

ATLA

newsletter

American Theological Library Association



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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 spheres have so aligned that your ATLA board president is also your ATLA archivist. Does such an alignment portend a year's worth of presidential messages heavy on historical perspective? It seems inevitable—and hopefully not too dull. Ideally, historical perspective can provide new ways of looking at current events and issues. It allows us to step back and see the bigger picture.

When I teach seminars about archives, the initial session usually focuses on why organizations should bother to keep archives in the first place. There are many practical reasons for maintaining archives, but on the most basic level, archives help to form the identity of an organization by informing it about its past. I sometimes use the simile of an organization's history being like a jigsaw puzzle that must be pieced together, item by item, clue by clue. Most jigsaw puzzles have a picture on the box to facilitate their assembly, but life doesn't give us a picture on a box to go by. Recent efforts like the publication of *A Broadening Conversation: Classic Readings in Theological Librarianship*, edited by Melody Layton McMahon and David R. Stewart, have been an excellent step toward providing the big picture that helps us to understand our ATLA identity. In this inaugural column, allow me to pass along from the archives a few tidbits that may also help to put the present into the context of the past.

At the recent ATLA annual conference in Philadelphia there were fifty-six first time attendees. I suspect that most of them recognized the great sense of community and conviviality that is typical of ATLA gatherings. If they attended panels and roundtables, they were also exposed to many of the issues and concerns that cloud the horizon or promise new challenges for theological librarians. So what were some of the issues and concerns of ATLA forty-five, thirty-five, or twenty-five years ago?

One roundtable at the recent conference was "Approaches to International Collaboration," sponsored by the Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration. In 2007, the issue of sharing resources has taken on an international perspective. The International Collaboration Committee is working hard to compile resources and programs to assist theological librarians across the globe and to facilitate collaboration with them. Forty-five years ago, the focus of resource sharing was on institutions within North America. With the support of the Sealantic Fund, Inc., the ATLA Library Development Program provided more than \$1,300,000 in books and related funds to ninety participating institutions during the period 1961 to 1966. Each institution was challenged to increase its average annual book budget by as much as \$3000. Whatever the library spent in excess of its normal budget was matched by funds from the Sealantic Fund. Emphasis was placed on standards of quality and discrimination in book acquisition, as well as on effectiveness in library service. Each library was encouraged to engage in a critical analysis of its own services. In addition, the Library Development Program made visitation teams available. The role of these teams was to spend a period of time at an institution and provide outside assessment of the quality of the library facilities and services. A total of sixty-nine institutions were visited by Library Development

Program teams. The Library Development Program operated out of the office of Raymond P. Morris, who was Librarian of the Yale Divinity School at the time. A *Theological Book List* was compiled by Dr. Morris to assist participating institutions in assessing their book holdings, and a Self-Study Guide was prepared to assist in library evaluation. Perhaps the historical perspective provided by knowledge of the Library Development Program can inform us about the amount of time, effort, and funds required to implement a comprehensive and effective program of resource sharing.


Another roundtable at the 2007 ATLA conference focused on Association of Theological Schools (ATS) statistics forms and the need to revise them. Guess what—thirty-five years ago there was an ATLA/AATS Library Task Force addressing the same issue. These sentences from a letter written in November 1972 have some resonance today: "I must admit I do not understand all features of the [proposed ATS statistics] form . . . I would expect that fuller explanation would be required on a number of points, if the responses from the various libraries were to have any consistency." (R. Grant Bracewell writing to Marvin Taylor.) Perhaps this tidbit from the archives can inform us about the need for persistence . . .

An underlying theme in the recent conference, and in many of our interactions, has been the uncertain future of theological (and all) libraries. Again, the archives can inform us that this is nothing new. In 1982, ATLA was in the midst of Project 2000, "a study of the roles which theological libraries in North America will play in the next two decades; a study of the resources and strategies which will be required to fulfill these roles . . ." Led by Stephen L. Peterson of the Yale Divinity School, Project 2000 sought answers for the following

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questions: 1) What changes in the style and/or substance of theological education will alter the roles of theological libraries? 2) Will post-degree education of the clergy make new demands on theological libraries? 3) Do the financial prospects for theological seminaries suggest new or different roles for their libraries? 4) What responsibility do theological libraries have for the nature and extent of the written Christian record which survives in North America? 5) How will theological libraries respond to the emerging electronic communications revolution? Are you curious to know what conclusions were reached twenty-five years ago and what relevance they may have for us today? Stay tuned.



Martha Lund Smalley
 ATLA Board President
 Yale University Divinity School Library



Report of the Secretary of the Board of Directors



ATLA Annual Conference, 2007, Philadelphia, PA

Minutes of the Business Meeting

The business meeting was convened by Board President **Duane Harbin** at 2:00pm, Thursday, June 14, 2007.

Roberta Schaafsma presented the Secretary's report. The Teller's Committee was composed of **Terese Jerose**, **Kenneth McMullen**, and **Kevin Smith** (chair). They received the election results via e-mail from Survey & Ballot Systems and verified that 330 valid ballots and two invalid ballots

were received. The membership elected **Duane Harbin**, **Sandra Lipton**, **James Pakala**, and **Roberta Schaafsma** to the Board of Directors for the 2007-2010 term of office. The Secretary's report was accepted.

President Harbin recognized and thanked departing Board members **Ann Hotta** and **Christine Wenderoth** and he told the membership that **Laura Wood** had been appointed by the Board to complete Ann's term of office. The new Board officers were introduced: **Roberta Schaafsma** (Secretary), **David Stewart** (Vice President), and **Martha Smalley** (President).

Martha Smalley introduced the chairpersons of the Interest Groups.

Eric Friede presented a report for the Professional Development Committee. He indicated that each committee member is a liaison to particular regional groups and also outlined the projects the committee has worked on over the past year. An additional focus for the coming year will be leadership program development.

A report of the Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration was given by **Mariel Deluca Voth** who described continuing programs and efforts. A new project will be working on a wiki manual for training international librarians.

Roger Loyd provided a report of the ATLA Endowment Committee. The current balance in the endowment fund is \$138,737 and the committee will be hosting a dinner for new retirees.

The presentation of ATLA's 2007-08 budget was given by **Pradeep Gamadia**. The organization is very healthy and had an income of \$5,428,800 last year.

The business meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Board of Directors Meetings

Board discussions included the new Board election process, concerns related to instituting the new institutional membership

(ATLA member names appear in bold)



The 2007-08 Board of Directors pose with departing member Ann Hotta. Front row, left to right: Jim Pakala, Laura Wood, Carrisse Berryhill, Duane Harbin; second row, left to right: Alan Mueller, Roberta Schaafsma, Cait Kokolus, Ann Hotta; back row, left to right: Eileen Crawford, Sandra Lipton, David Stewart, Pat Graham, Martha Smalley.

Member News

dues, further revisions to the Interest Group Handbook, and ways the organization can work on diversity issues. Reports were received from the Interlibrary Loan Task Force and the Endowment Committee.

The Board passed the following resolution:

“We recognize the important role that the ATLA choir has historically played at the annual conference and commend **Seth Kasten** and the members of the choir for their dedication and musical skills and recognize their splendid performance this year at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.”

*Roberta A. Schaafsma, Secretary
ATLA Board of Directors
Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology*



Seth Kasten rehearses the ATLA choir in preparation for the ATLA 2007 Annual Conference memorial service.



Duane Harbin thanks retiring Board member Christine Wenderoth.

2007/2008 Committees of the Association

Each ATLA committee is listed below with a brief description and a roster of members with their terms and current offices held.

Annual Conference Committee: the strategic and long-range planning agent for annual conferences. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Bruce Eldevik (06–08), Chair
John Weaver (7–09), Vice-Chair
Bruce Keisling (07–10)
Andre Paris (05–08)
Eric Stancliff, (06–09)
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio

Education Committee: identifies and responds to needs for continuing education of ATLA members at the Annual Conference. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Carrie Hackney (05–08), Chair
Sandy Ayer (06–09), Secretary
Francois Lamoureux (07–08)
Local Host Liaison
Nancy Adams (07–10)
Blake Walter (06–09)
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio

Endowment Committee: informs the membership of the purpose of the Endowment Fund, the cultivation of donor relationships, and the solicitation of major gifts through planned (estate) gifts and other funding sources. (*Committee Appointed by the Board of Directors*)

Roger Loyd (05–12), Chair
Mary Bischoff (05–11)
Elmer O'Brien (05–10)
M. Patrick Graham (05–09), Board Liaison
Dennis A. Norlin, ATLA Staff Liaison

International Collaboration, Special Committee of the Association for: coordinates the Association's activities regarding international theological librarianship, supports efforts of individual libraries and librarians to participate in international theological librarianship activities; serves as a liaison with international theological library associations; and plans ATLA conference activities related to international theological librarianship. (*Special Committee of the Association*)

Chris Beldan (05–09), Chair
Paul Stuehrenberg (05–09), Vice-Chair
Margaret Tarpley (07–11), Secretary
Maria Deluca Voth (04–08)
Eileen Crawford (07–08), Board Liaison
Dennis A. Norlin, ATLA Staff Liaison

Nominating Committee: nominates candidates for election to the Board of Directors. (*Standing Committee of the Board*)

James C. Pakala (05–07), Chair
Susan Ebertz (06–08)
M. Patrick Graham (07–09)

Professional Development Committee: determines the continuing education needs of members and provides appropriate opportunities for members to obtain this professional development outside the context of the Annual Conference. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Eric Friede (05–08), Chair
Seth Kasten (07–10)
Angela Morris (06–09)
Kris Veldheer (06–09)
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio

Publications Committee: serves as a catalyst within the Association for encouraging and supporting scholarly publication; serves as an advisory committee to editors of each ATLA Scarecrow series and to the ATLA Communications Specialist; develops a strategic plan for publishing critical tools for use by members of the profession in keeping with the mission and organizational ends of the association; and consults with the Professional Development Committee, the Annual Conference Committee, the Membership Advisory Committee, and the Education Committee to develop and promote workshops and programs related to scholarly publication. (*Committee Appointed by the Executive Director*)

Douglas Gragg (05–08), Chair
Beth Bidlack (07–10)
Teresa Jerose (06–09)
Barbara Kemmis, Ex officio



Member Notes

Robert Ibach Retires

Robert Ibach retired on July 1, 2007, after 21 years as library director at Dallas Theological Seminary. He helped guide the planning and building of the Turpin Library in 1988, one of two buildings that the library occupies. During his administration the library completed its reclassification, adopted an integrated library system, doubled the size of the collection, and greatly expanded its archives and rare book collection. Prior to his work in Dallas he was a librarian for 17 years at Grace College and Seminary in Indiana.



Newland Smith Honored

A Doctor in Divinity, *honoris causa* was conferred upon **Newland F. Smith III**, librarian and associate professor of Bibliography at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary during the Virginia Theological Seminary commencement. Newland and **Al Caldwell** will retire as Co-Directors of the United Library on August 31, 2007.



Beth Sheppard Appointment

Congratulations to **Beth Sheppard**, who has accepted an offer to become the next Director of the United Library. Library Director at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas since 2004, Dr. Sheppard has served on the Southwestern library staff since 1999. She will begin her work in the United Library sometime in August.

“Dr. Sheppard’s appointment is the culmination of several months’ work by a search committee comprising representatives of the Garrett-Evangelical and Seabury-Western communities, along with a representative of the Northwestern University Library,” says Ruth A. Meyers, Academic Dean and Professor of Liturgics at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. “I am grateful to the search committee for

their diligent work and to the seminary communities for their participation in the candidate visits.”



Donald Smeeton Becomes Director

Congratulations are also due to **Donald Dean Smeeton**, who will assume new duties as the director of libraries at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia on July 1. The libraries include the Hartzler Library—serving both the undergraduate programs and the seminary—and the Menno Simons Historical Library and Archives. Menno Simons holds about 450 sixteenth-century items pertaining to the rise of the Swiss, German, and Dutch Anabaptist-Mennonite movements, as well as perhaps the most extensive collection in North America of the original etchings of the Dutch artist, Jan Luiken (1649-1712).

Dr. Smeeton, who earned a PhD from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, will bring his years of experience as an educator, missionary, and library director to the new task. **Jennifer M. Ulrich**, who has served as interim director, will continue her service to the libraries at EMU.



Recent Staff Changes at Gordon-Conwell

Robert Mayer, current director of the Harold Lindsell Library at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary’s Charlotte, N.C. campus, became Senior Librarian and Director of the Gordon-Conwell Libraries effective July 1, 2007. In this new role, he will be based in Charlotte and will be responsible for oversight of the seminary’s entire library system, which currently includes the Boston, South Hamilton, and Charlotte campuses and the Jacksonville, Florida extension site.

Meredith Kline, currently Assistant Librarian for Serials and Interlibrary Loan, has been named Acting Director of Goddard Library on the main Gordon-Conwell Campus at

South Hamilton effective on July 1, 2007. He brings fifteen years of theological library experience and a background in teaching biblical languages to his new position.

Robert McFadden has been named as Assistant Librarian for Public Services and Archival Management at Goddard Library. A recent MLS graduate of the library school at State University of New York in Albany, Mr. McFadden comes to Goddard Library after twenty years in food service management in upstate New York.

These appointments follow the retirement of longtime Goddard Library Director Dr. Freeman Barton. His colleagues and fellow workers greatly appreciate his many years of effective library service and leadership at Goddard Library and at Gordon-Conwell. Dr. Barton continues to serve the Gordon-Conwell libraries through his working knowledge of technical services and cataloging.



Lifetime Member David Warluft Dies

The staff of Lutheran Theological Seminary announced the news of **David Warluft’s** death. David was a long-time ATLA member and served as executive secretary of the Association during the 1970s, editing at least nine editions of the *Annual Proceedings*. A courageous and strong survivor of multiple bouts with cancer, David died on Monday, July 9, following his fourth major cancer surgery. David was present at the most recent ATLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia just four weeks before his death and spent an evening dining

(ATLA member names appear in bold)

Member News

2007 Colloquy

The 2007 *Colloquy on The Role of the Theological Librarian in Teaching, Learning and Research*, sponsored jointly by ATLA and the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology, took place in Crawfordsville, Indiana April 18-23, 2007. Participants explored the vocation of theological librarianship and developed strategies and skills for increasing the effectiveness of librarians in the teaching, learning, and research process in their own institutional and professional contexts. Director **Laura C. Wood**, Harvard Divinity School, was joined by **Ann Hotta** of the Graduate Theological Union and **Roger L. Loyd** of Duke University. The Wabash Center Facilitator was Paul O. Myhre.



First row, left to right: Joan Pries, Ann Hotta, Jennifer Ulrich, Kelly Campbell, Teresa Lubienecki; second row: Paul Myhre, Laura Wood, Beth Bidlack, Debbie Creamer, Tolonda Henderson, Jennifer Bartholomew; third row: Mayra Picos-Lee, Maria Garcia, Tom Power, Rachel Minken, Roger Loyd; fourth row: Matt Ostercamp, Anthony Elia.

and visiting with other lifetime members. Always cheerful and supportive of ATLA, David made many, many contributions that benefit all of us. We will miss him.

Memorial gifts can be given for the David Wartluft Library fund at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. The family is considering using this fund in David's memory for the renovation of the Krauth Library as it approaches its 100th anniversary.



Theological Librarianship Course

The Theological Librarianship course will be offered at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) once again, starting this fall (see last year's syllabus at <http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/fall06/LIS590TL/index.html>). Available for either two or four hours of graduate credit, the live sessions will take place Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m., August 22 to December 5.

Tuition and fees are generously offered at in-state rates for ATLA Individual and Student Members. Marianne Steadley (steadley@uiuc.edu) is handling registration for non-UIUC students.



Canadian Theological Seminary Undergoes Name Change

Canadian Theological Seminary has become Ambrose Seminary, although the rollout of the new name (which began on May 3, 2007) won't be complete until September 20, 2007, when the media launch of the new name of the Seminary's host institution, Ambrose University College, will take place.

Ambrose University College represents the union of Alliance University College and Nazarene University College, and the new institution will continue to serve as the official Canadian school of both the Christian and Missionary Alliance and the Church of the Nazarene.

Ambrose University College is named after Ambrose of Milan, a fourth-century Christian who was called in 374 A.D. from a successful career as a governor to become head of the Christian church in Milan, Italy. Ambrose left his mark as a hymn writer, preacher, pastor, and an educator; he is best known for leading Augustine to faith and for his strong defense of orthodox Christology. In adopting his name, Ambrose University College and Ambrose Seminary underscore their commitment to prepare students for service and leadership in church

and society in keeping with the historic Christian faith.



North American Baptist Seminary Becomes Sioux Falls Seminary

In a prepared statement, President Mike Hagan said the following:

"Established in 1858 in Rochester, New York, the seminary began as a German Department in an established seminary. In the years and decades to come, as it grew in number of students and faculty, our school became the German Baptist Seminary.

"In the 1930s and 40s, as members of the North American Baptist Conference were spreading westward through the prairies and to the west coast, the seminary made a decision to change its name. This time the seminary became North American Baptist Seminary, and soon after, it relocated to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Since settling into Sioux Falls, we have continued to serve our North American Baptist Conference. We have also grown to serve this region. We have been equipping leaders and transforming the lives of students from various denominations in the region, in

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Welcome

ATLA

New Members

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- Mr. Joshua Adarkwa, Oakland, CA
- Dr. Christopher J. Anderson, Madison, NJ
- Mrs. Diane S. George Ayer, Calgary, AB, Canada
- Mr. Chris Benda, Nashville, TN
- Mr. Dale Broadhurst, Hilo, HI
- Mr. Leland Deeds, Charlottesville, VA
- Mr. William Gillis, Jamaica Plain, MA
- Mr. Andrew Palmer Grant, Pittstown, NJ
- Rev. Donald J. Joyce, San Antonio, TX
- Mrs. Amy E.C. Koehler, Chicago, IL
- Mr. Steven P. Koehneke, Fort Wayne, IN
- Dr. Daniel Kolb, St. Meinrad, IN
- Mr. Francois Lamoureux, Gatineau, QB, Canada
- Mr. Everett Meadors, Deerfield, IL
- Ms. Ann Nieuwkoop, Holland, MI
- Ms. Julia Randle, Arlington, VA
- Mr. Germano G. Streese, Decorah, IA

STUDENT MEMBERS

- Mr. Anthony Andros, Orland Park, IL
- Mr. Evan E. Boyd, Blooming Prairie, MN
- Mr. Jim Brown, Midlothian, VA
- Mr. Richard Epps-Dawson, Greensboro, NC
- Mr. Scott M. Grace, Dallas, TX
- Mr. Gabriel Mckee, Brooklyn, NY
- Ms. Elena Nipper, Costa Mesa, CA
- Mr. Leif Pierson, Denton, TX
- Ms. Bethany Templeton, Iowa City, IA
- Mr. Jared H. Wellman, Bloomington, IN

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

- Central Africa Baptist College, Kitwe, Zambia

AFFILIATE MEMBERS - LIBRARIES

- Patten University, Oakland, CA
- Washington Baptist College and Seminary, Annandale, VA

AFFILIATE MEMBERS ORGANIZATIONS

- Editorial Verbo Divino, Estella, Navarre, Spain

addition to the North American Baptist Conference. Because there is no other accredited seminary in the five state region including South Dakota, Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana, and Nebraska, we have also become your seminary.

“And it is with great excitement I announce that North American Baptist Seminary will become Sioux Falls Seminary. As Sioux Falls Seminary, we will continue to serve the church, provide excellent theological education, and keep equipping leaders and transforming lives at the heart of our ministry. Sioux Falls—we are proud to serve in your community and now to share your name.”



Barry Hamilton Receives Scholarship

Barry Hamilton of Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, New York is the recipient of a 2007-2008 Bridwell Library Visiting Scholar Fellowship. Barry will research the philosophical foundations of early Methodist Theology. Please join ATLA in offering our congratulations.



Karl Kreuger Attends NEH Seminar

After presenting his paper at the ATLA Annual Conference on Thursday, **Karl Kreuger** caught a flight for Brussels on Friday. Library Director and Associate Professor of the History of Christianity Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminary Libraries Krauth Memorial and Lutheran Theological Seminary, Karl was one of fifteen participants selected from a national pool of applicants to attend an NEH seminar, “The Reformation of the Book, 1450-1700.”

“The first week of the seminar is at the Plantin Moretus Museum in Antwerp and includes a visit to Brussels and the Erasmus house to see the current exhibit—‘Erasmus and His Printers,’” says Karl. “The remaining

(ATLA member names appear in bold)

Member News

weeks are at the Bodleian in Oxford.” Karl adds that his goal is to write an article about an unknown sixteenth-century reader who left marginal notes in his institution’s copy of the Geneva Bible (1560) and to create an exhibit with the English editions of the Bible that led up to the publication of the Geneva. ATLA congratulates him on this marvelous opportunity.



Debbie Creamer Promoted

Debbie Creamer was appointed Director of the Ira J. Taylor Library and Assistant Professor of Theological Bibliography at the Iliff School of Theology, effective June 1, 2007. Debbie earned her Ph. D. from the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology with her dissertation entitled “The Withered Hand of God: Disability and Theological Reflection.” She also holds the M.Div. from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and is enrolled in the MLIS program at the University of Denver. Debbie’s teaching and research interests include information literacy, pedagogy, writing skills, feminist theology, and disability and religion. A member of the Iliff Library staff since 1997, she has served as Interim Director since September 2005. We wish her much success and satisfaction in her new position.



OCLC/IFLA Early Career Fellows

On Tuesday, May 1, a number of ATLA staff met with librarians from five different countries: Mr. Kodjo Elogo Atiso, Librarian, Animal Research Institute, Achimota, Ghana; Mrs. Alicia Chavarria Esguerra, Instructor I/ Librarian, Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Philippines; Mrs. Pauline Nicholas, Information Specialist, Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica; Mrs. Elisangela Alves Silva, Information Assistant, Abrinq Foundation for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, São Paulo, Brazil; Ms. Nevena

Seated, left to right: Pauline Nicholas, Kodjo Elogo Atiso, Elisangela Alves Silva; standing: Robert J. Murphy (Senior Public Relations Specialist, OCLC), Barbara Kemmis (Director of Member Services, ATLA), Nancy Lensenmeyer (Program Officer, Education and Professional Development, OCLC), Nevena Tomić, Timothy Smith (Membership Associate/Exhibits Coordinator, ATLA), Alicia Chavarria Esguerra.



Tomić, Library Manager, Cultural Centre “Students’ City,” Belgrade, Serbia.

Participants in the Early Career Development Fellowship Program, these librarians visited ATLA headquarters as part of their two-week stay in the United States. Jointly sponsored by OCLC and IFLA, the program offers early career librarians an opportunity to sample a variety of library and information science sites and to make connections with their American counterparts.

Several years ago ATLA agreed to provide funding each year for a theological librarian to be included in this select group. This year’s theological librarian—Ms. Tomić—shared with us all a presentation about religious libraries in Belgrade, Serbia. Even though the other librarian participants were not theological librarians, they had a high level of interest in ATLA and we had a very lively conversation.

As our international visitors prepared to leave our building to visit the Chicago Public Library, they witnessed the beginning of an immigration rally of more than 150,000 marching down Jackson Street right past our building on their way to a huge rally at Grant Park. They were astonished to see this huge peaceful crowd, many carrying American flags, walking down the street, singing and cheering.



LITANY Spring Meeting

On June 5, 2007 Holy Trinity Seminary hosted the Spring Meeting of LITANY (Libraries Interested in Theology Across New York), a consortium of libraries and librarians in Upstate New York devoted to the promotion of theological librarianship and collaboration for the sake of enhancing the services and collections of its member libraries (<http://litany.sbu.edu>). Representing Holy Trinity Seminary were **Rev. Deacon Vladimir Tsurikov**, Director of Archives and Library Service, and Rev. Cyprian Alexandrou. Other libraries were represented by **Jim Mancuso** of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Paul Spaeth of St. Bonaventure University, Bill Kanalley of Siena College, and Joy Niswander and Elizabeth Siekawitch of Elim Bible Institute.

The meeting began with a presentation by Rev. Deacon Vladimir Tsurikov on the history and significance of Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary. Specific attention was devoted to the Seminary’s role in the preservation of Russian Émigré collections, followed by an introduction to the Seminary’s scholarly resources.

The visitors had the opportunity to visit the Seminary’s Museum. On exhibit were sacred and liturgical items, as well as items of imperial provenance. Of specific interest to the visitor was the Monastery’s print shop of St. Job of Pochaev, which since its establishment in the early 1940s has

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seen the publication of hundreds of titles of religious and historical nature both in Russian and English. After viewing the Holy Trinity Cathedral, the tour ended with a visit to the Monastery's icon studio where the iconographic tradition of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the theology of the icon, were explained by resident iconographer Monk Theophan, and the techniques of depicting an image described.

The day concluded with a business meeting; LITANY members came to an agreement to share resources with member libraries and elected a new treasurer. Holy Trinity Seminary looks forward to the next meeting, scheduled for the fall of 2007.



2007 ATLA Annual Conference Report from the IIG

I am reporting that once again the Introverts Interest Group (IIG) felt no need to convene. We will next not see each other in Ottawa in 2008!

Blake Walter
Ex Officio Chair/Lifetime Member, IIG
Brimson Grow Library, Northern Seminary



Upcoming Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for submissions for the November issue of the *ATLA Newsletter* is October 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.



International Collaboration Committee

Michael Poon (pictured at right), the Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia at Trinity Theological College, Singapore, spoke at the Roundtable on Approaches to International Collaboration about the work of his Centre. The International Collaboration Committee was impressed with the work he is doing generally, and specifically on the collaborative efforts he is fostering. We asked him to write an article for the ATLA Newsletter that speaks to the ways in which the Centre's website provides a gateway to understanding Christianity in Southeast Asia, and he graciously agreed to share his thoughts with us.

—Paul Stuehrenberg, Vice Chair



CSCA Website: Gateway to Mission Research in Southeast Asia

CSCA Website (www.ttc.edu.sg/csa/csa.htm) is an online gateway to mission studies in Southeast Asia—more specifically, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Its purpose is twofold. First, it serves as a resource portal for history and mission lecturers, as well as for postgraduate students in seminaries in the region. The provision of microfilms and microfilm readers, journals, internet access, and subscription-based search engines—in short, infrastructures that are taken granted in the Northern Hemispheres—may not be readily available to them. The website is a response to this need.

Secondly, it lays out in one place for the wider international academic community the history and current state of Christianity in Southeast Asia. In the main, China and India have been the preoccupation of mission and church historians. Southeast Asian studies often fall within the orbits of these two powerful poles. Yet, the region has become increasingly important because it lies at the crossroads of interfaith and

multicultural encounters in an increasingly volatile world.

This website is a timely—and perhaps the first—attempt worldwide by a research centre in a regional seminary to document the life and witness of Southeast Asian churches as they venture beyond the post-colonial and post-missionary era to discover their responsibilities in the present-day.

The website was first conceived in early 2005 when the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia adopted history and documentation as one of its research focuses. In March 2005, the Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia invited Mrs. Martha Smalley, Special Collections Librarian of the Yale Divinity School Library, to visit Singapore and advise how the Centre and the churches can begin their archival work. Her recommendations to Trinity Theological College highlight the importance of such a documentation website. This was pivotal in ensuring policy support for the website as an integral part of the Centre's work.

The main features of the website, of special relevance to librarians, are as follows:

1. Source Documents

The gathering of source documents for the purpose of seminary teaching is a centerpiece of the website. Key documents from the nineteenth century to the present-day are posted on www.ttc.edu.sg/csa/

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hd.htm. We also develop web pages with special focus, for example, on Anglican mission in the region (www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/rart_doc/ang/ang-doc.htm) and the historically important Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican Church in China) that became defunct at the end of the 1950s (www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/skh/index.html). Such documentation thus serves to preserve the memory and offers the material basis for independent sources for history-writing, an exercise that is sometimes influenced by various forms of ideologies.

Generating new sources is an increasingly important feature of the website. From 2006, Trinity Theological College Chinese Department students are required in their first year to undertake local church history projects. This bottom-up approach towards church history helps students root their ministry in their local contexts, so that they become more confident as they connect their histories with the wider stories of the Church through time and space. Rough-hewn though they may be, these student projects offer illuminating sketches of congregations in Singapore and Malaysia. (See www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/epub.htm#slch for a growing list of these local histories projects written in Chinese.)

CSCA Documentation (Blog <http://cscadocs.blogspot.com/>) is a log book to additions to our collection. RSS feed linked to this blog-site offers a convenient way to alert users of the new entries.

2. Finding Aids to Collections

Most microfilm and repository guides provide only a top level description of source documents on Southeast Asia. Creating finding aids for the Southeast Asian material buried in microfilm collections and repositories is thus a most needed task. CSCA Guides supplement the more established finding aids produced either commercially or by academic institutions in the northern hemisphere, which may not regard the production of such guides a priority item.

Our Collection Guides include:

- *Tianfeng* Index (ATLA Film AS0317) www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/tf/tfindex.htm;
- Index to the *Borneo Chronicles* www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/guides/bc/bc-6-10.htm;
- *Saint Andrew's Outlook* Index www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/guides/sao/sao-77-83.htm;
- References to Southeast Asia in the Chinese Repository www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/rart_doc/cr-sea/cr-sea.htm;
- References to Southeast Asia in the *Chinese Recorder* www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/rart_doc/crec-sea/crec-sea.htm;
- The South East Asia Journal of Theology (SEAJT) and The East Asia Journal of Theology (EAJT) Cumulative Index www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/seajt.htm;
- Yale Divinity School Southeast Asian Manuscripts www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/ydsl-sea/index.html;
- Saint George's Church, Penang www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/guides/stgeorge-pen.htm
- www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/epub.htm#mguide provides an updated list to the guides produced.

3. Insight into Southeast Asian Theological Ferment

Knowing what Southeast Asian Christians think is not obvious. Their writings may be readily available to those in the northern hemisphere. Full text to back issues of *Church and Society in Asia Today*, produced by CSCA, is available at www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/CS/CS.htm. CSCA will continue to produce *Occasional Papers* and make them available online at www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/epub.htm#op. Trinity Theological College postgraduate theses abstracts are available online through the Library online catalogue (<http://library.ttc.edu.sg/>).

4. Bibliographies

One of the central projects of Trinity Theological College Library is in building up a Singapore-Malaysia Special Collection.

Bibliographies and listings of holdings on Southeast Asian Christianity were among the earliest content in the CSCA website. (See <http://ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/epub.htm#biblio>.) These listings of what exist in Singapore and elsewhere were helpful in identifying gaps in holdings and in the Library's collection development. Search instruments (for example WorldCat: www.worldcat.org) are now becoming readily accessible and feature-rich. They are ready and free(!) tools for locating secondary literature and compiling bibliographies. CSCA Website hopes to shift its attention to creating annotated bibliographies and to providing listings of locally published secondary literature that may not be readily disseminated in the wider world.

5. Resources for Archival Preservation

CSCA website is a tangible platform upon which we collaborate with regional churches. www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/arch-pres/arch-res.htm is a resource page for archives preservation. We have also translated into Chinese Rosemary Seton and Martha Smalley's *An Archival Manual*, Smalley's *An Archives Primer*, and Jean Paul Wiest's *Doing Oral History*. (See www.ttc.edu.sg/csc/epub/epub.htm#archp.) Churches in the region use these resources for training purposes.

In sum, CSCA Website is a work in progress. It provides a platform for researchers, seminary lecturers, students, and churches to work together, creating and sharing resources for the good of theological education in the region. This model can be readily replicated elsewhere. Such efforts could open up new possibilities of collaboration in documenting world Christianity today.

*Michael Poon, Director
Centre for the Study of Christianity in Asia
Trinity Theological College*



Report of the ATLA Birding Passion Group

The Quest for the Little Gray Job

It wouldn't win any avian beauty contests, and its song sounds like a red-winged blackbird with sinus problems, but that didn't keep *ammodramus maritimus*, the seaside sparrow, from being the primary target of the ATLA Birding Passion Group's 2007 excursion. Neither Lynn Berg nor Eric Friede nor I had seen it before; and that was all that mattered.

To prepare for our little sortie we'd contacted Philadelphia-area birding discussion groups, listened to recordings of the bird's vocalizations, and memorized the field marks: grayish body, long spike-like bill, yellow supraloral (eyebrow) patch, and whitish throat. The local birders who'd responded to our inquiries informed us that the bird is rarely seen in Pennsylvania and that coastal marshes in either Delaware or New Jersey were our best bets. We selected one of the locations they recommended, Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge (aka Edwin B. Forsythe NWR) in southern New Jersey, because it's one of Lynn's favorite birding haunts.

At 5:00 a.m. Friday, 15 June, Lynn swung by the hotel in her little Honda, and the three of us, maps at the ready, headed off in search of the Atlantic City Expressway. Lynn had never driven to Brigantine from the south, so we had to navigate our way through the dense network of local highways with only maps to guide us. This proved in some ways to be more difficult than the search for the bird itself. Just getting to the Ben Franklin Bridge involved more counterintuition than I could muster, given the number of one-way streets and the spiral staircase of an on-ramp. Spin me around and I'm completely disoriented. So I checked out early as navigator. Lynn and Eric then put their heads together, and we promptly got lost, though it only took us about 15 minutes to get back on track.

Once on the expressway we had a final listen to the seaside sparrow track on Lynn's cd of bird songs, and then Eric and I looked up the bird in our field guides. "Mine calls it secretive," said Eric. "Mine says: 'actively

seeks out human companionship,'" I lied, completely taking in the gullible graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Yale Divinity School. However, I knew that he was quoting from the definitive *Sibley Guide to Birds*, and I began to feel for the first time that we would have little chance of seeing the bird.

We arrived at Brigantine at about 6:30. The dawn chorus was in full swing, and purple martins were swooping over the parking lot in pursuit of bugs. Lynn quickly spotted a glorious eastern bluebird, and then Eric found an indigo bunting. Meanwhile, I was listening to the "fee-bee" of an eastern phoebe and the "fitz-BEW" of a willow flycatcher. The latter bird has a look-alike counterpart called the alder flycatcher that can only be distinguished from it by voice (fee-BEE-o, for the alder), which brought to mind a bird-banding session in Calgary in which the bander-in-charge, with freshly netted flycatcher in hand, quickly gave up trying to identify it as to species.

From the deck of an observation tower we managed to barely make out in the distance a flock of black skimmers resting on a sandbar. The lower mandible of this unique gull-sized bird is longer than the upper, and it feeds by opening its bill, skimming the surface of the water, and snapping its bill shut whenever it encounters resistance. However, the water was too choppy this morning, and the flock seemed to be waiting out the wind. Willets, large sandpiper-like shorebirds, were calling eponymously from all over the marsh—"pill-will-WILLET"—and flashing their black and white underwings. A large slim raptor with a white rump flew over the parking lot and settled in some trees: northern harrier, formerly known as marsh hawk.

Beautiful birds, but not our target species, so we headed out in the car along the dykes in search of our quarry, spooking all-white great egrets; smaller snowy egrets, with their black legs and yellow feet; and the occasional glossy ibis. We didn't get very far before we noticed a large rail preening just a few meters away in one of the grass-bordered tidal channels. Normally rails are

very secretive, but this bird took no notice of us. Eric found the rails page in his field guide and began reciting the field marks of the most likely candidate. Lynn and I compared them with the characteristics of the image in our binoculars. Sure enough, it was a clapper rail, a bird Eric and I had seen for the first time two years ago in a post-conference trip to South Padre Island, Texas.

About a hundred meters down the dyke we stopped again for a closer look at the skimmers and to ask a pair of fellow birders whether they'd seen our sparrow. No, but did we want a 'scope view of the skimmers? Eric and Lynn got out, but I was still unfolding myself from Lynn's Honda when I noticed an apparent female red-winged blackbird alight on a stem of grass about 10 meters away and begin singing. "Wait, female blackbirds don't sing!" I thought. And this bird was gray overall, not brown; and it had a spiky bill and yellow lore patch—"Hey, there's our bird!" I yelled.

The seaside sparrow kept singing long enough for the other birders to train their telescope on it. All five of us got a good, clear look at it before it flew away. A great thrill, but nothing compared to my joy at having my bogus description of the bird's habits prove to be more apt, at least in this instance, than that of the most authoritative field guide. Adding to our enjoyment was the backdrop against which we'd seen our life bird: the skyline of Atlantic City, with its hotels, casinos, and five huge windmills. The world seemed a better place for this experience of semi-wilderness at the doorstep of such a garish expression of urban life.

"Sounds like a fish crow—there!" called Lynn pointing to a crow, perched on a sign, that was emitting a strangled "caw." Hordes of no-see-ums, mosquitoes, and other flies began to torment us, though, and so we drove on; but the car itself soon filled with bugs. "I'd like to get one of those purple martins in here," said Eric. "That would fix 'em." Then he caught sight in the distance of a raptor being harried by crows. We drove closer, but the bird flew off just as

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Eric managed to train his binoculars on it. "I'm pretty sure it was a peregrine falcon," he muttered as he returned to the back seat.

We turned our attention to the birds on a nearby mudflat. More black skimmers, some great black-backed gulls, and some American black ducks—only the second time I'd ever seen that species. I took another look at the skimmers. "Let's get your 'scope out, Lynne, I'm not convinced those are skimmers," I said, noting their smaller size, smaller orange bills, and the amount of white on their flanks. Sure enough, they turned out to be American oystercatchers. "Isn't that an Osprey on the perch next to that artificial nest platform?" asked Lynn. It was, and we got some great looks at this graceful fish hawk. We saw at least three in all in our tour of the dykes.

The next stretch produced a number of common yellowthroats, song sparrows, and a black-crowned night-heron. But we were looking for something else, a sparrow that Eric had on his desiderata list and that was

known to inhabit the marsh. Eric finally spotted it poking its head above the cover on a grassy island. Its cheeks were marked with orange, and it was brighter overall than the seaside sparrow and had much more white on the belly. No doubt about it: saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow.

A great blue heron flushed from the tall grass as we rounded the last corner. Nine thirty. Time to head back if we expected to shower in time to attend the last session of the morning. The trip back produced a red-tailed hawk and then some turkey vultures that rocked back and forth ominously as they glided over the dead and dying ash trees that were interspersed with the pines that bordered some sections of the expressway. Dead, from an infestation of some Asian beetle that was now making its way west, just as the pine beetle is moving south and east. Dead, like the chestnuts and elms. The thought of the extirpated elms brought back the words of an old man I'd met in upstate New York in the summer of 1979: "Gov' nor

Rockefeller came to the state fair awhile back boastin' about how his administration had ended Dutch elum disease. Judas priest, thuh only reason there's no more Dutch elum disease is 'cause Dutch elum disease killed all thuh elum trees." Will the oaks be next?

"Enjoy the trees while you can; enjoy the birds while you can," the vultures seemed to be saying—adding a note of desperation to what for us has so far been a purely pleasurable activity. Oh well, next year in the Gatineau Hills near Ottawa; though that conference will likely see the end of an eleven-year unbroken string of trips on which everyone in the group has seen at least one life bird. But that's not what it's all about.

H.D. (Sandy) Ayer
Alliance University College, Canadian
Theological Seminary



Trip List (Birds Heard or Seen)

Double-crested Cormorant	Forster's Tern	Northern Mockingbird
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Rock Pigeon	European Starling
Snowy Egret	Mourning Dove	Yellow Warbler
Great Egret	Chimney Swift	Common Yellowthroat
Glossy Ibis	Downy Woodpecker	Chipping Sparrow
Canada Goose	Willow Flycatcher	Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Mallard	Eastern Phoebe	SEASIDE SPARROW
American Black Duck	Red-eyed Vireo	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Osprey	Fish Crow	Indigo Bunting
Northern Harrier	Tree Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Purple Martin	Brown-headed Cowbird
Peregrine Falcon (?)	Barn Swallow	House Finch
Clapper Rail	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
American Oystercatcher	House Wren	House Sparrow
Willet	Marsh Wren	
Laughing Gull	Eastern Bluebird	Total species: 54
Herring Gull	American Robin	
Great Black-backed Gull	Gray Catbird	



ATLA 2007 Annual Conference Photos



For more conference photos go to:
<http://atla07conference.shutterfly.com>
The password is ATLA07 (case sensitive!)

You can also see Michelle Spomer's photo collection of Philly at www.flickr.com/photos/myspomer

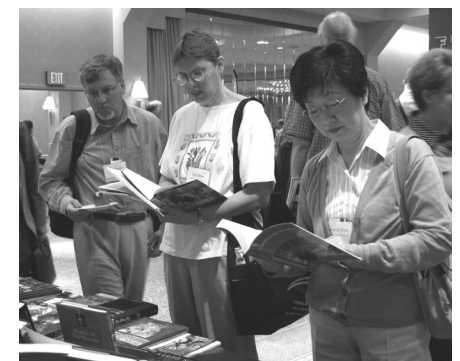
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Opposite, clockwise from upper left: choir practice; International Collaboration Committee lunch bunch; LEEPERs reunion; Duane Harbin and plenary speaker Joey Rodger; Andre Paris and François Lamoureux, next year's local hosts; helping visitors at the Local Host table; Ben Franklin (aka Jeff Brodrick) and Dennis Norlin.



This page, clockwise from upper left: Ann Hotta, Carrie Hackney, Susan Ebertz, and Tammy Johnson enjoy themselves at the banquet; worship at St. Charles Borromeo; plenary speaker Ingrid Mattson; Karl Krueger and Dan LaValla perform at the opening reception; Steve Perisho, Julie Hines, and Hae-Sook Kim investigate the offerings in the exhibit hall; the library at St. Charles Borromeo; Pat Graham presides over an interest group presentation; Elaine Caldbeck, Alice Runis, and Deborah Creamer share a laugh.



... are you passport-ready?

2008 ATLA Annual Conference

June 25 - 28 • Ottawa, Ontario

Hosted by St. Paul University



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.

Reference Reviews

Utter, Glenn H. Utter and True, James L. *Conservative Christians and Political Participation: A Reference Handbook (Political Participation in America)* Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2004. vii, 355 p.

Review #1

The editors of the *Political Participation in America* series note (p.ix) that there are few midrange reference materials available on the overall issue of political participation of the major subgroups that make up the electorate in the United States. As one can see from the title, this book deals with a group that can loosely be defined as conservative Christians, defined (p. 2) as "individuals and Protestant churches that are religiously fundamental and politically conservative."

The authors approach this topic first from a historical perspective, providing a 35-page overview of Christian involvement in U.S. politics from the colonial era to the present, and then in terms of major issues, with substantial chapters devoted to "protest politics," "social movements and interest groups," "electoral politics," and "political office holding." This is followed by a collection of documents regarding religion and politics in the U.S. issued between 1996 and 2003 by Congress or the Supreme Court, together with the text of a resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention, and excerpts from scholarly literature "from, and about, conservative Christians."

The final 100 pages of the book include brief biographies of key people (virtually all of them men), a list of major Christian political organizations in the U.S., a chronology of key events from 1859-2004, a glossary of terms, and a substantial annotated bibliography. Thus parts of the book can easily be consulted as a reference book, but other sections consist of quite long chapters that require more sustained reading. Each of these chapters is followed by bibliographies that are sometimes as long as six pages.

The writing style is very engaging and the

Member News

authors cover a wide range of the issues that conservative Christians have dealt with during the time period that is covered: slavery, the observance of the Sabbath, the land rights of Native Americans, prohibition, evolution, racial segregation, abortion, Communism, the Vietnam War, prayer in the public schools, homosexuality, gay marriage, and euthanasia as well as the relationship between conservative Christian groups and the State of Israel, statements by some prominent conservative Christians concerning Islam, and more recently, opinions regarding the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. There are also brief discussions of the historic and current relationships between white and African-American conservative Christians.

In their chapter on electoral politics the authors discuss the problems associated with trying to determine voting patterns or political attitudes among voters, given that voters cast their votes in secret, as well as the variety of sources available to social scientists who seek to study voter behavior or attitudes among religious groups.

The authors also discuss the tensions that have existed among conservative Christian organizations, the emergence (and in some cases demise) of groups such as the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition; the very complex relationship that has often existed between theologically conservative politicians and these religious groups; the equally complex relationship between the courts and elected officials regarding religious issues; and the interpretation of key provisions of the United States constitution.

If there were a criticism of this book, it would be the very limited discussion of the role of the Catholic church in the topic that is being addressed here and the assumption, which is never really discussed or tested, that conservative Christians are all Protestants. A quick search in the *ATLA Religion Database* turns up numerous articles about Catholics and American political conservatism including numerous reviews of Patrick Allitt's book *Catholic*

Intellectuals and Conservative Politics in America, 1950-1985 (Cornell University Press, 1993). There are no index entries for "ecumenical movement," and there is virtually no discussion of the factors that have prevented conservative Protestants and Catholics from finding common ground on political issues that would be of concern to both. It would also have been interesting to read more about the gender issues underlying this topic, and why it is that the list of key people consists almost exclusively of men.

These issues notwithstanding, the authors are to be congratulated for a very readable book, augmented by some useful primary texts and excerpts from scholarly literature, very substantial bibliographies, and a very even-handed approach to a topic that has clearly generated intense discussion within the United States over many, many years.

Its focus on a narrow devotional reading of the bible inclines this reviewer toward the stacks.

Linwood DeLong
University of Winnipeg

Review #2

This title is part of a series of books published by ABC-CLIO dedicated to one of the major sub-groups that make up the electorate in the United States. The series is edited by Raymond A. Smith. The book is divided into six chapters, includes an introduction (with chapter summaries) and a large section of addenda at the end of the volume. Each volume of the series follows a format similar to this volume.

The volume opens with an overview, offering the reader a reasonably familiar definition of who conservative Christians are and what their aims are in regards to the political process. It addresses the binary nature of their approach to government: limiting the size of government versus wanting the government to insure the maintenance of Christian values in society via legislation. The chapter also includes a historical overview of religious participation in

American government with some discussion of the church-state separation question.

Demographic information is provided for mainline and fundamentalist Christian groups/denominations with an emphasis on membership. Some attention is paid to the increasing number of atheists and those denying an affiliation with any organized religion.

The second chapter deals with protest politics and the sociology of protest movements. The chapter includes a list of the four characteristics of religious protest movements, provides examples of cases where religious movements not only confront government agencies but also other political movements (e.g., abortion), and considers the delicate balance between cooperation and confrontation with established authorities.

The third chapter focuses on social movements and interest groups. The authors provide reasons why folks organize for political action and show how churches use their already existing membership rolls as starting points for organizational activity. Emphasis is given to the political organizing of the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition and how these two groups and others addressed recent controversies, including gay marriage, evolution, and Terri Schiavo's case. The historical narrative provided is very useful and provides the reader with a good overview of what group did what and when.

The fourth chapter's focus is electoral politics. Some of the highlights include a discussion of party affiliation of conservative Christians, particularly the differences between white and black evangelical Protestants; the difficulty in determining which denominations make up the religious right; and problems with surveys that group congregations together even when they differ in practice (e.g., the Presbyterian Church of America and the PCUSA). Tabular data is provided on responses to questions regarding several "hot-button" issues such as school prayer and abortion.

continued on page 18

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In chapter five, the authors discuss the expansion of conservative Christians in politics but note that the national ambitions of conservative Christian political leaders have not lived up to expectations. A lot of attention is given to Jerry Falwell and the Moral Majority and their work on grass roots efforts to change local, state, and national policies. Tabular data is provided for denominational membership in South Carolina and Texas, and the religious affiliation of the 108th Congress.

After summarizing their arguments in a conclusion, the authors provide additional information in the addenda. A section on documents and quotations provides selected acts of Congress, Supreme Court decisions, speeches, and quotes from and about conservative Christians.

A list of key people includes 25 famous and not-so-famous conservative Christians who have made their mark on the political scene including Jim Bakker, Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, and Bob Jones, Sr. Following this list is a section on organizations with political connections including contact information, publications, website (if one exists), and a brief description of the organization's objectives and activities. This section is divided into two groups: Conservative Christian organizations and those opposed to them. The chronology provided is weighted towards events after 1979, although some key events prior to that, such as the Scopes Trial, are included. A glossary of important terms is provided, followed by an annotated bibliography and an index.

This volume is a useful addition to any academic collection that supports work in political science and governmental studies. While it seems better suited to an undergraduate population, it is a useful resource for seminary students who want a general overview of the history of the political activities of conservative Christians and their organizations. It doesn't spend much time dealing with the theological underpinnings of the politics of Conservative Christianity, but that

is not its purpose or goal. The authors teach at Lamar University in the political science department and therefore are more focused on the social and political roles that conservative Christians play in American society. The bibliography at the end of the volume and the list of references provided at the end of each chapter provide wonderful jumping off points for further research. This title does not spend much time discussing conservative Christians outside of Protestantism although it does provide selected references to the Roman Catholic Church when discussing social issues. No attention is given to members of the Orthodox Churches. The pricing for both the print and electronic versions of this title is moderate and some discounts are available on the ABC-Clío website. As part of a series, this is a valuable tool for students interested in the role of conservative Christians in local, state, and national politics.

Reviewed by James R. Skyeck, Boston University School of Theology Library



By Victor Froese

Campbell-Jack, Campbell, and Gavin J. McGrath, eds. *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics*. Leicester, England: Inter-Varsity Press; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2006, 779 p.

With books like *The DaVinci Code*, *Letter to a Christian Nation*, and *The God Delusion* sitting comfortably on best-seller lists and James Cameron reporting he's discovered the ossuary of Jesus, apologetics is overdue for a comeback.

Perhaps "comeback" is too strong a word. North American theology of the last 25 years or so (at least of the evangelical variety) has never given up defending Christian truth against its detractors. Still, under the onslaught of Karl Barth and his protégés, the reputation of apologetics (the rational defense of faith) took a beating as theologians asserted their independence

from extra-theological preoccupations. William Placher's *Unapologetic Theology* (1989) expresses both late twentieth-century Protestant theology's self-confidence and its disdain for unbecoming apologetic defensiveness. The more recent "radical orthodoxy" of John Milbank, et al., expresses the same attitude in even stronger terms.

Nevertheless, most Christians would agree that being able to answer the Browns, Harrises, and Dawkinses of the world is important and necessary. Enter InterVarsity's *New Dictionary of Christian Apologetics (NDCA)*.

In terms of organization, format and style, the *NDCA* fares well. It features an attractive easy-to-read layout; signed scholarly articles touching on all of the most relevant themes; bibliographies attached to virtually all articles; name, subject, and article indexes; and key terms that are well cross-referenced. Note that the name index is not exhaustive. Richard Dawkins, for example, is not indexed, though he is cited on p. 520 and perhaps elsewhere. And the cross-referencing could be tightened up: there is no "see" reference from "God" to "Theism," for example. And while the dictionary follows the convention of listing its contributors and their associated institutions, it does not include the article(s) for which a contributor is responsible, making it impossible—without leafing through the work—to locate the entries of a given scholar.

In terms of substance, a longer analysis is necessary. Six essays introduce the dictionary: "Christian apologetics for a new century" by William Edgar; "Approaches to apologetics" by Stephen Evans; "Legitimacy of apologetics" by A. M. Robbins; "Viability of apologetics" by Kirsten Birkett; "Theology and apologetics" by Kevin Vanhoozer; and "Apologetics and the non-Western world" by A. Y. Aghamkar. Taken together, these short treatises provide a fine entrée to rational Christian self-defense, past and present, and its various approaches, but also to the reservations some thinkers have to the whole enterprise. For myself,

Member News

I continue to think that Barth's apologetic skepticism is appropriate, so I appreciate that the dictionary treats that concern with respect. John Stackhouse's article on apologetic humility is one manifestation of this regard. Another is Kevin Vanhoozer's essay in which he discusses the limitation of rational argument as a tool of persuasion. He follows up by proposing that the notion of apologetics be expanded to integrate "logical arguments, the narrative imagination and faithful practices all for the sake of bearing witness in word and deed to the wisdom of God embodied in Jesus Christ" (p. 42). The emphasis on practices and witness-bearing seems to me a welcome corrective to the rationalism and special pleading into which so much popular Christian apologetics tends to fall.

Of course there are articles on Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Irenaeus, Augustine, Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Schleiermacher, Barth, Teilhard de Chardin, and Wittgenstein, along with the "masters of suspicion," Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. The great Dutch apologists of the last century are also present and accounted for: Abraham Kuyper and his students, Vollenhoven, Stoker and Dooyeweerd, as well as the father of presuppositionalism, Cornelius Van Til. The dictionary also includes the required articles on theism, theistic proofs, the deity of Christ, historical difficulties in the Old and New Testaments, and miracles in scripture. Various religions and spiritualities have entries: African American/Caribbean, Buddhism, Celtic spirituality, Gnosticism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, New Age, Chinese and Japanese religions, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism. And there is at least a nod in the direction of late twentieth-century French philosophy with articles on Foucault, Lyotard, and Derrida.

But the *NDCA* breaks significantly new ground in adding entries that discuss topics relating to contemporary culture. Advertising, Boredom, Course in Miracles, Cyberspace, Drugs, Escapism, Gender, Globalization, Information Theory, Mass Culture, Music, Piercing, Postmodernity, Sport, Technology, Television, Terrorism,

Urbanization, and Vegetarianism are some examples. Other entries examine prominent figures in the areas of film (Woody Allen, John Cameron Mitchell, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Franco Zeffirelli) and literature (Douglas Coupland, F. Dostoevsky, T. S. Eliot, Graham Greene, Aldous Huxley, Flannery O'Connor, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, J.R.R. Tolkien). Even Timothy Leary and Camille Paglia rate articles. Such entries indicate that the editors of the *NDCA* see the task of apologetics as engaging not just philosophers and scientists but social and literary critics, writers, and artists as well. One might occasionally wish that their relevance to the apologetic task was more explicitly stated, but at least it's recognized that such figures express, mold, or lament the spiritual condition of western society and therefore deserve apologetic attention.

Unlike its nearest Protestant rival, Norman Geisler's *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (1999), the *NDCA* is a multi-author work, and cannot boast of the former's tight-knit unity. It's hard enough to get two scholars to agree on one angle, let alone more than 200 of them. The editorial talents of Campbell-Jack and McGrath can't finally harmonize the dictionary's many voices, even if they all fall into the broad category of "conservatives."

Consider, to cite one example, two articles that discuss the soul and its relationship to the body. First, neither entry is entitled "Soul"—remarkably, there is no article with that title. Instead, there is one on "Immortality" and one labeled "Person and Personality." In the first, J. P. Moreland argues that recent theological opinion notwithstanding, "[body and soul] dualism is the biblical view and not merely a Greek notion" (p. 349). In the second, J. B. Green remarks with equal confidence that "the biblical witness affirms the human being as a bio-psycho-spiritual unity" (p. 541). Green underscores this point: "it is inappropriate to think of the Christian mission as 'saving souls' when this is taken as anything other than 'human recovery.'" InterVarsity has apparently chosen to tolerate such tensions

and to give us an honest picture of the diversity of conservative thought. No doubt, this choice will at times provoke either fundamentalist ire or liberal dismay. R. J. Berry's probing article on theories of human origins won't win the commendation of young-earth creationists, but latitudinarian readers won't be much happier with E. Moore's thoughtful discussion of hell.

For the quality of its articles, its realism concerning what rational apologetics can be expected to achieve, and its courageous attempt to represent the breadth of conservative approaches to the cultured despisers of faith, I recommend the *NDCA*. It will serve as a corrective and supplement to Geisler's more confrontational *Baker Encyclopedia*, and as a complement to the *Dictionary of Fundamental Theology* (Crossroad, 1994), which covers Catholic approaches to apologetics far more thoroughly. Unfortunately, readers looking for direct rebuttals to Dan Brown, Sam Harris or Richard Dawkins won't find them here. Perhaps in the next edition.

*Reviewed by Victor Froese
Canadian Mennonite University*



Perspectives on Professional Development

The 2007 Leadership Development Survey Results

Are ATLA members interested in leadership development programs? In the spring of 2007 the Professional Development Committee surveyed the ATLA membership to answer that question and others. We also looked to gather information about leadership programs that members had attended that were deemed successful or, as importantly, deemed not successful. We wanted to determine what barriers, if any, were stopping ATLA members from participating in leadership development programs. We wanted to determine the strength of the interest in programs and the reasons those uninterested in leadership development programs had for their lack of interest. Getting answers to all of those questions may seem like a lot to ask from a short survey, because it was a lot to ask, but even so the results of the survey did provide the PDC with some answers as well as prompting some new questions.

One hundred seventy-six people filled out the leadership development survey. Of that total approximately twenty-five percent had already attended one or more leadership development programs. Interestingly a large majority of those who had attended a program had not attended one of the seven leadership development programs identified by the Professional Development Committee as programs that would likely be of interest to ATLA members. Other than a number of respondents who had attended one of the ATLA Princeton Institutes there was no program attended by more than two respondents. Of the programs listed on the survey only the two ACRL programs had more than two respondents who had attended. That is, the majority of all programs listed had only been attended by one or two respondents. Even though the survey indicated that a wide variety of leadership development programs had been attended by the respondents, the general rating of the programs was positive. Approximately ninety percent of

the respondents indicated that attending the program was worth both the time and the money, and most would recommend the particular program they had attended to other ATLA members.

More than half of the respondents to the survey indicated that they had not attended a leadership development program but would be interested in attending a program in the future. The most common reason chosen for why the respondent had not yet attended a program was that they were not aware of existing programs. Well, hopefully the survey itself helped make these respondents aware of at least some of the leadership development programs available. For anyone interested in finding out more about these programs see the information compiled by the Professional Development Committee at http://www.atla.com/member/professional_development/leadership.html. The other popular reasons chosen for not attending a program are financial, either institutional or individual, or that interest in a leadership development program is a new priority. Not surprisingly most of the respondents interested in attending a program indicated that they would apply for a program in the next two years if a scholarship was available.

Around twenty-five percent of the respondents to the survey indicated that they had no interest in attending a leadership development program. Although a lack of financial resources, both institutional and individual, was given as a reason for some of these respondents to not be interested in a program, the fact that basically none of the respondents would apply for a leadership development program if a scholarship was available indicates that the lack of financial resources is not the main reason these respondents are not interested in these programs. It is interesting though that around half of these respondents might apply for a leadership development program if a scholarship was available. The strongest reasons for these respondents to not be interested in a leadership development program is simply that they have other

professional development priorities and that leadership development is not a career goal for them.

As you see the answer to the question with which I began this column "Are ATLA members interested in leadership development programs?" is yes. But that yes is a qualified yes, because leadership development is not a professional development priority for some ATLA members. I want to ask those of you who fall into this latter group what are your professional development priorities and how can the Professional Development Committee help you to meet your professional development goals? Send your answers to these questions, or any comments you may have about this topic, to me or to any of the members of the Professional Development Committee.

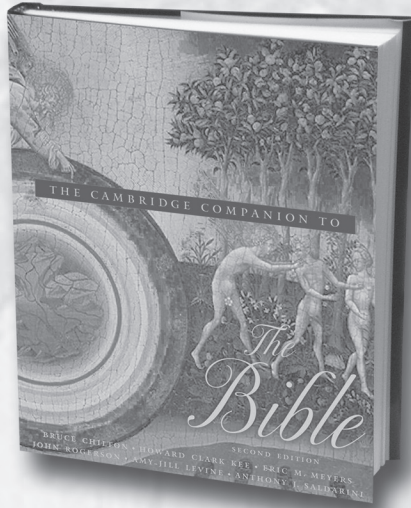
*Eric Friede, Chair
ATLA Professional Development Committee
Yale Divinity Library, Yale Divinity School*



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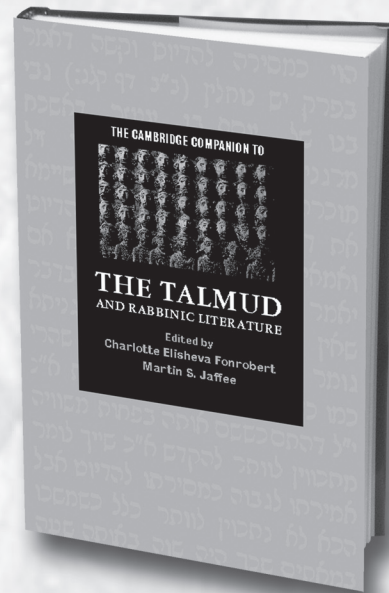
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ATLA Product News

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ATLA Product Notes



ATLA ATLAS team members, left to right: Programmer Analyst Jack Liu, Product Support Analyst John Dlutowski, Director of Electronic Products and Services Tami Luedtke, Digitization Coordinator Judy Knop, EPS Assistant Catherine Eilers, and Product Support Analyst Audra Adomenas.

ATLA Update: Announces PDFs Now Available in ATLA's Own Version of ATLASerials® (ATLAS®) - Major Initiative Underway to Implement PDFs on Aggregator Versions

ATLA recently announced that searchable PDFs are now available on the *ATLASerials* (*ATLAS*) platform available directly through ATLA. The full press release is available at www.atla.com/news/press/press07.html#May_07

With this May *ATLAS* release, more than 208,000 PDFs are now available. Additionally, the *ATLAS* interface has been updated to provide keyword and proximity searching of PDFs with optical character recognition (OCR) full text, which may be used in conjunction with searching ATLA index citations of journal article and reviews. Other new features and functionality include a new "citation set" link in the Journal Browse that retrieves the index citations and the PDFs available for each specific journal issue.

A top priority is now working with the aggregators to implement PDFs on their versions of *ATLAS*. The *ATLAS* collection is available on EBSCOhost, OCLC First Search, and Ovid's Silver Platter platform.

In addition to the PDF roll-out, ATLA welcomed three new titles:

- *Nova Religio*, published by University of California Press
- *Religion and American Culture*, also published by University of California Press
- *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center*, published by Interdenominational Theological Center





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Product News

NFAIS Forum on User Generated Content and Social Media

Has the blogosphere entered your library? At the June 29th NFAIS Forum on User-Generated Content and Social Media, attended by Laura Wrzesinski from ATLA, presenters explored the diverse ways that Web 2.0 can be used to create community in and around the workplace. Presenters from libraries and the corporate sector discussed their own experiences with maintaining work-related blogs, offering advice on the types of blogs that are the most successful.

The most consistent advice from all of the presenters was to maintain a consistent and honest voice through your blog.

Other forms of user-generated content discussed at the forum included the use of wikis, both as an internal tool for project management and as a way to promote member participation for conferences and other events. The discussions highlighted small ways that user-generated content and technologies can replace now-outdated tools in the workplace, and also revealed ways that certain groups, such as the maintainers of

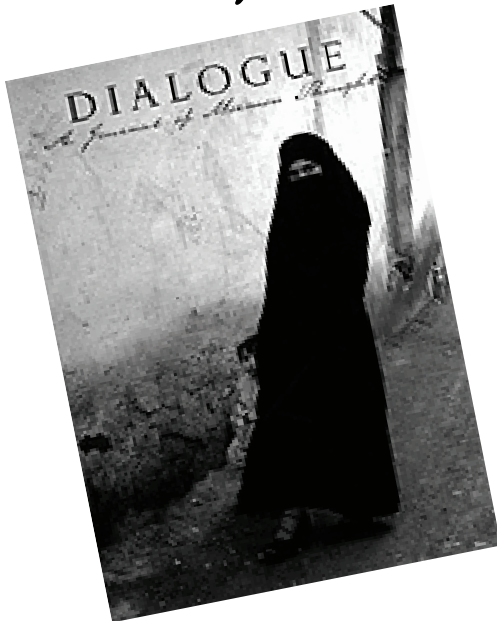
the site LibraryThing.com, have built an entirely new model for information seekers on the Internet, relying on user-generated content.

You can see the speaker slides at: www.nfaais.org/events/event_details.cfm?id=42



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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

El Evangelista Mexicano ilustrado

Methodist Church in Mexico. "Periodico quincenal, religioso, literario, y de noticias." Edited by George Beverly Winton; published by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, and later in Nashville, Tenn. Beautifully illustrated. Text in Spanish. ATLA no.: 2007H-S005, 1 reel (1893-1896).

Semana religiosa de México

Catholic Church in Mexico. Published in Mexico. Text in Spanish. ATLA no.: 2007H-S006, 1 reel (1872-1876).

Indigenous peoples

London Yearly Meeting (Society of Friends). Aborigines' Committee:

Tracts relative to the aborigines

Publications relative to the aborigines

Society of Friends mission to the aborigines. The Aborigines Committee was appointed by the Meeting for Sufferings of the London Yearly Meeting (Society of Friends) to report on conditions of native Americans, particularly in Upper Canada, and other aboriginal groups, including those of Australia and New Zealand. Published in London. ATLA no.: 2007I-S001 through 2007-S003, 3 reels (1838-1846).

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Indian Mission Conference:

Minutes of the Indian Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1882-1898)

Journal of the Indian Mission Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, ... session (1899-1900)

Proceedings of the Indian Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The mission was located in Oklahoma. ATLA no.: 2007I-S004 through 2007I-S005, 2 reels (1882-1900). (Note: The proceedings for 1901-1903 are available on ATLA film no. XS0003.)

No ta hoku loa Kalavina!!!

Catholic Church, critical commentary on Protestantism in Hawaii and the Protestant newspaper *Ka hoku loa*. "O ta mea lanatila, o

to latou manaio ia." Published in Honolulu; text in Hawaiian. ATLA no.: 2007I-S006, 1 reel (July-Oct. 1859).

He mau manao, no ta Hotu loa kalavina, a ia mea atu ia mea atu

Catholic periodical, criticizing Protestantism in Hawaii and the Protestant newspaper *Ka hoku loa*. Published in Honolulu; text in Hawaiian. ATLA no.: 2007I-S007, 1 reel (Sept.-Dec. 1859).

The Cheyenne and Arapahoe messenger

Mission of the General Conference of the Mennonite Church of North America to the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma. The Foreign Mission Board of the Conference was organized in 1872. S. S. Hauray was the first missionary to serve the Indians in Oklahoma, which, at the time, was considered foreign mission because a language other than English or German was used. The work among the Arapahoe tribe at Darlington, Okla., in 1880 launched the organized mission work of the church. Published in Canton, Okla., by the Missionaries in Oklahoma of the General Conference of the Mennonites of North America. ATLA no.: 2007I-S009, 1 reel (1930-1939).

Methodist Church (U.S.). Alaska Mission:

Minutes of the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Church (1941)

Official minutes (1949-1956)

Official journal (1957-1959)

Official journal and minutes of the ... annual meeting of the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Church (1960-1968)

United Methodist Church (U.S.). Alaska Mission:

Official journal and minutes of the ... annual meeting of the Alaska Mission of the United Methodist Church (1969-1971)

United Methodist Church (U.S.). Alaska Missionary

Conference:

Official yearbook and journal and minutes of the ... annual conference of the Alaska Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church (1972-1979)

Journal and yearbook (1980-2004)

The proceedings of the Alaska Mission of the Methodist Church and the Alaska Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church. Excerpt from p. 7 of the 1941 proceedings: "Methodism began work in Alaska at the Unga in 1887. The first permanent work was at Unalaska in 1890, under the Woman's Home Missionary Society. The Board of Home Missionary and Church Extension first sent a preacher in 1897; and in 1904 Bishop John Hamilton organized the Alaska Mission, at Juneau. A second session was held in Ketchikan, in 1905. Then for many years, the work was administered as part of the Puget Sound Annual Conference. The General Conferences of 1936 and 1940 both authorized the re-organizing of the Mission." ATLA no.: 2007I-S010 through 2007I-S016, 8 reels (1941-2004).

Ha'Asidi = the watchman (1955-1964)

Product News

Adindiin = light (1964-1969)

Non-denominational Christian mission to the Navajo. Excerpt from p. 1 of Nov./Dec. 1969 issue: "For 16 years this paper has been going into many different areas of the reservation and has been sent to Navajos in various parts of the country and overseas... It has been our prayer that Navajo believers might assume the leadership in the field of Christian writing. An article written by a Navajo in his native thought pattern is much more meaningful than articles in English, written by white folks and translated into Navajo." Published in Cortez, Colorado, by the Navajo Gospel Crusade; later sponsored by the Evangelical Navajo Fellowship and edited by the Navajo Christian Reading. Text in Navajo and English. **ATLA no.:** 2007I-S017 and 2007I-S018, 2 reels (1955-1969).

Ka Hoaloha

Issued by the Hawaiian Evangelical Association (now United Church of Christ). Translates as "The Friend." Published in Honolulu. Text in Hawaiian. **ATLA no.:** 2007I-S019, 1 reel (1943).

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.

Vermont Congregational Conference:

Minutes of the ... annual meeting of the Vermont Congregational Conference (1909-1917)

Minutes and reports of the ... annual meeting of the Vermont Congregational Conference (1918-1926)

Vermont Congregational Conference and Domestic Missionary Society:

Minutes and reports of the ... annual Meeting of the Vermont Congregational Conference and Vermont Domestic Missionary Society, Inc. (1927-1961)

United Church of Christ. Vermont Congregational Conference and Domestic Missionary Society:

Minutes and reports of the ... annual meeting of the Vermont Congregational Conference and Domestic Missionary Society, Inc. (United Church of Christ) (1962-1965)

Minutes of the Vermont Congregational Conference and of the Vermont Domestic Missionary Society. The conference later became a part of the United Church of Christ. Published in St. Johnsbury, Vt. **ATLA no.:** S0601A-B through S0602A-B, 4 reels (1909-1965). (Note: earlier and later reports also available through ATLA on S0603 and S0607).

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United

States of America:

Biennial report (1952-1954)

Triennial report (1957-1984)

Directory, reports, and records of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (NCCC). The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA is an association of 35 Christian denominations in the United States, including Protestant, Angelical, Orthodox, African-American and historic Peace churches. The NCCC has 100,000 local congregations and more than 45,000,000 adherents. Founded in 1950, it is headquartered in New York City. Published in New York. **ATLA no.:** S0667A-B, 2 reels (1952-1984).

Ordering Information

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

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ATLA Staff News

serving ATLA members and customers

From the Executive Director



Cymbal of the Future

In a recent issue of *Harvard Business Review* (July-August 2007, p. 23) there is an interview with Craig Zildjian, CEO of the Zildjian Company, the world's foremost manufacturer of musical cymbals. This company was founded in 1623 in Turkey by an Armenian, Avedis Zildjian, and has been known for its products for nearly 400 years. In the article, Craig Zildjian, the current CEO, representing the fourteenth generation of this family-run business, discusses the company's commitment to innovation, to excellence, and to training the fifteenth generation family members to lead the company.

Zildjian cymbals are used by all kinds of musicians—jazz, rock, classical—and they continue to be in demand. One might think that “a cymbal is a cymbal is a cymbal.” Over the years, however, the Zildjian Company has continued to promote innovation and risk-taking, creating, for example, the first titanium-coated cymbal. They also work closely with their customers—famous drummers like Gene Krupa, Chick Webb, and Papa Jo Jones have made specific suggestions that the company has adopted.

Ms. Zildjian also noted that they have family meetings every quarter “to get any family issues out in the open” and to insure that family differences don't ruin

the business. They have specific guidelines for family members that want to join the business, and a careful plan for selecting leadership of the company.

I was drawn to this story for many reasons, all of them reminding me of ATLA:

- 1) Zildjian is a family company, and we always talk about ATLA as a family;
- 2) Zildjian company creates a very specialized product, just like ATLA;
- 3) Zildjian continually seeks to improve their products and seeks opportunities for innovation;
- 4) Zildjian stays in close communication with their customers, trying to meet the needs and demands of their best customers;
- 5) Zildjian realized the importance of succession (14 generations!), and actively promotes professional development and leadership skills within their family.

1. ATLA as Family

At our recent conference in Philadelphia we gathered a lot of the ATLA family—not fourteen generations, certainly, but at least three or four generations—from lifetime members to student members. And we talked about a lot of issues that concern us, about problems and challenges and prospects for the future. Representing not only different generations but also different religious traditions, different ethnic and racial backgrounds, and different geographical locations, we nonetheless found common ground and language to discuss the issues that concern or divide us.

2. ATLA as Special Niche

There is no other organization that has the same mandate and history of providing access to the literature of theology and religion and of preserving it for future generations. That's our niche, and we've developed specialized vocabulary, procedures, skills, and products

to fulfill that mandate. Our thesaurus is the gold standard for the terminology of religion; our 1,500,000 record database provides access to journal articles, book reviews, and multi-author works in a rich and unique database; our full-text collection of more than 100 theological and religious studies journals provides a strong foundation for theological education; and our repository of more than 30,000 historical monographs and 2,000 historical serials preserves the rich heritage of theological and religious scholarship.

3. ATLA Continually Improving

Even as ATLA continues to produce the highest level of electronic, print, and microform products, we regularly seek to enhance and improve those products. Our recent conversion of the *ATLAS*[®] collection to searchable PDF represents a major advancement in that product. Our investment in robust infrastructure and security measures enables us to be a reliable and trustworthy provider of information resources, and our current plan to re-engineer our production process promises to accelerate our efficiency, currency, coverage, and enriched database features. We are committed to continual improvement of our products and services.

4. ATLA Communicates with Customers and Members

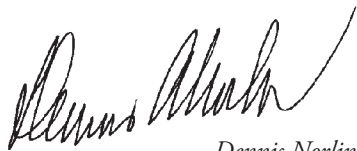
Through our board of directors, member publications, supported listserves, advisory committees, membership committees and task forces, and web presence, we seek to engage in dialogue and discussion with our members and customers, addressing concerns expressed by our members. The emergence of the ATLA Serials Exchange, the *Cooperative Digital Research Initiative (CDRI)*, the ATLA/OCLC First Search Consortium, the ATLA group catalog, and the Theological Book Network, are all responses to members' needs and

proposals. We actively seek input and counsel through every means possible, and we incorporate what we learn in our planning and programs.

5. ATLA Promotes Professional Development

Supporting professional development of theological librarians is the *sine qua non* for the Association; it is our #1 Organizational End. We provide grants for individual members to attend the ATLA annual conference and provide scholarships for under-represented minorities through our ATLA Scholarships and Grants Annual Fund; we support a course on theological librarianship through the University of Illinois; we collaborate with the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning to offer colloquies for new theological librarians; we offer programming grants for our 18 regional groups; we organize and produce ever-more-successful annual conferences; we are developing a new online journal; we offer grants for scholarly writing in theology and religion; and we solicit funds to support our future as a membership association through the ATLA Endowment Fund.

We have a rich heritage and portfolio of accomplishments as an Association, and we also have an obligation to insure our Association's future by equipping newer and younger members to assume leadership. Will we endure 400 years? Why not? If the Zildjian family can do it, so can the ATLA family!



Dennis Norlin
ATLA Executive Director



Staff Updates

Laura Wrzesinski joined ATLA on June 4th as Product Marketing Specialist. Laura's professional experience includes work as a search marketing specialist for Leapfrog Online, and as Associate Search Strategist for Red Bricks Media, an interactive agency based out of San Francisco. She earned her MLIS from Dominican University in 2005, and her unique combination of a MLIS degree and extensive marketing background will contribute to the growth of the Business Development Department. Laura will be responsible for product marketing efforts, press release writing, and coordinating ATLA's product sales presence at professional conferences.

Please join ATLA in congratulating Digitization/Data Entry Assistant Julia Olsen on her recent promotion. Julia has made a valuable contribution to the Index Department's activities and we appreciate her efforts.

R. Justin Harkin has been appointed ATLA/Scarecrow Liaison. Justin worked with several SBL publishing programs during his time at Vanderbilt University.

Thomas Blanton, indexer-analyst, has accepted a teaching position at Luther College in Iowa. Tom's last day will be Friday, August 3. We wish him well in his new job.

From the Editor

Theological Libraries Month 2007

Last October, representatives of the 19 institutions that actively participated in Theological Libraries Month (TLM) discovered a wonderful way to promote the work of theological librarians to students, faculty, administrators, and the local community. Participants noted that the event provided a great opportunity for staff to work together and learn more about each other as they discover previously untapped talents and creativity. Some were surprised by the community-wide support their events engendered, while others were delighted by how much fun they had. Another important lesson was that a lot could be accomplished in the way of promoting library services without a lot of financial outlay.

Because many participants expressed a desire for assistance with promoting the event this year, ATLA will provide "TLM in a Box," a new downloadable marketing tool available at www.atla.com/member/librarians_tools/TLM/TLM_07/tlm_home.html.

"We all observed that TLM is an opportunity to bring our libraries to the fore, not simply for self-promotion but to enhance our services to those in our communities," reported Roger Loyd of Duke University in his summary of roundtable discussions during the 2007 ATLA Annual Conference.

This October, be sure to explore the ways in which TLM can help those at your institution to grow and learn and find new ways to contribute to the library community.

Sara Corkery
ATLA Communications Specialist



ATLA Newsletter

Calendar

August

- 4-7 ATLA exhibits at Catholic Biblical Association Annual Meeting in Santa Clara, CA (unstaffed table)
- 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
- 8-12 Dennis Norlin attends 36th General Assembly of BETH in Emden, Germany
- 27-30 Margot Lyon and Laura Wrzesinski attend Religion Newswriters Conference in San Antonio, TX

October

- 1-2 Publications Committee meets at ATLA Headquarters
- 11-12 Professional Development Committee meets at ATLA Headquarters
- 18-20 Annual Conference Committee and Education Committee convene in Ottawa, Ontario to plan the ATLA 2008 Annual Conference
- 21-23 Gregg Taylor, Margot Lyon, and Barbara Kemmis attend Lilly Technology Conference in Grand Rapids, MI

November

- 17-20 ATLA Products and Services exhibition/member and publisher reception, AAR/SBL 2007 in San Diego, CA

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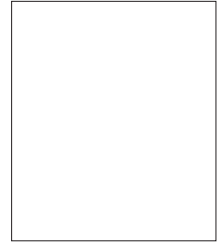
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