

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

# IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN

8

FEBRUARY 1988

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear fellow-members of the IAHR,

As a result of an unfortunate misunderstanding in our office the previous bulletin, Nr. 7, sent to you in January, contained the wrong set of addresses. As a result I have received several corrections. In this way we have discovered that the Bulletin arrives! However I must apologise for this bad mistake.

Together with this bulletin you will receive a replacement for No. 7. Please destroy the No. 7 which you received previously, and replace it with the new one. To save postage, the present issue has been moved forward and is therefore rather slight. Please feel free to send in contributions for a spring issue, if possible by the end of March.

May I repeat my request for any affiliated organisations which have not yet designated (a) representative(s) to attend the meeting of the International Committee of IAHR on June 18th in Marburg to do so urgently. The participation list for the conference immediately preceding this meeting is about to be closed. Needless to say, it will still be possible for designated representatives to attend the meeting, but it will soon no longer be possible to coordinate accommodation arrangements with the Marburg conference. An agenda for the committee meeting will be circulated in advance and I would be grateful to be told of any items which members wish to raise.

Michael Pye

Change of position and address

The Rev. Canon Prof. J.O. Awolalu, who is a member of the Executive Committee, has recently left the University of Ibadan to take up a new post in his home state (Ondo State) as Chairman of the Teaching Service Commission. His new address is:

Teaching Service Commission,  
P.M.B. 708,  
Akure,  
Nigeria

CISR/ICSR conference

The next meeting of the "International Conference for the Sociology of Religion" (ICSR) will be held at Helsinki in 1989 (August 21-25). The following text is drawn from the ICSR Bulletin:

"Helsinki will welcome us for the XXth Conference. We intend that it should both cause a stir and serve as a stimulus to new impulses in our discipline. To this end, James BECKFORD will produce a Trend report on the evolution of the sociology of religion (1945-1989) and Emile POULAT will appraise the contribution of the ICSR to the scientific discussion of religion (1948-1988). With regard to the theme, this has been outlined by the local committee (president Nils G. HOLM), discussed by the GA and may now very provisionally be set out as follows:

**Religion in the public sphere: individualization and politization.**

Your opinions and proposals concerning the theme, the possible sub-themes, the authors of the papers in plenary sessions, the organization of the latter, are all welcome. Please send them to the general secretariat before 31st December 1987. You will, in so doing, stimulate the imagination of the Council that will meet at the beginning of 1988. The March Bulletin will give you information about the decisions that will then have been made and the possible contributions of the members of the ICSR. The success of the XXth Conference thus depends on the rapidity of your reactions and on the dynamism that they engender."

The general secretary of ICSR is Roland J. Campiche, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

NB: CISR = Conférence Internationale de Sociologie des Religions

Conference notice

ESOTERIC BUDDHISM IN JAPAN

-Its Influence on Japanese Culture, Past and Present-

A Two-Day Seminar to be held at the  
University of Aarhus, Denmark, mid-September 1988,  
under the auspices of  
The Seminar for Buddhist Studies  
Copenhagen and Aarhus.

&

The Danish Association for the History of Religions  
(DAHR, affiliated to the IAHR)

At the above-named seminar, to be held in Aarhus, Denmark, on or about the 15th September 1988, we hope to cast some light on the position of Vajrayana Buddhism in Japan, a major Buddhist tradition which unfortunately has been relatively neglected in the West. The Japanese Shingon Sect will form the focus of the Seminar, being the only sect which regards itself as completely esoteric. It is, however, also our intention to examine the esoteric elements in the influential -and to some extent rival- Tendai Sect, as well as the appearance of esoteric Buddhist teachings and practices on the popular level of Japanese religion. At the moment, we envisage holding four sessions, roughly as follows:

Day One: Introduction to the History and Philosophy of the Sino-Japanese Vajrayana (Ian Astley, Aarhus)

Day Two: Japanese Esoteric Buddhist Art (Roger Goeppe, Cologne)  
Esoteric Elements in Japanese Mountain Religion (Ian Reader, Hirakata, Osaka)

There will be facilities for showing slides or using other audio-visual media, and ample time in the respective sessions for making full use of these facilities. Since the ritual and the art of this tradition lend themselves to such representation, contributors are encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity.

We are planning to publish the seminar papers in our journal, *Studies in Central and East Asian Religions*, about which information is available on request.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

Ian Astley-Kristensen  
Seminar for Buddhist Studies  
(Copenhagen & Aarhus)  
c/o Kolby Hovedgade 8,  
Kolby  
DK-8791 Tranbjerg/Samsø

Traditional Cosmology Society

The Traditional Cosmology Society was founded in Edinburgh, U.K., in 1984 for the international study of myth, religion and cosmology. It aims to provide a forum for discussion and to promote interdisciplinary exchange. Scholars from many disciplines contribute to its conferences, talks and publications : Religious Studies, Social Anthropology, History and Philosophy of Science, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Literature, Archaeology and other areas of study and research are all well represented.

A regular programme of lectures and conferences is held, and two publications are produced. Meetings are held mainly in Scotland and it is anticipated that for those living outside Scotland publications will be of most interest. Members receive annually a yearbook, Cosmos, and two issues of newsletter, Shadow. Both are substantial publications and include in the form of articles a large number of the papers given at conferences or as individual lectures in the Society's programme. Book notices and news are also included in the newsletter. The yearbook is on the theme of the preceding year's summer conference, and the 1987 issue of the yearbook is on Analogy.

The subscription year runs from 1st January, and the rates are : Individual £7.50; Joint (two members at the same address receiving only one copy of the publications) £10; Student (receiving only the newsletter) £3; Institutional £12. Overseas members should add £2 to these rates.

It is hoped that IAHR members will be interested in joining the Society, which already has good relations with the BAHR. Those who are likely to visit Scotland may also wish to write for a current programme of lectures and conferences.

Please contact the Membership Secretary, Traditional Cosmology Society, School of Scottish Studies (University of Edinburgh), 27 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LD, U.K.

Traditional Cosmology Society  
CONFERENCE ON POLYTHEISTIC SYSTEMS

Edinburgh, Scotland  
8th-13th August, 1988

The Traditional Cosmology Society was established in 1984 for the international and interdisciplinary study of myth, religion and cosmology. The Society's main summer conference is fast becoming recognised as a major event for scholars whose interests lie in these areas. In August 1988 a wide-ranging programme of papers and forums on the broad theme of Polytheistic Systems will be presented at Pollock Halls, University of Edinburgh. Many of the papers will thereafter be published in Cosmos, no. 5, the 1989 issue of the Society's yearbook.

A number of offers of papers have already been made by eminent scholars in the field, dealing with the question of polytheism in relation to Hinduism, African religions, the Old Testament, Aztec and Huichol religion and others, as well as papers covering theoretical aspects of the evaluation of polytheistic systems.

Offers of further papers, or suggestions for further forums, are invited.

The Edinburgh International Festival (one of the largest arts festivals in the world) will be taking place in the second half of August and conference participants may wish to take advantage of this opportunity to stay in Edinburgh a little longer. Accommodation for the period of the Conference (only) will be available in a university residence for those who require it.

Registration forms and further details will be available shortly. Please contact

Dr. Emily Lyle,  
School of Scottish Studies,  
University of Edinburgh,  
27 George Square,  
EDINBURGH. EH8 9LD

OR

Dr. Deirdre Green,  
Department of Theology and  
Religious Studies,  
Saint David's University College,  
LAMPETER, Dyfed, SA48 7ED

OR (If you are interested in contributing a paper on polytheism in Indian religion)

Dr. John Brockington,  
Department of Sanskrit,  
University of Edinburgh,  
7, Buccleuch Place,  
EDINBURGH. EH8 9LW

# Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie

Bilingual Journal of the "École Française d'Extrême-Orient"

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### Français:

Depuis plus de vingt ans, la section de l'École Française d'Extrême-Orient de Kyōto est un centre de travail pour les chercheurs européens et japonais et un carrefour de rencontre pour les Orientalistes de tous les pays.

C'est le besoin d'offrir à nos diverses activités une expression plus cohérente qui a donné naissance aux *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie*. Dans cette revue nous diffuserons de manière rapide des informations de recherche que nos multiples affiliations et notre situation géographique privilégiée nous permettent de réunir.

La majorité des membres du secteur Chine-Japon de l'EFEO s'est réunie pour former le Comité de rédaction de nos *Cahiers*. Certains présenteront, dans les numéros suivants, des rapports sur la recherche dans leurs domaines respectifs (études de Dunhuang, taoïsme, études bouddhiques, iconographie).

La formule bilingue des *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* exprime notre désir d'intensifier la collaboration entre collègues francophones et anglophones. Avec des bibliographies annotées et des rapports de recherche nous souhaitons stimuler les relations entre chercheurs travaillant en Occident et en Extrême-Asie.

### English:

The first scholar of the "École Française d'Extrême-Orient" (EFEO) came to Japan in 1902. Since 1964, the China-Japan sector of the EFEO has maintained a Research Center in one of the oldest Zen temples in Kyōto. The scholars working at this Center have created the *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* in order to provide a more widely accessible accounting of their varied activities and to communicate, as rapidly as possible, some of the information their privileged location in Kyōto permits them to collect.

The members of the EFEO China-Japan sector comprise the Editorial Board. Some of them will, in subsequent more topical issues, report on the work of their respective research teams in France and in Japan (CNRS Dunhuang Research Group, EFEO Taoist studies, Paris; EFEO *Hōbōgirin* Project, Kyōto).

The bilingual policy of the *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* expresses our wish to enhance cooperation between French and Anglo-Saxon colleagues. With bibliographies and research reports in all issues we hope to stimulate communication between scholars working in East Asia and those in the West.

# IAHR

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

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