



BETH

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Incoming From the Newly Arriving President

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The last few years have been particularly intense for BETH, we celebrated our fiftieth anniversary in 2023; the publication of the *Festschrift: Theological Libraries and Library Associations in Europe* ^[1] (2022), the result of many people's hard work, has begun to tell our story: the more we know and share it, the more we can move forward and make the best and wisest choices for the future.

I am encouraged that I have already witnessed new vitality amongst the members of BETH over the last couple of years: the interest in the Association is increasing, and together we are treading a path that is new, in many aspects. Some important people have moved on, leaving valuable legacies and a last impact on BETH, but the desire to do one's best in the service of a common idea is still present and clear for all. I express my sincere thanks to them, and ask you to please excuse me for not naming each individual who has contributed to our accomplishments.



[1] <https://brill.com/display/title/61181>

To stimulate communication, to open up and to get to know each other better, is the first step towards facing the future in the best possible way. "Relationships, relationships, relationships!" This phrase rang out at the last Atla Annual Conference in June 2023, and for almost a year it has been persistently ringing in my ears, growing more and more, and I think it can be interpreted as a 'good seed' for something even greater to come. Thus began the desire to see each other again - albeit at a distance - through periodical online gatherings called 'Panacea', which was successfully launched in December 2023. We talk to each other, discuss a theme, and speak in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. The Bulletin, which became an annual publication in 2023, is a further way of communicating the association's initiatives.

In this challenging world, the best way to move forward is together, and BETH is encouraging everyone to take part. Little by little, I am confident that BETH will inspire new ideas and projects. We will collaborate, lead, and guide each other. Additionally, we will ensure we document all achievements for our history, sharing them with future members.

Just as in a field, seeds are sown, and the fruit will come, in its own time. Meanwhile, BETH will diligently water them, providing tender care and nurturing so that we can collectively gather the harvest and share the great joy.