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

IAHR

IAHR BULLETIN 12 SEPTEMBER 1989

Letter from the Secretary-general

Dear fellow-members of the IAHR,

As there is now just one year to go until the XVI International Congress of the IAHR in Rome (September 1990) there are certain considerations of timing which need to be borne in mind.

As to the Congress itself some further information will be found on another page. Please make this known to members of affiliated organisations as soon as convenient. Although the first date for registrations is passed it is still possible to register for the Congress. Please remember that all Congress arrangements are being handled in Rome. Any letters relating to congress arrangements received by the secretary-general in Marburg will simply be forwarded to Rome.

At the Congress there will be a meeting of the International Committee of the IAHR, which should be attended by two representatives of each national or regional affiliated association, who will have voting rights. Thus at an appropriate meeting in the coming months thought should be given to this question, and the results of relevant decisions or elections then communicated to the secretary-general. Furthermore, the nominations for the next Executive Committee will be submitted to the International Committee not less than nine months prior to the Congress. There is a further note on these matters below.

The organisational meetings scheduled to take place at Rome will have to be fitted into the timetable of the Congress, and time will therefore be somewhat limited. Questions of a complex kind however may be discussed to some extent in advance, for example by means of short statements circulated in this Bulletin. Any contributions of this kind will be quite welcome. Discussion of any matters of concern should take place within affiliated associations in good time before the Congress. This will enable the representatives at the International Committee to reflect the views of their members in the decision—taking process and, subsequently, to assist in the clarification of these decisions before the General Assembly.

With all best wishes Michael Pye

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International Committee of IAHR

Unless otherwise decided, a national affiliated association is represented on the International Committee by its president and secretary in office at any one time. The International Committee, though it does not meet frequently, is an important decision—taking body within the IAHR (see constitution). In fact, the International Committee is the decisive, representative body of the IAHR. If an association does not have officers designated as president and secretary it is necessary to decide, in advance, who will be the representatives at the meeting of the International Committee in September 1990. If all goes well, a list of the designated representatives participating in the International Committee will be made available at the time of the meeting or shortly before.

Nominations Committee

In accordance with the Constitution of the IAHR (Article 4C) and in line with the decisions of the Executive Committee at its meeting of 17.6.1988 Professors J.M.Kitagawa, J.Leclant and A.Schimmel (non-reelectable president) were invited to serve on the Nominating Committee, and agreed to do so. At a later date Professor Leclant withdrew from the committee and Professor Keller, who had been named as a reserve during the above-mentioned meeting, was invited to serve on the committee, and has agreed. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to prepare a balanced overall proposal for the officers and members of the Executive Committee which will hold office from 1990 until 1995. The work of the committee is not yet complete, but the nominations will be submitted to the International Committee not less than nine months before the Congress, probably by means of this bulletin.

The members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations thereafter (see Constitution C4). Such nominations, if any, should be sent to the Secretary-General in 1990, but not less than one month before the Congress. It is not constitutional for alternative proposals to be made on the spot at the time of the Congress. Nominations will be <u>closed</u> one month prior to the Congress. The Executive Committee is then to be elected, at the meeting held during the Congress, by the International Committee. The results are then reported to the General Assembly.

It is the responsibility of the secretaries of all affiliated associations to explain these arrangements to their own members so that appropriate participation is made possible (through the election of their own officers and consultations with them) and misunderstandings are avoided at the time of the Congress. Every care will be taken to see that the election process is carried out correctly.

A further notice will appear when the nominations are made known. This information is given now however, since some societies may be holding meetings this autumn at which these matters are to be discussed.

(M.P.)

XVI IAHR Congress (Rome) 1990: accommodation

In April of this year the secretary-general and the treasurer were able to visit Rome at the same time and thus to consult with Professor Bianchi and others engaged in the preparations for the conference. Among the many subjects discussed were, in particular, the need for modestly priced accommodation and lunches for the majority of our participants. Shortly after the meeting a letter was sent to the organisers of this aspect of the conference, the text of which is given below.

Dear Dr. Barison,

It was a great pleasure to meet you and Signorina de Medici in connection with the arrangements for the forthcoming Congress of the IAHR in Professor Bianchi's office. After meeting you I feel confident that the division of responsibility between the academic side and the practical side of the Congress will work out very well.

As you know, we are expecting about 500 participants, perhaps more. Of these many will wish to participate fully in the programme, following your suggestions for accommodation, special events, etc... Others, no less serious in their intention to participate in the work of the Congress, will have some difficulties with their personal finances. For example there will be younger scholars without a fixed position at a university, but on whom the future of our discipline depends. There are also persons who are extremely eminent in their own countries, but who, due to economic factors beyond their control, have difficulty in finding the convertible currency required to spend a week in Rome. Even the "ordinary" participants are not wealthy people. In this respect you can help us very much by ensuring two things.

Firstly, it is of great importance that participants will be able to take a modestly priced, but sufficiently substantial lunch each day at the university. Thus those who cannot afford to go to a restaurant privately need not

do so.

Secondly, as agreed at our meeting, I would be very grateful if the third circular could be accompanied by a list of less expensive hotel or "pension" accommodation which is not too far from the university.

The organisation of the conference is in principle in the hands of Professor Bianchi and the Italian organising committee. Please rest assured however of my readiness to cooperate with you in any way possible.

XVI IAIIR Congress (Rome) 1990: travel funds

There is a limited fund, derived from UNESCO via CIPSH, to assist participants with their travel costs to Rome. Only travel can be subsidised, not accommodation. The fund is administered by the treasurer in consultation with the Congress organisers and IAHR officers. A large number of enquiries and applications have already been received but any further requests should be sent to the treasurer (address at back of bulletin). Needless to say, priority will be given to those who come from countries with currency difficulties and have especially long journeys. Moreover an attempt is being made to ensure essential represention of major regions. The IAHR is responsible to CIPSH for the administration of this fund and is not allowed to depart from the guidelines. The IAHR has no other travel or accommodation funds at its disposal, and cannot under any circumstances be liable for costs incurred by participants at the Congress.

Warsaw conference 1989: report

The previously announced conference at Warsaw (Jablonna) was held as planned from the 5th to the 9th September 1989. The title of the conference was:

Studies of religion in the context of the social sciences. Methodological and theoretical relations.

The purpose of the meeting was threefold:

a) To read and discuss papers on the above theme.

b) To facilitate the interaction of specialists in the history of religions and those whose work has a bearing on the subject, with special reference to the region of Eastern Europe.

c) To provide a context for a meeting of the Executive Committee of

the IAHR.

The meeting was co-sponsored by The Polish Society for the Science of Religions, The Institute for Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the International Association for the History of Religions. It was attended by 25 persons from Eastern and Western Europe, Canada, the U.S.A. and South Korea, including five members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR and one of the editors of Numen.

The following papers were read and discussed:

Witold Tyloch (Poland):

The studies on religions in the context of social sciences

Jan Szmyd (Poland):

Empirical aspects of religious rationalism as the object of scientific research

Peter Antes (BRD):

Moslem mysticism in the context of social sciences

Mirosław Nowaczyk (Poland) (paper not read, but to be published):

New interpretation in the theory of religion

Michael Pye (BRD):

Philology and fieldwork in the study of Japanese religion

Luther Martin (U.S.A.):

The history of religions: a field for humanistic and social science enquiry

Donald Wiebe (Canada):

A world of activity. The real object of the social scientific study of religion

Ivan Hodovsky (Czechoslovakia):

Developments in the study of religion in Czechoslovakia (title to be finalised)

Thomas Lawson (U.S.A.):

Theoretical reflections on religious studies and the social sciences (title to be finalised)

Armin Geertz (Denmark):

The study of indigenous religions in the history of religions Kim Knott (England):

The role of religious studies in understanding ethnic experience

Tomas Sodeika (U.S.S.R.):

The development of the concept of time in the thought of Augustine (title to be finalised)

Hans Kippenberg (BRD):

Die Funktion der Religionswissenschaft in der Soziologie von Max Weber (paper in English, English title to follow)

Andrzej Wójtowicz (Poland):

Structural and phenomenological approach in the sociology of religion Włodzimierz Pawluczuk (Poland):

The problem of faith in the sociology of religion

Stanisław Piłaszewicz (Poland):

The theory of religious changes in Africa

Jeppe Sinding Jensen (Denmark):

History of religion without an object? -On the relations between history of religions and current issues in social anthropology

Jacques Waardenburg (Switzerland):

Social sciences and the study of Islam

Janusz Danecki (Poland):

The communists' dilemma. Islam and Communism in the Arab world Tadeusz Margul (Poland)

The social elements in the religious phenomenon

Sung-Hae Kim (Republic of Korea):

A vision for a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the Confucian Analects

Other sessions were devoted to a presentation of the work of the IAHR (Michael Pye, Secretary-general), a presentation of the editorial policy of Numen, the IAHR journal (Hans Kippenberg, Editor), and a presentation of the activities, membership structure and publications of the Polish Society for the Science of Religions (Witold Tyloch, President). In the final sessions a "concluding statement" was agreed upon in an attempt to document a wide measure of agreement which was sensed by the participants. The text is given on a separate page below and may be cited. The proceedings of the conference are to be published in Poland and it is hoped that they will appear in time for the XVI IAHR Congress in Rome. It is anticipated that further reports on the conference will appear in journals (Numen, Temenos).

Executive Committee meeting in context of Warsaw conference

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAHR was attended by five of its members, and was presided over by Prof. Tyloch as the longest serving member present. The others present were Professors Antes, Kim, Pye and Wiebe. The agenda, previously agreed with the president of the IAHR (Prof. Schimmel) by telephone, was as follows:

- 1. Report by Secretary-general
- 2. Rome Congress preparations
- 3. Election arrangements
- 4. Review of regional initiatives
- Future conference venues
- 6. A.O.B. (Numen discussed here)

Members not present will receive a brief account of the meeting soon.

IAHR WARSAW CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 1989 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

A conference was held at Jablonna, Warsaw (5-9 September 1989), under the sponsorship of the Polish Society for the Study of Religions, The Institute for Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and the International Association for the History of Religions, with the title "Studies on religion in the context of the social sciences: methodological and theoretical relations". In conclusion it was agreed by the participants that some advance had been made in the discussion of methodological issues in the study of religion. A convergence of opinion became apparent with regard to the nature of "history" that permits reconceiving the history of religions as a human and cultural science. There was also agreement that such a reconceived study of religion would understand "religion" as a reality which interconnects social activities both implicitly and explicitly. Of significance in this respect was a shift in attention to the meaning of religion in social interaction. There was general agreement that analysing social processes which are correlative with religious phenomena would require the evaluation and use of innovative social theories and models as well as those from cognate disciplines. Whether such a methodological orientation will prove fruitful must be judged in the context of future research. (Statement agreed in concluding session, 9.9.1989, Warsaw.)



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- Cuicuilco Nº 20,
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METHOD & THEORY in the STUDY OF RELIGION

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From the first editorial

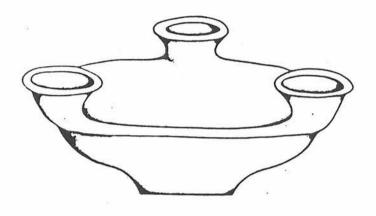
Given the sheer number of academic periodicals, an inaugural issue of another journal merits some justification. MTSR arises out of the observation that there is no journal exclusively devoted to the discussion and debate of issues concerning method and theory in the study of religion. For some, a journal devoted to method and theory in the study of religion is itself in need of some justification. A number would take the view that the academic navel-gazing involved in the study of study, and theories about theories is suspect, or worse, indulgent since it avoids the task of engaging with religion itself. Or else it is argued with equal disapproval that issues of method and theory have already been settled long ago.

But to the extent that academic study is characterized by the on-going questioning of its own premises and presuppositions, and since fields of research are never, or at least never should be, relaxed concerning methods of study and theories about the focus of study, we believe this journal addresses a crucial component of the study of religion.

MTSR is a forum for discussion and debate; therefore, we will give priority to papers, and shorter critical notes which respond directly to material published in MTSR. Also, we will reserve a majority of space for younger scholars in order to launch new people into the arena; but this will not be to the exclusion of more seasoned scholars in the field.



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Prix de vente au numéro (disponible)

- Grèce: 4400 drachmes

Belgique: 1250 francs belges
Autres pays: 1400 francs belges

KERNOS, 3 (1990), ± 350 p.

Prix de la souscription ou de l'abonnement

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KERNOS 3 (mars 1990)

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Consérence inaugurale: B.C. DIETRICH (Wales), Oracles and Divine Inspiration.

Consérence publique : F. JOUAN (Paris), L'oracle, thérapeutique de l'angoisse.

Hommage à Marie Delcourt, par A. MOTTE (Liège).

Communications:

- S. ANÉMOYANNIS-SINANIDIS (Athènes), Les oracles et la nuit orphique.
- O. BALLÉRIAUX (Liège), Mantique et télestique dans le Phèdre de Platon.
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- E. SUAREZ DE LA TORRE (Valladolid), Parole de poète, parole de prophète : les oracles et la mantique chez
- Y. VERNIÈRE (Lyon), La doctrine de l'inspiration prophétique d'après les Dialogues Pythiques de Plutarque.

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Personalia

ENQUIRIES TO

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Correction: due to an error the address of the Treasurer of the Société Ernest Renan (France) was not given in full. It is as follows:

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