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The IAHR is an international body of national and regional associations 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.

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Editorial

Welcome to the 37th issue of the IAHR Bulletin. I apologize for the long silence. The reason for this is that the Executive Committee decided at its first meeting in Heeze, The Netherlands on May 25, 2001 that I should concentrate on regularly up-dating the IAHR website (<http://www.iahr.dk>), sending brief e-mails announcing the up-dates, and only occasionally publishing the IAHR Bulletin. Even so, it had been my intention to publish the bulletin as soon as I had written the minutes of the various Durban meetings and they were approved by the Executive Committee, but the very busy transition from my last year as Vice Provost (Prodekanus) in 2001 to a full sabbatical leave in 2002 has prevented me from meeting that intention.

As will become evident, this issue consists mainly of two items. First, my report and, second, the above-mentioned minutes. News items, conference reports, profiles, etc. are not included here, since most of the news is to be found at the IAHR website. For those who do not regularly visit our site, I include pages from the website which give an indication of the various headlines as they appear in the November 18, 2002 up-date. For further information, please visit the appropriate page at the website.

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 and other events. Please send a paper copy and wherever possible a disk copy (preferably in Word or WordPerfect format, but other formats are acceptable) or e-mail attachment. A pdf-file would also be most welcome.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue.

Armin W. Geertz
General Secretary of the IAHR



Report by the General Secretary

Before I begin my report, it is my sad duty to announce that since the last Bulletin, we have received the unfortunate news that Prof. Eric Sharpe, Prof. Ninian Smart and Prof. Lauri Honko have passed away. In witnessing the passing of such great scholars within a short span of years, we cannot but feel that an important chapter in the history of religions has been closed. We honor their memory, and our condolences are extended to their families.

The Executive Committee of the IAHR met in Heeze, The Netherlands, thanks to the gracious support of the Dutch Association. All but two of the committee members were present at the meeting. The committee will be meeting this year in Wellington, New Zealand on December 14, 2002. Several of the committee members have represented the IAHR at various events around the world. Thanks goes to President Prof. Peter Antes and Vice-President Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett for their activities on behalf of the IAHR.

The Executive Committee spent an entire day going through policy issues and practical matters, developed a plan for the coming five year period of office, and met as well in its capacity as Editorial Board of *Numen*. Present at the editorial board meeting and during one of the points on the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting were Managing Editor Prof. Einar Thomassen, Acquisitions Editor from E. J. Brill, Anniek Meinders, and the editor of *Numen Book Series* Prof. Wouter J. Hanegraaff.

I will relate the content of most of the points on the agenda in relevant sections below.

The Minutes of the Meetings

First, the minutes of the International Committee meeting and the General Assembly held in Durban, South Africa were adopted and are herewith published in this bulletin.

The Durban Congress

The Committee noted that the Durban Congress was a great success. Thanks is extended to all those who made the Durban experience so enjoyable. Primarily thanks are extended to Congress Director Prof. Pratap Kumar and to Chair of the Academic Programme Committee Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett.

Prof. Kumar played a key role in hosting one of the best quinquennial congresses that I have ever experienced. Many delegates have extended their congratulations, and their praise to Prof. Kumar was obvious during the reception held by the City of Durban. It was a great pleasure witnessing Prof. Kumar's organizational talent, endurance, and courtesy, and it was a pleasure to have worked closely with him. But not only was the congress pleasurable, it was also economically feasible. The final finan-

cial statements of the congress were presented to the Executive Committee during its meeting in Heeze. For perhaps the first time in the history of the IAHR, the budget came out with a \$10,000 surplus. Furthermore, there was also money left over to help cover costs for publishing the congress proceedings. The surplus amount has been deposited in an IAHR Certificate of Deposit and will serve as the financial basis for the newly established “IAHR Trust Fund: Southern Africa” primarily for scholars in the Southern African region. The fund will be used to provide smaller grants for research and publication subsidies in order to assist scholars in Africa in tangible ways, thus leading to concrete results.

Prof. Hackett organized a stimulating academic program involving a large number of people from around the world. The topics were relevant and well-received, and they mapped out new ways in organizing IAHR programs. I was told by several delegates from countries which often feel marginalized at conferences held for instance in the U.S., that they highly appreciated the efforts made in putting everyone on an equal basis as partners in the study of religion. I noted already during the first plenary that people who never before had considered themselves to be part of the IAHR were suddenly discussing how “we” want the IAHR to be. Surely this must be an indication of a great step forward!

This said and done, there were also some concerns voiced both during the congress and afterwards. They were also raised at a meeting between the Executive Committee and the members of the Dutch Association in Heeze. Several members expressed concern that the number of theologically oriented papers and sessions were an indication of the IAHR “selling out” on its non-sectarian, academic identity. This is certainly not the case! In fact, it may have escaped the notice of some that as a courtesy to the local academic community, the South African Academy of Religion was invited to convene their own session during the congress. This was not a “selling out” gesture. On the contrary, it was an attempt both to 1) show respect for scholarship and support in the region—some of the staunchest supporters of the IAHR congress were in fact scholars, university provosts and deans in theology—and 2) to encourage African scholars from a variety of disciplines to witness what the non-sectarian, academic study of religion involves and to give them the opportunity to meet with such scholars from around the world. Similar concerns were raised about the sessions on human rights and related themes. Some delegates were worried that the IAHR was now in the hands of the activists and that they were “selling out” to political ideologies. Unfortunately, this attitude turns a cold shoulder to issues that are of vital importance in many of the regions that constitute our “object” of study. One might ask what the ideology of this particular attitude is. One thing is very clear, though: the non-sectarian, academic study of religion has important contributions to make to these topics and themes. And the best strategy is to try to influence the agenda. This, however, requires more subtle reflection on our part in terms of the philosophy of science.

Affiliates

The past two years have concerned a number of matters in relation to IAHR affiliates. They involve the Taiwan Association, the Indian Association, a new Rumanian Association, a new South Asian Association, negotiations with scholars in Turkey concerning an IAHR affiliate, a successful conference in Brazil, and the establishment of electronic lists by the European Association.

1) *Two days after the General Assembly of the IAHR in Durban*, I received the following e-mail dated August 10, 2000 from the General Secretary of the Chinese Association for the Study of Religion (CARS) Prof. Wang Zhiyuan:

Prof. Wang Zhiyuan, General Secretary
Chinese Association for the Study of Religion
No.5, Jiannei Dajie
Beijing 100732, P.R. China

Attention to
General Secretary and the President of the IAHR
Augt. 10, 2000

Dear General Secretary and President:

We were pleased to learn that the IAHR is convening its XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress in Durban, South Africa now and we would like to extend our congratulations to both of you and to other Vice-Presidents, Deputy-Secretaries and all the delegates participating the congress as well.

It's a pity that we did not send any delegate there for some reasons.

We noted in IAHR Bulletin No. 36, July 2000 that "Taiwan: Tars (Taiwan Association for Religious Studies) - Membership Pending" and its information appear on p. 65 of the issue in "News from the National Associations" and its membership will likely be admitted in the present Congress.

However, according to Article 3A of the Constitution and By-laws of the IAHR, ("the IAHR is constituted by national or multinational (regional) societies for the academic study of religions. These are such societies as are now members and such societies as apply for membership and on recommendation of the Executive and International Committees, may be admitted by the General Assembly at future International Congress.") we think that the Chinese Association for the Study of Religion as the national association of the P. R. China should have been informed of Tars' application and consulted on its membership into the IAHR before recommendation of the Executive and International Committees to the General Assembly, because it is obvious that Tars is a local association of Taiwan province of the P. R. China. Without consultation of our position, the Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly are not

obliged to vote up admission of Tars into the IAHR. The Chinese Association for the Study ...[there seems to be a loss of text here]

The government of the P. R. of China as the only legal representative of China enjoys all rights in each organization of or under the United Nations as all the other sovereignty nations do. Taiwan is just one of the provinces of the P. R. China, Taiwan's participation of international organizations and its participating forms have to be affirmed by the Chinese government. We highly hope the IAHR will understand and respect this principle.

We sent this mail a little bit late, for the IAHR Bullets had not arrived on time. And we were sorry for the delay of this mail and we hope it reaches you just in time.

Chinese Association for the Study of Religion

Despite the apparent loss of some of the text, the message to the IAHR is clear, and it is also clear that the Chinese Association is correct in their evaluation of the situation and that in hindsight we should have approached CARS for their opinion. Therefore I wrote the following response on August 27, 2000:

Dear Prof. Wang Zhiyuan,

Thank you very much for your kind greetings. The Quinquennial Congress was a wonderful success.

Unfortunately, I did not receive your mail in time before the International Committee meeting (on Wednesday the 9th of August) or the General Assembly (on Saturday the 12th of August).

Concerning the matter of the application of TARS, we recognise the formal correctness of the objection which has been raised, and I apologise on behalf of the Executive Committee for this unfortunate situation.

It was regrettable that no delegates from the P R of China were able to attend the meetings and to raise the matter on the spot. If they had been, we would have tried to reach an appropriate decision. Of course we understand that there were funding problems, and we are sorry that we were not able to offer any funding from central funds on this occasion.

I respectfully ask for some understanding of the approach taken, however, on the grounds that there are one or two other countries where there is a double affiliation for a special reason. Canada with Quebec is an example. This does not imply that Quebec is an independent country. We agree that Taiwan is part of China, and the IAHR decision was not intended to contravene this principle.

Is it possible, sir, that you might have any advice on how we should proceed in order to maintain an appropriate relationship with the group in Taiwan without contravening fundamentals? There are, as far as I understand, a number of cooperative activities between Taiwan and the mainland, and perhaps such a solution

could be established?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,

Armin W. Geertz

I have not received a reply from CARS. I also sent a similar mail on August 27, 2000 to the President of TARS, Dr. Kuo Wen-ban, but received no reply. In November, I appointed Prof. Jordan Paper, at the East Asian and Religious Studies Programme, York University, Toronto, Canada as Special Emissary of the General Secretary of the IAHR to meet with Dr. Kuo Wen-ban in the spring of 2001. I sent word to Dr. Kuo Wen-ban about Prof. Paper's proposed trip to Taiwan, but received no reply. On December 21, 2000, I received a mail from the new Secretary of TARS, Dr. May-shine Lin, and replied by repeating the essence of my earlier messages and a warning that if TARS does not meet with Prof. Paper, measures would be taken to remove TARS from the IAHR membership, including the website, until the issue was dealt with. I received a positive response from Dr. May-shine Lin and the new President of TARS, Prof. Lin Mei-rong. Prof. Paper met with the Executive Committee of TARS and several models for resolving the problem were discussed. I received word from Dr. Kuo Wen-ban on May 7, 2001 that during their annual meeting, no consensus was reached, and he asked for my advice.

Since then I have had several conversations with Prof. Jordan Paper and the Executive Committee of the IAHR. The situation has arisen as a result of the following: 1) TARS has not secured a solution through negotiations with CARS, and 2) by its inability to achieve a consensus, TARS has rejected the plan proposed by Prof. Jordan Paper that TARS change its name along the lines adopted by the Olympic committees of China and Taiwan to for instance "Chinese Taipei Association for Religious Studies", seek representation along the same lines as the IAHR Quebec Association, but waive its right to one vote.

At the Executive Committee meeting in Heeze, the Committee recognized the fine achievements of TARS and the high quality and diversification of scholarship within the framework of TARS, but it also recognized CARS as the only legal Chinese IAHR affiliate. By rejecting Prof. Paper's proposal and by failing to produce a viable alternative, TARS is in effect asking the IAHR to solve problems of representation that even the most gifted diplomats are unable to achieve in international politics.

The Executive Committee has spent great effort in trying to find a solution to the situation, and it was decided at its meeting in Heeze that in the event that TARS and CARS are unable to reach a solution, there is no choice but to recommend to the International Committee in Bergen, Norway (May 2003) that it in turn recommend to the General Assembly in Tokyo (2005) that TARS' membership be rescinded. In the meantime two alternative kinds of membership are possible, but either one would require active diplomacy on the part of TARS: 1) that TARS be given "corresponding

member status”, which would allow it observer status at International Committee meetings, or 2) that TARS establish a true regional association. The problem with the first solution is that the constitution does not provide for that kind of membership. “Corresponding member” status came into usage in order to accommodate interested organizations that do not fulfill the requirements of the constitutionally recognized types of membership. The problem with solution two is that the regional association must not simply consist of scholars living in Taiwan, but must be truly regional, at the very least in terms of representation.

There are no rules or guidelines in the IAHR constitution and by-laws for this kind of problem. But since it is the General Assembly that decides on membership by recommendation from the Executive Committee and the International Committee, it would probably be best that we follow the above-mentioned procedure: recommendation of disaffiliation in Bergen to the International Committee followed by a General Assembly decision in Tokyo. Another tack could be that a vote that goes contrary to the constitution is automatically invalid and that, therefore, TARS was never a member. But I think that we should proceed more carefully and formally.

The Executive Committee is willing to consider any viable alternative plans that TARS and/or CARS may be able to work out.

2) *The President of the Indian Association for the History of Religions (IAHR India)*, Dr. Karma Oraon sent me a letter dated October 12, 2000 in which he described the problems that the IAHR (India) was having in developing a viable infrastructure and in attracting top-rate scholars in India. He asked for advice and guidance on how to develop mechanisms to alleviate these problems. I have also been contacted by a number of both local and internationally based Indian scholars who attended the Durban Congress. They expressed surprise that they knew nothing about the IAHR (India) and some were concerned that the IAHR (India) is not representative of scholarship in the study of religion in India. After several months of correspondence with various colleagues, I sent the following letter dated April 14, 2001 to Dr. Karma Oraon:

Dear Professor Oraon,

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 2000. I too am happy that so many Indian delegates were able to participate in the Durban 2000 congress.

You raise a number of important matters in your letter. The most important issue is how to develop an infrastructure that is viable enough to strengthen the academic, non-confessional study of religion in India. You present me with a very challenging request which has taken me a lot of time to reflect on. During that time I have benefitted from the wisdom and kind advice of outstanding colleagues in India and abroad. The result of these deliberations are presented to you in the following.

In my opinion, a strong Indian association could become one of the largest

and strongest affiliates of the IAHR. But in order to become a leading association, efforts must be made to develop a more nationally representative body that is dynamic enough to attract good scholars as well as scholars of renown, and that can lead the academic study of religion on sound social scientific and historical principles.

There are several ways to meet such requirements. The one sketched out here is to organize a national conference for the study of religion in a central city in India that has the necessary infrastructure and is easy to reach. Some of the best social scientists and others involved in serious academic study of religion from different parts of India should be invited as well as international observers and Indians from abroad. During the conference, the issue of forming an Indian Association for the Study of Religion (IASR) should be raised, and if such a proposal is accepted, an initial, representative committee should be put in place on the spot to provide the leadership necessary for developing the Indian association. This new association would replace or transform the IAHR (India), and thus not only solve the problem of confusion between the IAHR and the name of one of its member societies, but also signal a multi-disciplinary diversity that would attract Indian scholars from India and abroad.

I have therefore contacted Professor Madhu Kishwar and asked her to organize an IAHR Special Conference in Delhi to be held in 2003. She has graciously accepted the invitation. In order to assist her in whatever way possible, I have appointed an IAHR Advisory Committee consisting of myself, Professor Pratap Kumar, Professor Abraham H. Khan, Professor Amarjiva Lochan, Professor Madhu Kishwar; and, you, Professor Oraon, are also invited to serve on this committee to help guide this great endeavor. My own role is merely advisory, and I have asked Professor Pratap Kumar, who has recently, so unswervingly demonstrated his international stature and dedication, to serve as Chair of the committee. He has graciously accepted the invitation.

It cannot be emphasized strongly enough that this committee is advisory and is established in order to bring the Indian conference to fruition under the highly competent hands of Professor Madhu Kishwar. When the new association is in place, the Advisory Committee will be dissolved in gratefulness by the IAHR.

So, Professor Oraon, I have taken up the challenge you presented to me, and now I redirect that challenge to you. Surely the sign of a great leader is of one who boldly points the way forward!

Yours truly,
Armin W. Geertz

A letter from Dr. Karma Oraon and Dr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh dated June 19, 2001 indicated that they approved the above-mentioned strategy and that they had already taken steps to change the name of their association to the *Indian Association for the*

Study of Religion (IASR).

Since then, the conference planning has moved forward with vision and inspiration. Dr. Madhu Kishwar succeeded in obtaining funding for a project based at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi (CSDS) called "Project for the Study of Indic Religions and Their Mutual Relationships" which will be in function for several years. As part of this project, an IAHR Regional Conference will be hosted by the CSDS in collaboration with India International Centre, New Delhi, December 18-21, 2003 on the theme "Religions in the Indic Civilisation". Besides the above-mentioned International Committee, there is a Programme Committee consisting of Ashis Nandy, D.L. Sheth, Muzaffar Alam, Rama Kant Agnihotri, Shail Mayaram, Shiv Visvanathan, Suresh Sharma, and Wagish Shukla. Please see the website at <http://indicreligions.com> and the announcement at the IAHR website. Inquiries should be sent to Dr. Madhu Kishwar at madhukishwar@indicreligions.com.

3) *The IAHR is in the happy situation* that there is still growth in membership. The rate of growth is slowing down, but it is still evident none the less. The Executive Committee received an application from Dr. Eugen Ciurtin, Co-Director of the Centre for the History of Religions at the University of Bucharest on behalf of the *l'Association roumaine d'histoire des religions* (ARHR). The Committee will recommend their application to the International Committee as soon as I receive their constitution and the names and addresses of their executive committee. They publish a journal entitled *Archævs. Études d'histoire des religions*.

In line with the decision of the International Committee meeting in Durban concerning the long-term plan of appointing Working Groups to establish regional IAHR affiliates in Asia, I sent the following e-mail to Dr. Amarjiva Lochan at the University of Delhi dated November 18, 2001:

Dear Professor Amarjiva Lochan,

The International Committee of the International Association for the History of Religions, which convened in Durban, South Africa in 2000, approved a long-term plan of appointing Working Groups to establish regional IAHR affiliates in Asia (for instance Central Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia).

The Committee asked the Executive Committee of the IAHR to encourage your own efforts to establish a South Asian regional association. Therefore on behalf of the IAHR, I would like to invite you to serve as Chair of a Working Group to establish an association provisionally called "South Asian Association for the Study of Religions (SAASR)" which would develop a network of scholars in the academic study of religion in countries without IAHR affiliation. This would include Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and/or other countries at your discretion. This association would function in a capacity similar to the three other IAHR regional associations: African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR), Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudio de las Religiones

(ALER), and European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Thus your Working Group would be part of an international effort to promote the development of IAHR associations.

The agenda for the Working Group should be the following:

1. To identify key scholars inside and outside of the countries in question, who would be willing to serve in the working group. A list of names should be sent to the General Secretary of the IAHR as soon as possible.
2. To document key institutions in the countries in question that have programs related to the academic study of religion (such as history of religions or research on religion in related disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, psychology, history, linguistics, etc.).
3. To identify activities which would help improve communication between scholars of religion in the region.
4. To draft a constitution for the association provisionally called "South Asian Association for the Study of Religions (SAASR)". The constitutions of the above-mentioned IAHR regional associations might serve as models.
5. To convene a general assembly at a conference recognized as an IAHR Regional or Special Conference, and to hold elections for the Executive Committee of the new Association.
6. To apply for membership of the IAHR at the latest in time for the International Committee meeting in Tokyo in 2005.

Yours truly,

Armin W. Geertz

Professor Lochan graciously agreed to take on the task and is planning a conference in Delhi sometime during 2004.

The Executive Committee received an e-mail from Dr. Mustafa Alici in Rize, Turkey in October 1999 asking that the Society of History of Religions be accepted as an IAHR affiliate. Since then, we have had communication with Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydin at the Selçuk University in Konya, Turkey who became President of the Society in November 1999. His Society hosted a conference on Christianity during July 2001 at which Prof. Peter Antes presented a paper on "Women in Early Christianity". Prof. Antes reported that it was a successful conference. He also reported that independent Chairs in the History of Religions are found at 23 Faculties of Theology in Turkey. Most of the professors and assistant professors have been trained in the West where they have completed their doctorates. Their Society has held conferences during the past nine years and has published a number of books and conference proceedings. Prof. Antes explained the goals and procedures of the IAHR, and we are expecting to hear from them soon.

4) *I attended a celebratory conference in Recife, Brazil, July 20-22, 2001, hosted by the IAHR affiliate Associação Brasileira de História das Religiões (ABHR). The*

theme of the conference was “Insurgências e Ressurgências no Campo Religioso” and it was the third annual conference of the ABHR. The conference celebrated their affiliation with the IAHR in Durban, and I was asked to be keynote speaker and a speaker on a panel discussion on method and theory. There were about 230 participants from 52 different universities in Brazil and 4 or 5 foreigners from Mexico, Holland and Argentina representing a wide range of disciplines. It seems that the study of religion is not a recognized subject in Brazil, and theology is not a subject in state and federal universities. Thus there is a lot of potential among historians, anthropologists, and sociologists in the state and federal universities and among theologians in the church-run universities for cooperation in developing the study of religion. Prof. Gil (president of ABHR) and Prof. Siepierski (conference organizer in Recife) are trying to forge a bridge through the Brazilian Association, and I believe that in time, it will grow to be very large. Paulo Siepierski is an excellent organizer and has many plans for the future. One of these is to establish a journal in a year or two. The ABHR arranged a conference on methodology in São Paulo during May 20-22, 2002 where Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett represented the IAHR.

5) *The European Association for the Study of Religions* supports two kinds of networks: 1) a network of electronic discussion groups for various language regions and 2) a network of general links for its European Member Associations. They write: “The elements of these networks are edited and managed by various independent teams. The EASR facilitates their interaction but does not assume responsibility for their contents. The main reason for having more than one electronic discussion list is to avoid domination by any one language. Within the various language regions it may be possible to discuss different things in different ways. This contributes to the cultural richness of Europe. At the same time dual memberships will contribute to the network effect.” The electronic discussion groups are: Synkron (Nordic languages plus English), Yggdrasill (German), Dolmen (English), Tonantzin (Spanish/Portuguese/Italian), Candide (French), and Most (East European languages). Further information can be found at the EASR website [<http://www.easr.de>].

Legal Incorporation

Despite valiant efforts by Prof. Wim Hofstee, the Dutch attorneys have not yet incorporated the IAHR. He will try to pursue the matter one last time and then, if this doesn't work, he will change attorneys.

Constitution and By-Laws

The constitutional changes that were made by the General Assembly in Durban, also involves modifying the “Rules of Procedure” and the “Nomination Procedure” accordingly. It was announced at the meeting that these modifications would be announced by the General Secretary in his next report. I can therefore announce in this bulletin that the changes have been effectuated both at the website and in the *IAHR Handbook*

2002. Briefly, the constitutional changes in article 1, 4.b.i., and 4.c. have been incorporated in the following documents: 1) *Rules of Procedure for the International Association for the History of Religions*, rules 1.c., 16.f., and 16.h. 2) *Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR*, point 4.a. Furthermore rules of procedure for proposing Honorary Life Membership of the IAHR were introduced in Durban and are to be found both at the website and in the handbook.

International Committee

The International Committee will be convening at the IAHR Special Conference: “The Globalisation and Localisation of Religion” in Bergen, Norway, 8 May - 11 May 2003, in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of Religion and the Norwegian Association for the History of Religions. The conference will serve as venue for meetings of the IAHR International Committee, the IAHR Executive Committee, the editorial board of *Numen* and possibly the editorial board of *Numen Book Series*. The conference will also be in celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Numen*. The conference will be held during the annual festival week of the city of Bergen.

The conference call for papers has already been circulated and all potential participants are asked to contact Prof. Einar Thomassen at einart.thomassen@krr.uib.no (see the IAHR website <http://www.iahr.dk/iahrconf.htm>).

Congresses and Conferences

As can be seen by the accompanying chart, IAHR events have been planned for every year except 2001. There is still room for other events during the coming years. For those who are interested in hosting an IAHR event, please read the rules and regulations found at the IAHR website (<http://www.iahr.dk/conferences.htm>). Bids for the IAHR World Congress in 2010 can be presented to the Executive Committee at any time. Since the International Committee will be meeting next year, it might be a good idea for possible candidates to begin planning and raising support from the local affiliate so that locations can be considered already at that time. Final decisions will of course be in place in Tokyo 2005.

Prof. Peter Antes, Prof. Gerrie ter Haar and I will be meeting with the Japanese hosts of the Tokyo congress this December. We will discuss important topics—such as the theme of the congress—visit venues and meet with colleagues and hosts. We look forward to cooperation with the Japanese Association on this important endeavor.

The congress will be the crowning event of a five year organizational phase focused on the Asian regions. The Regional Conference to be held in Wellington, New Zealand is a first stop along the way. The next phase will be the IAHR Regional Conference in New Delhi, India on December 18-21, 2003 organized by Dr. Madhu Kishwar at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi in cooperation with India International Centre, New Delhi and the Indian Association for the Study of Religion (<http://www.iahr.dk/iahrconf.htm>). A further event in Asia will also be held

in India, but with a special focus on South Asia during 2004. It will be organized by Dr. Amarjiva Lochan.

Efforts were made to encourage the co-hosting of a memorial conference on Ninian Smart by the North American Association for the Study of Religion and the American Academy of Religion, but despite all good intentions, nothing came of it mainly because the issue was dropped by the AAR when it became clear that the IAHR would not co-host the event, but rather that members of the Executive Committee could participate as supportive observers.

Website Conference Headlines

No more will be said about IAHR congresses and conferences at this point. I present here headlines from the two main website pages concerning IAHR conferences and IAHR affiliate conferences.

IAHR Conferences

- IAHR Regional Conference: “What Is Religion For? Asian-Pacific Perspectives” at The Department of Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 11 December - 13 December 2002
- IAHR Special Conference: “The Globalisation and Localisation of Religion” (pdf-file 565KB), Bergen, Norway, 8 May - 11 May 2003, in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of Religion and the Norwegian Association for the History of Religions. The conference will serve as venue for meetings of the IAHR International Committee, the IAHR Executive Committee, the editorial board of NUMEN and the editorial board of NUMEN Book Series. For further information, please contact Prof. Einar Thomassen.
- IAHR Regional Conference: “Religions in the Indic Civilization”, at The India International Centre, New Delhi, India, 18 December - 21 December 2003. For information please contact Dr. Madhu Kishwar (madhuk@csdsdelhi.org).
- IAHR Regional Conference: inaugural conference on the topic “The Academic Study of South Asian Religions” to be hosted by the soon to be established South Asian Association for the Study of Religions, Delhi, India, July or December 2004
- IAHR World Congress: Tokyo, Japan, 24 March - 30 March 2005. Theme to be announced.

IAHR Affiliate Conferences

- British Association for the Study of Religions: “Religions in Transition: diachronic and synchronic perspectives”, Chester, 15 September - 17 September 2003
- Sociedad Mexicana de Estudios de la Religión: “Il Coloquio Internacional de Religión y Símbolo”, Taxco, México, 2 to 4 October 2002. For information

write to: administration.deas.cnan@inah.gob.mx

- Société Ernest Renan. Société française d'histoire des religions & European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR): “Le Monotheisme: Diversité. Exclusivisme ou dialogue?/Monotheism: Diversity. Exclusivism or dialogues?”, College de France and the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, 11 September - 14 September 2002
- British Association for the Study of Religions: “Religion and the State”, University of Surrey, Roehampton, 9 September - 11 September 2002
- Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft: “Heute über Religionen reden. Der Beitrag der Religionswissenschaft und der Medien”, 22 April - 23 April 2002
- Associação Brasileira de História das Religiões/Brasilian Association for History of Religion (ABHR/BAHR): “IV Simpósio de História da Religião. O Estudo das Religiões: Desafios Contemporâneos”, Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, 22 May - 24 May 2002
- Asociación Latino Americana para el Estudio de las Religiones (ALER): “IX Congreso Latinoamericano sobre religion y etnicidad: La religion en el nuevo milenio. Una mirada desde los Andes”, Pontifícia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Perú, 5 August - 8 August 2002 (information & list of symposia)

IAHR conference locations 2001- 2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Co-sponsored</i>
2001	****	****	****
2002	****	Wellington, New Zealand	****
2003	Bergen, Norway (IAHR Intl. Committee)	New Delhi, India (Indian Association)	****
2004	****	Delhi, India (South Asian Association)	****
2005	****	****	****
2005	IX th World Congress of the IAHR: Tokyo, Japan		

IAHR Language Policy

I sent out e-mail notification in March of this year announcing a motion put forward by *La Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion/Quebec society for the study of religion (SQER/QSSR)* concerning IAHR language policy. Prof. Louis Rousseau, Presi-

dent of SQÉR at the time, emphasized that the motion “is not to come to the rescue of the international use of French rather than any other language, but to place a high value on the wealth of linguistic diversity present in our association”. The website contains the motivation and motion in French and in English in pdf-format. In brief, the proposal consists of four points:

1. that the Tokyo Congress be organized in such a manner as to encourage the proposal of papers and workshops in a variety of languages used for international communication
2. that this policy be made clear at the very beginning of the call for papers
3. that the IAHR encourage the member associations to get together to organize working sessions in their common language
4. that English be used in the business meetings

The Executive Committee of the IAHR encourages its affiliates to discuss this proposal and to send me any responses. Responses will, by prior consent, be published at the website. I expect that this motion will be presented to the International Committee in Bergen.

Membership Database

One of the matters discussed in Heeze concerns an idea that I have brought up now and then during the past several years. The idea is that the IAHR develop a web-based membership database which lists the names, positions, institutional addresses, e-mail addresses and areas of expertise of our members. There are three possible models. One is that the database is only accessible to IAHR members. This raises the problem of controlling who is and who is not a member. The second option is to open the database to any interested parties. This would involve search engines based on all of the above-mentioned particulars. The problem here is that any organization or company who wants to send us advertisements of this and that could simply collect the addresses on our database and send their materials directly to our members. The third option would be a combination of both: one database that is open only to members and one that is open to the public. This is the policy being followed by the American Academy of Religion which has a database open only to members and a public service for journalists and others who are looking for experts in various fields of religion.

One concern that was raised during the meeting in Heeze was the danger of hacker attacks on the database, but there are methods of protecting against such an event. The Executive Committee decided that we should ask the IAHR affiliates for their opinions on the matter. This will be taken up in Bergen, but any comments at this time will be posted at the IAHR website.

IAHR Archives

As of January 3, 2001, the Executive Committee has established an IAHR Archive at the University Library of the Philipps-Universität Marburg in Germany. According to

the agreement, the Library will preserve the Archive in the same manner as it preserves post-mortem academic deposits and manuscript collections, most likely to be lodged in its sub-library Bibliothek Religionswissenschaft. A general catalogue of the materials will be maintained, and the catalogue, or an abbreviated form of the catalogue, can be posted at the IAHR website. Full data protection with respect to materials relating to individual persons living or dead will be maintained.

As is well known, the IAHR has no permanent geographical location with the result that the organization as such has had no historical repository. With this Archive, important documents, papers, bulletins and correspondence that are in the hands of current and former officers of the Executive Committee can now be lodged in one place. The Archive may be viewed and studied in the rooms of the library for historical or scientific purposes by persons with a bona fide interest. The General Secretary or the President of the IAHR can be shown upon request a list of users and specific research projects relating to the Archive.

Finances

The IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease reported that letters had been sent out to the affiliates in order to sort out their dues. He also invited those associations who are unable to pay their dues to suggest creative ways of paying in kind. 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. He also mentioned that NAASR will double its annual contribution to the IAHR, and in the long run, triple it. This information was received with grateful acknowledgment.

The Executive Committee discussed the issue of establishing an international working group consisting of key people from various IAHR affiliates to work out funding strategies for the IAHR. It was suggested that a briefing session be arranged in conjunction with the next International Committee meeting.

At this point I would like to once again raise the issue of closer and more structured involvement by the IAHR in the world congresses. This matter was not discussed at the meeting in Heeze, but will most likely be addressed in Wellington. The idea was raised by Prof. Pratap Kumar that in view of the fact that the Durban congress signaled a new phase in IAHR congress involvement, it might be a good idea to appoint a semi-permanent secretariat or an international team on congress related matters that takes the initiative on congress funding instead of leaving the initiative solely to the host countries. The registration fee could be paid to the IAHR Treasurer directly and those monies could be channeled to the host countries as and when needed. The Treasurer would, as now, also distribute the awards from CIPSH and other charitable organisations to those delegates in need. At present, all financial responsibilities are left to the host country except for subventions to the needy. In the long run, the IAHR must become more sophisticated in its organisation of the congresses.

This proposal is part of an overall vision of 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. Perhaps this vision would entail the need of a professional organization which generates profits and finance in its own right. The latter has no appeal to me, but we can perhaps begin at a more humble level.

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

Since Durban, the General Assembly of CIPSH has met twice. The first venue was in Buenos Aires in September 2000 where the IAHR was asked to help organize the conference during which the General Assembly was to be convened. The theme was “Regard de l’autre, regard sur l’autre” and the IAHR was asked to co-host a roundtable on “Religion and Religions in the Contemporary World” with emphasis on South America. Our colleague Prof. Pablo Wright was of great assistance in bringing this about. Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett was the official IAHR delegate. She also served on the Nominating Committee of CIPSH during the conference. The second venue was in Porto-Novo, Benin in September 2002. The theme was “The Encounter of ‘Rationalities’”. Prof. Hackett was once again the official delegate of the IAHR and served on the Nominating Committee of CIPSH.

After the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil on September 11, 2001, Unesco decided to begin an analysis of the cultural and religious background of such conflicts. Subsequently, they turned to CIPSH and its scholar network and asked that CIPSH host a roundtable. The IAHR was asked to suggest a few high-level speakers. The roundtable was chaired by the President of the General Conference of Unesco, who is also the Irani Ambassador, and the Director General himself was one of the speakers. The other speakers were CIPSH President Prof. Madeline H. Caviness and the IAHR President Prof. Peter Antes. Please see the IAHR website where several documents are to be found (<http://www.iahr.dk/cipshconf.htm>). The papers read at the roundtable will be published in the CIPSH journal *Diogenes*.

I received a letter from the Deputy Secretary-General of CIPSH, Dr. Luca M. Scarantino on behalf of the Secretary-General Dr. Maurice Aymard dated May 6, 2002. The letter announced that Unesco has launched a programme called “Virtual Collection of Representative Works of World Literature”, which will consist of an inventory of representative works that Unesco will circulate widely, translate them, and make them available at the website “Unesco exchange centre for literary translation”. The proposal is based on the idea of the first “Collection of representative works” (1948-2000) containing a vast selection of items including foundational literature of all the major religions. It is listed at: http://www.unesco.org/culture/creativity/literature/html_eng/collection.shtml. They are interested in publications that have made an impact in their field but for some reason have not been made available internationally

through translation. The kind of impact they have in mind is “the capacity of such or such a work to provide some new and surprising kind of answer to the intellectual, moral and ethical anxieties which harass our ‘liquid’ modernity, to employ Z. Bauman’s famous expression”. Works that have been forgotten or are unrecognized, yet which contribute to “our cultural consciousness” are also welcome. Even though Unesco gives some priority to literary works, CIPSH also invites publications recognized by their philosophical depth, religious inspiration, and historical, spiritual or cultural prominence. They are not interested in specialized or scientific publications, rather in publications that are characterized by “a strong theoretical and cultural originality, and which are able to contribute to some of our major human and social concerns”. The deadline for motivated and somewhat detailed proposals together with the names of three proposed scholarly referees was July 31, 2002. I have not answered the invitation because of the magnitude of the project and the extremely short deadline. I did, however, publish the announcement together with the application forms on the IAHR website. Our members are welcome to send in proposals. I expect that the Executive Committee will discuss the project in Wellington.

IAHR Bulletin and Website

Due to the many duties of this office, it was decided by the Executive Committee that as General Secretary I should concentrate my efforts in keeping the IAHR website up-to-date and only publish the IAHR Bulletin occasionally, and in reduced form. It was agreed that I circulate e-mail notices about website up-dates. There are a number of advantages to this change in policy. First, it is a very efficient and inexpensive way to keep members up-dated. Second, it allows interactive communication and continual access to a large number of documents. And, third, it also allows individual members of IAHR affiliates to gain direct access to the IAHR. There are two disadvantages. The first is that not all members are in the fortunate position to have a computer with internet access, and for some, such access is costly. Second, items that are not suitable for internet access, must be communicated in other ways. Such items include the minutes of IAHR meetings and my reports. These items could, of course, be sent by e-mail, but, as mentioned, that would exclude a significant group of IAHR affiliates. We welcome any suggestions that might improve communication lines between the IAHR and its affiliates as well as the individual members of the affiliates.

In the following, I will briefly summarize the contents of the website and include specimens from the new sections. On the opening page, which is found at <http://www.iahr.dk>, there are two major entrances to the other documents. The first entrance is called “Current Topics” and contains the following sections: *What is the IAHR?* (containing general information about the IAHR, its organization and activities); *Executive Committee* (containing the names and addresses of the members of the Executive Committee), *Honorary Life Members* (containing the names and addresses of the Honorary Life Members of the IAHR), *Individual Membership* (containing information on how

to become a member of the IAHR), *Member Associations* (containing a list of all the IAHR affiliates, brief information about each affiliate as well as their website addresses or other contact information), *Constitution and By-Laws* (this is a new section that contains the IAHR constitution as well as the by-laws and other rules of procedure), *Congresses and Conferences* (containing general information on the kinds of conference activities held by the IAHR), *Publications* (containing information about *Numen*, *Numen Book Series*, *Science of Religion Abstracts* and *Index of Recent Articles*, and journals sponsored by IAHR affiliates), and *News and Announcements* (this is a new section that contains a wide variety of news and announcements). At the bottom of this list of topics is a date indicating when the website was last up-dated.

The second major entrance to the other documents is called "IAHR Archive". This has three subsections: *Past Congresses and Conferences* (containing the place and date of all IAHR conferences and congresses), *Published Proceedings* (containing the bibliographical data of all IAHR conference proceedings and spin-off publications), and *Former Office Holders* (containing the names and dates of all former IAHR office holders).

Each document has navigator arrows to the preceding and the following pages as well as a central button to return to the main index. Furthermore, each document has a Java panel through which one can navigate directly to any other major document at the website.

In order to give an idea of the contents of the new sections (*Constitution and By-Laws* and *News and Announcements*), here are the opening pages:

**Constitution and By-Laws
of the International Association for the History of Religions**
(<http://www.iahr.dk/by-laws.htm>)

This page contains a series of links to the constitution and by-laws of the IAHR:

1. Constitution of the IAHR
2. Rules of Procedure for the IAHR
3. Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR
4. Nomination Procedure for Honorary Life Members of the IAHR
5. Procedures Concerning NUMEN: International Review for the History of Religions
6. IAHR Congresses and Conferences:
 1. Procedures and Conditions Concerning CIPSH Subsidies
 2. Basic Framework for Running IAHR Congresses
 3. Rules for IAHR Co-Sponsored Conferences
 4. Rules for IAHR Regional Conferences
 5. Rules for IAHR Special Conferences

News and Announcements
(<http://www.iahr.dk/announcements.htm>)

- IAHR News
- IAHR Conferences
- IAHR Affiliate Conferences
- Other Conferences
- Other Announcements
- Commercial Announcements
- Past Announcements

IAHR News is restricted to important news that is related to the IAHR or its affiliates. Here is the current page:

IAHR News
(November 18, 2002)

The North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR) announces a new series called Key Thinkers in the Study of Religion....(pdf-file 81.7KB).

IAHR Vice-President Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett represented the IAHR at the 26th General Assembly of CIPSH during a conference held in Porto-Novo, Benin, 18-21 September 2002.

Announcing the creation of the Unesco Virtual Collection of Representative Works of World Literature....(pdf-file 175KB).

Prof. Lauri Honko died July 16, 2002 (pdf-file 161KB).

Announcing a motion put forward by La Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion/Quebec society for the study of religion (SQER/QSSR) concerning IAHR language policy (14 March 2002)....(more)

Announcing the establishment of the IAHR Archives at the Universitätsbibliothek der Philipps-Universität Marburg (3 January 2002)....(more)

IAHR President, Prof. Peter Antes, keynote speaker at Unesco roundtable hosted by Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) on "Religion et cultures: formes et dynamiques de leurs interactions" (14 December 2001)....(more)

I will try to send e-mail notices out regularly, but for those who are not on e-mail, it is a good idea to check the website regularly for up-dates on news and announcements. Affiliates are invited to send me the names and e-mail addresses of their executive committees so that all the members of the committees can receive regular e-mail up-dates. I have also begun building an e-mail list including former officers so that they

too can be kept up-to-date on IAHR news and events. IAHR affiliates and other organizations and individuals are welcome to send me information that might be appropriate for the IAHR website.

Publications

The publication policy of IAHR conference proceedings was also discussed in Heeze. The main problems with conference proceedings are: 1) that E. J. Brill no longer wishes to publish IAHR proceedings in the *Numen Book Series*, 2) that it is difficult for the Executive Committee to keep track of where proceedings, spin-off volumes, and individual articles are being published, because the conference hosts often forget to report back to the General Secretary, and 3) that it is difficult making sure that hosts whose conferences have been awarded an IAHR status remember to note the fact prominently either on the title page or in the preface. Almost no one has honored the rule that 12 copies of IAHR conference proceedings should be sent to the Executive Committee so that they can maintain qualified insight into IAHR activities. With the introduction of new offices, one member of the Executive Committee would be able to concentrate his or her efforts on these problems. But the office of Publications Officer will first be realized after the next election in 2005. Until then, Prof. Paul Morris has volunteered to try to track down publications resulting from the Durban Congress. Those members who are currently editing or publishing papers read at the Durban Congress are kindly asked to contact Prof. Morris (with a copy to me as well).

The IAHR and the publisher of SCIENCE OF RELIGION ABSTRACTS AND INDEX OF RECENT ARTICLES (SOR), Roots and Branches, have now formalized the long-term association between the IAHR and SOR. The IAHR assumes in terms of the new agreement the same responsibilities as with *Numen*, and in effect involves the appointment of a large number of editors and contributors to SOR. The task of appointing these editors will require care, time, and expertise since the colleagues involved must be motivated by a desire not only to make a regular survey of their own specialist field, but also to serve the academic community, in particular the IAHR. The Executive Committee will serve as the Editorial Advisory Board. The Committee must appoint two groups, executive editors (General Editor, Associate Editor, Coordinating Editor, and Internet Editor—since the functions of the latter three are not full time, they may be combined by one or two persons) and specialist editors (specialists in particular fields who will be responsible for drawing materials from specific groups of journals—currently there is a need for eleven Specialist Editors). In general the work of SOR is based on library holdings, to which the specialist editors have to arrange their own access. At present the work of all the editors is honorary (unpaid). All interested parties are encouraged to either contact me or to contact the current General Editor, Prof. Michael Pye at pye@mail.uni-marburg.de.

The publisher will in the near future present an annual book prize of 100 Euro to “an author of younger generation (age limit 40 at time of acceptance for publication)

for an original article of high quality in the study of religions. The prizewinner is to be selected by the Editorial Advisory Committee at its annual meeting.”

Negotiations are still being conducted with E. J. Brill to work out an agreement formalizing the relationship between the IAHR and *Numen Book Series*. On the eve of a final agreement, negotiations stranded on several details based on mutually incompatible assumptions. A meeting was slated for the spring of 2002, but Brill’s representative Ms. Annië Meinders unexpectedly found employment elsewhere, and the transition process for the new editor Mr. Joed Elich has been rather slow because of his new duties and of the complexity and history of the issues involved. I have not been able to meet with Mr. Elich as yet, but we have agreed to meet in January. It is the fervent hope of the Executive Committee that we can begin a new cooperative phase with E. J. Brill in the near future.

The change-over of the Managing Editors of *Numen* is under preparation. The terms of office for the Managing Editors as well as the Reviews Editor terminate at the end of 2003. Fortunately, no problems were encountered in reaching an agreement with E. J. Brill on the change-over. I am happy to announce that Prof. Einar Thomassen has agreed to take on another five year term as Managing Editor. Prof. Michel Despland will be retiring as Managing Editor, and he will be replaced at the end of the year by Prof. Gustavo Benavides (Villanova). Dr. Brigitte Luchesi will be retiring as Reviews Editor, and she will be replaced by Prof. Maya Burger (Lausanne).

On behalf of the IAHR, I extend gratitude for the excellent efforts and dedication of Prof. Einar Thomassen, Prof. Michel Despland, and Dr. Brigitte Luchesi, and I look forward to working with the new team beginning in 2004. All manuscripts and correspondence must still be sent to Prof. Michel Despland [desplan@vax2.concordia.ca] and/or Prof. Einar Thomassen [einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no].

Prof. Gustavo Benavides has sent the following statement:

After studies of psychology, anthropology and religion in Peru, Germany and the United States, I have devoted myself to the following activities: (1) research in the theory of religion, in the vocabulary of the field of religious studies, and in the history of the discipline; (b) teaching in the areas above; (3) work in academic organizations such as the American Academy of Religion, the North American Association for the Study of Religion, and the International Association for the History of Religions. I will proceed to expand on (1) and (3).

(1) I am interested in elaborating a theory of religion that combines the traditional approaches—history, philology, the social sciences—as well as recent developments in ethology and cognitive science. I have taken some steps in the latter direction in a number of articles published in *Religion* (1995, 1996, 1997, 2000). Regarding the vocabulary of the field of religious studies, I have been concerned above all with what could be called “forms of religious illegitimacy”: mysticism, syncretism, magic, popular religion (see, among others, articles in

Historical Reflections / Réflexions historiques 1997, 2001 and the forthcoming *Blackwell Companion to the Study of Religion*). Most of my work on the theory of religion as such has so far appeared in essays on the connections between religion and modernity (1998) and religion and stratification (2000), and in critiques of recent works that advocate radical constructivist approaches (*Culture and Religion* 2000, *Religious Studies Review* 2001, *Noch eine Chance für die Religionsphänomenologie?* 2001). The theory of religion that I am elaborating is one that, seeking to avoid the Scylla of crypto-theology and the Charybdis of radical constructivism, approaches religion from a materialist perspective. In terms of the history of the discipline, I am particularly concerned with exploring the links between theory formation and ideology. I have shown this connection in essays on the Italian Buddhologist Giuseppe Tucci (1995) and the German Indologist J. W. Hauer (2001)—these two essays are part of a large project on the connections between the study of religion in the Weimar Republic and the political currents including fascism (see also *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 2001).

(3) Besides research and teaching I have been involved with the American Academy of Religion (as chair of the Critical Theory and Discourses of Religion Group since 1995); with the North American Association for the Study of Religion (as Vice President from 1998 to 2000); and with the International Association for the History of Religions (as member of the International Committee from 1998 to 2000). As chair of the Critical Theory Group I have organized for the last six years sessions devoted to the exploration of the theoretical presuppositions and vocabulary in the field of religious studies (the sessions take place in the context of the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion). As Vice President of NAASR I have been in charge of organizing the program for the annual meeting of the organization. One of my concerns in both capacities has been to reacquaint scholars in North America with European research. To that end I organized and participated in sessions on the study of religion in Scandinavia (AAR 1996), Germany (NAASR 1999), The Netherlands (NAASR 2000), and on the history of the discipline by Hans Kippenberg (AAR 2001). I must say that one of my main concerns in my publications and academic work in general has been to establish links between scholars in North America, Latin America and Europe (it was as a result of my familiarity with European and North American scholarship that I was invited to provide the concluding comments to the conference on the phenomenology of religion in honor of Jacques Waardenburg's seventieth birthday that took place in Zürich in March 2000 (published in *Noch eine Chance für die Religionsphänomenologie?*)—indeed, I am interested in reestablishing the links that existed only a few decades ago, when it was assumed that scholars from various parts of the world would be able to read works in a number of languages.

I will state, to conclude, that I see myself as someone who is as interested in establishing connections among disciplines as among national disciplinary approaches.

Conclusion

My next report will be published shortly before the International Committee meeting in Bergen next May. Until then, I will send e-mail up-dates. Please keep watch at the IAHR website.



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 17,290 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:

Individual subscriptions	£29	€45	\$49
Institutional subscriptions	£39	€60	\$65

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. Editorial correspondence should be sent to Prof. Michael Pye, Zur Hege 11, D-35041 Marburg, Germany.

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 of the IAHR Durban, South Africa August 9, 2000

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be adopted at the next International Committee meeting in 2003]

[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee on May 25, 2001]

Professor Michael Pye presiding.

Prof. Pye described the procedures of the meeting. He explained that the reason the adoption of the rules of procedure was placed early in the agenda is so that the International Committee can adopt them not only for future meetings but also for the present meeting. He also advised the committee that after the election (point 9), the new President would chair the last 3 points (11-13). He would chair point 10 because the ballot-counting will still be in progress.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

2. Membership

1. 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: Gary Lease, Members-at-Large Michio Araki, Gerrie ter Haar, Jacob K. Olupona, and Abdulkader I. Tayob. [Apologies were received from Giulia Sfameni Gasparro & Helena Helve.]

The following representatives of the IAHR affiliates were present: Africa (AASR): Mary Getui & Simeon Ilesanmi; Belgium/Luxembourg: none; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: William Sweet; Canada (Quebec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: Robert Mager; China (CARS): none; Cuba (ACER): none; Czech Republic: Dalibor Papousek; Denmark (DAHR): Tim Jensen & Mikael Aktor; Finland: Nils G. Holm & Veikko Anttonen; France: Dominique Briquel & Charles Guittard; Germany (DVRG): Hans G. Kippenberg & Sebastian Murken; Hungary: none; India (IAHR India): Karma Oraon & Kameshwar Prasad Singh; Indonesia: Alef Theria Wasim; Israel: none; Italy: Fabio Scialpi & Giovanni Casadio; Japan: Akio Tsukimoto & Shinji Kanai; Latin America (ALER): Elio Masferrer & Sylvia Marcos; Mexico: none; Netherlands (NGG): Hermann L. Beck & Wouter

Hanegraaff; New Zealand (NZASR): Paul Morris; Nigeria (NASR): M.T. Yahya & Umar Habila Dadem Danfulani; Norway (NRF): Knut A. Jacobsen & Lisbeth Mikaelssen; Poland: none; Russia: none; Southern Africa (ASRSA): Arthur Song; South Korea (KAHR): none; Spain (SECR): none; Sweden (SSRF): David Westerlund; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Philippe Borgeaud & Fritz Stolz; Ukraine (UARR): none; United Kingdom (BASR): Kim Knott & James Cox; United States (NAASR): Gustavo Benavides & Luther H. Martin.

The following observers were present for various reasons: Amarjiva Lochan, Gary Trompf, Panayotis Pachis, Vijaypani Pandey, Abraham H. Khan, Grace Wamue, & Deidre Crumbley. It was proposed, and agreed, that speaking rights should be extended to these observers.

2. Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee

The following were unanimously co-opted: the two managing editors of NUMEN: Michel Despland & Einar Thomassen; the reviews editor of NUMEN: Brigitta Luchesi; and the Durban Congress Director: Pratap Kumar.

Prof. Pye concluded that the International Committee had a quorum.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000, pp. 41-45)

The minutes were unanimously adopted.

4. Final Adoption of the Rules of Procedure (published in the IAHR Handbook 2000)

Prof. Geertz drew attention to 2 minor changes in the rules. For 13.b and 14.b the matter of overrule has been specified as “by a majority of the members present and voting”. After some discussion the phrasing was changed by overwhelming majority to “by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting”. The text now reads for 13.b and 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 two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

Prof. Kippenberg raised an issue about the phrasing of 16.g. He argued that votes should be cast even for those officers whose candidacy is unopposed as an indication of support. His proposal that the verb “shall be declared” be changed to “may be declared” was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

The rules of procedure were subsequently unanimously adopted.

5. Report by the General Secretary (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000)

Prof. Geertz said that his report is in the bulletin and that he had nothing further to add.

Prof. Trompf said that he was dismayed by the situation with the Australian Association, and he appealed to the International Committee to keep the lines of communication open. Prof. Kippenberg said that it is a serious problem if the national affiliates do not feel a part of the IAHR. Thus it was very important to maintain a flow of information. Prof. Sweet said that the Canadian Association has also raised similar concerns. Prof. Pye replied that the Australian Association has disaffiliated itself, but that the International Committee does not need to act on the matter beyond noting it. He proposed that the International Committee empower the in-coming Executive Committee to reactivate the Australian Association without the usual procedure if the Australian Association so desires. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

Prof. Geertz asked Prof. Sweet to say a little more about the Canadian concerns. Briefly, Prof. Sweet said that there was some concern that the IAHR seemed more restricted in breadth than the CSSR/SCÉR in that the name “history of religions” was a more restricted part of the broader study of religion. The second concern was the flow of information. To the latter, Prof. Geertz apologized that he had not been able to publish the *IAHR Bulletin* biannually as intended, but that he did send out important information by supplements and letters whenever necessary. He also mentioned that it is difficult for him to maintain contact with affiliates if they fail to notify him of changes in officers and addresses. To the former, Prof. Pye replied that this problem, which was originally raised a number of years ago by the CSSR/SCÉR, had been addressed by adding a subtitle to the letterhead: “An international body of national societies for the study of religion”. The CSSR/SCÉR had agreed at the time that this helped resolved the problem. The proposal to change the name of the IAHR on the other hand had been definitively rejected by the General Assembly in Mexico City. Prof. Olupona said that the nature and objectives of the IAHR were more important than the name.

Prof. Cox asked if regional associations have the right to affiliate/disaffiliate or affiliate with others. Prof. Pye replied that they are independent bodies and could do so if they wished. Prof. Martin asked in the event that the Australian Association sought reaffiliation what would be the status of their 4 years in arrears. Prof. Pye replied that perhaps a gesture would be appropriate such as a contribution to the IAHR Endowment Fund.

Prof. Pye thanked the General Secretary for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was unanimously adopted.

6. Report by the Treasurer

Prof. Lease circulated his written report (see attached sheets). He said that the treasury post had a chaotic history because of the unanticipated retirement of the elected treasurer, Prof. Donald Wiebe and a lag in the transfer of funds as well as incomplete records. On the other hand, Prof. Wiebe was publically commended for providing the IAHR with a noticeable income (some \$15,000) by a judicious program of short-term investments and monthly rollovers.

Prof. Lease addressed the issue of delinquent membership dues. He noted that only 25% of the affiliates had paid up and a full 25% were 4 years in arrears. He said that the list may have errors in it due to the changeover. He had already been notified about some of them. He said that there is a need for a professional strategy and that an up-dated list of payments should be published in the bulletin. He asked whether the delinquency was a sign of disinterest in the IAHR?

Prof. Pye thanked the Treasurer for his clear presentation and for his strenuous efforts.

Prof. Kumar pointed out that since the world congresses were integral parts of the IAHR, efforts should be made to generate funding through them. Registrations fees, for instance, could include a small amount that could go directly to IAHR holdings. He said that congress accounts should be presented to the International Committee. Prof. Kippenberg said that financial statements should be produced for all IAHR conferences. He asked where the financial responsibility lies?

Prof. Kippenberg asked for an explanation from the delegates concerning delinquency. Prof. González said that Cuba for instance cannot pay. Prof. Pye reminded the committee that the IAHR has a tradition for alternative contributions from associations situated in countries with weak currencies. Prof. Lease said that it is important that associations in that situation contact him. Prof. Knott said that some of the problems may be a sign of the unexpected changeover of treasurers. The British Association had stopped paying their dues until they were billed. She asked that any communication with association treasurers also be sent in copy to the presidents or secretaries in order to ensure that association boards are aware of their financial responsibility.

Prof. Martin expressed satisfaction in the fact that there is \$6,000 in the IAHR Endowment Fund. He requested that the list of contributors be added to the report. They are listed here as of July 16, 1996:

Anonymous	300.00
Canada (CAN1,000)	809.43
Denmark	1,000.00
Germany (DEM555)	338.57
NAASR	1,000.00
Canada (Quebec)	352.00
South Korea	200.00
Switzerland	1,000.00
United Kingdom	1,000.00

Prof. Song asked for a full audit every five years. Prof. Pye replied that full audits have been presented to the International Committee at every quinquennial congress. Prof. Song added his apologies for the delinquency of the Southern African Association. He said that they needed reminders. Prof. Yahya concurred. Dr. Murken also concurred and asked that all communication between the treasurers be sent in duplicate to the other officers.

Prof. Pye said that the Executive Committee was aware that all of the records needed up-dating and that this would be effected as soon as possible. Prof. Tayob said that a full list of who has paid up will change the tone of the discussion. Prof. Lochan asked how long an affiliate could remain in default. Prof. Pye said that there were no rules on that issue.

Prof. Pye proposed that the Treasurer's report be formally adopted. The report was unanimously adopted.

7. Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee

Prof. Geertz reported that Congress Director Pratap Kumar (see the *IAHR Bulletin 36*, July 2000, pp. 15-16) had recommended that a semi-permanent secretariat on congress related matters be established in order to effectuate more sophisticated congress organization and to facilitate fund-raising. Prof. Geertz drew attention to his statement in the Bulletin: "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" (p. 16).

Prof. Kippenberg repeated his request for more clarity on congress finances. Prof. Pye replied that the IAHR has never been responsible for the finances of the congresses. He said, however, that there may be a need to move in that direction, and he hoped that the process will be set in motion by the in-coming Executive Committee. Prof. Lease said that even though this is true, the IAHR nevertheless had a moral obligation to the congress organizers. Prof. Martin proposed that some IAHR conferences should try to produce a profit to help subsidize the organization.

Prof. Geertz's proposal was unanimously approved. Dr. Murken asked that this be announced at the General Assembly so that others can get involved.

Prof. Geertz moved to the next matter of report which concerns the appointment of working groups to establish regional IAHR affiliates in Asia (for instance Central Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia). Prof. Araki said that the Japanese Association was working on similar plans. Prof. Lochan said that he was already working on developing a South Asian Association which would cover Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Prof. Morris made a plea for the development of an Asian-Pacific Regional Association. Prof. Pye proposed that these initiatives be passed on to the in-coming Executive Committee, and this was unanimously accepted.

Prof. Geertz said that the last matter of report was the question of representation raised by the Australian Association as one of their main complaints. Prof. Geertz asked for advice from the International Committee on how the IAHR could improve representation. He asked whether the Australian suggestion that "a greater sense of ownership and participation might be engendered by seriously considering a better mix of decision-making processes" can be developed. As he wrote in his report (p. 12):

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.

After a brief discussion Prof. Pye concluded that the members should continue to reflect, discuss, and deliberate on the matter.

8. Recommendation of Changes in the Constitution

Prof. Pye recalled that the International Committee can only *recommend* changes in the constitution since it is solely the General Assembly that has the power to adopt any changes. The General Assembly, on the other hand, cannot make its own recommendations. Prof. Pye then proceeded systematically through each proposal as listed on page 12 of the *International Committee Documents, Durban 2000*.

Concerning the legal registration of the IAHR: Prof. Cox suggested that the term “non-profit” be added. Prof. Kippenberg asked who is being registered. Prof. Pye replied that registration requires the assent of the current Executive Committee. Prof. Kippenberg said that there should be a debate about whether it should be the Executive Committee. Prof. Despland said that the Executive Committee had already taken steps, quite correctly, to arrange the registration and lodge the constitution. Prof. Geertz confirmed that this process had been initiated on the basis of decisions which had already been minuted within the Executive Committee. Prof. Morris asked with whom the IAHR is being registered, i.e. a government, a group of associations, etc. Prof. Geertz replied that the IAHR is being registered as a legal body in the state of The Netherlands.

Prof. Geertz proposed the adoption of an empowerment clause in case of the need for unforeseen changes during the legal registration: “In the event of legal advice requiring a different formulation without substantial import, the Executive Committee be empowered to effect the required adjustment.”

The revised version was adopted with 1 abstention.

Concerning the composition of the International Committee: Many of the members could not see the motive for changing this point. Even though it was an attempt to make the rules more liberal, it was not considered to be liberal enough. Therefore, an alternative proposal was adopted by an overwhelming majority to completely drop the phrase “except that there shall not be more than two representatives from any one country”.

Concerning the distribution of portfolios in the Executive Committee: Prof. Geertz

explained that the organization had grown so large that there was too much work for the General Secretary. He pointed out, however, that this move could conceivably hamper the constitutional goal of choosing candidates in such a way “as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world where academic study of religion is pursued in its various disciplines” and the procedural requirement of striving towards gender balance. Prof. Kippenberg suggested that one office could be “Congress Officer”. Prof. Geertz replied that in the congress organizational structure that was adopted in Hildesheim, the General Secretary chairs the International Congress Committee and the Deputy General Secretary chairs the Congress Academic Program Committee. Prof. Pye put the recommended change to a vote with the following result: 32 in favor, 1 against, 7 abstentions. He pointed out that task descriptions would be needed for the offices.

Concerning electoral procedures: Prof. Geertz said that the present deadline of one month prior to each international congress was very difficult to administrate in relation to printing schedules, fulfilling the rule on soliciting statements of candidacy from alternative candidates and so on. Prof. Pye put this proposal to a vote with the following result: 7 in favor, 16 against, 19 abstentions. The proposal was therefore defeated.

Concerning terms of office: Prof. Geertz said that the motivation behind this recommended change is that with the new distribution of portfolios there was a need to prevent any one individual from sitting in the Executive Committee in various capacities for more than 20 years. The proposal was unanimously adopted.

Prof. Pye concluded the discussion by pointing out that most of these changes would involve modifying the “Rules of Procedure” and the “Nomination Procedure” accordingly and these modifications would be announced by the General Secretary in his next report.

9. Election of the New Executive Committee

Prof. Pye referred to rule 16 on electoral procedures for the Executive Committee by which elections occur in two rounds. The first round concerns the election of the six officers and the second round concerns the election of the six members-at-large.

In initiating the first round, Prof. Pye noted that the candidacies of all six officers were unopposed, and he therefore asked the International Committee to declare them “elected unopposed”. Prof. Kippenberg proposed that the candidacies of the President and the two Vice-Presidents should be put to a vote. In the subsequent discussion on procedure, a proposal was put forward that the committee should vote on Prof. Kippenberg’s proposal first. The result of that vote was: 24 in favor, 12 against, 5 abstentions. Prof. Pye concluded that Prof. Kippenberg’s proposal would be put to a vote first. The result of the vote was: 10 in favor, 33 against, 4 abstentions. Then Prof. Pye put his original proposal to a vote with the following result: 41 in favor, 1 against, 3 abstentions. Prof. Pye therefore announced that the candidates for the six

offices were “elected unopposed”. They are:

President: Prof. Peter Antes

Vice-President (two positions):

Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett

Prof. Montserrat Abumalham Mas

General Secretary:

Prof. Armin W. Geertz

Deputy General Secretary:

Prof. Gerrie ter Haar

Treasurer: Prof. Gary Lease

Their election was acclaimed by applause.

Prof. Pye initiated the second round for electing the six members-at-large. He proposed that Prof. Trompf and Prof. Lochan assist in the procedure and count up the votes. They then assisted the General Secretary in passing out the ballots. While this was effected, Prof. Pye reminded the members that statements of candidacy had been published and circulated in advance. Prof. Trompf and Prof. Lochan retired with the ballots to count them. When they returned later in the meeting, the following results were announced:

(40) Prof. Mary N. Getui, Kenya

(36) Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, Norway

(25) Prof. Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, Poland

(17) Prof. Elio Masferrer Kan, Mexico

(30) Prof. Paul Morris, New Zealand

(29) Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, USA

(25) Dr. Dalibor Papoušek, Czech Republic

(18) Prof. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, India

(39) Prof. Akio Tsukimoto, Japan

(37) Prof. Alef Theria Wasim, Indonesia

Prof. Mary N. Getui, Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, Prof. Paul Morris, Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto, and Prof. Alef Theria Wasim were thereby elected.

Their election was acclaimed by applause.

10. Recommendation of New Affiliations

Prof. Geertz introduced the following applications for affiliation:

Eastern Africa (Regional Association): EAASR (Eastern African Association for the Study of Religions). The application was unanimously accepted.

Austria: ÖGRW (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft). Prof. Despland asked if there were any problems with democratic principles. Prof. Geertz replied that he had received their constitution which clearly lived up to democratic principles. The application was unanimously accepted.

Europe (Regional Association): EASR (European Association for the Study of

Religions). Prof. Hackett asked what the scope of the association was. Prof. Geertz described its activities and referred to his report in the bulletin (pp. 28-35) and recommended that future regional associations use the EASR as a model for their own organization. The application was unanimously accepted.

Taiwan: TARS (Taiwan Association for Religious Studies). Prof. Olupona said that an officer from applicant associations should be present at important meetings like this. Prof. Sweet said that such a requirement should be in force only if necessary. Prof. Antes said that the Executive Committee should keep it in mind. The application was unanimously accepted.

Brazil: ABHR/BAHR (Associação Brasileira de História das Religiões/Brazilian Association for History of Religion). Prof. Masferrer warmly recommended its affiliation. He said that they had worked very hard on organizing the association and that it was important that more associations be established in Latin America. The application was unanimously accepted.

Nigerian Association of Teachers of Arabic and Islamic Studies (NATAIS). Prof. Geertz said that he had been given this application just a few days before the meeting, but said that there already was a Nigerian IAHR affiliate. He recommended that they contact the Nigerian affiliate concerning membership. Their application was denied.

11. Honorary Life Memberships

Prof. Peter Antes presided over the rest of the meeting.

Prof. Geertz said that this point would be in two parts. The first part concerns the adoption of appointment procedures. The second part consists of proposing two names.

Concerning procedural rules: Prof. Geertz explained that the International Committee had decided at its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 that honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers, and/or other outstanding contributions. Such memberships would help to designate the range of interests current in the IAHR and would provide a wide circle of consultants in relation to IAHR-related activities. Honorary life members would be listed on the editorial cover of *Numen* and receive the IAHR Bulletin free of charge. Recommendations for honorary life membership, it was decided, should be presented to the International Committee at its meeting during quinquennial congresses.

He said that the Executive Committee had appointed a sub-committee to draw up rules of procedure for appointing Honorary Life Members. The following rules were drawn up during the week by professors Antes, Geertz, ter Haar, Hackett, Lease, and Olupona:

The Executive Committee appoints an Honorary Life Membership Advisory

Committee consisting of three honorary life members. The General Secretary of the IAHR shall then request each IAHR affiliate to suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee which will choose up to five names. Their recommendation shall be accompanied by brief statements of the achievements of the recommended persons. Their recommendation will be presented to the International Committee by the General Secretary of the IAHR.

A brief discussion led to the proposal that the International Committee appoints the committee on recommendation by the Executive Committee. Thus, the first sentence should read: "The International Committee appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members." The procedure was subsequently unanimously adopted.

Proposal of two Honorary Life Members of the IAHR: Prof. Geertz proposed that Prof. Michael Pye and Prof. Yolotl González Torres be conferred Honorary Life Memberships. He then read a brief statement on their achievements:

Michael Pye has been Professor of Religionswissenschaft at Philipps-Universität, Marburg since 1982. During 1991-1994 he was Professor of Religious Studies at Lancaster University. He is a specialist in East Asian Buddhism, contemporary Japanese religions, and a number of theoretical aspects of religion and society in the modern world. He has produced a large number of publications and is the editor of *Science of Religion, Abstracts and Index of Articles*. He served as Deputy General Secretary from 1980-1985, General Secretary of the IAHR from 1985-1995, and as its President from 1995-2000.

Yolotl González Torres is the Head of the Department of Ethnology and Social Anthropology at the National University in Mexico City and the Director of the Museo del Carmen. She is founder of the Center of Asian Studies and the School of Social Anthropology at the Ibero American University. Since 1963, she was employed at the National Institute of Anthropology and for a number of years as curator of Asia at the National Museum of Cultures. She is a specialist in the prehispanic religions of Mexico as well as on cosmology, religion and society. She organized the *Sociedad Mexicana de Estudios de la Religion (SMER)* in 1970 which became affiliated to the IAHR in 1990. She served as one of the Presidents of the IAHR world congress in Mexico City in 1995 and as Vice-President of the IAHR from 1995-2000.

The proposal was unanimously approved, and Prof. Antes congratulated them and thanked them both for their service. He gave special thanks to Prof. Pye for his 20 years of service on the Executive Committee of the IAHR and for his excellent guidance through the years.

12. Future Conferences

Prof. Geertz announced that the Executive Committee had approved the Japanese bid

for the next world congress in 2005. He referred to the documents in his report (pp. 16-17). Prof. Araki said that the Japanese Association was very keen on hosting the congress but that it would retract its offer if Prof. Tsukimoto failed to be elected to the Executive Committee.

Prof. Despland said that Japanese should be allowed as one of the official congress languages as stipulated in the rules of procedure. He said that the IAHR must practice pluralism and not just preach it. Prof. Hackett said that this should be allowed as stipulated, but that the cost of simultaneous translation was prohibitive.

Prof. Benavides said that timing was important since Tokyo was very humid in August. He asked the Executive Committee to reflect on that issue. [At this point, professors Trompf and Lochan returned with the results of the election. The results were announced as listed above in point 9.]

13. Any Other Business

Prof. Kippenberg used the opportunity to repeat the points he made during the meeting especially the request for financial reports of the congresses and the improvement of communication between the Executive Committee and the affiliates through increase in mail and use of e-mail. Prof. Yahya said that he would make arrangements between the Nigerian Association and NATAIS. Prof. Cox said that deliberations were being taken on the title of the Southern African Association.

Prof. Antes concluded the meeting by thanking the out-going Executive Committee and its officers for the past five years.

(Minutes by Armin W. Geertz)



**General Assembly of the IAHR
Durban, South Africa
Saturday August 12, 2000**

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be adopted at the next General Assembly in Tokyo 2005]
[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee on May 25, 2001]

Welcome and Introduction by the President of the IAHR

Prof. Pye welcomed the participants and explained that the General Assembly consists of all members of constituent societies of the IAHR who are present at the congress and that all such members are entitled to vote during the meeting. He recalled that, according to the constitution, the General Assembly may take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee, but that on the other hand it may refer any matter to the International or Executive Committee for consideration and report. He himself would be presiding over the meeting up to and including point 9, whereupon the chair would be passed over to the in-coming president. He ended his introduction by noting that there were about 70 participants present and that the General Assembly had a quorum.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Prof. Geertz proposed changing point 7 into “matters for announcement” consisting in two parts as listed below. There were no other changes. The agenda was subsequently adopted by general consent.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (published in the IAHR Bulletin 34, 1996)

The minutes were adopted by general consent.

3. Brief Report by the Out-going General Secretary (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000)

Prof. Pye said that the report had been adopted by the International Committee. Prof. Geertz said that some of the important points would be taken up later in the agenda.

Prof. Geertz briefly mentioned the disaffiliation of the Australian Association and said that the International Committee had agreed to consider their affiliation suspended and had empowered the Executive Committee to reactivate their affiliation without the usual procedure if the Australian Association so desired.

He said that various strategies were being developed to improve communication lines between the Executive Committee and the IAHR affiliates.

Prof. Pye thanked the General Secretary for his report.

4. Brief Report by the Out-going Treasurer (circulated in advance)

Prof. Pye said that the report had been adopted by the International Committee. Prof. Lease mentioned the difficulties involved in the transfer of funds and records after Prof. Wiebe's retirement. He stated that the IAHR is not a funding agency, and so he suggested that the IAHR look into acquiring professional services to help generate more funds. He said that it was a problem that only 25% of the affiliations were paid in full. It was both symbolically and morally important that the affiliates paid their dues, and he asked the members to contact their officers and ask them to contact him. He said that he will also be contacting them through annual billing, receipts, etc.

Prof. Pye thanked the Treasurer for his brief report and asked if there were any questions. A representative from the Netherlands said that trying to generate more funds was good, but that the IAHR should be careful to maintain independence.

5. New Affiliations

Prof. Pye explained the procedure for new affiliations. He said that societies that have applied for affiliation must be recommended by the Executive Committee to the International Committee which then must recommend the applications to the General Assembly. The General Assembly must vote either yes or no for each application. He reported that each applicant had sent their statutes, names and addresses of officers, descriptions of their activities and other documents to the Executive Committee. He also said that their applications have been recommended by the Executive Committee and the International Committee. Representatives were asked to stand up during the naming of their association. The following recommendations were put forward:

Austria: ÖGRW (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Brazil: ABHR/BAHR (Associação Brasileira de História das Religiões/ Brazilian Association for History of Religion).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Eastern Africa (Regional Association): EAASR (Eastern African Association for the Study of Religions).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Europe (Regional Association): EASR (European Association for the Study of Religions).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Slovenská spoločnosť pre štúdium náboženstiev pri SAV Bratislava/Slovak Association for Religious Studies (a reorganized association, formerly a part of the Czechoslovakian IAHR affiliate).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Taiwan: TARS (Taiwan Association for Religious Studies).

The application was unanimously accepted.

Prof. Pye concluded that each new affiliate will now have the right to send 2 delegates

to the International Committee meetings. He was delighted by the increase in representation and welcomed the new associations.

6. Recommendation of Changes in the Constitution (circulated in advance)

Prof. Pye said that changes and modifications in the constitution on the recommendation of the International Committee were the sole responsibility of the General Assembly. The following recommendations were put forward:

Concerning the legal registration of the IAHR: Insertion in Article 1 of the phrase: “and legally registered in The Hague, The Netherlands” and “non-profit”. It should read: “The International Association for the History of Religions (abbreviated from its English title, to IAHR), founded in September 1950 on the occasion of the VIIth International History of Religions Congress and legally registered in The Hague, The Netherlands, is a non-profit worldwide organization which has as its object 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 International Committee has recommended the following empowerment clause in case of the need for unforeseen changes during the legal registration: “In the event of legal advice requiring a different formulation without substantial import, the Executive Committee be empowered to effect the required adjustment.”

Prof. Pye explained the importance of legal registration and said that it was a nice symbolic gesture to register in The Netherlands where the IAHR was originally founded. He also said that the IAHR cannot be registered unless this change were incorporated into the constitution.

The recommended change was unanimously adopted.

Composition of the International Committee: Change in article 4.b.i. The phrase “except that there shall not be more than two representatives from any one country” should be dropped. Prof. Pye explained that the phrase was widely considered to be too restrictive.

The recommended change was unanimously adopted.

Distribution of portfolios in the Executive Committee: Change in article 4.c first sentence. The sentence should read: “The Executive Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Deputy General Secretary, a Treasurer, a Deputy Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, a Publications Officer, an Internet Officer and two members without portfolio.” Prof. Pye explained that this change was intended to moved the emphasis of committee membership from representation to function. The Executive Committee had never been a representational body even though efforts have always been made to seek geographical and, more recently, gender balance. The International Committee is the only truly representational body of the IAHR.

The recommended change was unanimously adopted.

Terms of office: Change in article 4.c concerning terms of office. The sentence

should read: "The members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for one quinquennial term each and be subject to re-election, but not more than two-thirds of the Committee shall be carried on from one term to the next. No one member shall serve in the same office more than two terms and no one member shall serve for a total of more than four terms with or without intervening periods." Prof. Pye explained that there is a need for continuity and flow in such a large organization as the IAHR, but that seeing the same old faces on the Executive Committee for decades is not necessarily a strength. It was for this reason that, after a period as Deputy General Secretary, two terms as General Secretary and one term as President, he had consciously decided not to be a candidate again, although theoretically eligible. The adjustment proposed to this article was intended to restrict the total number of years in committee to a maximum of 20.

The recommended change was unanimously adopted.

Prof. Pye explained further that most of these changes would involve modifying the "Rules of Procedure" and "Nomination Procedure" accordingly, and that such changes would be clearly announced in the General Secretary's next report. One of the members inquired about the change in the rules of procedure, Rule 16.g, and asked why the declaration "elected unopposed" was changed from "shall be" to "may be". Prof. Pye explained that it had been wished by some members that candidates for positions such as the Presidency and the Vice-Presidencies should be put to a yes/no vote, even if the positions were not contested. Prof. Geertz asked what the constitutional consequences would be if a candidate received less than 50% of the vote. Prof. Sweet said that it would just be a matter of referendum, as in Canada. Prof. Pye said that referenda may be allowed in Canada, but were not normal procedure for instance in Germany. Prof. Snoek said that in the event of a failure to elect, the incumbent president could be declared "remaining in office until his/her successor is duly elected". Prof. Pye replied that this is not provided for in the IAHR constitution. The mode of working in the IAHR does definitely require a satisfactory transition at the time of the quinquennial world congress.

Prof. Despland said that the current procedure is quite sufficient. The Nominating Committee submits nominations which are in line with the constraints mentioned in the constitution and the rules of procedure. This list of candidates is announced in such good time that the members of the International Committee have plenty of time to propose alternative nominations. This procedure is fair, and it allows avenues for opposing candidacies. He concluded that there is no need for last minute referenda. Prof. Pye thanked Prof. Despland for his clear and correct description of the nominating process.

Prof. Jensen recommended that the wording in Rule 16.g. be returned to the original: "shall be". Prof. Pye said that if the General Assembly in its democracy wishes to rescind the rule, then a vote would have to be taken to send it back to the International Committee. Prof. Beck concurred that the General Assembly could only recommend

that the rule be changed.

Prof. Pye asked the Assembly if it wished to recommend to the International Committee to change Rule 16.g back to its original formulation. Prof. Jensen said that this was what he was proposing, on the grounds that it is a perfectly clear democratic procedure.

The motion was there formulated as follows and seconded: “The General Assembly of the IAHR in its meeting in Durban, South Africa, August 12, 2000 emphatically recommends to the International Committee that Rule 16.g of the “Rules of Procedure for the International Association for the History of Religions” should read as follows: ‘Those whose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared “elected unopposed”. All others are elected by secret ballot.’” On being put to a vote, the recommendation was unanimously approved.

7. Matters for Announcement

7.a. Decisions by the International Committee

Prof. Geertz announced that the Rules and Regulations had been finally adopted by the International Committee.

He reported further that the International Committee recommended establishing a committee with the sole purpose of developing fund-raising strategies and developing structural innovation in terms of IAHR congresses and conferences. He said that it was the hope of the International Committee that as many of the members as possible get involved in this process.

Prof. Geertz moved to the next matter of report concerning the appointment of working groups to establish regional IAHR affiliates in Asia (for instance Central Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia). He mentioned that Prof. Araki was working on plans for an Asian-Pacific Regional Association and that Prof. Lochan was working on developing a South Asian Association which would cover Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Prof. Geertz said that the last matter of report was the question of representation raised by the Australian Association as one of their main complaints. He said that he had asked for advice from the International Committee on how the IAHR could improve representation and the conclusion was that the members should continue to reflect, discuss, and deliberate on the matter.

Prof. Geertz said that he would discuss with the in-coming Executive Committee ways and means to develop a division of labor.

The last matter of report concerned the new procedural rules for nominating Honorary Life Members of the IAHR. And he ended by saying that the International Committee had designated Prof. Michael Pye and Prof. Yolotl González Torres as Honorary Life Members. The Assembly responded with applause and the General Secretary thanked them for acclaiming this decision. He also thanked Prof. Pye and Prof. González for their many years of service in the IAHR.

7.b. General Announcements

Prof. Pye said that the two new Executive Editors of NUMEN were now in place, Prof. Michel Despland and Prof. Einar Thomassen. He also said that Dr. Brigitte Luchesi had been appointed Reviews Editor. Finally, he announced that Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff had been appointed editor of NUMEN Book Series. He thanked the outgoing editors of NUMEN for their excellent work and for holding the NUMEN flag-ship high when there are so many competing journals on the market. The Assembly applauded.

Prof. Pye announced that the proceedings of the Mexico Congress are in hand and were being edited by himself and Prof. González. He congratulated the editors of the adjunct proceedings for their publications. He said that he and Pratap Kumar would edit the Durban proceedings consisting among other things of the plenary addresses. He said that there would probably be spin-off volumes from the Durban congress as well. He showed the Harare conference proceedings and said that this represented the signal event that set IAHR activities moving in Africa. The Durban congress was the crowning achievement of a great deal of effort by a large number of dedicated individuals, and he thanked them for their efforts.

Prof. Bocking asked about the CD-publication of the Mexico papers that Prof. Masferrer Kan had announced some years ago, and whether this was supported by the Executive Committee. Prof. Pye said that there had been some difficulties in communication on this matter, but that if the Executive Committee became involved, this would be clearly announced.

The next point of announcement concerned the next congress. Prof. Pye said that the Mexico congress was splendid and that the Durban congress was also splendid. The next congress would be in Tokyo probably during August 2005. Prof. Araki said that the first chair in the study of religion in Japan was in 1905, and thus they would be celebrating its centennial with the congress. It would also be the 75th anniversary of the Japanese Association. He said that the Association invited the IAHR several years ago to come to Japan. Many Japanese have attended the Durban congress, about 30 in all, in order to be prepared for the congress in 2005. The Assembly then applauded.

Prof. Kanai from the University of Tokyo said that there was some anxiety and a lot of work needed to be done. He promised, however, that they would do their best. Prof. Araki said that August was the peak season for airfares and that there might be a need to change the time or location of the congress in Japan. He appealed to everyone to come in 2005.

Prof. Pye expressed his thanks to the Japanese Association.

8. Report on the Election of the In-coming Executive Committee

Prof. Pye reported that, in accordance with the rules, the International Committee had elected a new Executive Committee for the years 2000-2005. The election had occurred in two rounds. Since the nominated candidates for the officer positions had not

been contested, they were elected “unopposed” without ballot. The following were elected to the offices indicated:

President: Prof. Peter Antes

Vice-President (two positions):

Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett

Prof. Montserrat Abumalham Mas

General Secretary:

Prof. Armin W. Geertz

Deputy General Secretary:

Prof. Gerrie ter Haar

Treasurer: Prof. Gary Lease

Their election was acclaimed by applause.

Prof. Pye reported that there had been ten nominations for the six further positions as members-at-large and that a secret ballot had therefore been conducted. The candidates’ names and the number of votes cast were as follows:

(40) Prof. Mary N. Getui

(36) Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus

(25) Prof. Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska

(17) Prof. Elio Masferrer Kan

(30) Prof. Paul Morris

(29) Prof. Jacob K. Olupona

(25) Dr. Dalibor Papoušek

(18) Prof. Kameshwar Prasad Singh

(39) Prof. Akio Tsukimoto

(37) Prof. Alef Theria Wasim

Prof. Pye first thanked the losers of the election for their participation and praised them for the high number of votes that they had achieved. He noted that their readiness to be candidates had helped to maintain the democratic system of the IAHR.

He then reported that Prof. Mary N. Getui, Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, Prof. Paul Morris, Prof. Jacob K. Olupona, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto, and Prof. Alef Theria Wasim were elected as members-at-large.

Their election was acclaimed by applause.

Prof. Pye thanked Prof. Trompf and Prof. Lochan for assisting in the procedure and for counting the ballots. He thanked the out-going Executive Committee members for their services, and he extended his congratulations to the in-coming Executive Committee members. The Assembly applauded.

9. Public Transfer of Office to the In-coming Executive Committee

The out-going Executive Committee members left the stage and the in-coming Executive Committee members took their seats on the stage thereby signifying the transfer of office.

Prof. Peter Antes presided over the rest of the meeting.

10. Brief Statement by the In-coming President

Prof. Antes thanked each of the out-going Executive Committee members by name. Then he congratulated the in-coming members of the Executive Committee. He also congratulated the two new Honorary Life Members. He extended special thanks to Prof. Pye for his enormous efforts during 20 years as an officer of the Executive Committee. He said that Prof. Pye was a key figure in making the IAHR an international and global organization. The number of affiliates has risen on a world-wide scale. He said that without the efforts of some key people, such a world-wide organization would run the risk of dying out.

Prof. Antes said that when looking at a photograph of the participants of the 1950 foundational meeting of the IAHR, he noticed that they all looked alike. A similar picture of this wonderful congress would show that the faces of the IAHR have changed. The IAHR has become multicultural. It is a movement around the world: Mexico, Durban, and now Japan. With such cultural diversity, the problem of language becomes most important. There is, on the one hand, a need to understand each other and, on the other hand, a need to ensure diversity. He said that the members should feel free to use their own languages even if we don't understand each other, and that we must try our best to communicate. Prof. Antes then addressed the Assembly in French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

The challenges of the future will be to preserve a balance between the global and the local, to ensure the policies of gender balance, and to encourage the younger generation to participate in the activities of the IAHR and in its organization. Tradition lives, he said, only as long as the next generation carries on. The university, he claimed, is a global institution, and he encouraged scholars young and old to carry on the academic traditions wherever they may be in the world.

Prof. Antes expressed his optimism and asked the Assembly to tell the whole world that we will be meeting in Japan in 2005. The Assembly applauded.

11. Brief Statement by the In-coming General Secretary

Prof. Geertz said that he would concentrate on developing a Five Year Plan which would consist of a comprehensive plan addressing the weaknesses of the organization. He would like to encourage more regional activities in areas that need support as well as the establishment of more national affiliates. He hoped that the affiliates would help build up committees to develop such goals as well as to develop the congress structure and funding strategies. He said that the IAHR needed more income: paid subscriptions, a growing Endowment Fund, and workable funding strategies. He also hoped that the Executive Committee would be able to develop a comprehensive publication policy involving *NUMEN*, the *NUMEN Book Series*, and the *Science of Religion, Abstracts and Index of Articles*, as well as IAHR proceedings. He also expressed

the desire to improve services by up-dating the website regularly, developing an interactive membership databank, more frequent bulletins and/or e-mail services, and, if possible, a subscription package. He concluded his statement by thanking the out-going Executive Committee for excellent teamwork and a special thanks to Prof. Pye for his guidance. He concluded by saying that he was fully confident that the in-coming Executive Committee would prove to be just as excellent a team.

12. Suggestions from the General Assembly to the In-coming Executive Committee

Prof. Antes asked if there were any suggestions or matters that the Assembly would like to give to the in-coming Executive Committee. Prof. Bocking said that he would encourage the increasing use of the internet in maintaining communications between the IAHR and its affiliates.

Prof. Paden said that in some educational institutions in the U.S., there was a growing interest in outside groups and in improving educational programs internationally. He suggested that IAHR affiliates make use of this growing goodwill.

Prof. Oraon extended on behalf of the Indian Association thanks to the out-going and congratulations to the in-coming Executive Committees.

13. Any Other Business

Prof. Wamue thanked the Assembly for its recognition and acceptance of the EAASR in the IAHR. She also thanked the out-going Executive Committee for making it possible for Kenyans to travel to South Africa and attend the congress.

Prof. Antes thanked everyone and closed the formal meeting.

After a 15 minute break, Prof. Antes and the officers of the various congress committees thanked those who worked so hard to make Durban 2000 a success. Thanks were extended to the Congress Presidents, Prof. G. C. Oosthuizen, Prof. Thillay Naidoo, and Prof. S. S. Nadvi. Special thanks were also extended to Congress Director, Prof. Pratap Kumar, to the Programme Chair, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, and to conference organizer Velia Del Mei. Thanks were extended to the Holiday Inn Durban Elangeni hotel and its staff for their excellent service. And gratitude was extended to the foundations, associations, and private individuals who helped bring deserving scholars to this congress. Best wishes were extended to Prof. ter Haar and Prof. Tsukimoto who will be key persons in developing the next world congress in Tokyo 2005.

Prof. Antes then declared the XVIIIth Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Durban, South Africa officially closed. (Minutes by Armin W. Geertz)



Information on the IAHR

The IAHR is an worldwide body of national and regional associations 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 Peter Antes at the University of Hannover in Germany.

During the recent world congress in Durban, South Africa, the IAHR grew to 35 national and 4 regional associations. The IAHR holds world congresses every five years, and the next will be held in Tokyo, Japan on March 24-30, 2005. 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 *Numen Book Series* with over 80 volumes, currently 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*, currently edited by Prof. Michael Pye. 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. 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.

Name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Position Degree

Institutional address

.....
.....
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Tel. Fax E-mail.....

Private address

.....
.....
.....

Tel. Fax E-mail.....

What is your area of research?

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.....
.....

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

What is the name of your association?.....

Do you subscribe to any of the following?

IAHR Bulletin Yes No

NUMEN Yes No

Science of Religion Abstracts Yes No

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?

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2000-2005

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