

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN 31  
APRIL 1995

Professor Ugo Bianchi

It is with the utmost regret that the following information has to be conveyed to the membership. As many will by this time have heard, our colleague and friend Professor Ugo Bianchi, President of the IAHR, died suddenly on April 14th. He suffered a heart attack. A letter has been written to Mrs. Bianchi, on behalf of the IAHR, to express the sadness and sense of loss which will be felt by colleagues throughout the world. His memory will be honoured at the opening session of the forthcoming Congress in Mexico City.

## Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Colleagues,

First of all I must express my personal sense of loss and dismay at the news indicated on the first page of this bulletin. Professor Bianchi has been a kindly friend to me for over twenty years. Over the past few months we had been conferring over the arrangements for the various formal meetings of the IAHR in Mexico. As members will be aware, Ugo Bianchi was acutely aware of the importance of some of the decisions which lie ahead of us. He will be remembered for this, whichever directions are taken for the future. His memory will of course be honoured at the Congress and also in the pages of the official organ of the IAHR, Numen.

Under the circumstances the various officers of the Executive Committee have been in touch with each other, and we will do our best to ensure that the forthcoming IAHR meetings are carried through correctly and well. This bulletin contains the agendas of the meetings. These had been approved in main outline by Professor Bianchi during recent recent communications.

Due to various practical difficulties it was not possible to produce the bulletin in January. Moreover, in view of the high postal costs of this A4 format when sent from Germany, it seemed best to await further correspondence from member associations and then to issue just one more bulletin, a short while before the Congress. This has the advantage of bringing you the agendas of the meetings. The full list of member organizations and officers will be included in the Congress issue of the bulletin. Please note that a few changes of officers were reported in the last bulletin and that a few more are listed here. The Congress issue of the bulletin will be distributed by post to association officers who are unable to attend.

On the next page you will find some important reminders about voting procedures for the International Committee and the General Assembly. The absolute closing date for all communications about the representation of your association in Mexico, matters for the agenda, etc. is July 4th. This is also the formal and final closing date for nominations for the elections to the Executive Committee. The Congress issue of the Bulletin will then be printed.

All arrangements concerning your participation in the Congress as such must be made through the Congress organization. I am looking forward to meeting you in Mexico.

As this is my last bulletin letter to you as Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for the great encouragement and support I have received from many quarters throughout the world. With all best wishes

Michael Pye

### Discussion on the change of name

The General Assembly will take a decision on a proposed change of name for the IAHR at its meeting on the last day of the Congress to be held in Mexico City. The International Committee, at its meeting in Paris on 19.9.1993 (c.f. Minutes in Bulletin 27, pages 5-6) passed the following resolution.

"It is recommended that the name of the IAHR be changed to "The International Association for the Academic Study of Religions" in English and "L'Association Internationale pour l'Étude Scientifique des Religions" in French."

This recommendation, being a constitutional matter, will therefore be placed before the General Assembly for decision. Voting rights and procedures will be scrupulously observed. In the meantime the discussion has been continuing. See following items.

### Correspondence on this subject from Germany:

Professor Hans Kippenberg, writing as first chairman (president) of the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte reports that the executive of the German association seeks the insertion of the word "Academic" before the word "Study" in the proposed change of name.

N.B. This means in effect that the executive of the DVRG has decided in favour of the wording already recommended by the International Committee at its meeting of 19.9.1993 in Paris (see above).

### Correspondence on this subject from Canada:

Professor Jordan Paper, treasurer of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion / La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion, writes as follows:

Dear Prof. Pye:

Prof. Bianchi's paper, reproduced in IAHR Bulletin 30, clarifying the topic of "History of Religions," provides explicit reasons for the need to change the name of our society. Outside of Europe, scholarly funding bodies understand the term in English literally -- the history of particular religions, exclusive of phenomenological, comparative and textual studies; i.e., those applying for funds to study the history of religions should be in a department of history. Moreover, these same funding bodies interpret international

associations in the same way; for example, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada only continues to fund participation in the IAHR by the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion on the understanding that the name will change to reflect an international body for the study of religion *per se*. In order to maintain the "comparative-historical character" of the discipline, a name change is essential from a pragmatic standpoint, much as nostalgia argues for a continuation of the present name.

To summarize considerations presented earlier in this regard, the consequences of failing to change of name of the IAHR to reflect the names of the vast majority of the constituent national bodies would be twofold:

- 1) It would create unnecessary pressures on constituent bodies incorporating the term "religious studies," both financially and with regard to recognition. This latter aspect is of particular concern to new national bodies already recognized or being organized. Were the name not to change, funding bodies may require these societies to form a new international organization that explicitly states that its concern is "religious studies."
- 2) If the name were not to change, there would be a perceived vacuum with regard to an international organization for religious studies. A certain very large, national body, not a part of the IAHR, may again seek to expand to become recognized as such an international organization.

Sincerely,

Jordan Paper  
(Canada)

### Agenda for IAHR business meetings during the Congress at Mexico City

The outgoing Executive Committee meeting will be held on (August 6th). The International Committee will meet on Wednesday August 9th (probably at 8.00 am; please take note of final information about this at the Congress). The incoming Executive Committee and the Editorial Board of Numen will meet on Thursday August 10th at 16.00. The General Assembly will take place on Saturday August 12th as the last event of the Congress (not on the 10th as in a previous circular).

#### IAHR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (OUTGOING) 1995 (MEXICO CITY): AGENDA

- 1) Membership and apologies for absence.
- 2) Minutes of previous meeting.
- 3) Matters arising from minutes.
- 4) Reappointment of Numen Editors (for report only to the International Committee).
- 5) Future conference locations (for recommendation to the International Committee).
- 6) Proposals for individual membership of the IAHR, including honorary life membership (for recommendation to the International Committee).
- 7) Clarification of procedures for International Committee and General Assembly (pattern of chairmanship, etc.).
- 8) Any other business.

#### IAHR INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE 1995 (MEXICO CITY): AGENDA

An outgoing vice-president may preside for points 1 - 8. An incoming vice-president may preside for points 9 -14.

- 1) Membership:
  - (i) ascertainment of membership.
  - (ii) co-option of further members (as allowed by statutes).Action.
- 2) Procedures:
  - (i) adoption of general rules for meetings as held by UNESCO and/or UN.
  - (ii) adoption of procedures for election of Executive Committee (to be circulated in advance if possible).Action.
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting (circulated in advance).  
To be approved.
- 4) Matters arising from the minutes.  
For information or discussion only.
- 5) Report by Secretary-General (circulated).  
To be received.

- 6) Report by Treasurer (circulated).  
To be received.
- 7) Additional matters of report by outgoing Executive Committee:
  - (i) Appointment of Numen Editors
  - (ii) Other (if any).
 Report only.
- 8) (a) If desired, appointment of a temporary chairperson to preside over the elections.  
(This person will also report the results to the General Assembly in due course.)  
Action.
  - (b) Election of new Executive Committee  
Action.
  - (c) Transfer of functions insofar as convenient.
- 9) Recommendation from Executive Committee on individual memberships of the IAHR.  
Action.
- 10) Proposals for honorary life membership of the IAHR.  
Action.
- 11) Recommendation of new affiliations (if any to be added to those already recommended in Paris).  
Action.
- 12) Future conference locations.  
Discussion and/or action.
- 13) Any other business.

#### IAHR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (INCOMING) 1995 (MEXICO CITY)

(Incoming president to preside)

- 1) Membership.
- 2) Future conference locations and planning.
- 3) Funding questions.
- 4) Details of individual membership programme (if previously agreed by the International Committee).
- 5) Any other business.

#### EDITORIAL BOARD OF NUMEN (INCOMING) 1995 (MEXICO CITY)

(Incoming president to preside)

- 1) Membership.
- 2) Minutes/report of previous meeting.
- 3) Report by Editors.
- 4) Policy discussion by new Editorial Board.

## IAHR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1995 (MEXICO CITY): AGENDA

The meeting is public, but see note on voting rights below.

(A) Presiding: an outgoing Vice-President

2) Brief report by outgoing Secretary-General (c.f. written report). There will be a limited period for questions.

3) Brief report by outgoing Treasurer (c.f. written report). There will be a limited period for questions.

4) Report by the member of the International Committee who presided over the election of the incoming Executive Committee.

Public transfer of responsibilities to incoming Executive Committee.

(B) Presiding: incoming President)

5) Brief statement by incoming President.

6) Brief statement by incoming Secretary-General.

7) New affiliations (vote to be taken by the General Assembly on the recommendations of the International Committee). N.B. There will be a brief opportunity for questions concerning new affiliations and for a short statement by the relevant representatives. A positive vote on new affiliations will confer immediate voting rights on the designated representatives in so far as they are present.

8) Proposed change of name of the organization (vote to be taken by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the International Committee). There will be a brief opportunity for public statements on this subject, which has been widely discussed during the past five years.

9) Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly (if any).

10) Suggestions from the Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee.

11) Any other business (to be indicated briefly in writing to the chair beforehand).

Note on voting rights. Since item 8 is of considerable importance, arrangements for the definition of voting rights will be made scrupulously in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the IAHR. The right of a member to vote will be determined during registration for the Congress. The cooperation of all present is requested to ensure a correct and harmonious decision-taking process. (MP)



Affiliated associations

(Only changes are recorded in this issue; the complete list will be included in the Congress issue of the Bulletin.)

The Australian Association for the Study of Religions

President:

Prof. Alan Black  
Dept. of Sociology  
University of New England  
Armidale, 2351 Australia

Vice-President:

Dr. Trevor Jordan  
School of Humanities  
Queensland UT, P.O. Box 284  
Zillmere, 4034 Australia

Secretary:

Ms. Tricia Blombery  
Dept. of Sociology  
University of New England  
Armidale, 2351 Australia

Treasurer:

Mr. Neville Jarvis  
The Swedenborg Centre  
1 Avon Road  
North Ryde, 2113 Australia

Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions

President:

Prof. P. Ade Dopamu  
Department of Religions  
University of Ilorin  
Ilorin, Nigeria

Secretary-General:

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

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft  
/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions

Treasurer:

Ms. Annette Wilke  
Eichbühlstraße 65  
8004 Zürich  
Switzerland

News from the Indian Association for the History of Religion.

(1) A team led by Dr. Makhan Jha, President, and Dr. Kameshwar Pd. Singh, General Secretary of the Indian Association, met the Honourable Governor of Bihar, Dr. A.R. Kidwai, on 23rd October 1994 and submitted a memorandum to introduce the teaching of comparative religion in Schools and Colleges of Bihar. Dr. Kidwai was also given an invitation on behalf of the Indian Association to participate at the XVIIth ICHR Congress at Mexico.

(2) Dr. Kameshwar Pd. Singh, General Secretary of the Indian Association, has been appointed as a symposium co-ordinator on the subject "New Dimension and Approach of Hindu Religion in India and Abroad" to be presented at the 17th Congress at Mexico.

(3) Mr. Tersam Lal, Chairman "Onkar Divine Mission" west Midland U.K. and an organiser of many charities in India and Dr. Sidhartha Mukherjee, a renowned medical doctor, philanthropist, social worker and a scholar of many religions have also given their consent to participate and contribute papers during XVIIth International Congress at Mexico.

(4) The Mailing address of General Secretary, Indian Association for the History of Religion as follows:

Prof. (Dr.) Kameshwar Pd. Singh,  
General Secretary, IAHR (India) Balihar Road  
Morabadi, Ranchi, Bihar, India  
Telephone (Resi) 0091-0651-308285

Note to secretaries of affiliated associations

Please note that at registration at the beginning of the Congress voting cards will be issued to members of affiliated associations. Only members of affiliated associations who are registered for the Congress are entitled to vote at the General Assembly. Membership lists will be used to check whether participants are in fact members. If you have not recently sent a membership list to the Secretary-General, please send one in the near future. If you are attending the Congress yourself, please bring one with you as well. Please note that this is of the utmost importance. Whatever decision is taken about the name of the association, it must be correctly and fairly arrived at.

The closing date for all formal communications such as notification of representation at the International Committee and nominations for the new Executive Committee is July 4th 1995. Any such communications must be sent to the Secretary General (address below). This date, one month before the beginning of the Congress, is determined (for nominations) in the constitution of the IAHR and will be scrupulously observed.

MP

Prof. Michael Pye  
FG Religionswissenschaft  
Liebigstr. 37  
35032 Marburg  
Germany

N.B. The post usually takes a few days to travel around in the city of Marburg before being finally delivered to the above address.

Fax number 0049 6421 283944 (OK for nominations)  
E-mail [m.pye@mail.uni-marburg.de](mailto:m.pye@mail.uni-marburg.de) (NOT OK for nominations)

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE IAHR 1990-1995

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