

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

IAHR BULLETIN



Number 35

May 1998

The **IAHR BULLETIN**

is the official bulletin of the *International Association for the History of Religions* (IAHR) [<http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb11/religionswissenschaft/iahr>] and is published annually by the IAHR. Annual subscriptions, which also include up-dated supplements, are \$15.

Copyright © 1998 by the IAHR

Permission to use material in this bulletin with appropriate source reference by constituents of the IAHR for information purposes is hereby granted.

Armin W. Geertz, editor

All announcements, manuscripts, advertising, and correspondence regarding subscriptions and address changes should be sent to Prof. Dr. Armin W. Geertz, Department of the Study of Religion, Faculty of Theology, University of Aarhus, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark (Phone +45 89422306; Fax +45 86130490; e-mail geertz@teologi.aau.dk).

The IAHR is an international body of national societies for the study of religion and a member of the *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines* (CIPSH) under UNESCO. Further information is provided in the last section of this bulletin and inquiries may be sent to the editor.

The deadline for information and manuscripts for the IAHR Bulletin is December 1. Information for the up-date supplements can be sent to the editor at any time, but our goal of at least two up-dates a year involves deadlines on March 1 and September 1.

This bulletin is published with the generous support of the Faculty of Theology, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark.

IAHR Bulletin 35, 1998

<i>Editorial.</i>	4
<i>Report by the General Secretary.</i>	5
<i>Executive Committee Profiles.</i>	16
<i>Honorary Life Members.</i>	24
<i>Announcements.</i>	26
<i>IAHR Durban Congress 2000.</i>	31
<i>IAHR Related Advertisements.</i>	35
<i>Conference Publications.</i>	37
<i>Conference Reports.</i>	39
<i>News from the Net.</i>	45
<i>News from the National Associations.</i>	52
<i>Calendar of Events.</i>	73
<i>Information on the IAHR.</i>	74

Editorial

Welcome to the 35th issue of the IAHR Bulletin. Once again I am obliged to begin an issue with apologies for the delay. Two things are important in this respect. First, for those of you who believe that you have been inexplicably dropped from our mailing list, this is not the case. Second, the delay is not an indication of inactivity. On the contrary, the Executive Committee has been very busy, as the following report will show, and I have been keeping up with the day-to-day job of the General Secretary despite heavy administrative commitments at my faculty. The only reasonable conclusion to this situation is that the IAHR Bulletin will appear once a year, preferably during the spring so that it can appear in time for the IAHR sponsored conferences during the summer. Important information will appear in up-dated supplements at least twice a year.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks for the many reactions, criticisms and comments on the first issue of the new bulletin. Thanks also to the many affiliates who have sent me their journals and bulletins. I hope that you will find the section "News from the National Associations" to your satisfaction. In this particular issue, I present the latest addresses of the affiliate officers. You are asked, therefore, to check this section for inaccuracies, not only to improve future bulletins, but also because this section forms the basis of a similar section at the IAHR website (see below). So please do send in communications concerning past and future activities, names and addresses of members and the names and addresses of the national executive committees.

Please keep sending your newsletters, bulletins, announcements, and information concerning journals and new publications. Short articles, reports, and editorials are also welcome. You are also invited to send advertisements of your journals for a nominal charge. Please send a paper copy and wherever possible a disk copy (preferably in Word or WordPerfect format, but other formats are acceptable).

I hope that you will enjoy this issue, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Armin W. Geertz
General Secretary of the IAHR



Report by the General Secretary

The Executive Committee of the IAHR has been very busy since my last report to you in Bulletin 34. The committee has met once every year at IAHR sponsored events, and many of the committee members have met informally at various other events or have attended events as formal representatives of the IAHR. My gratitude is especially extended to our two Vice-Presidents Dra. Yolotl González Torres and Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Antes as well as our Deputy General Secretary Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett for their activities on behalf of the IAHR beyond the call of duty.

The Executive Committee met on June 5, 1996 during the IAHR Special Conference on "Rationality and the Study of Religion" at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. The results of that meeting as well as the meeting of the Editorial Board of *Numen* were reported in Bulletin 34. In the following, I shall report on the Executive Committee meeting held on August 6-7, 1997 during the IAHR Regional Conference on "Methodology and the Study of Religion" at the Åbo Academy in Turku, Finland as well as events up to the present.

Constituents and Other Societies

Generally I am pleased with the flow of information from our constituent societies. They witness a high degree of activity and show an interest in the efforts of the IAHR to coordinate and facilitate cooperation between IAHR affiliates. I was especially satisfied with obtaining regular contact with our Belgian and Indian associations. The Polish Association has also recently reestablished contact for the first time since the aftermath of the revolution. I hope to improve communication with a number of associations which will be represented at Hildesheim, such as the Ukrainian, Indonesian and Russian associations. Communications with the Nigerian and South Korean associations would be greatly appreciated.

I have received a report from and the constitution of the newly constituted *Slovak Association for Religious Studies/Slovenská spoločnosť pre štúdium náboženstiev pri SAV Bratislava*. This is one of the reorganized associations of the former Czechoslovakian Association, and its application for membership will be presented to the International Committee in Hildesheim for recognition and recommendation to the General Assembly at Durban 2000. Information about their activities is found on page 65 in this Bulletin. Further information will also appear in the next issue.

A colleague in Luxembourg, Professor Dr. C. M. Ternes, has sent the constitution and a description of the activities of the '*Homo Religiosus*' *Luxembourg A.S.B.L.* The society wishes to apply for membership in the IAHR. The application will be given consideration by the Executive Committee and the results will be presented to the International Committee.

Recently, a colleague in Portugal, Professor Jose Pedro Paiva at the Instituto de

Historia e Teoria das Ideias in Coimbra, contacted us concerning the establishment of a Portuguese Association. If he is successful, we can look forward to one more new association at Durban 2000. Efforts are also being made to establish an association in Greece, but I have not yet heard from our colleagues there.

One of the events of Hildesheim will be the founding of the *European Association for the Study of Religion*, which was discussed at the annual meeting of the *Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte* in Bonn in October 1995 (see the report in Bulletin 34). A working committee consisting of professors Hans Kippenberg, Peter Antes, Irén Lovász, Peter Bryder, Julio Trebolle, and Jan Bremmer will present a paper sketching out the legal framework of the European Association. It was the intention of the committee to keep the various European associations informed about their progress, but no information has been sent out as yet.

The Executive Committee has been active in promoting cooperation with other international and national associations. One of our upcoming initiatives consists of two IAHR roundtables at the 20th World Congress of the *International Federation of Philosophical Societies* (a sister organization under CIPSH) in Boston during August 1998. Further information on this event, see page 28 in this bulletin.

We have also made contact with the *Anthropology of Religion Section* (ARS) of the *American Anthropological Association*. They constituted themselves in November 1997, and have elected their board. They publish an electronic bulletin entitled *AR-News* [ar-news@umich.edu].

A bulletin exchange agreement has been initiated with the *The Council of Societies for the Study of Religion* (CSSR) in the United States. As mentioned in Bulletin 34, an excellent spotlight on the IAHR and the XVIIth Congress appeared in volume 24 of the CSSR Bulletin. Besides containing information on CSSR constituent societies (the *North American Association for the Study of Religion* being one of them), each issue generally focusses on a theme. The 25/1&2, Febr.&April 1996 issue does not have a special theme, but it does feature an article on the IAHR regional conference in Bogotá by Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett. Themes of the issues received since then are: peace-making theory (25/3&4, Sept.&Nov. 1996); religious studies strategies for institutional survival (26/2, April 1997); the relationship between theology and religious studies with papers by Arvind Sharma, Eric J. Sharpe, Jonathan Z. Smith, Robert Segal, Delwin Brown, and Ninian Smart (26/3, Sept. 1997); responses to the *Lingua Franca* article on the relationship between NAASR and the *American Academy of Religion* (26/4, Nov. 1997); and religious studies and contemporary affairs (26/1, Febr. 1997). With volume 26, two members of NAASR, Russell T. McCutcheon and Timothy Murphy, have become co-editors. Inquiries should be sent to the CSSR Executive Office, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso IN 46383-6493 [pam.gleason@valpo.edu].

Finally, discussions with the *International Society for the Sociology of Religion* have begun concerning possible coordination of meetings and other kinds of cooperation.

Benefits of IAHR Membership

During the upcoming International Committee meeting in Hildesheim, one of the points on the agenda concerns a decision made in 1994 by the *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* to reduce their annual payment to the IAHR to \$100.00. The general secretary of the AASR wrote the following to me when I served as Treasurer:

Once again at the Annual General Meeting of the AASR there was lengthy and impassioned debate about our continued membership within IAHR. A perusal of the financial figures printed in one of the recent Bulletins reveals that Australia is one of the largest contributors. As the only contact we have with the association is an inadequate, photocopied newsletter many members were reluctant to continue our membership. Also it was argued that because of the diversity of interests within AASR it was better to develop reciprocal arrangements with other national bodies which dealt with similar concerns. Counter to this was the argument which advised on the benefit of belonging to an international interest group focussed on Religious Studies.

After the debate a vote was taken which narrowly supported continued membership of IAHR but at a renewed subscription rate. The resolve of the meeting was to offer the minimum contribution of \$US100 which I will arrange to have transferred to the IAHR account. (Tricia Blombery, 21 July 1994)

I replied with the following:

Our guideline is that the minimum contribution of each member organization should be calculated annually on the basis of the amount of US\$1.00 for each individual member and that only the contribution of smaller groups (i.e., associations with less than 100 members) should not be less than US\$100.00. This means that smaller groups pay above their means according to the above-mentioned guideline. I have been authorized by the Executive Committee to negotiate with associations that are not fortunate enough to enjoy hard currency in order to explore the possibility of satisfactory alternative contributions. As it turns out, only two associations have found it necessary to achieve their contribution by alternate means. I am not, however, authorized to negotiate with a 300-strong member association concerning a reduction of its annual subscription to one third its size. I will, therefore, raise the matter at the Executive Committee meeting in Brno.

At the Executive Committee meeting in Brno in 1994, the matter was discussed, and it was decided that persuasion should be attempted before any parliamentary action be taken. Since then, no change has occurred. In fact, in a recent e-mail from Dr. Blombery, I was informed that the sentiment raised by the Australians in 1994 was no less relevant now and is in fact further exacerbated. She wrote that their executive will maintain the stand voted at the 1994 meeting during the upcoming general meeting in June, but “as we can see no benefit to our members in being members of the IAHR this is a token payment of support only.” (Tricia Blombery, 30 March 1998). Because of this, I will ask the International Committee of the IAHR to take a decision concerning

the Australian position and will report the result in the next issue of the *IAHR Bulletin*.

Because we are approaching the 100th anniversary of scientific congresses in the history of religions as well as the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the IAHR, I would like to take this opportunity to sketch out for the record what benefits IAHR membership brings. Membership in the IAHR is in my opinion not a question of what each association “gets out of it.” Through its affiliation with the IAHR, each constituent society is a member of an international network under the auspices of the *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines* (CIPSH) under UNESCO. The benefit here is that the IAHR and its constituents are involved in supporting and developing an international body of societies that promote the non-sectarian, scientific study of religion. This body promotes international cooperation and understanding, and it supports struggling members of like-minded associations and individuals trying to establish national affiliates. Because of that support, the IAHR has been able to pursue and support the establishment of associations in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. One of the results of these efforts was the highly successful IAHR world congress in Mexico City in 1995. The next congress event will be held in Durban, South Africa in 2000, which will be the first IAHR quinquennial congress on African soil. During the past ten years, the IAHR has sponsored a number of special, regional, and co-sponsored conferences every year in many parts of the world. These events are open to all IAHR affiliates. Surely this is reason enough to pay one dollar per member!

Other “benefits” include publications. All members of the IAHR have the benefit of member subscriptions to the official IAHR journal *Numen. International Review for the History of Religions* which has improved its image and content under the excellent editorial work of Hans Kippenberg and E. Thomas Lawson. *Numen* also offers a monograph series. Furthermore, members can subscribe to our abstracting journal *Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles* edited by Michael Pye. Recently Brill took over the publication of the journal *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (published by the *North American Association for the Study of Religion*, which is one of our constituents) and, together with a few other journals on various aspects of religion published by Brill, the Executive Committee is working toward an IAHR membership policy for all of them.

Then there is the organizational aspect to consider in which the national associations have a democratic voice in IAHR affairs in terms of membership on the International Committee (consisting of two members from every national and regional constituent) and the General Assembly (consisting in principle of all the members of the national and regional associations). There is, furthermore, the possibility of conferring with members of the Executive Committee whose representatives generally cover the major geographical areas.

It is difficult to imagine what other benefits can be expected from an international umbrella organization. With the possibility of being members of a truly international

association and of participating in intellectually stimulating conferences all over the world, and the possibility of combining scholarly insight with organizational activity, as well as the possibility of member subscriptions to some of the best journals in the academic study of religion, not to mention the many conference volumes that have resulted from IAHR events, what more can be offered?

The IAHR is not a perfect organization. We must all pitch in to make it work better. The IAHR is still hampered by the fact that it is financially poor. All work done for the IAHR and on behalf of the IAHR is done on a voluntary basis. Even travelling expenses regularly incurred by the officers of the Executive Committee are generously covered by their home universities, although small subsidies from the IAHR are necessary now and then. This is why the Executive Committee began its campaign for the IAHR Endowment Fund. Unfortunately, with a single exception, no new contributions have come in since 1996.

Another problem concerns the rules and regulations of the IAHR. As announced in Bulletin 34, I was asked to develop a set of rules and procedures during my term in office that are simultaneously fair, flexible, workable, and understandable in terms of the different traditions of the IAHR constituents. Guidelines concerning IAHR sponsored and co-sponsored events were published in Bulletin 34. In Hildesheim the procedures for nominations as well as the rules of procedure for all IAHR business meetings will be presented to the International Committee for adoption. The Executive Committee has also adopted a new organizational structure for quinquennial congresses, to which I will return later in this report.

A third problem concerns communication. Unfortunately, I have not been able to produce a biannual bulletin due to heavy administrative duties at my home faculty. It is impossible to produce a bulletin that is more attractive than “an inadequate, photocopied newsletter” at that pace. I hope, however, that our members can accept one solid issue each year with more regular and shorter, though photocopied, supplements. Furthermore, information is regularly posted at the IAHR website [<http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb11/religionswissenschaft/iahr>]. A possible goal would be to introduce an e-mail bulletin, but that would require a fairly complete list of e-mail addresses, which I unfortunately do not have.

Status on conferences

This bulletin contains reports on a number of IAHR conferences. These include the co-sponsored colloquium on “The Religious Factor and the European and World Geostrategy” held in Florence, Italy on April 26-27, 1996 (report by Prof. Peter Antes); the special conference on “Rationality and the Study of Religion”, held in Aarhus, Denmark on June 3-8, 1996 (report by Dr. Mikael Aktor); the regional conference together with the VIth Latin American Congress on Religion and Ethnicity, held in Bogotá, Colombia on June 10-14, 1996 (report by Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett); the co-sponsored memorial conference for Ugo Bianchi, in Salerno, Italy on April 14-15,

1997 (report by Prof. Giovanni Casadio); and the regional conference on “Methodology of the Study of Religions”, held in Turku, Finland on August 4-7, 1997 (report by myself).

As mentioned, the German Association will be hosting an IAHR regional conference in Hildesheim this May. The program is published on page 26 in this bulletin. It is expected that the entire Executive Committee of the IAHR will be able to meet, and many members of the International Committee of the IAHR are also expected.

The proposed regional conference in Seoul has not been realized. No communication has been received since 1996, and thus it must be concluded that the conference will not occur. On the other hand, a number of other conference venues have been proposed and will be discussed at the International Committee meeting in Hildesheim.

The XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress

After receiving favorable reports from prominent members of the *Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa* (ASRSA), a formal request was sent on June 13, 1996 asking ASRSA to host the next quinquennial congress in August 2000. Guidelines were drawn up and sent to the association. Unfortunately, the association announced in November 1996 that it would not be able to host the conference. The reasons given were financial, but it was mentioned that other considerations also contributed to the decision. The decision was not unanimous. After further inquiries, the main reasons given for the decision were 1) a limited and threatened organizational capacity, meaning that ASRSA was not organizationally strong enough to host a major congress and that there were disputes between various organizations dealing with the study of religion; 2) financial risks; 3) the problem of the resolving the potential conflict of responsibility between the IAHR and the hosting constituent society; and 4) the political uncertainties in South Africa.

Both Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett and I visited South Africa on separate occasions during 1997. We visited Durban and talked with key people in ASRSA and at the university of Durban-Westville, such as the chancellor, several deans, and the promotion manager of the university. Discussions were also held with fund-raisers, a professional congress agency, the Durban congress center organization, and a host of colleagues and interested persons. Our impressions were unconditionally positive. We were convinced that the congress could be held in Durban, but we were equally convinced that ASRSA could not handle it alone. Negotiations were held concerning a possible co-hosting by the *African Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) and the President, Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, graciously agreed that if the Executive Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Turku on August 6-7, 1997 that AASR should be invited to host the congress, he would agree. But it was also clear that the organizational and financial problems raised by ASRSA would not be completely solved.

This situation gave Michael Pye and myself the incentive to propose an alternative model which could become the model for future IAHR Congresses. It seems that the main problem with the quinquennial congresses is that the IAHR is highly profiled, but the actual responsibility and other burdens are borne by the hosting IAHR constituent society. This also means that the IAHR has little real influence in the actual congress organization. The new plan changes all of this with a new organizational structure and with the assistance of a professional congress agency. On the financial side of the congress event, it was decided that the hosting university should take on the responsibility, thus removing the problem of personal liabilities. This involves some guarantees from the IAHR to promote the congress widely and to help bring in grants from funding organizations. Furthermore, the IAHR should be willing to provide more initial funding than normal (the normal amount is approximately \$2,000, however, a larger amount was awarded to the Mexico congress). On the other hand, the IAHR should receive 5% of the income (if all goes well) in order to cover various expenses during the congress, but also as a reserve fund for the congress proceedings afterwards. The crucial person who will function as the Congress Director should be appointed by the IAHR. Such a person will ideally be a younger but established scholar who has the personal and scholarly resources necessary to carry the congress through. Senior scholars should not be expected to organize or direct, but rather to serve as advisors and to use their wisdom and influence to make the congress a successful event.

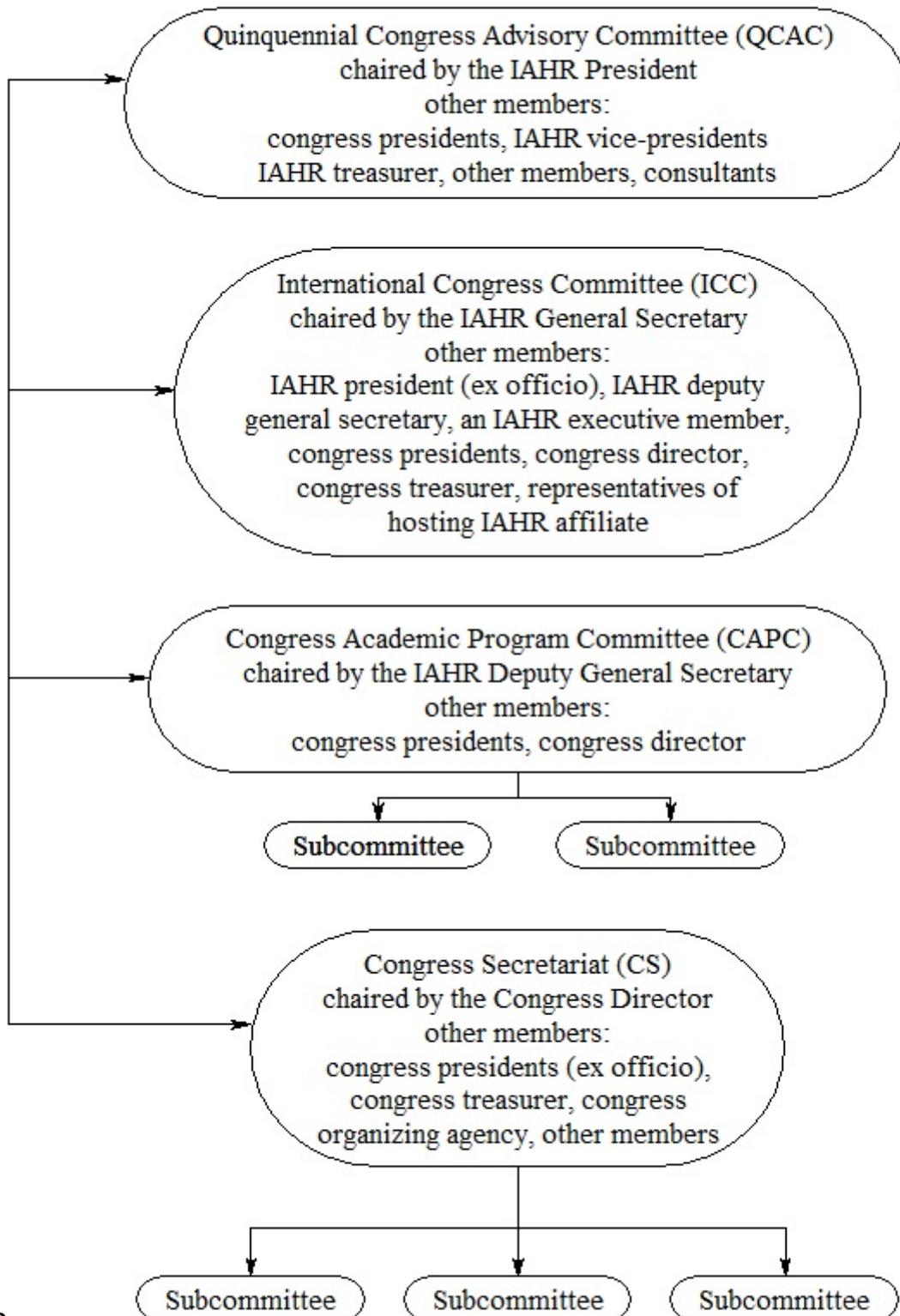
The Executive Committee formally accepted the new structure and appointed the chairs of the various congress committees (see the organizational chart on page 11 and the announcement of the congress on page 31 in this bulletin). The theme of the congress was discussed, and it was decided that it will be "The History of Religions: Origins and Visions". A proposal was sent to key persons in ASRSA and AASR as well as at the University of Durban-Westville. The result was very positive and within a few months in the autumn of 1997, the congress structure was in place, contracts with the university and the congress companies were signed, and the congress website was published by the end of the year.

By now, many people have become actively involved in organizing the congress, and we are all convinced that Durban 2000 will be a fitting homage to the 50th anniversary of the IAHR and a smashing success.

Status on publications

The Executive Committee is happy to announce that the following conference publications have now appeared: *Religion & Modernization in China: Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions held in Beijing, China, April 1992*, edited by Dai Kangsheng, Zhang Xinying, Michael Pye with editorial assistance by Jocelyn Pye, Cambridge: Roots and Branches 1995, 346pp. (ISBN 0-9525772-0-8); *The Study of Religions in Africa: Past, Present and Prospects. Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the International Association for the His-*

IAHR Quinquennial Congress Organizational Structure



tory of Religions, Harare, Zimbabwe 1992, edited by Jan Platvoet, James Cox and Jacob Olupona, Cambridge: Roots and Branches 1996, (*Religions of Africa* vol. 1), 393pp. (ISBN 0-9525772-2-4), distributed by Almqvist & Wiksell International, Box 4627, S-1191 Stockholm, Sweden; *Religions in Contact: Selected Proceedings of the Special IAHR Conference held in Brno, August 23-26, 1994*, edited by Iva Doležalová, Břetislav Horyna and Dalibor Papoušek, Brno: Czech Society for the Study of Religions and Institute for the Study of Religions of the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University 1996, 228pp. (ISBN 80-901823-2-1 and 80-210-1441-5); and *Rationality and the Study of Religion*, edited by Jeppe S. Jensen and Luther H. Martin, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 1997 (*Acta Jutlandica* vol. LXXII:1, Theology Series, 19), 221pp. (ISBN 87-7288-692-7). These volumes are given detailed treatment on page 37 in this bulletin.

Publications from the Mexico congress are still in the editorial process. The congress proceedings are currently being edited by Dra. Yolotl González Torres. A spin-off volume on methodology edited by myself and Prof. Russell McCutcheon has been designated as adjunct proceedings of the congress. The editorial board of a European series has agreed to publish the volume. Finally, another spin-off volume on visions of the body is currently being edited by Prof. Sylvia Marcos.

The Executive Committee of the IAHR also decided that because of the financial strains that AASR has been dealing with, the IAHR would initiate a special congress sponsorship of coming issues of the AASR bulletin until Durban 2000. An agreement was reached in which the IAHR will cover the costs of distributing the AASR bulletin, and the first issue of this agreement should be reaching the officers of IAHR constituents within a short time.

Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH)

CIPSH consists of 12 international societies: Union académique internationale, Fédération internationale des sociétés de philosophie, Comité international des sciences historiques, Comité international permanent des linguistes, Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques, Union internationale des sciences anthropologiques et ethnologiques, Comité international d'histoire de l'art, Association internationale pour l'histoire des religions (the IAHR), Fédération internationale des langues et littératures modernes, Union internationale des études orientales et asiatiques, Société internationale de musicologie, and Union internationale des sciences préhistoriques et protohistoriques. There are also representatives from UNESCO and *Revue Diogène*, as well as several observers.

Being a member of CIPSH, the IAHR pays a membership price of 7% of its budget, but no less than \$250 annually. The IAHR has the possibility of applying for grants-in-aid. These grants are for two purposes, namely, 1) expenses of meetings with scientific aims, such as international congresses or special symposia (the travel expenses "of participants from economically under-privileged countries or countries far from

the place of the meeting, and preferably of young scholars”—quote from *Conditions Governing the Granting of Subsidies by the CIPSH*), and 2) expenses incurred by the preparation or printing of publications, such as bibliographies, dictionaries, collections, series, miscellaneous anthologies, and other scientific works of a broadly international character. Because of the fact that not all members of the United Nations pay their bill, UNESCO has very little money, and, thus, CIPSH is also on a very tight budget. Therefore, the maximum amounts of grants-in-aid are \$10,000 for major congresses, \$4,000 for special symposia, \$10,000 for bibliographies, and \$7,000 for other scientific publications. Applications are presented several years before the event or publication and are awarded in connection with the General Assembly meeting of CIPSH. Thus part of the job of the Executive Committee of the IAHR involves planning, applications, and attending CIPSH events. Even though grants-in-aid are relatively modest (we usually receive \$5,000 for our quinquennial congresses, \$4,000 for *Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles*, and \$3,000 for other events, and, unfortunately due to unforeseen cuts, the amounts are sometimes reduced even further), the Executive Committee is convinced that our membership in CIPSH is of the utmost importance. Basically CIPSH is struggling, just as the IAHR is struggling, to maintain international cooperation and global solidarity in the face of major economic and political obstacles.

We have received a grant of \$3,000 for the Hildesheim conference. This covers the travelling expenses of about 3 people, but not their living expenses. Only in exceptional circumstances does the IAHR cover living expenses, and that is why the Executive Committee requires that conferences designated as IAHR conferences should cover the travel and living expenses of at least two key people from countries with weak currencies, usually members of the IAHR Executive Committee or executives of an IAHR constituent society.

A new board has been elected, and the current President of CIPSH is Prof. M. Julio Labastida Martin del Campo (Mexico City), and the Secretary General is Prof. Jean Bingen (Bruxelles). CIPSH publishes its own journal, *Revue Diogène* as well as *Acta* resulting from CIPSH events. Michael Pye and I will be attending the XXIVth General Assembly of CIPSH in Naples on October 17-21, 1998. The theme of the conference to be held in conjunction with the General Assembly is “Humanistic Studies: Leaving the 20th and Entering the 21st Century”. It is expected that each constituent society give a lecture on its area of expertise in relation to the theme, and Michael Pye will be giving a lecture on behalf of the IAHR entitled “Changing Structures in the History of Religions”.

We have received the report of the 70th annual meeting of the *Union académique internationale* (Bruxelles) and issues 178 (April-June 1997) and 179 (July-September 1997) of *Diogène. Revue internationale des sciences humaines*. Issue 178 has the theme the origins of encyclopedias and issue 179 has the theme African slavery. The editorial staff is at the CIPSH headquarters in Paris: UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, Paris

XV^e, France, and subscriptions can be placed at 128, avenue Maréchal-de-Lattre-de-Tassigny, BP 149, 77403 Lagny Cedex, CCP Paris, France. We have also received an English language version of *Diogène* entitled *Diogenes. A Quarterly Publication of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies*, volume 44/4, 1996. The theme is tolerance, and it features articles by Paul Ricoeur, Vaclav Havel, Octavio Paz, Hans Küng, Wole Soyinka and many others. The journal is published by Berghahn Books, 165 Taber Avenue, Providence, RI 02906-3329, USA [berghahnBk@aol.com] and 3, New Tec Place, Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RE, UK [berghahnUK@aol.com].

Numen Editorial Board

Numen is the official journal of the IAHR. The managing editors, Prof. Hans Kippenberg (Bremen) and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson (Kalamazoo), act on behalf of an international editorial board consisting of the Executive Committee of the IAHR. The Editorial Board meets in conjunction with the annual Executive Committee meetings in order to receive a report from the managing editors and to discuss matters of policy. Efforts are currently being made to expand the number of submissions from non-European countries and to increase the number of theme issues. Efforts are also being made to establish donations of selected issues to worthy institutions in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Possible liaisons between the IAHR website and a *Numen* website are currently being discussed with the publishers.

The most important event on the horizon will be the appointment of the editors for the next term. The contract that the IAHR has with E. J. Brill stipulates that the IAHR appoints the managing editors in agreement with the Publisher, which means that the Executive Committee is responsible for the appointments. Normally the appointments of the editors will be in alternate succession to ensure that only one editor retires at the end of each five year period. The process of appointments begins two years before the quinquennial congress so that the new editor can be integrated into the editorial process before the out-going editor retires. Thus each editor serves for two periods, and because of the alternate succession, each would serve with two different colleagues in turn. This is an excellent way of ensuring non-individualistic, international, yet effective editorship. The editorial address would normally change only once every five years and would normally move on to the editor in post.

The present editors graciously agreed to extend their terms of office a number of years ago in order to make an alternate succession process possible. Hans Kippenberg will retire as editor at the Durban congress, and E. Thomas Lawson will continue as editor until the year 2005. Thus the editorial address for *Numen* will change already after the Hildesheim conference. Further information as well as the name of the incoming editor will be made available in coming issues of *Numen* and the *IAHR Bulletin*.

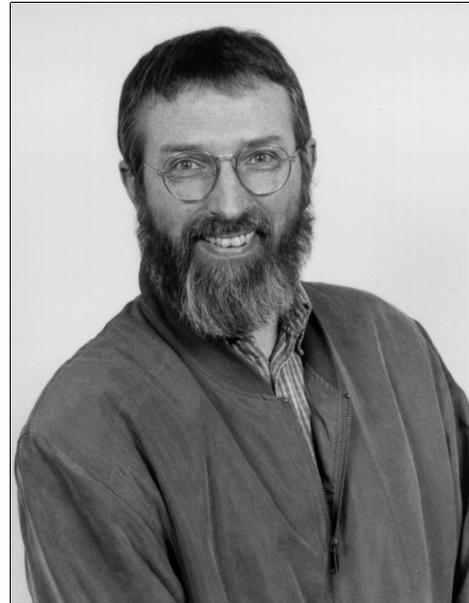


Executive Committee Profiles

This issue contains profiles of the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary and Treasurer.

Prof. Dr. Armin W. Geertz **General Secretary of the IAHR**

Armin W. Geertz was born in Elmhurst, Illinois, USA in 1948. He received a B.A. in comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin in 1970. That same year he moved to Denmark and began studies in the History of Religions at the University of Aarhus where he received his Cand. Phil. (1977), Mag. Art. (1978), and Dr. Phil. (1992) degrees. The Dr. Phil. degree, which is post-doctoral, was awarded for his book on Hopi Indian prophecies entitled *The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion* (1992).



Armin W. Geertz has held a number of teaching and research positions and has served as head of the department and of the curriculum committee at the Department of the History of Religions, the University of Aarhus, from 1979 until 1990 when the department became merged with the Department of Religion under the Faculty of Theology. Since 1990, the newly merged department became the Department of the Study of Religion. Armin W. Geertz was appointed Professor at the department in 1995. He has served several terms on the Faculty Senate and became Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Theology in 1995. In 1994 he was appointed Director of the Research Network on New Religions (RENNER) under the auspices of the Danish Research Council of the Humanities and in 1998 Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Religious Denominations for the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Armin W. Geertz conducted field work among the Hopi Indians of Arizona during 1978-1979 and has regularly visited them for shorter stays since then. Much has been written about the Hopis, but most of it is based on second-hand accounts, behavioral descriptions and/or collections of myths and tales in English only. Geertz's abiding goal has been to delve into Hopi mythology and rituals based on what the Hopis say and think about their religion, in their own language. Consequently he set out to collect myths, descriptions, interpretations, songs, prayers and other oral traditions to sup-

plement his own and others' observations. Thus much of his time during the first years after his first field work was spent on transcribing and translating taped material in order to publish Hopi texts in the original language. His first major book was *Children of Cottonwood* (1987), a study of a little known sacred puppet ceremonial. Because of the paucity of dictionaries and grammars, he facilitated the use of the Hopi texts by publishing a KWIC concordance (1989). He also developed a series of indices of Hopi terms in the most important publications in Hopi studies. By publishing Hopi texts in bilingual format, his work followed the example of linguist Ekkehart Malotki at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff who was the first scholar to publish substantial collections of Hopi texts in bilingual format since the pioneering work of H. R. Voth at the end of the last century. Geertz's early publications were thus exercises in ethnographic, linguistic and historical disciplines.

With an eye for religious individuals creatively involved in constructing worlds of meaning, he wrote a series of publications on ceremonial logic, ritual objects, ritual puppets, cosmological and mythological structures and motifs, prophecies, identity, gender and the relationship between politics and religion. Many of these themes were taken up in his book *The Invention of Prophecy* (1992). But perhaps the most important aspect of the book is its critical appraisal of prevailing romanticizations of Native Americans, especially the role that Native Americans in general and Hopi Indians in particular play in the symbolizing activities of New Agers.

His interest in greater critical reflection concerning our ideas about indigenous peoples and about the Other in general has led to a line of inquiry on cultural conflict, postmodern criticism, orientalism criticism, and the possibility of pursuing an epistemologically and globally viable academic study of religion. Combined with reflections on methodology and theory in the study of religion, Armin W. Geertz has attempted to synthesize these various themes in the development of what he calls *ethnohermeneutics*. Basically this approach combines the approaches of the ethno-sciences with the hermeneutic reflections and implicit assumptions of the believers on the one hand and the explicit and implicit assumptions of scholar on the other. It combines the approaches of anthropology, history, ethnography, linguistics, psychology and cognitive sciences with philosophy in an attempt to meet the requirements of rational reflection and postmodern criticism. Most of his work in this area has been presented in diverse papers, articles and essays some of which will be appearing soon in a forthcoming collection of his papers. His pursuit of a viable point of departure has been formulated in terms of the IAHR Warsaw declaration of 1989.

Finally, a good portion of his publications are devoted to textbooks and introductions to a wide range of topics and religions (especially indigenous and new religions) with the goal of improving the quality of information for students and the general public and thereby raising the level of reflection on religions. He has also taught courses and given lectures on many religions and topics ranging from Classical Greek and Classical Chinese religions to the religions of the Yoruba, Aranda, Huichol, and others

as well as themes such as Religion and Gender, Religious Iconography, Mysticism, Methodology, and the History of the Study of Religion.

Armin W. Geertz has been active in founding a number of organizations and networks such as the *Danish Association for the History of Religions* (established in 1982 and affiliated in 1985 at the IAHR congress in Sydney), of which he served as president for 12 years, the *Society for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions* (its European director for several years), *Jysk Selskab for Religionsvidenskab* ("Jutlandic Society for the Study of Religion"), *Research Network on New Religions* (RENNER), and *Nordiska Samarbetskommittén för Religionshistorisk Forskning* ("Nordic Coordinating Committee for Research in the History of Religions"--NORREL). He was also active in conceptualizing and developing the *Nordic Network for Ph.D. Programs in the Study of Religion*. He was a founding member and editor of the journal *Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift* (Aarhus) and founding member and member of the editorial board of *European Review of Native American Studies* (Vienna). He is also on the editorial boards of *Numen: International Review for the History of Religions* (Leiden), *Temenos: Studies in Comparative Religion Presented by Scholars in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden* (Helsinki), *Religion: An International Journal* (Los Angeles & London), *Nova Religio. The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* (Chappaqua, New York), *Ilu: Revista de Ciencias de las Religiones* (Madrid), and *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (Berlin). He is also editor-in-chief of *RENNER Studies on New Religions* (Aarhus University Press) and of *Gyldendal - Nye Religioner* ("Gyldendal--New Religions", published by Gyldendal Publishers, Copenhagen) and is a founding member of the editorial board of *Studies on Religion* (Aarhus University Press) and *Religionsvidenskabelige studier* ("Scientific Studies of Religion", Aarhus University Press). Finally, he is the editor of *News from RENNER* (Copenhagen) and of the *IAHR Bulletin*.

Armin W. Geertz is widely travelled and participates regularly in conferences around the world. He served as Treasurer of the IAHR from 1990-1995 and was elected General Secretary at the XVIIth Congress of the IAHR in Mexico City in 1995.

He is the author of over 180 essays, articles, reviews and books. His books include: "*Og da blev jeg en sky*" - *tekster om hopi-indianernes religion*, ("And Then I Became a Cloud - Texts on Hopi Indian Religion"), Copenhagen: Gyldendal 1986; *Hopi Indian Altar Iconography*, (Iconography of Religions X/5). Leiden: E. J. Brill 1987; *Children of Cottonwood. Piety and Ceremonialism in Hopi Indian Puppetry*, with Michael Lomatuway'ma, (American Tribal Religions 12) Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press 1987; *Du er slave, ej menneske! Vestafrikansk religion i Amerika*, ("You Are a Slave, Not a Human! West African Religion in America"), Vejle: Forlaget Musagetes 1989; *A Concordance of Hopi Indian Texts*, Aarhus: Brunbakke Publications 1989; *Mystik - Den indre vej? En religionshistorisk udfordring*, ("Mysticism - The Inner Way? A Challenge from the History of Religions"), edited with Per Bilde, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 1990; *Religion, Tradition, and Re-*

newal, edited with Jeppe Sinding Jensen, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 1991; *The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion*, Knebel: Brunbakke Publications 1992, rev. ed. Los Angeles: University of California Press 1994; *Religionshistoriens religionsvidenskabelige profil*, (“The History of Religions as the Academic Study of Religion”), Aarhus: Department of the Study of Religion 1995; and *Medspil og modspil - teologi og religionsvidenskab*, (“Partners and Adversaries--Theology and the Study of Religion”) edited with Søren Jensen & Peter Widmann, Aarhus: The Faculty of Theology 1996.

Current books in progress: *The Study of Religion in Denmark*, Aarhus: Aarhus University Press; *Håndbog om nye religioner*, (“Handbook on New Religions”) together with Ole Riis, Copenhagen: Gyldendal; *Perspectives on Methodology in the Study of Religion: Collected Papers from the XVIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Mexico City 1995*, edited with Russell T. McCutcheon; *Den menneskeskabte virkelighed: Refleksioner over religiøse mennesker og studiet af dem*, (“The Human Construction of Reality: Reflections on Religious Humans and the Study of Them”), Aarhus; *Native North American Religions* (Penguin); and *Ethnohermeneutics and Worldview Analysis*.

Current address:

Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Main Building, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark, Tel. 45-89422306, Fax 45-86130490
e-mail: geertz@teologi.aau.dk

Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett **Deputy General Secretary** **of the IAHR**

Born in Birmingham, England in 1951, Rosalind Hackett attended Edgbaston High School for Girls before heading north to Leeds University. There she was the first student to take a joint degree in French and Religious Studies (1973). She spent one year teaching in a French school in Grenoble, France and conducting research on France's first ecumenical church. After obtaining a postgraduate teaching diploma in 1974 from St. Luke's College, Exeter, she moved on to King's College at the University of London to do an M.Phil. in Religious Studies (1978).

Her earliest research in West Africa (1975-1983--during which time she taught at the Universities of Ibadan and Calabar in Nigeria) was on new religious movements in



Nigeria. This resulted in a number of publications, notably the edited book, *New Religious Movements in Nigeria* (Lewiston, NJ: Edwin Mellen Press, 1987). This was followed by a historical and contemporary study of religious pluralism in the Nigerian town of Calabar, published as *Religion in Calabar: the Religious Life and History of a Nigerian Town* (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 1989). The foundation of this book was her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Aberdeen University in Scotland, completed in 1986.

Following a fellowship at Amherst College in the U.S. in 1984 and two years of teaching and consultancy work in Washington, D.C., Rosalind Hackett took up an appointment in 1986 in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is now Professor and enjoys teaching a variety of courses including African Religions, Anthropology of Religion, Ways of Understanding Religion, Varieties of Religious Communities, and African Art. She won an Outstanding Alumni Teaching Award in 1995.

Rosalind Hackett's recently published book, *Art and Religion in Africa*, kept her busy for five years with visiting libraries, museums and galleries in Europe, North America and Africa. In it she argues that the study and appreciation of Africa's rich, artistic traditions are incomplete without an understanding of the religious dimension. She also has a number of forthcoming publications and lecture presentations which reflect her concern to see the artistic dimension receive greater attention in the academic study of religion. In this connection, she edited a special issue of the *Journal of Religion in Africa* on "Art" (November 1994). Her introductory essay was entitled "African Art and Religion: Some Observations and Reflections." She has now moved on to another manuscript project this time for the Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. on "Religious and Political Conflict in Nigeria." This gives her eight years of work on new religious movements in Nigeria a greater political relevance, dovetailing nicely with her growing interest in the field of Religion and Human Rights. In that regard she is particularly excited to have been asked to join a research project at Emory Law School's Law and Religion Program on "Proselytization." The project is examining how the processes of democratization around the world lead to increased religious pluralization, proselytization, and often, religious conflict.

Rosalind Hackett's public lectures and conference presentations, which take her frequently to Latin America, Europe, Africa as well as around North America, tend to be centered on her current research on the burgeoning pentecostal/charismatic movements to be found in many parts of Africa today. See, for example, her piece, "The Gospel of Prosperity in West Africa" in Richard Roberts (ed.), *Religion and the Transformations of Capitalism* (London: Routledge, 1995). Thanks to a research grant in 1993-1994 from the Research Enablement Program of the Overseas Ministries Study Center and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, she was able to travel to Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and South Korea to study the growing connections between Asian and African pentecostal/charismatic organizations (*Pneuma* 18, 1

[spring 1996]). She plans to do a major research project on the use of the electronic and print media by Africa's charismatic movements.

Rosalind Hackett has also written on gender issues in Africa, "Women and New Religious Movements in Africa" appeared in Ursula King's *Religion and Gender* (Blackwell 1995) and "Women in African Religions" in *Religion and Women*, ed. by Arvind Sharma (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1993), and on New Age religion: "New Age Trends in Nigeria: Ancestral or Alien Religion?" in *Perspectives on the New Age*, ed. by James Lewis and J. Gordon Melton (SUNY Press, 1992). She has also edited two special issues on African religions for *Religion* (20, 4, fall 1990) on "Images of African Religions" and for *Spotlight on Teaching* 1, 2 on "Teaching African Religions" (1, 2, May 1993). She is currently editing a volume on "Current Issues in the Study of Religion" for *Public Culture*, and on "Current Research on Religion and Gender" (jointly with Sylvia Marcos and drawn from the panels they organized at the IAHR Mexico Congress in 1995) for *Religion*.

She is a past president of the *North American Association for the Study of Religion*, a co-founder of the African Religions group of the *American Academy of Religion*, Treasurer and Founding Member of the *African Association for the Study of Religions*, and was recently elected to the American Society for the Study of Religion. She was elected the Deputy General Secretary of the IAHR at the XVIIth Congress of the IAHR in Mexico City in 1995.

Current address:

Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, 501 McClung Tower,
Knoxville, TN 37996-0450, USA, Tel. 1-4239742466, Fax 1-4239740965
e-mail: rhackett@utk.edu

Prof. Donald Wiebe **Treasurer of the IAHR**

Donald Wiebe was born in Niagara Falls, Canada in April of 1943. (Being Taurus was very problematic for him during his student days because Professor Conze considered it a serious handicap to his ever learning anything about Buddhism.) He studied Theology at a Mennonite Brethren college in Winnipeg, Manitoba from 1963 to 1967 and simultaneously completed both a B.Th. there and a B.A. at the Waterloo Lutheran University (now Wilfred Laurier University), to which the college was affiliated. He subsequently completed a Master of Arts degree in the philosophy of science at the Uni-



versity of Guelph (Ontario, Canada) and spent a year in graduate studies in the Religious Studies Department of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He completed his Ph.D. in religious studies with Ninian Smart at the University of Lancaster concentrating on the philosophy of religion. (At the request of Professor Smart, Wiebe taught a course on theories of religion at the University of Lancaster, an experience to which he attributes his abiding concern with matters theoretical and methodological in the History of Religions.)

Wiebe started his teaching career with the Canadian Nazarene College in 1965 teaching introductory and intermediate Greek and New Testament exegesis. He subsequently taught in a Bible Institute of the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba (1967-1969), returning to the Nazarene College (then an approved teaching centre of the University of Manitoba) as Professor of Philosophy in 1975. After serving as Executive Director of the XIVth International Congress of the IAHR (1978-1980), Wiebe accepted a position as Professor of the Philosophy of Religion in the Divinity Faculty of Trinity College, federated with the University of Toronto. From 1981 until 1994 he was also cross-appointed to the Graduate Centre for the Study of Religion in the University of Toronto, and served as its Associate Director for two years. Since January of 1995 he has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity at Trinity College, and in 1997 was appointed adjunct faculty to the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto.

Wiebe has been actively engaged in the work of the *International Association for the History of Religions* since 1978. In that year he was appointed Executive Director of the XIVth International Congress which took place on the campus of the University of Manitoba in 1980. He has served on the Executive Board of the IAHR from 1985 to 1995 and is currently Treasurer of the Association. He has also served on the Executive Committee of the *Canadian Society for the Study of Religion*. In 1985 Wiebe, together with Luther H. Martin and E. Thomas Lawson founded the *North American Association for the Study of Religion* (NAASR) which became affiliated to the IAHR in 1990, and he twice served as President of that Association (1986-1987 and 1991-1992).

In addition to a master's and a doctoral thesis, Wiebe has published three books (*Religion and Truth: Toward An Alternative Paradigm in the Study of Religion*, *The Irony of Theology and the Nature of Religious Thought*, and *Beyond Legitimation: Essays on the Problem of Religious Knowledge*), edited several collections of essays including a festschrift for Ninian Smart and, (with Peter Slater), the selected proceedings of the XIVth IAHR International Congress, and more than seventy scholarly articles (such as "Is A Science of Religion Possible," "The Failure of Nerve in the Academic Study of Religion," "The Academic Naturalization of Religious Studies: Intent or Pre-terence?," "History or Mythhistory in the Study of Religion?" etc.) and nearly as many scholarly reviews in a wide variety of journals and books. He also edits, for Peter Lang, the *Toronto Studies in Religion* series which now numbers more than twenty

volumes (including such authors as Rodney Stark, William Sims Bainbridge, Fritz Staal, Hans Penner, and David Turner). He also serves on the editorial boards of *Religion* and *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion*. His primary areas of research interest are philosophy of science and the social sciences, epistemology, philosophy of religion, the history of the academic and scientific study of religion, and method and theory in the study of religion. He has presented lectures in a number of universities at home and abroad. (Unlike other notable colleagues in the IAHR, Wiebe does not enjoy travel, but he grins and bears it, and is sometimes relaxed enough to learn from it.)

His current address is:

Faculty of Theology, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario,
Canada M5S 1H8, Tel. 1-4169787750 or 978-2133 (for messages)
Fax 1-4169784949, e-mail: dwiebe@trinity.utoronto.ca



Honorary Life Members

The International Committee of the IAHR decided during its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 to honor colleagues who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions. The status of “Honorary Life Member of the IAHR” is conferred in recognition of their scholarship and service to our discipline. Their contributions to the study of religion have brought enlightenment and inspiration, and the International Committee hoped that this small gesture of recognition will serve to encourage them in their future activities. Honorary Life Members have been listed on the editorial cover of *Numen* beginning with the first issue of 1996. We will bring news and profiles on these scholars in coming issues.

The Honorary Life Members of the IAHR are:

Professor J. Omosade Awolalu, 49, Old Aye Road, P.O.Box 612, Okitipupa, Ondo State, Nigeria

Professor Louise Bäckman, Gunnarbovägen 2B, 170 65 Solna, Sweden

Professor M. André Caquot, Collège de France, 1, rue Monticelli, F-75014 Paris, France

Professor Carsten Colpe, Religionsgeschichte, Freien Universität, Schützallee 112, D-14169 Berlin, Germany

Professor, Director Kong Fan, International Confucian Association, No. A-24 Xiao Shi Qiao, Jiu Gu Lou Street, 100009 Beijing, China

Professor Lauri Honko, Department of Cultural Studies, Turku University, Henrikinkatu 3, FIN-20500 Turku, Finland

Professor Åke Hultkrantz, Seglarvägen 7, 181 62 Lidingö, Sweden

Professor J. Leclant, Institut de France, 23, Quai de Conti, 75270 Paris Cedex 06, France

Professor Manuel Marzal, Comunidad de Ntra. fra. de los Desamparados, Recuay 160 - Breña 05, Apartado 0040, Lima, Peru

Professor Tamaru Noriyoshi, Ota-ku Denenchofu 5-3-4, 145 Tokyo, Japan

Professor G. C. Oosthuizen, 2 Jamieson Drive, Westville, 3630 South Africa

Professor Julien Ries, Centre d'Histoire des Religions (A.S.B.L.), Université de Louvain-la-Neuve, B-5020 Namur-Suarlee, Belgium

Professor Kurt Rudolph, FG Religionswissenschaft, Philipps-Universität, Am Plan 3, D-35037 Marburg, Germany

Professor Annemarie Schimmel, Lennéstrasse 42, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Professor Eric Sharpe, Department of Religious Studies, University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia

Professor Ninian Smart, Department of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA 93106-3130

Professor Jacques Waardenburg, Université de Lausanne, BFSH 2, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Professor R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel



Announcements

IAHR Regional Conference in Hildesheim

The international world fair EXPO 2000 will be held in Hannover, Germany and its surroundings, including the traditional city of Hildesheim, from June to October 2000. Its theme is "Mankind--Nature--Technology". Most of its projects that are already announced are purely technological or ecological (see the homepage: <http://www.EXPO2000.de>). The religious dimension is widely neglected even though religions have had and still have an impact on human behavior with regard to nature and technology, sometimes encouraging, sometimes warning and prohibitive. There is a need, therefore, to emphasize this aspect in relation to EXPO 2000 and to discuss the History of Religions in Europe with regard to these fields of research.

This will be done during a conference in the city of Hildesheim on May 22-25, 1998. Hildesheim has a long history and has always been a place where people from different European countries come through and meet. In light of the forthcoming EXPO 2000, Hildesheim will again be an ideal meeting place for people from many countries in Europe and world-wide.

The form of the conference is, with the exception of the opening address, that of panels only. It is hoped that this will provide a more vivid exchange of ideas than lectures. Short reports on current research projects will also be included in each of the panels.

It is expected that participants from all the countries of Europe with affiliated associations will attend for the first time in Europe since IAHR Congress in Rome 1990. The Hildesheim conference will therefore provide an opportunity to meet scholars from all parts of Europe as well as from other parts of the world. The meeting will take place in the City Hall of Hildesheim.

To underline the European character of the conference, three European languages will be used, namely English, German, and French. The languages mentioned below refer to the invited panel members only. Questions and comments from the floor are welcome in any of the three conference languages.

The conference programme will be as follows:

Friday, May 22, 1998

15.30 - 18.00 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the *International Association for the History of Religions*

18.00 - 20.00 Opening address by Professor Raimon Panikkar, President of the Spanish Association of the IAHR. The lecture will be in German and it will deal with the History of Religions in Europe and its Importance for "Mankind--Nature--Technology".

Saturday, May 23, 1998:

09.00 - 11.00 Panel: "Ex oriente lux - Les religions orientales en Europe dans le passé" (in French).

Chair: Michel Despland (Canada). Participants: Philippe Borgeaud (Switzerland), Giulia Sfameni Gasparro (Italy), Michel Meslin (France).

The aim of the panel is to show the importance of religion for concepts of the world and of humankind in Europe and to ask what the consequences were and still are with regard to the relationship towards nature and technology.

11.00 - 13.00 Panel: "European Christianity - An imported and exported religion" (in English).

Chair: Rosalind I. J. Hackett (USA). Participants: Heikki Räisänen (Finland), Julio Treballe (Spain), Einar Thomassen (Norway).

The aim of the panel is to show how a religion that has its origins in the Middle East became a European religion to such an extent that Europe is widely identified in the non-European world with Christianity held responsible for the consequences of modern technology with regard to nature.

15.00 - 17.00 Panel: "Multiculturalism and the Recognition of Religion" (in English).

Chair: Hans G. Kippenberg (Germany). Participants: Martin Baumann (Germany), Gerrie ter Haar (Netherlands), Yolotl González Torres (Mexico), Helena Helve (Finland).

The aim of the panel is to discuss the importance of religious pluralism for a new understanding of mankind--nature--technology.

17.00 - 19.00 Panel: "Religion and Politics" (in English).

Chair: Armin W. Geertz (Denmark). Participants: Elio Masferrer Kan (Mexico), Jacob Olupona (USA), Abdulkader Tayob (South Africa).

The aim of the panel is to analyze the mutual influence of religion(s) and politics in the European context as well as with regard to the major religious traditions in the world.

Sunday, May 24, 1998:

09.00 - 11.20 Meeting of the International Committee of the *International Association for the History of Religions*.

11.30 - 13.00 Meeting of the *European Association for the History of Religions*.

10.00 Visit to the Römer-Pelizäus-Museum (for other participants).

14.30 - 15.45 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the *International Association for the History of Religions* and the Editorial Board of *Numen*.

16.00 - 17.30 Panel: "Islam in Europe / L'islam en Europe" (in English and French).

Chair: Peter Antes (Germany). Participants: Montserrat Abumalham (Spain), Gerdien Jonker-Wobbe (Germany), Jacques Waardenburg (Switzerland).

The aim of the panel is to discuss the importance of the new Islamic presence in Europe with regard to nature and technology.

18.00 - 19.30 Public Panel: "Religion und Nationalismus" (in German).

Chair: Michael Pye. Participants: Bretislav Horyna (Czech Republic), Gary Lease (USA), Annette Wilke (Switzerland/Germany).

The aim of the panel is to emphasize the role of religion(s) for the development of European peoples/nations and to delineate risks and possibilities of interaction with regard to mankind--nature--technology.

Monday, May 25, 1998:

09.00 - 11.00 Panel: "Religious Pluralism and Education" (in English).

Chair: Thillay Naidoo (South Africa). Participants: Peter Bryder (Sweden), Burkhard Gladigow (Germany), Peggy Morgan (United Kingdom).

The aim of the panel is to underline the need of constructive efforts from all sides for a promising future of mankind--nature--technology and to encourage education in this sense for all members of society whatever their beliefs might be.

11.00 - 13.00 Panel: "Religion and Philosophy" (in English).

Chair: Donald Wiebe. Participants: Michio Araki (Japan), Brian Brocking (United Kingdom), Gebhard Löhr (Germany).

The aim of the panel is to discuss different truth claims found in religions and philosophies and to ask what these mean in understanding mankind--nature--technology.

13.00 Closing session and departure.

For accomodation and registration please write to Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Antes, Seminar für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Hannover, Im Moore 21, D-30167 Hannover, Germany, Tel. 49-5117624027, Fax 49-5117624025, E-mail [antes@mbox.rewi.uni-hannover.de].

Joint IAHR and NAASR Round Table

World Congresses of the *International Federation of Philosophical Societies* (FISP) are held every five years. The Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy, to be held in Boston August 10-16, 1998, will follow previous Congresses in highlighting a main theme while remaining as open as possible to the full diversity of philosophical issues, traditions, and approaches. The Theme of the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy is: "PAIDEIA: Philosophy Educating Humanity"

From an organizational point of view, the IAHR is interested in cooperative activities between member societies of the *International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies* (CIPSH) under the auspices of UNESCO. Not only does such cooperation provide visible support to CIPSH, but it also places emphasis on the interdisciplinary ideals of that organization. And therefore the Executive Director of FISP, Pro-

fessor Alan Olson at Boston University has graciously agreed to allow the IAHR and the *North American Association for the Study of Religion* (NAASR) to host two roundtables at the congress on Tuesday, August 11th on “Science, Philosophy and the Study of Religion”.

PROGRAM

Roundtable I: Science, Philosophy and the Study of Religion: The Agenda of Philosophy in the Study of Religion (Chair: Armin W. Geertz)

Recent developments in the academic study of religions indicate a need to strengthen the historical study of religious texts with methods and theories developed in the social sciences and philosophy. Like other humanistic disciplines, the study of religion must reflect on its theoretical foundations. This roundtable surveys some relevant strategies.

12:00-12:30 Armin W. Geertz, University of Aarhus, Denmark: “How Does Philosophy Affect the Study of Religion? An Introduction to the Issues”

12:30-13:00 Morny Joy, University of Calgary, Alberta Canada: “Religious Studies in Philosophical Perspective”

13:00-13:20 Willi Braun, Bishop’s University, Quebec Canada: “Cassell’s Critical Guide to the Study of Religion: An Introduction”

13:20-13:50 Johannes Wolfart, University of Toronto, Canada: “Postmodernism”

Break

Roundtable II: Science, Philosophy and the Study of Religion: Religion and the Problem of Conceptualization (Chair: Russell T. McCutcheon)

The study of religion carries assumptions about a series of important matters from its basic theory of religion to its implied secondary theories of symbol, ritual, etc. These theories are expressions of broader issues in the philosophy of science, and the study of religion must therefore clarify its assumptions and conceptions within that framework.

14:00-14:30 Bill Arnal, New York University, New York: “Definition”

14:30-15:00 Tomoko Masuzawa, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill: “Origin”

15:00-15:30 Russell McCutcheon, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield: “Incorporating Theory”

15:30-15:50 General Discussion

For information concerning the program please contact Armin W. Geertz. Inquiries concerning registration and other information should be sent to American Organizing

Committee, Inc., Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, USA. Tel. 1-6173533904, fax 1-6173535441, e-mail [paideia@bu.edu], homepage [<http://web.bu.edu/WCP>]



The XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR, Durban, South Africa, August 5-12, 2000

It is with great pleasure that the Executive Committee of the IAHR announces the next world congress of the IAHR, "Durban 2000". Please note that the website is already up and functioning at [<http://www.udw.ac.za/iahr>]. It has been designed by Maureen McGibbon, Durban, South Africa.

**Image Not
Available**

IAHR DURBAN CONGRESS 2000

***XVIII Quinquennial Congress :
Durban, 5-12 August 2000***

- [First Announcement](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Academic Programme](#)
- [Guide-lines for Submission of Abstracts](#)
- [Registration Form](#)
- [Exhibitors Information](#)
- [Information on South Africa](#)
- [Tourist Opportunities](#)

The Executive Committee of the IAHR met in August 1997 in Turku, Finland and unanimously decided to hold its XVIIIth congress in the year 2000 in Durban, South Africa. The Department of Science of Religion at the University of Durban-Westville, in cooperation with key members of the Association for the Study of Religions in Southern Africa and the African Association for the Study of Religion, has been requested to host the event. This upcoming congress in August 2000 is significant for a number of reasons. First, it will be the first IAHR congress ever held on the African

continent. Second, the IAHR congress in the year 2000 will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IAHR in Amsterdam. Third, it will also mark the 100th anniversary of scientific congresses in the History of Religions.

Several questions arise as the year 2000 draws near. First, it will be appropriate to take stock and reflect on where we as an international body of scholars engaged in a common scientific approach are coming from. What are the central themes, the important empirical areas, the debated issues and the shared approaches that have carried us to this point in time? In which parts of the world have we gone wrong, and where have we gone right? How has the history of religions contributed to educational and cultural development in general? Second, it will also be appropriate to discuss the directions for the future. In what ways does increasing globalization change the nature of the subject of our study and our methodologies? What methodological and theoretical approaches are most appropriate to these challenges? Is the history of religions capable of dealing with these challenges, and is the IAHR doing what it can in these respects? Are we truly engaged in a common endeavour?

The Durban Congress seeks in particular to promote the cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, comparativist and critical study of religion, as well as newer and neglected areas of research, rather than just the tradition-specific sections which have characterised previous congresses. There is also a concern to examine, wherever appropriate, the links between the theoretical, methodological, empirical, and pedagogical aspects of our field of study. To this end, a number of panels and symposia are already being planned on religious education, multiculturalism, the political economy of religious studies, fieldwork, texts and textuality, comparativism, globalization, syncretism, millennialism, shamanism, religion and human rights, civil society, media, cyberspace, diaspora, material and expressive culture, ecology, healing, literature, cognition, cultural studies, tourism, etc.

Academic Programme

The academic programme will consist of six major groupings: 1. Keynote addresses, 2. Plenary sessions, 3. Organized panels, 4. Symposia, 5. Individual papers, 6. Round-table sessions. We would like to invite participants to submit proposals under any one of the above groups.

1. Keynote addresses: The keynote addresses are given by distinguished scholars who are invited by the Academic Programme Committee.

2. Plenary sessions: A plenary session consists of an address by a speaker on a particular topic and responses by a panel of experts to the keynote speakers.

3. Organized panels: The organized panels consist of four panelists with a panel convener as the chair. The duration is 2 hours, and it is expected that the convener of the panel will directly contact panelists and put together a single proposal for the entire panel. The proposal should contain the title of the panel, the names and institutional affiliations of the four panelists plus a respondent, and a 150 word abstract of the topic.

The proposal must be sent by the individual who is convening the panel.

4. Symposia: Groups of scholars engaged in a particular project which will likely lead to publication may submit a proposal for a symposium. It is expected that these groups will circulate their papers for discussion prior to the congress. Scholars are advised to bring along with them sufficient number of copies (at least 20 copies) of their papers for circulation to the participants. The proposal should contain the title of the symposium, the names and institutional affiliations of the panelists plus a respondent, and a 150 word abstract of the topic. The duration of the symposium is 2 hours. The proposal must be sent by the individual who is convening the symposium.

5. Roundtable sessions: Roundtable sessions consist of a maximum of 10 participants around a table. These are meant for more detailed discussion among scholars on their respective research work. Space for these sessions is limited. Proposals for these sessions should consist of the title of the paper, full name and institutional affiliation of the presenter, and a 150 word abstract. Those whose proposals are accepted will subsequently need to send 10 copies of the complete paper in advance for circulation among those who would register for the roundtable sessions. Scholars are encouraged to advertise their proposed roundtable sessions among their peers to enable maximum participation.

6. Individual papers: Every attempt will be made to organize the individual papers into coherent sessions. In any given session there will be three papers lasting 2 hours. Proposals for individual papers should consist of the title of the paper, full name and institutional affiliation of the presenter, and a 150 word abstract.

Congress Organization

As mentioned in my report, a new organizational structure has been devised for IAHR quinquennial congresses. We are very honored that the congress will be presided by three presidents: Prof. G. C. Oosthuizen, Prof. S. Nadvi, and Prof. T. Naidoo. Each represents areas of study in the three major religions of South Africa: Indigenous Churches and religions, Islam, and Hinduism.

1) The Quinquennial Congress Advisory Committee (QCAC)

Chair: Michael Pye (Marburg), President of IAHR; Peter Antes (Hannover), Giulia Gasparro (Messina), Yolotl Gonzáles Torres (Mexico City), Helena Helve (Helsinki), E. Thomas Lawson (Kalamazoo), Martin Prozesky (Pietermaritzburg), Ninian Smart (Santa Barbara), Kurt Rudolph (Marburg), Jacques Waardenburg (Lausanne), R. J. Zwi Werblowsky (Jerusalem), Don Wiebe (Toronto).

2) International Congress Committee (ICC)

Chair: Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus), General Secretary of IAHR; Michael Pye (Marburg), IAHR President (Ex-officio); Rosalind I. J. Hackett (Knoxville), Deputy General Secretary of IAHR; Gerrie ter Haar (Amsterdam) IAHR Executive Committee Member; G.C. Oosthuizen (Durban), Congress Presi-

dent; S. Nadvi (Durban), Congress President; T. Naidoo (Durban), Congress President; P. Kumar (Durban), Director of the Congress Secretariat; S. Govidsamy (Durban), Treasurer; Jim Kiernan (Durban); A. Song (Durban), Association for the Study of Religion in SA; Abdulkader I. Tayob (Cape Town), African Association for the Study of Religions; Jacob Olupona (Davis), African Association for the Study of Religions

3) The Congress Academic Program Committee (CAPC)

Chair: Rosalind I. J. Hackett (Knoxville), Deputy General Secretary of IAHR; Tore Ahlbäck (Turku), Elias Bongbma (Houston), David Chidester (Cape Town), Suleman Dangor (Durban), Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Krakow), Ron Guey Chu (Taipei), Gerrie ter Haar (Amsterdam), Mark Hulsether (Knoxville), Simeon Ilesanmi (Winston-Salem), Johaan Kinghorn (Stellenbosch), Morny Joy (Calgary), Jim Kiernan (Durban), Kim Knott (Leeds), Pratap Kumar (Durban), Chirevu Kwenda (Cape Town), Miriam Levering (Knoxville), Russell McCutcheon (Springfield), Tinyiko Maluleke (Pietermaritzburg), Peter Maartens (Durban), Sylvia Marcos (Cuernavaca), Carole Myscofski (Bloomington), Jacob K. Olupona (Davis), William Paden (Burlington), Abdulkader Tayob (Cape Town), Pablo Wright (Buenos Aires).

4) The Congress Secretariat (CS)

Director: P. Kumar (Durban); G. C. Oosthuizen (Durban), Congress President (Ex-officio); S. Nadvi (Durban), Congress President (Ex-officio); T. Naidoo (Durban), Congress President (Ex-officio); S. Govidsamy (Durban--UDW), Congress Treasurer; Jane Meyer (Turners Conferences, Durban Representative); Liezel Gericke (International Convention Centre Representative, Durban).

Local Organizing Committees

Chairperson & Director of the Congress Secretariat: Prof. P. Kumar

1. Cultural Events & Exhibition Committee: Mr. Nanakchand, Mr. J. Pather (Durban Playhouse), Ms Yvon Winter (Killy Campbel Library), Ms Carol Brown (Durban Art Gallery), Mr. R. Papin.

2. Fundraising Committee & Finance Committee: Dr. Dasarath Chetty, Mr. Kiru Naidoo, Mr. S. Govindsamy (Treasurer).

3. Public Relations & Reception Committee: Dr. Dasarath Chetty, Mrs. Dale Wallace, Mrs. L. Das, Ms M. Naidoo.

National Committee

Dr. Abdulkader I. Tayob (Cape Town), Prof. Johaan Kinghorn (Stellenbosch), Dr. Chirevo Kwenda (Cape Town), Prof. Arthur Song (Durban).

International Covention Centre (Durban): Contact Person: Ms. Jane Digby & Ms. Liezel Gericke

Conference Organizing Company: Turner Conferences (Durban): Contact Per-

son: Ms. Jane Meyer

Congress Host: Department of Science of Religion, University of
Durban-Westville, Durban, South Africa



IAHR Related Advertisements

Science of Religion Subscriptions

Science of Religion is a bibliographical journal containing abstracts and indexes for the study of religion. It has been published in English since 1976, under the joint editorship of Remmelt Bakker (Amsterdam, now retired) and Michael Pye (Marburg). So far 13,483 abstracts have been published. There has long been a close association with the IAHR, and from 1996 special prominence will be given to journals identified with the IAHR affiliate associations in various countries. This means that Science of Religion will play an increasingly important role in helping to identify the study of religion as an internationally established discipline.

Starting from 1996 (Volume 21) the journal will appear twice yearly in enlarged format. Current subscription rates, including postage, remain at:

Pounds Sterling (drawn on a UK bank)	33.00
US Dollars (drawn on a US bank)	49.00

For new subscribers. Your cheque or draft should be drawn on a bank as shown above to avoid extra charges. Make your cheque payable to "Roots and Branches" and send it to:

Roots and Branches (SOR), 51 Searle Street, Cambridge, Cambridge CB4 3DB,
England

Please do **not** make your cheque out to Science of Religion. After initiating your subscription you will receive an invoice in future years. Be sure to indicate subscriber's name and address!

Back issues. Back issues are available in almost complete sets. There is also an Integrated Index for Volumes 1-18 (12136 items). Inquiries to Roots and Branches at the above address.

Method & Theory in the Study of Religion

The *North American Association for the Study of Religion* (NAASR) publishes a quarterly journal entitled *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (MTSR) which is the only international periodical devoted exclusively to articles, review essays, and debates on methodological and theoretical topics in the academic study of religion. MTSR is published by E. J. Brill, and they offer a special discount price to members of NAASR to the amount of \$47.00. Earlier subscribers who are members of an IAHR affiliate receive the same discount. Negotiations have been initiated to secure the same discount for all new subscribers who are members of an IAHR affiliate.

For further information please contact Prof. Gary Lease, Merrill College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA, e-mail [rehbock@cats.ucsc.edu], E. J. Brill, P.O.Box 9000, 2300 PA Leiden, The Netherlands, e-mail [cs@brill.nl] or the MTSR editors [mtsr@epas.utoronto.ca].



Conference Publications

The following publications that are the result of IAHR conferences have now appeared.

Religion & Modernization in China: Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions held in Beijing, China, April 1992, edited by Dai Kangsheng, Zhang Xinying, Michael Pye with editorial assistance by Jocelyn Pye. Cambridge: Roots and Branches 1995, 346pp. (ISBN 0-9525772-0-8).

This collection contains 34 papers read at the Beijing regional conference in 1992. Chinese versions of the papers, in full or in summary, have been published in the pages of *Shijie Zongjiao Ziliao* ("World Religious Materials") 1992 (4) and 1993 (1), the journal of the Institute for the Study of World Religions in Beijing. The volume contains a preface in Chinese by Kong Fan and an introductory address by Michael Pye. These are followed by papers on "Religion and Modernization" by Hubert Seiwert, Zhuo Xinping, Joachim Matthes, Jacques Waardenburg, Wu Yungui, Peter Antes, Ninian Smart, Chen Yaoting, Michael Pye, R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, Fu Lean, Christian Jochim, Michio Araki, and Dusan Luzny (in that order); on "Foreign Religions and Chinese Culture" by Jordan Paper, Allan Andrews, Luther H. Martin, Zhou Xiefan, Wang Meixiu, Kim Sunghae, Kubo Noritada, Alan Hunter, Chen Zemin, Zhang Jinglong, and Wang Ka (in that order); and "Theoretical Reflections on Religion" by He Guanghu, Frederick J. Streng, Luo Weihong, Yolotl González Torres, Chen Qiwei, Paul Badham, and Lü Daji.

The price is \$43 (\$35 for IAHR members). Please contact Roots and Branches, 51 Searle Street, Cambridge CB4 3DB, England for further information.

The Study of Religions in Africa: Past, Present and Prospects. Proceedings of the Regional Conference of the International Association for the History of Religions, Harare, Zimbabwe 1992, edited by Jan Platvoet, James Cox and Jacob Olupona. Cambridge: Roots and Branches 1996, (*Religions of Africa* vol. 1), 393pp. (ISBN 0-9525772-2-4). Distributed by Almqvist & Wiksell International, Box 4627, S-1191 Stockholm, Sweden.

This collection contains papers read at the Harare conference in 1992 as well as papers written especially for the volume. It includes a foreword to the series *Religions of Africa* by the editors David Westerlund and Jacob Olupona, a preface by the editors of the present volume and a welcoming speech by Prof. Gordon L. Chavunduka, Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe. These are followed by introductory papers by Jan G. Platvoet, Jacob Olupona, and Michael Pye; papers on "Problems of Methodology" by Jan G. Platvoet, Michael Bourdillon, James Cox, and Friday Mbon; papers on "The Development of the Study of Religions in Africa" by Jacob Olupona, Teresia

Hinga, and Martin Prozesky; papers on “The Study of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa” by ‘Deremi Abubakre, Muhammed Haron, and Abdulkader I. Tayob; and papers on “The Study of Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism in Africa” by Frans Verstraelen, Anil Sooklal, and Jocelyn Hellig.

A number of copies have been purchased by the IAHR as a subvention and one free copy will be sent to each affiliate association of the IAHR in the near future. The price is \$35 (\$25 for IAHR members). Purchase inquiries should be sent to Almqvist & Wiksell International.

Religions in Contact: Selected Proceedings of the Special IAHR Conference held in Brno, August 23-26, 1994, edited by Iva Doležalová, Břetislav Horyna and Dalibor Papoušek. Brno: Czech Society for the Study of Religions and Institute for the Study of Religions of the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University 1996, 228pp. (ISBN 80-901823-2-1 and 80-210-1441-5).

This collection consists of papers read at the Brno conference. After the opening speech by Jan Heller, there are papers on “Theory/Methodology” by Břetislav Horyna, Jeppe Sinding Jensen, Luther H. Martin, Jordan Paper, and Hubert Seiwert; papers on “Prehistoric and Ancient Religions” by Bogusław Gediga, Giovanni Casadio, Stanislav Segert, Dalibor Papoušek, and Iva Doležalová; papers on “African Religions” by Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Josef Kandert, and Gary Lease; papers on “Asian Religions” by Jan G. Platvoet, Michio Araki, Michael Pye, Luboš Bělka, Dušan Lužný, and Jiří Sekerák; papers on “Latin American Religions” by Yolotl Gonzáles Torres and Elio Masferrer Kan; and a paper on “Dialogue/Identity” by Ulrich Berner.

The price is \$18 plus postage and packing to the amount of \$6. Purchase inquiries should be sent to Dr. Iva Doležalová, Arne Novaka 1, 660 88 Brno, Czech Republic, tel. 420-5-41121409, fax 420-5-41121406, e-mail [dolezalo@phil.muni.cz].

Rationality and the Study of Religion, edited by Jeppe S. Jensen and Luther H. Martin. Aarhus: Aarhus University Press 1997 (*Acta Jutlandica* vol. LXXII:1, Theology Series, 19), 221pp. (ISBN 87-7288-692-7).

This collection consists of papers read at the IAHR Special Conference on “Rationality and the Study of Religion” held at Aarhus, Denmark, June 3-8, 1996. The preface by the editors and an introduction by Jeppe Sinding Jensen is followed by papers by Michael Buchowski, Benson Saler, Michael Pye, Matti Kamppinen, Roger Trigg, Jeppe Sinding Jensen, Gary Lease, Luther H. Martin, Hans G. Kippenberg, and Donald Wiebe.

Inquiries should be sent to Aarhus University Press, Building 170, University of Aarhus, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark. Fax +45-86198433.



Conference Reports

IAHR Co-sponsored Colloquium on the Religious Factor and the European and World Geostrategy, April 26-27, 1996

Report by Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Antes, Seminar für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Hannover, Im Moore 21, D-30167 Hannover, Germany.

The international colloquium on “The Religious Factor and the European and World Geostrategy” was held in Florence, Italy on April 26-27, 1996. It was organized by the “Cellule de Prospective” of the European Commission (Brussels), the Department of Social Studies at the University of Florence, and the *Association for the Study of Religious Phenomena in Florence*, in collaboration with the Municipality of Florence, the *Thessaloniki Society for Ecumenical Studies and Inter-Orthodox Relations*, and the Institute for Europe of the Moscow Academy of Sciences. It was co-sponsored by the IAHR and the *International Society for Sociology of Religions* (ISSR). About 60 participants from both political and university institutions took part.

The participants seemed to be convinced that the time of religion as an exclusively private matter has ended because religion has reappeared on the public scene and has become an important issue in European and world geostrategy, as Prof. Nesti (Florence) put it in his introduction. The first part of the colloquium attempted, therefore, to define in which sense religion should be put on the agenda of domestic and foreign policies. In answer to this question, P. Weiderud (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden) described religion as spiritual experience, theology, ethics and values, and a bearer of culture. He showed that only the latter two are relevant to political processes and decision-making. Moreover, he emphasized the role of religion with regard to the need to develop the process of cultural integration and to adjust to rapid changes in societies, both locally and globally. Weiderud’s position was supported by G. W. van Hasselt (The Netherlands) and J.-Fr. Mayer (Switzerland) who both gave more concrete examples from the perspective of their respective governments.

The second part of the colloquium concentrated on the increasing importance of religion in different areas or through particular religions. Thus Ambassador L. De Myttanaere (Belgium) spoke on Islam in Western Europe; Prof. Antes (Hannover) showed how certain forms of Christianity and Islam express moral claims in the field of economics, thereby voicing the hopes and requirements of economically and socially marginalized people; Prof. Krassikov analyzed the situation in Russia where the instrumentalization of religion by political parties is a real danger as well as that of a state-like establishment of the churches, or the confessionalization of the State. In any of these forms, religious intolerance would be the consequence. Prof. Vrcan (Split) gave a short report explaining what is going on in different areas of the former

Yugoslavia.

The third part of the colloquium was dedicated to theories and perspectives. M. Luyckx from the “Cellule de Prospective” analyzed different world concepts such as Huntington’s clash of civilizations and Hunter’s conflict theory saying that the split is not between religions and cultures but within them in regard to cosmology, anthropology, political and religious authority, etc. Luyckx showed the high degree of hypothesis in such theories and the problems involved in trying to explain multifaceted reality on the basis of one explanatory principle. Intracultural conflicts and problems were the subject of Prof. Voyé’s sociological inquiries concerning forms and expressions of religiosity in Belgium. Prof. Margiotta Broglio (Florence) attempted to conclude the colloquium by bridging the gap between university research on religion, on the one hand, and the needs and requirements of politicians, on the other, by presenting concrete examples from his law commissions that indicate how Italy is handling religion and politics with the Vatican.

Though this colloquium discussed many issues of great public interest, it is not expected that the papers will be published because many diplomats declared that they were not allowed to publish their papers in the name of the institutions they work for and have no intention to do so as private individuals.

IAHR Special Conference on Rationality and the Study of Religion, June 3-8, 1996

Report by Mikael Aktor, Ph.D., Research Assistant, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus., Main Building, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

During the first week of June 1996 the IAHR Special Conference on “Rationality and the Study of Religion”, hosted by the IAHR, the *Danish Association for the History of Religions* (DAHR), the *Nordic Network for Ph.D. Programs in the Study of Religion*, the Institute of History of Religions at the University of Copenhagen, and the Department of the Study of Religion at the University of Aarhus, was held at the University of Aarhus in Denmark. From an organizational point of view, the event was special because it combined an international conference of established scholars, all involved in discussions about the status of the study of religion vis-à-vis various relativistic claims, with a workshop for Ph.D. students, many of whom are in the process of estimating and choosing among overall approaches to their studies. The Ph.D. workshop formed part of a three-year program for Nordic Ph.D. students structured around three major events, this one as the first, a conference in Turku, Finland in 1997 on “Methodology in the Study of Religion” as the second, and the last on “Theories of Ritual in the Study of Religion” to be held in Lund, Sweden, during 1998.

The first two days were reserved for the presentation of conference papers and de-

bates. Themes and views as well as positions in the objectivity-relativity spectrum varied significantly. And, indeed, this open-endedness turned out to be the greatest strength of the conference (at least for this participant). This was not the kind of anti-relativistic exorcism that one might have feared, but real investigations and discussions of the tasks that the study of religion has to face as a humanistic science. Post-structuralism, anti-orientalism, ethnosociology and so on, are intellectual challenges which have added to our analytical apparatus while at the same time they have forced us into difficult considerations about the status of an academic study of religion in a very religious and ideologized *Umwelt*--including our own academic environments. We hear, often, from outside observers that the study of religion is far behind other humanistic disciplines in the process of deserting the sinking ship of objectivism. However, a rational scholarly criticism remains essential, particularly to our discipline, because it keeps the door open to questions in a human genre, namely, religion, which has shown a remarkable predilection for absolute answers, including answers about its own religious traditions. Academic traditions are, of course, not to be excluded from the same kind of critical attention.

The range of the themes are apparent from the program. "The Anti-Science Phenomenon and Its Implications for the Study of Religion" (Donald Wiebe), "Rationality, Social Science and Religion" (Roger Trigg), "The Methodological Status of Rationality" (Matti Kamppinen), "The Study of Religion as a Taxonomy of Human Natural History" (Gary Lease), "On Hidden Links between Some Major Philosophies of Religion and Types of Depicting the History of Religions" (Hans Kippenberg), "Lévy-Bruhl, Participation, and Rationality" (Benson Saler), "East-Asian Rationality and the Exploration of Religion" (Michael Pye), "Anthropology and the Rationality Problem" (Michal Buchowski), and, finally, "Rationality and Relativity in History of Religions Research" (Luther Martin).

The rest of the conference was divided into workshops organized by the participating Ph.D. students. The students stipulated particular themes of interest which they wished to debate with individual scholars and organized the groups in such a way that they were able to take part in several workshops. At the workshops they had the opportunity of focussing on particular problems in their research projects and to discuss these with specialists from particular theoretical positions. The benefit of this way of organizing the work was reciprocal for both the invited scholars and the Ph.D. students. For the Ph.D. students due to the level of specialization and for the specialists because by this process the applicability and range of their theoretical positions were tested. The combination of conference and Ph.D. workshop was very fruitful.

The conference publication has appeared. See the advertisement on page 38 in this bulletin.

IAHR Regional Conference together with the VIth Latin American Congress on Religion and Ethnicity, June 10-14, 1996

Report by Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, 501 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN 37996-0450, USA.

Bogotá, Colombia provided the venue for the first of the biennial congresses of the *Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudios de las Religiones (Latin American Association for the Study of Religions—ALER)* to be held outside Mexico. The Colombian Institute of Anthropology was our host for a most enjoyable and productive conference. The meetings were held in the very attractive, modern Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango in the oldest part of Bogotá, known as the Candelaria. It was a pleasure to stroll out at lunchtime and sample the excellent Afro-Colombian fish restaurants in the neighborhood and watch the crowds milling around, occasionally protesting, in the Bolivar Square in front of the Presidential Palace and Cathedral.

More than 300 people attended the conference (which actually began the previous week with a pre-conference seminar) with 190 papers presented. Most participants came from Central or South America—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, with some from Germany, Italy, Spain and the U.S. There were sixteen symposia with plenary sessions both morning and afternoon. These sessions often featured local dignitaries, such as the Mayor of Bogotá, the controversial Antonus Mockus, the most eloquent President of the Supreme Court, Carlos Gaviria Diaz, and the very learned Rector of the National University, Guillermo Páramo. We were also treated to presentations from scholars in Peru and Argentina about the religious developments in their respective countries.

The majority of the participants were anthropologists—there are indeed strong, national traditions of anthropology and archaeology in Latin America. There were also sociologists, historians, theologians and philosophers. While the symposia often reflected denominational or ethnic categories of the region, namely Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Afro-Colombian and indigenous (Indian) groups, not forgetting shamanism as well as the interesting proliferation of New Age spirituality, there was a strong scholarly emphasis on analyzing historical and current religious developments, particularly in terms of church-state relations. The exigencies of the recent religious pluralization of many Latin American countries undoubtedly shape the work of their scholars. This was well evidenced in the symposia organized by the newly formed Colombian Institute for the Study of Religion (ICER). Also of particular interest was the way in which the Colombian state is dealing with this new pluralism in the form of its much discussed 1991 Constitution. This effectively disestablished the Roman Catholic Church and gave far-reaching protection to the rights of minority groups and the environment.

A high point of the conference was the visit to the famed Museo del Oro (Museum

of Gold) in the center of Bogotá where the magnificent goldwork of Colombia's pre-Columbian cultures (33,000 pieces) is exhibited. It is easy to understand the fascination of the Spanish *conquistadores* with all the jewelry and ritual objects, but not their destructive and obsessive quest for the mythical El Dorado. Nowadays it is emeralds, drugs and coffee which have made Colombia famous (but we were told to stay away from the first two and given liberal amounts of the latter). We were also treated to an evening of Afro-Colombian dance traditions at the National University, and, on the last evening, suitably feted in fine Latin American style to a reception with unforgettable food and drink and great Colombian jazz. Rum and rumba (or was it *aguardiente* and salsa?) were then a logical conclusion at a party in an old house looking out over the lights of the vast (seven million inhabitants) city of Bogotá.

One of the primary concerns of ALER, which is the affiliate of the IAHR, is to develop a network of scholars throughout the region. This network seems to be developing well and yielding fruits, not just in terms of scholarly contacts, but also in the comparative dimension that it adds to the study of religion in the various countries. It is also helping raise awareness about the merits of our enterprise—the National University of Colombia is planning a graduate program in the academic study of religion.

Following the conference, some *congresistas* made a beeline for local museums and craft shops to make purchases from the wonderful array of Colombian arts and crafts. Others, such as myself, headed south to see the renowned and mysterious archaeological sites at San Agustín and Tierradentro (not for the faint-hearted as long treks on horseback, clamboring in and out of subterranean tombs, and breathtaking bus rides along precarious mountain roads were required!). We are all looking forward to the next congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1998.

IAHR Co-sponsored Memorial Conference for Ugo Bianchi, April 14-15, 1997



Figure 7 Prof. Dr. Peter Antes conveying greetings from the IAHR (to the left).

An IAHR co-sponsored memorial conference was held in Salerno, Italy in cooperation with the *Società italiana di storia delle religioni* and the Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità dell'Università degli studi di Salerno. The title of the conference was "Ugo Bianchi: Una vita per la storia delle religioni", and 19 papers were read on various aspects of Bianchi's scholarly career. The first day was devoted to his activities in the IAHR and at uni-

versities in Messina, Bologna, Milano and Rome. The second day was devoted to Bianchi's many contributions to various areas of research. The final day was devoted to discussions of Bianchi's methodological contributions. Prof. Dr. Peter Antes was present at the conference and conveyed our warmest greetings in the memory of Prof. Ugo Bianchi.

Inquiries should be sent to Prof. Giovanni Casadio, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Università degli studi di Salerno, 84084 Fisciano (SA), Italia.

IAHR Regional Conference on Methodology of the Study of Religions, August 4-7, 1997

An IAHR regional conference was held in Turku, Finland in cooperation with the Donner Institute and the *Finnish Association for the Study of Comparative Religion*. The venue was the Turku Christian Institute in a peaceful wooded area just outside of the city. The conference was attended by about 100 scholars and Ph.D. students from the Scandinavian and other European countries as well as from Canada, the U.S., Africa and Morocco. The program was packed with 43 papers on a variety of problems dealing with methodology in the study of religions, and the introductory lecture by Lauri Honko provided a historical dimension in his comparison of present themes and issues with the themes and issues of the 1972 conference on methodology that was also held in Turku. He noted two important changes. First, the new emphasis on the recognition of the voice of the religion being studied, and, second, the feminist or gendered perspective. The papers given during the conference were witness to the wide variety of approaches characteristic of our field. Just an example of some of the approaches: linguistic (philology, structuralism, semiotics, literary), philosophical (hermeneutics, feminism, post-colonial criticism), social sciences (anthropology, sociology), historical (history, archaeology), comparative studies, and iconographical.

The conference was followed by a working session for Ph.D. students on the 8th. This was the second session of the *Nordic Network for Ph.D. Programs in the Study of Religion*. The students were given the opportunity to meet with a number of senior scholars in order to discuss their Ph.D. projects. The general impression was that it was very useful for the students to have senior scholars analyze their abstracts and discuss their projects in smaller groups of 4 or 5. Questions and comments from the seniors raised new problems and helped solve old ones, and the sessions also gave the students opportunities to discuss their projects with each other.

The conference publication is currently being edited. Please contact Dr. Tore Ahlbäck, Donner Institute, Gezeliusgatan 2, POB 70, FIN-20501 Åbo, Finland, e-mail [tore.ahlback@abo.fi], phone +358 2-2654314, fax +358 2-2311290 for further information.



News from the Net

The section will bring interesting news from the Internet. We encourage our members and readers to send us short articles or announcements on interesting web-sites. Short reports on Ph.D. projects concerning the internet are also welcome.

IAHR Homepage

The homepage of the *International Association for the History of Religions* (IAHR) is now available for general consultation by courtesy of the University of Marburg at <http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb11/religionswissenschaft/iahr>, or it can be found via "links" from the Marburg Religionswissenschaft homepage if you already have a bookmark for that. It is hoped that in the near future a shorter and more convenient URL will be made available. (Link-setters in particular please note this information.) Affiliate associations are encouraged to develop their own homepages and establish links with the IAHR homepage. Furthermore, it should be noted that each affiliate is mentioned in the IAHR homepage. For those who have not as yet developed their own homepage, please feel free to send us files with up-dated information for the IAHR homepage slot. It would be nice if by Durban 2000 we had a substantial number of affiliate homepages linked to the IAHR site.

The IAHR homepage is edited by the undersigned on behalf of the Executive Committee and will of course be updated from time to time. It was designed by Richard Boehme.

With greetings to potential browsers,

Michael Pye, in association with Armin W. Geertz and Rosalind Hackett

Internet resources of professional interest to IAHR members

A growing number of scholarly associations and institutions for the study of religion are now on the net. This development provides a whole new basis for the exchange of information and ideas across the borders. Many are using the internet on a regular basis, either for information on specific religions or related subjects, or for news from associations worldwide. Of singular importance is, of course, direct communication with colleagues around the world via e-mail.

Included here is a selection of some relevant sites found on the World Wide Web maintained by diverse associations and institutions and, furthermore, a list of other useful items that some may not be acquainted with.

IAHR Affiliates

Australia: AASR

[<http://www.une.edu.au/arts/StudinRelig/aasr.htm>]

The AASR site contains information on the officers of the association, AASR membership and fees, publications by the association, the site of its official journal *Australian Religion Studies Review*, and various links to religious studies institutions in Australia.

Canada: CSSR/SCÉR

[<http://www.CHASS.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/Cssr.html>]

The CSSR/SCÉR site provides information on current officers, the constitution, a membership list with many direct e-mail links, membership form, program for the 1997 annual meeting, essay contests, and the association bulletin. Furthermore, there are links to a variety of resource and information sites in Canada and elsewhere in the world.

Denmark: DAHR

[<http://www.hum.ou.dk/dahr/index.htm>]

The DAHR site provides information on current officers with direct e-mail links, membership form, the constitution, a calendar of events, information on departments of the study of religion in Denmark, Danish periodicals on the study of religion, and relevant links to sites in Denmark and elsewhere in the world.

Finland: Suomen Uskototieteellinen Suera

[<http://www.abo.fi/~tahlback/html/religion.html>]

The Finnish Association is currently under construction, however, brief mention can be found through the site of its president, Dr. Tore Ahlbäck at the Donner Institute.

Germany: DVRG

[<http://www1.uni-bremen.de/~dvrg/>]

The DVRG site provides information on current officers, the constitution, information from annual meetings, various publications, an official declaration on ethics, a complete listing of the addresses of German institutions for the study of religion, links to related journals and to other sites in the world, as well as information on the coming congress in Hildesheim where the *European Association for the Study of Religions* will be officially established.

United States: NAASR

[<http://www2.ucsc.edu/~rehbock/>]

Contains extensive information on the *North American Association for the Study of Religion*: previous meetings, national and international conferences, newsletters, pub-

lications, the structure of NAASR and its membership and other information.

Other Academic Societies

American Academy of Religion [<http://scholar.cc.emory.edu/>]; *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* [<http://fhss.byu.edu/soc/sss/index.html>]; and *U. S. Council of Societies for the Study of Religion* [<http://www.cssr.org:80/cssrmemb.htm>].

Centers and Departments for the Study of Religion

There are many sites maintained by various departments and centers for the study of religion. Obviously it would be too overwhelming to list them here, so we will reserve News from the Net to concentrate on organizations and other interesting sites. If, however, there are unusual or highly excellent center or department sites which may be of interest to IAHR members, please keep this Bulletin in mind. A comprehensive list of religious studies departments is the *Programs for the Study of Religion Worldwide* maintained at the University of California Santa Barbara [<http://ucsbuxa.ucsb.edu/rgstd/resource/othrdept.html>]. A comprehensive list of research resources in general is *The Voice of the Shuttle: Web Page for Humanities Reserach* [<http://www.humanitas.ucsb.edu/>] which also has an excellent list of links to religious studies sites.

One site of particular excellence is that of Prof. Gene R. Thursby entitled *Religion Religions Religious Studies: Information and Links for Study and Interpretation of Religions* [<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/rel/index.htm>]. This site contains annotated links to online resources for the study of religions, links to Afro-European traditions, Asian traditions, alternative or new religions, relations among religions, religious experience, academic programs and research, religion and modernity, religion and the internet, theory and method, and a site he calls "A Few Islands of Calm". One of the most interesting features is his page on theory and method with links to resources and sites on a large number of major scholars in the study of religion.

Other sites that may be of interest for this section are sites like the specialized bibliography by Prof. Bruce Alton at the Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto [<http://www.CHASS.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/method/index.html>] or the *Critical Guide to the Study of Religion* by Willi Braun and Russell T. McCutcheon [<http://www.smsu.edu/contrib/relst/guide/toc.htm>]. There are also a number of interesting sites with links, information and references to leading scholars in philosophy and in the history of the study of religion (Thursby's above-mentioned site is a goldmine of these kinds of links). Examples are the websites on: Émile Durkheim [<http://eddie.cso.uiuc.edu/Durkheim/>]; Mircea Eliade [<http://www.friesian.com/eliade.htm>]-don't miss the online copy of Eliade's *From Primitives to Zen* [<http://www.enteract.com/~jwalz/Eliade/>]; Sigmund Freud [<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/rel/freud.htm>]; René Girard [<http://starwww.uibk.ac.at/theologie/theologie-en.html>]; C. J. Jung [<http://www.enteract.com/~jwalz/Jung/>]; Rudolf Otto [<http://www.netrax.net/>]

~galles/]; and Max Weber [http://diogenes.baylor.edu/WWWproviders/Larry_Ridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#Weber]. See also the *Dead Sociologists' Society* by Prof. Larry Ridener at Radford University [http://diogenes.baylor.edu/WWWproviders/Larry_Ridener/DSS/DEADSOC.HTML].

Listservers

A very useful item on the Web is the steadily increasing number of listservers that provide a common ground for scholars (and other interest groups) to discuss various subjects of interest. The lists offered ranges from BUDDHA-L a list concerning buddhist academic discourse to a list like MERTON-L a listservice occupied with the study and practice of contemplative life. A useful list of such servers can be found at this address: [<http://www.indiana.edu/~relstud/econf.html>]. Take a look as well at Prof. Thursby's section on e-mail forums and newsgroups [<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/rel/emailers.htm>].

Two relevant lists for academic discourse are the American religious studies forum at Santa Barbara, California [andere-l@ucsbvm.ucsb.edu] and a similar forum at the University of Kent at Canterbury, U.K. [religious-studies-uk@mailbase.ac.uk]. If you are interested in the Millennium, see what is going on at the *Talk 2000 Forum* which is an "open moderated mailing list for topics related to the folklore, festivities and future of the year 2000" (in their welcome page) [listproc@usc.edu]. Other interesting lists are the *Philosophy of African Society Discussion List* [eeze@bucknell.edu]; the *Mystic-L List* [das93006@uconnvm.uconn.edu]; the *Study of New Religious Movements Discussion List* [hexham@acs.ucalgary.ca]; the *Religious Humor Discussion List* [owner-rehu-l@ecnet.net]; the *Religion and the Law Discussion List* [volokh@law.ucla.edu]; and the *General Anthropology Listserver* [danny@cs.su.oz.au].

The above-mentioned Indiana address also has information about Electronic Journals. One relevant example is the *NAASR Newsletter* [rehbock@cats.ucsc.edu]. Another is the SSRF electronic bulletin by our Swedish affiliate [Monica.Engelhart@rel.su.se]. A third concerns the new *Anthropology of Religion Section* of the *American Anthropological Association* which produces a newsletter called *AR-NEWS* [ar-news@umich.edu].

Online Reference Works

Many useful web tools are being developed at the moment. For scholars with interests such as ours, one of the important areas of development is that of reference works. A truly impressive lexicon resource is the classic Liddell-Scott and Liddell-Scott-Jones lexicon [<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/lexica.html>]. Even if you cannot read Greek, just take a look and enjoy the sheer technical sophistication of this dictionary. Another useful work is *Roget's Thesaurus* [<http://www.thesaurus.com/>]. The *Free Internet Encyclopedia* [<http://clever.net/cam/encyclopedia.html>] is an encyclopedia composed of information available on the net. *A Web of Online Dictionaries* [<http://www.bucknell.edu>].

edu/~rbeard/diction2.html] by R. Beard is a wonderful collection of links to dictionary sources for a large number of the languages of the world.

Libraries

All the major libraries of the world are on the net. For a comprehensive list with links to libraries around the world see the *Digital Librarian: a Librarian's Choice of the Best of the Web* [<http://www.servtech.com/public/mvmail/librarians.html>] and *WebCats - Library Catalogues on the World Wide Web* [<http://library.usask.ca/hywebcat/>]. See also the *Gabriel - Gateway to Europe's National Libraries* [<http://portico.bl.uk/gabriel/en/welcome.html>] and *Libweb - Library WWW Servers* [<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Libweb>] which lists 1428 pages from libraries in 62 countries. Some of the most important libraries are, of course, Bibliothèque Nationale de France [<http://www.bnf.fr/>]; the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford [<http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/>]; the British Library [<http://www.bl.uk/>]; Die Deutsche Bibliothek [<http://www.ddb.de/>]; Library of Congress [<http://lcweb.loc.gov/homepage/>]; National Diet Library in Tokyo [<http://www.ndl.go.jp/index-e.html>]; and National Library of Australia [<http://www.nla.gov.au/>].

Theses and Dissertations

The use of the web for publishing students theses and Ph.D. dissertations is also an area in growth. An important site is the *Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations* [<http://www.ndltd.org/>].

Journals and CyberJournals

Many paper journals have now established websites. See the following: *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* [<http://fhss.byu.edu/soc/ssr/jssrsub.html>]; *Religion. An International Journal* [<http://www.hbuk.co.uk/www/ideal/journals/rl.htm>]; *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* [<http://www2.ucsc.edu/~rehbock/journal.html>]; *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft* [<http://www1.uni-bremen.de/~dvrg/zfrd.htm>]; *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* [<http://www.sevenbridgespress.com/nova/index.html>]; *What's New in WWW Social Sciences Newsletter* [<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/SOCSCI/news.htm>]; and *International Journal of Hindu Studies* [<http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/ijhs/>]. At the site of the Scandinavian journal *Temenos. Studies in Comparative Religion Presented by Scholars in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden* one can find the entire recent issue (volume 32, 1996) at [<http://www.abo.fi/comprel/temenos>].

A growing number of cites consist of cyberjournals, in other words, journals that are only found on the web. If you are interested in producing such a journal or simply in following developments of this kind, try consulting the discussion list *HyperJournal* at Goldsmiths, University of London [<http://www.gold.ac.uk/history/hyperjournal/hyperj.htm>] and especially the excellent survey report *Survey of STM Online Journals*

1990-95: the Calm before the Storm by Steve Hitchcock, Leslie Carr and Wendy Hall at the University of Southampton [<http://journals.ecs.soton.ac.uk/survey/survey.html>].

Our members are encouraged to visit the *Internet Journal of Religion* at the University of Marburg edited by Michael Pye. The site incorporates *Marburg Journal of Religion*, *DISKUS*, and *Science of Religion (web edition)*: [<http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb11/religionswissenschaft/journal/>]. Another interesting journal is *The Journal of Religion and Film* at the University of Nebraska at Omaha [<http://www.unomaha.edu/~wwwjrf/>].

There are also several review journals on the net. The *World Trade - A Reader's Guide to Recent Books & New Media* [<http://www.wordtrade.com/>] is an excellent resource as well as is the *Religious Studies Review - Index Search* which is an index of volumes 16-22 of the journal of that name [<http://www.cssr.org/cgi-bin/TangoCGI.exe/cssr/cssridx.qry?function=form>].

Museums

Museums also contain resource materials for the study of religion. Try the *Virtual Museum, Oriental Institute* at the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago [<http://www.oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/QTVR96/QTVR96.html>]; the American Museum of Natural History [<http://www.amnh.org/>]; the Cyberspace Museum of Natural History and Exploration Technology [<http://www.cyberspacemuseum.com/>]; the Field Museum of Natural History [<http://www.fnmh.org/>]; the Smithsonian Institution [<http://www.si.edu/newstart.htm>]; and the Louvre WebMuseum, Paris [<http://www.sunsite.unc.edu/louvre/>].

Publishers and Bookstores

Almost every major publishing company has a web site, so these will not be listed here. There are several book stores where one can purchase books and find information about books. One of the largest is Amazon.com Books. It has a very efficient and secure customer service, a flexible search base with millions of titles, and various services such as short reviews of new titles in selected subjects and notifications of new titles by selected authors [<http://www.amazon.com/>]. Simon & Schuster: A Viacom Company [<http://www.simonandschuster.com/>] is also a good bookstore.

Religious resources

Many scholars are now becoming accustomed to surfing the internet in search of religious data and texts. Internet sites are certainly essential in studying contemporary new religiosity as well as in the more traditional religious market. Here are a few sites that bring together large numbers of religious resource homepages.

The APS Research Guide to Resources for Theological and Religious Studies

[<http://www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/theobook.htm>]

This site is maintained at the University of Toronto and contains a well-organized list of links to many resource sites.

Comparative Religion: A Directory of Internet Resources for the Academic Study of Religion [<http://weber.u.washington.edu/~madin/>]

This site is a blend of religious resources as well as links to academic societies and institutions.

Mike's Religion Page [<http://www.servtech.com/public/mcroghan/rel2.htm#INTRO>]

Disregarding the informal title of this site, there are actually a number of valuable links to be found here. The site is structured and systematic, and is an efficient tool for finding other useful sites on various religions and religious groups.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: Facets of Religion

[<http://sunfly.ub.uni-freiburg.de/religion/>]

A fairly comprehensive site edited by Dr. Armin Müller on religions in general as well as religious discussion lists, interfaith links and so on.

World Wide Web Virtual Library: Spirituality & Consciousness

[<http://www.spiritweb.org/spirituality.html>]

An interesting site on contemporary spirituality and consciousness edited by Dr. René K. Müller.

Finding God in Cyberspace [<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~mikef/durham/gresham.html>]

Another elaborate and comprehensive guide to the Internet resources of religions is provided by this site, maintained by Dr. John L. Gresham, currently a director of Mabee Library at Sterling College, Kansas. The site includes lists of both further exploration suggestions and an impressive list of sites concerning different religious beliefs.

Etext Archives [<http://www.etext.org/>]

This site contains links to electronic texts of all kinds, “from the sacred to the profane, from the political to the personal” and includes a lists of online religious and other documents.



News from the National Associations

Africa (Regional Association): AASR (African Association for the Study of Religions)

Co-ordinator: Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, University of California, Davis, Afro-American and Black Studies Program, Davis, California, USA 95616
[jkolupona@ucdavis.edu]

Treasurer: Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, University of Tennessee, 501 McClung Tower, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA 37996-0450
[rhackett@utk.edu]

The *African Association for the Study of Religions* was founded in 1992 at Harare, Zimbabwe, in the context of a regional conference of the IAHR. It was formally affiliated at the XVIIth Congress of the IAHR at Mexico City in 1995. AASR includes regional representatives in West Africa, East and Central Africa, and Southern Africa, as well as members from North and South America and Europe. The association publishes the *Journal of Religion in Africa* (E. J. Brill) and a newsletter. In the spirit of the up-coming IAHR congress Durban 2000, the Executive Committee of the IAHR decided to help distribute the AASR newsletter as a kind of co-sponsorship until Durban.

According to the AASR constitution, the AASR meets at least twice in every five year period. One is held at the occasion of the IAHR quinquennial congress and the other is held between congresses, preferably on the African continent. Plans have been made since 1997 to organize a conference in Kenya during 1999, and the Executive Committee of the IAHR will discuss at its meeting in Hildesheim the possibility of designating that conference as an IAHR Regional Conference. If this conference can be realized, it will be the second IAHR conference ever held in Africa.

In the October 1996 newsletter (no. 6), it is noted that the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religion* (NASR) received donations from the Federal Government of Nigeria to produce a number of books on religion. A conference on "Religion and Society" was held in Johannesburg in June 1996 hosted by the *South African Academy of Religion* and the *Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa* (ASRSA). The issue highlights *The Journal of Religion in Africa* and contains standard sections (in all the issues) with useful information on scholarships offered, individual projects, publications, and African studies departments around the world. In this issue, the addresses of African institutes related to the study of religions are listed. In the May 1997 issue (no. 7), the first two volumes of the AASR series *Studies in African Religions* are announced (see mention of the first volume on page 37 in this bulletin). It also contains an interesting report on religious studies programs in East Africa, and the President of AASR announces that attempts are being made to establish a national

and/or regional association in the region before the end of the century. The issue also contains a brief item on the study of religions in Senegal. In the November 1997 issue (no. 8), volume three of the AASR series is announced as well as the upcoming Kenya conference. There is also a short notice on religious studies at the University of Zambia.

AASR will be co-hosting the upcoming XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR in Durban, South Africa on August 5-12, 2000. See more details on page 10 and page 31 in this bulletin.

For more information about the AASR contact Prof. Jacob Olupona. The AASR newsletter is edited by Dr. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (ISRS), Motorwal 33, 1021 PC Amsterdam, The Netherlands [gterhaar@pi.net] and Dr. Abdulkader I. Tayob, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa [tayob@socsci.uct.ac.za].

Australia: AASR (Australian Association for the Study of Religion)

[<http://www.une.edu.au/arts/StudinRelig/aasr.htm>]

President: Dr. Trevor Jordan, School of Humanities, Queensland University of Technology, P.O.Box 284, Zillmere, 4034 Australia

Secretary: Ms. Tricia Blombery, 87 Cavendish Street, Stanmore, 2048 Australia
[stuart_tricia@one.net.au]

Treasurer: Mr. David Burgess, 296 Glenmore Rd, Paddington NSW 2021 Australia

The *Australian Association for the Study of Religion* is one of the larger affiliates of the IAHR, and it hosted the quinquennial Congress in 1985 at Sydney. It is a professional organisation with a membership of more than 300 people, comprised of teachers, academics, students and others with a knowledge and experience of religious traditions. The AASR aims to function as a meeting place where the study of religion in its broadest dimensions may be fostered. The next annual meeting will be held in July 1998. The AASR publishes the biannual journal *Australian Religion Studies Review* [st969229@echidna.stu.cowan.edu.au] which publishes academic papers dealing with all aspects of religion/s with the exception of theological or confessional papers. The table of contents of the last three issues are found on the AASR website. The association also publishes a monograph series entitled *Special Studies in Religion* as well as a *Selected Paper Series* and a number of separate volumes.

Belgium/Luxembourg: Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions

President: Prof. Julien Ries, Centre d'Histoire des Religions (A.S.B.L.), Université Catholique de Louvain, Rue de Dorlodot 13, B-5020 Namur-Suarlee, Belgique

Secretary: Prof. André Motte, Université de Liège, Département des sciences philosophiques, 32, Place du 20 Août, B-4000 Liège, Belgique

Treasurer: Prof. Vinciane Pirenne-Delforge, Université de Liège, 32, Place du 20 Août, B-4000 Liège, Belgique

The recently formed *Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire Religions* builds on the long tradition of the Belgian association. It publishes a fairly large bulletin in French entitled *Hieros. Bulletin annuel de la Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions*. The first issue appeared in 1996 and contains articles on the history of the association, its various activities, and its constitution. There is also a useful information on institutes and schools relevant to the history of religions at various universities in Belgium and Luxembourg as well as the announcement of conferences and an informative bibliography. The second issue appeared in 1997 and contains information on the activities of the society, a description of museums and centers relevant to the history of religions, and a homage to Franz Cumont. Once again, the announcement of conferences and an informative bibliography round out the bulletin.

For further information contact: Prof. André Motte.

***Canada: CSSR/SCÉR (Canadian Society for the Study of Religions)
(La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion)***

[<http://www.CHASS.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/Cssr.html>]

President: Prof. William Closson James, Department of Religious Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6

[jameswc@post.queensu.ca]

Secretary: Dr. David Seljak, Religious Studies Department, St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

[dseljak@watarts.uwaterloo.ca]

Treasurer: Prof. Jordan Paper, Religious and Women's Studies Programs, 242 VC, York University, North York, Ontario, M3J 1P3, Canada

[jpaper@yorku.ca]

The CSSR/SCÉR provides a meeting place for all who are involved in the academic study of religion, for example, anthropologists, historians, phenomenologists, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, and theologians. The society fosters an interdiscip-

linary discourse in order to arrive at a better, integrated understanding of religious phenomena. It encourages research in the development of the study of religion with particular reference to the Canadian scene. And it promotes a critical examination of the goals, methods, and styles of teaching demanded by the discipline (loosely cited from Article II of the Constitution). In their efforts to encourage young scholars, the CSSR/SCÉR offers student essay cash awards.

The CSSR/SCÉR publishes the journal *Studies in Religion/Sciences religieuses* and *CSSR/SCÉR Bulletin*. There are approximately 263 members. The 1998 annual meetings will be held at the University of Ottawa, Thursday May 28 - Sunday May 31, 1998.

Canada (Quebec): SQÉR (La Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion)

President: Prof. Michel Despland, Département des sciences religieuses, Université Concordia, 1455, boulevard de Maisonneuve ouest, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8
Canada

Secretary: Prof. Jacques Pierre, Département des sciences religieuses, Université du Québec à Montréal, C.P. 8888, Succ Centre-Ville, Montréal, Québec H3C 3P8
Canada

Treasurer: Dr. René St-Germain, 2060 avenue De LaSalle, Montréal, Québec, H1V 2K5
Canada

This Francophone association was founded (in agreement with the *Canadian Society of the Study of Religion*) as an independent body which shares the Canadian representation in the IAHR.

China: CARS (Chinese Association for the Study of Religion)

President: Prof. Dir. Kong Fan, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 5 Jianguomennei Street, Beijing 100732, China

Secretary: Prof. Wang Zhiyuan, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 5 Jianguomennei Street, Beijing 100732, China

After the development of contacts over a number of years the Chinese association was affiliated at the IAHR Congress in Rome 1990. A Regional Conference of the IAHR was held in Beijing in 1992 of which the proceedings have been published (see page 37 elsewhere in this bulletin). The Chinese association has sent several issues of their newsletter. They are currently being read by a colleague in order to produce an Eng-

lish language digest.

Cuba: ACER (Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión)

President: Dr. Jorge Ramírez Calzadilla, Academia de Ciencias de Cuba, CIPS, Jefe del Dpto. Estudios Socioreligiosos, Calle O N. 8 e/ 17 y 19, Vedado Código Postal 10400, Ciudad de La Habana, Cuba

The Cuban association was affiliated to the IAHR at the XVIIth Congress in Mexico City in 1995. Dra. Yolotl González Torres, Vice-president of the IAHR, reported on a conference held in Havana on September 23-25, 1997 on the theme “Religiosidad Popular. Un elemento importante en la Identidad cultural latina y caribeña”. The conference was co-hosted by El Departamento de Estudios Sociorreligiosos (DESR) in Havana, the *Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión (ACER)*, the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas de la UNAM (IIA), the *Sociedad Mexicana de Estudios de las Religiones (SMER)*, and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), the latter three of México. The themes addressed were the theoretical and methodological problems in studying the beliefs and practices of popular religions, cosmovision and popular religiosity in Mesoamerica, popular religion and identity in Latin America and the Carribean, popular religiosity in Latin America and the Carribean, and popular religious forms and social change. Furthermore two panels were organized on the themes, methods, and results in the study of popular religiosity in México, organized by IIA, and on food, drink and the ritual use of plants in México and Cuba.

***Czech Republic: Ceska Spolecnost Pro Studium Nabozenstvi
Czech Society for the Study of Religion***

President: Dr. Bretislav Horyna, Department of Philosophy, Palacky University, Krizkovského 12, 771 80 Olomouc, Czech Republic

Secretary: Dr. Dalibor Papousek, Institute for Religious Studies, Masaryk University, Mendlovo namesti 19, 603 00 Brno, Czech Republic
[papousek@phil.muni.cz]

Treasurer: Dr. Iva Dolezalová, Czech Academy of Sciences, Masaryk University, Institute for Ethics and Religious Studies, Mendlovo namesti 19, 603 00 Brno, Czech Republic
[dolezalo@phil.muni.cz]

The Czech Society publishes the journal *Religio. Revue pro Religionistiku* (ISSN

1210-3640). The Society also announces the publication of the proceedings from the Brno conference of 1994 *Religions in Contact* (see the announcement elsewhere in this bulletin).

***Denmark: DAHR (Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie)
Danish Association for the History of Religions***

[<http://www.hum.ou.dk/dahr/index.htm>]

President: Dr. Tim Jensen, Department of Philosophy, Center for Religious Studies, University of Odense, Campusvej 55, DK-5320 Odense M, Denmark
[t.jensen@filos.ou.dk]

Secretary: Dr. Mikael Aktor, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Main Building, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
[aktor@post8.tele.dk]

Treasurer: Dr. Ingrid Müller, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Main Building, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
[muller@teologi.aau.dk]

The *Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie* became affiliated to the IAHR at the Sydney congress in 1985. The DAHR publishes a newsletter regularly as well as an electronic newsletter. In the recent issue of the newsletter (nr. 21, Spring 1998), it is announced that a new executive committee was elected by the general assembly in October 1997. The DAHR has chaired NORREL for the past two years and a meeting was held in conjunction with the DAHR conference. It was decided at the meeting that the Nordic Network on Ph.D. Programs in the Study of Religion should be extended beyond the proposed three-year span. Both Sweden and Norway still need to host a Nordic Ph.D. course, and plans are being made in Finland to host once again a course in December 1998. The newsletter also announces that a DAHR website is currently under construction.

The DAHR announces the publication of the proceedings of the Aarhus conference in 1996 *Rationality and the Study of Religion* (see the announcement on page 38 in this bulletin).

***Finland: Suomen Uskotieteellinen Suera
Religionsvetenskapliga Sällskapet i Finland
Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion***

[<http://www.abo.fi/~tahlback/html/religion.html>]

President: Dr. Tore Ahlbäck, Donner Institute, P.O.Box 70 (Gezeliusgatan 2), FIN-

20501 Åbo, Finland

[tore.ahlback@abo.fi]

Secretary: Dr. Martti Junnonaho, Comparative Religion, Turku University, FIN-20500
Turku, Finland

Treasurer: Merkonom Maj-Lis Fagerholm, Nordic Institute of Folklore, P.O.Box 107,
FIN-20501 Turku, Finland

The Finnish society publishes the journal *Temenos. Studies in Comparative Religion Presented by Scholars in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden* (ISSN 0479-1817). The society has just concluded a successful IAHR regional conference on methodology (see the report on page 44 in this bulletin) and is currently editing the proceedings.

France: Société Ernest-Renan. Société Française d'Histoire des Religions

President: Prof. Raymond Bloch, Directeur d'études à l'E.P.H.E. (Ve. section), 12, rue
Emile Faguet, F-75014 Paris, France

Secretary: Prof. M. André Caquot, Collège de France, 1, rue Monticelli, F-75014
Paris, France

Treasurer: Prof. Ernest-Marie Laperrousaz, Directeur d'études à l'E.P.H.E. (Ve. section), 20, rue de Vanves, F-92140 Clamart, France

The French affiliate to the IAHR is named after Ernest Renan. The first in the series of congresses which led to the foundation of the IAHR took place in Paris in 1900. A regional conference of the IAHR was held in Paris in 1993. The *Société Ernest-Renan* publishes a newsletter.

Germany: DVRG (Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte)

[<http://www1.uni-bremen.de/~dvr/>]

President: Prof. Dr. Hans G. Kippenberg, Universität Bremen, Fachbereich 9, Postfach 330440, D-2800 Bremen, Germany
[kippen@religion.uni-bremen.de]

Treasurer: Dr. Brigitte Luchesi, Universität Bremen, Fachbereich 9, Postfach 330440, D-2800 Bremen, Germany
[luchesi@religion.uni-bremen.de]

The *Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte* publishes the journal *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft* (ISSN 0943-8610). It will be hosting an IAHR regional conference

ence in Hildesheim this May. Please see the program and announcement on page 26 in this bulletin.

Hungary: Magyar Vallástudományi Társaság
Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions

President: Prof. Dr. Mihály Hoppál, Ethnographic Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1250 Budapest, Hungary

Secretary: Dr. Irén Lovász, Hunyadi Janos ut 17 m.f. 1/a, 1011 Budapest, Hungary

Treasurer: Prof. Dr. Eva Pócs, Ethnographic Institute, Országház u. 30, P.O.Box 29, 1250 Budapest, Hungary

Members of the Hungarian association have participated in IAHR events over many years spanning the political changes in eastern Europe.

India: IAHR (India) (Indian Association for the History of Religions)

President: Prof. Dr. Makhan Jha, "Shambhavi", Harihar Singh Road, Morabadi, Ranchi-834 008, India

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, Balihar Road, Morabadi, Ranchi-8, Bihar, India

Report by Prof. Singh: In 1990, during the 16th world congress of the IAHR held in Rome, the *Indian Association for the History of Religions* was founded with the help of Prof. M. Pye. Due to continuous efforts, the national association of India received affiliation in 1995 at the 17th world congress of the IAHR held in Mexico City. Our president, Dr. Makhan Jha participated in that congress, and he conveyed information from our association to other participants at the congress. During the past six years of our tenure, we have expanded the membership drive and scholars from different zones of India were interested in joining the association. On August 16, 1996, a delegation consisting of Dr. M. Jha (President), Dr. Karma Oraon (Vice President), and Dr. K. P. Singh (General Secretary) met with the Governor of Bihar, Dr. A. R. Kidwai, concerning the introduction of teaching comparative religion at the universities of Bihar. Dr. Kidwai stressed that due to paucity of funds, the subject cannot be taught as an independent discipline but it could be introduced at post-graduate levels at the universities. The meeting proved to be very fruitful. Dr. M. Jha has already prepared a syllabus for the introduction of comparative religion at the universities of Bihar.

Dr. S. N. Munda, an anthropologist at Ranchi University and a devoted member of our association, recently visited Sweden, Nepal, and the U.K. presenting various pa-

pers bringing us honor abroad. We have on several occasions decided to organize a national seminar on behalf of IAHR (India), but due to financial strain, we have not yet achieved our goal.

Indonesia: Indonesian Association for the Study of Research of Religion

President: Prof. Dr. H. Syamsuddin Abdullah, Perum. Iain Sunan Kalijaga A-1, Jalan Adisucipto, Yogyakarta 55221, Indonesia
[windy@yogya.wasantara.net.id]

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Burhan Daya

Treasurer: Prof. Dr. Alef Theria Wasim, Jl. Sorogenen: 10 (U.H.), Utara Brahma Putra, Yogyakarta 55162, Indonesia

The Indonesian association was affiliated to the IAHR at the 1990 Congress in Rome.

Israel: Israel Society for the History of Religion

President: Prof. R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel

Secretary: Dr. M. Mach, Jewish Philosophy, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, 69978 Tel-Aviv, Israel

Treasurer: Dr. M. Shahar, The Hebrew University, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem 91905, Israel

The Israeli association is one of the older affiliates of the IAHR.

Italy: Società italiana di storia delle religioni

President: Prof. Gherardo Gnoli, Via della Pace 8, I-00186 Roma, Italia

Secretary: Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro, Via Protonotaro, Is. 204, I-98123 Messina, Italia

[gasparro@imeuniv.unime.it]

Treasurer: Prof. Maria Vittoria Cerutti, Via Legnano 10, I-20121 Milano, Italia

The XVIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR was held in Rome in 1990, and a memorial conference on Ugo Bianchi, former President of the IAHR, was co-hosted by the *Società italiana di storia delle religioni*, the Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità dell'Università degli studi di Salerno, and the IAHR (see page 43 in this bulletin).

Japan: Nihon Shukyo Gakkai
The Japanese Association for Religious Studies

President: Prof. Fujio Ikado, 209-6-21-2 Shimura, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 174 Japan

Secretary: Prof. Shinji Kanai, Tokyo University, Bungakubu, 1-3-7 Hongou,
Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113 Japan

Treasurer: Prof. Michio Araki, Institute of Philosophy, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba-
shi, Ibaragi-Ken, 305 Japan
[whraraki@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp]

This association is probably the largest affiliate of the IAHR and is also one of the oldest, having been founded in 1930. Japan hosted a major IAHR Congress in 1958. Its journal, in Japanese, is entitled *Shûkyô Kenkyû*. Plans are currently being made to host an IAHR event in Japan sometime after the Durban Congress.

Latin America (Regional Association): ALER (Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudio de las Religiones)

President: Prof. Elio Masferrer Kan, EMK, Ap 21-456, 04000 Coyoacán, Mexico,
D.F.

[masfer@netservice.com.mx]

Secretary: Mtra. Isabel Lagarriga Attias, Dirección de Etnología y, Antropología
Social - INAH, Col. San Angel, C.P.- 01000, Mexico D.F.

Treasurer: Antrop. Lourdes Baez Cubero, Apdo. Postal 22-614, Tlalpan 14000,
Mexico, D.F.

The *Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudio de las Religiones* was founded in 1990 and affiliated to the IAHR in that same year at the Rome Congress. It includes members from a number of countries in Latin America, many of whom attended the IAHR Congress in Mexico City in 1995. In June 1996 an IAHR regional conference was co-sponsored with the VIth Latin American Congress on Religion and Ethnicity at the Colombian Institute of Anthropology, Bogota, Columbia, and a report by Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett on the conference is found on page 42 in this bulletin.

Mexico: Sociedad Mexicana para el estudio de las Religiones

President: Prof. Dra. Yolotl González Torres, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e
Historia, Exconvento de El Carmen, Av. Revolución, esq. Monasterio, San Ángel,
01000 Mexico, D.F.

[yolotl@servidor.unam.mx]

Secretary: Prof. Elio Masferrer Kan, EMK, Ap. 21-456, 04000 Coyoacán, México, D.F.

[masfer@netservice.com.mx]

Treasurer: Dra. Eva Alexandra Uchmany, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, División de Posgrado, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán 04510, D. F. México

The Mexican association co-hosted the XVIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR in 1995. It has also recently co-hosted a conference in Cuba (see the report under the Cuban Association).

***Netherlands: NGG (Nederlands Genootschap van Godsdiensthistorici)
Netherlands Association for the History of Religions***

President: Prof. Dr. H. L. Beck, Elsakkerstraat 41, 5081 GM Hilvarenbeek, The Netherlands

Secretary: Dr. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (ISRS), Motorwal 33, 1021 PC Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[gterhaar@pinet]

Treasurer: Drs. C. J. G. van der Burg, Huizingalaan 107, 3572 LK Utrecht, The Netherlands

Report by Dr. W. Hofstee: The *Nederlands Genootschap van Godsdiensthistorici* held its 50th anniversary in Amsterdam. The NGG was founded in 1947. One of the initiators was Gerardus van der Leeuw (1890-1950), who was also one of the founding fathers of the IAHR. On October 4, 1997 members of the NGG came together in Amsterdam to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Prof. Dr. Lammert Leertouwer (Leyden University) and Prof. Dr. Hans G. Kippenberg (University of Bremen and Groningen) both delivered keynote addresses. At the same time, and in the same building, a one-day exhibition of ethnographical artefacts from the private collections of NGG members illustrated the various aspects of religion that they have been interested in.

One of the oldest members of the NGG, Prof. Dr. M. S. H. G. Heerma van Voss (University of Amsterdam), memorialized the history of the Dutch Association at a Persian dinner held in the evening hours. Several other members also took the opportunity to share their personal experiences over the last decades. In the years just after the Second World War, van der Leeuw knew that an interdisciplinary organization for the study of religion was necessary. His idea was to unite not only theologians but, even more so, historians, sociologists, ethnologists, psychologists, and philologists who studied religion or aspects of religion. It took some time before a small portion of

this ambitious goal was achieved in the Netherlands. Today, more and more intellectuals of different scientific backgrounds meet at the NGG conferences and share their interests in the study of religion.

During the anniversary meeting in Amsterdam, the President of the NGG, Prof. Dr. Herman Beck (University of Tilburg), addressed the audience with new ideas and plans for the coming years. A two-day international conference on several aspects of relativism and rationality in the study of religion will be held in May 1998. The conference will not only stimulate debate, but also establish more interdisciplinary cooperation.

The NGG publishes a newsletter in Dutch. In issue 9/1996 information is provided on the activities of the society and announcements concerning conferences and new publications. It also contains the address listing of the NGG members. Issue 10/1996 contains a report on the general meeting of the NGG at Nijmegen on May 18, 1996.

New Zealand: NZASR (New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions)

Secretary: Dr. Jane Simpson, Religious Studies, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8020, New Zealand
[j.simpson@phil.canterbury.ac.nz]

The *New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions* was affiliated to the IAHR at the XVIIth Congress in 1995 in Mexico City. It publishes a newsletter entitled *Yana*. The newsletter has taken on a new format resembling a collage. In no. 49 (Nov. 1996), besides information on names and publications, it is announced that a new department of religious studies and theology is to be established in Otago. In no. 50 (Nov. 1997), it is announced that the biennial conference of the NZASR is to be held in Otago on July 6-9, 1998. It is reported that the department was established there. Announcements are found at the St. Margaret's College website [<http://www.smc.ac.nz>]. In that same issue, religious census data for New Zealand is presented.

We have also received the book of abstracts from the first joint Australian and New Zealand religious studies conference organized by Dr. Jane Simpson and held in Canterbury on July 4-7, 1996. The booklet contains the names, addresses, and e-mail addresses of the participants.

Nigeria: NASR (Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions)

President: Prof. P. Ade Dopamu, Department of Religions, University of Ilorin, Ilorin,

Nigeria

Secretary: Dr. Olu E. Alana, Department of Religions, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

Treasurer: Dr. E. A. Odumuyiwa, Dept. of Religious Studies, Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

Nigeria is one of only two countries in Africa to have its own association which is affiliated to the IAHR. A journal is published entitled: *Religions* (ISSN 0794-3989). The *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religion* has recently received donations from the Federal Government of Nigeria to produce a number of books on religion.

***Norway: NRF (Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening)
Norwegian Association for the History of Religions***

President: Prof. Einar Thomassen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Sydnespllass 9, N-5007 Bergen, Norway
[einar.thomassen@hf.uib.no]

Secretary: Dr. Jens Braarvig, School of Social and Cultural Studies, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 1010 Blindern, N-0315 Oslo 3, Norway
[j.e.braarvig@iks.uio.no]

Treasurer: Dr. Knut A. Jacobsen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Sydnespllass 9, N-5007 Bergen, Norway
[knut.jacobsen@hf.uib.no]

The *Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening* publishes a bulletin in Norwegian. We have received bulletin 8, July 1997. A conference was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the NRF on September 25, 1997 on the theme "The Holy—The Future of the History of Religions II". The bulletin also contains a report on the study of religion in the schools as well as a list of graduate projects for the years 1996-1997. It is also announced that a conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the history of religions in Norway will be held on September 17-20, 1998. We have also received the program. The conference is entitled "100 Years of History of Religions in Norway" and will be hosted by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the University of Oslo. The conference will celebrate the inauguration of the first series of lectures given in the history of religions in Norway by Dr. Philos. William Brede Kristensen at the University of Christiania in Oslo on September 17, 1898. Opening addresses will be given by Prof. Dr. Hans G. Kippenberg (Bremen), Dr. Arie L. Molendijk (Leiden), and Prof. Björn Skogar (Karlstad).

***Poland: Polskie Towarzystwo Religioznawcze
Soci t  Polonaise de Science des Religions***

President: Prof. Zbigniew Stachowski, 00-910 Warsaw, ul. Topograficzna 1 m.20,
Poland

Secretary: Prof. Andrzej W jtcwicz, 02-728 Warsaw, ul. Kmicica 1 m.1008, Poland

Treasurer: Prof. Maria Libiszowska, 02-786 Warsaw, ul. Zamiany 11 m.32, Poland

The Polish association hosted IAHR conferences in 1979 and 1989 of which the proceedings have been published. The Polish Association publishes the journal, in Polish, *Przelad Religioznawczy* (ISSN 1230-4379).

Russia: Russian Association for the History of Religions

Co-President: Prof. Dr. Alexei I. Klibanov, Institute of Russian History, Dm. Uljanov
str. 19, 117036 Moscow, Russia

Secretary: Dr. O. Vasil'eva, Institute of Russian History, Dm. Uljanov str. 19, 117036
Moscow, Russia

Treasurer: Dr. S. Jakovenko, Institute of Russian History, Dm. Uljanov str. 19,
117036 Moscow, Russia

A Russian association was constituted as a successor to the IAHR-affiliated Soviet association formed shortly before the major political changes, but recent information is not available.

***Slovakia: SSN (Slovensk spolonost' pre stdium nbozenstiev pri
SAV Bratislava)***

Slovak Association for Religious Studies

President: Prof. Dr. Jn Komorovsk, Katedra etnolgie, odd. religionistiky,
Filozofick fakulta UK, Gondva ul. 2, P.O.Box 1, 818 01 Bratislava, Slovakia

Secretary: Mgr. Milan Kovc, M.I., E 131, Star Grunty 36, 842 25 Bratislava,
Slovakia

Treasurer: Mgr. Tatiana Krupov, Bajzova 15/10, 010 01 Zilina, Slovakia

The *Slovensk spolonost' pre stdium nbozenstiev pri SAV Bratislava* is a reorganized association formerly a part of the Czechoslovakian IAHR affiliate. It is not yet fully recognized as an IAHR affiliate, but in the past, reorganized associations have become recognized at the earliest possible opportunity. In this case, the Slovak Asso-

ciation should be approved by the International Committee in Hildesheim 1998 and final recognition will be presented to the General Assembly in Durban 2000.

The following is a report by Prof. Komorovský. The Slovak Association reports that during the period of 1948-1989, during the rule of the Communist Party, an official materialist, atheist ideology and anti-ecclesiastical as well as anti-religious policy was dominant. No serious research in the religions of the world could be carried out. Subsequently, after the fall of Communism in November 1989, Prof. Ján Komorovský (born in 1924) took measures leading to an introduction and official acceptance of the research and study subject of the science of religion. Analogous measures were taken in the Czech Republic, where the *Society for the Study of Religions* was founded in 1990. In 1991 Prof. Komorovský joined this society's committee as a representative of religionists in Slovakia. The tendencies to establish Slovakia as an independent country were by then obvious, and on November 5, 1992, the *Slovak Association for the Study of Religions* (SASR/SSŠN) was founded at the Philosophical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava while its sister Czech organization was renamed the *Czech Society for the Study of Religions*. Both associations have agreed to continue cooperation in the future.

In 1992 and again in 1995, Prof. Komorovský was elected Chairman of the association. The members of its committee are Ph.D. Ján Molnár (Vice-Chairman), Mgr. Milan Kováč (Secretary), Mgr. Tatiana Krupová (Treasurer), Ph.D. Viktor Krupa, Ph.D. Michal Striženec, and Mgr. František Bednárík. Honorary members of the association are Prof. Jaroslav Pelikán and Prof. Rudolf Macúch (who, unfortunately, died in 1993).

The association is open to researchers in various disciplines, e.g. ethnology, history, archaeology, oriental studies, psychology, sociology, and theology. Students of the science of religion are also admitted. According to its programme, the association encourages universities and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. The association also arranges lectures for the general public.

In the next bulletin, a short article on publication activities will be presented. The SSŠN publishes a journal, in Slovakian, entitled *Hieron. Religionistická Ročenka* (ISBN 80-967138-8-4). I have received the inaugural issue of 1996 which contains articles on a variety of religions as well as reviews and a report on the society. The editorial office is at Oddelenie religionistiky - Katedra etnológie FF UK, Gondova 2, Bratislava 818 01, Slovakia.

Southern Africa: ASRSA (Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa)

President: Prof. Thillay Naidoo, Department of Science of Religion, University of Durban-Westville, Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000 South Africa

[thillay@pixie.udw.ac.za]

Secretary: Prof. Arthur Song, Faculty of Theology, University of Zululand, Private Bag X1001, Kwadlangezwa 3886 South Africa

[asong@pan.uzulu.ac.za]

Treasurer: Dr. Patrick S. Maxwell, Department of Religious Studies, University of Natal, P.O. Box 375, Pietermaritzburg 3200 South Africa

[maxwell@phil.unp.ac.za]

This association is largely based in, but not strictly limited to South Africa. Thus its members played a significant role at the IAHR conference at Harare in 1992. Its own conferences are held regularly and a journal is published entitled *Journal for the Study of Religion* (ISSN 1011-7601). It will be co-hosting the upcoming XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR in Durban, South Africa on August 5-12, 2000. See more details on page 10 and page 31 in this bulletin.

South Korea: KAHR (Korean Association for the History of Religion)

President: Prof. Eun-Bong Lee, Department of Philosophy, Duksung Womens University, 419 Ssangmun Dong, Dobong Gu, Seoul, Korea (132-030)

Treasurer: Prof. Chi-Soo Yi, Department of Indian Philosophy, Duksung Womens University, 419 Ssangmun Dong, Dobong Gu, Seoul, Korea (132-030)

Members of the Korean association have been attending IAHR congresses for a number of years. A journal is published in Korean entitled: *Chongkyo Yonku*.

Spain: SECR (Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones) Spanish Association for the Science of Religions

President: Prof. Dr. Raimon Panikkar, Can Felo, 08511 Tavertet, Barcelona, Spain

Secretary: Prof. Montserrat Abumalham Mas, Facultad de Filología, Universidad Complutense, Despacho 204, E-28040 Madrid, Spain

Treasurer: Prof. Santiago Montero Herrero, Dpto de Historia Antigua, Facultad de Geografía e Historia, Universidad Complutense, E-28040 Madrid, Spain

The *Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones* was recently founded and became affiliated to the IAHR at the 1995 Congress in Mexico City. It publishes a fairly large bulletin in Spanish several times a year. The first bulletin (1993) contains the history of SECR, its constitution, reports by the secretary and treasurer, and the names and addresses of its members. Bulletin 2/1994 contains articles on the study of reli-

gion in Spain, reports by the officers, reviews and a bibliography. Bulletin 3/1995 presents similar information which becomes the standard for the bulletin, as well as a membership list and articles on various topics. From this issue onward a membership list becomes a standard feature. Bulletin 4/1995 contains a report on the IAHR congress and an article on the study of religion in Spain. Bulletin 5/1996 reports on the general assembly of the SECR on November 14, 1995 and on a symposium held in Barcelona on October 2-5, 1996. The theme of the latter was "Estética y religión: El discurso del cuerpo y de los sentidos". Bulletin 6/1996 reports on the general assembly on October 5, 1996 held in conjunction with the above-mentioned symposium as well as resúmenes of the symposium. Bulletin 7/1997 contains articles on the study of religion and education in Spain. Bulletin 8/1997 includes the program of the upcoming 3rd SECR symposium to be held in Sevilla on March 19-21, 1998 with the theme "Mutaciones de lo religioso". Looking through the membership listing in this issue, it is quite clear that the SECR has had a very successful period of growth.

Prominent members of the SECR are on the editorial board of the journal *Ilustración de ciencias de las religiones* (ISSN 1135-4712). Two issues have appeared (1/1996 & 2/1997), and a monograph series has been initiated with a volume by Francisco Diez de Velasco entitled *Termalismo y Religión. La sacralización del agua termal en la Península Ibérica y el norte de África en el mundo antiguo* (Madrid 1998). The editorial office is at Facultad de Filología, Despacho 327, Universidad Complutense, 28048 Madrid, Spain.

***Sweden: SSRF (Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning)
Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion***

President: Prof. Jan Bergman, Theological Institution, P.O.Box 1604, S-75146
Uppsala, Sverige
[jan.bergman@teol.uu.se]

Secretary: Doz. Peter Bryder, Department of the History of Religions, Theological
Institute, University of Lund, Allhelgona Kyrog. 8, S-22362 Lund, Sverige

Treasurer: Doz. Dr. Gudmar Aneer, Department for the History of Religion, Västra
Hamngatan 3, S-41117 Göteborg, Sverige
[gudmar.aneer@religion.gu.se]

The *Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning* publishes a yearbook, in Swedish, entitled *Svensk Religionshistorisk Årskrift* (ISSN 0283-0302). It is edited by Prof. David Westerlund (Uppsala) [david.westerlund@teol.uu.se]. Volume 5, 1996 is a theme issue on contemporary political Islam. Volume 6, 1997 is on the theme of New Age and contains a report on the history of religions at the Swedish universities, and is accompanied by an English summary. The yearbook is distributed by Swedish

Science Press, Box 118, 751 04 Uppsala, Sweden (ph. 018-365566).

The SSRF also publishes an electronic bulletin in Swedish entitled *SSRF-Bullen* which contains up-to-date information on various activities by the SSRF. It is edited by Prof. Britt-Mari Näsström (Gothenburg) [b-m.nasstrom@religion.gu.se] and Dr. Monica Engelhart (Stockholm) [monica.engelhart@rel.su.se]. In the September 1997 issue, it was announced that the SSRF annual meeting was held in Uppsala on November 7, 1997. The February 1998 issue announces the annual meeting in Gothenburg on April 3-4, 1998.

Switzerland: SGR/SSSR (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions)

President: Prof. Jacques Waardenburg, Faculté de Théologie, Université de Lausanne, BFSH 2, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

Secretary: Prof. Philippe Borgeaud, 28 ch. des manons, CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland

Treasurer: Dr. David Krieger, Löwengraben 10, CH-6004 Luzern, Switzerland

A bulletin is published giving extensive details of activities in Switzerland relating to the study of religions.

Ukraine: UARR (Ukrainian Association of Religion Researchers)

President: Prof. Anatolij Kolodnij, The Philosophy Institute, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, 4 Triohsvyatytska St., Kyiv, 252001 Ukraine

United Kingdom: BASR (British Association for the Study of Religions)

President: Dr. Kim Knott, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, The University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, United Kingdom
[trskk@arts-01.novell.leeds.ac.uk]

Secretary: Dr. Peggy Morgan, Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT, United Kingdom

Treasurer: Dr. Bob Exon, 24 Winston Terrace, Lidget Green, Bradford BD7 2EW, United Kingdom

The BASR (formerly BAHK) is one of the older affiliates of the IAHR and has published its own bulletin for many years. The bulletin is fairly large. In no. 79 (Nov.

1996) the minutes of the annual meeting of the BASR held in Lancaster on September 17, 1996 are printed as well as the presidential address by Prof. Brian Bocking. It also contains its standard sections on religious studies in the UK as well as overseas, a section on new publications, and the BASR membership list. Besides the excellent standard sections, no. 80 (March 1997) also contains information on the executive committee meeting of BASR on November 8, 1996 and the announcement of its annual conference in Oxford on September 11-13, 1997 on the theme "Religious Experience". No. 81 (June 1997) is the last issue with Dr. Ian Harris as its editor.

United States: NAASR (North American Association for the Study of Religion)

[<http://www2.ucsc.edu/~rehbock/>]

President: Prof. Jonathan Z. Smith, The College, University of Chicago, 1116 East 59th Street, Chicago, ILL 60637, USA

Secretary & Treasurer: Prof. Gary Lease, Merrill College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA

[rehbock@cats.ucsc.edu]

NAASR was initially formed in 1985 to encourage the historical, comparative, structural, theoretical and cognitive study of religion among North American scholars; to represent North American scholars of religion at the international level; and to sustain communication between North American scholars and their international colleagues engaged in the study of religion.

In order to achieve these goals, NAASR has established annual meetings together with the *American Academy of Religion* on the one hand, and the *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* on the other; is affiliated with the IAHR and is the only organization from the United States that enjoys such affiliation; has hosted regional and international meetings; arranged for a variety of publications including books, its "official" quarterly journal, *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* (please see page 36 in this bulletin), and an electronic newsletter three times each year. NAASR also maintains its own website.

NAASR holds meetings concurrently with the *American Academy of Religion* (AAR) and *Society of Biblical Literature* (SBL) annual meetings and has recently been accepted as "Related Scholarly Organization". Russell T. McCutcheon reports that NAASR sponsored a panel on "Theories of Christian Origins" during the annual meeting in November 1996. Panel participants were Jonathan Z. Smith, Burton Mack, Ronald Cameron and Luther Martin. The papers of this panel have been published in *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 8/3 (1996).

Luther H. Martin and Daniel Krymkowski report that NAASR and the *Society*

for the *Scientific Study of Religion* (SSSR) held panels in Nashville, Tennessee, USA in November 1996. This is the third year in which NAASR has organized sessions in association with the annual meeting of the SSSR. Two of these sessions, those on cognition and causality, were continuations of discussions begun at the SSSR meeting in St. Louis in 1995. The NAASR panels on Religion, Cognition, and Ideology were noted in the SSSR Newsletter (December 1995) as one of the "highlights".

Two sections on "Cognitive Approaches to Religion", organized by E. Thomas Lawson (Western Michigan University), featured presentations of continuing research on the cognitive relationship between ritual and memory by Robert McCauley (Emory University), on the cognitive constraints on sacred texts by Brian Malley (University of Michigan), on religious syncretism by Timothy Light (Western Michigan University), and on cultural transmission by Justin Barrett (Cornell University). Among other things, this session was noteworthy because of its interdisciplinary participation by a philosopher (McCauley), a linguist (Light), a psychologist (Barret) and an anthropologist (Malley).

A panel organized by Russell McCutcheon (Southwest Missouri State) on "Late Capitalism Arrives on Campus" addressed issues related to the present job market in religious studies as well as the position that many departments now find themselves in given current budget constraints. The collective conclusions of the panelists were characterized by one of the participants as "depressing". The presentations to this panel have been published in the CSSR Bulletin.

In their panel on "Two Perspectives on Religion as a Causal Force", Daniel Krymkowski and Luther Martin (University of Vermont) reiterated the major points of their paper from the 1996 SSSR meeting: that in much sociology of religion research, the theoretical and empirical bases for viewing "religion" as an independent variable are very weak. If any appeal is made to theory, it is often to Weber who, at best, is ambiguous concerning religion as cause. It was hoped that the discussion between empirical researchers and those concerned with theory might continue at a joint SSSR/NAASR panel at the up-coming meeting in San Diego. To this end a panel on "The Definition of Religion in Social Scientific Research", one of the recurring issues from this year's discussion on whether "religion" is to be understood as in any sense "causal", is tentatively planned. Among other NAASR panels tentatively planned for the 1997 SSSR meeting is a review symposium on Rodney Stark's theory of the growth of early Christianity as presented in his new book, *The Rise of Christianity: A Sociologist Reconsiders History* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996).

Finally, Brian Malley is to be congratulated for receiving the SSSR 1996 Distinguished Article Award for his article on "Explaining Order in Religious Systems", published in *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 7/1 (1995): 5-22.

In the recent issue of the NAASR electronic newsletter (volume 9, no. 1, September 1997), NAASR announced its program for the meeting in San Francisco on November 22, 1997. It consisted of two sessions treating the theme "Universals, Generalities, and Genealogies in the Study of Religion" and consists of papers read by Jonathan

Z. Smith, Gustavo Benavides, Marsha Hewitt, Jeppe Sinding Jensen and Armin W. Geertz, with a response from Donald Wiebe. As the newsletter announces, “The common element is the question of the relation between the universal and the particular in approaches to the study of religion and internal debates within the discipline itself, pondering the very nature[s] of the discipline of the study of religion.” Another session was held on November 23rd entitled “The End of Religion” with papers by Gary Lease, Russell T. McCutcheon and Tim Fitzgerald which will attempt to rethink the category of religion.



Calendar of Events

1998

May 22-25. IAHR regional conference co-hosted by the *Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte* at Hildesheim, Germany. The theme will reflect the theme of the World Fair at Hildesheim in 2000: “Man - Nature - Technics”. The conference will also serve as the venue for the International Committee meeting of the IAHR and the inaugural meeting of the *European Association for the Study of Religions*. Contact: Prof. Dr. Peter Antes, Seminar für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Hannover, Im Moore 21, D-30167 Hannover, Germany, Fax 49-5117624025 [antes@mbox.rewi.uni-hannover.de]. See page 26 for further information.

August 11. Two roundtables co-hosted by the IAHR and NAASR on the theme “Science, Philosophy and the Study of Religion” will be held in connection with the 20th world congress of the *International Federation of Philosophical Societies* (FISP) in Boston on August 10-16, 1998. Contact: Prof. Dr. Armin W. Geertz, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Main Building, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark [geertz@teologi.aau.dk]. See page 28 for further information.

September 17-20. A conference will be held celebrating the 100th anniversary of the history of religions in Norway at the University of Oslo. Contact: The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Drammensveien 78, N-0271 Oslo, Norway [dnva@online.no]. See page 64 for further information.

October 17-21. The general assembly of the *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH)* will be held in Naples, Italy in conjunction with a conference on “Humanistic Studies: Leaving the 20th and Entering the 21st Century”. See page 14 for further information.

1999

January. A conference is being planned by the *African Association for the Study of Religions* to be held in Kenya. Further information will be made available. See page 52.



Information on the IAHR

The IAHR is an worldwide body of national societies for the study of religion and is a member of the *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines/The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies* (CIPSH) under the auspices of UNESCO. It was founded in 1950 on the occasion of the 7th international congress of the history of religions in Amsterdam. The object of the IAHR is the promotion of the academic study of the history of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject.

The IAHR is composed of a General Assembly, an International Committee, and an Executive Committee. The International Committee consists of two delegates from each national or regional association who meet during every congress to elect the Executive Committee and to pursue other important business. The committee also meets once between the congresses. The Executive Committee consists of 12 members roughly representing major areas of the world and as reasonable a gender balance as possible. The current president is Professor Michael Pye at the University of Marburg in Germany.

During the recent congress in Mexico City, the IAHR grew to 34 national and regional associations. The IAHR holds international congresses every five years, and the next will be held in Durban, South Africa on August 5-12, 2000. The IAHR also sponsors regional conferences and special conferences during the quinquennial periods and carries on a tradition of holding its congresses and conferences in as many parts of the world as possible in order to encourage intercultural exchange and to promote IAHR affiliates wherever possible.

Numen. International Review for the History of Religions is the official journal of the IAHR. The editors, Prof. Hans Kippenberg and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson, act on behalf of an international editorial board consisting of the Executive Committee of the IAHR. The journal is also accompanied by a series entitled *Supplements to Numen* with over 50 volumes. The IAHR further sponsors a quarterly journal of abstracts from periodical publications entitled *Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles*. The proceedings of the congresses and conferences have been published in various quarters by the hosting national associations.

Membership in the IAHR is obtained by applying for membership in an IAHR affiliated national association. Individual subscriptions to the *IAHR Bulletin* are also being offered. For further information please contact Prof. Armin W. Geertz, General Secretary of the IAHR.

Membership Questionnaire

(please print clearly)

The following questionnaire is for members and non-members alike. We would like to develop a database that could coordinate various IAHR activities, subscriptions, and information needs. We appreciate your cooperation.

Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Position Degree

Institutional address

.....
.....
.....

Tel. Fax E-mail

Private address

.....
.....
.....

Tel. Fax E-mail

What is your area of research?

.....
.....
.....

Are you a registered member of an IAHR-affiliated national association?.....

What is the name of your association?.....

Do you subscribe to any of the following?

IAHR Bulletin Yes No

NUMEN Yes No

Science of Religion Abstracts Yes No

If not, do you wish to subscribe to any (or all) of the above?

Do you have access to any of the above at your university or through your association?

The Executive Committee of the IAHR

President: Prof. Michael Pye, FG Religionswissenschaft, Philipps-Universität, Liebigstraße 37, D-35032 Marburg, Germany, Tel. 49-6421283662, Fax 49-6421283944 [pye@mail.uni-marburg.de]

Vice-President: Dra. Yolotl González Torres, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Exconvento de El Carmen, Av. Revolución, esq. Monasterio, San Ángel, 01000 Mexico, D.F., Tel. 52-56162058, Fax 52-56162073 [yolotl@servidor.unam.mx]

Vice-President: Prof. Dr. Peter Antes, Seminar für Religionswissenschaft, Universität Hannover, Im Moore 21, D-30167 Hannover, Germany, Tel. 49-5117624027, Fax 49-5117624025 [antes@mbox.rewi.uni-hannover.de]

General Secretary: Prof. Dr. Armin W. Geertz, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Main Building, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark, Tel. 45-89422306, Fax 45-86130490 [geertz@teologi.aau.dk]

Deputy General Secretary: Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee, 501 McClung Tower, Knoxville, TN 37996-0450, USA, Tel. 1-4239742466, Fax 1-4239740965 [rhackett@utk.edu]

Treasurer: Prof. Donald Wiebe, Faculty of Theology, Trinity College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1H8, Tel. 1-4169787750, Fax 1-4169784949 [dwiebe@trinity.utoronto.ca]

Prof. Michio Araki, Institute of Philosophy, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaragi-Ken, 305 Japan Tel. 81-298534260, Fax 81-298534004 [whraraki@sakura.cc.tsukuba.ac.jp]

Prof. Dr. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Dipartimento di studi tardo-antichi medievalie umanistici, Università di Messina, Via dei Verdi, I-98122 Messina, Italy, Tel. 39-906764517, Fax 39-90717762 [gasparro@imeuniv.unime.it]

Dr. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (ISRS), Motorwal 33, 1021 PC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel. 31-206326900, Fax 31-206380145 [gterhaar@pi.net]

Prof. Helena Helve, Department of Comparative Religion, University of Helsinki, P.O. Box 13, FIN-00014 Helsinki, Finland, Tel. 358-9123588, Fax 358-19123591, [helena.helve@helsinki.fi]

Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, African American & African Studies Program, University of California, 280 Kerr Hall, Davis, CA 95616, USA, Tel. 1-9167528354, Fax 1-9167529704 [jkolupona@ucdavis.edu]

Dr. Abdulkader I. Tayob, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700 South Africa, Tel. 27-6503459, Fax 27-216503761, [tayob@socsci.uct.ac.za]