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FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

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The **IAHR BULLETIN**

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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, Taasingegade 3, University of Aarhus, DK-8000 Aarhus C, Denmark (Phone +45 89422306; Fax +45 86130490; e-mail geertz@teologi.au.dk; <http://www.teo.au.dk>).

The IAHR is an international body of national and regional 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.

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Editorial

Welcome to the 36th issue of the IAHR Bulletin. This issue and the accompanying *IAHR Handbook 2000* will be used during the up-coming business meetings convening in Durban this August. So please keep them on hand and make sure that the association delegates also have them. Further copies can be sent on request.

If there are any inaccuracies in the section on IAHR affiliates, kindly send the corrections as well as the names and addresses of the national and regional executive officers.

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 seeing many of you in Durban!

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. I have kept the associations up-to-date on the most important matters through the *IAHR Bulletin Supplements* (1-3). 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. 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.

Affiliates and Other Societies

One of the most active areas in the daily routines of this office concerns the flow of information to and from the IAHR affiliates as well as the coordination and co-hosting of IAHR sponsored events together with IAHR affiliates. The past few years have been particularly busy with regards to three areas: 1) requests for help in establishing and conducting meetings with regards to new affiliates, 2) the sad withdrawal of affiliation by the Australian Association for the Study of Religion and 3) the somewhat rocky birth of an IAHR regional European association.

1) *The IAHR is in the happy situation* that there is a growing number of associations requesting affiliation. In Durban, we can expect to deliberate on the applications of associations in Austria, Estonia, Europe (regional), Kenya, Slovakia, and Taiwan. Negotiations are currently being conducted with representatives in Brazil, Ghana, Greece, Portugal and Turkey. The other side of the coin is that the growth of the IAHR complicates the logistics of communication and contact with its affiliates. The complaints of the Australian Association are a case in point. How can we improve our communication lines, and how can we reach the individual members of IAHR affiliates? As long as infrastructures are so insecure in many parts of the world, e-mail and the IAHR website are of limited effectiveness.

2) *We have received official confirmation* that the Australian Association for the Study of Religion “has decided, after a long period of deliberation, that it did not wish to maintain its affiliation with the IAHR under the current arrangements” (correspondence of 11 January 2000 from Dr. Trevor Jordan, Immediate Past-President of the AASR). Dr. Jordan concluded his letter with the statement: “I am sure that AASR membership will consider any future prospects for re-affiliation with the IAHR on their merits”.

As instructed by the International Committee and the Executive Committee in Hildesheim, I sent the Australian Association a letter sketching out two main points. The first was from the Executive Committee with the support of the International Committee: I asked them to help us understand what the problem was and to ask how we could resolve it. I asked if they wished to meet with an IAHR representative and whether they would be interested in hosting an IAHR regional conference on Southeast Asia in 2002 in cooperation with the Indonesian, New Zealand and possibly Chinese associations. The second was from the International Committee: I wrote that it was unanimously decided that “if the Australian Association has not paid its dues in full by the Durban Congress...it will not be allowed to attend the business meetings of the

IAHR". I also wrote, "Please be assured that nobody, either in the Executive Committee or in the International Committee, wishes to see the emergence of such implications. On the contrary, everybody is most interested in seeing the development of a more positive relationship between AASR and the IAHR...." (correspondence of 28 May 1998 to 'Tricia Blombery, Trevor Jordan and David Burgess). A copy was sent on that same day by e-mail as well.

In a letter (incorrectly) dated 15 May 1998 (it was 1999), 'Tricia Blombery wrote that "the Australian Association for the Study of Religions does not wish to continue its membership with IAHR". She enclosed an extract from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the AASR held in July 1998. The decision was to be officially ratified at the next AGM in October 1999. The extracts contained a blend of surprising information and some misinformation. It was the first time that the Executive Committee of the IAHR had ever been presented with the full AASR point of view. I wrote back requesting copies of the documentation that was referred to in the extract and asked if the AASR would present a document to its members that I would send to them shortly before their AGM in October.

After careful deliberation with the Executive Committee, it was decided that we ask Prof. Morny Joy from Canada to present our views at that meeting where she was invited to give a keynote speech. She gracefully accepted that charge. I also sent her a copy of a seven page letter addressed to the members of the AASR dated 24 September 1999. Unfortunately it did not reach Prof. Joy nor the AGM in time for the meeting, which was convened at the end of September. Prof. Joy did, however, present our views fully and faithfully, for which we are very grateful.

Prof. Jordan's letter was brief, but it was accompanied by two pages of personal reflections which were very constructive. As I wrote in my reply, it would have helped things a lot if we had received such a letter ten years ago.

Basically, the problems according to the above-mentioned extract, were the following. After the IAHR world congress in Sydney in 1985, the AASR executives "felt the congress to be unsatisfactory in several respects specifically the general attitude to women scholars and their work and the failure to make adequate provision for feminist perspectives, the Eurocentric nature of the debate, the financial decisions of the IAHR". The issue of the feminist perspective appeared to be resolved at the Rome congress in 1990 from the AASR point of view, and the AASR supported the change of the name of the IAHR. Further unspecified dissatisfaction arose in 1993. Although the discontent persisted, it was decided in 1994 to reduce their dues payments to the IAHR. After the congress in Mexico City in 1995, it is claimed that their representatives (Morny Joy and Garry Trompf) reported "that the suggested name change had been defeated, the Eurocentrism has intensified and the feminist was neglected". As an aside, Morny Joy has denied the latter two points of this allegation.

In my letter of September 24, 1999, I addressed the issues of feminism and gender, the claim that Eurocentrism has intensified after the Mexico Congress and a number of misinterpretations of correspondence between us. My main point concerning feminist approaches and gender balance was to show that regular and systematic attempts have been made during the past ten years to rectify gender balance on the Executive Committee and to encourage the development of similar policies by IAHR affiliates. The important point, however, is that the Executive Committee can only reasonably represent regions of the world and balance in gender, whereas the International Committee is the actual democratic representative body which reflects both geography and should reflect gender balance. Since then, regular attempts have been made to raise issues of

gender balance in the organisation itself. Thus, over the years, this issue has become official policy, so that the Nominating Committee of the IAHR is chosen “in terms of gender and regional representation” (*Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR*, point 2.b.), that the Nominating Committee should nominate candidates “in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world” (the *Constitution* of the IAHR, Article 4.c.) and on recommendation of the International Committee which met in Paris in 1993 that “it strive towards a gender balance”.

From a gender perspective, the composition of the Executive Committee has changed slowly since 1985. Old dominances do not disappear overnight, especially in an organization consisting of member associations reflecting a wide variety of opinions about gender, regional diversification, the identity of the academic study of religion and so on. The IAHR is a very large organization that meets only a few times over any quinquennial period: the Executive Committee (12 members) or at least its officers (3 members) meet once every year; the International Committee meets once at the world congresses and once in between congresses; and the General Assembly meets once at the world congresses. Having said this, it is equally true that *dramatic* changes occurred during the 1995 Mexico Congress. 5 women were elected—one as Vice-President and one as Deputy General Secretary—and 7 men for the period 1995-2000. Furthermore the regional spread of the new Executive Committee was quite reasonable. The chart on the following page documents this development. But the most important development has happened since I wrote my letter: the Nominating Committee wisely put together a list of candidates in which the balance is the reverse of the Mexico Congress elections: 7 women and 5 men. Since then, two further men have been nominated, and at the time of printing, the final deadline has not been reached. At any rate, the International Committee must decide on this issue through their ballots.

I will not document the rapid growth of feminist and gender studies in the study of religion and at IAHR conferences and congresses. I can only affirm that feminist and gender issues were highly visible in Mexico. One of the most successful academic events during the Mexico congress was the “Gender and Religion” section in Mexico with its eight panels. These panels have resulted in several publications that have recently appeared. This development has accelerated and become more pervasive, as can be seen in the academic program for the Durban Congress. The program is chaired by the Deputy General Secretary of the IAHR, one of the most respected woman scholars in the study of religion, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett. All of the current panels and speakers are listed at Prof. Hackett’s website (<http://web.utk.edu/~rhackett>), and it is clearly evident that charges of androcentrism and eurocentrism run contrary to the facts.

The Executive Committee of the IAHR, furthermore, has adopted a policy of gender balance and concern for members in economically difficult countries in relation to conferences that are hosted by its member affiliates. Thus in the rules and procedures for IAHR Co-sponsored Conferences, Regional Conferences, Special Conferences as well as the Quinquennial Congresses it is stipulated in writing that it is recommended “that wherever possible attention be paid to gender balance in terms of speakers as well as of participants”. Special financial considerations are given throughout to participants and hosting organizations from or in countries with weak currencies.

Thus, the report to the AASR members after the Mexico Congress that “Eurocentrism has intensified and the feminist was neglected” is misleading. Dr. Blombery was advised by Michael Pye in a letter dated August 23, 1995 about the results of the vote

in terms of gender balance. He wrote, furthermore, that even though the rejection of the change of the name was about two to one, it “was made clear during the Assembly, the new Committee will be looking for ways to make the breadth of interests covered by the IAHR very clear”. The Australian members are not the only ones who were disappointed by the outcome. I personally voted for a change of the name. But we are also confronted with the problem that many members of the IAHR are worried that its regional diversification policy will weaken rather than strengthen the organization.

Country	Executive Committee Period					
	1985-1990		1990-1995		1995-2000	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Canada		1		1		1
Denmark				1		1
Finland					1	
France				1		
Germany	1	2		2		2
Israel		1		1		
Italy		1		1	1	
Japan		1		1		1
Mexico			1		1	
Netherlands		1			1	
Nigeria		1		1		
Poland		1				
South Africa						1
South Korea	1					
Sweden			1			
USA				1	1	1

The current Executive Committee does not share this sentiment, but it must maintain a balance between opposing viewpoints. The Australian decision, therefore, hurts the positive forces and people it wants to promote.

In sum, then, I wrote that the Executive Committee of the IAHR is happy to note that the Australian Association for the Study of Religions shares its concern with gender balance. Since the IAHR is an umbrella organization that does not have individual membership, it is very much dependent on the national and regional associations in terms of what kinds of policies to pursue and, of great importance, the ability of the

affiliate associations to make the IAHR and its policies relevant and known to their members. This, it is felt, was one of the failings of the AASR.

The second point I addressed concerned the alleged Eurocentrism of the IAHR. The Minutes of the AASR Annual General Meeting of 1998 claim that the defeat of the change of the name of the IAHR somehow intensified its Eurocentrism. This allegation is misconceived. A signal event in the history of the IAHR occurred in Marburg in June 1988, during which the International Committee also met. Study groups presented papers describing the study of religion in areas of the world where the IAHR was either without affiliates or was under-represented, specifically the Islamic countries, Latin America, Africa and Asia. At the time, the IAHR consisted of associations in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Southern Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA. The study groups presented recommendations to the International Committee (Australia, unfortunately, did not send representatives) concerning IAHR activity in the Islamic countries, Latin America, Africa and Asia. These recommendations were enthusiastically accepted. For details see *Marburg Revisited: Institutions and Strategies in the Study of Religion*, edited by Michael Pye, Marburg: diagonal-Verlag 1989 and *IAHR Bulletin* 9 (September 1988).

Since then, the history of IAHR conferences, publications and new memberships sufficiently disproves the allegations in the AGM Minutes. The following associations have been added to the IAHR family: a regional African association, Belgium/Luxembourg, Quebec, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, a regional Latin American association, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Spain and Ukraine. Since I wrote my letter, the above-mentioned applications by and negotiations with a further nine associations from various parts of the globe have been pursued. The distribution of affiliates at the moment is as follows: North America (3), Latin America (3), East Asia and Pacific (6), India (1), Africa (3), Israel (1), Europe (15) and Russia and Ukraine (2), which means that in terms of Eurocentrism (if North America is included) there are 18 Euro-American associations and 16 from other parts of the world. If all of the current applications are accepted the balance will be 21/18, and if the final three materialize it will be 23/19. It is not parity, but it can be stated that the IAHR policy of regional diversification which became official in 1988 (just 3 years after the initial Australian discontent) has been an overwhelming success. Since 1988, conferences have been held in a variety of locations around the world and, as we all know, the next quinquennial congress will be in the Southern Hemisphere.

Prof. Trevor Jordan responded constructively to these matters in his personal reflections which accompanied his official letter confirming the decision for disaffiliation. These reflections brought out further detail which is not without interest and which raise some issues that I think the IAHR should be concerned with. I therefore cite the main parts of his reflections below.

Personal reflections

May I also take this opportunity to make some personal observations based on my involvement with the AASR over the last 18 years.

Effective participation of AASR members in IAHR

On 4 August 1994 you wrote: 'If your members have no other contact with the IAHR than our newsletter (which I hope your committee dutifully xerox and send out to all of your members), and know little else of the benefits and

activities of the IAHR, then something is wrong and needs to be corrected.' This was exactly the point the AASR was trying to make. Unfortunately, until we objected to paying the annual dues determined by the Executive, that was all most of our members got.

For whatever reason, there has been little involvement of Australian scholars of religion in the IAHR. The cost of participation in IAHR events is very high for our members. The size of our regular contribution was way out of step with the effective interest in the IAHR by our members. The reduction in our level of contribution was an acknowledgment of this reality. The contribution of \$US1.00, in fact, would still be way in excess of the effective constituency and was an attempt by our executive to *maintain* our link with the IAHR.

Real costs of involvement

The 'only US\$1.00' contribution per AASR member must be put into perspective. The primary opportunity to communicate IAHR matters to our members was through the Review which comes out biannually and our annual meeting. Dutifully 'xeroxing and sending out' the Bulletin and supplements out to all our members would be costly. The IAHR itself charges US\$15.00 for a single annual copy of the Bulletin. This is about AU\$25. Reproducing your recent 8 page communication and distributing to all our members would have cost us A\$400 +. Sending two representatives to International Committee meetings in Europe would cost about \$6,000.

IAHR decision-making processes

The unsuccessful attempt to change the name of the organisation made it difficult for the AASR to promote the IAHR as an inclusive and forward-thinking organisation. The manner in which such an important decision was made, however, reflects one of the key paradoxes of the IAHR claim to be 'an international body of national societies for the study of religion.' In this day and age, making such a fundamental decision on the votes of those *individuals* who were able to attend the General Assembly seems disingenuous. There must be better ways to ensure *representation of constituent societies*, if the organisation is genuinely concerned with building an international network. The suggestion that AASR interests could be seriously represented on the basis of the possibility 'that one of your many members will be travelling in Europe and might like to take this in' (Michael Pye, 17.2.94) beggars belief. Individuals cannot join the IAHR if there is a national affiliate organisation, yet decision-making at the General Assembly is *not* on the basis of these affiliate organisations, but on the number of individuals who happen to be present! Representation on the International Committee also requires active attendance. A greater sense of ownership and participation might be engendered by seriously considering a better mix of decision-making processes. Concerns that 'regional diversification will weaken rather than strengthen the organization' do reflect the 'regionalism' or Eurocentrism that has been our experience of the IAHR. That this is changing is cause for celebration and we do know that the Executive committee is strongly committed to counteracting this legacy.

However, without creatively addressing the representation paradox at the heart of the IAHR's decision-making processes, it is hard to see how that will

be achieved.

It is clear that the AASR and the current IAHR Executive is in agreement on key principles such as internationalism, gender balance and disciplinary breadth.

The AASR position only sought to bring its financial contribution into line with its effective involvement with the IAHR over the past 15 years. We did not mean to be provocative or to cause affront to anyone, we merely sought a more honest and practical means of maintaining our connection with the IAHR.

The threat of exclusion from further participation in IAHR if we do not pay our dues is symptomatic of your misunderstanding of our position, which is entirely pragmatic. We hardly feel excluded or isolated by not being able to participate in something we have not effectively participated in anyway.

A possible way forward

I do not think the AASR stance is permanent. I certainly think the AASR may, in future, reconsider seeking affiliation with the IAHR. Perhaps a regional conference will be the way of promoting this. Unfortunately, the international committee's suggestion for regional collaboration with Indonesia or China came at an unfortunate time for our membership. Australian/Indonesian relations have been at an all-time low due to the situation in East Timor. However, I am sure the AASR will assist the IAHR to identify potential groups of participants for such a conference.

As I have said, these are only my personal reflections on the matters which have concerned. Unfortunately, the Durban conference coincides with the teaching semester in Australia and I will not be in attendance, but please give my regards to the organisers, particularly those who have thought so long and creatively about the program.

With kind regards
Trevor J

I responded to Prof. Jordan and thanked him for his personal reflections. I wrote among other things:

...I am afraid that the significance of the pragmatic nature of the AASR stance did not come out clearly enough for us. On the other hand, the AASR stance clashed with other equally important issues for the IAHR. So the situation would most likely have arisen anyway. But perhaps we could have handled it in a more productive manner. At any rate, I will convey your viewpoints to the Executive Committee and the International Committee of the IAHR.

I am happy to read that the AASR and the Executive Committee of the IAHR are in agreement on principles such as internationalism, gender balance and disciplinary breadth and that the AASR might seek reaffiliation at some time in the future. I am also grateful for your offer to help assist us in identifying potential groups of participants for a Regional Conference in your area.

You raise important issues on the paradoxes of decision-making in the IAHR which I personally feel deserve debate and, if possible, resolution. With the growth of affiliates accelerating on a global scale, other associations will be faced with the same problems that you raise. This is an issue that we

have been aware of, but have not effectively raised for constitutional deliberation. I will take the matter up at the next Executive Committee meeting (e-mail correspondence of 12 February 2000).

Since then, Prof. Jordan has kindly kept me informed on the AASR 2000 Conference on the theme "Identity and Change" which will be held 30 June to 2 July. I wish them success.

I raised the constitutional issues with the Executive Committee in Cracow, but the committee was uncertain about how to proceed. I would therefore like to hear the responses of the International Committee when we meet in Durban. As far as can be determined, the way forward would be in terms of individual membership and a substantial increase in subscription rates. Such a step would also involve the need of a professional distributor whose job would be to maintain a database containing the names and addresses of some 3-4 thousand members. We simply don't know how many members the IAHR affiliates have. And financially, we would be starting from scratch because the affiliates have not been faithful in paying their dues. One could perhaps consider e-mail negotiations on important matters and elections, if all the affiliates were on e-mail. But unfortunately, they are not.

These matters will probably arise more often in the future. I expect the next quinquennial period to focus on Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Perhaps some solutions can be found to improving the links between the local and the global.

3) *A new IAHR regional European association* was founded in Cracow, Poland in May 2000. The founding general assembly was attended by representatives from various European IAHR affiliates as well as interested individual scholars. The meeting and the subsequent elections were observed by members of the IAHR Executive Committee. It seems that we have finally witnessed the equitable solution to a long-term interest on the part of IAHR affiliates in Europe to coordinate their various activities. During the years, the IAHR has been non-committal on the issue because the Executive Committee felt that this was an internal matter between the European IAHR affiliates. But with the establishment of a hostile organisation by Prof. Charles Marie Ternes that actively competed with the IAHR and especially with its European affiliates and with the collapse of a great deal of diplomatic effort to resolve conflicts, it was decided that steps should be taken by the IAHR to ensure that the IAHR European affiliates set the agenda for regional affiliation in Europe. This affiliation would address the needs and promises of a united European scholarship in the study of religions and would ensure peaceful relations with the IAHR. It was also realized that there was a need to reflect on how to properly interconnect the three levels of organisational activity in the IAHR, i.e. international, regional and national. Scholars from various countries in Europe graciously agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee with the charge to develop a draft constitution, to actively elicit the support of a majority of the European IAHR affiliates and to invite them to send any views they may have on the draft constitution or other matters, to incorporate as a legal association in a major European city, and to convene a general assembly at the conference in Cracow in order to activate the association by wider approval, to appoint a board and to apply for affiliation to the IAHR. The committee was chaired by Michael Pye and the participants were Montserrat Abumalham Mas (Spain), Herman Beck (the Netherlands), Francisco Diez de Velasco (Canary Islands), Giulia Sfameni Gasparro (Italy), Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Poland), Helena Helve (Finland), Willem Hofstee (the Netherlands), Tim Jensen (Denmark) and Kim Knott (Great Britain).

The ad hoc committee fulfilled its charge successfully and with great talent. And on behalf of the IAHR, I wish to gratefully acknowledge their careful handling of a complex issue. I think that the result can serve to illustrate how regional IAHR affiliates can be constructed and I publish therefore in the announcements section of this bulletin Michael Pye's recent letter to the European affiliates as well as the constitution of the newly founded European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). EASR applied for affiliation in Cracow, and the Executive Committee of the IAHR accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

International Committee

The International Committee and the General Assembly of the IAHR will be convening in Durban, South Africa during the XVIIIth Congress. The International Committee convenes to pursue IAHR business and at its meeting in Durban, it will be electing the Executive Committee for the next quinquennial period (2000-2005). The agendas are published on pages 27-28 in this bulletin.

The secretaries of all IAHR affiliates are hereby requested to send the names of the delegates who will be attending the International Committee meeting to me by July 25, 2000 at the latest. This will give me the possibility of publishing the names of the delegates at the congress.

All of the IAHR affiliates have received the documents related to the establishment of the Nominating Committee and the list of candidates which they have nominated in agreement with the IAHR constitution and the rules of procedure. Shortly after the publication of the names of the candidates, two further nominations were forwarded to me by members of the International Committee. All of the names of the candidates are listed below. ***Because this bulletin must be delivered to the printers before the final deadline for alternative nominations, the list below is only provisional!*** The final list will be sent by letter when this bulletin is sent out to the officers of the IAHR associations. The statements of candidacy will be circulated during the congress in Durban.

Officers:

President: Peter Antes (Germany)
Vice President: Rosalind I. J. Hackett (USA)
Vice President: Montserrat Abulmalham Mas (Spain)
General Secretary: Armin W. Geertz (Denmark)
Deputy General Secretary: Gerrie ter Haar (Netherlands)
Treasurer: Gary Lease (USA)

Members-at-large (in alphabetical order):

Mary Getui (Kenya)
Ingvild Saelid Gilhus (Norway)
Halina Grzymala-Moszczynska (Poland)
Jacob K. Olupona (USA)
Dalibor Papousek (Czech Republic)
Kameshwar Prasad Singh (India)
Akio Tsukimoto (Japan)
Alef Theria Wasim (Indonesia)

Thus, so far there are no competing candidates for the officers, but there are competing candidates for the members-at-large. This means that at the moment we know for sure that the 8 candidates for members-at-large will be competing for 6 seats. The deadline for further nominations is July 4th. After that date I will send you further details.

Legal Incorporation

At the International Committee meeting held in Rome during the IAHR world congress on September 5, 1990, point 13 on the agenda concerned "Legal incorporation and contractual obligations of IAHR". It was argued that "the IAHR, in spite of its long history, was nowhere legally incorporated and that therefore it was scarcely possible for its officers to enter into contractual obligations, for example with respect to its journal *Numen*. The Executive Committee was requested to look into this matter and take action as appropriate." This resolution was confirmed by the General Assembly, and the matter has been discussed at various Executive Committee meetings without much progress.

Michael Pye requested the assistance of Willem Hofstee from the Dutch IAHR affiliate to look into the requirements for legal incorporation/registration in The Hague in The Netherlands. It was felt by the Executive Committee that the significance of The Netherlands for the foundation and history of the IAHR spoke for its incorporation in that country. Prof. Hofstee has diligently pursued the matter, and on behalf of the IAHR I wish to extend our gratitude. The incorporation must be finally approved by the General Assembly in Durban, and it must also approve an addition to the constitution of the IAHR. The final wording will be presented to the International Committee and the General Assembly in Durban, but it will most likely be the following wording as "Article 1B":

"The association shall be legally registered at The Hague, The Netherlands. In the event of disputes arising concerning these statutes and their application informal mediation shall be sought. In the event that attempts at mediation should fail, all disputes and legal actions which might arise, shall as a last resort, to the exclusion of all other official bodies and insofar as admissible by law, be adjudicated exclusively by the judge entitled to adjudicate in the subject of dispute in the High Court of The Hague."

The title of Article 1 should then be changed to "Article 1A". I hope that the International Committee and the General Assembly will approve of this addition in fulfillment of their charge to the Executive Committee.

Congresses and Conferences

As can be seen by the accompanying chart, several IAHR events have been put into effect every year during the current quinquennial period. IAHR affiliates have been very interested in having their events acknowledged as IAHR conferences. In some instances we have asked colleagues to host an IAHR conference for various reasons. We have attempted to find the means to arrange conferences in Turkey, South Korea and Indonesia, but communication with contact persons in these countries have been extremely poor. We have also co-sponsored conferences with other international associations as a signal to our colleagues in other fields that the IAHR is cooperative and curious, and has something to say about fundamental human issues.

With the introduction of a new congress structure, the IAHR is on the road to new

**IAHR conference locations
1996-2000**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Co-sponsored</i>
1996	Aarhus, Denmark	Bogota, Columbia	Florence, Italy
1997	****	Turku, Finland	Salerno, Italy
1998	****	Hildesheim, Germany (IAHR Intl. Committee)	Boston, MA, USA
1999	Brno, Czech Republic	Nairobi, Kenya	****
2000	Cracow, Poland	****	****
2000	XVIII th Congress of the IAHR: Durban, South Africa		

possibilities. We have now ensured that the IAHR is more involved in its congresses in terms of structure and academic program. One of the weaknesses, however, is the financial structure. The Congress Director in Durban, Prof. Pratap Kumar, sent us his reflections on this matter, from which I will quote:

As per the role of the IAHR international committee is concerned, it is about time that a more structured approach to the congress hosting is adopted. That is to say, that the international team must first take initiatives to secure funding not just for the keynote speakers, but to look at the entire congress and plan as to how the congress funding could be planned instead of leaving it to the host countries. I think a lot of funding drive could be initiated through European and American funding. But in order to do this one needs a highly organised funding strategy and team that works solely on these matters. It is about time that the IAHR establishes a kind of a semi-permanent secretariat on congress related matters for after all it is the biggest event that the IAHR holds and it has to be done in a manner that the international team is more involved than they are now in the present structure. Of course, now with the Durban experience we have broken the ice to change that and now is the opportune time to take the next step to go further and establish some kind of tangible, if not permanent, but semi-permanent secretariat of the congress. This would mean, the congress registration fees could be paid to the international secretariat directly and those monies could be easily channeled to the host countries as and when needed. This way, the international team would be in a better position to understand what the funding requirements are and how and where to source them in collaboration with the host country. In the present set-up all financial responsibilities are left to the host country except a few things such as keynote speaker and some subventions to the needy, etc. This in the long run is not very good for the IAHR as it becomes more and more sophisticated in its organisation of the congresses. In a way the Durban experience has forced the IAHR to become more involved at the level of organisation of the congress and the logical step forward is to consolidate that to establish a semi-permanent secretariat at the central level. This would enable

the IAHR to approach the congress hosting not in an ad hoc manner but in a highly structured and planned way from the word go (e-mail correspondence of 25 August 1999).

I find this advice well placed. The formerly ambiguous relationship between congress organizers and the IAHR have improved vastly with the new structure. But the area where the IAHR has no influence or insight is in terms of the financial structure and flow. This is in part symptomatic of the fundamental non-commercial nature of the organization. A solution would be to transform the organization into a more commercial venture, but would we then be able to keep our idealism in the forefront? When looking at more economically powerful organizations for instance in the U.S., one is skeptical as one otherwise dreams about the possibility of covering expenses for all worthy scholars in need of subventions; of a total package including membership, journal subscriptions and other publications; and the possibility of running the world congresses financially and organizationally. Surely such dreams if ever realized would entail the need of a professional, paid organization which generates profits and finance in its own right. Can any of these dreams be realized, even partially, in a growing organization with little or no money and run purely by volunteer help?

This, in my opinion, is the crux of our organizational problem. But despite the problem, we are doing rather well actually. Most of our affiliates understand the situation and they respond in kind to all the many good and kind efforts being done for and in the name of the IAHR. I would like to see the development of a more coordinated international effort to systematically address these issues. I appeal to the IAHR affiliates to join in establishing a committee with the sole purpose of developing fund-raising strategies and to join us in developing structural innovation in terms of IAHR congresses and conferences.

We were fortunate to receive a US\$10,000 subvention from CIPSH for the Durban Congress. After careful negotiations with the Durban committee and the Executive Committee, applications from scholars in need of support to attend Durban were evaluated and scaled. Special priority was given to helping African scholars. Great efforts were made especially by Rosalind I. J. Hackett and Gerrie ter Haar to raise funds, and the African, Dutch and Danish associations pledged substantial funding for African scholars. But even with a substantial amount of money, there were many who had to be turned down. Some do not understand that the IAHR is not a commercial enterprise. Unfortunately, after most of the CIPSH subvention had been distributed, we received word from CIPSH that their budget for 2000 had been cut and that we would receive further information on the amount at our disposal. At the time of this report, official word has not yet come in. But we can expect it to be less than promised and we might therefore be in the unhappy situation that a sizable portion of the US\$10,000 will have to be taken directly out of the IAHR holdings.

Future Congress and Conferences

The Executive Committee has deliberated during the past year on future conference venues as well as the congress venue for 2005. At its meeting in Brno, Czech Republic in 1999 the committee discussed a list of suggestions with reference to regional and special conferences as well as the next congress. The Japanese Association had presented a bid for hosting the next congress. After going through all of the suggestions, it was decided that the Japanese bid was the best, and during its meeting in Cracow, the Executive Committee officially accepted the Japanese bid.

The official bid was presented by e-mail on 3 April 2000:

To the President and the Executive Committee of the IAHR

The Japanese Association for Religious Studies proposes to invite IAHR 2005 to Japan, in conjunction with its celebration of the one hundredth anniversary year of the installment of the first chair of history of religions and study of religions at the University of Tokyo and the seventy-fifth anniversary year of the establishment of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies.

In the General Assembly meeting of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies in September 1999, held at the time of the Annual Conference thereof, we came to a unanimous decision to invite the IAHR Congress in the year 2005 to Tokyo, Japan, in order for us to share the doubly memorable Japanese anniversary year with you, all the colleagues of IAHR. We sincerely hope that you would accept our invitation. The IAHR would consolidate its connection with historical and extensive universe of history of religions and the Japanese celebration would become a truly international event.

We discussed the theme and the venue of the Congress in the Executive Board. We are keenly conscious of the location of Japan, especially Tokyo, situated at the center of Asia and the Pacific.

As regards the conference theme, the majority of the Executive Board members feel it too early to fix it at the present time, because they believe they must go over all of the past themes, and also to see and assess the outcome of the congress in Durban before formulating the most appropriate theme.

As regards the venue, from the preliminary survey, the Makuhari area near Tokyo International Airport, and the Takanawa area, in downtown Tokyo, where more than 3000 bedrooms are available in one campus, and the Tokyo Bay area where the government is planning the construction of academic meeting places are readily available. Indeed, we can say that Japanese organizers can offer no less than South African partners.

Also, air transportation with substantial conference discount may be arranged. In our approach for the Congress, we do the best to make it open to the world, so that the scholars from all over the world can have significant participation with as much ease as possible, and our approach will be professional.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. Dr. Hitoshi Miyake
President, Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Prof. Dr. Michio Araki
Chair Person, Committee on
International Affairs, Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Michael Pye had approached the Japanese Association many years ago and asked whether they would host the 1995 congress, but it was not possible due to the fact that many Japanese who had arranged the 1958 congress were still active and did not want to carry the burden one more time. But during the past year the Japanese Association

organized a number of committees and began preparing for such a congress. Besides its commemorative significance, the congress will come at a time when Japanese universities are in organizational transition. It is felt that the congress will help strengthen the situation of the study of religions.

During the past ten years, the two Executive Committees have concentrated a great deal of energy on Latin America and Africa. In the meantime, our contacts in India, Asia and the Oceanic regions—with the exception of Japan—have been sporadic. And, as mentioned, Australia has left us among other reasons because of the sporadic nature of our relations. Therefore the Executive Committee felt that the next organizational phase in the IAHR should be focused on the Asian regions and on how to improve our communication and our organization so that regions that are globally widespread understand themselves as members of an organizational unity. Hosting the next congress in Japan would in this sense be mandatory because the Japanese Association, which is one of the largest and oldest IAHR affiliates, has stood shoulder to shoulder with the IAHR in the face of organizational uncertainties both in Asia and other parts of the world. The Executive Committee hopes that our members will agree with us that the IXth Quinquennial Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions should be convened in Tokyo, Japan.

During the period 2001-2005 we expect a lot of conferences to be held in the Asian and Pacific regions. We have already received suggestions for conferences in China, Hawaii, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Korea and Taiwan. There will be representatives from some of these areas in Durban which will give IAHR affiliates ample opportunity to discuss these plans with them. The most concrete suggestion is New Zealand. The President of the New Zealand Association, Prof. Paul Morris, has indicated that NZASR wishes to host an IAHR Regional Conference in Wellington in 2002 or 2003. Prof. Morris will be attending the Durban Congress.

Other venues are Crete and Cuzco. We are also negotiating with colleagues in Turkey which may lead to a conference there. For those of you who have natural contacts with any of the above-mentioned countries, we would appreciate your helpful assistance. We would also appreciate further suggestions and conference bids to be raised during the International Committee meeting in Durban.

Finances

The IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, will be presenting an audited report at the International Committee meeting during which the details can be discussed. The delegates should be prepared, however, for bad news and a good deal of soul-searching. It has been very difficult for Prof. Lease to reconstruct an overview of payments because of problems in transferring incomplete records. The bad news, however, is that a substantial number of IAHR affiliates are long overdue in paying their membership dues. Some are three or four years behind in payments. Only some 15% are paid in full! When combined with the fact that a number of affiliates are simply not able to pay, this leaves the IAHR in a highly vulnerable situation. It makes the organization weak in the face of economically stronger competitors, and it leaves the Executive Committee helpless when economic solutions to problems are required.

Some associations cannot pay their dues, such as Cuba, Latin America, Russia, Ukraine, China, etc. Generally in the past the IAHR has used “alternative contributions” as a way to satisfy payment in some way. This might involve hosting a conference and covering the living costs of a number of key persons or producing a publication, or even paying in national currency according to their means. Some associations

apply for funding through their national research councils and thus the timing might not coincide with the IAHR call for dues.

I appeal to all International Committee delegates to check with their treasurers about the status of membership payments and to bring their payments with them. I also ask those who are not in the position to pay membership dues to contact Gary Lease in Durban and work out alternative solutions. It is not necessarily a matter of how fair alternative solutions are, it is more a matter of ensuring a status of good standing. In principle, business meetings should only be conducted by members in good standing. During the ten years that I have served (five as Treasurer and five as General Secretary), this has not been a policy in the IAHR with the exception of the Australian situation. But many IAHR affiliates, even those residing in countries with strong currencies, have not respected their obligation to pay up. The International Committee approved the procedure chosen in relation to the Australian Association. Does the International Committee have a solution to the balance of outstanding dues?

Prof. Lease has raised the issue that according to U.S. tax laws, the IAHR accounts will be taxed unless it applies for non-profit status. But that procedure is almost impossible if the organization is not incorporated. This is a further impetus to have the IAHR incorporated. Basically, the IAHR is located wherever the General Secretary happens to reside. Various countries have different ideas about matters of incorporation. The Executive committee decided that until the IAHR is incorporated, it will have to cover the tax expenses.

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

As is well known, the IAHR is a member association of CIPSH which consists of 12 international societies. 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 for 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 the preparation or printing of publications, such as bibliographies, dictionaries, collections, etc. and other scientific works of a broadly international character. Because 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. Like the IAHR, CIPSH is faced with economic and political obstacles to international cooperation and global solidarity.

Michael Pye and I attended the XXIVth General Assembly of CIPSH in Naples on October 17-21, 1998. It marked the 50th anniversary of CIPSH. The theme of the conference held in conjunction with the General Assembly was “Humanistic Studies: Leaving the 20th and Entering the 21st Century”. It was expected that each constituent society give a lecture on its area of expertise in relation to the theme, and Michael Pye gave a lecture on behalf of the IAHR entitled “Changing Structures in the History of Religions”. During the General Assembly it was announced that the IAHR would receive continued subventions for its *Science of Religions Abstracts* as well as a US\$10,000 subvention to be used in connection with the Durban Congress. As mentioned above, the 2000 budget was cut and we are awaiting word on the actual size of our subvention. The amount mentioned was somewhere around 20% less. This has put us in an unsatisfactory position in relation to the financial commitments that were effectuated on the assumption that we would indeed receive US\$10,000.

I gave a brief report on the IAHR and passed out the May 1998 Bulletin, our

brochure and the Durban brochure. The report and this material brought praise from the Secretary General of CIPSH, Prof. Jean Bingen. He said that the IAHR is a model association in the CIPSH family. His reason for this praise was that the IAHR produces materials explaining what it is doing and it devotes effort to explaining CIPSH to the IAHR membership. I thanked him on behalf of the IAHR for his kind words.

The General Assembly was addressed by Prof. Kim, an eloquent representative from UNESCO. CIPSH is a NOG (Non-Governmental Organization) under UNESCO. There are hundreds of NOGs all competing for support by UNESCO. Thus we are in effect competing with organizations such as the Red Cross and Food for Children, a fact which puts our small problems in perspective. Prof. Kim praised CIPSH, and especially Prof. Bingen, for effectively improving its prestige. CIPSH has succeeded in changing the former esoteric character of its journal *Diogène* to a journal of wider academic appeal. The journal has also become financially viable and less dependent on UNESCO. Simple subventions will no longer be possible because there are 186 member states who have very diverse interests and who may not consider *Diogène* to be as relevant or interesting as the rest of us do.

Prof. Kim noted that CIPSH has also improved its standing by choosing to support themes that are of interest to UNESCO. But there are serious financial restraints in the work of UNESCO and thus CIPSH should not expect increases in financial support. In fact, Prof. Kim stated that it would be a good idea to reach out to other alternative resources in order to reduce dependence on UNESCO over the coming years. The framework agreement makes it clear that UNESCO is not a funding organization. And he ended by saying that a new leader of UNESCO would be elected who will probably have a different budgetary policy.

The budgetary committee of CIPSH explained to the General Assembly that applications had come in for US\$263,000 but that only US\$190,000 was available. They asked member organizations to try to have the cost of printing reduced, to use disc-ready or camera-ready procedures and to get competitive prices. They also encouraged members to develop their bibliographical publications on the internet.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, CIPSH published an anthology of papers by renowned scholars such as Karl Jaspers, Roger Caillois, Georges Dumézil, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Theodosius Dobzhansky and Paul Ricoeur entitled *Diogène: Une anthologie. Textes choisis à l'occasion du cinquantième du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines, CIPSH 1948-1998*, published by Gallimard.

The next General Assembly will be held in Buenos Aires in September 2000. CIPSH asked us to help organize the conference during which the General Assembly will be convened. The theme will be “Regard de l’autre, regard sur l’autre” and they asked the IAHR to co-host a round table on “Religion and Religions in the Contemporary World” with emphasis on South America. Our colleague Prof. Pablo Wright has been of great assistance in bringing this about. Rosalind I. J. Hackett will be the official IAHR delegate. She will also serve on the Nominating Committee of CIPSH during the conference.

Publications

The Executive Committee is happy to announce that the following conference publications have now appeared: Two “Adjunct Proceedings” of the Mexico Congress, namely *Perspectives on Method and Theory in the Study of Religion: Adjunct Proceedings of the XVIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions*,

Mexico City, 1995, edited by Armin W. Geertz & Russell T. McCutcheon (published simultaneously as a special issue of *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 12 [1/2], 2000 and a separate volume by E.J.Brill, Leiden 2000), and *Gender / Bodies / Religions: Adjunct Proceedings of the XVIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions*, edited by Sylvia Marcos, Cuernavaca: ALER Publications 2000. Three spin-off publications from the Mexico Congress have appeared so far: *Sectas o iglesias viejos o nuevos movimientos religiosos*, compiled by Elio Masferrer Kan, Mexico City: Plaza y Valdés, S.A. de C.V. and la Asociación Latinoamericana para el estudio de las Religiones (ALER) 1998; a special issue of *Religion. An International Journal* entitled *Symposium on Religion and Gender*, edited by Sylvia Marcos & Rosalind I. J. Hackett (28, 1998, 307-411); and *Western Esotericism and the Science of Religion: Selected Papers presented at the 17th Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Mexico City 1995*, edited by Antoine Faivre & Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Leuven: Peeters 1998. The official proceedings are currently being edited by Yolotl González Torres and will hopefully appear in Durban.

The Bogota IAHR Regional Conference led to the publication of *Religion y Etnicidad en America Latina: Memorias del VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Religion y Etnicidad ALER y II Encuentro de la diversidad del hecho religioso en Colombia ICER*, 3 vols., edited by German Ferro Medina, Bogota: Instituto Colombiano de Antropologica 1997. Although not stated in the publication, the papers were read at an IAHR Regional Conference.

The IAHR Special Conference in Turku led to the publication of *Approaching Religion Part I. Based on Papers Read at the Symposium on Methodology in the Study of Religions Held at Åbo, Finland, on the 4th-7th August 1997*, edited by Tore Ahlbäck, Åbo: The Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History 1999.

The papers read at the joint IAHR and NAASR Round Table during the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy in 1998 have been published or are currently in press in several different journals. The proceedings of the IAHR Regional Conference in Nairobi in 1999 are currently being edited by Mary N. Getui, J. N. K. Mugambi and Jan Platvoet. And the proceedings of the IAHR Special Conference in Brno in 1999 are currently being edited by Dalibor Papoušek and Luther H. Martin.

The Executive Committee discussed briefly at its meeting in Brno whether it should be more restrictive in designating IAHR conferences. The reason for this is that many organizers tend to forget the designation when publishing the proceedings. Some organizers believe that they do not owe the IAHR recognition if it doesn't support the publications economically. We have supported various publications in various ways, but as is painfully clear from this report, the IAHR is not a funding agency. The Executive Committee expects organizers to acknowledge the IAHR prominently in their proceedings either on the title page or somewhere near there in return for the honor of using the IAHR designation at their conference. But this is evidently not always clear to organizers. I think that the next Executive Committee will have to deliberate on improving its publication policies.

Efforts must also be made to develop individual subscriptions. The International Committee had rejected the idea of individual membership, but was positive to the idea of individual subscription. But individual subscriptions to the IAHR Bulletin are not attractive in themselves and, therefore, it would be best if we could develop a subscription package consisting of NUMEN, SOR and the Bulletin. Individual subscriptions, however, would raise the need of a professional distribution service. Michael Pye and

I have approached Brill on this possibility, but no response has come in. A possible solution would be that applications for individual subscriptions could be done through the IAHR website. Individual subscriptions are a desirable avenue of income and service, but we would need close cooperation with Brill on this matter.

It came to my attention recently that Brill had appointed Prof. Wouter J. Hanegraff (Amsterdam) as editor of the *Supplements to NUMEN* series. We are happy on his behalf, and congratulate him on the well-deserved honor. We were, however, somewhat surprised by the appointment process which Brill evidently felt did not have to involve the IAHR. The matter was raised in Hildesheim with the Dr. van der Meij, but the position of Brill on this issue is that the series is fairly independent from the journal even though the managing editors served on both boards. Because the series is not dealt with in our contract with Brill, and because it is published at their own risk and expense, they felt that they were in a position to appoint new members to the editorial board of the series themselves. Thus, it seems that this is an area which might need some further debate and negotiation.

The change-over of the managing editors of *Numen* has now occurred after some delays. All manuscripts and correspondence must now be sent to Prof. Michel Despland [desplan@vax2.concordia.ca] and/or Prof. Einar Thomassen [einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no]. On behalf of the IAHR I extend our gratitude for the excellent efforts and dedication of their predecessors, Prof. Hans G. Kippenberg and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson. I also want to thank their assistants as well as Brigitte Luchesi, who now serves as Reviews Editor.

Apologies and Possible Ways Forward

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize on behalf of the Executive Committee for the fact that the *IAHR Bulletin* failed to appear every year. I was able to produce three annual bulletins and three supplements as well as special correspondence on important business matters during the past quinquennial period. This is clearly insufficient in a situation where the flow of information is one of the mainstays of a global network. I must also apologize for the fact that the IAHR website has not been kept up-to-date. There are many good reasons for these transgressions, but it might perhaps be more constructive to deliberate on possible ways forward.

Most of us know what it is like to function as full-time, active scholars and carry the additional tasks of voluntary organizational activities. And in most places in the world, with economic cut-backs and little sympathy for the academic study of religion, those who are fortunate enough to have full-time employment are grossly overworked while the young and energetic, but un(or barely)employed, scholars face uncertain futures. Most voluntary activity does not qualify for economic support for office staff and assistants. My own faculty has graciously covered equipment costs, xeroxing, mailing and postage, and travelling expenses, but there is no money for assistants. The same holds true for the other members of the Executive Committee.

In a less than perfect world, a possible way forward is to delegate as many of the clearly defined organizational duties that currently end on the desk of this office to other members of the Executive Committee. The model established by the newly founded European Association (EASR) is a good one, in my opinion. The EASR constitution (see page 31 in this bulletin) provides for the following offices: a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, a deputy general secretary, a treasurer, a deputy treasurer, a membership secretary, a publications officer and an internet officer. I think that this model would be good to follow. It can be followed during the next

quinquennial period, if the elected candidates agree voluntarily. But it would be best to introduce constitutional changes that would institutionalize these offices. Their effectuation would in principle attract scholars who also have talents in those particular areas. A constitutional change in Durban would allow the new model to be in place for elections in 2005. I will bring a clearly worded proposal to the International Committee meeting in Durban.

A final item is brief mention of the fact that I expect the rules and procedures which the International Committee asked me to develop and which were preliminarily approved in Hildesheim to be finally approved in Durban. The reason for this two-part process was to try them out first. I have subsequently made two small changes the need of which were brought to my attention by Gary Lease. In the “Rules of Procedure for the International Association for the History of Religions” under rules 13.b and 14.b (see the *IAHR Handbook 2000*, page 22), provision is made for voting on points of order and closure of debate, but it is not stipulated by what vote, as is the case for instance in 15.e. Therefore, 13.b and 14.b now have the following wording:

- 13.b. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the presiding officer. Such appeal shall be put to the vote immediately, and the presiding officer’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.
- 14.b. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the presiding officer. Such appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the presiding officer’s ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

If any of the rules prove to be counter-productive to a sensible and transparent conduct of business, the International Committee will have the opportunity to make improvements in the future. But if there are any points that would be good to take up in Durban, please contact me before the meeting.

Conclusion

This is my last bulletin as out-going General Secretary. I am grateful for the support and cooperation of the Executive Committee. We had a good team of dedicated individuals—some new to the job, others old hands with a lot of organizational savvy. It has been an honor to serve with them and a honor to serve the IAHR and its affiliates. I extend all best wishes to our successors. There are still many challenges to be met and jobs to be done. Good luck, and thank you for your willingness to serve!



Executive Committee Profiles

This issue contains the profile of Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro, member of the Executive Committee from 1995 to 2000 and current President of the newly established European Association for the Study of Religions.

Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro **Member-at-large**

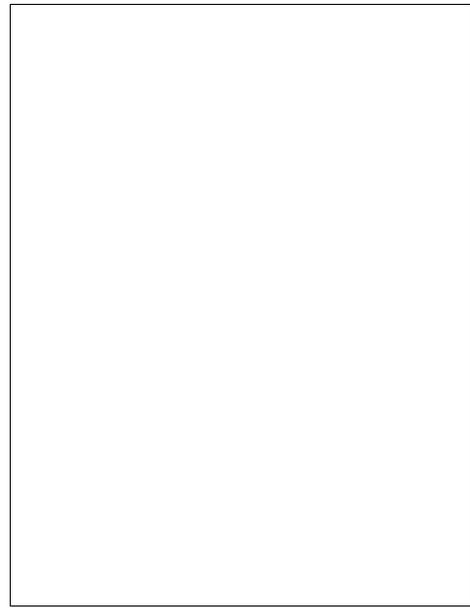
Giulia Sfameni Gasparro was born in Messina, Italy in 1941. She studied historical and philological classical studies at Messina University and completed her Ph.D. in the History of Religions with Prof. Ugo Bianchi at the same University. She became Assistant of the Chair of History of Religions in 1966. She obtained her university teaching qualification in 1970. In the same year she served as Associate Professor of History of Christianity and History of Religions at Messina University. In 1981 she was appointed Professor of History of Religions at the same university.

Giulia Sfameni Gasparro has also served as Head of the Institute of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Letters of Messina University. Since 1990 she has been Head of the Department of Classical and Modern Letters. From 1981-1985 she was Professor of Medieval Philosophy in the School of Specialization in religious-historical studies at "La Sapienza" University in Rome. She is General Secretary and Vice-President of the Italian Society of the History of Religions. She is a member of the editorial board of the Review *Studi e Materiali di Storia delle Religioni* (Rome, University La Sapienza).

Since 1997 she has been a member of the Regional Council for the Protection of the Environment and Artistic Heritage. This body organizes and supervises the arts and heritage policy of the Regional Government of Sicily. Her role involves participation in various workgroups dealing with archaeological and ethno-anthropological matters.

Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro received the triennial *Prix Franz Cumont* for 1985-1987 awarded by the *Classe des Lettres de l'Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des beaux-Arts de Belgique* for her books on the Greek Mysteries of Demeter (*Misteri e culti mistici di Demetra*, Roma, L'Erma di Bretschneider 1986) and *Soteriology and Mystic Aspects in the Cult of Cybele and Attis* (EPRO 103), Leiden 1985.

She has given lectures at a number of universities in Italy and abroad and collaborated in many research projects and congresses organized by Prof. Ugo Bianchi in Messina and Rome. In particular, she helped organize the International Colloquium on the Origins of Gnosticism (Messina 13-18 April 1966) and also to revise and publish the relative Proceedings edited by U. Bianchi (E.J. Brill, Leiden 1967). She helped organize and participated in the colloquia and seminars organized by Prof. U. Bianchi after his move to Rome University La Sapienza. In particular she was engaged in



scientific activity for the International Seminar on the 'Religio-Historical Character of Roman Mithraism, with Particular Reference to Roman and Ostian Sources', Rome and Ostia 28-31 March 1978 (see Proceedings edited by U. Bianchi and M. J. Vermaseren, EPRO 80, Rome-Leiden 1979); International Colloquium on 'The Soteriology of Oriental Cults in the Roman Empire', Rome 24-28 September 1979 (Proceedings ed. by U. Bianchi, EPRO 92, Leiden 1982); XVIth Congress of the IAHR, Rome, 3rd-8th September 1990 on the theme 'The Notion of Religion in Comparative Research' (Selected Proceedings ed. by U. Bianchi, Rome 1994).

The papers presented by Prof. G. Sfameni Gasparro at public lectures and conferences and her numerous publications (both articles in national and international reviews and volumes), tend to be centered on the religious phenomena of the Classical and Hellenistic world and Late Antiquity.

She is particularly interested in Greek and Oriental mystery Cults, in particular those of Cybele and Attis, Isis and Mithra. A series of publications dealt with various phenomena of late Antiquity, such as Hermetism and, in the field of anthropological and ethical issues of early Christianity, Encratism, Origen and the Origenian tradition. Starting with her very first papers she has always given particular attention to the study of the religious universe of Gnosticism. Since the discovery of the Nag Hammadi coptic codices (Egypt), this field has once more become a subject of study for scholars of Judaism, Early Christianity and of the culture of Late Antiquity in general.

Her main publications dealing with such themes are: *Gnostica et Hermetica. Saggi sullo gnosticismo e sull'ermetismo*, Rome 1982; *Origene. Studi di antropologia e di storia della tradizione*, Rome 1984; *Enkrateia e antropologia. Le motivazioni protologiche della continenza e della verginità nel cristianesimo dei primi secoli e nello gnosticismo* (Studia Ephemeridis Augustinianum 20), Rome 1984; *La coppia nei Padri, Anthology of Texts with introduction and comments*, Milano 1991; *La notion grecque du Destin et la sotériologie gnostique* in Copenhagen Conference on the Nag Hammadi Texts in the History of Religions, September 19-24 1995 at the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters; Daimôn and Tûche in Hellenistic Religious Experience in P. Bilde, T. Engberg-Pedersen, L. Hannested, J. Zahle, eds., *Conventional Values of the Hellenistic Greeks*, "International Congress of The Danish Research Council for the Humanities. The Research Project on Hellenism", Rungsted, Denmark 25-28 January 1995 (Studies in Hellenistic Civilisation, 8), Aarhus 1997, 67- 109; *Origene e la tradizione origeniana in Occidente. Letture storico-religiose*, Rome LAS 1998.

She also dedicated a great deal of research to Manichaeism and the dualistic movements of the Christian Middle Age (Paulicians, Bogomils and Cathars), as part of a project with hopes to reconstruct, both in general and specific terms, the various dualistic phenomena within the Christian tradition at its edges.

Publications dealing with such topics include the Italian translation of M. Tardieu *Le Manicheisme*, Paris 1981, with a comprehensive critical introduction and updated bibliography (*Il manicheismo. Traduzione italiana, introduzione critica e bibliografia a cura di G. Sfameni Gasparro*, Cosenza 1988, 2nd ed. con aggiornamento bibliografico Cosenza 1996, 1998²); *Agathe Elpis. Studi storico-religiose in onore di Ugo Bianchi* (ed.), Roma 1994; *Destino e salvezza: tra culti pagani e gnosi cristiana. Itinerari storico-religiose sulle orme di Ugo Bianchi* (ed.), Cosenza 1998.

Her current addresses are listed at the end of this bulletin.



Honorary Life Members

We have received a collection of bibliographical papers concerning Professor Jean Leclant. The most important document entitled *Hommages à Jean Leclant*, published by the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale in Paris (BdE 106/4, 1993, pp. 429-491), is a offprint with indices listing the 993 publications written by Prof. Leclant between the years 1946 to 1993. We have also received the 95th, 96th, 97th and 98th *Annuaire du Collège de France* which list his publications from 1994 to 1998. These amount to another 108 titles. This prolific scholar is described as follows:

Secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, Vice-président de la Commission Nationale Française de l'UNESCO. Membre du Comité Scientifique International pour les fouilles de Beyrouth (UNESCO), Président d'honneur de la Société Asiatique et de la Société internationale des Études Nubiennes; ancien président de la Société Française d'Égyptologie.

Participation à des colloques et des jurys de thèses ou d'habilitation.

Congratulations to Prof. Leclant for his continued honorable service!



Announcements

IAHR International Committee meeting and the IAHR General Assembly

The International Committee and the General Assembly of the IAHR will be convening in Durban, South Africa during the XVIIIth Congress.

The General Assembly consists in principle of all the members of the national and regional associations who attend any IAHR world congress. The International Committee is composed of “(i) two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies, except that there shall not be more than two representatives from any one country; (ii) the Executive Committee...; and (iii) up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee” [Article 4.b of the Constitution]. The International Committee convenes to pursue IAHR business and at its meeting in Durban, it will be electing the Executive Committee for the next quinquennial period (2000-2005).

The secretaries of all IAHR affiliates are hereby requested to send the names of the delegates who will be attending the International Committee meeting to me by July 25, 2000 at the latest. This will give me the possibility of publishing the names of the delegates at the congress.

The preliminary agendas are as follows:

Agenda of the International Committee meeting in Durban, Wednesday August 9, 2000 at 8:30-12:00, place to be announced

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Membership
 1. Ascertainment of membership
 2. Co-option as recommended by the Executive Committee
3. Minutes of previous meeting (published in the *IAHR Bulletin* 36, 2000)
4. Final adoption of the rules of procedure
(published in the *IAHR Handbook 2000*)
5. Report by the General Secretary (published in the *IAHR Bulletin* 36, 2000)
6. Report by the Treasurer (circulated in advance)
7. Additional matters of report by the Executive Committee
8. Recommendation of changes in the Constitution
9. Election of the new Executive Committee
10. Recommendation of new affiliations
11. Honorary life memberships
12. Future conferences
13. Any other business

Agenda of the General Assembly in Durban, Saturday August 12, 2000 at 9:00-12:00 in the Great Ilanga

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Minutes of previous meeting (published in the *IAHR Bulletin 34, 1996*)
3. Brief report by the outgoing General Secretary
(published in the *IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000*)
4. Brief report by the outgoing Treasurer (circulated in advance)
5. New affiliations
6. Recommendation of changes in the Constitution
7. Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly
8. Report on the election of the incoming Executive Committee
9. Public transfer of office to the incoming Executive Committee
10. Brief statement by the incoming President
11. Brief statement by the incoming General Secretary
12. Suggestions from the General Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee
13. Any other business

The General Assembly will be immediately followed by the official closing of the XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Durban, South Africa.

Establishment of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)

To the office-bearers of all the European associations which are affiliated to the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

21.6.2000

Dear Colleagues/Friends,

As we approach the XIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR, I am writing to you as the current president with some important news about arrangements in Europe. There have recently been various discussions and initiatives with the aim of founding a Europe-wide association in our field. This process has not always been easy, and has sometimes been controversial, but I am happy to report to you that it has now reached a very satisfactory conclusion.

First, a few words about the process which has led up to the present situation. As long ago as the 1980's there were some informal ideas about developing such an organisation. However, the cooperation between various countries of Europe was rather good, and the main efforts of the IAHR were devoted to a steadily widening internationalisation of our activities, leading to conferences in China, Africa and Latin America, and to the development of regional associations for the two last-named regions. These initiatives in turn gave new meaning to the idea of having a regional association in Europe. However, while it is rather easy to call up the general idea of "Europe", it is not so easy to find the right organisational form for a European association which would

respect both the international framework of the IAHR and the interests of its very supportive member associations.

In 1995 a serious discussion on these matters was held during the conference of the German association (DVRG) at Bonn. Though valuable in itself, this did not lead to a formal organisation which could be related to the other associations at national and international level. Consequently, the initiative was followed up by further extensive discussions at the regional conference of the IAHR at Hildesheim (Germany) in 1998, attended by representatives of most of the European associations. A working committee of twelve members was set up, but no final conclusions were reached. Some time later a minority group of those present founded an association known as "EurAssoc". Unfortunately this was not based on general agreement and a serious alternative proposal made by some of the other members of the working party was not given full consideration. In order to resolve the matter, the officers of the IAHR (in particular myself and Armin Geertz) looked for a way to bring the various parties together. This was discussed in particular at the IAHR conference in Brno (1999) and a further meeting was planned for early 2000 in Krakow. However it became very clear, rather unexpectedly, that the leading representative(s) of EurAssoc had no intention of making cooperative arrangements with the IAHR and the various national associations in Europe. This was a sad moment in the process.

With all this in mind, a further initiative was taken in early 2000. A working party convened by myself drafted a constitution for a European association which would at once be in tune with the objectives of the IAHR and fully respect the interests of the existing national associations within Europe. This working party included members from a number of European countries with a wide experience of our corporate activities. It concluded its work by proposing the establishment of a European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), and representatives of the various national associations were invited to an inaugural meeting in the context of the IAHR conference in Krakow, which had already been planned for May 2000. The meeting was chaired by myself as current president of the IAHR. The most important decisions at the meeting were as follows:

- (a) the statutes of the EASR were considered in detail and agreed with a few revisions,
- (b) a committee of twelve persons was elected,
- (c) it was decided that affiliation to the IAHR should be sought as soon as possible.

Shortly afterwards the Executive Committee of the IAHR itself met and decided to recommend this affiliation for approval at the IAHR Congress in Durban. Moreover, the registration of the EASR at The Hague has been arranged in the meantime, as provided for in the statutes. It is fair to report that all concerned regarded this a most satisfactory and welcome process.

The statutes of the EASR are quite detailed, but there are two most important features to be noted. First, its membership provisions allow both for the formal representation of all the European associations and for individual voting rights for all of their members. As a result the EASR can never be a rival to the national associations. It will reflect the interests of all their members through democratic processes. Second, the objective is clearly aligned with that of the IAHR at the international level. We therefore

have a precise coordination of three forms of association:

The national associations of various countries in Europe
The European Association for the Study of Religions
The International Association for the History of Religions

In view of these ideal arrangements I warmly recommend to you the newly founded European Association for the Study of Religions.

In particular I ask you and your committee to consider taking one or more of the following steps, in accordance with your national procedures:

- (a) Take a decision in your committee to affiliate your association to the EASR,
- (b) If necessary, arrange for your members to vote on your affiliation to the EASR.
- (c) Make a committee recommendation for your affiliation to the EASR,
- (d) Vote in Durban to support the formal affiliation of the EASR to the IAHR,

Please note that the present committee of twelve persons has been elected for a short period only and that new elections will be held in the course of 2001. This means that it is desirable to decide on the affiliation of your association to the EASR *as soon as possible* so that your members will all be able to vote. Also, please inform the EASR of your decisions as soon as possible.

You will soon be receiving a letter from the newly elected President of the EASR inviting your association to be affiliated. The President is Professor Giulia Gasparro Sfameni (Messina, Italy). You may also be hearing from the General Secretary, Professor Tim Jensen (Odense, Denmark) and the Membership Secretary, Professor Kim Knott (Leeds, England). They will provide you with more information about the procedures. You will also receive the record of the inaugural meeting, the agreed text of the statutes, and the full list of elected committee members. You may also be interested to know that the first conference of the EASR will be held in Cambridge in September 2001.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude for the hard work of all those colleagues who have shared in the various stages of this complex process from 1995 onwards. I feel sure that the future activities of the European Association for the Study of Religions will provide assistance and inspiration for the generations to come. Please join with me, therefore, in recommending it to your colleagues and taking the necessary steps to ensure a successful and interesting future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Pye
President of the International Association for the History of Religions

Please see the full text of the EASR constitution on the next pages.

European Association for the Study of Religions

Article 1. Name and registration

- i) The association shall be named “European Association for the Study of Religions”.
- ii) In languages other than English it may be referred to informally by means of appropriate equivalents.
- iii) The official acronym shall be EASR.
- iv) The association shall be legally registered at The Hague, The Netherlands. In the event of disputes arising concerning these statutes and their application informal mediation shall be sought. In the event that attempts at mediation should fail, all disputes and legal actions which might arise, shall as a last resort, to the exclusion of all other official bodies and insofar as admissible by law, be adjudicated exclusively by the judge entitled to adjudicate in the subject of dispute in the High Court of The Hague.

Article 2. Affiliation

The European Association for the Study of Religions (hereafter EASR) shall seek and if successful thereafter maintain affiliation to the International Association for the History of Religions (hereafter IAHR). Its organisation and activities shall be developed in a manner consistent with the well-being of the IAHR and all other associations affiliated thereto, in particular the relevant national associations within Europe and the regional associations in various other parts of the world.

Article 3. Objective

- i) The objective of the EASR shall be to promote the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars normally resident in Europe whose research has a bearing on the subject.
- ii) The objective of the EASR shall be pursued by the usual means of scholarly activity such as the arrangement of conferences, symposia or colloquia, the encouragement of scholarly publications, the exchange of information through electronic or other means, and such other activities as the association or its elected officers shall from time to time determine.

Article 4. Membership

- i) Membership of the EASR shall be open to all students, researchers and others who share its objective, and who are normally or occasionally resident in or have close academic ties with a European country. Membership may take the form of individual membership, group membership via a national association, or honorary membership.
- ii) Applications for individual membership shall be addressed to the appropriate officer of the EASR and the committee shall have the right to approve or reject such applications.

iii) The membership of any individual may be terminated by decision of the General Assembly for good and sufficient reason and after an opportunity for representations to the contrary has been extended.

iv) Individual members shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the committee. The rights and privileges of membership depend on payment of the membership subscription in advance for the membership period in question. Lapsed membership may be restored with reference to a subsequent membership period without further application.

v) Group membership may be sought by the national associations in European countries which are affiliated to the IAHR. In such cases, the payment of a single, reduced subscription by the national association for the membership period in question shall be sufficient to ensure membership rights including voting rights for all of its individual members whose names and addresses are provided by its officers. It shall, conversely, be the duty of the national association to convey essential information to its own members, for example concerning EASR conferences, the General Assembly, and elections to the Committee.

vi) Honorary membership may be granted to individuals by the General Assembly in exceptional cases with the same rights and privileges as ordinary individual membership.

Article 5. General Assembly

i) The governing body of the EASR shall be the General Assembly of its members, presided over by the current president.

ii) The General Assembly shall be convened once in each calendar year. The date may vary from March to October, taking account of the conference programme which provides the context. The Committee shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly at the request of a minimum of two thirds of the members. The minimum notice for an extraordinary General Assembly shall be 30 days by postmark.

iii) The General Assembly shall be convened whenever possible in the context of an academic conference organised by the IAHR, by one of the European affiliate associations of the IAHR or by the EASR. Except when held in the context of a quinquennial Congress of the IAHR the General Assembly shall be convened in one of the countries of Europe. During a year in which a quinquennial Congress of the IAHR is held in a country outside Europe the General Meeting of the EASR may be held in the context of that Congress, by decision of the Committee, but in such case no decisions shall be taken regarding changes to the constitution or dissolution of the association.

iv) Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly shall be given by the general secretary. When notice is given not less than 90 days in advance of the General Assembly a widely available form of communication such as a printed bulletin or an electronic medium is sufficient. If the period of notice is shorter, notice must be sent to all members individually in writing. The minimum period of notice is 30 days by postmark. Non-receipt of notice by one or more members shall not invalidate the decisions of the

meeting.

v) The agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly shall be published in advance when the meeting is called. At the decision of the Committee, or if at least ten members in good standing submit this preference in writing, any issue can be referred for decision to a postal and/or electronic ballot which shall be conducted by the general secretary. Proposals for additions to the agenda shall be sent to the general secretary not less than three weeks before the meeting. Any additional alterations to the agenda shall require a two thirds majority of those present.

vi) The minimum number of members required for a meeting of the General Assembly (*quorum*) shall be twenty, of whom at least seven shall be members of the current Committee. If the *quorum* is not achieved, a further meeting shall be called at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

vii) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present at a meeting, except for the exceptions stated below. In the case of simple majority votes, abstentions shall be recorded but are not counted as “no” votes. Additions to the published agenda shall require a two thirds majority of all those present. Changes to the constitution or a motion to dissolve the association shall also require a two thirds majority (c.f. Articles 8 and 9).

viii) Specific rules of procedure may be adopted by the General Assembly itself. In the absence of such rules concerning any procedural matters which arise or in the event of dispute concerning their interpretation during the course of a validly convened meeting, the decisions of the president on procedural questions relating to the conduct of the meeting in question is final. The General Assembly may at the same meeting appoint a procedures committee to consider rules of procedure in detail and make recommendations to a future meeting of the General Assembly.

Article 6. Committee and officers

i) The business of the EASR shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of (a) designated officers who shall be elected by all the members, (b) one member each delegated by the European affiliate associations of the IAHR in accordance with their own electoral provisions, (c) two elected representatives of the individual members of the EASR from countries where no national affiliated association exists and (d) one member delegated by the Executive Committee of the IAHR.

ii) The following shall be elected to designated offices: a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, a deputy general secretary, a treasurer, a deputy treasurer, a membership secretary, a publications officer and an internet officer. The Committee may assign additional functions to its members on an *ad hoc* basis. The conduct of elections and the periods of office are determined in Article 7.

iii) The EASR may be represented formally by any of the designated officers in accordance with their specified function or as otherwise delegated by the president or by decision of the Committee. In the event of affiliation to the IAHR (c.f. Article 2) the resultant voting rights on the International Committee of the IAHR will be assumed by

the president and the general secretary or other delegated committee members, taking account of the rules of the IAHR.

iv) The president, the general secretary and the treasurer shall present an oral or written report at each meeting of the General Assembly. The president in office conducts the General Assembly of the EASR (c.f. Article 5) and the meetings of the Committee. These functions may be delegated by the president, or in the event of serious illness or similar incapacitation by the Committee, to one of the vice-presidents. The general secretary and the treasurer may also be represented by the appropriate deputy officers.

v) The Committee shall meet not less than once annually. The meeting is called by the general secretary with the agreement of the president. A meeting of the Committee requires written notice of not less than 30 days, the attendance of the president or one of the two vice-presidents and at least six other members. Decisions are to be reached as far as possible by consensus and if necessary by simple majority vote. Abstentions may be recorded but do not count as “no” votes.

vi) Specific rules of procedure may be adopted by the Committee itself. In the absence of such rules concerning any procedural matters which arise or in the event of dispute concerning their interpretation during the course of a validly convened meeting, the decisions of the president on procedural questions relating to the conduct of the meeting in question is final. The Committee may at the same meeting appoint a procedures committee to consider rules of procedure in detail and make recommendations to a future meeting of the Committee.

Article 7. Elections

i) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a period of three calendar years running from January 1st. A member may be re-elected, except that no member shall serve in the same office for more than two terms, and no member shall be elected for a total of more than five terms with or without intervening periods. The same terms apply to delegated members.

ii) The elections shall be conducted by postal ballot. Responsibility for the conduct of the elections lies with the Committee. The cooperation and the assistance of the national associations shall be requested in the conduct of the elections. More specific rules for the conduct of the elections may be laid down by the General Assembly, provided always that they are consistent with these statutes.

iii) The right to vote is strictly limited to individuals with valid current membership, either directly or via a national association as registered at the appropriate time with the membership secretary of the EASR (c.f. Article 4).

Article 8. Amendments

i) Amendments to this constitution may be made by two thirds majority of the General Assembly. Details of proposed amendments must be given to the members in advance and not later than the notice for the convening of the General Assembly (c.f. Article 5, iv). Amendments shall come into force immediately after the conclusion of the meet-

ing at which they are carried.

Article 9. Dissolution

i) The EASR can be dissolved only at the recommendation of the Committee and by decision of the General Assembly for which a two thirds majority is required. In the event of dissolution such assets as remain after the settling of all liabilities shall be transferred to the IAHR if in existence or to such other body as has the closest affinity to the objective of the EASR (c.f. Article 3).

Article 10. Enabling measure

i) As an enabling measure an inaugural meeting of the General Assembly of the EASR will be held in Krakau, Poland, on 2nd May 2000. An office-holder of the IAHR shall be requested to conduct the meeting until such time as the EASR shall have elected its own president. The first task of the meeting will be to modify and confirm the above statutes. The provisions of the statutes, for example concerning notice, minimum attendance and voting rights, will come into force at the next subsequent opportunity.

ii) At the inaugural meeting a committee shall be elected for a term to end not later than December 31st. 2001. Any persons who would normally qualify for membership of the EASR may be elected to the committee whether they are present at the inaugural meeting or not. The committee shall consist in the first instance of the designated officers named in Article 6, ii of the statutes. Further members shall join the committee in accordance with Article 6, i as soon as subsequent opportunity permits, for example immediately following the affiliation of a national association. Membership of this committee shall not be counted as a “term” as regulated in Article 7, i.

iii) The task of the committee so elected shall be to initiate the work of the EASR with immediate effect, in particular to apply for affiliation to the IAHR, to establish working relations with the national associations in Europe affiliated to the IAHR, to develop the membership in accordance with the above provisions, to arrange the second General Assembly to which it will report, and to conduct elections to the second Committee which will run for a normal term from January 1st. 2002.

iv) In the event of successful affiliation to the IAHR the words “seek and if successful thereafter” shall be deleted from Article 2 and the words “In the event of affiliation to the IAHR (c.f. Article 2) the resultant” shall be deleted from Article 6, iii.

v) With effect from January 1st. 2002 this article will be automatically deleted from the statutes and preserved archivally.



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

Things are moving along quite professionally in the hands of Prof. Pratap Kumar (Congress Director) and Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett (Chair Academic Programme Committee). They have put together a wonderful program and there is no doubt that Durban 2000 will be a tremendous experience for congress participants. It is not an easy job, nor is it a paid one, to arrange an IAHR world congress. Please accept our gratitude for your wonderful efforts! I also thank all those who have played integral parts in organizing the congress. You will all be mentioned and thanked during the congress itself.

In this bulletin, I enclose a copy of the most recent general mail sent out to all congress participants. As will be noted, there is an appeal for donations. I wish to extend this appeal to also include those who are not attending the congress, but who wish to help those who cannot because of the economical situation in their countries. Please contact Prof. Kumar as soon as possible. For those of you who still want to attend the congress but have not registered, please do so immediately. Thank you!

From: "Velia Del Mei" <velia@iafrica.com>
Date: 20-06-00 14:42
Subject: IAHR CONGRESS - GENERAL EMAIL

This is a General Message which is sent out to all delegates listed on our data base who are either attending or presenting papers at the IAHR Congress in Durban from 6 - 11 August 2000, at the Holiday Inn Durban Elangeni:

1. AN APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

We are appealing to all of you to please assist us with donations, the donations that we receive are to assist those less fortunate who are unable to raise funds from their institutions to attend our congress. No matter how small the donation it would be greatly appreciated. For those of you who have already donated - Thank You!!

2. SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS - IAHR CONGRESS AIRLINE CARRIER

Just a reminder that South African Airways have special rates and to qualify for these special rates you must book early!

All International Delegates please contact your nearest South African Airways offices and quote the authority number and they will assist you with airfares and reservations.
AIR/MX.C/1879/2000

All Local Delegates please contact South African Airways Offices DeniseKotze@flysaa.com and either Denise or Vani will assist you with fares and reservations. Your agents can still issue your tickets as per normal. The fares in South Africa depend on the availability in t/class and it can be anything between 15 - 55% discount. The cheapest fares will go first, therefore you will need to make your reservation early!

3. CONFERENCE VENUE SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES

Please do not forget that the conference venue has changed to the Holiday Inn Durban Elangeni. On this note the Holiday Inn Durban Elangeni is offering special accommodation rates for those wanting to share. The rates are now:

Single R450.00 per person per night, bed and breakfast (+-USD64)

Double R250.00 per person sharing, per night, bed and breakfast (+-USD35)

With the US Dollar exchange rate being very attractive, delegates are bound to gain much more than before.

We would like to encourage all delegates to take advantage of this special offer, especially for those who wish to share accommodation.

The added attraction to stay at the Holiday Inn Durban Elangeni is that it has 4 restaurants (Japanese, Indian, South African Buffet and Irish Pub) as well as 2 bars and has good restaurants in the surrounding areas. You are right at the congress venue and right on the beach! To make your bookings (if you have not already), please contact Velia - velia@iafrica.com

Please Note: Accommodation is limited at some hotels and if you have not already reserved accommodation we suggest that you do so SOON. Closing date for accommodation: 10 July 2000

4. REGISTRATIONS

Another reminder, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY REGISTERED, please do so now, as we need to know if you are attending the conference or not, especially if you are listed to present a paper. Registration forms are available on our web site <http://www.udw.ac.za/iahr>

Please send your registration forms to velia@iafrica.com

5. DRAFT PROGRAM

We would like to advise all delegates presenting papers to please check if all your details etc. are correct on the draft program. The draft program is available on the following web site <http://web.utk.edu/~rhackett/durban.html> Please would you assist us by informing us of any incorrect information or if you have cancelled or know of anyone that has cancelled and you / they are still on the program. Please email velia@iafrica.com

6. FUNCTIONS

We refer to our previous email regarding the attendance to the Opening Function, Cultural Evening and the Closing Banquet, we unfortunately did not mention that there is no additional charge for these functions. It is included in the Registration fee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their quick response.

If you did not receive this email or know of anyone that has not received this email please let me know and I will send you the information.

7. ADDITIONAL REMINDERS

As not everyone has registered as yet and therefore we do not have everyone's contact details, we would appreciate it if you would be so kind as to let others know that are on your panel about the changes and requirements.

8. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Please would you advise us of your equipment requirements for the congress, if you have not already done so.

Please do not hesitate to contact Velia at velia@iafrica.com for any further information or assistance.

Wishing you well and we look forward to Welcoming you to Sunny Durban and meeting you at the Congress.

I would also like to take this opportunity to apologise to anyone who has already cancelled and is still receiving our emails and to those who might receive the emails more than once.

Kind regards
Velia



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 about MTSR, 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].



IAHR Events

International Committee Meeting of the IAHR Hildesheim, Germany May 24, 1998

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be approved at the next International Committee meeting]

Professor Michael Pye presided as President.

1) Adoption of the Agenda

Prof. Sinha moved that a new point "2.b. Adoption of the minutes" be added to the agenda. The motion was accepted unanimously, and the agenda was subsequently adopted.

2) Membership

Membership: (i) Ascertainment of Membership

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President: Michael Pye, Vice-President: Yolotl González Torres, Vice-President: Peter Antes, General Secretary: Armin W. Geertz, Deputy General Secretary: Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Treasurer: Donald Wiebe, Members-at-Large Michio Araki, Giulia Sfameni Gasparro, Gerrie ter Haar, Helena Helve, Jacob K. Olupona, and Abdulkader I. Tayob.

Africa (AASR): Jan Platvoet & David Westerlund; Australia (AASR): none; Belgium/ Luxembourg: Charles Ternes; Canada (CSSR/SCÉR) [one vote only]: Braj Sinha; Canada (Quebec) (SQÉR)[one vote only]: Hubert Mergé; China (CARS): none; Cuba (ACER): none; Czech Republic: Bretislav Horyna; Denmark (DAHR): Tim Jensen & Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger; Finland: Tore Ahlbäck; France: none; Germany (DVRG): Hans G. Kippenberg & Burkhard Gladigow; Hungary: none; India (IAHR India): none; Indonesia: none; Israel: none; Italy: Giovanni Casadio & P. F. Beatrice; Japan: Hiroshi Tsuchiya & Yoshiya Abe; Latin America (ALER): Elio Masferrer; Mexico: none; Netherlands (NGG): Hermann Beck & Wim Hofstee; New Zealand (NZASR): none; Nigeria (NASR): none; Norway (NRF): Einar Thomassen; Poland: none; Russia: none; Southern Africa (ASRSA): Thillay Naidoo & Pratap Kumar; South Korea (KAHR): none; Spain (SECR): Montserrat Abulmalham Mas & Julio Treballe Barrera; Sweden (SSRF): Jan Bergman & Peter Bryder; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Philippe Borgeaud & Fritz Stolz; Ukraine (UARR): Petro Sauch; United Kingdom (BASR): Kim Knott & Peggy Morgan; United States (NAASR): Gary Lease & Gustavo Benavides.

Membership: (ii) Co-optation as Recommended by the Executive Committee

The two editors of NUMEN are usually co-opted, but since one of them, Prof. Kippenberg, already is a member of the International Committee as President of the German Association, the remaining editor, Prof. Lawson, was unanimously co-opted. Professors Michel Desplands and Hartmut Zinser were appointed observers.

2b) Adoption of the Minutes

The minutes were published in the *IAHR Bulletin* no. 34, August 1996, pp. 30-38. The minutes were adopted without comment.

3) Rules of Procedure

Prof. Armin W. Geertz explained that one of the lessons learned at the business meetings during the IAHR congress in Mexico City was the need to develop rules of procedure that make the workings of the IAHR and its various committees transparent to all its members. Prof. Geertz developed such rules on the basis of the following principles: 1) the guidelines set out by the Constitution of the IAHR, 2) procedures and routines followed by the Executive Committee during the past, and 3) rules of procedure for UNESCO. Prof. Michael Pye thanked Prof. Geertz for his efforts and he then called for comments on the two documents.

Rules of Procedure: (i) Rules of Procedure

Prof. Lease asked why the rules allow co-option at International Committee meetings (5.f). Prof. Pye answered that this made it possible to include honorary members of the IAHR and/or members with business connections to the IAHR, such as the editors of NUMEN. Prof. Kippenberg moved that “a two-thirds majority” in rule 22 should be replaced by “a simple majority”. It was also decided that the agenda of the International Committee meeting should be sent out “at the latest one month in advance” instead of “not less than two weeks in advance” in rule 3.d. Prof. Pye moved that the rules of procedure should be accepted provisionally so that the various committees can try them out and reach a final decision at the next congress in Durban. This motion was accepted unanimously.

Rules of Procedure: (ii) Nomination Procedure

It was agreed that the following sentence should be added to rule 2.b.: “The members of the committee are also chosen in terms of gender and regional representation”, and that “senior colleagues” should replace “elder stateswomen and/or statesmen”. It was furthermore agreed that rule 3.d. should read: “The candidates will be invited to give a brief statement of candidacy in the *IAHR Bulletin*”. The rules were unanimously adopted.

4. Report by the General Secretary (see the IAHR Bulletin 35)

Prof. Geertz gave a brief summary of his report in the *IAHR Bulletin* 35, pp. 5-15 which was published prior to the meeting. He mentioned that attempts are being made to establish associations in Portugal and Greece and that a European Association is currently being discussed. He also noted that cooperation has been established with the International Federation of Philosophical Societies, the Anthropology of Religion Section of the American Anthropological Association, the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR), and the International Society for the Sociology of Religion (ISSR). Two matters which were given brief mention concerned the position of the Australian Association and the new IAHR congress structure. Concerning the latter, Prof. Sinha recommended that regional panels and more open panels should be included in the congress program. Prof. Mergé suggested, on another note, that the General Secretary should establish more direct lines of communication via e-mail to the affiliates. Prof. Geertz responded that the idea is a good one, but that more than half of the affiliates are not on e-mail although the number is growing. This can be a definite goal

to work on. A paper was passed around collecting the e-mail addresses of the participants. The report was adopted unanimously.

5. Report by the Treasurer

Prof. Pye announced that due to reasons of health, Prof. Donald Wiebe will resign as Treasurer of the IAHR. He thanked Prof. Wiebe for his many years of service on the Executive Committee and for his service as Treasurer since 1995.

According to article 4.c. of the Constitution, in the event of the resignation of any serving officer, "a suitable replacement may be nominated after consultation among the remaining officials, and shall serve, subject to the written approval of a majority of members of the Executive Committee, until the next quinquennial congress". Since the entire Executive Committee met on May 22nd in Hildesheim, a suitable replacement was found and unanimously agreed upon, namely Prof. Gary Lease from the University of California.

Prof. Wiebe promised to work out a report with his successor and send a written report to all the associations. He stated that subscriptions keep coming in as usual, and he made an appeal to support the Endowment Fund. The report was unanimously adopted in acclamation.

6. Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee: NUMEN Executive Editors

Prof. Pye noted that the duties of a reviews editor have coalesced during the term of the present executive editors. The Editorial Board, which will be meeting later today, is expected to appoint Dr. Brigitte Luchesi, Universität Bremen, as Reviews Editor for a period of five years until 2003 after which a new reviews editor from another part of the world will be appointed. Prof. Pye also stated that the end of Hans Kippenberg's term is swiftly approaching and that the board is considering a successor to be in place by 2000. Prof. Pye thanked the editors of Numen for their outstanding service and dedication.

7. Report by Professor Pratap Kumar (Congress Director) on the XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR at Durban, South Africa, August 5-12, 2000

Prof. Geertz drew attention to the new IAHR congress structure which effectively makes the IAHR a major partner in hosting quinquennial congresses, thus sharing the burden of responsibility with the local hosts and introducing the use of professional congress organizers.

Prof. Kumar described the conference facilities which can accommodate up to 5,000 guests in the heart of Durban. The new International Convention Center which opened this year can service up to 20 concurrent sessions as well as 3 other meetings. It has a main hall that can room 1,800 people. The security around the premises is also excellent. The key date at the moment is the panel proposal deadline of November 30th. He also described briefly the financial side of the congress. He noted that enough full-paying delegates together with some fund-raising should be able to balance the budget and help bring in needy scholars from Africa. He said that any association that could assist in raising funds would be most welcome. Finally, he mentioned that the new elections in 1999 might bring some disturbance, but he didn't expect major problems.

Prof. Hackett praised Prof. Kumar for his hard work and organizational talents. She said that the new congress structure is necessary because the IAHR is growing and consequently its congresses are indeed a greater burden. As Chair of the Academic

Program Committee, Prof. Hackett described the new program structure which will consist of keynotes, plenaries, panels, symposia and roundtables.

8. Future Conference Locations

Prof. Geertz stated that an IAHR Special Conference will be held in Brno, Czech Republic in 1999 and that the Executive Committee would hold its annual meeting there. Furthermore an IAHR Regional Conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1999. Future conference locations will perhaps be Japan and Indonesia. The planned conferences in Seoul, Turkey and Canada have not been realized.

9. The Australian Association for the Study of Religions

Prof. Geertz referred to the *IAHR Bulletin* 35, page 7-9 which describes how the Australian Association for the Study of Religion decided to reduce their annual payment to the IAHR to \$100 for reasons that are unclear. The main question seems to be what kind of benefits the Australian Association get from its affiliation. The Australians have not responded positively to approaches by Prof. Geertz. Thus, he asked the International Committee for its advice on the matter. Prof. Lease stated that membership in any organization assumes the expectation that members should observe the rules. Australia has in essence sanctioned itself, he said, and all that is left is what and when the consequences of their action will be. Prof. Sinha recommended that the Executive Committee attempt to find out what their concerns are. Prof. Pye proposed that if the Australian Association does not pay the balance of their full dues by the Durban Congress, they will not be allowed to attend the business meetings. A majority show of hands carried the proposal.

10. Recommendations of New Affiliations

A reorganized association formerly a part of the Czechoslovakian IAHR affiliate has applied for affiliation as the Slovenská spoločnosť pre štúdium náboženstiev pri SAV Bratislava/Slovak Association for Religious Studies. It was unanimously decided to recommend their affiliation to the General Assembly in Durban.

An organization called Homo Religiosus has also applied for membership. The matter of what kind of affiliation best fitted this organization was discussed. It has its base in Belgium and consists of a group of researchers sharing a common approach. Since Belgium already has a national affiliate, it was unanimously decided to recommend affiliation as "corresponding member" to the General Assembly in Durban. Corresponding members do not have voting rights in the International Committee, but are on the IAHR mailing list.

11. Proposal for a Constitutional Change

Prof. Geertz proposed that Article 4.b.i. should be replaced by the following:

"Two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies, except that there shall be three representatives each of constituent societies with a membership of over 100".

The motion was put to a vote: 2 in favor, 0 abstentions, 42 against. The motion was defeated.

12. Motion for adoption by the Dutch Association at the General Assembly in Mexico City

The Dutch Association moved at the General Assembly during the congress in Mexico City that:

“The General Assembly requests the Executive Committee to prepare a change of the Constitution to the effect that it will state explicitly that the IAHR accepts as members, organizations whose members study religions or religious phenomena from a non-ideological point of view”.

It was decided that this text be brought to the International Committee at its meeting in Hildesheim in order to decide upon a recommendation for the next General Assembly. Prof. Geertz explained that the Executive Committee does not support the motion, but that alternative formulations could perhaps be used, such as “the promotion of the academic, non-ideological study...” or “the promotion of the academic, non-sectarian study...”. The President of the Dutch Association, Prof. Hermann Beck, stated that the Dutch Association does not support the motion and requested that the motion be withdrawn. This request was met with acclamation.

13. Any Other Business

Prof. Antes announced that he had just learned that the President of the French Association, Prof. Raymond Bloch, had died and he asked the committee members to observe a moment of silence in his memory. Afterwards, Prof. Pye noted that the International Committee will convene at the Durban congress. He thanked the hosts for their excellent services. Prof. Sinha said that it is a wonderfully organized conference and that special thanks should be extended to Prof. Antes. Prof. Sauk extended thanks on behalf of the Ukrainian Association to the Executive Committee, and he awarded Prof. Antes with an honorary professorship.

(Minutes by Armin W. Geertz)



Conference Reports

IAHR Regional Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, July-August 1999

48 East African scholars of religions from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, met with 11 AASR scholars from other parts of Africa and the world at the Amani ('Peace') Conference Centre on Thika Road, Nairobi, Kenya, a centre run by the Benedictine Fathers. They convened at an IAHR Regional Conference organized by the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) and hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. The theme of the conference was 'The Religions of East Africa, and their Study, in the Age of Globalisation'.

The conference was to serve two main purposes. The first was to have scholars from East Africa present papers on religions in East Africa and their study in the universities of East Africa. These papers were discussed critically and extensively in the conference in preparation for their possible inclusion in a volume on the study of the religions of East Africa. This volume will serve two purposes. It should, on the one hand, be useful as a textbook in teaching these religions in introductory courses at the universities of East Africa. It should, therefore, also be published in East Africa itself, at prices affordable to staff and students there. On the other hand, it should also present East African scholarship on the religions of East Africa to the global academic community. The book should, therefore, also be distributed in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

The other aim of the conference was the foundation of an East African Association for the Study of Religions (EAASR). An association of scholars of religions in the universities and other institutions of learning of the three anglophone nations of East Africa was felt to be needed in order to strengthen the academic scholarship of religions in East Africa by providing them with an efficient network for co-operation in research and exchange of its results through a newsletter, conferences and publications. The association will be as multi-disciplinary as is the modern study of religions, comprising scholars from all the different departments and disciplines in the universities of East Africa in which religion and religions are being studied. The association should, in addition, also serve to integrate East African scholars of religions into the global community of scholars of religions by the EAASR becoming an affiliate of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) during the 18th IAHR quinquennial congress.

The conference also served two subsidiary purposes. One was to bring together the members of the AASR Executive and other AASR members who had either been active in the AASR in the past or planned to play a role in its work in the near future. These were to deliberate on important issues of AASR planning for Durban 2000 and for the quinquennial period after it. The other purpose was to provide the IAHR General Secretary, who also participated in this conference, and the four members of the AASR Executive who were also members of the IAHR Executive to deliberate on the Durban congress and other important matters.

The members of the IAHR Executive present had many informal discussions on AASR policy during the conference among themselves and with the other AASR members present. A meeting was hosted by AASR for all AASR members present, the conference committee, other East African scholars and the General Secretary of the IAHR. Several points were discussed, but two shall be mentioned here. The first was

on AASR and IAHR concerns to ensure as wide a participation of scholars of religions from Africa at the IAHR congress in Durban as possible. It was acknowledged that African universities can normally only grant leave of absence for attending a congress but have no financial means to assist their staff members in the costs of travel and boarding. The need to apply certain criteria to establish whom to assist with the limited funds available was also discussed. The second point discussed was the AASR policy on printing, publications and book distribution in Africa: the Newsletter, books by African and non-African scholars to be published in Africa by African publishers at prices affordable for the libraries, scholars and students of African universities. The organisation of a workshop by African and Western publishers during the IAHR congress in Durban on how to promote the distribution of such books in Africa was also discussed.

The conference also enabled a meeting of representatives from African universities to discuss their common problems and possible solutions to them. They also discussed the possibility of networking and exchange of external examiners, etc. For the West African representation it also offered a good experience of the AASR and IAHR at work and gave us the opportunity to deliberate on how to get the West African AASR going as well as the possibility of establishing an IAHR affiliate in Ghana.

The members of the IAHR Executive attending the conference - Prof. Armin W. Geertz, Prof Rosalind Hackett (who is also the Programme Chair of the 18th IAHR Congress at Durban in August 2000), Prof Abdulkader Tayob, and Prof Gerrie Ter Haar - met to discuss IAHR business on Thursday night, 29 July 1999.

One of the most encouraging results of the conference was, if not a break-through, then at least some advance in the severe book famine of Africa. This concerns the frustrating problem of making academic publications on the religions of Africa and on the discipline, by African and other scholars, available to students and staff in Africa at prices which they can afford by their being published and distributed in Africa by African publishing firms. Discussions at the Nairobi conference have shown that there are developments afoot that may alleviate the book famine in the field of the Study of Religions to some limited degree. It is likely that Prof. Jesse N. K. Mugambi will play a pivotal role in these developments in the coming years. Apart from teaching in the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Mugambi is a publisher who directs Acton Publishers, a firm for 'academic and specialized publishing'. The firm is already publishing 'The African Christianity Series', in which so far 12 volumes, all by East African scholars in Christianity, at Ksh 500 (US\$7) per volume, have appeared. The volumes are sold to customers in Europe and North America at US\$15 each. The second (and first African) edition of *The Study of Religions in Africa* (the Harare conference volume) will be published by Acton Publishers. Roots & Branches at Cambridge, the publisher of the first, now exhausted edition, has graciously granted permission for a reprint. The volume to come out of the Nairobi Conference will also be published by Acton Publishers before the IAHR Congress in Durban in early August, 2000.

(Reported by Jan Platvoet, in abridged form by AWG)

Participants of the IAHR regional conference in Nairobi, Kenya

Participants with a breath-taking view of the Menengai Crater ('Place of the Gods') near the Rift Valley. An altitude of 2272 m., the crater is 90 km² in circumference and 485 m. deep.

IAHR Special Conference in Brno, Czech Republic, August 1999

A special conference of the IAHR was held 9-13 August 1999 in Brno, Czech Republic, on the theme "The Academic Study of Religion during the Cold War: Ideological and Theological Constraints, East and West". During this conference, invited scholars of religion representing thirteen countries (including the Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States) participated in a joint inquiry into the respective historical and political shapings of their field of study in light of Cold-War rhetoric and values with an eye to identifying any continuities that may persist in the definition of this field and its subject matter. In addition to four days of extraordinarily interesting papers and to a meeting of the IAHR Executive Committee, participants in the conference also enjoyed a piano recital by Natasha Koval-Paden prior to an opening banquet at the Old Town Hall in Brno and a cultural tour to the castle and museum of Mikulov in Southern Moravia followed by dinner at a typical Moravian wine cellar. The participants also experienced a near total solar eclipse.

Sponsored by the Czech Society for the Study of Religions and the North American Association for the Study of Religion, the conference was jointly organized by Iva Dolezalová, Bretislav Horyna and Dalibor Papoušek of Masaryk University, Brno and by Luther H. Martin of the University of Vermont. The conference was generously funded by grants from the University of Vermont, from the East Program of the Czech Open Society Fund and by the Spencer Foundation. Proceedings of the conference are currently being edited for publication by Professors Dolezalová, Martin and Papoušek and details of their availability will be announced at the XVIIIth Congress of the IAHR in Durban.

(Reported by Luther H. Martin)

Luther H. Martin (left), Weigang Chen (middle) and Jacques Waardenburg (right)

The hosts wisely provided protective glasses for the solar eclipse

IAHR Special Conference at Cracow, Poland, May 2000

The conference was organized by the Jagellonian University and sponsored by the International Association for the History of Religions and its affiliate the Polish Society for the Study of Religions to be held in Cracow, Poland, May 1-5, 2000. The theme of the conference was “Contemporary European Approaches to the Study of Religions”. The organizers were Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Cracow) and Andrzej Wojtowicz (Warsaw).

In view of the up-coming world congress of the IAHR the aim of this conference was to discuss some of the themes that will be addressed in more detail by colleagues from around the world in Durban, but from a European perspective. It was deemed appropriate to appraise the various methods, approaches, theories and results of the study of religion as it is practiced in Europe. Speakers were encouraged to view their topic in terms of methodological and theoretical concerns. They were also asked to discuss the main approaches of contemporary European scholarship, and determine the directions they are currently taking. Papers dealt with the study of religion in various European countries, and a whole day was set aside to demonstrate the variety of approaches and interests in Polish studies of religion. The papers were informative and the discussions were lively. There was also a reception at the Museum of the Jagellonian University, which is the oldest part of the University.

On the organizational side, important meetings were held during the conference by the International Association for the History of Religions (the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board of NUMEN), and the founding assembly of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). The new association applied for IAHR affiliation immediately after its foundation.

Publication of the conference proceedings is being planned.
(Reported by AWG)

The beautiful town square of Cracow and a view of the Cloth Hall



News from IAHR Affiliates

NOTE!!: Due to pressures of time, the notices in this section will be brief. More details will appear in future issues of the bulletin. Please make sure to continue sending up-dates, information, newsletters and announcements to this office. Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

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

Co-ordinator: Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, Afro-American and Black Studies Program, University of California, 280 Kerr Hall, Davis, CA 95616, USA
[jkolupona@ucdavis.edu]

Treasurer: Dr. Simeon Ilesanmi, Wake Forest University, Department of Religion, Winston-Salem, NC 27109, USA

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.

AASR will be co-hosting the upcoming XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR in Durban, South Africa on August 5-12, 2000.

We have received and distributed the AASR newsletter. The AASR newsletter is edited by Prof. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute of Social Studies, P.O. Box 29776, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands, Tel. 31-704260571, Fax 31-704260799 [gterhaar@wxs.nl] and Prof. Abdulkader I. Tayob, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa [tayob@socsci.uct.ac.za]. For more information about the AASR contact Prof. Jacob Olupona.

Austria: ÖGRW (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft)—MEMBERSHIP PENDING

President: Prof. DDr. Johann Figl, Institut für Religionswissenschaft, Freyung 6/II/IV/8, A-1010 Wien, Österreich
[religionswissenschaft@univie.ac.at]

Secretary: Dr. Eva Synek, Institut für Recht und Religion, Universität Wien

Treasurer: Mss. Katja Kerstin Sindemann, Abteilung Religion (ORF), Diplomandin Geschichte/Religionswissenschaft

The Austrian Association was founded in 1996. It's affiliation with the IAHR is currently pending. The Executive Committee accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly

which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

Prof. Figl has kindly sent the list of members (42), statutes and the names of the office holders who were elected in January 2000. He has also sent information on the first symposium of the ÖGRW on the theme "Zeitstrukturen und Lebensrhythmen in den Religionen" which was held 14-15 January 2000 in Vienna. For further information please contact Prof. Figl.

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, 13 rue Maria de Dorlodot, B-5020 Suarlee Namur, Belgique

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

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

The *Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire Religions* publishes a fairly large bulletin in French entitled *Hieros. Bulletin annuel de la Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions*. Issue 4 appeared in 1999 contains information on the activities of the society, two articles, a description of museums and centers relevant to the history of religions, brief descriptions of doctoral theses, the announcement of conferences and an informative bibliography. 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 hosted the 1980 IAHR congress in Winnipeg. The association 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 interdisciplinary 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*. For further information please contact the secretary.

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

President: Prof. Jean-Marc Larouche, Université Saint-Paul, 223 Main, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 1C4 Canada
[larouche@ustpaul.uottawa.ca]

Secretary: Prof. Pauline Côté, Université Laval
[pauline.cote@pol.ulaval.ca]

Treasurer: Prof. Raymond Laprée, Université Saint-Paul, 223 Main, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 1C4 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. It produces a bulletin with supplements edited by Prof. Robert Mager, Département de théologie, UQTR, C.P. 500, Trois-Rivières, Québec, G9A 5H7 Canada [robert_mager@uqtr.quebec.ca]. We have received bulletins 16, 17, 18 and 19 (with a supplement containing the program for the science of religion section of the 68th congress of the ACFAS at the University of Montreal 15-19 May 2000). They contain information on the activities of the association, the themes of doctoral theses and information on conferences and university departments. In bulletin 17 special mention is made of the IAHR world congress and my comments on the benefits of IAHR membership.

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. The Chinese association has sent several issues of their newsletter. They are currently being read by a colleague in order to produce an English 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 B No. 352 esq. 15, Vedado. Ciudad de

La Habana, La Habana 10400, Cuba
[cips@ceniai.inf.cu]

The Cuban association became affiliated to the IAHR at the XVIIth Congress in Mexico City in 1995. They will be hosting a conference on the theme “Los Procesos Religiosos y Sociales en las condiciones del Nuevo Siglo” in Havana 3-6 July 2001.

***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
[horyna@phil.muni.cz]

Secretary: Dr. Dalibor Papousek, Institute for the Study of Religion, Masaryk University, Arne Nováka 1, 660 88 Brno, Czech Republic
[papousek@phil.muni.cz]

Treasurer: Dr. Iva Dolezalová, Institute for the Study of Religion, Masaryk University, Arne Nováka 1, 660 88 Brno, Czech Republic
[dolezalo@phil.muni.cz]

The Czech Society publishes the journal *Religio. Revue pro Religionistiku* (ISSN 1210-3640). We have received issues 1 and 2 of the 1997 volume. The Society co-hosted an IAHR Special Conference with NAASR in 1999 (please see the report elsewhere in this bulletin).

***Denmark: DAHR (Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie)
Danish Association for the History of Religions***
[<http://www.hum.sdu.dk/projekter/dahr/index.htm>]

President: Prof. 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 Philosophy, Center for Religious Studies, University of Odense, Campusvej 55, DK-5320 Odense M, Denmark
[aktor@post8.tele.dk]

Treasurer: Dr. Ingrid Müller, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Taasingegade 3, 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.

The DAHR reported the death of Prof. Arild Hvidtfeldt in 1999, founder of the Department of the Sociology of Religion and Indian Languages and Cultures, University of Copenhagen in 1970. The DAHR also reported the death of Prof. Halfdan Siiger in 1999, founder of the Department of the History of Religions, University of Aarhus in 1960. These two founding fathers will be greatly missed by their family,

pupils and friends.

Eastern Africa: EAASR (Eastern African Association for the Study of Religions)—MEMBERSHIP PENDING

President: Dr. Grace N. Wamue, Department of Religious Studies, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844, Nairobi, Kenya
[wamue@avu.org]

Secretary: Dr. Michael Katola, Department of Religious Studies, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844, Nairobi, Kenya
[mkatola@westend.africaonline.com]

Treasurer: Ms. Rebecca Muriguh, Department of Religious Studies, University of Nairobi, Kikuyu Campus

The Eastern African Association was founded informally at the IAHR Special Conference in Nairobi (May 1999) and was formally launched May 12, 2000. Its affiliation with the IAHR is currently pending. The Executive Committee accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

Dr. Katola writes that those present at the inauguration were mostly from Kenya with apologies from all over Eastern Africa. The latter were not able to attend the one-day event due to logistics of travel. The association's main objective is to bring together scholars of religions from the region. This is hoped to provide a forum for research in the religions of Eastern Africa. Membership is drawn from individuals and institutions within the region.

For more information please contact Dr. Katola.

Europe: EASR (European Association for the Study of Religions)
—MEMBERSHIP PENDING

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

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

Treasurer: Prof. Willem Hofstee, Kamillestraat 9, 2565 PZ Den Haag, The Netherlands
[hofsman@bart.nl]

The European Association was founded at the IAHR Special Conference in Cracow, Poland (May 2000). Its affiliation with the IAHR is currently pending. The Executive Committee accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

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

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 Finnish Society hosted a conference on "Religion, Cognition and Cultural Context", 21-23 June 1999.

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

President: Prof. Ernest-Marie Laperrousaz, Directeur d'Etudes à l'EPHE Vème section 20, rue de Vanves, F-92140 Clamart, France

Secretary: Prof. Charles Guittard, Collège de France, 01, rue Monticelli, F-75014 Paris, France

Treasurer: Mm. Régine Guittard, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, 01, rue Monticelli, F-75014 Paris, 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 and another congress was held in 1923. 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. Burkhard Gladigow, KWI, Goethestraße 31, D-45128 Essen, Germany

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Germany hosted the IAHR congress in Marburg in 1960. The *Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte* publishes the journal *Zeitschrift für Religionswissenschaft* (ISSN 0943-8610). The DVRG reported the death of Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Klimkeit in 1999. His colleagues and students at Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn wrote: Mit seiner Freundschaft und väterlichen Fürsorge hat er uns viele Jahre fachlich und menschlich zur Seite gestan-

den, uns begleitet, geführt und gefördert. Die faszinierende Fachbeherrschung des leidenschaftlichen Forschers und Hochschullehrers erfüllten uns mit Bewunderung und Hochachtung. Seinen Schülerne gegenüber fühlte er sich als geistiger Vater. Trotz längerer Erkrankung hat sein unerwarteter, plötzlicher Tod uns alle tief getroffen. Wir werden ihm ein dankbares Andenken bewahren.

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

President: Prof. Dr. Mihály Hoppál, Ethnographic Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Országház u. 30, 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. Karma Oraon, Department of Anthropology, Ranchi University, Ranchi 834008, India
[canabera@bgl.vsnl.net.in]

Secretary: Prof. Dr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, Balihar Road, Morabadi, Ranchi 834008, Bihar, India
[canabera@bgl.vsnl.net.in]

Treasurer:

The following obituary was sent to this bulletin by Prof. Singh: Dr. Makhan Jha, President of the Indian Association for the History of Religion and a veteran anthropologist died on December 26, 1998 at his Ranchi residence in India. In 1990 during the 16th world congress of the IAHR in Rome, Dr. Jha was elected President of the Indian Association. Dr. Jha rendered his services to the academic world in many ways. He was editor of *Man in Asia*, an international journal of Asian studies. He was a member of the University Grants Commission in New Delhi. He was awarded the "Man of the Year" award by the International Research Board of the American Bibliographical Institute. He visited the United States in 1981 to participate in an international conference on "Pilgrimage". He visited Canada, Japan and Thailand in 1983 and delivered lectures in many universities. He also visited universities in Bonn, Köln and Hamburg in Germany during August 1986. He again visited the University of Zagreb in Yugoslavia in 1988. Prof. Jha also contributed papers in China in May 1990. He visited Mexico City and his recent visit to Williamsburg, Virginia USA was highly applauded. Prof. Jha wrote 51 books in various disciplines. He developed special interests in the tribes and castes of India and Nepal, folklore, comparative religion and sacred complexes of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage places in India. Prof. Jha undertook more than a dozen projects on various subjects for U.G.C. His premature departure from the world has plunged his students, teachers, well-wishers, admirers

and family members in deep grief. May God give the departed soul peace and calm.

Indonesia: Indonesian Association for the Study of Research of Religion

President: Prof. Dr. H. Syamsuddin Abdullah, Department of Comparative Religion,
Fakultas Ushuluddin, IAIN Sunan Kalijaga, 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@unime.it]

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

The VIIth and XVIth IAHR congresses were held in Rome in 1955 and 1990.

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 old-

est, 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 the next IAHR congress in 2005 in Tokyo.

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.

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.

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

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

[h.l.beck@kub.nl]

Secretary: Dr. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute of Social Studies, P.O. Box 29776, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands, Tel. 31-704260571, Fax 31-704260799

[gterhaar@wxs.nl]

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

Netherlands
[burg@esau.th.vu.nl]

The *Nederlands Genootschap van Godsdiensthistorici* 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. It hosted the IAHR congress in 1950. The NGG publishes a newsletter in Dutch.

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

President: Prof. Paul Morris, Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington,
P.O.Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand
[paul.morris@vuw.ac.nz]

Secretary:

Treasurer:

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* containing reviews, news and bibliographies. NZASR is currently planning on hosting an IAHR Regional Conference in 2002.

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).

We have received the following note from Prof. Dopamu dated 21 October 1998: It is observed on page 5 of the Bulletin that you have not been receiving communications from our Association. This is not unconnected with the vicissitudes of the Nigerian society which have taken their toll on the academic community. It has been noted correctly that the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions (NASR) received a generous donation from the Federal Government of Nigeria in 1990 (pages 52 and 64 of Bulletin 35). But this was not only to produce a number of books on religion but also to support the Association's other activities like Conferences, Seminars and Sponsorship to International Conferences. We have so far been able to publish three books as listed on page 11 of No.9 of AASR Newsletter. These books were formally presented at the NASR conference held at Federal Government College of Education, Osiele, Abeokuta from 24-27 September, 1994.

It is painful, however, that the Association has not been able to make any appreciative progress since then because of its account in one of the numerous distressed

Banks in Nigeria. My predecessor in Office and the Executive of NASR have taken various steps to get the money but it was all to no avail and this has adversely affected the activities of the Association.

Even with these difficulties, the Association held a conference and celebrated its 20th Anniversary in September, 1995 at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The conference was well attended and two former senior members and officers of NASR, Professors Ogbu Kalu and I.A.B. Balogun, gave key-note addresses.

We recorded significant success as a result of the good-will and support of the authorities of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, and the exemplary leadership of the then Head of Department of Religious Studies of that Institution, Dr. Chris Manus.

We have intended to forge ahead in the face of difficulties but up till now, we have not been able to hold another conference. The political and economic problems facing Nigeria are well known. Most of our members are drawn from Nigerian Universities and the 1996 Conference scheduled to take place at the University of Uyo could not hold because of the prolonged strike by academic staff of Nigerian Universities. The consequences of this strike had spilled over into 1997 and we could not plan a conference because of the unstable university calendar. Again, we planned to hold a conference from 24-27 July this year at the University of Jos but a new wave of political instability forced us to postpone the conference indefinitely.

From the foregoing, you would understand that the aftermath of the situation in our country is responsible for lack of communication. Fundraising still remains our greatest problem and the Executive Committee cannot even meet regularly for lack of funds. Our new publication, *Religion and Science in Nigeria*, is still in press and we have a backlog of five editions of our Journal, *Religions* for the same reason.

One of our colleagues who is also a great scholar and Professor of Comparative and African Religion, Jacob K. Olupona, has recently hinted at the severe and stressful conditions under which scholarship is pursued in Nigeria, and at the state of the country in general which made respondents less enthusiastic in answering his questionnaires. This observation is an eloquent testimony to the problems facing NASR and its members countrywide.

I am hopeful that things will soon normalise in the country. And if we are able to get our money that is stuck in the distressed Bank, the Association will come back in full swing and embark fully on all its activities. In this way, we will be able to pay our annual dues to IAHR up-to-date and be involved in other IAHR activities, including those of AASR. We have been assured that our money can never be lost, although it may take some time.

Meanwhile, I have asked the Secretary to inform our members about the IAHR Congress in Durban, August 5-12, 2000.

Once again, I thank you for your communication.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Ade Dopamu

President of the NASR

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

President: Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Øisteinsgate 3, N-5007 Bergen, Norway

[knut.jacobsen@krr.uib.no]

Secretary: Dr. Anne Stensvold, Department of the History of Religions, University of Oslo, P.O. Box 1010 Blindern, N-0034 Oslo, Norway

Treasurer: Dr. Roald Kristensen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Tromsø, Breivika, N-9037 Tromsø, Norway

The *Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening* publishes a bulletin in Norwegian. They reported the untimely death of Prof. Ragnhild Bjerre Finnestad in 1999. She was a guiding light in the development of the study of religion during difficult times in Bergen, Norway, and she was on the forefront of organizational cooperation with the Department of History of Religions at the University of Copenhagen especially with regards to the journal *Chaos. Dansk-Norsk Tidsskrift for Religionshistoriske Studier*. She will be missed by her family, colleagues, students and friends.

***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
[prof2aw@yahoo.com]

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, *Przegl d Religioznawczy* (ISSN 1230-4379). It has also hosted the IAHR Special Conference in Cracow (May 2000).

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.

Slovakia: SSSN (Slovensk  spolocnost' pre st dium n bozenstiev pri SAV Bratislava)

Slovak Association for Religious Studies—MEMBERSHIP PENDING

President: Prof. Dr. J n Komorovsk y, Katedra etnol gie, odd. religionistiky,

Filozofická fakulta UK, Gondóva ul. 2, P.O.Box 1, 818 01 Bratislava, Slovakia
Secretary: Mgr. Milan Kováč, M.I., E 131, Staré Grunty 36, 842 25 Bratislava,
Slovakia

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

The *Slovenská spoločnosť pre štúdium náboženstiev pri SAV Bratislava* is a reorganized association formerly a part of the Czechoslovakian IAHR affiliate. The *Society for the Study of Religions* was founded in 1990 in the Czech Republic and in 1991 Prof. Komorovský joined this society's committee as a representative of religionists in Slovakia. The *Slovak Association for the Study of Religions* (SASR/SSŠN) was founded on November 5, 1992 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. It is not yet fully recognized as an IAHR affiliate, but was approved by the International Committee in Hildesheim 1998. Final recognition will be presented to the General Assembly in Durban 2000.

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.

The SSŠN publishes a journal, in Slovakian, entitled *Hieron. Religionistická Ročenka* (ISBN 80-967138-8-4). 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.

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

President: Prof. Kum, Jang-tae; Seoul, Kwanak-gu, Sillim dong San 56-1, Seoul

National University, Department of Religious Studies, Korea 151-742
Secretary: Prof. Yoon, Won-ch'ul; Seoul, Kwanak-gu, Sillim dong San 56-1, Seoul
National University, Department of Religious Studies, Korea 151-742
Treasurer:

Members of the South 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. Fernando Américo, Dpto de Derecho Eclesiástico del Estado,
Facultad de Derecho, Universidad Complutense, 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.

Prominent members of the SECR are on the editorial board of the journal *Ilustración de ciencias de las religiones* (ISSN 1135-4712). 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. Britt-Mari Näsström, Institutionen for religionsvetenskap, Box 200,
Göteborgs Universitet, SE-40530 Göteborg, Sverige
[b-m.nasstrom@religion.gu.se]
Secretary: Prof. Per-Arne Berglie, Stockholms Universitet, SE-10691 Stockholm,
Sverige
[per-arne.berglie@rel.su.se]
Treasurer: Doz. Dr. Gudmar Aneer, Institutionen for religionsvetenskap, Box 200,
Göteborgs Universitet, SE-40530 Göteborg, Sverige
[gudmar.aneer@religion.gu.se]

Sweden hosted the 1970 IAHR congress in Stockholm. 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]. The yearbook is distributed by Swedish Science Press, Box 118, 751 04 Uppsala, Sweden (ph. 018-365566).

The SSRF reported the death of Prof. Jan Bergman, University of Uppsala, in 1999. He was among the most famous scholars of religion in the world and was known for his breadth of knowledge and his energy and interest in the history of religions and in the IAHR. He served as Chairman of the SSRF for many years. He was a prolific scholar, engaged lecturer and debator and a well loved teacher. His col-

leagues, pupils, family and friends will miss him greatly.

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

President: Prof. Philippe Borgeaud, Chemin de manons 23, CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland
[philippe.borgeaud@lettres.unige.ch]

Secretary:

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.

Taiwan: TARS (Taiwan Association for Religious Studies)—MEMBERSHIP PENDING

President: Prof. Lin Mei-rong, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Nankang Academia Sinica Street, Section two, Number 128, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan
[etlmr@ccvax.sinica.edu.tw and tars@gate.sinica.edu.tw]

Secretary: Prof. Elise de Vido, Ricci Institute for Chinese Studies, Hsin-hai Road, Sec. 1, No. 22, 3 F., Taipei 100 Taiwan
[aldi@nccu.edu.tw]

Treasurer:

The TARS was established in 1999 with the goal to promote research on religion in Taiwan, to raise the level of knowledge and education in religious studies, and to promote domestic and international exchange in the academic sphere. They intend to publish a journal and to sponsor events on religious studies. We have received their by-laws, membership forms and letter of invitation. They currently have 153 full members, 122 student members, 14 institutional and 17 sponsoring members. Their affiliation with the IAHR is currently pending. The Executive Committee accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

We have also received an e-mail with announcements from the Taipei Ricci Institute concerning its activities, bulletin, publications and database. For further information contact the Taipei Ricci Institute [riccitpe@tpts4.seed.net.tw].

Ukraine: UARR (Ukrayins'ka Asotsiatsiya Religiyeznavtsiv) (Ukrainian Association of Religion Researchers)

President: Prof. Anatoly Kolodny, Department of Religious Studies, The Philosophy Institute, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, 4 Tryohsvyatyets'ka St., 252001 Kyiv, Ukraine
[kam@vrif.viaduc.net]

Secretary: Dr. Oleg Buchma, Department of Religious Studies, The Philosophy Institute, Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, 4 Tryohsvyatyets'ka St., 252001 Kyiv, Ukraine

The *Ukrayins'ka Asotsiatsiya Religiyeznavstv* publishes a bulletin entitled *Ukrayins'ke religiyeznavstvo* ('Ukrainian Religious Studies').

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

[<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/basr/>]

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

England hosted the 1975 IAHR congress in Lancaster. The BASR (formerly BAHK) is one of the older affiliates of the IAHR and has published its own bulletin for many years. We have received bulletins 86, 87 and 88 for the year 1999. They contain a great amount of information about the association, departments and centres and other activities in Great Britain.

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*, 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”.



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. Michel Despland and Prof. Einar Thomassen, 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 edited by Prof. Wouter J. Hanegraff. 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.

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What is your area of research?

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

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Do you subscribe to any of the following?

IAHR Bulletin Yes No

NUMEN Yes No

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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
1995-2000

President: Prof. Michael Pye, FG Religionswissenschaft, Philipps-Universität, Landgraf-Philipp-Straße 4, 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, Taasingegade 3, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark, Tel. 45-89422306, Fax 45-86130490 [geertz@teologi.au.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. Gary L. Lease, History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA, Tel. 1-8314592757, or 4594310, Fax 1-8314593125 [rehbock@cats.ucsc.edu]

Members-at-large:

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

Prof. Gerrie ter Haar, Institute of Social Studies, P.O. Box 29776, 2502 LT The Hague, The Netherlands, Tel. 31-704260571, Fax 31-704260799 [gterhaar@wxs.nl]

Prof. Helena Helve, Department of Comparative Religion, University of Helsinki, P.O. Box 59, FIN-00014 Helsinki, Finland, Tel. 358-919123588, Fax 358-919123591, [helena.helve@helsinki.fi]

Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, African American & African Studies Program, University of California, 280 Kerr Hall, Davis, CA 95616, USA, Tel. 1-5307528354, Fax 1-5307529704 [jkolupona@ucdavis.edu]

Prof. 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]