2008 ATLA Publication Grant Winners

The ATLA Publications Committee is pleased to announce that Publication Grants are being awarded this year to James Chappel and to Ruth Gaba and Kate Ganski. Mr. Chappel, a research fellow and doctoral candidate at Columbia University, is pursuing a bibliographical project on the work of British Catholic intellectual, Ronald A. Knox (1888-1957). Ms. Gaba and Ms. Ganski, librarians at Concordia Theological Seminary in Indiana and Saint Francis Seminary in Wisconsin, respectively, are conducting an empirical study of the research behavior of seminarians. ATLA Publication Grants are awarded annually. Visit http://www.atla.com/pub/grant.html for more information about the grants, including criteria for selection, expenses for which the funding may be used, and procedure for application.

Staff of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary Library Continue Work in Italy

Ethan Allen, Acting Archivist at St. Vincent, and Marguerite Wolf, former staff member at St. Vincent, returned to Monastero de San Benedetto in Norcia, Italy in December 2007 to continue work on an ongoing library project they began in 2001. The Benedictines, who re-established monastic observance at the historic birthplace of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica, began with books scattered about on shelves. Cataloging began in 2002 and current holdings exceed 13,000 volumes. About one-third of the collection was shipped from now closed Corpus Christi Abbey in Sandia, Texas in time for the library’s dedication in 2003 by then Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

Ethan and Marguerite travel to Italy when their schedules permit to continue cataloging volumes. During this last trip, some 500 volumes were cataloged in 8 days. In the absence of an on-site librarian, copy cataloging is prepared in the United States for use in Italy. Ethan hopes to offer a supervised field education opportunity with the cooperation of the University of South Florida’s School of Library and Information Science in the spring of 2008. For more information on the monastery, visit www.osbnoiricia.org.

Weekly News Update Leads to Grant Award

Last September, one of the weekly news updates carried information about the Institute of Museum and Library Services IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf initiative, which distributes an essential set of books, online resources, and a user’s guide to help small libraries and museums to care for their collections. "I followed up and applied and just found out on Thursday afternoon that we were one of the recipients," said Liz Leahy of Azusa Pacific University. "I would not have known about the grant if you had not included it in your Friday announcements, so I’m especially appreciative. It looks like there are several of us from ATLA who received the grant." You can visit http://www.imls.gov/news/2008/021908_list.shtml to see a list of recipients from across the country.

Liz added, “As for APU, we are looking forward to receiving these materials to learn how to continue to enhance our preservation work with our special and archival collections, and will plan to make the books we receive that can be circulated available through our lending networks such as Link+.”

TTLA Spring Meeting Recap

Barbara Kemmis visited with Tennessee Theological Library Association (TTLA) on April 3 and 4. Despite April showers, eighteen TTLA members convened at Vanderbilt University for fellowship and learning. Barbara led the program with an update on events at ATLA and a discussion about the professional development needs of TTLA members.

New Special Committee Takes Shape

The ATLA Board established a Special Committee of the Association on Diversity at its January 18, 2008 midwinter meeting. This Committee will come into existence at the 2008 ATLA Annual Conference and will continue through June 30, 2011.

On Monday, March 3, Diana Brice, Serials and Acquisitions Librarian at JKM Library, and the board liaison, Cait Kokolus, Director of the Ryan Memorial Library at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary met with Director of Member Services Barbara Kemmis and Executive Director Dennis Norlin at ATLA headquarters to begin organizing the committee and its work.

Three ATLA members have been appointed to three-year terms on the Special Committee on Diversity: Susan Ebertz, Director of the Rau Memorial Library at Wartburg Theological Seminary; Serge Danielson-Francois, Librarian at Divine Child High School; and Mayra Picos-Lee, Instructional Librarian at Palmer Theological Seminary.

The committee is already communicating electronically and will hold its first meeting on Saturday, June 28th at the annual...