

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN 25

June 1993

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear fellow-members of the IAHR,

In the pages of this bulletin, may I draw your attention especially to the draft agenda for the mid-term meeting of the International Committee to be held in Paris? Any further items for discussion may be communicated to me or, of course, to the President, Prof. Ugo Bianchi. This should be done, please, before the end of June, because during the summer I shall be travelling in Japan for research purposes.

As to the Paris meeting, please note that the conference arrangements are being handled by our hosting Vice-President, Prof. Jean Leclant. Things are evidently shaping up very well and the conference is set to become an important link in the chain of IAHR-related events. The conferences held approximately once each year between the major quinquennial congresses are relatively small as far as the number of participants is concerned. On the one hand they provide a forum for continuity, because at least some of the Executive Committee (and the Editorial Board of Numen) are present. At the same time there are always new faces, and therefore new perspectives and dimensions to our corporate activities. Each such conference plays its own special part in developing the identity of the IAHR, and the Paris meeting will surely be no exception. What of St. Petersburg in 1994, which was devised some years ago (for Leningrad) to be a regional conference?

With all best wishes

Michael Pye

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June 1993

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The Name

The following letter has been received from Professor Jordan Paper as Treasurer of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion) and is endorsed by its President, Dr. Jacques Goulet:

At the executive meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR), 31 January 1993, the Executive voted unanimously to support the change in name of the IAHR to the International Association for the Study of Religion (This I understand is also the position of our sister society in Québec). This position will be brought before the Annual General Meeting of the CSSR in June. As the various positions on this issue have been circulated to the associated members of the IAHR, we are forwarding the reasons for our position for consideration by the Association.

Those of us who have personally long been associated with the IAHR tend to be quite comfortable with the present name of the Association. This satisfaction, however, should not cause us to be insensible to the effect on the continuity and relative importance of the IAHR of not changing our name. Perhaps the question can be phrased in terms of the recent growth of the IAHR; that is, is the IAHR to remain primarily a continental western European association or an international one?

I would suggest there are two interrelated aspects of importance: one concerns the terminology used by the constituent societies and the members of these societies, and the other concerns communication to the scholarly world and the general public. With regard to the first aspect, it is to be noted that outside of continental western Europe, none of the constituent societies use the term history of religions, nor for that matter is a single member of the Executive of the IAHR identified with a department of history of religions. The problem in terminology is not simply due to the English language as has been suggested. As a bilingual society, our name in French is La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion; the name of our new sister society in Québec is the Société Québécoise pour l'Étude de la Religion. Clearly, in modern French, *histoire* is not the equivalent of "study," rather the term in general use is *étude*.

The second aspect is not a matter of terminological niceties but one of the Association's survival. Communication, as we all know, has become increasingly condensed. Political speeches, for example, have been replaced by "sound bites" of shorter and shorter duration; the average in North America is now twenty seconds! Names of societies, whether we approve or not, communicate, and they communicate according to the general use of terms. This is true not only among the general population but among scholars. For example, the major funding body of research relevant to religious studies (as well as representation in international scholarly societies) in Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), in its subdivision of religious studies disciplines, lists history of religions as distinctly different from comparative religion; this categorization, developed by a committee of scholars, understands

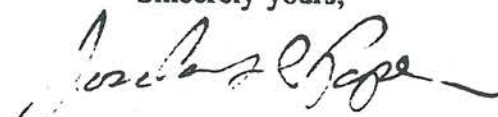
history of religions to be exactly that -- a subcategory of religious studies specific to historical studies. For this reason, we may not receive funds to send a representative to the forthcoming meeting of the International Committee, because the SSHRC understands the IAHR to focus on a minor aspect of religious studies rather than represent religious studies as a whole. The future participation of the CSSR in the IAHR is at risk if there is not compatibility between our name and the international society.

In North America, the influence of Mircea Eliade, including the promotion of the term "history of religions," is waning. Furthermore, at the University of Chicago, where the term was used, its usage was limited to humanistic studies; parallel to the section, "history of religions," in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago is the section, "religion and society." The relatively new scholarly society in the United States, the North American Society for the Study of Religion, obviously chose the word "study" to define itself.

More important in this regard is the relationship between scholars of religion in the United States and the IAHR. Excluding theologians and biblical scholars, several thousand students of religion are members of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), possibly more than in the rest of the world combined. Quite recently, the AAR has begun to develop an international interest to counter the tendency in the United States towards isolationism, even in the realm of scholarship. This in and of itself is a laudable move, but it does affect the IAHR. Since those unfamiliar with the IAHR understand its mandate from a literal reading of its name, it is generally assumed that at present there is no international society for the study of religion. (The United States pays approximately half the amount of dues as does Canada to the IAHR, although there are at least twenty times as many scholars in the AAR as compared to the CSSR.) The Unification Church earlier attempted to fill this assumed vacuum; the AAR may now seek to do so.

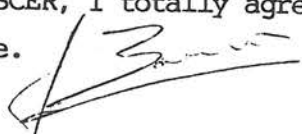
Therefore, the question of name change is not simply a matter of terminological niceties or of historical precedent, it may be a question of survival. Unless we are clearly perceived as being an international society of scholars of religion rather than as a small sub-discipline, than others more powerful than us will move to do what we already are doing. It is not likely that we will be able to educate the rest of the world to understand the term "history" differently than it is perceived in most of the universities of the world. On a personal note, I have been calling myself an historian of religion for over twenty-five years, yet, because of this practice, I do not at present have a single colleague at my own university who understands my disciplinary affiliation. It is time I ended the practice; perhaps it is time the IAHR also recognizes the problem.

Sincerely yours,



Delegated Representative to the IAHR and
Treasurer/Trésorier
The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion

P.S. As President of the CSSR/SCER, I totally agree with Prof. Jordan Paper's views expressed here above.



Jacques Goulet

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Paris Conference

The Draft Agenda for the International Committee Meeting in Paris on 19th September 1993:

AGENDA

1. Membership
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Proposal concerning the name of the IAHR

(TEA BREAK)

4. Report by the Secretary-General
5. Report by the Treasurer
6. Proposals for new affiliates
 - a) Indian Association for the History of Religions
 - b) African Association for the Study of Religions
 - c) Ukrainian Association for the Study of Religions
 - d) Czech Republic/Slovak Republic
 - e) Spain
 - g) other current negotiations
7. Publication of Proceedings
8. The XVIIth Congress of the IAHR, Mexico City 1995
9. Future conferences

Further items for the Agenda should be sent to the Secretary-General by return of post or by FAX as the necessary papers for the Conference will be finalised at the end of June.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE NEW FAX NO IS 524 847039

Information from India

The following correspondence has been received from Dr. K. P. Singh of the Indian Association for the History of Religions:

Indian Association for the History of Religions: Its Activities

The Indian Association for the History of Religions was formed during the 16th World Conference of the IAHR at Rome in 1990 with the kind co-operation of Mr. M. Pye, Secretary-General, International Association for the History of Religions. The list of National Office bearers follows:-

- President: Dr. Makhan Jha
University Professor
Dept. of Anthropology
Ranchi University
Ranchi
Bihar
INDIA
- Secretary:
cum Treasurer. Dr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh
University Professor
Dept. of Political Science
Ranchi College
Ranchi Bihar
INDIA
- Deputy Secretary: Dr. B. P. Jain
Jabalpur University
Jabalpur, (MP)
INDIA
- Vice-Presidents: Dr. Karma Oraon
Member Bihar Public Service Commission
Patna
INDIA
- Dr. G. V. Patel, M.A. Ph D. Ahamdabad
Gujrat
INDIA

Introduction of Comparative Religion in Universities of Bihar: A delegation of Indian Association for the History of Religions led by President Dr. M. Jha and General Secretary Dr. K. P. Singh met the Governor of Bihar and submitted a memorandum regarding the introduction of Comparative Religion as an independent faculty in University of Bihar. The proposal was accepted for necessary action.

National Seminar: Indian Association has undertaken a proposal to convene a National Seminar entitled "The role of Indian Religions in Nation Building". The same proposal has been sent to the government of India and the University Grant Commission, New Delhi.

Membership Drive: More than 200 scholars of India have given their consent to be life members of IAHR. Any correspondence regarding IAHR can be sent to the address below:

Dr. Kameshwar P. Singh, Secretary - Indian Association for the History of Religions, Balhar Road, Morabadi Ranchi - 8 Bihar, INDIA. Tel: 00910651/0308285

Forthcoming Conferences

Polish Society of Studies of Religion
School of Education
Institute of Social Sciences
ul. Podchorążych 2,
30 - 084 Cracow

Tradition, the National Ethos and Transformations of Religiousness

The subject of the Conference covers various aspects of the role of tradition and the national ethos in present - day changes of religiousness, in the context of different cultures and geographical regions, particularly in Poland and Central Europe.

The Conference will be held on 8 - 9 June, 1993 in School of Education, Cracow.

The participants will make a payment for registration fee and accommodation at the reception - desk on the first day of the Conference. The registration fee is on 90 dollars. There will be accommodation in our guest house (reservation from 10 a.m. 7 June until 10 a.m. 10 June, 1993, single room - 25 dollars for the night, double room - 15 dollars, full board - about 15 dollars daily). The guest house is situated 400 m from the Conference site (Armii Krajowej str. 5a, Cracow).

It is possible to reserve an apartment in a hotel - the list of hotels is enclosed.

Let us know about your possibility to participate at the Conference and send a proposal of the topic of your paper by 30 April, 1993 to : Prof. dr hab. Jan Szmyd, INS WSP, ul. Podchorążych 2, PL 30 - 084 Kraków, tel. (0 - 12) 37 - 47 - 77 ext. 256, or (0 - 12) 11 - 56 - 45. Detailed program of the Conference will be send to participants in April, 1993.

Participants presenting papers will be requested to bring along 2 copies of their papers for the Conference organizer to be published in a Conference - proceedings volume.

RELIGIONS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

30th Anniversary Symposium of the
Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion

Helsinki, Finland, May 26 - 27, 1993

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Wednesday, May 26

- 10.00 Opening of the Symposium: "Religion and national identity, aspects of Finnish culture",
Prof. Juha Pentikäinen, Chairman
- 10.30 Study of Religions in Finland before the establishment of the Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion, *Prof. Åke Hultrantz*
- 11.00 Traditions of Theology and the Study of Comparative Religion in Scandinavia, *Prof. Helmer Ringgren.*
- 11.30 Strömningar i religionsforskningen ur uppsaliensiskt perspektiv, *Prof. Carl-Martin Edsman*
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.30 Panel discussion "The identity of the Study of Comparative Religion. Introductory comments (15 min):
Lic. Phil. Veikko Anttonen, Prof. Nils G. Holm, Prof. Lauri Honko, Prof. Michael Pye.
- 17.00 Video presentations on Nordic and Finnish research traditions:
- The Last shamans: The death-ritual of the Nanai in Amur, *Prof. Juha Pentikäinen*
- The sacrificial ritual of the Udmurt, *Prof. Anna-Leena Siikala*
- "In the kitchen of God", The sürem-ritual of the Mari, *Lic.phil. Veikko Anttonen*
- 20.00 30th Anniversary Dinner. Addresses by the Nordic Societies for the Study of Comparative Religion:
Prof. Jan Bergman (Sweden), Prof. Jeppe Sinding Jensen (Denmark) and Prof. Ragnhild Bjerre-Finnestad (Norway)

Thursday, May 27

- 9.00 Religion and Japanese national identity,
Prof. Michael Pye.
- 10.00 National and international features in Israelite religion, *Prof. Helmer Ringgren.*
- 11.00 The establishment of the Study of Comparative Religion in Russia, *Prof. Yaroslav Shchapov.*
- 11.30 The Baltic studies in the field of Comparative Religion, *Dr. Mare Koiva.*
- 12.00 Closing of the Symposium, *Prof. Juha Pentikäinen.*
Lunch

ENCOUNTERS OF RELIGIONS:

CONFLICT, CO-EXISTENCE & CO-OPERATION

An international conference jointly organised by
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS

and

THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd September 1993

At the University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Speakers include:- BASR Annual lecture by Prof RIA KLOPPENBORG on
Buddhism: Conflict, Co-existence and Co-operation.

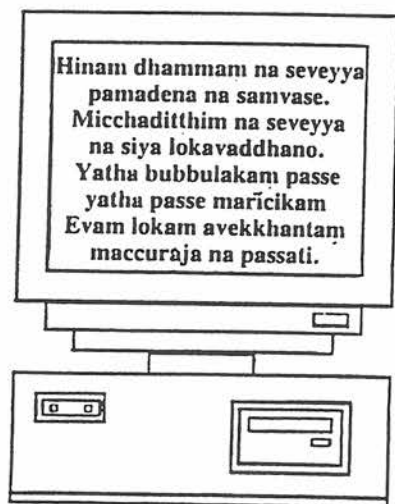
Other lectures developing the theme will include: URSULA KING ("The World Parliament of Religions"), JOHN SAWYER ("Sacred Texts in Conflict"), COLIN CARR ("Dogma Doctrine and Openess"), CHARLOTTE HARDMAN ("New Religious Movements"), STEPHEN LAMBDEN ("The Baha'i stance"), TINU RUPARELL ("Hindu-Christian dialogue"), HASAN ASKARI ("Islam and Dialogue"), SONIA LUCAS ("Poles and the Holocaust"), CAROL SMITH ("Feminism and Religion"), MICHAEL DUFFY ("Christianity and Humanism"), JAN KNAPPERT ("Islam"), GRAHAM HARVEY ("Paganism and Christianity"), JON DAVIES ("Religion in Kenya"), WILLIAM TELFORD ("Anti-Semitism and the New Testament"), ISOBEL WOLLASTON ("Auschwitz as a sacred place to Jews and Poles"), DEBORAH SAWYER ("Christian Feminism"), SUE WASLIN ("Post Christian Feminism"), E.SIMONOVA-GOUDZENKO ("Japanese religions and culture"), JOHANNES IRMSCHER ("The Near East, birth place of religions"), BRIAN YHEARM ("Greek and Roman views of Jews and Christians"), WILFRED WATSON ("Death in the Ancient Near East"), DOROTHEA MCEWAN ("The Praxis of Feminist Theology"), IAN READER ("Religious Conflict in Japan"), HUGH GODDARD ("Christian and Muslim dialogue"), DRAGOS GHEORGHIU ("Brancusi and the Wedding of the Dead"), DARIN JEWELL ("Conflicting Religious Truth Claims"), JOHN NORTON ("Islam and Secularisation in Turkey").

The basic conference fee is £10. Accommodation is £19.50 bed and breakfast per night. (Some concessions are available - please write explaining your situation and some calculation of your need).

For a Booking Form please write to:- Dr Graham Harvey, Dept. of Religious Studies, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.



CONTEMPORARY BUDDHISM Text and Context



A Conference
8 – 10 April 1994
University of Leeds

Conference organizers

Dr Ian Harris *St Martin's College, Lancaster*
Dr Philip Mellor *University of Leeds*
Conference Administrator – Ingrid Lawrie
University of Leeds

Call for papers

We welcome all interested parties to the conference and sincerely invite offers of papers. Please fill in the attached preliminary registration form and return it to the conference office no later than 15 August 1993.

We expect to issue a second announcement in September 1993 which will list speakers and panels.

Registration fees

Registration fees are £25 if paid before 30 November 1993 and £35 thereafter. Students pay £10.

First announcement and call for papers

The nature of Buddhism in the contemporary world is notoriously difficult to assess. This is due partly to its presence in a variety of cultures, defined variously as traditional, modern and postmodern. The result is that scholarship is fractured into a variety of regional studies and a diversity of methodological approaches, many of which offer competing and conflicting visions of contemporary Buddhism. Textual scholars, for example, often appear to be interested in reconciling modern developments with classical writings, characteristically tending towards the portrayal of Buddhism as an essentially unbroken tradition. Many sociologists and anthropologists, on the other hand, often see modern forms of Buddhism as being radically disjoined from the past, emphasizing the disruptive, transformative nature of modernity.

The methodological and practical difficulties associated with the study of contemporary Buddhism mean that a broad overview of the area is generally beyond the capacities of individual scholars. It is intended, however, that this conference will enable students of Buddhism to begin to realize a more coherent vision of the subject. It should at least be possible for researchers of differing intellectual backgrounds to enter into a constructive debate with others. The conference will consist of lecture presentations by internationally recognized scholars, formal debates and special interest group sessions. Areas for discussion will include Buddhism and modernity, Buddhist nationalism, regional varieties of Buddhism, Buddhism in the West, Buddhist economics, Buddhism and Christianity, and others. It is intended that conference proceedings will be published.

The conference will represent an important first attempt to define the character and status of Buddhism in the contemporary world, and should be of interest to all scholars of Buddhism, and also to students of contemporary religion in general.

Accommodation

The conference will take place at Tetley Hall, a purpose-built venue close to the University of Leeds campus yet set in five acres of landscaped gardens. Leeds airport, railway station and city centre are within easy reach. Disabled access and accommodation are available.

A set fee of £85 will cover all meals and residence for the duration of the conference. Further details will be sent on registration.

Conference office

CBTC Office, c/o Ingrid Lawrie, Dept of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England. Tel (0532) 333640 Fax (0532) 336017
Telex 556473 UNILDS G

PLEASE ANNOUNCE AND POST

First Announcement and Call for Papers

El Colegio de México and the Asociación Latinoamericana de Estudios Budistas (ALEB) will be hosting the

11th Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

The Congress will be held in Mexico City,
October 24 - 28, 1994

Call for Papers

We welcome you to the 11th Congress and sincerely invite you to organize a panel and/or to present a paper. Please write to the address below to obtain a preliminary registration form which should be submitted no later than August 1, 1993.

Prof. Flora Botton, Director
Center for Asian and African Studies
El Colegio de México PHONE (525) 645-59-55
Camino al Ajusco No. 20 TELEX 1777585 COLME
Código Postal 01000 CABLE: COLMEX
México, D.F. FAX (525) 645-04-64

Your response by that early date is appreciated for the planning of the program. A second call for papers, together with registration and program information, will be sent around September of this year to respondents of this announcement.

The Organizing Committee welcomes input, suggestions, and comments regarding the planning of the Congress and encourages your participation to make this a diverse and intellectually challenging event.

Conference Proceedings

The proceedings of the conference of the German Association for the History of Religions (DVRG) held in March 1991 have now been published. The details are as follows:

Grundwerte menschlichen Verhaltens in den Religionen / Horst
Bürkle (Hrsg.). - Frankfurt am Main ; Berlin ; Bern ; New York ;
Paris ; Wien : Lang, 1993
(Religionswissenschaft ; Bd. 6)
ISBN 3-631-44740-X

NE: Bürkle, Horst [Hrsg.]; GT

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Sebastian Murken.

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Updating of and amendments to the list of National Officers:

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