



Rear view of 18th Century Islamic Mosque of El-Jazzar. Photographed by Arthur L. Merrill in Ptolemais (formerly Akko), Israel, in 1973--from ATLA's CDRI database.



**Thanks to our  
January  
Sponsor:  
ATLA Products  
and Services**

**Welcome: New ATLA Members** (as of 8/1/2008)

*Individual Members*

- Mrs. Stacey L. Battles de Ramos, Boston, MA
- Dr. Michael Black, Oxford, United Kingdom
- Jamie Cox, Florence, AL
- Ms. Ruth Gaba, Mequon, WI
- Mrs. Julie Hines, Scottsdale, AR
- Msgr. Wayne Hodges, Bayswater, Australia
- Mr. Matthew Thomas Hopper, Athens, GA
- Ms. Bethany Hovda, Chicago, IL
- Ms. Becky Klemme, St. Louis, MO
- Ms. Alice Pakhtigian, Upper Darby, PA
- Ms. Cornelia Penner, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Mrs. Emma Claire Rasoarivonjy, Chicago, IL
- Ms. Mary Martha Riviere, Decatur, GA
- Miss Ruth Salangsang, Taytay, Rizal, Philippines
- Marta Samokishyn, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- Mr. Patrick P. Slaven, New York, NY
- Ms. Eileen L. Smith, Hamden, CT
- Dr. Mark Stover, San Diego, CA
- Mr. Karl Stutzman, Elkhart, IN
- Mr. Mark Edward Thomas, Tempe, AZ
- Miss Christine Willard, Dallas, TX
- Mr. Gary R. Yessin, Altamonte Springs, FL

*Student Members*

- Mr. Kristof Decoorne, Lueven, Belgium
- Mr. Dennis Gregory DeVivo, New York, NY
- Mrs. Genevieve Marie Maynard, Lancaster, NY
- Mr. David W. Miller, New Haven, CT
- Mr. David James Murillo, Orange, CA
- Mr. Phillip S. Nott, Youngsville, NC
- Ms. Kathy Bonita Ramsey, Redford, MI
- Msgr. Blake Robinson, Pittsburgh, PA
- Dr. Caren Calendine Stayer, Columbus, OH
- Mr. Vance M. Thomas, Shawnee, KS
- Ms. Sharon L. Treece, Emeryville, CA
- Mr. Jeffrey Alan Waldrop, Pasadena, CA

*International Institutional Member*

Faculty of Humanities, Tilburg University Library,  
Tilburg, Netherlands

*Affiliate Member Library*

Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary, Summerville, SC

**In This Issue**

- Library Tour 2.0
- Welcome: New ATLA Members
- Member News
- News from the PDC
- PDC Continuing Education Program Grants
- ATLA Member Profile: Bruce Eldevik
- Have You Heard?
- From the President
- From the Executive Director

**From the President**



**Angels, Shepherds,  
Magi, Theological  
Librarians ....**

I have referred admiringly to Alberto Manguel's *The Library at Night*, in which he develops fifteen different metaphors for what makes libraries intriguing, enduring, and irreplaceable. Still, if I can make

such a bold claim, I think he missed one.

Illustrious colleagues including Raymond Morris and John B. Trotti have developed this rich idea better than I could, but the most compelling image of the library for me is that of the Witness: our collections, individually and in aggregate, can be thought of as a gathering of voices, a conversation across the centuries, tracing back to the Incarnation and before. It's an image that is always vivid and often fortifying for me: amid all the other things that clamor for our attention, and at times make us anxious, an integral part of what we do is tend, steward, and in our own way facilitate that Conversation, that Witness. This may coincide with our personal creed ("who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was Incarnate by the Holy Ghost ...") or it may not, but in either case, what a fortunate calling we have been given ... and in such wonderful company.

All best wishes of this Season.

*In Terra Pax,  
David R. Stewart*

## From the Executive Director



### Putting Oneself in Perspective

There is a new little video that is becoming popular on the Internet. It's called "The Year in 40 Seconds" and it consists of time lapse photographs of the same woodland scene, beginning with deep winter and going very

quickly through all of the seasons and back to the same scene in deep winter ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmIFXIXQQ\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmIFXIXQQ_E)).

It called to mind a movie that I used to show students in the 1980s when I was teaching. It was called "Powers of Ten," and it began with a photograph of a couple having a picnic in Grant Park in Chicago and then the camera slowly started to move away from them. I'm not at all sure how they did this, but the camera recedes from the couple further until they disappear, then the outline of Lake Michigan disappears, then the world grows smaller and smaller until it, too, disappears, as the film retreats further and further into space.

At some indistinguishable point (10 to the 24th power) the camera reverses direction and begins to come back to earth. Once earth becomes clear, the camera continues to descend faster and faster until, quickly one can distinguish the couple on the picnic. But the camera does not stop - it draws closer and closer to the man's hand until you realize you are inside him, seeing cells and portions of cells. Again, at some indistinguishable point (10 to the power of 16) the camera reverses itself and begins to ascend to the macroscopic level and the film ends with the original scene of the couple on the beach (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTwvkGjsNEY>).

I liked to show that film to my introduction to religion classes and to draw them into discussion about the nature of the human condition within the universe. Inevitably our discussions led to the topic of sacred space and what it means to occupy sacred space.

The new web video, I believe, performs a similar function in relationship to time. For those of us who have a very strong sense of time as linearity, this little video reminds us of where we are in time and that we are a part of that time. Religious traditions that focus more on sacred time than sacred place, can help us better understand our perspective in the world, too, in relationship to time.

Whether we live in times of peace or times of turmoil, we need to be reminded of where and when and how we fit into the universe, and the capacity of time and space to embody the sacred.

*-Dennis A. Norlin*

## Member News

### Scholarly Writing Course

ATLA and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will once again offer the Scholarly Writing for the LIS Profession on March 10 - April 28, 2009. The course entails participation in online synchronous sessions on Tuesdays from 2-3:00 pm central time. (NOTE: The first session on March 10 will be held from 2-4:00 pm.)

The instructor is Robert H. Burger, Ph.D., CPA, Professor Emeritus, GSLIS, and the cost is \$100. For more information, visit <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cpd/sw>.

### Publication Grants Deadline Approaching

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

### Poster Session Submissions

Try out new ideas and receive instant feedback from your ATLA colleagues - they'll want to hear about your interesting, creative projects! Share your plans by presenting a poster session at the 2009 Annual Conference, June 17-20, 2009, in St Louis, MO. Posters may address a potentially wide range of topics of interest to theological librarians. Go to [http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf\\_2009/posters\\_call.html](http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2009/posters_call.html) to find out how to submit a proposal by the January 31 due date.

The upcoming annual conference in St. Louis promises to feature a variety of programs to appeal to everyone. Be sure to check the ATLA Annual Conference website at [http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf\\_2009/conference\\_home.html](http://www.atla.com/member/conference/conf_2009/conference_home.html) for the latest information. Sessions and descriptions will be added to the schedule as information is finalized.

### Theological Librarianship

The second issue of Theological Librarianship: An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association has been published. To read the second issue or to subscribe, please visit the TL website at <http://www.theolib.org>.

### 2008 Summary of Proceedings

The Summary of Proceedings of the Sixty-second Annual Conference of the American

Theological Library Association has been printed and mailed out. If you do not receive your copy by the end of January, please contact [memberrep@atla.com](mailto:memberrep@atla.com).

Unfortunately, the text for *Virtual Belief? Exploring Religion and Librarianship in the Cyber World of Second Life*, the paper presented by Kris Veldheer and Michelle Spomer, was inadvertently omitted from the publication. You can access both the pdf and PowerPoint files of the paper at [http://www.atla.com/member/publications/proceedings\\_08.html](http://www.atla.com/member/publications/proceedings_08.html); it will also be included in the errata section of next year's proceedings.

#### **ATLA Office Closing**

The ATLA office will be closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

#### **Routine Systems Maintenance**

Routine maintenance will be performed on ATLA systems on Monday, February 2, 2009. You may encounter a brief interruption of service between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. (CST). Services that will be affected include ASE and the ATLA Website. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

#### **Job Postings Online**

Whether you are looking for a new position or a new employee, the ATLA Job Posting web page is the place to look. Go to [http://www.atla.com/member/job\\_openings.html](http://www.atla.com/member/job_openings.html) to see what's new online.

## **Have You Heard?**

### **2009 Annual Meeting: Midwest Region of the SBL, AOS, and ASOR**

Scheduled for February 13-15, 2009, at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, the meeting features ATLA's own Steven Holloway. Along with Bruce Lincoln and Frank Lewis, both of the University of Chicago, Steven will present the plenary session on *Palace Gardens, Sacred Trees, and Paradise* on Friday, February 13.

The topics at this year's regular section meetings include: *Jericho in the Pacifist Tradition* in Bible Meaning through Time and Tradition; *Jewish-Christian Dialogue* in Early Christianity/Patristics; *Gender in the Ancient World* in Gender Studies and the Bible; and a special panel on *Academic Censorship* organized and chaired by Holly Hearon.

For more conference information, please visit [http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm\\_midwest.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_midwest.aspx). All students, teachers, and interested individuals who are involved with religion, ancient studies, and the Bible are welcome.

#### **The Library as Strategic Investment: Results of the Illinois Return on Investment Study**

Those who find that institutional administrators are seeking demonstrable proof of their library's value to the institution might find this paper by Paula T. Kaufman, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to be useful. The paper reports on an attempt to measure the return on the University of Illinois' investment in its library by developing a quantitative measure that recognizes the library's value in supporting the university's strategic goals, examining grant income generated by faculty who availed themselves of library materials. More information on the results of this study, which is believed to be the first of its kind, can be found at [http://liber.library.uu.nl/publish/issues/2008-3\\_4/?000269](http://liber.library.uu.nl/publish/issues/2008-3_4/?000269).

#### **Call for Submissions**

The Journal of Inter-Religious Dialogue™, which seeks to become "the first peer-reviewed online Journal for theologians, academics, seminary students, and non-profit leaders on both inter-religious work and the academic and social trends taking place within individual religious communities," is seeking submissions for its first edition, to be published in May. You'll find more information on the new website, <http://www.irdialogue.org>, which will be launched at the beginning of February. You may also contact the founding editor, Josh Stanton at [josh@irdialogue.org](mailto:josh@irdialogue.org).

#### **Contact Information**

Sara Corkery  
Communications Specialist  
[scorkery@atla.com](mailto:scorkery@atla.com)

ATLA  
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2100  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
888.665.2852

## From the Professional Development Committee



Let's talk about money. Relax, that isn't code for discussing the lack of it, or the need to make cuts. Rather, I want to share how this committee ([http://www.atla.com/prof\\_dev/prof\\_dev.html](http://www.atla.com/prof_dev/prof_dev.html)) has recently spent funds it oversees. In the previous fourteen months, \$3200.00 was awarded to seven ATLA regional groups for continuing education grants. These grants were used to actualize programs that examined

a wide variety of topics. The breadth of programming reflects two important mainstays of our work—its constants and the continually evolving ways in which they are achieved. This money helped ATLA librarians meet and think about:

- Web 2.0 and Your Library: Figuring Out What Works
- Serials Management in a Changing Environment
- Theological Librarians Today
- Copyright 2.0: Issues for Digital Natives
- Innovation, Fair Use & Copyright: How does a 20th Century Law work in the digital millennium?
- Using the Internet to Serve Theological Library Patrons
- Breaking Down Barriers: Planning for Disability Access in Your Library

Did your reading of this list generate ideas for a program that your library or regional group would like to explore? Would funding help make those ideas a reality? It's easier than ever to apply for a grant, and funds are still available for this year. Send PDC member Timothy Lincoln ([tlincoln@austinseminary.edu](mailto:tlincoln@austinseminary.edu)) your program proposal and he'll shepherd it through the process. If you need more information about the grants process, please go to the ATLA website, or contact another member of the PDC: Seth Kasten ([skasten@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:skasten@uts.columbia.edu)), Kris Veldheer ([veldheer@gtu.edu](mailto:veldheer@gtu.edu)), or Angela Morris ([amorris@lpts.edu](mailto:amorris@lpts.edu)).

Additional money has been invested in the "Scholarly Writing for the LIS Profession" class. Last year ATLA collaborated with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to develop and offer this on-line class to ATLA members and underwrote a large part of the tuition for members who enrolled. Designed to give participants an opportunity to expand and develop their writing skills, the success of last year's class has led to its return engagement, March 10 - April 28, 2009. You can register on-line at <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cpd/sw> for the second offering of the course, for the minimal cost of \$100.00.

The grants for continuing education and the writing class are just two of the many initiatives that the PDC supports with the goal of helping members with their continuing education needs. If we consider these funds a type of ATLA growth stock, the potential return on these investments is exciting. In today's tumultuous financial situation, how many organizations can look forward to that?

-Angela Morris, Chair  
Professional Development Committee

## PDC Continuing Education Program Grants

Below you'll find a list of continuing education programs recently funded through the PDC grants program:

NYATLA - New York Theological Library Association, 11/20/08, \$700.00

*Web 2.0 and Your Library: Figuring Out What Works*

MTLA - Minnesota Theological Library Association, 11/13/08, \$500.00

*Serials Management in a Changing Environment*

TTLA - Tennessee Theological Library Association, 10/17/08, \$650.00  
*Theological Librarians Today*

Presenter Carisse Berryhill shared with the group the genesis of the Theological Librarianship class that she has taught for the past few years. Talks began at the Wabash Consultation where it was recommended that a professional development committee be formed to create a task force to write the curriculum for a class. In 2004 the University of Illinois was approached about forming a partnership with ATLA to support a course in Theological Librarianship. Carisse was asked to teach the course. It has now been offered four times. Of the 90 who have enrolled, 62 are now finished. Of the class members, 37% have been male, 63% female. Carisse gave us additional demographic information about the students. Students can be admitted through WISE which is a collaborative distance education model, through the University of Illinois or through ATLA. Currently the class draws about 1/3 of its students from each of these groups.

SCATLA - Southern California Theological Library Association  
10/10/08, \$200.00

*Copyright 2.0: Issues for Digital Natives*

SEPTLA - Southeastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association,  
5/21/08, \$750.00

*Innovation, Fair Use & Copyright: How does a 20th Century Law work in the digital millennium?*

Since faculty members often turn to librarians for advice about copyright when it comes to using articles, videos, music, or images in their

teaching and new technologies offer both opportunities for creative collaboration and the potential for new conflicts, the librarians in the SouthEastern Pennsylvania Theological Library Association felt the need for additional training in Copyright Law and best practices. With a generous grant from the American Theological Library Association, SEPTLA was able to bring Dr. Kevin Smith from Duke University to the Delaware Valley for a one-day workshop on May 21, 2008. Kevin Smith is the Scholarly Communications Officer for Duke University. Duke's Scholarly Communications Office supports Duke's research, and service mission by providing guidance for faculty, students, and staff in matters relating to the dissemination and use of knowledge. The Scholarly Communications Officer is both a librarian with a background in theological libraries and an attorney experienced in copyright and technology law. Forty-five individuals—librarians and IT Staff—attended the workshop that included two very lengthy presentations from Kevin Smith. His presentations not only addressed the issues of fair use but also focused on the role of the new technologies and the challenges of distance education. From the 32 workshop evaluations that were submitted, the overwhelming majority rated the speaker as excellent and the workshop as very effective and timely. We are grateful to the generosity of ATLA that made this continuing education opportunity possible.

CATLA - Chicago Area Theological Library Association  
5/11/08, \$150.00

*Using the Internet to Serve Theological Library Patrons*

Harry Plantiga spoke briefly about the history of the internet and Web 2.0 and how it has become much more interactive with users inputting information as well as receiving information. He mentioned the social aspects of the internet such as Facebook, YouTube, Wikipedia and other websites. Plantiga also talked about design patterns, particularly how users add value through tagging, annotations, highlighting, correcting typos, using user data to offer other services,

annotations in margins that other people can use, etc. He also discussed Web 2.0 and the library role in terms of library research, print vs. publishing and disintermediation (books coming directly from writers to read without a publisher serving as intermediary). Plantiga also touched on the Christian Classics Ethereal Library and urged all of us to visit the website because there are many new features.

MTLA - Minnesota Theological Library Association, 11/15/07, \$250.00  
*Breaking Down Barriers: Planning for Disability Access in Your Library*

The presentation included an overview of commonly-encountered disability issues (definitions, legal matters, resources) and discussion of the "four environments" of accessibility (attitudinal, informational, physical and program/policy). There was a very helpful balance in the format of the program, including hands-on experience from the presenter, plenary questions and discussion, and topical discussion among attendees who were from the same institution. The last of these provided a good means of taking stock of what the specific issues and challenges were in particular library contexts.

## **ATLA Calendar**

---

### **January**

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

### **February**

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in March ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 5-6 Publications Committee meets at ATLA Headquarters
- 20 Special Committee of the Association for Diversity meets at ATLA Headquarters

### **March**

- 1 Submissions for inclusion in April ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 2 Survey & Ballot Systems tabulates and delivers the results of the 2009 ATLA Board of Directors Election to Nominating Committee by 12 noon EST
- 10 *Scholarly Writing for the LIS Profession* course begins
- 19-20 Membership Advisory Committee meets at ATLA Headquarters
- 23-24 Professional Development Committee meets at ATLA Headquarters

## ATLA Member Profile

### Bruce Eldevik



*Title:* Reference Librarian  
*Institution:* Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN  
*Years as a Theological Librarian:* 29  
*Years as an ATLA Member:* 30

#### *How did you become involved in the field?*

I joined ATLA while I was working in a community college library, my first job after receiving my M.L.S. Back then there was a category of membership—I can't recall exactly—but it was something like "interested" in the profession. After I applied, I remember receiving a letter from David Wartluft, who was acting in the capacity of Executive Secretary at that time, asking me to write a letter stating my interest and verifying my employment in a library. I'm not sure about this, but I think applications for membership in that category had to be voted on individually by the Board. My first job in a theological library was at North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. Being an ATLA member helped me get a call to come for an interview. I learned this later from George Lang, my director, who said seeing the ATLA membership on my vita caused him to put my application on the short pile.

#### *What do you love most about your profession?*

Being in a theological library allows me to combine a strong interest in the field of religious/theological studies and training for Christian ministry with an enjoyment of working

with students who have an information problem they are trying to solve. They are looking for resources and I usually can get them started on the right track which I find gratifying. It's a happy exchange! This and the fact that I work with great, supportive colleagues and students who, for the most part, are pre-disposed to be appreciative. It all adds up to be a very satisfying working environment.

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

The biggest change has also been the biggest challenge. I am reminded almost every day that I did not grow up in a digital world. I recently saw a chart comparing what "Millennials" want in a library environment vs. what has been a more traditional library approach. While I am most comfortable doing one thing at a time, sequentially, students today are adept at multitasking and don't seem to have the patience for sustained, full attention to one thing. I tend to approach bibliographic instruction in a more linear way, the way I would want it taught if I was sitting where they are. It's a challenge to adapt to different learning styles and the technical skills to make this transition don't come easily.

#### *Have you taken part in any of ATLA's professional development opportunities?*

I've attended a number of pre-conference workshops over the years. Most recently, though, I took part in the Scholarly Writing for LIS Professionals continuing education course sponsored by ATLA that turned out to be a very positive experience. I've joked that writing is the most fun thing I almost never do. While I enjoy writing when I have had the occasion, I've tended not to write because I never think I know enough or I think I need inordinately large blocks of time which I never seem to have. The course helped me deal with these roadblocks in a very encouraging, confidence-building way. It was also my first experience in taking a course online.

#### *What is the most rewarding benefit of your membership?*

Without a doubt it's attending the annual conferences. The rewards of annual conferences are many, both professional and personal. Being together with other members from across North America who are engaged in the same kind of work I am and who share a lot of the same commitments is very energizing. I might add that over the years ATLA has been a wonderful organization upon which to hang one's professional hat. It cares about its members and encourages their contributions to its work in a variety of ways according to where individual gifts or inclinations lie.

---

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