

**IAHR Bulletin Supplement 2/1998**  
of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)  
[<http://www.uni-marburg.de/fb11/religionswissenschaft/iahr>]

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***IAHR Congress in Durban***

18th Quinquennial Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions 5-12 August, 2000, Durban, SOUTH AFRICA

***CALL FOR PANELS AND PAPERS***

Congress Theme: **The History of Religions: Origins and Visions**

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) is an international body of national and regional societies for the academic study of religion. It is a member of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) under UNESCO. Through its regional and international congresses it brings together scholars from around the world to discuss, debate and exchange views on their subject. The Executive Committee of the IAHR met in August 1997 in Turku, Finland and unanimously decided to hold its XVIIIth Congress in the year 2000 in Durban, South Africa. The Department of Science of Religion at the University of Durban-Westville, in co-operation with key members of the Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa (ASRSA), has been requested to host the event. This upcoming Congress in August 2000 is significant for a number of reasons. First, it will be the first IAHR congress ever held on the African continent. Second, the IAHR Congress in the year 2000 will coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the IAHR in Amsterdam. Third, it will also mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of scientific congresses in the History of Religions.

Several questions arise as the year 2000 draws near. First, it will be appropriate to take stock and reflect on where we as an international body of scholars engaged in a common scholarly enterprise are coming from. What are the central themes, the important empirical areas, the debated issues and the shared approaches that have carried us to this point in time? In which parts of the world have we gone wrong, and where have we succeeded? How has the history of religions contributed to educational and cultural development in general? Second, it will also be appropriate to discuss directions for the future. In what ways does increasing globalisation change the nature of the subject of our study? What methodological and theoretical approaches are most appropriate to these challenges? Is the history of religions capable of dealing with these new developments, and is the IAHR doing what it can in these respects? Are we truly engaged in a common endeavour?

The Durban Congress seeks in particular to promote the cross-cultural, interdisciplinary, comparativist and critical study of religion, as well as newer and neglected areas of research, rather than just the tradition-specific sections which have characterised previous congresses. There is also a concern to examine, wherever appropriate, the links between the theoretical, methodological, empirical, and pedagogical aspects of our field of study. To this end, a num-

ber of panels and symposia are already being planned on religious education, multiculturalism, the political economy of religious studies, fieldwork, texts and textuality, comparativism, globalisation, syncretism, millennialism, shamanism, spirituality, religion and human rights, civil society, media, cyberspace, diaspora, material and expressive culture, gender, ecology, healing, literature, cognition, cultural studies, tourism, etc. Several of these themes will highlight the rich diversity of religious traditions in Africa, not least South Africa, and the heritage of several decades of African scholarship on the study of religion.

#### *KEY DATES*

1. Proposals for panels, symposia and roundtables to reach the Secretariat on or before 30 November 1998.
2. Proposals for individual papers to reach the Secretariat on or before 31 March 1999.
3. Accepted proposals will be notified by 30 June 1999.
4. All participants whose proposals have been accepted should pre-register on or before 31 December 1999 in order to be on the programme. No exceptions will be made in this regard.
5. Final registration materials will be sent to pre-registered participants by 30 April 2000.
6. All requests for the Reduced Registration Fee (for participants from countries with weaker currencies) must arrive at the Secretariat with full documentation on or before 31 December 1998.
7. On site registration only for participants who are not presenting papers.

#### *ACADEMIC PROGRAMME*

1. Keynote addresses  
The keynote addresses are given by distinguished scholars who are invited by the Congress Academic Programme Committee.
2. Plenary sessions  
Plenary sessions consist of responses by a panel of experts to the keynote addresses.
3. Panels  
Panels consist of three panelists (and optional respondent) with a panel convener as the chair. The duration is 2 hours. The proposal should contain the title of the panel, the names and institutional affiliations of the panelists, and a 150 word abstract of the topic. The proposal should be sent by the convener. Note: conveners may decide to leave panels partially open to allow for later submissions once the panel is advertised.
4. Symposia  
Groups of scholars engaged in a particular project which will likely lead to publication may submit a proposal for a symposium. It is expected that these groups will circulate their papers for discussion prior to the congress. Scholars are advised to bring along with them sufficient number of copies (at least 20 copies) of their papers for circulation to the participants. The proposal should contain the title of the symposium, the names and institutional affiliations of panelists, and a 150 word abstract of the topic. The duration of the symposium is 2 hours. The proposal should be sent by the convener.
5. Roundtable sessions  
Roundtable sessions consist of a maximum of 10 participants around a table. These are meant for more detailed discussion among scholars on their respective research projects. Space for these sessions is limited. Proposals for these sessions should consist of the title

of the paper, full name and institutional affiliation of the presenter, and a 150 word abstract. Those whose proposals are accepted will subsequently need to send 10 copies of the complete paper in advance for circulation among those who register for the roundtable sessions. Scholars are encouraged to advertise their own proposed roundtable sessions to ensure maximum participation.

6. Individual Papers

Every attempt will be made to organise individual papers into coherent sessions. In any given session there will be three papers lasting 90 minutes. Proposals for individual papers should consist of the title of the paper, full name and institutional affiliation of the presenter, and a 150 word abstract.

*EXHIBITORS' INFORMATION*

Book sellers, publishers, and others are invited exhibit their products at the congress site. Those who wish to exhibit books, computers, software, etc., should contact the Secretariat for details regarding the exhibition. Space is limited and therefore we encourage prospective exhibitors to book well in advance. Please contact the address below for more details.

*GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION*

Further details on Durban and the Congress may be found on the Congress website at [<http://www.udw.ac.za/iahr>].

Questions regarding panel and paper proposals may be directed to Professor Rosalind I. J. Hackett (Chair, Congress Academic Programme Committee) at [[rhackett@utk.edu](mailto:rhackett@utk.edu)].

Panel proposals will be posted early 1999 to encourage paper submissions. Individual papers may be submitted independent of any panel, but wherever possible should reflect the congress theme.

All final panel and paper submissions, and questions regarding the organization of the congress, should be sent to: Prof. P. Kumar, Congress Director.

*CONGRESS WEBSITE*

<http://www.udw.ac.za/iahr>

REMINDER: Due date for panel proposals is 30 November 1998 and for papers, 30 April 1999.

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### ***New Appointments in the IAHR***

During May 22-25, 1998 approximately 120 scholars from Europe and elsewhere in the world converged on the old city of Hildesheim, just south of Hannover to discuss the "History of Religions in Europe". The conference was designated an IAHR Regional Conference and was hosted by one of the vice-presidents of the IAHR, Prof. Dr. Peter Antes, from the Seminar für Religionswissenschaft at the University of Hannover.

The conference was formulated in relation to the coming international world fair EXPO 2000 to be held in Hannover and its surroundings. The EXPO 2000 has the theme "Mankind–Nature–Technology (see the website: <http://www.EXPO2000.de>), and because the events already announced are purely technological or ecological, it was the hope of the conference organizer that historians of religions could contribute insights on the theme in relation to religion. The conference was a great success both professionally and socially. The latter especially due to the fact that Hildesheim held a colorful city festival that same weekend.

From an organizational point of view, the IAHR was strongly represented at the conference, not the least due to the financial efforts of Peter Antes. The result was that the Executive Committee of the IAHR met in its entirety for the first time since the elections in Mexico City in 1995. Furthermore, a large number of delegates were present at the meeting of the International Committee of the IAHR, which is its democratic body. Both bodies functioned effectively and creatively on a number of issues and events, and this short report concerns three important announcements.

#### *New Editors of Numen*

The first announcement concerns the change of the managing editors of *Numen*. As is well-known, *Numen* is the official journal of the IAHR. The managing editors, Prof. Hans G. Kippenberg (Bremen) and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson (Kalamazoo), act on behalf of an international editorial board consisting of the Executive Committee of the IAHR. The Editorial Board meets in conjunction with the annual Executive Committee meetings in order to receive a report from the managing editors and to discuss matters of policy.

The IAHR appoints the managing editors in agreement with the Publisher, E. J. Brill, for a period of five years, renewable for a second period of five years, after which new editors shall be appointed. The managing editors edit the journal and act as sole representatives of the IAHR in all dealings with regard to the publication of the journal. The managing editors are chosen for their knowledge of the activities of the IAHR and commitment to its stated goals; their scholarly standing in the field; a senior position which allows some flexibility, access to facilities, and time to travel; some possibility of delegating subordinate tasks; previous editorial experience; proven record of helpful collaboration with others; ability to work to deadlines; excellent command of English and some knowledge of other languages; and awareness of current debates in the study of religion.

The IAHR has attempted to introduce an alternate succession of editorial appointments to ensure that only one editor retires at the end of each five year period, and the present editors graciously agreed to extend their terms of office a number of years ago in order to make an alternate succession process possible. However, after careful deliberations between the Executive Committee, the managing editors and E. J. Brill, it was unanimously decided that both of the present editors will retire at the XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR in Durban,

South Africa on August 5-12, 2000. By then, Prof. Hans G. Kippenberg will have given us twelve years of service and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson ten years. Their skill and editorial proficiency has left an indelible impression on the IAHR and has met with widespread acclaim. *Numen* is the flagship of the IAHR. It has a proud tradition of quality and international coverage, and both Prof. Kippenberg and Prof. Lawson have carried this tradition onward as well as kept the journal in tune with current developments in our subject.

The Executive Committee is happy to announce the appointment of Professor Einar Thomassen, University of Bergen, Norway, and Professor Michel Despland, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada as the new managing editors of *Numen*. Their formal period of appointment is for the five year period of 2000-2005, and during the coming two years up to the Durban Congress, the practical transfer of editorial procedures will be effectuated. All manuscripts and other matters that concern the issues appearing from 2000 (XLVII/3) should be sent to the incoming managing editors.

Einar Thomassen is a graduate of Bergen and St. Andrews and has taught at the universities of Bergen, Uppsala and Oslo. In 1993 he became professor in the history of religions at the University of Bergen. Einar Thomassen served as secretary of the Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening (NRF) 1990-94, and has been its president since 1994. He has served as head of the Institute of Classics, Russian and the History of Religions at the University of Bergen since 1995. His main fields of interest are early Christianity and gnosticism, and Islam, especially Islamic mysticism. He has published *Le Traité Tripartite* (1989), *Den filologiske vitenskap* (1990, with Odd Einar Haugen), and *The Letters of Ahmad b. Idris* (1993, with Bernd Radtke). His interests also include hermeneutic theory, canonicity, orthodoxy and heresy, ritual theory, and religious education in schools. While committed to the continued importance of classical fields and methods in the history of religions, he is also an advocate of philosophically and sociologically informed theoretical awareness in the discipline. He is currently preparing a monograph on Valentinian gnosticism, a text book on Christianity for history of religions students, and a source book on the major religions for religious education teachers in Norwegian primary schools. Prof. Thomassen's address is Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Øisteinsgate 3, N-5007 Bergen, Norway (e-mail: [einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no](mailto:einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no)).

Michel Despland is a graduate of Lausanne and Harvard Universities has been teaching at Concordia University, Montréal, Québec, since 1966. He has served among things as president of a Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR). He is the author of books on the philosophy of religion: *Kant on History and Religion* (1973) and *The Education of Desire. Plato and the Philosophy of Religion* (1985). His work on the history of the concept of religion (*La Religion en Occident. Evolution des idées et du vécu*, 1979, 1988) led him to further studies on 19th century France. One of its dimensions has been a plea for the use of literary evidence and for new strategies in writing modern religious history (*Reading an Erased Code. French Literary Aesthetics and Romantic Religion*, 1994). Another dimension is the exploration of the history of the disciplined study of religion: together with Louis Rousseau, *Les sciences religieuses au Québec depuis 1972* (1988), and *La tradition française en sciences religieuses* (1991). Another publication that is forthcoming is *Les sciences religieuses sous la Monarchie de Juillet*. Prof. Despland's address is Département des sciences religieuses, Université Concordia, 1455, boulevard de Maisonneuve ouest, Montréal, Québec, H3G 1M8 Canada (e-mail: [desplan@vax2.concordia.ca](mailto:desplan@vax2.concordia.ca)).

The Executive Committee formally recognized at its meeting in Turku in 1997 the need for

a separate Reviews Editor. Since 1990, Dr. Brigitte Luchesi at the University of Bremen has done an excellent job in that capacity. Therefore, the Executive Committee formally appointed Dr. Brigitte Luchesi for a five year period as Reviews Editor (1998-2003) at its meeting in Hildesheim. Brigitte Luchesi was born in Vienna, Austria in 1943 and grew up in Fulda, Germany. After earning a degree in sociology at the University of Frankfurt/Main (1969), she moved to Berlin for further training in Jewish Studies, Religious Studies and Social Anthropology. She completed her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology in 1982. She taught at the Institute for Jewish Studies between 1970 and 1975 and at the Institute for Social Anthropology from 1980 until her move to Bremen in 1989 where she took up an appointment in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Bremen. Her fields of academic interest include Hindu Religions, Social Anthropology of Religion and Visible Religion. Since 1978 she has undertaken regular fieldtrips first to Bangladesh and then to North India to study local forms of religiosity, especially among Hindu women. Since 1990 she has assisted the editors of *Numen* in publishing the journal, and she has also served as treasurer of the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte (DVRG). Her address is Universität Bremen, Fachbereich 9, Postfach 330440, D-2800 Bremen, Germany (e-mail: [luchesi@religion.uni-bremen.de](mailto:luchesi@religion.uni-bremen.de)).

We welcome this new team and wish them all the best.

#### *New Treasurer of the IAHR*

The final important announcement to be made concerns the appointment of a new treasurer of the IAHR. Since his election in Mexico City in 1995, Professor Donald Wiebe at Trinity College, University of Toronto, Canada has served faithfully as the treasurer of the IAHR. During the International Committee meeting in Hildesheim, however, he announced that he was retiring from that office for reasons of health. Donald Wiebe has been a leading figure in the IAHR and at IAHR events for several decades. His unwavering intellectual stature and his wisdom in organizational matters have long been sources of inspiration to all of us. We are all grateful for his service through the years. The sadness of his leaving the Executive Committee is, however, off-set by the fact that he will continue to be a source of inspiration and debate in future IAHR events.

The constitution of the IAHR states in article 4.c that in the event of the resignation of any serving officer, a suitable replacement may be nominated by the Executive Committee until the next quinquennial congress. After deliberating on the matter, the Executive Committee asked Professor Gary Lease at the University of California in Santa Cruz, U.S.A. if he would take up the job as treasurer until Durban 2000. Because of his scholarly and organizational talents as well as his continued support of the IAHR, it is the considered opinion of the Executive Committee that Prof. Lease would be a fitting officer of the IAHR. Prof. Lease graciously agreed to accept the appointment.

Gary Lease was born in Hollywood, California and is professor of History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he has served as chair of Religious Studies, History of Consciousness and Environmental Studies. He has also served as Associate Chancellor and Dean of Humanities. Gary Lease took his doctorate in 1968 at the University of Munich in the history of theology. His extensive publications are concentrated in the history of religious thought in 19th and 20th century Germany (editions of Harnack and Sohm; articles on religion and National Socialism; German Judaism, especially in his book *"Odd Fellows" in the Politics of Religion: Modernism, National Socialism, and German*

*Judaism*, Berlin 1944; a book-length biography and study of Hans-Joachim Schoeps); late antiquity Mediterranean religious history (articles and essays on Mithraism; Egyptian monasticism, including the book *Traces of Early Egyptian Monasticism*, Claremont 1991; Near Eastern archaeology); and theories of religion (articles and essays as well as a forthcoming book on religion and historiographical theories; religion and politics; religion as ideology and cultural artifact).

Among other organizations, he is a member of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE); American Society for the Study of Religion (ASSR), of which he is its current secretary; International Association for Coptic Studies (IACS); and the North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR); of which he is its current executive secretary. His address is Merrill College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, U.S.A. (e-mail: rehbock@cats.ucsc.edu).

The Executive Committee welcomes Prof. Lease and looks forward to working with him.

### ***Corrections to Affiliate Addresses***

*Australia: AASR (Australian Association for the Study of Religion)*

*Treasurer:* Mr. David Burgess, 21 Attunga St., Woollahra, NSW 2025 Australia

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

*President:* Prof. Jean-Marc Larouche, Université Saint-Paul, 223 Main, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 1C4 Canada [jmlarou@aix1.uottawa.ca]

*Czech Republic: Ceska Spolecnost Pro Studium Nabozenstvi*

*Czech Society for the Study of Religion*

*President:* Dr. Bretislav Horyna, Department of Philosophy, Palacky University, Krizkovského 12, 771 80 Olomouc, Czech Republic [horyna@phil.muni.cz]

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

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

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

*President:* vacant

*Germany: DVRG (Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionsgeschichte)*

*President:* Prof. Dr. Burkhard Gladigow, KWI, Goethestraße 31, D-45128 Essen, Germany

*Norway: NRF (Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening)*

*Norwegian Association for the History of Religions*

*President:* Prof. Einar Thomassen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Øisteinsgate 3, N-5007 Bergen, Norway [einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no]

*Treasurer:* Dr. Knut A. Jacobsen, Department of the History of Religions, University of Bergen, Øisteinsgate 3, N-5007 Bergen, Norway [knut.jacobsen@krr.uib.no]

*Spain: SECR (Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones)*

*Spanish Association for the Science of Religions*

*Secretary:* Prof. Montserrat Abumalham Mas, Facultad de Filología, Universidad Complutense, Despacho 204, E-28040 Madrid, Spain [abumas@eucmax.sim.ucm.es]

*Sweden: SSRF (Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning)*

*Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion*

*Secretary:* Doz. Catharina Raudvere, Department of the History of Religions, University of Lund, Allhelgona Kyrogata 8, S-223 62 Lund, Sverige [catharina.raudvere@teol.lu.se]

*Switzerland: SGR/SSSR (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/*

*Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions)*

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

*Secretary:*

