behind in some aspect of my work was Monday, October 9, 1995. I had just started a new job and my desk was clean, my e-mail inbox was empty, and I had no phone messages. I don't remember exactly how long this blissful state lasted, but it was hours, certainly not days.

The former dean of Perkins School of Theology, Robin Lovin, used to lament "the tyranny of the urgent." He felt that the overwhelming number of urgent matters keeps us from focusing attention on what is actually important. Defining "urgent" is pretty simple: A necessary task is urgent when it has a deadline and the time remaining until that deadline is already too short to do the task properly. The unwary can get caught up in splitting hairs about what tasks are "necessary" and what are the "real" deadlines, but to go that direction is to miss the point.

The real question is, "How do I focus on what is truly important?" and still more basically, "How do I distinguish what is important, especially when I'm overwhelmed by the urgent and the necessary?" More colorfully, it's hard to get on with draining the swamp when you're busy fighting off alligators.

The important can be hard to identify. It is necessary. It may even be urgent, but many

things that are both necessary and urgent are not, in the final analysis, all that important. One of the oft-cited ways of distinguishing what's important is to ask what difference the matter at hand will make over time. Will it matter tomorrow, next week, or next year? That sometimes helps, but not always. It may be hard to perceive or predict the long-term effects of the issue before you. I have never really come across a surefire test for the real importance of any given issue at any given moment.

Knowing what is important is a process of discernment. It is part of living an examined and reflective life and it is also a core skill for any professional. Some people have a talent for getting to the heart of any situation. The rest of us have to work at it. It can be frustrating process for many reasons. Importance can be relative and change with changing circumstances. Anyone who has dealt with serious illness knows this only too well.

What I first perceive as important usually requires refinement. In my work, students are crucially important. If we don't have students, we may as well fold our tents and steal quietly away. But knowing that alone isn't useful. There are all kinds of things about dealing with students that are not the least bit important. So I need to be more specific. "Help students develop their talents and skills to serve" is better but still lacks something. I want them to do more than develop their skills. I want them to be able to use them effectively, critically, to do the most good. Thus far, I'm down to: "Help students learn to discern what's important." In the midst of hundreds of mostly unrelated interactions with students, I try to be vigilant for opportunities to do that.

I find it helpful to keep lists of things I feel are important. There is more than one list, but they're all quite short. I didn't sit down and make them all at once. Mostly I "discovered" things to put on them. Since I

have not found it helpful to include things that I cannot affect in any way, they are entirely made up of activities. Most of the activities are pretty humdrum habits because I try to focus on the possible rather than to invite guilt and frustration by setting impossible goals. Of course, one of the items reads, "Challenge yourself."

If you are not already, I encourage you to do something that works for you as a process of discerning what is important in the varied aspects of life. The last point I would like to make is that discernment is rarely a solitary process. Most of what I have discovered has come from other people—family, friends, coworkers, acquaintances, and perfect strangers. Discerning what is important professionally is a particularly communal process. Librarians seem to gravitate naturally to a process of conversation, collaboration, debate, and discernment professionally. I believe it's one of our great strengths.

In June, at the ATLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, many of us will gather together to consider the work of our profession and to ask, in numerous ways, "What is important?" Please join us if at all possible, even if you have to postpone some things that are necessary and even urgent. It's important to all that you be there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane Harbin".

*Duane Harbin
ATLA Board President
Perkins School of Theology, SMU*



ATLA Newsletter

Board Members Elected for 2007–2010

The following candidates have been elected to serve a three-year term (2007-2010) on the Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the membership of the Board Secretary's report at the 2007 Annual Conference:



Duane Harbin



Sandra Lipton



James Pakala



Roberta Schaafsma

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors express their thanks to all candidates for the Board and for their many efforts on behalf of the Association.

Roberta A. Schaafsma
Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

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ASIAN CHRISTIAN REVIEW

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Member News

2007 Annual Conference Updates

Choir Participation Invited

The ATLA Singers, a small volunteer choir that sings at one of the conference worship services, will perform at the Catholic worship service on Saturday, June 16. The choir is looking for new members to swell its ranks, particularly individuals with some choir experience, blending voices (and the technique to control vibrato, if any), and some ability to read music. The music is sent out to singers so that they have the opportunity to learn it ahead of the limited rehearsal time at the conference. If you would like to join, please contact the choir director, Seth Kasten, at skasten@uts.columbia.edu. Past singers, please note that the list of singers is being rebuilt from scratch, so you should resubmit your name

to insure that you'll receive the music ahead of time.

ATLA to Acknowledge New Retirees

Are you an Individual Member who has retired since our last conference in June 2006? Do you know of an Individual Member at your institution who has retired? We would like to recognize this milestone at our Annual Conference. Please send any information you have to Tim Smith, membership associate, at memberrep@atla.com.

Job Placement Service Featured

At the conference registration desk there will be a book of job openings submitted by employers. Job seekers will be welcome to

look through the book and make mutually convenient arrangements to meet with the hiring employer. If you will be hiring at that time and want your position to appear in the book, please send your information to Tim Smith, membership associate, at memberrep@atla.com.

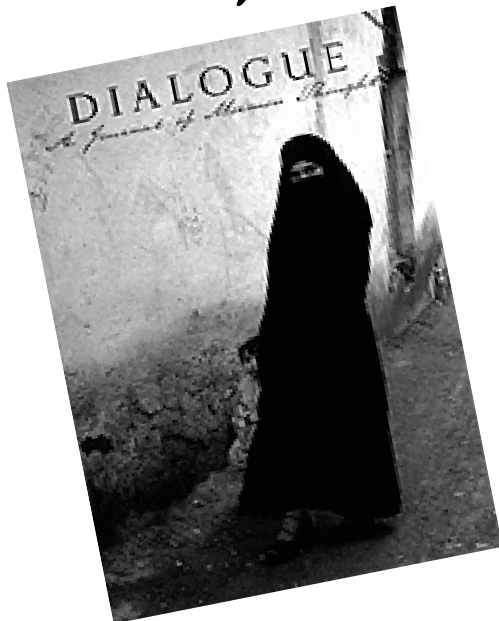
Conference Memorial Service

Every year we take time at the conference to remember ATLA members who have died in the preceding 12 months. This year's memorial service is scheduled for Saturday following the worship service. If you know of any ATLA members who have passed away since June 2006, please let Tim Smith know at memberrep@atla.com.



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Welcome

ATLA

New Members

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Ms. Mary Gunn, Dearborn, MI
Mr. Robert Justin Harkins, Chicago, IL
Ms. Lynne Kvinnesland, Center Valley, PA
Dr. Sara M. Marcus, Bayside, NY
Ms. Betsy Polakowski, St. Paul, MN

STUDENT MEMBERS

Mr. Dustin T. Booher, Canonsburg, PA
Ms. Lisa Gonzalez, Pasadena, CA
Mr. Colin McCaffrey, Champaign, IL
Miss Laura A. Saloiye, Langhorne, PA
Ms. Sherri Sanderson, St. John's, NF, Canada
Ms. Annette M. Tews, St. Paul, MN

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong, China

AFFILIATE MEMBERS - LIBRARIES

Graduate Theological Foundation, South Bend, IN
New Life Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC

AFFILIATE MEMBERS ORGANIZATIONS

InterVarsity Press, Westmont, IL
Philadelphia Rare Books & Manuscripts Company (PRB & M), Philadelphia, PA
Spanish Publishing Services, Chicago, IL

Member Notes

New Online Journal Taking Shape

With new managing editors **Ron Crown** and **David Stewart** at the helm, planning for the launch of *Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association* is well underway. This new open-access journal will be published twice a year and feature essays, columns, critical reviews, bibliographic essays and peer-reviewed articles on various aspects of theological librarianship and its contribution to theological education.

Ronald Wesley Crown has served as a Reference Librarian and Associate Professor at Pius XII Memorial Library at Saint Louis University since 1992. Ron has experience as a teacher at St. Louis University, Asbury Theological Seminary, and McPherson College. He recently served as the editor and member of the editorial board of the Journal of Religious and Theological Information. Ron has an MSLS degree from the University of Kentucky, a D.Phil from the University of Oxford, and an MAR in

New Testament from Asbury Theological Seminary.

The Director of Library Services at Luther Seminary since 2004, David R. Stewart has served as Associate Librarian at Regent College and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has a B.A. from the University of Lethbridge, an M.A. from Providence Seminary, an M.Div. and Th.M from Regent College, and an M.L.I.S. from the University of Western Ontario.

In addition to the managing editors, the journal's staff will include three section editors. **Terese Jerose** will serve as the Critical Review Editor, **Beth Sheppard** is the Bibliographic Essays Editor, and **Andy Keck** has undertaken the Column Editor role.

This June, the Editorial Board will lead a roundtable discussion at the ATLA 2007 Annual Conference for those who wish to meet the editors, brainstorm article ideas, and learn about the entire publication process.



*Members of the Publications Committee braved a major snowstorm to gather in Chicago on Monday and Tuesday, February 12-13. The group discussed a wide range of topics pertaining to future plans for ATLA's member publications. Committee members, left to right: **Andrew Keck**, **Teresa Jerose**, **Douglas Gragg**, and **Jack W. Ammerman**.*



*The Professional Development Committee (PDC) met at ATLA headquarters on Thursday and Friday, March 22-23, with a full agenda of items related to the continuing education of theological librarians. Committee members are pictured above, left to right: **Eric Friede**, **Kris Veldbeer**, **Laura C. Wood** (chair), and **Angela Morris**.*



ATLA Board Nominations

In the August 2006 ATLA Newsletter (pages 7-8), the Nominating Committee, which is a Standing Committee of the Board, provided a robust explanation of the nominating process and how various members of the Association become members of the Board. That explanation is essential background to what we say here by way of invitation.

Besides the ten-signature petition whereby members may nominate someone to be added to the slate of candidates announced in the fall, ATLA members also have the opportunity to suggest names to the Nominating Committee in the spring, prior to the Thursday of the Conference. The procedure for doing so is to review the criteria and other information we presented in the August Newsletter, and to suggest the person or persons you have in mind to one or more members of the Nominating

continued on page 8

(ATLA member names appear in bold)

continued from page 7

Committee. Self-nominations are welcome. The Committee may or may not follow up, depending on the number of names under consideration, the various criteria for Board membership, the considerations regarding diverse kinds of balance on the Board, and so forth.

Everyone should understand that a follow-up by the Committee is only a possibility, and initially involves exploration of the further possibility of nomination. But, the more names the better, for that allows us to find candidates who, in the aggregate and along with current Board members, tend to meet the diverse criteria as well as afford broader representation of the total Association.

Although each of us Committee members is keenly interested in ATLA, none of us "campaigns" to serve in this manner. We do take our service very seriously, and we seek to identify potential candidates as best we can, trying to keep foremost in mind the long-range good of the Association. This has become increasingly challenging as ATLA has developed into a multi-million-dollar organization with a headquarters and impressive staff. Indeed, we ask for your moral support and your prayers as we attempt

(ATLA member names appear in bold)

to discharge our responsibilities in a prudent and rigorous manner.

E-mail is the preferred means of contacting us. We may phone you thereafter or speak with you at the Conference or later in the summer, if necessary. Thank you.

The Nominating Committee
(membership approximates calendar year)

James Pakala (05-07; chair in 2007)
Jim.Pakala@covenantseminary.edu

Susan Ebertz (06-08)
sebertz@wartburgseminary.edu

M. Patrick Graham (07-09)
libmpg@emory.edu



ATLA Bibliographic Grant awarded for Directory of Theses and Dissertations of Indian Theological Libraries

The Publications Committee of the American Theological Library Association

selected a proposal developed by members of the Indian Theological Library Association (ITLA) to receive the 2007 ATLA Bibliographic Grant. Their project, "Directory of Theses and Dissertations of Indian Theological Libraries," will provide bibliographic details and abstracts of nearly 5000 theses and dissertations available in over a 130 different colleges and university libraries in India. The resulting data will be a significant contribution to theological education in India and world wide.



Perkins School Of Theology Names New Director of Bridwell Library

Roberta A. Schaafsma is the new Director of Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. She assumed the role of J. S. Bridwell Endowed Librarian on April 1, 2007. Previously, she was the associate director of the Duke Divinity School Library, where she served since 1993. She brings a broad range of experience to her new responsibilities at Perkins School of Theology.

A distinguished leader among theological

continued on page 10



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Questions? Contact Membership Coordinator Timothy Smith: 888.665.ATLA or memberrep@atla.com

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ATLA Subscription Databases

■ **ATLA Religion Database™**

ATLA Religion Database provides information on topics such as biblical studies, world religions, church history, and religion in social issues. This database is the definitive index for religious and theological literature. *ATLA Religion Database* contains more than 1.4 million bibliographic records covering the research literature of religion in over 60 languages. It includes more than 488,000 article citations from more than 1,500 journals (506 currently indexed), more than 215,000 essay citations from over 15,700 multi-author works, more than 446,000 book review citations, and a growing number of multimedia citations. Most coverage spans from 1949 to the present, while an ambitious retrospective indexing project provides citations of select titles back to their original publication date. This database is an essential resource for researchers and students in theology as well as in social sciences, history, and humanities. This database is produced by the American Theological Library Association.

■ **ATLA Religion Database™ with ATLASerials™**

ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials combines the premier index to journal articles, book reviews, and collections of essays in all fields of religion with ATLA's online collection of major religion and theology journals. The *ATLA Religion Database* includes more than 488,000 article citations from more than 1,500 journals (506 currently indexed), more than 215,000 essay citations from over 15,700 multi-author works, more than 446,000 book review citations, and a growing number of multimedia citations. This database begins in 1949 although indexing for some journal titles extends back into the nineteenth century. Links are provided to more than 185,000 electronic articles and book reviews, from more than 80 journals selected by leading religion scholars in the United States. This database is produced by the American Theological Library Association.

Special pricing is available to American Theological Library Association members! Please contact EBSCO for details.

Publishing Partner Databases

■ **Catholic Periodical and Literature Index Online**

The *Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI) Online* is the product of a partnership between ATLA and the Catholic Library Association. The database covers all aspects of the Catholic faith and lifestyle, and includes over 380,000 index citations of articles and reviews published in Roman Catholic periodicals, Papal documents, church promulgations, and books about the Catholic faith that are authored by Catholics and/or produced by Catholic publishers. Indexing for *CPLI Online* corresponds to the print version, *The Catholic Periodical and Literature Index*, published by the Catholic Library Association and covers content from over 200 periodicals. Coverage in the database dates back to 1981.

■ **New Testament Abstracts Online**

New Testament Abstracts Online is a product of a partnership between ATLA and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology. The database is an indispensable research and bibliographic aid for scholars, librarians, clergy and students of the New Testament and its historical milieu. The database contains more than 38,000 article abstracts, 1,200 review abstracts, 13,500 book abstracts, and 50 software abstracts. Each year an additional 2,100 articles from more than 500 periodicals in numerous languages are selected for inclusion. In addition, approximately 800 current books are also summarized annually. Article coverage in the database dates back to 1985.

■ **Old Testament Abstracts Online**

Old Testament Abstracts Online is a product of a partnership between ATLA and the Catholic Biblical Association. The database features indexing and abstracts for journal articles, monographs, multi-author works, and software related to Old Testament studies. Abstracts from over 450 journals are included. All abstracts are in English, regardless of the language of the original work. Topics covered include antiquities, archaeology, biblical theology, philology and much more. Coverage in the database dates back to 1978.

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E-mail: information@ebscohost.com
or call 1-800-653-2726

continued from page 8

librarians, Schaafsma was elected to the board of directors of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) in 2004 and is currently secretary of the board. She also has led the Public Services Interest Group, served as chair of the Education Committee and as president of the Methodist Librarians Fellowship within ATLA. Schaafsma also has been an accreditation visiting team member for the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

“We are exceptionally pleased to be welcoming an outstanding leader in theological education as the new director of the J. S. Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology,” said Perkins Dean William B. Lawrence. “Roberta Schaafsma has a profound appreciation for the multiple responsibilities of a truly great theological library. Bridwell houses a remarkable collection of the most important resources for academic research needed by faculty and Bridwell has a strong commitment to public service for the education of the community. Roberta Schaafsma will bring a unique combination of academic training, professional experience, and university leadership which will enable her to achieve great success as the leader of Bridwell Library.”



Staff Changes at Duke University

Effective April 1, 2007, **Andy Keck** became the Associate Director of the Divinity School Library at Duke University. Andy served as Duke’s Electronic Services Librarian since 1999. In his new role, he directs the reference service and library instruction efforts, implements technology in library services, and participates in library management. Please join us in congratulating Andy on this new assignment.

Tracy Powell, a library science student at UNC (she also holds an MTS from Harvard), rejoined the Duke staff on a temporary part-time basis to assist with reference service both this spring and

summer. She worked as a library science intern in fall 2006, and led the divinity school library’s efforts in Theological Libraries Month.



New Methodist Librarian at Drew

On January 16, **Chris Anderson** became Drew University’s new Methodist Librarian. Chris holds a PhD from Drew University’s Graduate School. His dissertation, entitled: “The World is Our Parish: Displaying Home and Foreign Missions at the 1919 Methodist World’s Fair,” shows his interest in Methodism’s intersections with popular culture and media. Chris recently published two encyclopedia articles, one on Jarena Lee, in *The Encyclopedia of African American Women Writers*, and the other on Richard Allen, in *The Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellions*, both from Greenwood Press. He is eager for collegial contacts in the larger world of theological libraries and will be attending the 2007 ATLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia.



Andover Newton Appoints Interim Directors

As previously announced, **Sharon Taylor** has resigned her position as Director of the Trask Library at Andover Newton Theological School to take up new responsibilities as Director of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary library. During the interim period, Dean William Herzog has appointed **Diana Yount**, Associate Director and Public Services/Special Collections Librarian, and **Jeffrey Brigham**, Technical Services Librarian, to share the responsibilities of the Interim Director position.



A New Way to Support TBN

The **Theological Book Network** (TBN)

and ATLA’s International Collaboration Committee encourage ATLA-member librarians to assist the Theological Book Network in a new way. Librarians could notify retiring professors at their respective seminaries that they may wish to consider donating their professional libraries to TBN for placement in the global theological library community. This offers faculty the opportunity to go beyond mere recycling of books within the usual circles of students, colleagues, etc. and provide a substantial contribution to under-resourced theological libraries in the Majority World. If you know of any faculty that may wish to consider this as an option, have them contact Wayne Bornholdt at Wayne@theologicalbooknetwork.org or visit our website.



New Building for Candler School of Theology and the Center for Ethics

The first phase of a plan to establish a “religion corridor” at the heart of the Emory campus began on March 20 with groundbreaking for a new building for Candler School of Theology and the Center for Ethics, the largest new structure adjacent to the Quad in many years. Read the article by Elaine Justice and David Payne at www.emory.edu/EMORY_REPORT/erarchive/2007/March/March%2019/CandlerEthicsBuild.htm



LITANY Announces First Annual Spring Meeting

A little over a year ago, on April 3, 2006, the first gathering of theological librarians in upstate New York constituted itself as Libraries Interested in Theology Across New York (LITANY) at LeMoyne College in Syracuse.

Since then, the group has adopted a constitution and by-laws, elected a first slate of officers, established a web-site

(ATLA member names appear in bold)

Member News

(<http://litany.sbu.edu/>), affiliated with ATLA and NYLA, and planned a first annual meeting.

Fr. Cyprian Alexandrou will be hosting the annual meeting at Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York on Tuesday, June 5th. Topics presented by seminary personnel will include the history of the Russian Orthodox Church, Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary, and its library. After lunch, participants will take a tour of the library, the archives, and the seminary. If you wish to attend, please e-mail **J. James Mancuso**, Assistant Director of Library Services at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary (jjmancuso@mbatsne.edu).



Staff Changes at Yale Divinity Library

In January 2007, **Amy Limpitlaw** left her position as Public Services Librarian at Vanderbilt Divinity Library to assume new responsibilities as Research and Electronic Services Librarian at Yale Divinity Library. In her new position Amy is responsible for coordinating the Divinity Library's electronic services, including preparing documentation and coordinating digital projects. She also provides reference services in collaboration with Suzanne Estelle Holmer, Reference and Instructional Services Librarian.

Martha Smalley, who served as Research Services Librarian and Curator of the Day Missions Collection since 1996, continues to serve as Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the Day Missions Collection. In addition, she has assumed new responsibilities as the Principal Investigator for the Mellon-funded Collections Collaborative, an innovative project that seeks to enhance access to and the use of the museums, galleries, and library special collections at Yale University (www.yale.edu/collections_collaborative).



continued on page 12



*Front row (Left to right): **Judy Knop**, ATLA; **Lynn Berg**, New Brunswick Theological Seminary; **Denise Pakala**, Covenant Theological Seminary; **Michael Bradford**, Harvard Divinity School Library; **Hae-Sook Kim**, Golden Gate Seminary; **Nancy Adams**, Palmer Theological Seminary; **Scott Carlson**, ATLA. Back row (left to right): **Kyunghyun Cho**, Fuller Theological Seminary; **Leslie Engelson**, Northwest University; **Tammy Johnson**, Columbia Theological Seminary; **Donna Wells**, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Library; **Diane Pugh**, ATLA; **Andrew Elliott**, Center for Research Libraries; **Jeff Siemon**, Fuller Theological Seminary.*

Ten members, three ATLA staff, and a colleague from the Center for Research Libraries gathered at the Cenacle Conference and Retreat Center in Chicago for NACO Training led by Judy Knop, ATLA Digitization Coordinator. Despite technology and weather challenges, the participants engaged in an intense and rich learning experience to generate, update, and repair name authority records in religion and theology. Approximately 40 records were created during the training week for Judy to review. Since then, the group has created about 60 more. When approved, they will be posted to the Library of Congress Name Authority File through OCLC.

The ATLA NACO/CONSER Funnel project is one of only twenty-five such groups, and thus a vital source of subject specialized authority work for the Library of Congress and the broader field of librarianship. ATLA members participating in the funnel are a small but committed group who conduct this work as part of their full-time jobs at member libraries. As the Library of Congress lessens its participation in authority work and shifts priorities, the work of the funnel projects becomes increasingly important.

The newly trained members pictured above join active members **Richard Lammert**, Concordia Theological Seminary; **Jeffrey Brigham**, Andover Newton Theological Seminary; **Raymond Van De Moortell**, Boston University School of Theology; **Denise Hanusek**, Emory University, Pitts Theology Library; **Armin Siedlecki**, Emory University, Pitts Theology Library; **Gene Fieg**, Claremont School of Theology, and Russell Kracke and **Judy Knop** of ATLA in creating more than 200 records per year.

ATLA thanks these members for their commitment to this work and dedication to the field.

continued from page 11

Joyce Farris

Joyce Farris died of cancer on December 12, 2006. "At Duke University, Joyce Farris was an Original Cataloger at Perkins Library from 1978 until her retirement in 1992," recalled Roger L. Loyd, Director of the Duke University Divinity School Library. "From 1950 to 1992, she was Recording Secretary of ATLA, and with her husband Donn Michael Farris (director of the Duke Divinity Library and Editor of the ATLA Newsletter) was named a lifetime member by action of the ATLA Board. Mr. Farris died last year. If you attended the ATLA annual conference in Chicago last summer, you may remember that Joyce was there, enjoying her theological library friends and having a good time in Chicago. May she rest in peace."



Esther Yeung

Esther Yeung, long-time former employee of Fuller Seminary, died Easter morning. Esther began her work in McAlister Library in 1976 and graduated with an MA in Intercultural Studies in 1978. She served the seminary for over 25 years, most recently as Head of Technical Services. Diagnosed three years ago with multiple myeloma, Esther had a stem cell transplant in January 2006 and never fully recovered her strength after that time.

Condolences may be sent to her husband, Garry Friesen, P.O. Box 50524, Pasadena, CA 91115.



Upcoming Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the August issue of the *ATLA Newsletter* is July 1, 2007. Please send news items, announcements, etc., to Sara Corkery, Communications Specialist, at newsletter@atla.com. For submission guidelines see the newsletter home page: www.atla.com/member/publications/newsletter.html.



(ATLA member names appear in bold)

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Reference Review

Adeyemo, Tokunboh, ed. *Africa Bible Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

The *Africa Bible Commentary* (ABC) is a one-volume commentary of the Christian Bible written by African scholars primarily for an African audience. As such, the ABC is unique in the corpus of one-volume Bible commentaries. The ABC is the brain-child of the Association of Evangelicals of Africa (AEA), and members of the AEA chose the authors and served as the editorial board.

In the general introduction to the commentary, Tokunboh Adeyemo, the General Editor of the ABC, describes the contents in the following way:

The ABC is not a critical, academic, verse-by-verse commentary. Rather, it contains section-by-section exegesis and explanation of the whole Bible as seen through the eyes of African scholars who respect the integrity of the text and use African proverbs, metaphors and stories to make it speak to African believers in villages and cities across the entire continent.

This quote highlights both the uniqueness of the ABC as well as one of its major limitations. The ABC's uniqueness lies in its embrace of what Justin Ukpang calls the "ordinary reader," the common African reader as opposed to a religious or academic elite. The goal of the commentary is to provide a devotional, rather than critical, reading of the text, one that resonates with the African situation, utilizes African language and cultural markers, and one that has practical consequence. This goal is commendable.

However, in choosing those scholars who "respect the integrity of the text," the editorial board excluded many African scholars who perhaps could have added more depth to the commentary. Most notably, there are no scholars from the Catholic tradition, nor are there any from the Ubuntu school of Desmond Tutu or from a tradition of liberation. The

contributors to the ABC were required by the editorial board to accept the AEA Statement of Faith with its corresponding emphasis on the "infallible and entirely trustworthy" nature of the Christian bible. Nowhere is this commitment more palpable than in the various introductions to the biblical books.

The authors, for example, embrace the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, Davidic authorship of the Psalms, and, in general take an unquestionably traditionalist approach to the matters of critical introduction that Western scholars have haggled over for the last two centuries. This is not necessarily bad. A reading of scripture that skews the historical-critical method can provide a refreshing look at the text, and one could easily forgive the lack of critical introduction if the section-by-section exegesis provided such a refreshing reading. This type of reading seems to be what the authors intended. Throughout the forward and in the ABC's promotional literature, the editorial board—and others—praise the commentary for its uniquely African reading. "In interpreting the biblical text, the authors have also been able to bring together Christian spirituality and the depth of their understanding of *African culture and religion*," says Dr. Robert K Aboagye. "Its foundation is Biblical, its *perspective African*," says John Stott. The vision statement for the ABC similarly says, "the general aim of the commentary is to make the word of God speak relevantly to *African realities* today."

At times the ABC achieves this goal admirably. In the commentary on Mathew 5:9, for example, the author highlights the need for peacemakers:

"Sudan, and especially the Darfur region, is just the latest part of Africa desperately needing peacemakers...[peacemaking] involves actively working for reconciliation between hostile factions (1119)."

At other times, the authors descend into a simplistic and almost patronizing interpretation of the text, such as in the

exegesis of Genesis 24, the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah:

Rebekah had an important role to play in the whole affair. Here is a reminder for parents and guardians that when it comes to the matter of marriage, the wishes of the future wife or husband are of first importance...Parents should listen very carefully to their children when arranging marriages...forced marriage is a sin before God (46).

In approaching this review, I should state plainly that I am a white American male, trained in the historical-critical method at predominantly white protestant universities. Although I attempt to embrace what Daniel Patte calls a multi-dimensional andro-critical perspective, I struggle with a bias against what I would deem a non-critical reading. Nevertheless, when I signed on for this review, I was excited about reading a commentary from a distinctly African perspective. My disappointment in the ABC is rooted mostly in the fact that the polyvalence of African voices is not represented. Instead, the commentary offers a one-sided African reading, even as it asserts a more universal tone.

The various topical articles sprinkled throughout the ABC are the most succinct attempt to bring together topics of interest to African Christians and the biblical text. There are a total of eighty of these articles, and the topics range from "Angels, Demons, and Powers" to "Yahweh and Other Gods." These articles come close to fulfilling the ABC's self-described goal. The articles on "HIV/AIDS in Africa" and "Christians and the Environment" are particularly noteworthy. However, the over-simplification that plagues much of the rest of the commentary is not absent from the articles. The article "War," for example, concludes with the admonishment that sometimes war is necessary because, "Jesus Christ himself...had to wage the ultimate war against sin on Calvary in order that we might live (968)."

Member News

The only work comparable to the ABC is the *African Bible* published by the Catholic Paulines Press. Although the *African Bible* is a study Bible and the ABC is a commentary, the two works are similar in scope. Both provide introductions to the books of the Bible and both give a running commentary on the text. The difference between the two is one of perspective. Whereas the ABC is written from the vantage of African Evangelicals with a strong sense of Biblical

inerrancy, the *African Bible* is written from the standpoint of African Catholic Bishops with an emphasis on applying church teaching to the African situation. The two books complement one another and would function nicely as bookends to a broader African reading.

The ABC certainly deserves a place in any theological library. Does it, however, belong on the reference shelf? Ultimately, this

decision rests with each individual library. Its focus on a narrow devotional reading of the bible inclines this reviewer toward the stacks.

*Chad Pollock,
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*



... are you passport-ready?

2008 ATLA Annual Conference

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Ottawa Sunrise • Photo: City of Ottawa

Make Sure You're "Passport-Ready"

Are you coming to Ottawa for the ATLA Annual Conference in June of 2008? If so, now is the time to plan ahead for new government travel requirements. If you have a current passport, be sure to examine it closely, because the current wait time for passport processing—whether you're renewing or getting a completely new one—is approximately **6 months**.

As of January 23, 2007, citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda must present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere. More information is available on the State Department's consular web site, travel.state.gov and on the DHS web site, www.dhs.gov. U.S. citizens can find information about how to apply for a passport at travel.state.gov or by calling 1-877-487-2778.

Perspectives on Professional Development

In March I traveled to Chicago for my last PDC meeting at ATLA headquarters. It is difficult for me to believe that my time on this committee is coming to a close. As I reflected on what I might write for this, my last column, I began a mental list of all the activities the PDC had developed or sponsored. Here's a recap.

The PDC was started in February 2000 to address continuing education needs of members outside the annual conference. Since that time, the PDC has had just ten members: Roberta Schaafsma (chair 2000-02), Valerie Hotchkiss, Jeff Siemon, David Stewart (chair 2002-05), Laura Olejnik, Laura Wood (chair 2005-07), Jan Malcheski, Mikail McIntosh-Doty, Eric Friede, Angela Morris, and Kris Veldheer.

This band of merry members has over time put together a wonderful array of programming, all of it with only one defining feature – not occurring during the annual conference:

- Managed the regional grants program, making funding available to ATLA regional groups to support local continuing education programs throughout the year (distributing \$20,000 in 7 years).
- Created an online speakers list to highlight the expertise of our membership and make it easy to identify speakers for regional grant programs.
- Developed 4 pre-pre-conference seminars, occurring the day before the start of annual conference, to capitalize on existing travel plans of members.
- Requested a task force to explore a graduate level course in theological librarianship – ultimately leading to the online course offered through LEEP at UIUC.
- Assisted in developing two Colloquies for new theological librarians sponsored by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.
- Identified regional resources for grant

seeking, connecting ATLA regional groups to local resources and speakers for programming.

- Worked with ATLA staff to select and establish Chat software for use by members.
- Sponsored name authority training for the ATLA NACO Funnel Project.
- Sponsored a conference call to discuss Theological Libraries Month.

Not a bad list for 7 years work! As most of you no doubt recognize, there is an enormous amount of work from ATLA staff reflected in that list. Dennis Norlin has been an assiduous supporter of the PDC. He has managed to open doors with partners such as UIUC, making many of these events possible. We have been aided tirelessly by the Member Services Department, presently leaning heavily on Barbara Kemmis. And the committee has been well funded, to permit programming at little or no cost.

In my mind, the best part of the above list is that many of these programs are continuing into the future. The Theological Librarianship course will be available for the third time this fall under the able instruction of Carisse Berryhill. A discussion list has been created to help support the recent trainees in NACO, keeping them closely connected to their reviewer, Judy Knop. New conference calls are being considered to facilitate discussions during the year. Connections continue to be forged with the Wabash Center to examine how we can assist our members in their teaching and learning roles. And grant funding is still readily available for local continuing education programs. This funding (up to \$750) is now available to **all** institutional members of ATLA, whether or not you are part of a regional group.

Throughout these 7 years, one theme has been constant: the PDC needs your input. This committee has demonstrated its ability to execute programming. But to be the most effective, we have pleaded to hear from you, using surveys, focus groups, phone calls, and column entries to gather and request feedback. The PDC is small and depends

on the entire ATLA membership to inform us of *your needs*.

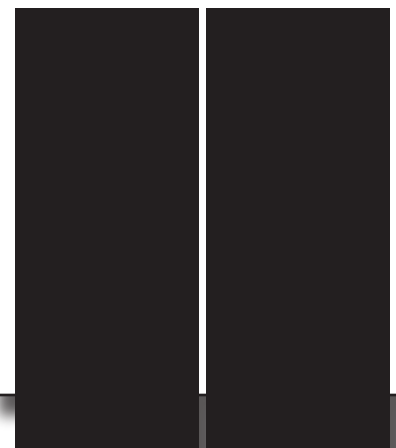
Thank you for guiding the PDC in its work so far. But your job isn't finished.

I want to encourage you to continue to guide the committee. The 2007-08 PDC includes Eric Friede (chair), Seth Kasten, Angela Morris, and Kris Veldheer. Look for them in Philadelphia. Email and phone them with questions and suggestions. They have lots of ideas for the future but need your input to deliver the programming you value and need most..

*Laura Wood, Chair
ATLA Professional Development Committee
Andover-Harvard Theological Library
Harvard Divinity School*



Beware!
The latest printed volume of Religion Index One: Periodicals (RIO®) is coming ... and it's so big and heavy we had to divide it into two volumes.



Greening Computers

Typically technology devices are bad for the environment throughout their lifecycles: requiring energy, using natural resources, and creating environmental toxins during production, use, and disposal. While there is no official metric of how environmentally-friendly any given computer or technology device might be, there are several factors to consider in purchasing, using and disposing of your computer.

Production

The production of an average personal computer is an amazingly complex combination of silicon, chemicals, plastics, metals, and glass that makes intensive use of water and energy. A recent United Nations study suggests that the production of the average personal computer requires 530 lbs. of fossil fuels, 48 lbs. of chemicals, and 3300 lbs. (almost 400 gallons) of water. Chemicals and environmental toxins that are not properly managed during this process can have additional negative impacts on the environment and on worker health. The often-narrow profit margins of computer manufacturers tend to emphasize faster and cheaper materials without as much consideration of their environmental costs and impacts.

In recent years, computer companies have become much more conscious of their environmental impact and often include environmental statements and educational materials on their websites. As technology companies use long, proprietary, and worldwide supply chains, it can be difficult to get beyond a self-reported environmental audit. New laws and consumer demand for transparency continue to push computer companies in useful ways.

Purchasing

In addition to an awareness of a computer company's environmental track record, purchasing computers with a flexible design and the "right" specifications can extend the time between refresh cycles. A flexible or modular design allows you to add more memory and replace other components

to keep up with the requirements of current applications. Often, the "cheaper" computers have less flexibility and may actually cost more both in real terms and in environmental impact, as you may need to "upgrade" to a new computer more often. Ask specifically about any limits to adding memory chips, as this is often the cheapest way to extend the life of your computer. Consider purchasing "refurbished" computer systems and parts.

Also, consider computers that are designed to reduce energy use during use. Energy Star compliance is a basic federal standard for monitors and computers. While packaging is important for your computer during shipping and handling, see if efforts have been made to reduce unnecessary packaging. Similarly, check into the company's process or policy for recycling. While preferable environmentally to recycle locally (see below), several companies offer a recycling or "take-back" program which may be either free or of minimal cost.

Use

Turn it off. The electricity used by office equipment in the United States is estimated to be 3 percent of total energy consumption. Power management is not the same as having the computer and/or monitor physically turned off. If you need to keep your computer running all the time, you can still achieve significant energy savings by simply turning off your monitor when you are away from your computer. Screensavers do not save any energy and in fact, no longer have any impact on a modern computer monitor. Enable and use power management features to put your computer into a low-power mode when not in use.

As your peripherals use energy and increase your computer's environmental impact, also be aware of the peripherals plugged into your computer. Some may include their own power management systems while others "feed" off of your computer's electricity. Unplugging and turning off unneeded peripherals can further reduce your energy consumption. Be aware also of

the environmental impact of printing. Use environmentally friendly supplies, eliminate unnecessary printing and try printing on both sides of the paper.

Disposal

Local reuse and donation are the best solutions for disposing of an unwanted computer. Computers that are no longer robust enough to handle multimedia applications may still be useful in less intense roles such as a library catalog workstation in the stacks. Even if the computer system is not useful, there may be particular parts such as monitors, keyboards, sound cards, etc., that can be reused with newer computers. If you do not have a use for older computers, there are often civic organizations or local school systems that accept donations. Please do check with these organizations before making a donation—often they will have minimum configurations for what is accepted.

"Recycling" a computer is a bit of a misnomer in that it would be incredibly expensive (if not impossible) to reduce a complex computer back to its component raw materials. A number of computer manufacturers will "take-back" certain products for recycling. Sometimes there is a small fee which is often waived if you are buying a new system with the company. Finally, your local waste management system may have facilities or policies for receiving used electronic equipment.

Conclusion

For a variety of theological and economic reasons, we need to be attentive to the ecological impact of the technologies that we purchase and use in our libraries. All libraries and theological libraries in particular need to model a "greener" use of technologies.

*Andy Keck, Chair
ATLA Publications Committee
Duke Divinity School Library*



ATLA Product News

ATLA Newsletter

providing access to the scholarly literature of religion and preserving it for future generations

ATLA Product Notes

PDFs on the Horizon

The team is on target toward the goal of delivering *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®) content in PDF format by the summer of 2007.

New and Forthcoming Titles Announced

In February 2007, three titles were added to the *ATLASerials* (*ATLAS*) online collection of major religion and theology journals:

- *Baptist History and Heritage*, published by Baptist History and Heritage Society
- *Ex Auditu*, published by Wipf and Stock
- *Tradition*, published by The Rabbinical Council of America

In addition, ATLA reached agreement with *The Criswell Theological Review*, published by The Criswell College; *Restoration Quarterly*, published by the Restoration Quarterly Corporation; *Encounter*, published by Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis, Ind.); *The Master's Seminary Journal*, published by The Master's Seminary; *Tyndale Bulletin*, published by Tyndale House; and *The Journal of Youth Ministry*, published by the Board of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators, to be included in a forthcoming release of *ATLAS*.

ATLAS for Congregations and Clergy

ATLA continues its development of *ATLAS* for Congregations and Clergy. The *ATLAS* team recently met with our outside marketing firm, CZ Marketing, to learn the results of surveying and interviewing more than 600 *ATLAS* end-users. The *ATLAS* team will soon be compiling these results and sharing them with the users.



Issue Enumeration Clean-up for the July 2007 ATLA Religion Database® Release

The summer release of the *ATLA Religion Database (RDB)*® will include the first harvest of the Index Department's issue enumeration clean-up project. Of the approximately 75,000 issue records within the index, to date 41,780 records were checked this year, and last, against printed issues at local Chicago libraries by Index Department staff. Of these, 18,992 enumeration entries were verified as complete and accurate, while 22,788 were completed or corrected. Either entire or partial sequences of issues of 618 serial titles were affected. These totals will increase by the time of the summer release production cutoff.

Issue enumeration data are used by link-resolvers to construct OpenURLs for full-text resource retrieval, where such resources are available on a network. The data collected during the issue clean-up project will better support mediated linking between the *ATLA RDB* and full-text articles and reviews, where available.



Methodist Quarterly Review Clean-up

ATLA has recently cleaned up the serial and issue records for the *Methodist Quarterly Review* from 1847-1930. Originally indexed as part of the MRI project, the original single serial record had been created using latest-entry cataloging. In keeping with current practices, acquisitions staff has replaced the single serial record with eight successive-entry serial records and re-linked the existing issue records to the new serial records. As the title fluctuated over this span multiple times, ATLA hopes this change will lead to greater precision in searching and clarity in search results.



Subject Heading Changes for July 2007 ATLA Religion Database release

Users of the *ATLA RDB* will notice changes to several types of headings when the full database is reloaded in mid-July.

First, Library of Congress proposed a number of changes to Bible headings this spring, several of which will be implemented in the *ATLA RDB*:

Biblical books will be entered directly:

Bible. |p Genesis.

Bible. |p Ecclesiasticus.

Bible. |p Matthew.

Headings which apply to groups of books will be retained, but OT and NT will be spelled out:

Bible. |p Old Testament |x Criticism, interpretation.

Bible. |p New Testament. |l Versions, Greek.

Bible. |p Prophetic books.

Bible. |p Apocrypha.

Second, personal names that have to this point been combined into a single personal name heading (e.g., Adam and Eve; Martha and Mary) will be split apart, each name receiving its own subject heading.

Third, clean-up work on "Greek language |x Terms", "Hebrew language |x Terms", "Palestine |x Antiquities" and "Jordan |x Antiquities" will result in fewer variant headings and more accurate transliterations. Authority records for the "Antiquities" headings will rely heavily on the Geographic Names Database for current political boundaries and latitude and longitude coordinates. This work will be on-going; subsequent quarterly updates will include additional corrections.

Fourth, the headings for Buddhist schools and sects have been validated and standardized.

Product News

Fifth, names of Buddhas have been entered directly. The qualifier (Buddhist deity) will only be used for “deities” that do not fall into the category of a Buddha or a Bodhisattva, regardless of LC designation:

Gautama Buddha. [personal name; previously, Buddhas |x Gautama (Sakyamuni)]

Maitreya (Buddha) [topical heading; previously, Buddhas |x Maitreya]

Manjusri (Bodhisattva) [topical heading; previously, Manjusri (Buddhist deity)]

Sixth, Dalai lamas have been entered under their names:

Bstan-'dzin-rgya-mtsho, |c Dalai Lama XIV, |d 1935- [previously, Dalai Lama XIV]

Additional information will be posted to the Thesaurus Revisions webpage (http://www.atla.com/products/product_news/thesaurus_revisions.html) at the time of the July data release. CD-ROM subscribers will see the changes on the Sept. 2007 *RDB* CD-ROM and this autumn's Biblical Studies subset CD-ROM.



New Online Correction Form Added to ATLA Web Site

ATLA has added an online correction form to its web site to report errors in *ATLA Religion Database (RDB)*, *Research in Ministry® (RIM®)*, and the *Index to Book Reviews in Religion (IBRR Online)*. The form can be accessed on the Products FAQ page at: <http://www.atla.com/products/FAQs.html> or directly at: <http://www.atla.com/formProcess/productCorrection.asp>. As always, we appreciate reports of any errors that help us improve our products.



Above, left to right: Juan Hernandez, Staff Accountant; Lavonne Jahnke, Business Development Analyst; Timothy Smith, Membership Associate/Exhibits Coordinator; Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development

Four ATLA staff members exhibited at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) conference in Baltimore, Maryland from March 29-April 1. The booth attracted more than 500 attendees, coming to learn more about ATLA's products, services, and theological librarianship.

ATLA Featured in History Course

ATLA has been featured in *America's History in the Making*, a multimedia online course designed to enrich teachers' American history knowledge, while introducing methods that will help them develop their own classroom applications. The Hands on History sections take the viewer “behind the scenes,” examining how history is studied, documented, and presented. Excerpt from Unit 10 Hands on History:

“Russell Kracke of the American Theological Library Association preserves religious

periodicals, including some by and about African Americans during Reconstruction. Microfilming these newspapers and magazines serves both to keep a record of deteriorating, rare documents and to make them widely available to scholars.” You can read an edited Hands on History interview with Russell Kracke at www.learner.org/channel/courses/amerhistory/units/10/video/transcript.html?pop=yes&volid=557276&cpid=2258#



Preservation Products

Religious Periodical Literature of the Hispanic and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, 1850-1985

The following serial titles were microfilmed as part of the preservation grant, "Religious Periodical Literature of the Hispanic and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, 1850-1985." The preservation of these serials has been funded by the office of preservation of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Hispanic

Boletín eclesiástico del Obispado de La Habana

Ecclesiastical bulletin of the Bishopric of Havana (Cuba). Published in Havana. Text in Spanish. **ATLA no.: 2006H-S019**, 1 reel (contains one issue: Aug. 18, 1867).

Indigenous peoples

Navajo neighbors

Evangelistic work among the Navajo. Published in Farmington, N.M. by Navajo Missions, Inc. ATLA no.: 2006I-S023, 1 reel (1995-2005).

First Nations ministry directory

A directory of First Nations ministries, churches, and other resources. Published in Monrovia, Calif., by Polished Arrow. ATLA no.: 2006I-S024, 1 reel (2000-2005).

Polished arrow (2000)

News from the quiver (2000-2005)

Inspirational articles and calendar of events. Published in Monrovia, Calif., by Polished Arrow. ATLA no.: 2006I-S025/S026, 1 reel (2000-2005).

Gospel under palm and pine

Annual report of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Moravian Church in America, Inc. Includes reports on missions to the California Indians and Eskimos of Alaska; also includes reports from Nicaragua, Honduras, Suriname and Jamaica, among others. Published in Bethlehem, Pa., by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Church. **ATLA no.: 2006I-S027**, 1 reel (1952-1970).

Indians' Hope Association of Philadelphia:

Annual report of the Indians' Hope Association, of Philadelphia (1875)

Indians' Hope Association of Pennsylvania:

Annual report of the Indians' Hope Association, of Pennsylvania (1877)

Episcopal Church mission to the Indians. The Indians' Hope Association was a branch of the Women's Auxiliary of the Board of Missions. Published in Philadelphia. **ATLA no.: 2006I-S031/S032**, 1 reel (1875-1877).

Kerygma (Ottawa, Ont.) (1967-1993)

Mission : journal of mission studies : revue des sciences de la missions (1994-2005)

A journal of Saint Paul University, a federated Catholic Pontifical university of the University of Ottawa. Includes mission theory and missions to Eskimos. Published in part by the Oblate Council for Indian and Eskimo Missions. Text in English and French. **ATLA no.: 2006I-S037** through **2006I-S038**, 5 reels (1967-2005).

Manuscript Newly Available on Microfilm

ATLA has received written permission from the publisher(s) to duplicate and sell microfilm copies of the following titles for preservation purposes and for the advancement of theological and religious research and studies. In all other cases the materials have passed into the public domain.

Colbert, William, 1765-1833:

A journal of the travels of William Colbert, Methodist preacher : thro' parts of Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Virginia in 1790

Journal of William Colbert, Methodist preacher, and his work as a circuit rider in Pennsylvania and New York. **ATLA no.: 1993-M000**, 1 reel (contains v. 1: 1790-1902).

Ordering Information

Thomson Gale is the sole distributor of ATLA's microfilm products. For orders, pricing inquiries, and to receive a full catalog, contact them at:

12 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525
Phone 800.444.0799, Fax 203.397.3893
gale.sales@thomson.com

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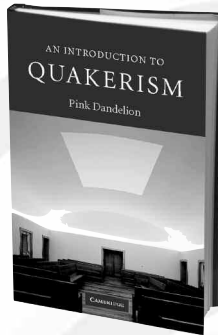
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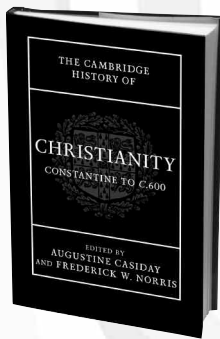
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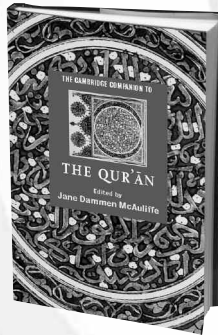
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\$75.00: Hb: 978-0-521-84390-4: 440 pp.
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on page 30

ATLA Staff News

servicing ATLA members and customers

From the Executive Director

Paper Chase

I used to say that I was a yellow-pad-and-pencil person, but over the years I've become more and more dependent upon an electronic filing system and less dependent upon paper. Unless it's in a word document, a PDF file, an excel spreadsheet, or an outlook folder, I'm not sure what to do with it.

The Monday after Easter was a quiet one at ATLA headquarters and I set myself the task of sorting through all of the paper that had accumulated in my office and trying to make sense of it. Armed with a three-hole punch and a set of three-ring binders, I organized things into 11 binders. Now I have a visual reminder on my desk of my primary areas of responsibility. In a way these headings summarize my primary work as ATLA executive director:

1) Board of Directors

Under the Association's policy governance structure I am considered the board's only employee, and am responsible for planning and directing all of the work of the Association. I have regular correspondence with the Board of Directors who develop the goals and policies and limitations of Association activities. I prepare an extensive quarterly report for the board's use and work with the board-appointed Endowment Committee and with board-appointed task forces. I communicate regularly with board president Duane Harbin.

2) Directors

I have appointed six directors to supervise the various areas of the Association's activities and work, and have delegated significant

responsibilities to them. We meet weekly (on Tuesday mornings) to review all important issues of the association, and we reach consensus on courses of action to pursue. The six directors on our management team include:

- Cameron Campbell, Director of Indexes
- Pradeep Gamadia, Director of Financial Services
- Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services
- Russell Kracke, Director of Preservation Products and Services
- Tami Luedtke, Director of Electronic Products and Services
- Margot Lyon, Director of Business Development

In addition to our weekly meetings, the directors and I hold strategic planning meetings at least every quarter.

3) ED Travel and Commitments

I still travel for the Association fairly often. In April I attended the Colloquy for Theological Librarians at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion; in May I will attend my first meeting of the board of PALINET (I was just elected to that board); in June, of course, we have our annual conference; and in September I'll be attending the annual meeting of BETH in Emden, Germany.

4) 2007 Annual Conference

Although I have delegated primary responsibility for the ATLA annual conference to Barbara Kemmis, Director of Member Services, I still have responsibility for selecting and recruiting plenary speakers, for planning the town meeting, for supporting the

president at the business meeting, and for meeting with the board of directors on the Wednesday preceding the conference and the Sunday following it. This year's conference promises to be a very rich and exciting one.

Barbara Kemmis also has primary responsibility for working with member committees. There are three, however, that I work closely with:

5) Professional Development Committee (PDC)

The Professional Development Committee (Laura Wood, Angela Morris, Eric Friede, and Kris Veldheer) has responsibility for all association professional development activity outside of the annual conference. I continue to work closely with this committee. Currently these activities include administering grants to support programming for ATLA's regional groups, helping to develop the course on theological librarianship taught by Carisse Berryhill in the University of Illinois' LEEP program, creating the workshop for new theological librarians at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, and for exploring new professional development opportunities for ATLA members.

In July Seth Kasten will replace Laura Wood on the PDC.

6) Publications Committee

The Publications Committee has important responsibilities for promoting scholarly writing by and about ATLA members. I work closely with this committee and am very pleased to report real progress on developing and preparing to launch our association's new online professional

journal, *Theological Librarianship*. Committee members currently are Andy Keck, Doug Gragg, and Terese Jerosse. Beth Bidlack will join the committee in June, replacing Andy Keck. Co-editors of the new journal are Ron Crown and David Stewart.

7) Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration

This committee reports directly to the entire association and is responsible for promoting a wide variety of collaborative activities with theological libraries outside of North America. I am the principal staff liaison with this committee that includes Mariel deLuca Voth, Paul Stuehrenberg, Margaret Tarpley, Eileen Crawford, and Chris Beldan. I meet regularly with this committee.

8) FY2008 Budget

We are currently in the process of adopting our budget for FY2008 (September 1, 2007–August 31, 2008). This is a complex process that involves balancing projected revenue with projected needs and expenses. We aim to complete this process and prepare the budget by early May.

9) 2007-2010 Strategic Plan

During my 12-year tenure as ATLA Executive Director, I have prepared five strategic plans. The current plan differs from previous plans in significant ways, and is vital to creating the Association's solid foundation for the future. The six departmental directors and I meet for the next phase of strategic planning in early June, prior to the Annual Conference.

10) *ATLASerials*® (*ATLAS*®)

Primary responsibility for *ATLAS*, our full-text journal collection, rests

with Tami Luedtke, Director of Electronic Products and Services. I am still involved in the planning process, however, and, as the original designer of *ATLAS*, very much involved in planning for the future of this important product. By the time this newsletter is issued we will have completed the conversion of more than 1,000,000 pages of ATLA to searchable PDF text.

11) ATLA Online

Early next year we will be expanding our own online offerings to include the *ATLA Religion Database*®. This development coincides with the cessation of CD ROM production by August 2008. I am very much involved with the directors in planning for ATLA Online.

There are many other things I do as executive director, of course, but these 11 areas take the bulk of my time and effort and energy. And now I have a visible reminder of that with the lineup of eleven three-ring binders on my desk!



Dennis Norlin
ATLA Executive Director



From the Editor

The 2006 ATLA Conference in Chicago, featuring so much festivity and celebration in honor of ATLA's 60th anniversary, was indeed an impressive event. Attendees were clearly excited by the opportunity to confer with colleagues about future opportunities and challenges while gratefully acknowledging the groundbreaking work of the pioneering theological librarians who preceded them.

Due to the special nature of last year's event, it might be assumed that successive conferences would experience a substantial reduction in both attendance and the range of activities. As of press time in late April, however, the upcoming meeting in Philadelphia is well on-track toward being another big, successful conference. Nearly 200 of your colleagues have registered so far, and almost 40 exhibitors have signed up to take part. The roster of workshops, educational sessions, and local excursions is sure to make for a worthy meeting.

I think the enthusiasm and commitment of ATLA's members to gathering at such events points to their willingness to invest in their professional development and to the valuable experiences generated by each and every conference.

Be sure to get your passports in order now, so the momentum continues into Canada next year.

Sara Corkery
ATLA Communications Specialist

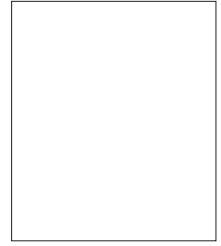


ATLA Newsletter

Calendar

- May**
- 1-4 Russell Kracke at CONSER Operations Meeting in Washington, DC
 - 11 Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline
 - 16 Dennis Norlin at PALINET meeting in Philadelphia, PA
 - 28 Memorial Day, ATLA office closed
- June**
- 13-16 ATLA 2007 Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA
- July**
- 1 Content due for August issue of *ATLA Newsletter*
 - 4 Independence Day, ATLA office closed
- August**
- 15 Membership renewal invoices sent
 - 15 Product subscription renewals sent for products purchased through ATLA
- September**
- 3 Labor Day, ATLA office closed
 - 5 Dennis Norlin at PALINET meeting in Philadelphia, PA
- November**
- 17-20 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, AAR/SBL 2007 in San Diego, CA

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Cover photo: Baptistery paintings in Twentieth-Century Churches of Christ, Painted by Blanche Perry
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