

IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement (March 2008)



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1. Gary Lease: In Memoriam

January 11, 2008, it was our sad task to pass on to you the unfortunate news that Professor Gary Lease, Treasurer of the IAHR, passed away January 4, 2008, following a long battle with cancer.

The President and the General Secretary attended the memorial service February 2, 2008, at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and condolences from many an IAHR officer and colleague were extended to Gary's wife and family.

An obituary will, as announced, be published in *NUMEN* as well as posted on the IAHR website. In the meantime members may consult the website of NAASR at <http://naasr.com/news.html> where there is more information on Gary's life and work, as well as the UC Santa Cruz online obituary at http://www.ucsc.edu/news_events/text.asp?pid=1850

2. Toronto 2010: The IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress

The XXth IAHR Congress Secretariat announces the launching of its Congress Website:

The Congress Website (<http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr>) constitutes the "First Circular" for the XXth IAHR Congress to be held in Toronto Canada from 15 to 21 August, 2010. This early announcement is essentially an invitation to consider participation in the Congress and provides information regarding the Congress venue, host, and sponsoring institutions, and the structure of the Academic Program. The Website is available in English and French (the official languages of the IAHR and the two Canadian Societies sponsoring the Congress) as well as Spanish given the Mexican society sponsorship. The Website will be regularly updated as planning progresses and detailed information becomes available. Feedback/suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

3. IAHR Conferences 2007-2009

2007 was a year with several IAHR Special and Regional Conferences. All of them highly successful in terms of quality of papers, number of participants, *et al*:

- Stockholm-Sweden, April 19-22, 2007: "Borders and Boundaries: New challenges in the academic study of religion". An IAHR Special Conference hosted by The Swedish Association for the Study of Comparative Religion (*SSRF*)
- Bangkok-Thailand, May 24 – 27, 2007: "Syncretism in South and South East Asia: Adoption and Adaptation". An IAHR Regional Conference hosted by the The South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (*SSEASR*).
- Gabarone, Botswana, July 8-12, 2007: "Health, Healing and the Academic Study of Religion in Africa". An IAHR Regional Conference hosted by The African Association for the Study of Religions (*AASR*).

- Ankara-Turkey, October 22-24, 2007: "Secularism and religious resurgence". An IAHR Special Conference hosted by The Turkish Association for the History of Religions (*TAHR*).

As for **2008**, the IAHR focuses its attention on the announced conference in Brno, 7-11 September: "Time of Decline, Time of Hope: Scientific, Cultural and Political Engagement of the Study of Religions", an IAHR Special Conference and the 8th EASR Annual, hosted by the Czech Society for the Study of Religions (*CSSR*). Cf. <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/easr2008/>

This conference is important also because it serves as the venue for the important IAHR International Committee Meeting (cf. below).

As for **2009**, the Executive Committee so far has agreed to have the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (*SSEASR*) host yet another IAHR Regional Conference, this time to be held in Bali, June 3-6, 2009 with the theme: "Waters in South and Southeast Asia: Interaction of Culture and Religion". (Cf. <http://sseasr.org/about.html>).

Member associations interested in hosting an IAHR Special or Regional Conference in 2009 are strongly urged to contact the General Secretary as soon as possible.

4. IAHR Publications

4.1. IAHR XIXth World Congress Tokyo 2005: Proceedings

The publications officer has now prepared in cooperation with the Congress organisers the text of the official Proceedings of the Tokyo congress, in the form of a record of speakers, themes and topics, abstracts of papers, Congress related events, a selection of photos and final statistics of attendance, etc.

This will be published in book form later this year for IAHR member associations and libraries to hold as a permanent record of the Congress. The Proceedings will at the same time be made available in an online version at the IAHR website for general access

4.2. IAHR XIXth World Congress Tokyo 2005: Adjunct Proceedings

Gerrie ter Haar and Yoshio Tsuruoka (eds.), *Religion and Society: An Agenda for the 21st Century*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2007. Published in the series International Studies in Religion and Society (ISRS), volume 5. ISSN: 1573-4293. 306 pp. Religion is set to be a major force in the twenty-first century. This book, which has emerged from the IAHR XIXth World Congress in Tokyo in March 2005, tells us what the world's leading scholars have to say about this. Issues of conflict and peace, ethical questions concerning the use of advanced technology, explanations of the global religious revival, and the role of women in religious leadership, as well as questions about how to study religion, are all discussed. It is a volume that ranges exceptionally widely, in terms of the themes discussed, the variety of disciplines, and the participation of international scholars debating with each other. One section of the book is devoted to Japanese scholarship concerning the world's major religions.

Contributors include: Talal Asad, Chin Hong Chung, Armin Geertz, Gerrie ter Haar, Rosalind Hackett, Eiko Hanaoka (-Kawamura), Shoto Hase, Mark Juergensmeyer, Noriko Kawahashi, Kiyotaka Kimura, Ursula King, Pratap Kumar, William LaFleur, Sylvia Marcos, Tomoko Masuzawa, Ebrahim Moosa, Kojiro Nakamura, Vasudha Narayanan, Haruko Okano, Suwanna Satha-Anand, Susumu Shimazono, Noriyoshi Tamaru, Masakazu Tanaka, Hiroshi Tsuchiya, Yoshio Tsuruoka, Manabu Watanabe, Pablo Wright.

Copies can be ordered from Brill Academic Publishers and a special price negotiated for bulk sale.

4.3. NUMEN

In agreement with the representatives from Brill Academic Publishers and following a decision taken at the Executive Committee Meeting, Bucharest, 2006, the IAHR, represented by Brian Bocking, the IAHR Publications Officer, and the IAHR General Secretary, has been negotiating a new agreement with Brill Academic Publishers on the future of *NUMEN* (and *Numen Book Series*; on this and *Science of Religion, Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles (SoR)* see below).

Following a year which included a meeting in Leiden (with the managing editors present too) and another one in Copenhagen, plus many e-mail and telephone communications, the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Ankara, October 21, 2008 could finally endorse a new contract on *NUMEN* (and agree on the future in regard to *Numen Book Series*). The main points in the new contract, now signed, are as follows:

- Brill makes a separate payment to the IAHR of Euro 1.504 per issue (equivalent to 7.520 Euro per year) in acknowledgement of IAHR's contribution to *NUMEN*. In return, the Executive Committee/Editorial Board will seek to cooperate actively with Brill through the IAHR to develop the subscription base, solicit articles, find qualified reviewers, etc.
- This annual sum will be index-linked so that the payments will broadly keep pace with inflation.
- Brill makes a 'one-off' payment (Euro 15.037) to the IAHR for the undisputed right to the journal title *NUMEN*.
- The pagination of *NUMEN* increases by about 20% from its current average of 523 pages to 600-625 pages per year. *NUMEN* can then be marketed as a five-issues-per-year journal. However, the Managing Editors shall supply Brill with but four sets of content each year: three single issues and one double issue.
- The two Managing Editors, plus the Reviews Editor, are appointed by Brill on the recommendation of the IAHR, and Brill draws up separate contracts with these editors, including an agreement on an annual honorarium to each editor, including the Reviews Editor. It is, furthermore, agreed between Brill and the IAHR, that:
- Expenses of the editors will be covered up to a maximum of Euro 1.504, and also copy-editing costs will be covered up to a maximum of Euro 1.504 per year.

This new agreement has to be seen in the light of the old one from 1994, according to which Brill has been paying the IAHR \$1500 per year in order mainly to cover the expenses of the editors. The editors have received no honoraria.

The IAHR Executive Committee is happy about the outcome of the negotiations. In respect of overall direction and editorial control, the current arrangements will continue, whereby the elected Executive Committee of the IAHR is the *NUMEN* Editorial Board and thus *NUMEN* remains absolutely the journal of the IAHR and its membership. At the same time the arrangement is a great improvement in terms of money, and it is a welcome boost to the IAHR finances.

4.4. *Numen Book Series and SoR (Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles)*

As for *Numen Book Series*, the negotiations did not have the same kind of happy end. The IAHR Executive Committee saw *NUMEN*, *Numen Book Series* and *SoR* as sort of an IAHR/Brill package and a strong ‘brand’.

However, as of 31 July, 2008, with the lapse of the old agreement, *Numen Book Series* is no longer an IAHR related book series.

The same goes for the *SoR*. But in this case the situation is different, since there was actually no written agreement between the IAHR and Brill regarding this publication. The informal relationship and cooperation, therefore, simply has come to an end.

The IAHR Executive Committee wants to thank the editors of *Numen Book Series* for the many years of hard work, and the IAHR Executive Committee, likewise, wants to thank Katja Triplett and her team of editors for the work on *SoR*.

4.5. *IAHR Bulletin, IAHR Bulletin Supplement – and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*

Following the IAHR World Congress in Tokyo, the in-coming IAHR Executive Committee decided, in view of the financial situation as well as the expanding use of electronic communication *not* to send out printed IAHR Bulletins or Bulletin Supplements. At least for a while. Instead, it was agreed that the General Secretary should send out up-dates, news or newsletters by way of e-mails and that those up-dates or news should be posted also on the IAHR website.

Nevertheless: Though it is our hope that we have in this way actually communicated the most important news and information to the officers of the IAHR member associations, we now want to return to a format and a terminology more in line with what has been the case for many, many years. At the same time we want to do so using the new electronic medium. Consequently, this up-date or newsletter is called *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement (March 2008)*, and it will then be followed, from time to time, by other IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements.

It is our hope that this may make it easier for the officers of the member association to see to it that the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* is distributed, one way or the other, to the members of their associations. You can send it on by way of e-mail if you have the means of reaching your individual members in that way, or you may print it and distribute it snail-mail or in whatever way you find appropriate.

This does not mean, however, that there will never be another printed *IAHR Bulletin*. The Executive Committee will try its best to find the money to make sure that there is always one printed issue of the *IAHR Bulletin* being published and distributed in connection with the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, International Committee Meeting and General Assembly. Likewise, we will do what we can to find the means to update and print the *IAHR Handbook* in connection with the World Congresses.

5. *Applications for Membership and Affiliation*

Since Tokyo 2005, two new associations for the academic study of religions have been established: The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (*ESSR*) was established in 2006, while the Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions

(APER) was founded in 2007. Both associations have applied for membership, and it will be one of the tasks of the International Committee Meeting in Brno to discuss the applications. Both the *ESSR* and the *APER* are already members to the *EASR*, the European Association for the Study of Religions.

The *IACSR*, the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion, has applied for status of affiliate to the IAHR, and this application also needs must be discussed by the International Committee in Brno.

The General Secretary, furthermore, has been in contact with several other associations that have expressed an interest in either membership or affiliate status, and this is another reason why the Executive Committee has started to discuss the exact status, rights and obligations of, respectively, a 'member' and an 'affiliate' (cf. the IAHR Constitution § 3AB).

6. International Committee Meeting Brno Sept. 10, 2008

As announced in an e-mail (February 17, 2008) to all the officers of the IAHR national and regional member associations, the International Committee Meeting 2008 will be held in Brno during the IAHR Special and EASR Annual Conference.

The date and time for the meeting has now been fixed: The meeting will take place **Wednesday September 10, 2008, 4:00 pm**.

Please allow me to repeat what I wrote in the e-mail mentioned above:

The IAHR International Committee is composed of (i) two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies, (ii) the Executive Committee, and (iii) up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

The IAHR International Committee meets during each Quinquennial World Congress. As stated, however, in the Rules of Procedure 2b, "As a rule the International Committee also meets once between the quinquennial congresses.", and this meeting normally is held as close as possible to the midst of the period in between two world congresses. According to the Rules of Procedure 4b "The session [the International Committee Meeting] between the international congresses shall be held at the location and time of an IAHR conference."

Consequently, I once again sincerely ask the executive committee of each constituent society to consider the appointment of representatives to the International Committee and its coming meeting in Brno.

7. Annual Dues Payment 2008

It is time for the payment of the annual dues to the IAHR.

Due to the tragic passing away of Gary Lease, the IAHR accounts have been transferred to another bank. So, please do not send the dues to the former account.

For the time being the accounts are with the General Secretary in a bank in Copenhagen. For your convenience, payment can be made by check or money order in US\$ to me, Tim Jensen, or by a direct electronic transfer in US\$ to the IAHR account here in Copenhagen:

Name of bank: Jyske Bank
Adress of bank: Store Kongensgade 1, DK-1264 København K
Swift code: JYBADKKK
Iban: DK9150330001344130
Name of account: IAHR/Tim Jensen

Since we are getting ready for the Deputy Treasurer, Pratap Kumar, to take over the Treasury, please direct any correspondence pertaining to dues to Prof. Kumar (penumalap@ukzn.ac.za) as well as to me. Thank you.

It is perhaps useful to repeat the IAHR dues policy: each national member association should pay annual dues of one US\$ for each society member each year, but in no case should the dues be less than US\$100.

At the Congress in Durban, South Africa (2000), at the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Bergen (2003), and at the last Congress in Tokyo (2005), it was emphasized repeatedly how important dues payments are, not only in terms of necessary budget support for essential IAHR operations, but also as a sign of solidarity in meeting those common obligations shared by all our members, not just by some. In Tokyo, furthermore, this was stressed by way of an amendment to the constitution, Article 7B now reading:

One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly.

This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues.

This means that only delegates from member associations that are paid up through 2008 have voting rights at the up-coming International Committee Meeting in Brno. At the time 13 member associations have not paid up. Quite a few of the 13 have not paid dues since 2000. I sincerely urge you to contact me if you do not know whether your association has paid up or not.

8. The IAHR Endowment Fund

Due to the critical financial situation of the IAHR as well as to criticism raised at the General Assembly in Tokyo 2005 in regard to the handling of what was supposed to be a separate IAHR Endowment Fund, the In-Coming Executive Committee has set up a finance as well as a fundraising sub-committee and seen to it that an IAHR Endowment Fund has been established. The fundraising sub-committee is working on establishing a specific fund-raising 'task force' as well as drafting relevant rules and guidelines for the IAHR Endowment Fund.

Member associations (and individual members within the member associations) wishing to donate a smaller or larger sum of money to the IAHR Endowment Fund are kindly asked to use the same methods and information as indicated above. However, please make a note specifying the amount of US\$ you want to donate, so that the Treasurer can keep track of the money earmarked for the IAHR Endowment Fund and locate them with the specific account.

9. Names and Addresses of Officers of Member Associations

When sending out, February 17, 2008, the announcement of the International Committee Meeting in Brno, several e-mail addresses of officers listed on the IAHR

website did not function. Together with the Membership Secretary, Abraham Khan, I have tried to up-date our list of officers and their e-mail addresses. However, it is not possible without your help, and we sincerely ask you to notify us in case there are changes to be made. Please always send an e-mail to Prof. Khan at khanah@chass.utoronto.ca with a Cc to me whenever there is a change of officers and addresses. Thank you for your cooperation and help.

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen, March 18, 2008.