

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

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN 19
JANUARY 1992

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear fellow-members of the IAHR,

This year will see two regional conferences of the IAHR, one in Beijing, China, and one in Harare, Zimbabwe. In each case it is a first time, not only for the respective countries, but even (except for the 1958 Tokyo Congress) for their continents. We may therefore hope for the continued long-term development of our discipline on a broadly international and intercultural basis. Surely the efforts of so many helpful colleagues with respect to both of these conferences, as well as in other directions, will increasingly bear fruit.

But what is this discipline? Currently, as requested by the General Assembly, a discussion is being carried on about the very name of the IAHR. Should it be changed to IASR (S standing for Study) or to some comparable alternative? Following on the meeting of the Executive Committee at Burlington, Vermont, last August, position papers are being prepared to set out the advantages and disadvantages of such a change. It is hoped that these will be soon be made available more widely. In 1993 the International Committee (at its proposed meeting in Paris) will have this subject on its agenda, with a view to preparing a recommendation for the General Assembly in 1995. There is still time for widely based and wide-ranging discussion in the national affiliated associations before the stage of formal agenda is reached. However, this time may pass unnoticed...Secretaries of national associations please note!

One thing which is clear about the IAHR is that it is not a religious organisation, even though some of its members may be religious personally. The IAHR has even been described recently as "purist"! However this is misleading. In spite of the clarity of debate in IAHR meetings on the difference between being religious and studying religion, this has not led to the IAHR adopting an exclusive organisational style. Those who attend its conferences and contribute to its journal, Numen, may be religious in varying degree, or not religious.

In view of the continuing political changes taking place in eastern Europe and northern Asia, I should like to point out that I have not yet received notification of any change in the name of the Soviet Association for the Study of Religion.

With all best wishes
Michael Pye

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JANUARY 1992

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Notice to Secretaries of Affiliate Associations

The folded brochure giving information about the I A H R has been reprinted, and you will be receiving a package of these as "printed matter" in the next few weeks. Please let me know when you have received them.

Note that the brochure is mainly intended to attract new members and therefore the empty box (see below) should be provided with your own name and address as national secretary.

SPECIMEN:

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Title (Prof. Dr. Ms. Mr.)

Family name

Other name(s)

Address

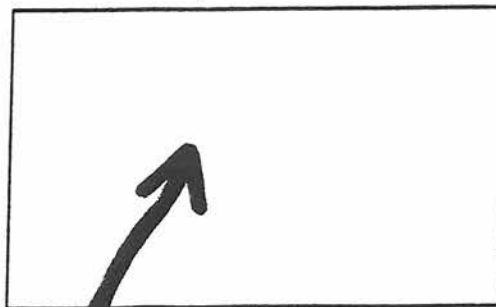
City

Country

Institution (university etc.)

Field(s) of interest

MEMBERSHIP OF THE IAHR is normally understood to be membership of the appropriate national or regional association which is affiliated to IAHR. If you are interested in joining such an association please send this page to the following address:

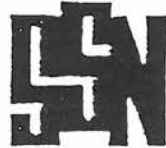


YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AS SECRETARY

Affiliation speech for SSN (Czechoslovakia)

There follows below the address by Dr. Dalibor Papousek to the IAHR General Assembly (Rome 1990) on the occasion of the affiliation of the Czechoslovak Association for the Study of Religion, translated from the German in which it was originally delivered.

SPOLECNOST PRO STUDIUM NABOZENSTVI



The study of religion (Religionswissenschaft) has had a long tradition in Czechoslovakia, in spite of some meanderings. Hitherto however research into religion was carried on in the context of various contributing subjects such as archaeology, anthropology, history, philology, sociology, psychology, philosophy and theology. In spite of various attempts it never proved possible to establish an institutional basis for deeper contacts between the various subjects contributing to religious studies. Not until the political and social changes of last year (i.e. 1989, ed.) did the opportunity arise to overcome this ideologically conditioned fragmentation of research and to give the study of religion an appropriate social position.

On April 4th 1990 the Association for the Study of Religion (Spolecnost pro studium nabozenstvi - SSN) was founded in Brno with the whole of Czechoslovakia as this area of membership. The association is conceived as an independent, voluntary organisation, bringing together specialists from various disciplines under the broadly conceived heading of religious studies. The seat of the association is Brno and a branch was founded in parallel at Prague.

The association currently has some 80 members. Professor Jan Heller, of the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the Carl University of Prague, was elected president.

In the association's statutes the following four tasks were summarised:

- 1) Mutual coordination and cooperation of various branches of religious studies. (This currently involves the very topical work of bringing together

two lines of research in Czechoslovakia, namely the non-ideological islands of official scientific activity and the scientific activity of the Czechoslovak dissidents which was illegal until recently.)

- 2) The establishment of the study of religion as a relatively independent subject area. (This means above all the renewal of "religious studies" (Religionswissenschaft) at Czechoslovakian universities.)
- 3) Publication activities (We need above all a specialised periodical.)
- 4) Collaboration with related associations.

It is assumed that after a while the association will operate in academic sections the distribution of which is thus far theoretical. Provisionally the association has the following sectional structure:

- 1) non-literate religions,
- 2) religions of antiquity,
- 3) Biblical studies,
- 4) oriental studies,
- 5) history of Christianity,
- 6) sociology and psychology of religion,
- 7) philosophy and psychology of religion.

The first conference of the association will take place at Liblice (near Prague) from September 19th to 21st 1990. The theme will be "The present state and perspectives of the study of religion in Czechoslovakia" and since the conference will be combined with the general assembly of the association, the organisational questions will be able to be resolved effectively. This conference in Liblice ought to inspire adequate forms and methods of research for society as a whole.

Although the Czechoslovak association has only been in existence for a few months we have applied for affiliation to the IAHR. Integration into the IAHR will be of great assistance to us because of the time lost under the previous totalitarian régime. Dr. Balabán and I (jointly representing SSN at the Congress - ed.) would like to inform our association of this affiliation during the Liblice conference in September. We thank you most warmly for your generous support and in particular for the opportunity of taking part in this Congress.



BRNO
Czechoslovakia

Společnost pro studium náboženství (SSN), founded on April 4th 1990 in Brno, is an independent, voluntary and exclusive society uniting scholars from various fields of religious studies. Its intention is to support the development of religious studies as an independent field of research. SSN is associated with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and is active in all the territory of ČSFR. The seat of SSN is the town of Brno. SSN is a member of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR).

CONTACT ADDRESS

Společnost pro studium náboženství
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THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SSN

- (1) SSN assists in development of the particular fields of religious studies, in their communication and coordination. For this reason they are organized regular lectures, discussions, seminars, conferences etc.
- (2) SSN protects relative autonomy of religious studies, supports its reputation and intends to introduce religious studies as special part of the curriculum at universities.
- (3) SSN supports the exchange of information and views and presents Czechoslovak religious studies abroad, e.g. by publishing periodicals.
- (4) SSN cooperates with analogical organisations abroad and where it is appropriate it joins also internationally organized structures of research.

SSN is structured according to the main fields of research in religion:

- Sec. of Non-liturgical Religions
- Sec. of Ancient Religions
- Sec. of Biblical Studies
- Sec. of the History of Christianity
- Sec. of Sociology and Psychology of Religion
- Sec. of Philosophy and Phenomenology of Religion

According to the territorial principle the SSN has constituted also its branch in Prague.

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CONSTITUENCY OF THE SSN

The highest body of the SSN is the members assembly; between its meetings the SSN is directed by the committee. Its activity is limited by the appelation and revision committee.

CONTACT ADDRESS

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Information on the Institute of World Religions (Beijing)

The Institute of World Religions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing) is hosting the IAHR regional conference in April 1992 and the following information is therefore carried in this bulletin.

INSTITUTE OF WORLD RELIGIONS CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

As the one and only center at the state level for academic research of religions, the Institute of World Religions (IWR) devotes itself to the multi-perspective and multi-dimensional study of the theories, doctrines, scriptures, histories and present aspects of various types of religions in the World as well as in the Chinese land and of the relationship of religions to the traditional Chinese culture. IWR applies in its work scientific world outlook and methodology, absorbing all the positive academic results produced by every nation in every age, for the sake of deepening the overall understanding of the formation of human ideas and the development of social cultures and the all-round understanding of the situation of the world and of China, and for the service in a broad sense of the modernization of the state and the building up of the spiritual civilization.

Founded in 1964, IWR has had a rapid development since 1979. It has a membership of 111, including research workers of 85 (7 research-fellows, 29 associate-fellows, 36 assistant-fellows).

Organizational Structure

- * The Department of Buddhist Studies
- * The Department of Tibetan Buddhist Studies
- * The Department of Christian Studies
- * The Department of Islamic Studies

- * The Department of Taoist Studies
- * The Department of Confucian Studies
- * The Department of Religiological Studies
- * The Department of Contemporary Religious Studies

Journals and Library

IWR has two Journals. Study of World Religions (Quarterly, started in 1979) publishes academic papers and thesis by authors of the Institute and of the other parts of China with emphasis on the three Great World Religions. Material of World Religions (Quarterly, started in 1980) focuses its attention on the coverage of the contemporary situation of world religions and the introduction of academic data. Both are published and distributed by China Social Sciences Press.

IWR's library has a resource of 90,000 volumes of books and a periodical section which subscribes newspapers and magazines of 400 kinds each year from home and abroad. It has established relations with scholars, academic societies and religious institutions in many countries of the world.

IWR also functions as a coordinator for religious studies at home. This is seen by the fact that the standing office of the Chinese Association of Religious Studies (CARS) is in the Institute and the director of the Institute is also the Chairman of the association.

Academic Policy

IWR adheres to the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" and the working style of

"seeking truth from facts", practises academic democracy and respects independent spirit in inquiry and exploration. It encourages and organizes researchers to undertake state-sponsored projects of academic importance or of practical significance.

Works published or to be published

- * On the General Theory of Religiology
- * A History of Chinese Buddhism
- * A History of the Development of Chinese Philosophy
- * A History of Islam in China
- * A Study of the Religious Problems in the Socialist China
- * Psychology of Religion
- * A History of Chinese Folk Religions
- * Primitive Religions in China
- * A Study of the Major Trends of World Religions
- * Rerearch of the Dunhuang Manuscripts in Ancient Tibetan Language
- * Sociology of Religion
- * A History of Buddhist Arts
- * Buddhism and Buddhist Studies in Japan
- * A Study of Islam and the Contemporary Politics of the Middle East
- * A History of Sikhism
- * A Study of Daisaku Ikeda and Soka Gakkai
- * Contemporary Currents of Christian Thoughts
- * The Complete Chinese Buddhist Sutras

Major Works

Apart from the above, many special works by individual authors or by co-authors have also been published in recent years, such as:

- * The Pluralized Ideas of God

- * A Short History of Chinese Buddhism
- * Buddhism in the Han, Wei, Western and Eastern Jins and Southern and Northern Dynasties
- * Buddhism in the Sui and Tang Dynasties
- * Buddhism in the Song and Yuan Dynasties
- * Buddhism in the Ming and Ching Dynasties
- * A History of Modern Buddhist Thought of China
- * Bagua jiao Sects in Ching Dynasty
- * A Study of Confucius
- * Philosophy and Natural Science in Ancient China
- * Metaphysics and Literature in the Wei and Jin Dynasties
- * A History of Chinese Taoism
- * A General Survey of Islam
- * Religion and Culture
- * A Dictionary of Religions
- * A General Survey of the Religions in the World

In addition to the above, IWR scholars and students have also written a lot of introductory works on religions and have done some work in the interpretations of Chinese classics. A number of works in Chinese translation have also been published over the years.

Other Tasks

IWR also undertakes, as commissioned by the state, the education and training of high-level qualified students of religious studies. Its staff members include 5 doctor tutors and 10 master tutors. Since 1978, they have accepted and trained over 40 postgraduates, most of whom have acquired Master or Doctor degree. IWR

scholars often give lectures on religions at the invitation to university students or at seminars and workshops.

In 1985, IWR co-operated with the Philosophical Department of Beijing University in starting the first faculty of religious studies in China.

Opening to the Outside World

IWR pays great attention to exchange and co-operation with academic circles and all who are concerned with religious studies throughout the world on the basis of friendship and mutual respect and mutual benefit. It has sent scholars to co-organize or attend bilateral or multilateral international academic conferences of religions held abroad or at home. As an important channel for international academic exchange, it has sent since 1982 over 30 visiting scholars to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, the Soviet Union, Poland, Egypt, Japan, Sri Lanka, and other countries, and has hosted hundreds of visiting scholars and students for graduate studies from all parts of the world. IWR hopes and believes that scholar exchange and friendly relations as such will surely be expanded. IWR welcomes with open arms all guests, scholars and friends throughout the world.

IWR Heads and Address:

- Director: Kong Fan (research-fellow chairman of the CARS)
- Deputy-Director: Dai Kangsheng (associate-fellow, secretary-general of the CARS)
- Deputy-Director: Yu Benyuan (associate-fellow)

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Science of religion in Spain

Appearing below is further information about the development of studies of religion (ciencias de las religiones) in Spain. The source is *Vida Nueva* 1816 (November 1991). Note that Prof. Michel Meslin (referred to here) gave one of the plenary papers at the XIIIth Congress of the IAHR held at Lancaster in 1975. Currently there is no Spanish association affiliated to the IAHR, but perhaps this will change in future...

En la Universidad Complutense de Madrid

CONSTITUIDO EL INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS DE LAS RELIGIONES

CON una conferencia del profesor de la Sorbona, Michel Meslin, sobre la actualidad de las religiones como factores de guerra o de paz, quedó constituido, hace unos días, el Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de las Religiones, dependiente de la Facultad de Filosofía de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Este instituto, que dirigirá el profesor Julio César Trebolle Barrera, ha sido encomendado a una comisión gestora en la que figuran miembros de la propia Universidad Complutense, Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, Universidad de Comillas y el Instituto de Filosofía del Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, entre ellos, Olegario González de Cardedal, Manuel Reyes Mate, Gómez Caffarena, etc.

ACTIVIDADES

Las líneas programáticas del nuevo instituto establecen el desarrollo de proyectos de investigación en tres grandes áreas:

a) La enmarcada en el ámbito de la filosofía, antropología y fenomenología de la religión.

b) La concerniente a la historia comparada de las religiones.

c) La fijada por las ciencias sociales, en particular, la sociología y la psicología de la religión.

Todo ello en un marco interdisciplinar del fenómeno de la religión y de las religiones.

Como objetivos a alcanzar está el llenar algunas de las lagunas de la cultura española, como es la edición de los grandes textos religiosos en traducciones a partir de las lenguas originales. Asimismo incidir en el estudio de las tres grandes religiones monoteístas: judaísmo, cristianismo e islamismo.

CONFERENCIA

El ponente del acto, el profesor Michel Meslin, presidente de la Universidad de la Sorbona y director de la Escuela de Doctorado de Ciencias de la Religión y Antropología Religiosa, dijo, en su intervención, que la paz mundial no es posible si no hay paz entre las religiones. Es preciso encontrar una vía entre el fanatismo por la verdad y el olvido de la verdad. Recordó una ponencia de Hans Küng, quien considera que, históricamente, las religiones han

sido factores de desorden, por el hecho de sacralizar, a causa del fanatismo, los antagonismos políticos, culturales y éticos. Ese fanatismo aparece esencialmente ligado a la cuestión de la «verdad»: cada religión puede desarrollar, en nombre de la verdad, una corriente integrista que alcanza a toda la vida sociocultural.

¿Qué papel están llamadas a representar las religiones universales, los tres monoteísmos abrahámicos y el hinduismo, que representan más de la mitad de los creyentes del mundo? Esta es la pregunta a la que intentó responder el profesor Meslin, quien resaltó el hecho de que el director general de UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, ha señalado con frecuencia la importancia de las grandes religiones para permitir la puesta en práctica del programa de este organismo internacional: «la educación en los derechos humanos». Así se llegó ya en 1989 a una conclusión: «no hay posibilidades de paz mundial si no hay paz entre las religiones». El diálogo interreligioso no podrá establecerse si no es a condición de que cada religión, siguiendo sus propios criterios para establecer su verdad, se muestre capaz al mismo tiempo de hacer su autocrítica en relación a otras religiones.

El profesor Meslin terminó su conferencia diciendo que no existen derechos del hombre sin el reconocimiento de los derechos de la humanidad, que no existen derechos económicos sin deberes ecológicos, ni tampoco existen derechos de la humanidad que no respeten los derechos de la tierra. Resulta evidente que es un deber imperioso de las grandes religiones el vigilar la conservación de este mundo, tanto como el respeto de la libertad religiosa. ■

José Manuel COVELLA

Données de catalogage avant publication (Canada)

La tradition française en sciences religieuses. Pages d'histoire. Volume publié sous la direction de Michel Despland. - Québec: Cahiers de recherches en sciences de la religion, vol. 10, 1991.
ISBN 2-9800687-5-6

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1. Sciences religieuses - francophonie. 2. Histoire des sciences. 3. Religion - sciences. I- Despland, Michel - 1936. II- Titre. III- Collection.

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Member associations of the IAHR

The following is a list of the national or regional associations affiliated to the IAHR, with their leading officers as of 1.1.1992. The officers listed are restricted to President, Secretary and Treasurer, or their equivalents. Unless otherwise determined the President and the Secretary are regarded as the representatives of any one association on the International Committee.

AUSTRALIA

Australian Association for the Study of Religion

President

Dr. Ann E. Gardner
Religious Studies
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Australia

Secretary

Ms. Tricia Blombery
6 Balfour Street
Wollstonecraft 2065
Australia

Treasurer

Dr. W. Jobling
Religious Studies
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NSW 2006 Australia

BELGIUM

(currently not organised)

CANADA

Canadian Society for the Study of Religions
Société Canadienne pour l'Etude de la Religion

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Secretary

Prof. Roy Amore
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Treasurer
Prof Todd Lawson

CHINA

Chinese Association for ~~Religious Studies~~ *the Study of Religion*

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Prof. Director (Kong Fan)
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Secretary
Prof. Dai Kangsheng
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Treasurer

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Stanovy Společnosti pro Studium Náboženství
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ISRAEL
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see additions }
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MEXICO
Mexican Association for the History of Religions

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