

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN

5

MAY 1987

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Fellow-members of the IAHR,

This bulletin comes to you shortly after the successful conclusion of the conference of the Danish Association for the History of Religions in Aarhus, at which I was very happy to be present. It was of great value that participants were present from neighbouring countries, especially Finland, Holland and Sweden. A simple report on the conference is included below. Early in the year I was able to visit Finland (Turku and Helsinki) at the invitation of the Donner Institute, and apart from giving lectures, to discuss various matters of interest, not least the projected IAHR regional conference on which more details are included in this bulletin.

One year ago I asked for views on two (fairly minor) constitutional matters. Since no views have been submitted, you will find my own explanations and suggestions below. Please consult with colleagues and send in any comments you may have. It would be helpful to arrive at a widely based understanding in good time before the next Congress (1990).

As to liaison in the near future, it seems likely that some individual meetings between members of the Executive and/or (International Committees will happen this year, not least in the wings of the CISR conference at Tübingen (Aug. 25-29) and the BAHR conference at Oxford (September 8-10) (see notice below in this bulletin) both of which I shall be attending.

(May 1987)

With all best wishes

Michael Pye

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Constitutional questions

When the request for views on two constitutional matters was made in IAHR Bulletin 2 reference was made to "the final sentence of article 4c". This was probably misleading. In fact the difficulty lies in the final sentence of the first paragraph of article 4c, which runs: "The International Committee, at its meeting just preceding the General Assembly, shall elect the Executive Committee and shall report this to the General Assembly for endorsement."

The problem is as follows. It is quite clear that the Executive Committee is elected by the International Committee, which represents the national associations. It is not at all clear what "endorsement" by the General Assembly means. Since the General Assembly cannot elect an alternative committee, it is evident that non-endorsement would be destructive and almost meaningless. Moreover, a mere demonstration of show-of-hands democracy at that point is particularly inappropriate since the nomination process is by then closed (one month before the Congress) and the election process in principle completed (at the meeting of the International Committee). Thus the phrase "for endorsement" is simply misleading and it would seem better to drop it from the constitution by deleting the words "for endorsement". This suggestion may appear to be a diminution of democracy. In fact however it is not. The alteration would clarify the position of the duly elected representatives of the national associations who constitute the International Committee. With this bulletin the question and the proposal is fully opened to discussion, well in advance of the next round of meetings.

On the subject of a quorum (minimum attendance) for meetings no views have as yet been received and members are therefore invited to consider the following proposal. Add to article 5: "A meeting of the Executive Committee requires a minimum attendance of five of its members." Add to article 6: "A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten from a minimum of seven national associations." Needless to say, it is expected that attendance would normally be greater. Comments on these suggestions are invited.

(M.P.)

Constitutions of national associations

The constitutions of the national associations are of course a matter for them, except in so far as they are submitted in support of requests to affiliate. At the same time it would be very helpful if the IAHR files could carry a copy of the constitutions or rules of national associations. One reason for this is that a request is sometimes received, from a new association, for guidance in the form of selected examples of constitutions from established associations. It would be much appreciated therefore if a copy of such constitutions would be sent to the Secretary-General, except in cases where this was recently done.

(M.P.)

Correction

The details of the Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie (Danish Association for the History of Religions) were incorrectly entered in the last bulletin. The president is:

Ass. Prof. Armin Geertz
Institut for Religionshistorie
Aarhus Universitet
Paludan-Müllers vej 17
DK-8000 AARHUS C
Denmark.

Apologies are hereby extended.

IAHR - Regional Conference. Circumpolar and Northern Religion.

Interpreting Shamanism and Popular Religion in Arctic and Sub-arctic regions at the University of Helsinki, Finland in May 13-19, 1990.

Circular I (Invitation)

Helsinki, May 5, 1987

On behalf of the Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion and the Department of Comparative Religion at the University of Helsinki we are honoured to invite you to participate in the regional conference on Circumpolar and Northern Religion. Interpreting Shamanism and Popular Religion in Arctic and Sub-arctic regions to be held in Helsinki, Finland in May 13-19, 1990. The conference will be part of the 350th anniversary celebration of the University of Helsinki.

The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars of the history of religions, social and cultural anthropology, folklore and ethnography, who are dealing with topics specific to arctic and sub-arctic regions. It is expected that the conference will be a meeting point for scholars both from the east and the west and thus provide perspectives on religion, worldview and ideology in the North past and present. The goals of the conference are defined in terms of their actuality and urgency both in the field and in the community of scholars in various academic institutions around the world.

According to the decision agreed by the conference committee there will be some thirty papers with commentaries on each included in the sessions. In preliminary discussions on appropriate sub-topics the following themes were sketched:

1) Mythology and Worldview

- * mythology and social structure
- * totemism
- * myth and meaning

2) Rock Art

3) Shamanism

- * ideology and visions
- * trance and altered states of consciousness
- * rite and ritual accessories
- * shaman and society

- 4) Arctic mentality
 - * cognitive structure
 - * arctic hystery
 - * suicide and voluntary death
- 5) Religious Change
 - * from secularisation to civil religion
 - * religious encounter
 - * revitalisation of established traditions
- 6) Contemporary religious movements
 - * charismatics: native and foreign
 - * ecophilosophy
 - * reactions of established religions
- 7) Tradition and Ethnicity
 - * ethnic identity and consciousness
 - * ethnic minority and religion
- 8) Ecology and Cultural Adaption
 - * environment and cultural issues
 - * immigrants and refugees
 - * mass media and religion
- 9) Theoretical approaches
 - * interpreting folklore, mythology and ethnography

The conference committee expects scholars interested in presenting a paper to announce their area of interest and tentative title (even if it is hard to fit into the frames sketched above) by the end of the year 1987.

Sincerely Yours

Juha Pentikäinen

Anna-Leena Siikala

Eila Helander

Department of Comparative Religion, University of Helsinki,
Luotsikatu 4A1, 00160 Helsinki, Finland.

Religion at the Zagreb Anthropology Congress

The 12th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 24-31 July 1988 will have a section on religion for which five "symposia" are so far planned. Intending participants may write directly to the organisers listed below.

ANTHROPOLOGY OF BUDDHISM, AHIMSA AND WORLD PEACE

S. Narayan

ANS Institute of Social Studies

Patna - 800 011

India

FUNCTIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN
THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

T.L. Whitehead

Dept. of Health Education

School of Public Health

University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

U.S.A.

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN SOCIETAL CONTEXTS

M. Klass

Dept. of Anthropology

Barnard College

Columbia University

New York, NY 10027

U.S.A.

SHAMANISM: PAST AND PRESENT

M. Hoppal

Ethnographic Institute

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Orszaghaz u. 30. Of. 29

Budapest 1250

Hungary

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF PILGRIMAGE

M. Jha
Dept. of Anthropology
Ranchi University
Ranchi - 1
Bihar
India

General information about the Congress may be obtained from:

Prof. dr. Pavao Rudan
12th ICAES
Mose Pijade 158,
P.O.Box 291
41000 ZAGREB
Yugoslavia.

Annual conference of the British Association for the History of Religions

8-10 September, Cherwell Centre, Oxford

This year's conference theme is PILGRIMAGE. Members of the BAHR are invited to offer papers (either full papers or short, 20 minute contributions) on this theme or on related subjects such as sacred space, sacred geography, etc. Those who can contribute a paper, or who have suggestions on speakers who might be invited from outside the BAHR should contact Dr. Peter Moore, Darwin College, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NZ.

In recent years the annual conference has also provided an opportunity for researchers to report on work-in-progress. These sessions have been most valuable and have helped to facilitate the exchange of ideas and research interests within the Association. The research report session will be repeated this year and those who wish to describe their current work in brief should inform the conference organiser.

The fee for this year's conference will be £ 35 (non-salaried participants, £ 30). For those who do not require accommodation or meals the non-residential charge will be £ 10. Main meals (lunch or dinner) will cost £ 3.50. Those registering for the conference are requested to send a £ 10 deposit and notification of registration with details to Dr. Peter Moore (see address above).

Conference of the Danish Association for the History of Religions

The conference, entitled "Religion: Tradition and Renewal", was held as planned on May 14-17, 1987. Participants were present from various neighbouring countries (Britain, Finland, Germany, Holland, Sweden), so that some matters of common organisational interest could also be discussed informally.

The following papers were read and discussed:

Tore Ahlbäck, (Abo, Finland):

"The Theosophical Society, A New Religious Movement Based on a Conglomerate of Traditions"

Monica Engelhart (Stockholm, Sweden):

"New Cults among the Australian Aborigines"

Margit Warburg (Copenhagen, Denmark):

"Religious Renewal in Denmark: The Establishment and Development of Baha'i Community"

Steven Vertovec (Oxford, Great Britain):

"Hinduism in Trinidad: Conditions for Institutional Change"

Poul Pedersen (Arhus, Denmark):

"Ambiguities of Tradition: Widow Burning in the Early 19th Century Bengal"

Wim Hofstee (Groningen, Holland):

"Gerardus Van der Leeuw and the Concept of Primitive Mentality"

Durk Hak (Groningen, Holland):

"Economic Change and Religious 'Tradition' in a Dutch Maritime Culture"

Jan Bergman (Uppsala, Sweden):

"Atenism - A New Egyptian Religion? Innovative and Reformatory Features in the Religious Program of Akhnaton"

Niels P. Lemche (Copenhagen, Denmark):

"From Polytheism to Monotheism - The Transformation of Israelite Religion"

Juha Pentikäinen (Helsinki, Finland):

"Ethnic Religiosity: Tradition and Renewal in the Ancient Religion of the Finns"

Dieter Goedendorp (Groningen, Holland):

"Patterns of Diffusion of Religious Concepts in the Middle East in Antiquity"

Yme Kuiper (Groningen, Holland):

"The Concept of Person in Cultural Anthropology"

Hans Witte (Groningen, Holland):

"Tradition and Renewal in the West African Concept of Person"

Laurens P. Van den Bosch (Groningen, Holland):

"Some Reflections on the Development of a Hindu Identity by the Hindustani in Surinam and the Netherlands"

M.L. Vogel (Stockholm, Sweden):

"The Quest for the Traditional among Ethnologists and Native American Peoples"

In the course of the conference, and not least in the concluding debate on May 17, it became clear that the strong anthropological participation at the conference was of great value. At the same time it was not always equally clear to all participants in what ways the historical and comparative study of religions is or should be the same as or different from anthropology. The strength of the conference lay partly in the excellence of the individual contributions and in the first-rate practical arrangement which allowed maximum interaction between the participants. Appended below is some information about the DAHR which was distributed at the conference.

(M.P.)

The Danish Association for the History of Religions

DAHR was founded in 1982 by a small study group in Aarhus. It quickly grew to include most of the historians of religions in Denmark who have degree in that subject. By 1984 when we held our first international conference in Copenhagen, our members numbered 20. In 1985 DAHR was

officially recognized as a member organization of the IAHR by the General Assembly held during the 15th Congress in Sydney.

Once we moved out of our consolidation phase, we opened our membership to all those who work with the humanistic study of religion and religions, and our membership today has grown to 34. We will soon introduce student affiliation as well, and thus expect our ranks to grow larger.

The aims of the Association are the furthering of Danish scientific studies in the History of Religions within the international context and cooperation, as well as safeguarding the interests of this field on a national level. The activities of the Association include arranging meetings, and participating in other ways which serve to effectuate the proliferation of the achievements of scientific research by holding conferences or other types of meetings regularly, by aiming at securing the publication of the proceedings of such meetings as well as other research results, by taking all appropriate steps to encourage and further the academic study of the History of Religions and by distributing information from IAHR.

The first international conference in 1984 held under the auspices of DAHR was entitled "Religion and Rituals". The conference revealed a spirit of common endeavor and mutual understanding with our colleagues from Finland, Sweden, and Norway, and it led to the first steps toward a formalized cooperation between the sister organizations of the IAHR in these countries. The members of the conference also expressed a desire to support the Scandinavian journal *Temenos*, and thus many of the papers from the conference are published in this and other journals of Comparative Religion.

Our second meeting was a workshop in 1985 on the theme "'Sacrifice' as Backbone for the History of Religions" where scholars from a wide range of disciplines discussed the ideas presented by Karl W. Luckert from Southwest Missouri State University, Department of Religious Studies.

DAHR publishes a newsletter which keeps our members up-to-date on events in IAHR and in Denmark, and the Executive Committee is presently engaged in compiling a bibliography of Danish publications in the History of Religions and in establishing a monograph series.

Bibliographies and computers

Two communications have been received on the subject of bibliographical data-bases in the field of or relevant to the history of religions. The first came from Prof. B. Gladigow, writing on behalf of the committee of the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte and the second came from Dr. T. Ahlbäck (Donner Institute, Åbo/Turku) after a discussion in Aarhus (stimulated by Prof. Gladigow's letter).

Prof. Gladigow writes (here summarised in English) that there is no longer any comprehensive bibliographical access to monographs in the field of religious studies. The ATLA Religion Indexes and the CNRS Bulletin Signalétique are useful but mainly restricted to journal articles. There is no systematic, integrated analysis of journal articles and monographs by means of keywords, focusing especially on religious studies. At the same time there are not a few bibliographical enterprises of a theological kind which include our field, usually in the context of systematic or ecumenical theology (for example in Louvain/Leuven and in Tübingen). Thus the bringing together of existing bibliographical work into a databank relevant to our field could be mainly an organisational matter.

Dr. Ahlbäck writes as follows: "For the moment there are two data bases relevant for Comparative Religion, to wit: ATLA Data Basis, Chicago (American Theological Library Association); AHCI, Philadelphia (Art and Humanities Citation Index). Both of these are available through DIALOG.

ATLA covers mostly journals of Theology and Religious Studies in English, and also works in cultural anthropology. AHCI uses an index language based on that of the Library of Congress' Thesaurus, completed by headings relevant to theology and religious sciences.

From the European point of view the problem is that neither of them surveys the majority of journals of theology, religious studies or anthropological works in languages other than English.

For the moment it is most important to actualize this problem in the IAHR Bulletin and to ask those interested in some solution to the problem to send proposals and views to the redaction.

One way forward might be to inaugurate some sort of cooperation with ATLA to complete the data basis by providing them with ready-made materials on journals of theology, religious studies and anthropological works not presently surveyed by ATLA (bibliographical information and Index terminology would follow the ATLA index language).

One possible institution, which could afford the necessary bibliographical work, is The Donner Institute for Research in Religion and Culture in Åbo/Turku, Finland."

Further reactions would be most welcome.

Introducing the Donner Institute

The Donner Institute for Research in Comparative Religion and Cultural History was founded on November 16, 1959. It was made possible by a donation made to the Foundation for Åbo Akademi by the engineer Uno Donner (1872-1958) and his wife Olly Donner, née Sinebrychoff (1881-1956). In the deed of gift, dated March 29, 1956, Donner and his wife gave the major part of their fortune to the Foundation as a fund the purpose of which was to further scholarly research into religion and culture with special reference to mysticism and its expression in different religions and cultures.

The statutes of the Donner Institute were adopted by the Foundation for Åbo Akademi on November 16, 1959. According to these statutes (revised on April 27, 1981) the aims of the fund are to be pursued through an institute promoting study in the fund's fields of research by the maintenance of a library, the Steiner Memorial Library, by granting scholarships and financial support and by inviting guest lecturers and organizing courses and seminars. The institute can also create research posts and publish scientific works.

The library began its work even two years before the Institute was actually founded. Today (1985), having been in existence for a quarter of a century, it has a collection of more than 40,000 volumes, consisting mainly of modern literature on comparative religion. The main focus of these works is upon the history of all known religions but the anthropology, phenomenology, psychology and sociology of religion are also well represented. The collection of current journals and series is approximately 300.

The Library has a special collection of anthroposophical literature comprising the complete works of Rudolf Steiner himself and most of the works written by anthroposophical authors since the beginning of the 1920's. The Library is a reference library: loans may be made only to the reading room and research rooms of the Library or to the reading rooms of other libraries by means of inter-library loans. The personnel of the Library comprises three librarians and a director. The Library also has access to a computer, the latest bibliographical aids and its own keyword catalogue. It is therefore able to offer researchers and students the best in information retrieval and bibliographical services. A list of new accessions is distributed free of charge every other year to departments of comparative religion, scientific libraries and individual scholars in the Nordic countries. The Library's activities also include compiling a bibliography of Nordic publications in comparative religion; this bibliography has, since 1978, been published every second year in the journal *Temenos*.

The Institute awards grants and scholarships (Fmk 60,000 in 1985) once a year; applications for these have to be made during the month of February. The grants are awarded by the Institute's Board on the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts of Åbo Akademi for all applications except from those with a doctor's degree. Grants may be made to suitably qualified scholars, irrespective of their previous fields of study, for research

on the nature and expression of mysticism in religion, art, literature, philosophy, science and folk belief. Such research may be carried out either at the Steiner Memorial Library or elsewhere. Grants are also made to graduate students pursuing studies which further the aims of the Institute. Applications should be addressed to the Institute using applications forms available from the Institute's office (address below).

The Board of the Institute may also grant financial support for research and award prizes for scholarly work already completed without application. None of the Institute's grants, scholarships or prizes are restricted by the nationality of the recipient.

During recent years the Donner Institute has awarded a large number of grants and scholarships and so promoted research in comparative religion. Money from the Institute also made possible the setting up, in 1961, of the first chair of comparative religion in Finland; this was in the Faculty of Arts at Åbo Akademi. Over the years the Institute has invited large numbers of scholars to give guest lectures and participate in symposia on religion in Åbo. The topics of these symposia on religion in Åbo. The topics of these symposia have covered a wide field. The first dealt with shamanism (1962) and was followed by belief in fate (1964). Other topics have been syncretism (1966), mysticism (1968), myth and the state (1971), new religious movements (1974), dynamics and institutions (1976), religious symbols and their function (1979), religious ecstasy (1981) and Sami (Lapp) religion (1984). The papers read at these symposia have been published in the Institute's own series, *Scripta Instituti Donneriani Aboensis*, which is distributed by Almqvist & Wiksell International, Stockholm. Volumes from Almqvist & Wiksell 11 in number) may be ordered direct from Almqvist & Wiksell International. Copies for review and exchange copies may be obtained by contacting the Donner Institute.

The Donner Institute and the Steiner Memorial Library are located in the Åbo Akademi quarter and cooperate closely with the university, especially the Department of Comparative Religion and the Library. Legally, however, they constitute an independent administrative unit forming part of the Foundation for Åbo Akademi. The Board of the Institute consists of three members appointed for a period of three years; of these, one represents the Foundation for Åbo Akademi, one the Faculty of Arts of Åbo Akademi, and one the Faculty of Arts of the University of Uppsala, Sweden. Each member has a personal deputy. An expert on library questions, also elected for a period of three years, also sits on the Board.

The Institute and the Library have progressed favourably over the years. Many have contributed to this but one name deserves special mention, that of Professor H.W. Donner (1904-1980). He was appointed in 1956 by the donors to supervise the implementation of the fund's aims and was chairman of the Institute's until his death. It is in no small measure thanks to him that the Donner Institute today occupies such an important place not only in Finnish but also in Nordic studies in religion and that the Library enjoys the reputation of a top of scientific library in the field of comparative religion.

Members of the Donner Institute administrative Board during the years
1959-1984:

Foundation for Åbo Akademi

H.W. Donner	1958-80
Lars Erik Taxell	1958-83
Olof Mustelin	1981-
Patrick Bruun	1983-

Åbo Akademi

Helmer Tegengren	1958-70
Erik Stenius	1958-61
Lars-Ivar Ringbom	1961-68
Patrick Bruun	1966-83
Sixten Ringbom	1971-74
Krister Segerberg	1975-77
Nils Stora	1977-
Nils G. Holm	1983-

University of Uppsala

H.S. Nyberg	1958-70
Carl-Martin Edsman	1958-
Helmer Ringgren	1970-

Åbo Akademi Library

Carl-Rudolf Gardberg	1958-66
Olof Mustelin	1966-81

Secretaries

Olof Mustelin	1958-66
Nils Stora	1966-71
Hans Lindbäck	1971-74
Eva Wallin	1974
Tore Ahlbäck	1974-

The address of the Donner Institute:

The Donner Institute
P.O.B. 70

SF-20501 Åbo
Finland



THE BODY

*A Colloquium on
Comparative Spirituality*

July 8-11, 1987

Lancaster University

The conference will focus primarily on the uses of the body made in devotion and spiritual exercises in the major religious traditions, and the theories of the body implicit in these. Other connected themes will also be discussed: attitudes to sexuality and the emotions, body metaphors in the different theological traditions, and the use of the body as a vehicle for structure and ideology in systems of belief. Survey lectures will be interspersed with a large choice of short communications.

Participants include:

JULIAN BALDICK CARMEN BLACKER STEVEN COLLINS
FRIEDHELM HARDY LOUIS JACOBS ANDREW LOUTH
MICHAEL SASO BRYAN TURNER KALLISTOS WARE
Talal Asad Michael Barnes Anne-Marie Gaston Gerda Geddes
Paul Heelas Stewart McFarlane Paul Morris Robert Murray
Eleanor Nesbitt Ada Rapoport-Albert Wendy Robinson Ninian Smart
David Smith David Stott Alan Williams Rowan Williams

Cost £95 all-inclusive

or £10 non-resident conference fee (no meals)

For application forms (to be received, with payment, by June 1) and further details, contact Dr Sarah Coakley, Department of Religious Studies, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YG, England

IAHR

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

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President

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FG Religionswissenschaft
Liebigstrasse 37
3550 Marburg, W. Germany
Tel. 0 64 21 - 28 36 62

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THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1985-1990

addresses of members other than those printed above

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