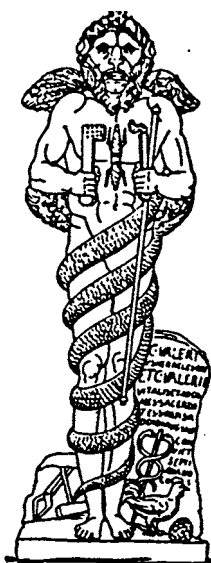


Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie
Danish Association for the History of Religions

DAHR

NYHEDSBREV NR. 25



Efterår 2000

Udgivet af Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie i samarbejde med de religionsvidenskabelige institutter og centre ved Københavns Universitet, Aarhus Universitet og Odense Universitet. Odense 2000.

Redakton: Mikael Aktor, Mikael Rothstein og Oluf Schönbeck.

DAHR's hjemmeside: www.hum.sdu.dk/projekter/dahr/

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Grundet arbejdspress og uforenelige kalendere har bestyrelsen ikke fundet tid til at samles efter vores årsmøde og generalforsamling i november 1999 i København. Det betyder heldigvis ikke, at alt arbejde har stået stille. Men først et par ord i tilknytning til årsmøde og generalforsamling:

I dette Nyhedsbrev finder I DAHR's nye vedtægter, sådan som de blev endeligt udformet på generalforsamlingen. Bestyrelsen mener, at vi med denne revision har fået ajourført vedtægter samt præciseret nogle procedurer og forhold, og at begge dele var nødvendigt. Vi takker for generalforsamlingens konstruktive medvirken dertil.

Desuden finder I referat fra generalforsamlingen, og bestyrelsen takker Erik Renberg Sand for arbejdet med referatet. I forlængelse af referat og formandsberetning (som også er trykt i dette nyhedsbrev) er det imidlertid på sin plads at udtrykke følgende:

Som det fremgår af formandsberetningen har den foregående og siddende bestyrelse til tider været bekymret for, om DAHR fortsat havde en funktion, og om vi som bestyrelse levede op til såvel formålsparagraffer som medlemmernes ønsker. Vi var derfor meget glade for den opbakning til det udførte arbejde, som vi fik fra generalforsamlingen, og vi vil gøre vort bedste til at leve op til den tillid, der blev vist os.

Samtidig kan vi konkludere, at tidligere års fremførte ønsker om et højere aktivitetsniveau, især i form af regelmæssige, årlige symposier eller andre møder (jfr. vedtægter, § 4) ikke nødvendigvis skal forstås som en forpligtelse til for enhver pris at afholde et specielt DAHR-årsmøde hvert år, men derimod hvert andet. Det vil naturligvis fortsat være sådan, at vi bestræber os på at give medlemmerne mulighed for at komme sammen een gang årligt. Samtidig blev det igen gjort klart, at DAHR er et specielt forum, som giver medlemmerne en særlig anledning til at mødes.

På denne baggrund har bestyrelsen derfor også besluttet, at den ikke vil forsøge at konkurrere med de arrangementer, som andre har planlagt til oktober-november måned, hvor vi i øvrigt i flere år også har skullet konkurrere med noget så fjernt men magtfuldt som AARs (American Academy of Religion) årlige kongres i bl.a. Disneyland. Efter devicen "if you can't beat them, join them" har vi derimod besluttet at være medarrangører/co-sponsor på to efterårsarrangementer: Det ene, smukt i forlængelse af temaet for vores to seneste årsmøder, finder sted i København 9. november (se annonce andetsteds i dette nyhedsbrev), og det andet, om tabuer i religionsforskningen (se andetsteds i dette nyhedsbrev), finder sted i Århus den 30.11-1.12.

Vi vil gerne benytte lejligheden til at opfordre alle medlemmer med interesse og tid til at deltage i begge arrangementer. Da vi imidlertid har besluttet at bede arrangørerne i Århus afsætte en lille time i programmet (efter frokost, fredag den 1.12) til et kort DAHR-medlemsmøde, skal vi være så uforskammede at opfordre medlemmerne til især at finde tid til Århus-arrangementet, hvor vi på medlemsmødet bl.a. gerne vil have jeres velsignelse til et medlemskab af EASR, den nye europæiske forening for religionsstudier, samt jeres forslag til temaet for næste års årsmøde.

Denne opfordring gælder naturligvis også de nye medlemmer af DAHR, herunder de kandidater, der fortsat er medlemmer eller er nytilkomne. I den forbindelse vil vi gerne lykønske alle de nyansatte på de tre religionsvidenskabelige institutter

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og centre.

Inden vi forlader den hjemlige scene, skal vi fra bestyrelsen udtrykke vor sorg over at dansk religionsvidenskabelig forskning siden sidst har mistet Halfdan Siiger. Det er uden tvivl både nødvendigt og godt, at nye unge "hunde" tager over, men hver gang een af de gamle går bort, kunne man alligevel ønske at de blev der, også for at holde de unge hunde lidt i ave.

Samtidig skal vi naturligvis benytte lejligheden til at ønske Københavns Universitet og Institut for Religionshistorie til lykke med 100-års fødselsdagen, der fejres som det fremgår af programmet andetsteds i dette nyhedsbrev

Går vi fra det hjemlige til det internationale, kan det først i forlængelse af formandsberetningen siges, at formanden fortsætter sin lidt ensomme kamp for at bevare NORREL. Efter et par møder i Durban og et par nye emails ser det ud til, at det skal lykkes at få samlet NORREL til et møde, måske i Århus i forbindelse med Totem-Tabu symposiet, men det er endnu ikke helt sikkert at det lykkes. Derimod forsøger formanden at hjælpe Einar Thomassen i Bergen med at få nordiske herunder danske ph.d.-studerende med speciale i antikkens religioner fra Norden til et symposium på Kreta næste juni. Hvis nogle medlemmer kender til ph.d.-studerende med slige eksotiske forskningsfelter, vil formanden være taknemmelig for en hurtig tilbagemelding.

Udvider vi cirklen fra det nordiske til det europæiske, er der til gengæld uforbeholdent godt nyt: Den infamøse Ternes og hans mere eller mindre selvbestaltede europæiske forening med det sigende navn EurAss blev i allerede i 1999 kontaktet i den allervenligste ånd af bl.a. IAHR's gen. sekretær (Armin Geertz) og daværende præsident (Michael Pye) mhp at finde frem til et kompromis og en holdbar løsning på de opståede problemer. Desværre slog samme Ternes hånden af dem, af IAHR og af alle andre, der søgte efter en holdbar løsning, og som en følge deraf opgav IAHR mæglingsbestræbelserne. I stedet nedsattes en arbejdsgruppe med Michael Pye som primus motor og bl.a. undertegnede som medlem. I løbet af forårets første måneder udarbejdede gruppen forslag til vedtægter for EASR (European Association for The Study of Religions) vedtægter, der åbnede for en formel affiliation til IAHR og for kollektivt (de nationale selskaber) såvel som individuelt medlemskab.

Eftersom interesserede kan finde alle informationer vedr. stiftelsen af EASR og vedtægter i vedlagte IAHR-bulletin, number 36, s. 36 ff, skal det kun siges, at bestyrelsen er meget tilfredse med at det lykkedes at stifte denne europæiske forening i Krakow i forbindelse med IAHR-konferencen om Contemporary Approaches to The Study of Religions in Europe, og at det endvidere lykkedes foreningen (på generalforsamlingen i Durban), der har Giulia Gasparro som president og undertegnede som generalsekretær, at blive tilknyttet IAHR. Som det fremgår af vedtægterne får ethvert nationalt selskab, der melder sig ind, automatisk ret til at lade sig repræsentere i bestyrelsen af en dertil udpeget person; den siddende bestyrelse sidder "kun" 1 1/2 år, nemlig til den første ordinære generalforsamling, der arrangeres af BASR og finder sted i Cambridge, og ved valg har alle medlemmer af de nationale selskaber stemmeret.

I skrivende stund kan det tilføjes, at foreningen er blevet endog meget vel modtaget, og at NRF (Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening), BASR (British Association for the Study of Religions, Société Ernest-Renan (Frankrig) samt DAHR har tegnet sig for et foreløbigt kollektivt medlemsskab, dvs. et medlemsskab, der kan ophæves, hvis de pågældende bestyrelser på deres generalforsamlinger siden hen bliver pålagt andet. Medlemsgebyret ligger ikke endelig fast, men det kommer til at ligge på

ca. 2 euro per medlem i tilfælde af kollektivt medlemsskab og 15 euro per individuelt medlemsskab. Det er bestyrelsens opfattelse, at EASR er værd at støtte, og at vi godt kan afsætte 2 euro per medlem til formålet også uden at hæve kontingentet her og nu.

Bestyrelsen for EASR mødes til foråret i Messina, og med de meldinger vi har p.t. lader det til, at EASR til den tid vil rumme et flertal af de europæiske selskaber.

Med lyden af det indiske oceans bølger og en konstant summen af tæt ved 500 delegerede konferencedeltagere i øret, selv nu mange uger efter IAHRs verdens-kongres i Durban, kan følgende siges: Fra Danmark deltog en stor gruppe, alle medlemmer af DAHR, inkl. medlemmer af DAHRs bestyrelse, og vi deltog alle med glæde i både de mange faglige, sociale og fagpolitiske seancer. Kongressen var særdeles velorganiseret, paneler m.v. var mange og forskelligartede, og de fagpolitiske møder (i den internationale komite og generalforsamlingen) forløb til i hvert fald DAHRs store tilfredshed.

Eftersom den tidligere og også nuværende generalsekretær, Armin W. Geertz, sandsynligvis snart udsender en bulletin med de vigtigste af de formelle nyheder om valg m.v., skal det kun siges, at vi glæder os over at Armin er blevet genvalgt og vi ønsker ham tillykke, ligesom vi naturligvis også ønsker Peter Antes tillykke med valget som præsident. Også Ingvild Gilhus Sælid, fra universitetet i Bergen, der blev indvalgt i bestyrelsen, skal ønskes tillykke. Samtidig skal Michael Pye takkes for et stort arbejde, inklusive hans arbejde for EASR, og Rosalind Hackett fortjener stor tak for hendes arbejde med at arrangere det faglige program i Durban.

Om dette skal det samtidig siges, at det spændte vidt og rummede en del nye tiltag. Ikke alle var lige begejstrede for alle innovationer, og nogle, bl.a. flere af vores nordamerikanske kolleger ytrede frygt for, at IAHR langsomt men sikkert ville gå til grunde pga af hvad de opfattede som en sammenblanding af diverse politisk-ideologiske-religiøse agenda og ren akademisk forskning. På samme måde blev det konstant fremhævet som noget positivt, at kongressen blev afholdt i Sydafrika (ligesom næste i Tokyo, 2005), altså uden for den vestlige magtsfære, men ikke desto mindre ytrede flere deltagere fra de såkaldte 3.verdenslande et vist mishag ved hvad de opfattede som en klar vestlig, især nordamerikansk, dominans, bl.a. på det sproglige område. Dominansen, syntes flere, blev understreget, da en af de inviterede key-note speakers, J.Z. Smith havde meldt forfald men ikke desto mindre blev transmitteret "live" på storskærm, direkte from over there. His masters voice - and face! Det er ikke nemt med globalisering, postmodernisme, afkolonialisering m.v. og det er ikke nemt at gøre alle tilfredse. Jeg selv fandt for første gang stor glæde ved at følge de paneler, der handlede om religion og kognition, bl.a. fordi jeg for første gang mente at forstå mere end meget lidt, og jeg husker derfor tydeligt, da en god italiensk kollega med speciale i antikken efter 2 minutter i lokalet rejste sig og synligt irriteret forlod seancen mumlende: Teoria, teoria, teoria...Mamma mia!

For mig skærpede konferencen alt i alt et post-moderne spørgsmål, der længe har trængt sig på: Kan den akademiske, religionsvidenskabelige diskurs om religion i forbindelse med globaliseringen af IAHR ændres afgørende og fortsat være akademisk og religionsvidenskabelig? Har "vi i vesten" virkelig for alvor lyst til at afgive den hidtidige magt og dermed "retten til" at definere diskursen, selv om det kan føre til ny viden om religion og i den forstand må siges at være en konsekvens, ikke kun af globaliseringen af IAHR, men også af vore bestræbelser på at være videnskabelige?

Til sidst en tak til de medlemmer, der fulgte min opfordring om at skrive et par ord om deres forskning, sådan så jeg kunne tage til konferencen i Krakow og ikke

sige for meget forkert. Det er samtidig bestyrelsens håb, at de samme medlemmer senere vil give os tilladelse til at lægge deres korte forskningsprofiler ud på nettet på vores hjemmeside (vi skal nok varsko jer inden!). Samtidig skal vi naturligvis benytte lejligheden til endnu engang at opfordre de af vore medlemmer (størstedelen), der ikke sendte noget, om at sende os en halv side om jeres primære og sekundære forskningsinteresser og eventuelle igangværende projekter. Dette, samt en årlig oversigt over medlemmernes publikationer, ville vi meget gerne have på plads snarest muligt.

pbv.

Tim Jensen, september 2000

Generalforsamling 1999: Referat

Beslutningsreferat af generalforsamling i Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie fredag den 5. november 1999 kl. 13.30 i Diakonissestiftelsens Kursuscenter:

- Ad 1. **Valg af dirigent.** Rita Geertz valgtes med applaus.
- Ad 2. **Valg af referent.** Erik Reenberg Sand valgtes til referent.
- Ad 3. **Godkendelse af dagsorden.** Dagsordenen godkendtes.
- Ad 4. **Formandens beretning.** Tim Jensen forelagde sin beretning (vedlagt), som godkendtes af forsamlingen. I denne forbindelse foregik ligeledes en konstruktiv drøftelse af selskabets aktivitetsniveau.
- Ad 5. **Fremlæggelse af regnskab.** Ingrid Müller fremlagde regnskabet, i hvilken forbindelse man drøftede et forslag fra Armin Geertz om, at selskabet skulle støtte en afrikansk delegerets deltagelse i IAHR-konferencen i Durban. Forslaget akcepteredes, at medlemmerne i forbindelse med næste kontingentopkrævning hver især kunne yde et frivilligt ekstrabidrag på 50,00 kr.
- Ad 6. **Forslag til ændringer af vedtægter.**

Bestyrelsen havde fremsendt forslag om ændringer til selskabets vedtægter §§ 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 og 12, samt foreslået en ny paragraf vedrørende stemmeret ved generalforsamlingen. I ændringsforslaget indgår denne nye paragraf som § 7, hvorfor ændringsforslagene til §§ 7-9 og 12 nedenfor indgår som §§ 8-10 og 13. Efter drøftelser vedtoges følgende ændringer:

§ 3. Selskabet er en selvejende institution, hvis formål er at fremme dansk religionshistorisk forskning i internationale sammenhænge, stimulere til deltagelse i internationalt samarbejde samt varetage fagets interesser på nationalt plan.

§ 4. Selskabets aktiviteter omfatter mødevirksomhed og andre former for formidling af forskningsresultater. Dette sker

- 1) ved så vidt muligt at holde mindst ét årligt symposium eller anden mødevirksomhed;
- 2) ved at tilstræbe udgivelse af bidrag fra symposier samt anden forskning;
- 3) ved at træffe de foranstaltninger, der er nødvendige for at sikre og fremme akademisk religionshistorisk forskning.
- 4) ved at formidle information fra IAHR

§ 5. Bestyrelsen godkender ordinært medlemsskab for kandidater fra og ansatte ved landets religionsvidenskabelige/-historiske institutter og centre samt andre kandidater med en akademisk interesse i religionshistorisk forskning. Som associerede medlemmer uden stemme- og valgret godkendes studerende ved samme institutter og centre samt andre studerende med en akademisk interesse i religionshistorisk forskning.

§ 6 Der holdes ordinær generalforsamling hvert andet år inden udgangen af november måned. Generalforsamlingen indkaldes skriftligt af bestyrelsen med mindst 3 ugers varsel. Indkaldelsen skal indeholde en dagsorden samt forslag til navne på kandidater og suppleanter til bestyrelsen. Medlemmers forslag til generalforsamlingen skal være bestyrelsen i hænde inden udgangen af september måned.

Dagsordenen skal indeholde følgende punkter:

1. Valg af dirigent
2. Valg af referent
3. Godkendelse af dagsorden
4. Formandens beretning
5. Fremlæggelse af regnskab
6. Fastsættelse af kontingent
7. Valg af medlemmer til bestyrelsen
8. Valg af suppleanter til bestyrelsen
9. Valg af revisor og revisorsuppleant
10. Eventuelt

§ 7 Stemmeret ved generalforsamlingen har ethvert ordinært medlem, der har betalt kontingent inden udgangen af september måned. Ved personvalg, hvor der er foreslået flere end det antal, der skal vælges, foretages skriftlig afstemning. Valget afgøres ved simpelt flertal.

§ 8, tidligere § 7, bibeholdtes uændret.

§ 9 Selskabet ledes af en bestyrelse på 6 medlemmer, hvoraf et flertal skal have en kandidateksamen fra et af landets religionsvidenskabelige/-religionshistoriske institutter og centre. Disse, samt 2 suppleanter, vælges af generalforsamlingen for en periode af to år. Genvalg er muligt. Herudover udpeger generalforsamlingen én revisor og en revisorsuppleant, som ikke er medlemmer af bestyrelsen.

§ 10 Selskabets bestyrelse udpeger blandt sine medlemmer for to år ad gangen formand, næstformand, sekretær og kasserer. Genvalg kan finde sted. Bestyrelsen mødes mindst 2 gange årligt. I tilfælde af stemmelighed i bestyrelsen tæller formandens stemme dobbelt.

§ 13 Vedtægtsændringer kan kun finde sted på en ordinær eller ekstraordinær generalforsamling, og til vedtægtsændringer kræves en majoritet på mindst 2/3 af de afgivne stemmer.

Ad 7. **Valg af medlemmer til bestyrelsen.** Mikael Aktor, Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger, Tim Jensen, Ingrid Müller, Mikael Rothstein og Oluf Schönbeck genvalgte alle.

Ad 8. **Valg af 2 suppleanter til bestyrelsen.** Lars Albinus og Margit Warburg genvalgte.

Ad 9. Anne-Grethe J. Dion genvalgte som **revisor** og Jesper Sørensen valgte som revisorsuppleant.

Ad 10. **Eventuelt.** Intet.

Formandsberetning 1997-1999

På et konstituerende bestyrelsesmøde umiddelbart efter selskabets generalforsamling på Molslaboratoriet den 11.10.97 konstituerede den valgte bestyrelse sig som følger: Formand Tim Jensen, næstformand Marianne Q. Fibiger, sekretær Mikael Aktor, kasserer Ingrid Müller, Mikael Rothstein og Oluf Schönbeck. Bestyrelsen har i perioden afholdt 5 ordinære bestyrelsesmøder.

På det første møde i Odense den 20. 11.97 foretog bestyrelsen en vurdering, prioritering og fordeling af de kommende års arbejdsopgaver. På baggrund af generalforsamlingens ønsker blev det besluttet at prioritere selskabets arbejde på det nationale plan. Med en fortsat tæt kontakt til IAHR's General Secretary, professor Armin Geertz, og med fortsat aktiv deltagelse i Norrel og IAHR- møder, ville vi naturligvis også søge at videreføre det store og værdifulde arbejde, der er gjort for at integrere dansk religionshistorisk forskning i det internationale miljø (og omvendt), således at vi også fortsat lever op til den del af selskabets formålsparagraf.

Det nationale arbejde

Med henblik på det nationale ønskede vi primært at sikre yderligere og bedre "servicering" af medlemmerne. Dette skulle ske gennem:

1. udgivelsen af et nyt, mere læser- og læsevenligt Nyhedsbrev, der som fast punkt skulle have et "Nyt fra bestyrelsen",
2. oprettelse af en hjemmeside (også ønsket af IAHR)
3. afholdelse af det årlige årsmøde i overensstemmelse med vedtægterne
4. løbende rekruttering af potentielle medlemmer
5. fortsat medvirken og støtte til diverse seminarer, konferencer (inkl. studenterarrangementer) og publikationer

Hvad har vi så fået realiseret af ovennævnte, og hvilke spørgsmål og problemer har vist sig hen ad vejen?

1. Vi har fået et nyt Nyhedsbrev, som er både mere overskueligt og mere indbydende, og forhåbentlig fungerer rubrikken "Nyt fra bestyrelsen" efter hensigten, nemlig løbende at holde medlemmerne orienteret om bestyrelsesarbejdet. I den forbindelse kan det naturligvis diskuteres, hvorvidt referater af bestyrelsesmøder - også eller i stedet - burde offentliggøres, i det trykte såvel som elektroniske Nyhedsbrev, og hvorvidt vi i fx Nyt fra bestyrelsen i højere grad skulle søge at give nogle bud på de udviklinger inden for faget, som vi mener er særlig interessante.

I forbindelse med udgivelse af Nyhedsbrevet skal det siges, at vi fortsat er meget afhængige af den velvilje, som de forskellige institutter og centre lægger for dagen, når det gælder gratis brug af faciliteter. I indeværende periode har det været Institut for Religionshistorie v. KUA, der har vist den gode vilje, og den takker vi for. I det omfang institutter og centre kan hjælpe yderligere, fx til dækning af udgifter til trykning og udsendelse, vil det blive modtaget med endnu større glæde og taknemmelighed.

2. Vi har fået fået oprettet en hjemmeside, p.t. på adressen www.hum.dk/dahr/index.htm på Odense Universitets server. Siderne blev konstrueret og redigeret af formanden, der har fået bevilget penge fra dekanatet til en studentermedhjælp (der dog primært skal tage sig af andre hjemmesider redigeret af TJ), der står for det praktiske arbejde. Lay-out kan diskuteres og opdatering kan også ske hurtigere, men vi regner med i løbet af kort tid at få siderne til at fungere endnu bedre, - og både adressen og lay-out vil blive ændret til noget kortere og kønnere. Forhåbentlig er der også fortsat good-will at trække på til en studentermedhjælp.

Et suk: Selv om vi i mere end to år har kontaktet IAHR (som har bedt medlemsorganisationerne oprette hjemmesider) og senest webmasteren på IAHRs hjemmeside, er det ikke lykkedes at få siden registreret, og det samme gælder også registrering af nye bestyrelse.

3. Vi forsøgte at gennemføre det foreskrevne årsmøde i fjor. Faktisk havde vi lagt en del gode kræfter og timer i forarbejdet. Men mødet måtte som bekendt aflyses pga for ringe tilslutning. Emnet var stort set det samme som dette års, og grunden til den ringe tilmelding må søges andre steder. En oplagt forklaring er den relativt sene endelige annoncering af dato, men det er ikke hele forklaringen. Måske var det en medvirkende årsag, at temaet var formuleret inden for en konfliktfuld diskurs, og at nogle derfor kunne frygte mere konflikt end kollegial meningsudveksling. Måske havde vore medlemmer ganske enkelt meget andet at lave på det pågældende tidspunkt. Sidst, men ikke mindst: Måske er der så mange faglige aktiviteter, seminarer, symposier, konferencer, gæsteforelæsnings m.v. på landets religionshistoriske og - videnskabelige institutter og centre, at møtningens punkt er ved at være nået?

Aflysningen og den del af forklaringen, der faktisk vedrører smøleri i bestyrelsen, fik til følge, at bestyrelsen strammede op på forretningsgangen og foretog en mere entydig fordeling af arbejdsopgaver og ansvarsområder. Men måske burde aflysningen og de andre mulige forklaringer også resultere i, at medlemmerne på dette års generalforsamling tilkendegiver, om de mener, at kalenderen, økonomien, helbredet og den faglige entusiasme kan bære et årligt DAHR- arrangement over een eller halvanden dag. Forslag til emner for kommende årsmøde modtages også gerne, især til emner, som medlemmerne mener, at DAHR er særlig velegnet til at tage op.

4. Rekrutteringen af nye medlemmer er ikke forløbet helt, som vi havde planlagt. Bestyrelsen må erkende, at den i denne sag nok har arbejdet en smule trægt.

Det skyldes almindelig travlhed med andet arbejde, men også vanskeligheder forbundet med at definere målgruppen. Sidstnævnte hænger sammen med drøftelser af de paragraffer i vedtægterne, der angår kriterier for medlemskab: Hvor langt ud i det akademiske landskab skal vi gå for at finde medlemmer, der har en akademisk interesse for religion, og hvor snævert eller bredt skal en sådan interesse defineres? Og, hvad vil vi med sådanne eventuelle, men måske også mere perifære, medlemmer, og hvilke grunde skulle de have til at melde sig ind i en endnu en forening? Og, hvad med de studerende? Hvor langt ned i graderne skal vi gå, og hvor langt kan vi tillade os at gå i et forsøg på at hverve medlemmer, som ganske vist slipper med et billigere kontingent end de øvrige, men som til gengæld ikke har fulde rettigheder, bl.a. stemmeret på generalforsamlingen?

Under alle omstændigheder: Vi har siden oktober i fjor fået 10 nye medlemmer, fastansatte, løstansatte og studerende, og hver som een bydes de hjertelig velkommen. Måske vil den invitation til medlemskab, som blev udsendt i oktober dette år føre til, at vi kan byde endnu flere nye medlemmer velkommen.

5. Som den tidligere formand, Jeppe Sinding Jensen, så rigtigt udtrykte det i sin sidste formandsberetning, er det ikke altid helt let at afgøre, hvornår DAHR har været aktivt involveret i et fagligt arrangement. Hvis det eneste kriterium for slig aktivitet er selskabets økonomiske støtte og eneste dokumentation derfor solide minusbeløb i selskabets regnskab, ja så må vi erkende, at vi de seneste to år har været ganske passive. Ja, måske begrænser DAHRs aktiviteter sig så i virkeligheden til formandens arrangement af en foredragsturne til landets religionsvidenskabelige institutter og centre (samt til et efteruddannelseskursus for gymnasielærere) for Burton Mack. Et initiativ, der så tilfældigvis lod sig kombinere med den forsknings- og ph.d. konference om "Historical Theories, Methods and Knowledge in the Study of Ancient Religions", som Institut for Religionsvidenskab v. Per Bilde og Jeppe Sinding Jensen arrangerede i et samarbejde med Center for Antikstudier i Århus.

Helt så let lader sådanne aktiviteter sig dog ikke afgrænse: Flere af bestyrelsens medlemmer og flere af DAHRs medlemmer har været aktive i forbindelse med afholdelse af diverse arrangementer i andet regi, og også forsøg på at arrangere konferencer tæller selv om forsøgene strander. Vi har således brugt megen tid på at diskutere (med diverse ph.d. ansvarlige, i ind- og udland), hvordan og hvorvidt DAHR skulle gå endnu mere aktivt ind i de arrangementer for ph.d- studerende, som var planlagt i Norrel-regi, og det er i øvrigt vanskeligt at se, hvordan vi i den forløbne periode skulle have gjort andet og mere.

Sagen er jo, at det vrimler med arrangementer og aktiviteter, også den slags udgivelsesaktiviteter, som DAHR også gerne skulle medvirke til, og at de tilsyneladende kan løbe af stablen helt uden hjælp fra DAHR: Vi har 3 foredragsforeninger, een ved hvert universitet. Vi har to landsdækkende tidsskrifter, CHAOS og Religionsvidenskabeligt Tidsskrift, hvoraf det ene, nemlig CHAOS hvert år er medarrangør af et symposium, de seneste 2 i hhv. København (Religion og Seksualitet) og i Odense (Millenarisme). Vi har to meget aktive studenterorganisationer samlet om to publikationer, der snart kan kaldes tidsskrifter, hhv. Tabu (København) og Totem (Århus). De religionsvidenskabelige institutter og centre har desuden i de forløbne to år arrangeret flere forskellige seminarier, konferencer, gæsteforelæsninger m.v.: Fx har København haft Bruce Lincoln på længerevarende besøg som gæsteforsker, mens man i Århus har haft besøg af Hans Kippenberg. Der har været flere forskellige religionssociologiske arrangementer, og i Århus har man afholdt konference og seminar om magi og kognition samt om værdier i religionsforskning og - undervisning. Og, så har de ph.d. studerende i København - helt uden hjælp udefra - af-

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holdt konference om "Religion, orientalisme og globalisering", og inden vi ser os om holder RENNER-afløseren, det nye netværk om globalisering og nye religioner konference (medio november) her på Diakonissestiftelsen, ligesom der i begyndelsen af december finder endnu en konference om nye (eller: omdiskuterede) religioner sted i Århus. Udover de nævnte tidsskrifter og enkelte forskeres publikationer er publikationen "Rationality and the Study of Religion" udkommet som en følge af konferencen om samme, Århus Universitet (i et redaktionelt samarbejde med København) har søsat en nye serie af publikationer af yngre forskeres arbejder. I København har man haft overskud til at udgive en nydelig lille publikation med de seneste års åbningstaler til instituttets nye studerende, og så har Sand og Podeman netop fået udgivet Comparative Studies in the History of Religions (Mus. Tusc.), der jo indeholder en række af indlæggene fra DAHRs 10 års jubilæumskonference i 1992. RENNER-netværket har kastet flere publikationer af sig, og senest har koordineringen af RENNER og Hellenisme-initiativet barslet med en publikation med konference-bidrag. Listen over aktiviteter, der finder sted i Danmark og involverer DAHR-medlemmer på flere niveauer, er meget længere, og hvis den udvides til at gælde aktiviteter i udlandet bliver den endnu længere. Hvad er der tilbage til DAHR?

På det første bestyrelsesmøde drøftede vi også andre initiativer og muligheder. Bl.a.:

- a) muligheden for at DAHR kunne og burde spille en mere synlig rolle i forhold til offentligheden,
- b) det ønskværdige i at få etableret oversigt over medlemmers andre relevante forskeres forskningsprojekter, udgivelser m.v.,
- c) oprettelse af et (elektronisk) medlemskartotek, der rummede ovennævnte oversigt og bidrog til at dansk religionshistorisk forskning og ekspertise blev mere synlig og tilgængelig, for kolleger, der ønskede viden og samarbejde, og for den brede offentlighed.
- d) Endelig ville vi udarbejde et forslag til reviderede vedtægter, som kunne forelægges den kommende (dette års) generalforsamling.

Tager vi sidstnævnte først, ja så nåede vi i mål med denne plan, og nærværende generalforsamling skal tage stilling til et forslag til vedtægtsændringer.

Efter nogen drøftelse, også i forbindelse med Lindtner-sagen, besluttede vi, at DAHRs bestyrelse ikke har mandat til fx at udtale sig "på vegne af dansk religionsforskning", og at bestyrelsen som sådan ikke kan gå ind i offentlige eller fagpolitiske debatter, ej heller om fx religionsundervisning i folkeskolen, på gymnasier, på seminarier eller universiteter. Det er vel sagtens med "dansk religionsvidenskabelig forskning" som med folkekirken: Den har ingen stemme, undtagen hiin enkeltes og de enkelte institutters og centres.

Vores måde at håndtere Lindtner-sagen på illustrerer måske, hvordan vi mener vi kan gå ind i en offentlig debat og måske tilmed søge at sætte dagsordenen for den, men måske illustrerer den allerbedst grænserne for vores aktive deltagelse.

Men tilbage står fortsat et ønske om at kunne fungere som platform for kontakt forskere og forskere imellem, men også for forskere og offentlighed imellem. Vores forsøg på at få etableret ovennævnte oversigt og medlemskartotek er imidlertid strandet på at kun forsvindende få har udfyldt den oplysningsseddel, der var indlagt i Nyhedsbrev nr. 23, s. 26.

Vi vil derfor meget gerne have generalforsamlingens kommentarer til denne ide. Er det en god ide at DAHR fungerer som platform for en samlet oversigt over den religionsvidenskabeligt relevante forskning, over forskere, og implicerer det at medvirke til "fremme af dansk religionshistorisk forskning" på nationalt plan ikke at selskabet er i stand til tage initiativer, der synliggør og styrker religionshistoriske tilgange til relevante emner og diskussioner i den offentlige debat? Hvis folkekirkelige kredse kan tage initiativ til at forsyne pressen med en liste over eksperter, der kan udtale sig, hvorfor kan DAHR så ikke? Eller: Er det en dårlig ide at DAHR søger at fremme dansk religionsforskning ved at hjælpe til at supplere hæskaren af teologer i medierne med en lille flok af religionsforskere?

Internationalt (IAHR)

DAHR deltog i den regionale IAHR konference i Hildesheim den 22.-25. maj 1998 med henblik på at kunne være til stede ved mødet i IAHR's International Committee samt i det vi troede var den egentlige stiftende generalforsamling (inkl. vedtagelse af vedtægter) for en European Association for the History of Religions. På mødet i den internationale kommitte stod Durban - 2000 naturligvis højt på dagsordenen, men også diskussion af, hvad man stillede op med et nationalt selskab (som det australske), der ikke betalte kontingent over en årrække, tog tid. Da alle har kunnet læse om øvrige sager i IAHR-regi i udsendte Bulletin og Supplements, skal jeg ikke bruge mere tid på dette, men alene koncentrere mig om det, der på og efter mødet i Hildesheim har udviklet sig til en "sag", nemlig stiftelsen af et særligt europæisk selskab.

Som tidligere meddelt gik den planlagte endelige etablering af European Association for the History of Religions i vasken. En arbejdsgruppe med Hans Kippenberg i spidsen havde i flere år skullet forberede vedtægter for foreningen. På mødet i Hildesheim viste det sig, at nogle mente, at foreningen var stiftet, og at vedtægterne blot skulle konfirmeres. Vi havde drøftet situationen med de andre nordiske lande og var enige om, at vi ikke havde noget mandat til at ratificere vedtægter. Sammen med vore nordiske og engelske kolleger mente vi i øvrigt, at hverken mødet eller indholdet i vedtægter var tilfredsstillende. Vi vurderede, at en forening som den, der blev foreslået, kunne føre til en underminering af IAHR og de nationale selskaber samt af IAHRs bestræbelser på i højere grad at inddrage 3. verdens lande i det internationale samarbejde. På mødet var et klart flertal lige så skeptiske. Mødet endte i (omtrent) kaos, idet hele det siddende udvalg trak sig. En ny tolvmandskommitte (m. bl.a. Tore Ahlbäck og Tim Jensen) fik til opgave at udforme forslag til vedtægter for en europæisk organisation. Tolvmandsgruppen trådte straks sammen og nedsatte en fire-bande, der skulle udarbejde endnu et forslag.

Bestyrelsen modtog (langt om længe) et forslag, primært udarbejdet af Peggy Morgan (BASR) og Tore Ahlbäck (Finland), men var fortsat tvivlrådigt: Vi mente (og mener) der er behov for en europæisk organisation, der har karakter af et netværk, der kan koordinere europæiske tiltag og konferencer, fungere som platform og talerør for europæisk religionsforskning vis a vis de europæiske politiske, kulturelle og uddannelsespolitiske organer, måske rejse penge sammesteds, samt få stemme og indflydelse i spørgsmål vedrørende religioner, religionsforskning og -formidling i Europa. Men alligevel: Var det virkelig en god idé med endnu en regional organisation? Skulle den have individuelt medlemsskab, og hvad tænkte man i IAHRs bestyrelse?

Efter udsendelsen af det nye forslag skulle medlemmerne af nævnte 12-mands udvalg høre deres respektive foreninger om forslaget og efterfølgende træde

sammen for at træffe en beslutning. Der eksisterede en halv aftale med en prof. Ch. M. Ternes fra Luxembourg om at et møde eventuelt kunne holdes i oktober i Luxembourg. Der herskede imidlertid fra begyndelsen en ikke ringe mistro til samme Ternes, der dukkede op ud af den blå luft og allerede i Hildesheim forsøgte at placere sig selv meget centralt, selv om hverken han eller den Luxembourgiske forening havde (har) nogen officiel tilknytning til IAHR. Da samme Ternes i den mellemtiliggende periode via emails flere gange udtrykte sig særdeles negativt om det nedsatte udvalg og deres forslag og tilmed kastede endnu et forslag ind i spillet, valgte flere af de tolv, DAHR inkl., at melde fra til mødet i Luxembourg.

I mødet deltog, viste det sig, 6 af 12-mandsgruppens medlemmer, og efterfølgende udsendte Ternes en meddelelse om, at de havde stiftet en europæisk forening (EuroAss, what a name!) med ham som formand, med individuelt medlemskab og med et sæt vedtægter, der ikke havde noget med det ellers udsendte forslag at gøre.

Reaktionen på dette kup udeblev ikke: DAHR v. formanden, det hollandske selskab og også det finske har reageret skarpt, mens BASR desværre kun har sagt at de ville reagere skarpt og de øvrige nordiske, primært det svenske v. Jan Bergman har udtrykt stærk modvilje. Ternes svarede efterfølgende på alle protester med udsøgt arrogance og foragtfuldhed og har bl.a. klart udtrykt, at de nationale foreninger efter hans mening har udspillet deres rolle. At de demokratiske procedurer tilsyneladende også har udspillet deres rolle, er han tilsyneladende bedøvende ligeglad med.

Det var nu meningen, at vi skulle have mødtes med med vore nordiske, hollandske og engelske kolleger for at finde frem til et alternativt forslag til et europæisk netværk, men for et par måneder siden indtraf en ny udvikling i sagen: I forbindelse med en IAHR-konference i Brno i forsommeren har bl.a. den hollandske forenings repræsentant samt medlemmer af IAHRs bestyrelse holdt møde med nogle af de østeuropæiske landes medlemmer i EurASS, og meldingerne går på, at vi opfordres til at acceptere, at foreningen bibeholdes og at IAHR adopterer den, omend på visse betingelser. Årsagen hertil er, at øst- og sydeuropæiske kolleger, ikke mindst dem, der er gået med i foreningen og dens bestyrelse, har givet udtryk for, at de har brug for den, men også at de er villige til at arbejde for at dens udemokratiske og uheldige fødsel afløses af demokratiske tiltag og af den nuværende formands hurtigst mulige afgang. Endvidere stræber IAHR imod at arrangere et møde i forsommeren år 2000, hvor tingene skal bringes i orden. Det lyder lovende, og DAHR deltager naturligvis gerne konstruktivt i et sådant møde. Vi har naturligvis heller ikke meget andet at gøre i den nuværende situation.

Sidst, men ikke mindst, til det positive: Vi er meget glade for at kunne konstatere, at listen over danske religionsforskere, der deltager med og uden paper i IAHRs næste store kongres, The 18th Quinquennial Congress i Durban 5.-12.-august år 2000, er lang. Danske kolleger deltager i, leder og arrangerer symposier, paneler, round-tables:

Om upanishaderne (Mikael Akter); om nye religioner og globalisering (Mikael Rothstein og Margit Warburg); om natur og religion (Tim Jensen), om diasporahinduisme (Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger), om "Contemporary Issues and Directions" (Jeppe Sinding Jensen og (samme) om "Historical Comparativisms"; om synkretisme (Anita Leopold). Så vidt vides deltager også Jørn Borup, Jens Peter Scjødt og Dorthe Refslund, og så er Armin W. Geertz, ikke at forglemme, formand for det internationale kongresudvalg.

Det er lige før vi kan chartre et fly, især da hvis der er flere københavnere end

nævnte, der deltager.

Det nordiske samarbejde (Norrel)

Norrels bestyrelse, der består af een person fra hver af de nationale selskaber (som regel formanden), trådte sammen umiddelbart efter vores generalforsamling på Mols i 1997. Her overtog Tore Ahlbäck formandskabet, der går på skift hvert andet år.

Som bekendt har DAHR via Norrel og Nordisk Netværk for Forskeruddannelse været aktivt involveret i planlægning og afholdelse af de to konferencer om hhv. Rationalitet og Metodologi i Århus og Åbo. På et møde i Norrel var det blevet besluttet, at det tredje, og i denne runde sidste, forskeruddannelsesseminar (ifølge planen om Ritualteorier) skulle afvikles i Norge i 1998, efter at Sverige var løbet ind i problemer med at få det arrangeret i Lund.

Desværre viste det sig, at nordmændene måtte meddele, at de ikke kunne finde tid og midler til et arrangement i 1998. DAHR meddelte de øvrige medlemmer af Norrel, at vi følte os forpligtet til at gøre, hvad vi kunne for at det planlagte 3-trins program gennemførtes og afsluttedes i 1998, men det var umuligt. Efter diverse mislykkede forsøg, så det ud til, at Tore Ahlbäck forsøgte at arrangere noget for interesserede ph.d'ere i forbindelse med den finske forenings årsmøde (med temaet religionsfænomenologi) 3.-5. december 1998 i Finland. Hverken vi eller andre synes at have fået andet end et foreløbigt program, og vi ved ikke, hvad der skete i Finland. DAHR måtte således opgive at foretage sig videre.

Med forsker- og ph.d-seminaret i Århus her i september tog danskere endnu engang et initiativ, men i skrivende stund forekommer det nordiske samarbejde på dette punkt at ligge underdrejet. Desværre er det ikke kun vedr. ph.d.-kurserne, at samarbejdet går trægt. DAHR har gang på gang forsøgt at få et møde istand, og i skrivende stund er der taget kontakt til Britt-Mari Näsström, der har afløst afdøde Jan Bergman som formand i Sverige, til Knut A. Jakobson, der har afløst Einar Thomassen i Norge (der skal være redaktør for Numen efter Kippenberg) samt naturligvis til Tore Ahlbäck. Forhåbentlig lykkes det inden årets udgang at holde et møde, måske i Göteborg. Vi har gjort meget for at holde gryden i kog, og vi giver ikke op endnu. Det nordiske samarbejde bør være en vigtig del af vores internationale aktiviteter.

Til sidst: Som det fremgår af ovenstående døde Jan Bergman (f. 1933) i august måned. Bestyrelsen modtog beskeden om Bergmans død med sorg. Jan var indtil det sidste aktiv også på det fagpolitiske område, og med hans bortgang har nordisk og international religionsforskning mistet een af de sidste "gammeldags" akademiske personligheder (se i øvrigt nekrologen i DAHR Nyhedsbrev nr. 24).

Medlemstal og økonomi

Medlemstallet, pr. 20.10.1999 på 75, er stort set uforandret, når afgang og tilgang vejes mod hinanden. Siden 1.10.1998 er der som tidligere nævnt optaget 10 nye medlemmer i DAHR (heraf 4 studerende).

DAHR's beholdning på girokontoen er, som det vil fremgå af regnskabet, på små 20.000 kr forud for indeværende årsmøde og generalforsamling.

Vi satser på at have en beholdning på ca. 10.000 kr. til investering i særlige aktiviteter, herunder årsmøder, og 10.000 til de løbende udgifter.

Det er klart, at vi med denne økonomi ikke kan slå de helt store slag, og at vi fortsat er særdeles afhængige af diverse institutters og centres good-will.

Andet

Også en anden af de gamle kæmper, nemlig prof. Arild Hvidtfeldt, er som det fremgik af J.H. Vanggaards nekrolog i seneste Nyhedsbrev faldet bort i indeværende år, og Hvidtfeldts betydning for dansk religionsvidenskab kan næppe overvurderes.

Ellers har de forløbne to år været mere præget af sprudlende liv end død inden for dansk religionsvidenskabelig forskning. Et udpluk af de mange mere institutionaliserede initiativer og forskningsresultater er givet ovenfor, og i forlængelse af diskussionen om synlighedsproblemet af en religionsvidenskabelig tilgang til offentligt og politisk debatterede emner bør det ikke glemmes, at vi har fået to fremtrædende medlemmer centralt placeret eet af de steder, hvor anvendt religionsforskning i disse år virkelig kan komme til sin ret, nemlig i det rådgivende nævn vedr. ansøgninger om godkendelse af trossamfund. Det var med glæde og stolthed, at bestyrelsen tidligere kunne ønske Armin Geertz og Ole Riis, samt Jørgen Stenbæk, tillykke med udnævnelsen (for Geertz' vedkommende til formand) i det af Undervisnings- og Kirkeministeren nyoprettede nævn til vurdering af ansøgninger om vielsebemyndigelse og administrativ anerkendelse som religion/trossamfund. Vi betragter oprettelsen af nævnet samt den centrale placering religionsforskere har fået i det, som et vigtigt skridt i bestræbelserne på at placere religionsvidenskabelig forskning mere centralt i det offentlige rum. Bestræbelser, som er blevet udfoldet igennem en lang årrække og gennem et langt og sejt træk af forskere med tilknytning til alle de religionsvidenskabelige institutter i DK.

RENNER-initiativet kan naturligvis ses som en fornem kulmination på det organiserede forsknings- og formidlingsarbejde, men også enkelte forskeres artikler i tidsskrifter og deltagelse i den offentlige debat har været med til at bane vej for, at religionsvidenskabelig empirisk forskning og sekulære religionsteorier på denne måde bliver yderligere udbredt og kendt.

Endnu en udvikling fortjener særlig omtale: Center for Religionsstudier v. Syddansk Universitet, Odense Universitet (det hedder det!) tog ved dette semesters begyndelse det første skridt på vejen mod en voksentilværelse på lige fod med de religionshistoriske og -videnskabelige institutter i København og Århus, idet det optog 35 studerende på en BAG-uddannelse. Det forventes, at centret allerede til næste år vil optage to hold á 35, men det afhænger af fakultetets vilje til at bevilge flere stillinger. Ved semesterstart ansattes en adjunkt og en lektor, så centret nu råder over 4 1/2 faste stillinger.

Afsluttende

På det seneste bestyrelsesmøde drøftede bestyrelsen atter DAHRs formål, aktiviteter, fremtid og berettigelse. Som enhver anden bestyrelse af denne slags bliver vi til tider tvivlrådige og tilmed lidt mismodige: Er der overhovedet nogen, der fortsat har brug for DAHR? Ville nogen overhovedet opdage, hvis butikken lukkede? Sådanne overvejelser følger naturligt et aflyst arrangement som forrige års årsmøde, hvor den ringe tilmelding som sagt ikke kun kan forklares med bestyrelsens nøl med den endelige annoncering af mødet. Også en ringe respons på vores opfordring til kolleger om at indgå i et register over religionsforskere og en oversigt over religionsforskning i DK kan påvirke sådanne overvejelser.

Omvendt er det indlysende, at manglende opslutning til sligt ikke nødvendigvis skyldes manglende interesse for DAHR og slet ikke manglende virkelyst. Vore kolleger og medlemmer er ganske enkelt konstant så optaget af både den daglige undervisning, administration og forskning (for at tage områderne i den rigtige rækkefølge) samt et væld af andre arrangementer i ind- og udland, at DAHR må og skal

glide i baggrunden. Den ene konference efter den anden, nye publikationer, publikationsserier og tidsskrifter ser dagens lys, og antallet studerende er ikke ligefrem voldsomt faldende.

Hvis DAHR har problemer, skyldes det måske, at dansk religionshistorisk forskning blomstrer som aldrig før og på flere forskellige måder, og at nogle af de aktiviteter DAHR i sin tid var udset til at stå for og igangsætte arrangeres bedre af mange andre og sker helt "af sig selv".

Er tiden løbet fra det selskab, der blev stiftet for snart 20 år siden, på alle eller kun på enkelte områder, eller gælder det "blot" om at finde andre og nye arbejdsområder, andre og mere tidssvarende fortolkninger af, hvad det vil sige, at "varetaget fagets interesse på nationalt plan" og "fremme dansk religionshistorisk forskning i international sammenhæng og samarbejde"?

Medlemmerne og generalforsamlingen opfordres hermed til at komme med bidrag til en analyse af situationen, komme med bud på spørgsmål som ovennævnte og dem, der er rejst tidligere i denne beretning samt formulere andre og måske rigtigere og mere frugtbare spørgsmål.

pbv.

Tim Jensen, formand,

København den 5.11.1999

DAHR's vedtægter

På DAHR's generalforsamling 1999 ændredes flere af foreningens vedtægter (se referatet andetsteds i dette nyhedsbrev). Dette er ordlyden af de samlede vedtægter. Den engelske version af vedtægterne er endnu ikke udarbejdet.

§ 1 Selskabets navn er Dansk Selskab for Religionshistorie.

§ 2 Selskabet er medlem af International Association for the History of Religions.

§ 3 Selskabet er en selvejende institution, hvis formål er at fremme dansk religionshistorisk forskning i internationale sammenhænge, stimulere til deltagelse i internationalt samarbejde samt varetage fagets interesser på nationalt plan.

§ 4 Selskabets aktiviteter omfatter mødevirksomhed og andre former for formidling af forskningsresultater. Dette sker

- 1) ved så vidt muligt at holde mindst ét årligt symposium eller anden mødevirksomhed;
- 2) ved at tilstræbe udgivelse af bidrag fra symposier samt anden forskning;
- 3) ved at træffe de foranstaltninger, der er nødvendige for at sikre og fremme akademisk religionshistorisk forskning.
- 4) ved at formidle information fra IAHR

§ 5. Bestyrelsen godkender ordinært medlemsskab for kandidater fra og ansatte ved landets religionsvidenskabelige/-historiske institutter og centre samt andre

kandidater med en akademisk interesse i religionshistorisk forskning. Som associerede medlemmer uden stemme- og valgret godkendes studerende ved samme institutter og centre samt andre studerende med en akademisk interesse i religionshistorisk forskning.

§ 6 Der holdes ordinær generalforsamling hvert andet år inden udgangen af november måned. Generalforsamlingen indkaldes skriftligt af bestyrelsen med mindst 3 ugers varsel. Indkaldelsen skal indeholde en dagsorden samt forslag til navne på kandidater og suppleanter til bestyrelsen. Medlemmers forslag til generalforsamlingen skal være bestyrelsen i hænde inden udgangen af september måned.

Dagsordenen skal indeholde følgende punkter:

1. Valg af dirigent
2. Valg af referent
3. Godkendelse af dagsorden
4. Formandens beretning
5. Fremlæggelse af regnskab
6. Fastsættelse af kontingent
7. Valg af medlemmer til bestyrelsen
8. Valg af suppleanter til bestyrelsen
9. Valg af revisor og revisorsuppleant
10. Eventuelt

§ 7 Stemmeret ved generalforsamlingen har ethvert ordinært medlem, der har betalt kontingent inden udgangen af september måned. Ved personvalg, hvor der er foreslået flere end det antal, der skal vælges, foretages skriftlig afstemning. Valget afgøres ved simpelt flertal.

§ 8 Ekstraordinær generalforsamling kan indkaldes af bestyrelsen. Derudover kan en ekstraordinær generalforsamling kræves indkaldt efter skriftlig begæring fra mindst halvdelen af selskabets medlemmer, når den ønskede dagsorden samtidig anføres.

§ 9 Selskabet ledes af en bestyrelse på 6 medlemmer, hvoraf et flertal skal have en kandidateksamen fra et af landets religionsvidenskabelige/-religionshistoriske institutter og centre. Disse, samt 2 suppleanter, vælges af generalforsamlingen for en periode af to år. Genvalg er muligt. Herudover udpeger generalforsamlingen én revisor og en revisorsuppleant, som ikke er medlemmer af bestyrelsen.

§ 10 Selskabets bestyrelse udpeger blandt sine medlemmer for to år ad gangen formand, næstformand, sekretær og kasserer. Genvalg kan finde sted. Bestyrelsen mødes mindst 2 gange årligt. I tilfælde af stemmelighed i bestyrelsen tæller formandens stemme dobbelt.

§ 11 Retningslinier for de enkelte aktiviteter skal godkendes af bestyrelsen, der er ansvarlig for, at aktiviteterne er i overensstemmelse med selskabets formål.

§ 12 Bestyrelsen er ansvarlig for selskabets regnskab. Kassereren fremlægger én gang årligt revideret regnskab til bestyrelsens godkendelse. Regnskabsåret følger kalenderåret, og senest med udgangen af januar afholdes bestyrelsesmøde

med henblik på godkendelse af regnskabet. Bestyrelsen fastsætter indmeldelsesgebyr og medlemskontingent.

§ 13 Vedtægtsændringer kan kun finde sted på en ordinær eller ekstraordinær generalforsamling, og til vedtægtsændringer kræves en majoritet på mindst 2/3 af de afgivne stemmer.

§ 14 Ved selskabets opløsning træffer bestyrelsen beslutning om anvendelse af eventuelle midler til almene formål inden for formålsparagraffens rammer.

DAHR's aktuelle økonomi

DAHR's kassebeholdning er på 3.720. Det er temmelig lavt på et tidspunkt, hvor ca. 50 medlemmer har indbetalt årets medlemskontingent (og hvor 2/3 har fulgt opfordringen til at betale 50 kr. ekstra).

Den lave kassebeholdning skyldes primært flg. udlæg:

Formandens rejse til Krakow beløb sig til 6.565, for fly og hotel (formanden sørgede iverigt for sig selv).

Donationen til IAHR's konference i Sydafrika er blevet mere mærkbar end nok oprindelig tænkt, idet dollarkursen er steget. De 1000 \$ har kostet os 7.866,- kr.

Årsmødet i nov. 1999 kostede os en hel del også, men en nærmere gennemgang af dette regnskab vil jeg vente med til et bestyrelsesmøde.

Nyansatte fastlærere

Aarhus Universitet

Cand.mag. og ph.d. Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger blev ansat som adjunkt i forårssemesteret 2000.

Syddansk Universitet, Odense

Cand.mag. Jesper Sørensen blev ansat som adjunkt i efterårssemesteret 2000.

Arrangementer

EDWARD LEHMANN OG GRUNDLÆGGELSEN AF FAGET RELIGIONSHISTORIE
*I anledning af 100 årsjubilæet for Edward Lehmanns tiltrædelse som do-
cent ved Københavns Universitet og dermed for faget religionshistorie i
Danmark.*

**Københavns Universitet, Alexandersalen, Bispetervet, fredag d. 6. oktober
2000.**

Program:

9.00 Velkomst ved institutleder Margit Warburg

9.10 Armin W. Geertz: "Et tilbageblik på religionshistorien i Danmark."

9.40 Sigurd Hjelde: "Fra Stockholm 1897 til Paris 1900."

10.10 Kaffepause

10.40 Sissel Halden: "Religionshistorisk popularisering i Norge på begyndelsen av
1900-tallet."

11.10 Tove Tybjerg: "Almueliv og Eventyr."

11.40 Eva Stohlander Axelsson: "Förspelet till Edv. Lehmanns professur i Lund."

12.10 Frokost

13.30 Carsten Breenggaard: "Edv. Lehmann som liberalteolog."

14.00 Erik Reenberg Sand: "Lehmann som orientalist og religionshistoriker."

14.30 Jørgen Podemann Sørensen: "Edv. Lehmann og den komparative religionshi-
storie."

15.00 Kaffepause

15.30 Hans Jørgen Lundager Jensen: "Stedet og Vejen. 82 år efter."

16.00 Ole Vind: "Lehmanns Grundtvig-bog."

16.30 Bo Alkjær: ""Edv. Lehmann. Iraniker, ireniker, ironiker". Lehmann som brev-
skriver."

**RELIGIONSVIDENSKABELIGE TABUER - Symposium om den religionsviden-
skabelige forskning historisk og aktuelt. Arrangeret af studerende ved In-
stitut for Religionsvidenskab, Aarhus Universitet, co-sponsoreret af DAHR.**

**Institut for Religionsvidenskab, Aarhus Universitet, bygning 441, auditori-
um 2, Tåsingegade 3, 8000 Århus C, torsdag d. 30. november og fredag d.
1. december 2000.**

*Bemærk at dette arrangement også er rammen for et orienterede medlemsmøde
for alle DAHR medlemmer. Det finder sted om fredagen kl. 13.00.*

Den religionsvidenskabelige forskningshistorie indeholder en lang række positioner, der på forskellige måder og fra forskellige udgangspunkter har gjort sig overvejelser over religion og religionsvidenskab. Samtidig har en skarp kritik af disse positioner sideløbende været til stede som en fast bestanddel af fagets fremdrift. En kritik dels fra samtidige forskere, men vel især fra en efterfølgende generations forståelse af forgængernes arbejde. Nu forladede positioner blev for nogles vedkommende forladt, fordi de viste sig at være forkerte, andre fordi interesseområder, metoder og indsigter forandrede sig.

Dette symposium vil bl.a. fokusere på nogle af de forladede eller omstridte positioner for at se, om der måske stadig er noget at hente her. Enten fordi det med tiden har vist sig, at interesseområder og indsigter har forandret sig - igen. Men også for at se hvorvidt andre tiders tilgange, ja måske endda opfattelser og begrebsapparat, kan reformuleres frugtbart. I forlængelse af det vil symposiet derfor også rumme muligheden for, med eftertidens afstand, at vurdere den oprindelige kritik. Hvilke forudsætninger hvilede den på? Var den på nogle områder begrænset i sit udsyn? Er dens status i dag sådan at den tages for givet og pr. refleks refereres. M.a.o. vil de forskellige positioner såvel som kritikken af dem være åbne for den samme type af spørgsmål. Samtidig vil symposiet være en lejlighed til - endnu en gang - at overveje, om der er positioner, hvor udbyttet for eftertiden vedbliver at være ringe. Yderligere vil det være en lejlighed til overvejelser af religionsfænomenologisk karakter. I hvilket omfang kan begreber, termer og opfattelser, der oprindeligt hører en - problematiseret - fortid til, anvendes, og i hvilket omfang bliver de anvendt?

Bag ideen om at fokusere på religionsvidenskabelige tabuer som emne for et symposium ligger ønsket om at skabe en debat uden alt for hårdt optrukne linier. Så i stedet for at diskutere hvad religion og religionsvidenskab må være, er ledemotivet, hvad faget mere eller mindre samstemmende mener religion og religionsvidenskabelige studier ikke er. Tankegangen er, at sige noget om hvad religion og religionsvidenskab er, ved at sige hvad det ikke er, hvad man ikke kan og hvad man ikke bør gøre. Dermed håber vi at kunne tegne konturerne af, hvad der så forhåbentlig er muligt i stedet.

Tilsending af program, spørgsmål eller tilmelding kan ske ved at skrive en e-mail til: rel-tabu@teologi.au.dk. For yderligere information se teologisk fakultets websted aktivitetskalender:

www.teo.au.dk

Prisen for symposiet begge dage er 50 kr.

Pris for symposie samt symposiemiddag torsdag aften er 150 kr. Bindende tilmelding for middag skal ske senest d. 21/11-00 på email eller sendt til ovennævnte adresse, Att: Symposie - Religionsvidenskabelige tabuer.

Der vil for studerende være mulighed for privat indkvartering hos andre studerende. Hvis dette ønskes skal det nævnes sammen med tilmelding.

Program

Torsdag d.30. november, 2000

8.30 Indregistrering.

9.15 Velkomst v/ Christoffer Fanø.

9.30 Jeppe Sinding Jensen: Forklaring, fortolkning og forargelse - om grænser og gespenster i religionsforskningen.

10.15 Kaffe.

10.30 Kasper Graarup: Religionsvidenskab på folkebibliotekerne.

- 11.15** Hans Jørgen Lundager Jensen: Komparation: Pan-komparation, Non-komparation, og midt imellem.
- 12.00** David Samsøe: Totemistiske tænkninger: en analyse af en teoretisk forklaringsdannelse.
- 12.30** Frokost.
- 13.30** Jesper Sørensen: Evolution og religion.
- 14.15** Martin Bak Jørgensen: Et religionssociologisk dilemma - Kunsten at ville forsvare sekulariseringsparadigmet.
- 14.45** Kaffe.
- 15.00** Anita Leopold: Friedrich Max Müller: En Kuriøs Fodnote i Forskningshistorien, eller en Original Tænkner forkastet af "Tidsånden".
- 15.45 – 16.30** Mikael Rothstein: Religionens oprindelse revisited (very briefly).
- 18.30** Symposiemiddag.

Fredag d.1. december, 2000

- 9.00** Tove Tybjerg: Mana-begrebet, historisk og aktuelt.
- 9.45** Kaffe
- 10.00** Jørn Borup: Orientalisme, post-orientalisme og religionsvidenskab.
- 10.45** Mikael Aktor: Sprogtabuer: om krav om / modvilje imod originalsprog i religionsstudiet.
- 11.30** Arun Micheelsen: Kultur og religion på baggrund af Clifford Geertz.
- 12.15** Frokost.
- 13.00** Orienteringsmøde for alle medlemmer af DAHR.
- 13.45** Ole Riis: Titel følger.
- 14.30** Armin Geertz: Er totem tabu i religionsvidenskaben?
- 15.15 – 15.45** Diskussion & kaffe.

KULTURMØDETS TREDJE IDENTITETER – RELIGIØS IDENTITET I FORANDRING

Det Teologiske Fakultet i Århus, d. 23–24/3–2001.

Selve konferencen vil begynde fredag d. 23/3 klokken 12.30 og varer til lørdag omkring klokken 18.00. Det endelige program vil blive lavet og rundsendt i løbet af efteråret år 2000. Er der behov for yderligere information kan man henvende sig til: Birgitte Graakjær Hjort, Institut for Ny Testamente, tlf.: 89422250, e-mail: grakjaer@teologi.au.dk, eller til Marianne Qvortrup Fibiger, Institut for Religionsvidenskab, tlf.: 89426718, e-mail: qfibiger@teologi.au.dk, begge Det Teologiske Fakultet, Tåsingegade 3 , 8000 Århus C.

Konferencens faglige indhold

De seneste årtiers øgede indvandring til Europa har bevirket en fokus på begrebet kulturmøde. Kulturmøde er imidlertid ikke et nyt begreb, men har fundet sted igennem historien på forskellige niveauer. Begrebet kulturmøde antyder såvel en dynamisk som en fragmenteret proces. Med konferencen vil vi indkredse forskellige typer af møder, der har betydning for dannelse og transformation af religiøs identitet.

Når mennesker, kulturer, religioner og idéer mødes, opstår muligheden for noget nyt og tredje, hvortil vi har valgt betegnelsen "de tredje identiteter". Disse opstår i en proces, hvor individet, gruppen og samfundet forholder sig til egne og andre religiøse idéer og praksisformer, f.eks. i en reinterpreteration af religiøse traditioner. I denne sammenhæng er de tredje identiteter en konsekvens af kulturmøder, hvor individers, grupper, betydningssystemers og samfunds selvforståelse og verdenssyn er ændret som følge af mødet. Flertalsformen de tredje identiteter understreger, at divergerende religiøse forestillinger og praksisformer eksisterer side om side, og at transformation og reinterpreteration af religiøse traditioner er et afgørende udgangspunkt for fortsat kulturel og religiøs udvikling.

Selvom identitet ikke behøver at være forankret i en religiøs diskurs, er det vores sigte med konferencen at belyse, hvordan religiøs identitet transformeres, når kulturmøder finder sted. Dette kan medføre såvel en øget bevidsthed om religiøs tilknytning som afstandtagen fra og opgør med tidligere religiøs overbevisning og tradition. Her opstår det nye og tredje, som enten kan bestå i fastholdelse af det gamle, som derved accentueres, eller inkorporering af noget nyt.

En række spørgsmål rejser sig i denne forbindelse: Hvordan konstitueres en religiøs identitet? Hvad skal der til for at mennesker opfatter sig selv i forhold til en bestemt religiøs tradition? Hvad er det særlige ved en religiøs identitet i forhold til en identitet, der knytter an til sociale, familiemæssige, etniske eller kulturelle relationer? Hvad er de genererende faktorer til religiøs identitetsdannelse? Hvad motiverer til enten at lade sig indskrive i eller fravælge en given religiøs gruppe eller diskurs? Og ikke mindst, hvordan er sammenhængen mellem på den ene side en religiøs identitet og på den anden side en bestemt adfærd?

Konferencens hovedanliggende er således at belyse, hvordan religiøs identitet redefinerer sig, når et møde finder sted mellem individer, grupper, kulturer eller diskurser, hvorved noget tredje opstår. Det er dette tredje, vi ønsker at undersøge og definere nærmere ved hjælp af specifikke teoretiske og metodiske tilgange, appliceret på forskelligt empirisk materiale.

Religionshistorisk Forening, Københavns Universitet: Efterårsprogram 2000

Alle foredragene foregår på torsdage, kl. 20.00 (præcis) i Institut for Religionshistories lokaler på Artillerivej 86, 2. sal (2.34)

Torsdag den 21. september

Amanuensis, ph.d. Peter B. Andersen og adjunkt, ph.d. Morten Warmind, begge Institut for Religionshistorie, Københavns Universitet: "Lærerstuderingens religiøse tro og praksis: En undersøgelse."

Torsdag den 12. oktober

DAHR Nyhedsbrev 25, Side 21

Professor Will C. van den Hoonaard, University of New Brunswick, Canada: "Sociology of Religion in Canada."

Torsdag den 16. november

Ph.d.- studerende, cand. phil. i europæisk etnologi Kirsten Marie Bovbjerg: "Selvets disciplinering i New Age og moderne management: Personlighedsudviklende kurser i erhvervslivet som et kulturelt fænomen set ud fra den franske filosof Marcel Gauchets teorier om sekularisering og udviklingen af moderne ideer om bevidstheden."

Torsdag den 14. december

Professor og forskningschef, dr. phil. Kirsten Hastrup, Dansk Center for Menneskerettigheder: "Religion i kontekst."

Religionsvidenskabelig Forening, Aarhus Universitet: Efterårsprogram 2000

Alle foredragene finder sted på tirsdage kl. 19.30 i Institut for Religionsvidenskabs lokale 021 i bygning 443, Tåsingevej 3. Entré pr. foredrag er kr. 25,-. Der kan købes semesterkort, der giver adgang til alle 4 foredrag i semestret for kun kr. 60,-.

Tirsdag, den 12. September

cand.theol. og dr. theol. Per Bilde: "Jesus som jødisk eskatologisk profet".

Det amerikanske Jesus-seminar tolker - ikke mindst på grundlag af "Q" og Thomas-evangeliet - den historiske Jesus som en jødisk visdomslærer af kynisk filosofisk type og med et socialrevolutionært sigte. (Villy Sørensens *Jesus og Kristus* fra 1992 kan på flere måder sammenlignes med denne position). Det bedste alternativ hertil er fremdeles Albert Schweitzers 100 år gamle tolkning af den historiske Jesus som en eskatologisk profet af apokalyptisk type (jf. fx E.P. Sanders, John P. Meier, Gerd Theissen og Dale Allison). Jeg er enig med Schweitzer og ønsker blot at præcisere og udbygge hans tolkning. I foredraget skal vi ikke bruge den knappe tid til - for jeg ved ikke hvilken gang - at præsentere den 3. fase af Jesus-forskningen (1985-2000). (Jeg henviser interesserede til Troels Engberg-Pedersen (red.): *Den historiske Jesus og hans betydning*, Gyldendal 1998). Vi skal heller ikke anvende megen tid på de jødiske paralleller til Jesus. Vi vil gå ret til sagens kerne: en kritisk rekonstruktion af den historiske Jesus som jødisk eskatologisk profet. Det er en hovedtese, at magtspørgsmålet er centralt i den ældste Jesus-overlevering, og at Jesus proklamerede en ny social og politisk orden, den messianske eller gudsrige (*hê basileia tou theou*). Vi begynder med Jesus' død (på grundlag af Luk 23,2-3 (og 20,20-26 samt Josefus: Bell 2,117-118)) og fortsætter med at spore hans program (på grundlag af Matt 19,28-30 (og 10,5-8 samt Luk 1,51-55) og 5,1-11 (m. Par.)). Muligvis kan vi også nå at strejfe Matt 6,7-13 (m. par.).

Tirsdag, den 3. Oktober

Fil. cand. Teol. Lic., forskningsassistent ved Institut for Religionsvidenskab Lars Ahlin: "Fra velfærdsstat til totredjedeles-samfund: fra traditionelle til nye former for religiøsitet".

Mary Douglas' grid-group model vil indledningsvis præsenteres kort. Denne model kan benyttes som én forklaring på bestemte synsvinkler, religiøse og andre, som appellerer til mennesker med bestemte sociale erfaringer. Visse sociale forandringer resulterer da i, at visse synsvinkler og/eller trosforestillinger appellerer til flere mennesker mens andre appellerer til færre.

Ud fra det svenske samfund samt ud fra svensk avis- og ugeblads-materiale vil denne model blive konkretiseret.

Tirsdag, den 7. November

Dr. Phil., Seniorforsker ved Dansk Folkemindesamling Gustav Henningsen: "Den Europæiske Hekseforfølgelse".

De seneste årtiers forskning har stillet den europæiske hekseforfølgelse i et nyt lys. Den var først og fremmest en folkelig foreteelse, der i nogle få århundreder fik kirkens og den verdslige øvrigheds opbakning. Gennem det meste af middelalderen var hekseforfølgelse forbudt, men i midten af 1300 tallet sker der et omslag i den officielle holdning; først ved de verdslige og siden ved de gejstlige domstole. Kirken kunne ikke acceptere den folkelige version af heksetroen, som derfor måtte gennem en fuldstændig omfortolkning, inden den blev teologisk korrekt. I løbet af 1700 tallet gik hekseprocesserne af mode ved alle europæiske domstole, og folk var igen henvist til udenomretslige metoder. Tidligst spores dette omslag ved inkvisitionens domstole i Italien, Spanien og Portugal, hvor man gennem 1500 -, 1600 -, og 1700 tallet førte 12000 sager vedrørende hekseri og andre former for overtro, men kun dømte ganske få personer til bålet og fra begyndelsen af 1700 afskaffede heksebålene. På dette folkelige plan har heksetroen fortsat helt op til nutiden, således som det f.eks. har kunnet iagttages på Ærø i 1960'erne.

Tirsdag, den 5. December

Ph.d. ved Etnografisk Fakultet Ann Rosenthal: "Jomfruen af El Rocio: fra anti-autoritært symbol til regional integrationssymbol".

I foredraget vil jeg belyse, hvorfor og hvordan netop Jomfruen af El Rocio af alle Andalusiens Jomfru Maria-figurer er blevet et anti-autoritært symbol; om hvordan og hvorfor hun kom til at repræsentere "el pueblo" (folket/landsbyen) i opposition til forskellige autoriteter, og derfor i dag er i stand til at repræsentere andalusierne og andalusisk kultur i det regionalistiske magtspil, der finder sted i Spanien i øjeblikket.

RELIGIO, foredragsforeningen v/Center for Religionsstudier, Syddansk Universitet, Odense Universitet: Efterårsprogram 2000

Alle foredrag finder sted i Studenterhuset, Munkemøllestræde 20, 5000 Odense C, tlf. 66128700. Entré kr. 30,- pr. foredrag for ikke-medlemmer. Indmeldelse i RELIGIO sker v. telefonisk henvendelse til kasseren, stud. mag. Mette Hartwig, tlf. 66112971 eller skriftligt til RELIGIO, c/o Center for Religionsstudier, SDU, Odense Universitet, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M. Kontingent årligt: kr. 150,-.

Tirsdag d. 26. september kl. 19.30

Lektor, cand. og dr. theol, Per Bilde, Institut for Religionsvidenskab, Aarhus Universitet: "Guddommeliggørelsen af Jesus. En præsentation af det centrale i den tidlige kristendoms historie og hovedtemaet i kommende bog om kristendommens tilblivelse".

Tirsdag d. 31. oktober, kl.19.30

Lektor, mag. art, Jørgen Podemann Sørensen, Institut for Religionshistorie, Københavns Universitet: "Billedet som ritual. Den illustrerede dødelitteratur i det gamle Ægypten".

Onsdag d. 29. november kl. 19.30

Ph.d.-studerende Kate Østergaard, Institut for Religionshistorie, Københavns Universitet: "Odalisker eller gamle kællinger? Kan Bourdieus praktikteori overvinde en orientalistisk tilgang til studiet af muslimske kvindebade?"

Nyt fra IAHR - uddrag af IAHR Bulletin 36, Juli 2000**REPORT BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

The Executive Committee of the IAHR has been very busy since my last report to you. I have kept the associations up-to-date on the most important matters through the *IAHR Bulletin Supplements* (1-3). The committee has met once every year at IAHR sponsored events, and many of the committee members have met informally at various other events or have attended events as formal representatives of the IAHR. My gratitude is especially extended to our two Vice-Presidents Dra. Yolotl González Torres and Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Antes as well as our Deputy General Secretary Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett for their activities on behalf of the IAHR beyond the call of duty.

Affiliates and Other Societies

One of the most active areas in the daily routines of this office concerns the flow of information to and from the IAHR affiliates as well as the coordination and co-hosting of IAHR sponsored events together with IAHR affiliates. The past few years have been particularly busy with regards to three areas: 1) requests for help in establishing and conducting meetings with regards to new affiliates, 2) the sad withdrawal of affiliation by the Australian Association for the Study of Religion and 3) the somewhat rocky birth of an IAHR regional European association.

1) *The IAHR is in the happy situation* that there is a growing number of associations requesting affiliation. In Durban, we can expect to deliberate on the applications of associations in Austria, Estonia, Europe (regional), Kenya, Slovakia, and Taiwan. Negotiations are currently being conducted with representatives in Brazil, Ghana, Greece, Portugal and Turkey. The other side of the coin is that the growth of the IAHR complicates the logistics of communication and contact with its affiliates. The complaints of the Australian Association are a case in point. How can we improve our communication lines, and how can we reach the individual members of

IAHR affiliates? As long as infrastructures are so insecure in many parts of the world, e-mail and the IAHR website are of limited effectiveness.

2) *We have received official confirmation* that the Australian Association for the Study of Religion "has decided, after a long period of deliberation, that it did not wish to maintain its affiliation with the IAHR under the current arrangements" (correspondence of 11 January 2000 from Dr. Trevor Jordan, Immediate Past-President of the AASR). Dr. Jordan concluded his letter with the statement: "I am sure that AASR membership will consider any future prospects for re-affiliation with the IAHR on their merits".

As instructed by the International Committee and the Executive Committee in Hildesheim, I sent the Australian Association a letter sketching out two main points. The first was from the Executive Committee with the support of the International Committee: I asked them to help us understand what the problem was and to ask how we could resolve it. I asked if they wished to meet with an IAHR representative and whether they would be interested in hosting an IAHR regional conference on Southeast Asia in 2002 in cooperation with the Indonesian, New Zealand and possibly Chinese associations. The second was from the International Committee: I wrote that it was unanimously decided that "if the Australian Association has not paid its dues in full by the Durban Congress...it will not be allowed to attend the business meetings of the IAHR". I also wrote, "Please be assured that nobody, either in the Executive Committee or in the International Committee, wishes to see the emergence of such implications. On the contrary, everybody is most interested in seeing the development of a more positive relationship between AASR and the IAHR...." (correspondence of 28 May 1998 to Tricia Blombery, Trevor Jordan and David Burgess). A copy was sent on that same day by e-mail as well.

In a letter (incorrectly) dated 15 May 1998 (it was 1999), Tricia Blombery wrote that "the Australian Association for the Study of Religions does not wish to continue its membership with IAHR". She enclosed an extract from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the AASR held in July 1998. The decision was to be officially ratified at the next AGM in October 1999. The extracts contained a blend of surprising information and some misinformation. It was the first time that the Executive Committee of the IAHR had ever been presented with the full AASR point of view. I wrote back requesting copies of the documentation that was referred to in the extract and asked if the AASR would present a document to its members that I would send to them shortly before their AGM in October.

After careful deliberation with the Executive Committee, it was decided that we ask Prof. Morny Joy from Canada to present our views at that meeting where she was invited to give a keynote speech. She gracefully accepted that charge. I also sent her a copy of a seven page letter addressed to the members of the AASR dated 24 September 1999. Unfortunately it did not reach Prof. Joy nor the AGM in time for the meeting, which was convened at the end of September. Prof. Joy did, however, present our views fully and faithfully, for which we are very grateful.

Prof. Jordan's letter was brief, but it was accompanied by two pages of personal reflections which were very constructive. As I wrote in my reply, it would have helped things a lot if we had received such a letter ten years ago.

Basically, the problems according to the above-mentioned extract, were the following. After the IAHR world congress in Sydney in 1985, the AASR executives "felt the congress to be unsatisfactory in several respects specifically the general attitude to women scholars and their work and the failure to make adequate provi-

sion for feminist perspectives, the Eurocentric nature of the debate, the financial decisions of the IAHR". The issue of the feminist perspective appeared to be resolved at the Rome congress in 1990 from the AASR point of view, and the AASR supported the change of the name of the IAHR. Further unspecified dissatisfaction arose in 1993. Although the discontent persisted, it was decided in 1994 to reduce their dues payments to the IAHR. After the congress in Mexico City in 1995, it is claimed that their representatives (Morny Joy and Garry Trompf) reported "that the suggested name change had been defeated, the Eurocentrism has intensified and the feminist was neglected". As an aside, Morny Joy has denied the latter two points of this allegation.

In my letter of September 24, 1999, I addressed the issues of feminism and gender, the claim that Eurocentrism has intensified after the Mexico Congress and a number of misinterpretations of correspondence between us. My main point concerning feminist approaches and gender balance was to show that regular and systematic attempts have been made during the past ten years to rectify gender balance on the Executive Committee and to encourage the development of similar policies by IAHR affiliates. The important point, however, is that the Executive Committee can only reasonably represent regions of the world and balance in gender, whereas the International Committee is the actual democratic representative body which reflects both geography and should reflect gender balance. Since then, regular attempts have been made to raise issues of gender balance in the organisation itself. Thus, over the years, this issue has become official policy, so that the Nominating Committee of the IAHR is chosen "in terms of gender and regional representation" (*Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR*, point 2.b.), that the Nominating Committee should nominate candidates "in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world" (the *Constitution* of the IAHR, Article 4.c.) and on recommendation of the International Committee which met in Paris in 1993 that "it strive towards a gender balance".

From a gender perspective, the composition of the Executive Committee has changed slowly since 1985. Old dominances do not disappear overnight, especially in an organization consisting of member associations reflecting a wide variety of opinions about gender, regional diversification, the identity of the academic study of religion and so on. The IAHR is a very large organization that meets only a few times over any quinquennial period: the Executive Committee (12 members) or at least its officers (3 members) meet once every year; the International Committee meets once at the world congresses and once in between congresses; and the General Assembly meets once at the world congresses. Having said this, it is equally true that *dramatic* changes occurred during the 1995 Mexico Congress. 5 women were elected—one as Vice-President and one as Deputy General Secretary—and 7 men for the period 1995-2000. Furthermore the regional spread of the new Executive Committee was quite reasonable. The chart on the following page documents this development. But the most important development has happened since I wrote my letter: the Nominating Committee wisely put together a list of candidates in which the balance is the reverse of the Mexico Congress elections: 7 women and 5 men. Since then, two further men have been nominated, and at the time of printing, the final deadline has not been reached. At any rate, the International Committee must decide on this issue through their ballots.

I will not document the rapid growth of feminist and gender studies in the study of religion and at IAHR conferences and congresses. I can only affirm that feminist and gender issues were highly visible in Mexico. One of the most successful aca-

demic events during the Mexico congress was the "Gender and Religion" section in Mexico with its eight panels. These panels have resulted in several publications that have recently appeared. This development has accelerated and become more pervasive, as can be seen in the academic program for the Durban Congress. The program is chaired by the Deputy General Secretary of the IAHR, one of the most respected woman scholars in the study of religion, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett. All of the current panels and speakers are listed at Prof. Hackett's website (<http://web.utk.edu/~rhackett>), and it is clearly evident that charges of androcentrism and eurocentrism run contrary to the facts.

The Executive Committee of the IAHR, furthermore, has adopted a policy of gender balance and concern for members in economically difficult countries in relation to conferences that are hosted by its member affiliates. Thus in the rules and procedures for IAHR Co-sponsored Conferences, Regional Conferences, Special Conferences as well as the Quinquennial Congresses it is stipulated in writing that it is recommended "that wherever possible attention be paid to gender balance in terms of speakers as well as of participants". Special financial considerations are given throughout to participants and hosting organizations from or in countries with weak currencies.

Thus, the report to the AASR members after the Mexico Congress that "Eurocentrism has intensified and the feminist was neglected" is misleading. Dr. Blombery was advised by Michael Pye in a letter dated August 23, 1995 about the results of the vote in terms of gender balance. He wrote, furthermore, that even though the rejection of the change of the name was about two to one, it "was made clear during the Assembly, the new Committee will be looking for ways to make the breadth of interests covered by the IAHR very clear". The Australian members are not the only ones who were disappointed by the outcome. I personally voted for a change of the name. But we are also confronted with the problem that many members of the IAHR are worried that its regional diversification policy will weaken rather than strengthen the organization.

Country	Executive Committee Period					
	1985-1990		1990-1995		1995-2000	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Canada		1		1		1
Denmark				1		1
Finland					1	
France				1		
Germany	1	2		2		2
Israel		1		1		
Italy		1		1	1	
Japan		1		1		1
Mexico			1		1	
Netherlands		1			1	
Nigeria		1		1		
Poland		1				
South Africa						1
South Korea	1					
Sweden			1			
USA				1	1	1

The current Executive Committee does not share this sentiment, but it must maintain a balance between opposing viewpoints. The Australian decision, therefore, DAHR Nyhedsbrev 25, Side 27

hurts the positive forces and people it wants to promote.

In sum, then, I wrote that the Executive Committee of the IAHR is happy to note that the Australian Association for the Study of Religions shares its concern with gender balance. Since the IAHR is an umbrella organization that does not have individual membership, it is very much dependent on the national and regional associations in terms of what kinds of policies to pursue and, of great importance, the ability of the affiliate associations to make the IAHR and its policies relevant and known to their members. This, it is felt, was one of the failings of the AASR.

The second point I addressed concerned the alleged Eurocentrism of the IAHR. The Minutes of the AASR Annual General Meeting of 1998 claim that the defeat of the change of the name of the IAHR somehow intensified its Eurocentrism. This allegation is misconceived. A signal event in the history of the IAHR occurred in Marburg in June 1988, during which the International Committee also met. Study groups presented papers describing the study of religion in areas of the world where the IAHR was either without affiliates or was under-represented, specifically the Islamic countries, Latin America, Africa and Asia. At the time, the IAHR consisted of associations in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Southern Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and USA. The study groups presented recommendations to the International Committee (Australia, unfortunately, did not send representatives) concerning IAHR activity in the Islamic countries, Latin America, Africa and Asia. These recommendations were enthusiastically accepted. For details see *Marburg Revisited: Institutions and Strategies in the Study of Religion*, edited by Michael Pye, Marburg: diagonal-Verlag 1989 and *IAHR Bulletin* 9 (September 1988).

Since then, the history of IAHR conferences, publications and new memberships sufficiently disproves the allegations in the AGM Minutes. The following associations have been added to the IAHR family: a regional African association, Belgium/Luxembourg, Quebec, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Indonesia, a regional Latin American association, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Spain and Ukraine. Since I wrote my letter, the above-mentioned applications by and negotiations with a further nine associations from various parts of the globe have been pursued. The distribution of affiliates at the moment is as follows: North America (3), Latin America (3), East Asia and Pacific (6), India (1), Africa (3), Israel (1), Europe (15) and Russia and Ukraine (2), which means that in terms of Eurocentrism (if North America is included) there are 18 Euro-American associations and 16 from other parts of the world. If all of the current applications are accepted the balance will be 21/18, and if the final three materialize it will be 23/19. It is not parity, but it can be stated that the IAHR policy of regional diversification which became official in 1988 (just 3 years after the initial Australian discontent) has been an overwhelming success. Since 1988, conferences have been held in a variety of locations around the world and, as we all know, the next quinquennial congress will be in the Southern Hemisphere.

Prof. Trevor Jordan responded constructively to these matters in his personal reflections which accompanied his official letter confirming the decision for disaffiliation. These reflections brought out further detail which is not without interest and which raise some issues that I think the IAHR should be concerned with. I therefore cite the main parts of his reflections below.

Personal reflections

May I also take this opportunity to make some personal observations based on my involvement with the AASR over the last 18 years.

Effective participation of AASR members in IAHR

On 4 August 1994 you wrote: 'If your members have no other contact with the IAHR than our newsletter (which I hope your committee dutifully xerox and send out to all of your members), and know little else of the benefits and activities of the IAHR, then something is wrong and needs to be corrected.' This was exactly the point the AASR was trying to make. Unfortunately, until we objected to paying the annual dues determined by the Executive, that was all most of our members got.

For whatever reason, there has been little involvement of Australian scholars of religion in the IAHR. The cost of participation in IAHR events is very high for our members. The size of our regular contribution was way out of step with the effective interest in the IAHR by our members. The reduction in our level of contribution was an acknowledgment of this reality. The contribution of \$US1.00, in fact, would still be way in excess of the effective constituency and was an attempt by our executive to *maintain* our link with the IAHR.

Real costs of involvement

The 'only US\$1.00' contribution per AASR member must be put into perspective. The primary opportunity to communicate IAHR matters to our members was through the Review which comes out biannually and our annual meeting. Dutifully 'xeroxing and sending out' the Bulletin and supplements out to all our members would be costly. The IAHR itself charges US\$15.00 for a single annual copy of the Bulletin. This is about AU\$25. Reproducing your recent 8 page communication and distributing to all our members would have cost us A\$400 +. Sending two representatives to International Committee meetings in Europe would cost about \$6,000.

IAHR decision-making processes

The unsuccessful attempt to change the name of the organisation made it difficult for the AASR to promote the IAHR as an inclusive and forward-thinking organisation. The manner in which such an important decision was made, however, reflects one of the key paradoxes of the IAHR claim to be 'an international body of national societies for the study of religion.' In this day and age, making such a fundamental decision on the votes of those *individuals* who were able to attend the General Assembly seems disingenuous. There must be better ways to ensure *representation of constituent societies*, if the organisation is genuinely concerned with building an international network. The suggestion that AASR interests could be seriously represented on the basis of the possibility 'that one of your many members will be travelling in Europe and might like to take this in' (Michael Pye, 17.2.94) beggars belief.

Individuals cannot join the IAHR if there is a national affiliate organisation, yet decision-making at the General Assembly is *not* on the basis of these affiliate organisations, but on the number of individuals who happen to be present! Representation on the International Committee also requires active attendance. A greater sense of ownership and participation might be engendered by seriously

considering a better mix of decision-making processes.

Concerns that 'regional diversification will weaken rather than strengthen the organization' do reflect the 'regionalism' or Eurocentrism that has been our experience of the IAHR. That this is changing is cause for celebration and we do know that the Executive committee is strongly committed to counteracting this legacy.

However, without creatively addressing the representation paradox at the heart of the IAHR's decision-making processes, it is hard to see how that will be achieved.

It is clear that the AASR and the current IAHR Executive is in agreement on key principles such as internationalism, gender balance and disciplinary breadth. The AASR position only sought to bring its financial contribution into line with its effective involvement with the IAHR over the past 15 years. We did not mean to be provocative or to cause affront to anyone, we merely sought a more honest and practical means of maintaining our connection with the IAHR. The threat of exclusion from further participation in IAHR if we do not pay our dues is symptomatic of your misunderstanding of our position, which is entirely pragmatic. We hardly feel excluded or isolated by not being able to participate in something we have not effectively participated in anyway.

A possible way forward

I do not think the AASR stance is permanent. I certainly think the AASR may, in future, reconsider seeking affiliation with the IAHR. Perhaps a regional conference will be the way of promoting this. Unfortunately, the international committee's suggestion for regional collaboration with Indonesia or China came at an unfortunate time for our membership. Australian/Indonesian relations have been at an all-time low due to the situation in East Timor. However, I am sure the AASR will assist the IAHR to identify potential groups of participants for such a conference.

As I have said, these are only my personal reflections on the matters which have concerned. Unfortunately, the Durban conference coincides with the teaching semester in Australia and I will not be in attendance, but please give my regards to the organisers, particularly those who have thought so long and creatively about the program.

With kind regards
Trevor J

I responded to Prof. Jordan and thanked him for his personal reflections. I wrote among other things:

...I am afraid that the significance of the pragmatic nature of the AASR stance did not come out clearly enough for us. On the other hand, the AASR stance clashed with other equally important issues for the IAHR. So the situation would most likely have arisen anyway. But perhaps we could have handled it in a more productive manner. At any rate, I will convey your viewpoints to the Executive Committee and the International Committee of the IAHR.

I am happy to read that the AASR and the Executive Committee of the IAHR are in agreement on principles such as internationalism, gender balance and disciplinary breadth and that the AASR might seek reaffiliation at some time in the future. I am also grateful for your offer to help assist us in identifying po-

tential groups of participants for a Regional Conference in your area.

You raise important issues on the paradoxes of decision-making in the IAHR which I personally feel deserve debate and, if possible, resolution. With the growth of affiliates accelerating on a global scale, other associations will be faced with the same problems that you raise. This is an issue that we have been aware of, but have not effectively raised for constitutional deliberation. I will take the matter up at the next Executive Committee meeting (e-mail correspondence of 12 February 2000).

Since then, Prof. Jordan has kindly kept me informed on the AASR 2000 Conference on the theme "Identity and Change" which will be held 30 June to 2 July. I wish them success.

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.

These matters will probably arise more often in the future. I expect the next quinquennial period to focus on Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific region. Perhaps some solutions can be found to improving the links between the local and the global.

3) *A new IAHR regional European association* was founded in Cracow, Poland in May 2000. The founding general assembly was attended by representatives from various European IAHR affiliates as well as interested individual scholars. The meeting and the subsequent elections were observed by members of the IAHR Executive Committee. It seems that we have finally witnessed the equitable solution to a long-term interest on the part of IAHR affiliates in Europe to coordinate their various activities. During the years, the IAHR has been non-committal on the issue because the Executive Committee felt that this was an internal matter between the European IAHR affiliates. But with the establishment of a hostile organisation by Prof. Charles Marie Ternes that actively competed with the IAHR and especially with its European affiliates and with the collapse of a great deal of diplomatic effort to resolve conflicts, it was decided that steps should be taken by the IAHR to ensure that the IAHR European affiliates set the agenda for regional affiliation in Europe. This affiliation would address the needs and promises of a united European scholarship in the study of religions and would ensure peaceful relations with the IAHR. It was also realized that there was a need to reflect on how to properly interconnect the three levels of organisational activity in the IAHR, i.e. international, regional and national. Scholars from various countries in Europe graciously agreed to serve on an ad hoc committee with the charge to develop a draft constitution, to actively elicit the support of a majority of the European IAHR affiliates and to invite them to send any views they may have on the draft constitution or other matters, to incorporate as a legal association in a major European city, and to convene a general assembly at the conference in Cracow in order to activate the association by wider

approval, to appoint a board and to apply for affiliation to the IAHR. The committee was chaired by Michael Pye and the participants were Montserrat Abumalham Mas (Spain), Herman Beck (the Netherlands), Francisco Diez de Velasco (Canary Islands), Giulia Sfameni Gasparro (Italy), Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Poland), Helena Helve (Finland), Willem Hofstee (the Netherlands), Tim Jensen (Denmark) and Kim Knott (Great Britain).

The ad hoc committee fulfilled its charge successfully and with great talent. And on behalf of the IAHR, I wish to gratefully acknowledge their careful handling of a complex issue. I think that the result can serve to illustrate how regional IAHR affiliates can be constructed and I publish therefore in the announcements section of this bulletin Michael Pye's recent letter to the European affiliates as well as the constitution of the newly founded European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). EASR applied for affiliation in Cracow, and the Executive Committee of the IAHR accepted their application and will recommend it to the International Committee and afterwards to the General Assembly which will be convening in Durban during the IAHR world congress this August 2000.

International Committee

The International Committee and the General Assembly of the IAHR will be convening in Durban, South Africa during the XVIIIth Congress. The International Committee convenes to pursue IAHR business and at its meeting in Durban, it will be electing the Executive Committee for the next quinquennial period (2000-2005). The agendas are published on pages 27-28 in this bulletin.

The secretaries of all IAHR affiliates are hereby requested to send the names of the delegates who will be attending the International Committee meeting to me by July 25, 2000 at the latest. This will give me the possibility of publishing the names of the delegates at the congress.

All of the IAHR affiliates have received the documents related to the establishment of the Nominating Committee and the list of candidates which they have nominated in agreement with the IAHR constitution and the rules of procedure. Shortly after the publication of the names of the candidates, two further nominations were forwarded to me by members of the International Committee. All of the names of the candidates are listed below. ***Because this bulletin must be delivered to the printers before the final deadline for alternative nominations, the list below is only provisional!*** The final list will be sent by letter when this bulletin is sent out to the officers of the IAHR associations. The statements of candidacy will be circulated during the congress in Durban.

Officers:

President: Peter Antes (Germany)
Vice President: Rosalind I. J. Hackett (USA)
Vice President: Montserrat Abulmalham Mas (Spain)
General Secretary: Armin W. Geertz (Denmark)
Deputy General Secretary: Gerrie ter Haar (Netherlands)
Treasurer: Gary Lease (USA)

Members-at-large (in alphabetical order):

Mary Getui (Kenya)
Ingvild Saelid Gilhus (Norway)
Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Poland)

Jacob K. Olupona (USA)
Dalibor Papousek (Czech Republic)
Kameshwar Prasad Singh (India)
Akio Tsukimoto (Japan)
Alef Theria Wasim (Indonesia)

Thus, so far there are no competing candidates for the officers, but there are competing candidates for the members-at-large. This means that at the moment we know for sure that the 8 candidates for members-at-large will be competing for 6 seats. The deadline for further nominations is July 4th. After that date I will send you further details.

Legal Incorporation

At the International Committee meeting held in Rome during the IAHR world congress on September 5, 1990, point 13 on the agenda concerned "Legal incorporation and contractual obligations of IAHR". It was argued that "the IAHR, in spite of its long history, was nowhere legally incorporated and that therefore it was scarcely possible for its officers to enter into contractual obligations, for example with respect to its journal *Numen*. The Executive Committee was requested to look into this matter and take action as appropriate." This resolution was confirmed by the General Assembly, and the matter has been discussed at various Executive Committee meetings without much progress.

Michael Pye requested the assistance of Willem Hofstee from the Dutch IAHR affiliate to look into the requirements for legal incorporation/registration in The Hague in The Netherlands. It was felt by the Executive Committee that the significance of The Netherlands for the foundation and history of the IAHR spoke for its incorporation in that country. Prof. Hofstee has diligently pursued the matter, and on behalf of the IAHR I wish to extend our gratitude. The incorporation must be finally approved by the General Assembly in Durban, and it must also approve an addition to the constitution of the IAHR. The final wording will be presented to the International Committee and the General Assembly in Durban, but it will most likely be the following wording as "Article 1B":

"The association shall be legally registered at The Hague, The Netherlands. In the event of disputes arising concerning these statutes and their application informal mediation shall be sought. In the event that attempts at mediation should fail, all disputes and legal actions which might arise, shall as a last resort, to the exclusion of all other official bodies and insofar as admissible by law, be adjudicated exclusively by the judge entitled to adjudicate in the subject of dispute in the High Court of The Hague."

The title of Article 1 should then be changed to "Article 1A". I hope that the International Committee and the General Assembly will approve of this addition in fulfillment of their charge to the Executive Committee.

Congresses and Conferences

As can be seen by the accompanying chart, several IAHR events have been put into effect every year during the current quinquennial period. IAHR affiliates have been very interested in having their events acknowledged as IAHR conferences. In some instances we have asked colleagues to host an IAHR conference for various rea-

sons. We have attempted to find the means to arrange conferences in Turkey, South Korea and Indonesia, but communication with contact persons in these countries have been extremely poor. We have also co-sponsored conferences with other international associations as a signal to our colleagues in other fields that the IAHR is cooperative and curious, and has something to say about fundamental human issues.

With the introduction of a new congress structure, the IAHR is on the road to new possibilities.

1996-2000

<i>Year</i>	<i>Special</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Co-sponsored</i>
1996	Aarhus, Denmark	Bogota, Columbia	Florence, Italy
1997	****	Turku, Finland	Salerno, Italy
1998	****	Hildesheim, Germany (IAHR Intl. Committee)	Boston, MA, USA
1999	Brno, Czech Republic	Nairobi, Kenya	****
2000	Cracow, Poland	****	****
2000	XVIII th Congress of the IAHR: Durban, South Africa		

We have now ensured that the IAHR is more involved in its congresses in terms of structure and academic program. One of the weaknesses, however, is the financial structure. The Congress Director in Durban, Prof. Pratap Kumar, sent us his reflections on this matter, from which I will quote:

As per the role of the IAHR international committee is concerned, it is about time that a more structured approach to the congress hosting is adopted. That is to say, that the international team must first take initiatives to secure funding not just for the keynote speakers, but to look at the entire congress and plan as to how the congress funding could be planned instead of leaving it to the host countries. I think a lot of funding drive could be initiated through European and American funding. But in order to do this one needs a highly organised funding strategy and team that works solely on these matters. It is about time that the IAHR establishes a kind of a semi-permanent secretariat on congress related matters for after all it is the biggest event that the IAHR holds and it has to be done in a manner that the international team is more involved than they are now in the present structure. Of course, now with the Durban experience we have broken the ice to change that and now is the opportune time to take the next step to go further and establish some kind of tangible, if not permanent, but semi-permanent secretariat of the congress. This would mean, the congress registration fees could be paid to the international secretariat directly and those monies could be easily channeled to the host countries as and when needed. This way, the international team would be in a better position to understand what the funding requirements are and how and where to source them in collaboration with the host country. In the present set-up all financial responsibilities are left to the host country except a few things such as keynote speaker and some subventions to the needy, etc. This in the long run is not very good for the IAHR as it becomes more and more sophisticated in its organisation of the congresses. In a way the Durban experience has forced the IAHR

to become more involved at the level of organisation of the congress and the logical step forward is to consolidate that to establish a semi-permanent secretariat at the central level. This would enable the IAHR to approach the congress hosting not in an ad hoc manner but in a highly structured and planned way from the word go (e-mail correspondence of 25 August 1999).

I find this advice well placed. The formerly ambiguous relationship between congress organizers and the IAHR have improved vastly with the new structure. But the area where the IAHR has no influence or insight is in terms of the financial structure and flow. This is in part symptomatic of the fundamental non-commercial nature of the organization. A solution would be to transform the organization into a more commercial venture, but would we then be able to keep our idealism in the forefront? When looking at more economically powerful organizations for instance in the U.S., one is skeptical as one otherwise dreams about 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. Surely such dreams if ever realized would entail the need of a professional, paid organization which generates profits and finance in its own right. Can any of these dreams be realized, even partially, in a growing organization with little or no money and run purely by volunteer help?

This, in my opinion, is the crux of our organizational problem. But despite the problem, we are doing rather well actually. Most of our affiliates understand the situation and they respond in kind to all the many good and kind efforts being done for and in the name of the IAHR. I would like to see the development of a more coordinated international effort to systematically address these issues. 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.

We were fortunate to receive a US\$10,000 subvention from CIPSH for the Durban Congress. After careful negotiations with the Durban committee and the Executive Committee, applications from scholars in need of support to attend Durban were evaluated and scaled. Special priority was given to helping African scholars. Great efforts were made especially by Rosalind I. J. Hackett and Gerrie ter Haar to raise funds, and the African, Dutch and Danish associations pledged substantial funding for African scholars. But even with a substantial amount of money, there were many who had to be turned down. Some do not understand that the IAHR is not a commercial enterprise. Unfortunately, after most of the CIPSH subvention had been distributed, we received word from CIPSH that their budget for 2000 had been cut and that we would receive further information on the amount at our disposal. At the time of this report, official word has not yet come in. But we can expect it to be less than promised and we might therefore be in the unhappy situation that a sizable portion of the US\$10,000 will have to be taken directly out of the IAHR holdings.

Future Congress and Conferences

The Executive Committee has deliberated during the past year on future conference venues as well as the congress venue for 2005. At its meeting in Brno, Czech Republic in 1999 the committee discussed a list of suggestions with reference to regional and special conferences as well as the next congress. The Japanese Associati-

on had presented a bid for hosting the next congress. After going through all of the suggestions, it was decided that the Japanese bid was the best, and during its meeting in Cracow, the Executive Committee officially accepted the Japanese bid.

The official bid was presented by e-mail on 3 April 2000:

To the President and the Executive Committee of the IAHR

The Japanese Association for Religious Studies proposes to invite IAHR 2005 to Japan, in conjunction with its celebration of the one hundredth anniversary year of the installment of the first chair of history of religions and study of religions at the University of Tokyo and the seventy-fifth anniversary year of the establishment of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies.

In the General Assembly meeting of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies in September 1999, held at the time of the Annual Conference thereof, we came to a unanimous decision to invite the IAHR Congress in the year 2005 to Tokyo, Japan, in order for us to share the doubly memorable Japanese anniversary year with you, all the colleagues of IAHR. We sincerely hope that you would accept our invitation. The IAHR would consolidate its connection with historical and extensive universe of history of religions and the Japanese celebration would become a truly international event.

We discussed the theme and the venue of the Congress in the Executive Board. We are keenly conscious of the location of Japan, especially Tokyo, situated at the center of Asia and the Pacific.

As regards the conference theme, the majority of the Executive Board members feel it too early to fix it at the present time, because they believe they must go over all of the past themes, and also to see and assess the outcome of the congress in Durban before formulating the most appropriate theme.

As regards the venue, from the preliminary survey, the Makuhari area near Tokyo International Airport, and the Takanawa area, in downtown Tokyo, where more than 3000 bedrooms are available in one campus, and the Tokyo Bay area where the government is planning the construction of academic meeting places are readily available. Indeed, we can say that Japanese organizers can offer no less than South African partners.

Also, air transportation with substantial conference discount may be arranged. In our approach for the Congress, we do the best to make it open to the world, so that the scholars from all over the world can have significant participation with as much ease as possible, and our approach will be professional.

Sincerely yours,
Prof. Dr. Hitoshi Miyake
President, Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Prof. Dr. Michio Araki
Chair Person, Committee on
International Affairs, Japanese Association for Religious Studies

Michael Pye had approached the Japanese Association many years ago and asked whether they would host the 1995 congress, but it was not possible due to the fact that many Japanese who had arranged the 1958 congress were still active and did not want to carry the burden one more time. But during the past year the Japane-

se Association organized a number of committees and began preparing for such a congress. Besides its commemorative significance, the congress will come at a time when Japanese universities are in organizational transition. It is felt that the congress will help strengthen the situation of the study of religions.

During the past ten years, the two Executive Committees have concentrated a great deal of energy on Latin America and Africa. In the meantime, our contacts in India, Asia and the Oceanic regions—with the exception of Japan—have been sporadic. And, as mentioned, Australia has left us among other reasons because of the sporadic nature of our relations. Therefore the Executive Committee felt that the next organizational phase in the IAHR should be focused on the Asian regions and on how to improve our communication and our organization so that regions that are globally widespread understand themselves as members of an organizational unity. Hosting the next congress in Japan would in this sense be mandatory because the Japanese Association, which is one of the largest and oldest IAHR affiliates, has stood shoulder to shoulder with the IAHR in the face of organizational uncertainties both in Asia and other parts of the world. The Executive Committee hopes that our members will agree with us that the IXth Quinquennial Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions should be convened in Tokyo, Japan.

During the period 2001-2005 we expect a lot of conferences to be held in the Asian and Pacific regions. We have already received suggestions for conferences in China, Hawaii, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Korea and Taiwan. There will be representatives from some of these areas in Durban which will give IAHR affiliates ample opportunity to discuss these plans with them. The most concrete suggestion is New Zealand. The President of the New Zealand Association, Prof. Paul Morris, has indicated that NZASR wishes to host an IAHR Regional Conference in Wellington in 2002 or 2003. Prof. Morris will be attending the Durban Congress.

Other venues are Crete and Cuzco. We are also negotiating with colleagues in Turkey which may lead to a conference there. For those of you who have natural contacts with any of the above-mentioned countries, we would appreciate your helpful assistance. We would also appreciate further suggestions and conference bids to be raised during the International Committee meeting in Durban.

Finances

The IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, will be presenting an audited report at the International Committee meeting during which the details can be discussed. The delegates should be prepared, however, for bad news and a good deal of soul-searching. It has been very difficult for Prof. Lease to reconstruct an overview of payments because of problems in transferring incomplete records. The bad news, however, is that a substantial number of IAHR affiliates are long overdue in paying their membership dues. Some are three or four years behind in payments. Only some 15% are paid in full! When combined with the fact that a number of affiliates are simply not able to pay, this leaves the IAHR in a highly vulnerable situation. It makes the organization weak in the face of economically stronger competitors, and it leaves the Executive Committee helpless when economic solutions to problems are required.

Some associations cannot pay their dues, such as Cuba, Latin America, Russia, Ukraine, China, etc. Generally in the past the IAHR has used "alternative contributions" as a way to satisfy payment in some way. This might involve hosting a conference and covering the living costs of a number of key persons or producing a publication, or even paying in national currency according to their means. Some

associations apply for funding through their national research councils and thus the timing might not coincide with the IAHR call for dues.

I appeal to all International Committee delegates to check with their treasurers about the status of membership payments and to bring their payments with them. I also ask those who are not in the position to pay membership dues to contact Gary Lease in Durban and work out alternative solutions. 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. During the ten years that I have served (five as Treasurer and five as General Secretary), this has not been a policy in the IAHR with the exception of the Australian situation. But many IAHR affiliates, even those residing in countries with strong currencies, have not respected their obligation to pay up. The International Committee approved the procedure chosen in relation to the Australian Association. Does the International Committee have a solution to the balance of outstanding dues?

Prof. Lease has raised the issue that according to U.S. tax laws, the IAHR accounts will be taxed unless it applies for non-profit status. But that procedure is almost impossible if the organization is not incorporated. This is a further impetus to have the IAHR incorporated. Basically, the IAHR is located wherever the General Secretary happens to reside. Various countries have different ideas about matters of incorporation. The Executive committee decided that until the IAHR is incorporated, it will have to cover the tax expenses.

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

As is well known, the IAHR is a member association of CIPSH which consists of 12 international societies. The IAHR pays a membership price of 7% of its budget, but no less than \$250 annually. The IAHR has the possibility of applying for grants-in-aid for meetings with scientific aims, such as international congresses or special symposia (the travel expenses "of participants from economically under-privileged countries or countries far from the place of the meeting, and preferably of young scholars"—quote from *Conditions Governing the Granting of Subsidies by the CIPSH*), and the preparation or printing of publications, such as bibliographies, dictionaries, collections, etc. and other scientific works of a broadly international character. Because not all members of the United Nations pay their bill, UNESCO has very little money, and, thus, CIPSH is also on a very tight budget. Like the IAHR, CIPSH is faced with economic and political obstacles to international cooperation and global solidarity.

Michael Pye and I attended the XXIVth General Assembly of CIPSH in Naples on October 17-21, 1998. It marked the 50th anniversary of CIPSH. The theme of the conference held in conjunction with the General Assembly was "Humanistic Studies: Leaving the 20th and Entering the 21st Century". It was expected that each constituent society give a lecture on its area of expertise in relation to the theme, and Michael Pye gave a lecture on behalf of the IAHR entitled "Changing Structures in the History of Religions". During the General Assembly it was announced that the IAHR would receive continued subventions for its *Science of Religions Abstracts* as well as a US\$10,000 subvention to be used in connection with the Durban Congress. As mentioned above, the 2000 budget was cut and we are awaiting word on the actual size of our subvention. The amount mentioned was somewhere around 20% less. This has put us in an unsatisfactory position in relation to the financial commitments that were effectuated on the assumption that we would in-

deed receive US\$10,000.

I gave a brief report on the IAHR and passed out the May 1998 Bulletin, our brochure and the Durban brochure. The report and this material brought praise from the Secretary General of CIPSH, Prof. Jean Bingen. He said that the IAHR is a model association in the CIPSH family. His reason for this praise was that the IAHR produces materials explaining what it is doing and it devotes effort to explaining CIPSH to the IAHR membership. I thanked him on behalf of the IAHR for his kind words.

The General Assembly was addressed by Prof. Kim, an eloquent representative from UNESCO. CIPSH is a NOG (Non-Governmental Organization) under UNESCO. There are hundreds of NOGs all competing for support by UNESCO. Thus we are in effect competing with organizations such as the Red Cross and Food for Children, a fact which puts our small problems in perspective. Prof. Kim praised CIPSH, and especially Prof. Bingen, for effectively improving its prestige. CIPSH has succeeded in changing the former esoteric character of its journal *Diogène* to a journal of wider academic appeal. The journal has also become financially viable and less dependent on UNESCO. Simple subventions will no longer be possible because there are 186 member states who have very diverse interests and who may not consider *Diogène* to be as relevant or interesting as the rest of us do.

Prof. Kim noted that CIPSH has also improved its standing by choosing to support themes that are of interest to UNESCO. But there are serious financial restraints in the work of UNESCO and thus CIPSH should not expect increases in financial support. In fact, Prof. Kim stated that it would be a good idea to reach out to other alternative resources in order to reduce dependence on UNESCO over the coming years. The framework agreement makes it clear that UNESCO is not a funding organization. And he ended by saying that a new leader of UNESCO would be elected who will probably have a different budgetary policy.

The budgetary committee of CIPSH explained to the General Assembly that applications had come in for US\$263,000 but that only US\$190,000 was available. They asked member organizations to try to have the cost of printing reduced, to use disc-ready or camera-ready procedures and to get competitive prices. They also encouraged members to develop their bibliographical publications on the internet.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, CIPSH published an anthology of papers by renowned scholars such as Karl Jaspers, Roger Caillois, Georges Dumézil, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Theodosius Dobzhansky and Paul Ricoeur entitled *Diogène: Une anthologie. Textes choisis à l'occasion du cinquantième du Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines, CIPSH 1948-1998*, published by Gallimard.

The next General Assembly will be held in Buenos Aires in September 2000. CIPSH asked us to help organize the conference during which the General Assembly will be convened. The theme will be "Regard de l'autre, regard sur l'autre" and they asked the IAHR to co-host a round table on "Religion and Religions in the Contemporary World" with emphasis on South America. Our colleague Prof. Pablo Wright has been of great assistance in bringing this about. Rosalind I. J. Hackett will be the official IAHR delegate. She will also serve on the Nominating Committee of CIPSH during the conference.

Publications

The Executive Committee is happy to announce that the following conference publi-

cations have now appeared: Two "Adjunct Proceedings" of the Mexico Congress, namely *Perspectives on Method and Theory in the Study of Religion: Adjunct Proceedings of the XVIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Mexico City, 1995*, edited by Armin W. Geertz & Russell T. McCutcheon (published simultaneously as a special issue of *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 12 [1/2], 2000 and a separate volume by E.J.Brill, Leiden 2000), and *Gender / Bodies / Religions: Adjunct Proceedings of the XVIIth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions*, edited by Sylvia Marcos, Cuernavaca: ALER Publications 2000. Three spin-off publications from the Mexico Congress have appeared so far: *Sectas o iglesias viejos o nuevos movimientos religiosos*, compiled by Elio Masferrer Kan, Mexico City: Plaza y Valdés, S.A. de C.V. and la Asociación Latinoamericana para el estudio de las Religiones (ALER) 1998; a special issue of *Religion. An International Journal* entitled *Symposium on Religion and Gender*, edited by Sylvia Marcos & Rosalind I. J. Hackett (28, 1998, 307-411); and *Western Esotericism and the Science of Religion: Selected Papers presented at the 17th Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Mexico City 1995*, edited by Antoine Faivre & Wouter J. Hanegraaff, Leuven: Peeters 1998. The official proceedings are currently being edited by Yolotl González Torres and will hopefully appear in Durban.

The Bogota IAHR Regional Conference led to the publication of *Religion y Etnicidad en America Latina: Memorias del VI Congreso Latinoamericano de Religion y Etnicidad ALER y II Encuentro de la diversidad del hecho religioso en Colombia ICER*, 3 vols., edited by German Ferro Medina, Bogota: Instituto Colombiano de Antropologica 1997. Although not stated in the publication, the papers were read at an IAHR Regional Conference.

The IAHR Special Conference in Turku led to the publication of *Approaching Religion Part I. Based on Papers Read at the Symposium on Methodology in the Study of Religions Held at Åbo, Finland, on the 4th-7th August 1997*, edited by Tore Ahlbäck, Åbo: The Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History 1999.

The papers read at the joint IAHR and NAASR Round Table during the Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy in 1998 have been published or are currently in press in several different journals. The proceedings of the IAHR Regional Conference in Nairobi in 1999 are currently being edited by Mary N. Getui, J. N. K. Mugambi and Jan Platvoet. And the proceedings of the IAHR Special Conference in Brno in 1999 are currently being edited by Dalibor Papoušek and Luther H. Martin.

The Executive Committee discussed briefly at its meeting in Brno whether it should be more restrictive in designating IAHR conferences. The reason for this is that many organizers tend to forget the designation when publishing the proceedings. Some organizers believe that they do not owe the IAHR recognition if it doesn't support the publications economically. We have supported various publications in various ways, but as is painfully clear from this report, the IAHR is not a funding agency. The Executive Committee expects organizers to acknowledge the IAHR prominently in their proceedings either on the title page or somewhere near there in return for the honor of using the IAHR designation at their conference. But this is evidently not always clear to organizers. I think that the next Executive Committee will have to deliberate on improving its publication policies.

Efforts must also be made to develop individual subscriptions. The International Committee had rejected the idea of individual membership, but was positive to the idea of individual subscription. But individual subscriptions to the IAHR Bulletin are DAHR Nyhedsbrev 25, Side 40

not attractive in themselves and, therefore, it would be best if we could develop a subscription package consisting of NUMEN, SOR and the Bulletin. Individual subscriptions, however, would raise the need of a professional distribution service. Michael Pye and I have approached Brill on this possibility, but no response has come in. A possible solution would be that applications for individual subscriptions could be done through the IAHR website. Individual subscriptions are a desirable avenue of income and service, but we would need close cooperation with Brill on this matter.

It came to my attention recently that Brill had appointed Prof. Wouter J. Hanegraff (Amsterdam) as editor of the *Supplements to NUMEN* series. We are happy on his behalf, and congratulate him on the well-deserved honor. We were, however, somewhat surprised by the appointment process which Brill evidently felt did not have to involve the IAHR. The matter was raised in Hildesheim with the Dr. van der Meij, but the position of Brill on this issue is that the series is fairly independent from the journal even though the managing editors served on both boards. Because the series is not dealt with in our contract with Brill, and because it is published at their own risk and expense, they felt that they were in a position to appoint new members to the editorial board of the series themselves. Thus, it seems that this is an area which might need some further debate and negotiation.

The change-over of the managing editors of *Numen* has now occurred after some delays. All manuscripts and correspondence must now be sent to Prof. Michel Despland [desplan@vax2.concordia.ca] and/or Prof. Einar Thomassen [einar.thomassen@krr.uib.no]. On behalf of the IAHR I extend our gratitude for the excellent efforts and dedication of their predecessors, Prof. Hans G. Kippenberg and Prof. E. Thomas Lawson. I also want to thank their assistants as well as Brigitte Luchesi, who now serves as Reviews Editor.

Apologies and Possible Ways Forward

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize on behalf of the Executive Committee for the fact that the *IAHR Bulletin* failed to appear every year. I was able to produce three annual bulletins and three supplements as well as special correspondence on important business matters during the past quinquennial period. This is clearly insufficient in a situation where the flow of information is one of the mainstays of a global network. I must also apologize for the fact that the IAHR website has not been kept up-to-date. There are many good reasons for these transgressions, but it might perhaps be more constructive to deliberate on possible ways forward.

Most of us know what it is like to function as full-time, active scholars and carry the additional tasks of voluntary organizational activities. And in most places in the world, with economic cut-backs and little sympathy for the academic study of religion, those who are fortunate enough to have full-time employment are grossly overworked while the young and energetic, but un(or barely)employed, scholars face uncertain futures. Most voluntary activity does not qualify for economic support for office staff and assistants. My own faculty has graciously covered equipment costs, xeroxing, mailing and postage, and travelling expenses, but there is no money for assistants. The same holds true for the other members of the Executive Committee.

In a less than perfect world, a possible way forward is to delegate as many of the clearly defined organizational duties that currently end on the desk of this office to other members of the Executive Committee. The model established by the new-

ly founded European Association (EASR) is a good one, in my opinion. The EASR constitution (see page 31 in this bulletin) provides for the following offices: a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, a deputy general secretary, a treasurer, a deputy treasurer, a membership secretary, a publications officer and an internet officer. I think that this model would be good to follow. It can be followed during the next quinquennial period, if the elected candidates agree voluntarily. But it would be best to introduce constitutional changes that would institutionalize these offices. Their effectuation would in principle attract scholars who also have talents in those particular areas. A constitutional change in Durban would allow the new model to be in place for elections in 2005. I will bring a clearly worded proposal to the International Committee meeting in Durban.

A final item is brief mention of the fact that I expect the rules and procedures which the International Committee asked me to develop and which were preliminarily approved in Hildesheim to be finally approved in Durban. The reason for this two-part process was to try them out first. I have subsequently made two small changes the need of which were brought to my attention by Gary Lease. In the "Rules of Procedure for the International Association for the History of Religions" under rules 13.b and 14.b (see the *IAHR Handbook 2000*, page 22), provision is made for voting on points of order and closure of debate, but it is not stipulated by what vote, as is the case for instance in 15.e. Therefore, 13.b and 14.b now have the following wording:

13.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 majority of the members present and voting.

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 majority of the members present and voting.

If any of the rules prove to be counter-productive to a sensible and transparent conduct of business, the International Committee will have the opportunity to make improvements in the future. But if there are any points that would be good to take up in Durban, please contact me before the meeting.

Conclusion

This is my last bulletin as out-going General Secretary. I am grateful for the support and cooperation of the Executive Committee. We had a good team of dedicated individuals—some new to the job, others old hands with a lot of organizational savvy. It has been an honor to serve with them and a honor to serve the IAHR and its affiliates. I extend all best wishes to our successors. There are still many challenges to be met and jobs to be done. Good luck, and thank you for your willingness to serve!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IAHR International Committee meeting and the IAHR General Assembly

The International Committee and the General Assembly of the IAHR will be convening in Durban, South Africa during the XVIIIth Congress.

The General Assembly consists in principle of all the members of the national and regional associations who attend any IAHR world congress. The International Committee is composed of "(i) two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies, except that there shall not be more than two representatives from any one country; (ii) the Executive Committee...; and (iii) up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee" [Article 4.b of the Constitution]. The International Committee convenes to pursue IAHR business and at its meeting in Durban, it will be electing the Executive Committee for the next quinquennial period (2000-2005).

The secretaries of all IAHR affiliates are hereby requested to send the names of the delegates who will be attending the International Committee meeting to me by July 25, 2000 at the latest. This will give me the possibility of publishing the names of the delegates at the congress.

The preliminary agendas are as follows:

Agenda of the International Committee meeting in Durban, Wednesday August 9, 2000 at 8:30-12:00, place to be announced

- Adoption of the agenda
- Membership
 - Ascertainment of membership
 - Co-option as recommended by the Executive Committee
- Minutes of previous meeting (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000)
- Final adoption of the rules of procedure (published in the IAHR Handbook 2000)
- Report by the General Secretary (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000)
- Report by the Treasurer (circulated in advance)
- Additional matters of report by the Executive Committee
- Recommendation of changes in the Constitution
- Election of the new Executive Committee
- Recommendation of new affiliations
- Honorary life memberships
- Future conferences
- Any other business

Agenda of the General Assembly in Durban, Saturday August 12, 2000 at 9:00-12:00 in the Great Ilanga

- Adoption of the agenda
- Minutes of previous meeting (published in the IAHR Bulletin 34, 1996)
- Brief report by the outgoing General Secretary (published in the IAHR Bulletin 36, 2000)
- Brief report by the outgoing Treasurer (circulated in advance)

- New affiliations
- Recommendation of changes in the Constitution
- Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly
- Report on the election of the incoming Executive Committee
- Public transfer of office to the incoming Executive Committee
- Brief statement by the incoming President
- Brief statement by the incoming General Secretary
- Suggestions from the General Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee
- Any other business

The General Assembly will be immediately followed by the official closing of the XVIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Durban, South Africa.

Establishment of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)

To the office-bearers of all the European associations which are affiliated to the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

21.6.2000

Dear Colleagues/Friends,

As we approach the XIIIth Quinquennial Congress of the IAHR, I am writing to you as the current president with some important news about arrangements in Europe. There have recently been various discussions and initiatives with the aim of founding a Europe-wide association in our field. This process has not always been easy, and has sometimes been controversial, but I am happy to report to you that it has now reached a very satisfactory conclusion.

First, a few words about the process which has led up to the present situation. As long ago as the 1980's there were some informal ideas about developing such an organisation. However, the cooperation between various countries of Europe was rather good, and the main efforts of the IAHR were devoted to a steadily widening internationalisation of our activities, leading to conferences in China, Africa and Latin America, and to the development of regional associations for the two last-named regions. These initiatives in turn gave new meaning to the idea of having a regional association in Europe. However, while it is rather easy to call up the general idea of "Europe", it is not so easy to find the right organisational form for a European association which would respect both the international framework of the IAHR and the interests of its very supportive member associations.

In 1995 a serious discussion on these matters was held during the conference of the German association (DVRG) at Bonn. Though valuable in itself, this did not lead to a formal organisation which could be related to the other associations at national and international level. Consequently, the initiative was followed up by further extensive discussions at the regional conference of the IAHR at Hildesheim (Germany) in 1998, attended by representatives of most of the European associations. A working committee of twelve members was set up, but no final conclusions were reached. Some time later a minority group of those present founded an association known as "EurAssoc". Unfortunately this was not based on general agreement and a serious alternative proposal made by some of the other members of the working party was not given full consideration. In order to resolve the matter, the officers of the IAHR (in particular myself and Armin Geertz) looked for a way to bring the various parties together. This was discussed in particular at the IAHR conference in Brno (1999) and a further meeting was planned for early 2000 in Krakow. However it became very clear, rather unexpectedly, that the leading representative(s) of EurAssoc had no intention of making cooperative arrangements with the IAHR and the various national associations in Europe. This was a sad moment in the process.

With all this in mind, a further initiative was taken in early 2000. A working party convened by myself drafted a constitution for a European association which would at once be in tune with the objectives of the IAHR and fully respect the interests of the existing national associations within Europe. This working party included members from a number of European countries with a wide experience of our corporate activities. It concluded its work by proposing the establishment of a European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), and representatives of the various national associations were invited to an inaugural meeting in the context of the IAHR conference in Krakow, which had already been planned for May 2000. The meeting was chaired by myself as current president of the IAHR. The most important decisions at the meeting were as follows:

- (a) the statutes of the EASR were considered in detail and agreed with a few revisions,
- (b) a committee of twelve persons was elected,
- (c) it was decided that affiliation to the IAHR should be sought as soon as possible.

Shortly afterwards the Executive Committee of the IAHR itself met and decided to recommend this affiliation for approval at the IAHR Congress in Durban. Moreover, the registration of the EASR at The Hague has been arranged in the meantime, as provided for in the statutes. It is fair to report that all concerned regarded this a most satisfactory and welcome process.

The statutes of the EASR are quite detailed, but there are two most important features to be noted. First, its membership provisions allow both for the formal representation of all the European associations and for individual voting rights for all of their members. As a result the EASR can never be a rival to the national associations. It will reflect the interests of all their members through democratic processes. Second, the objective is clearly aligned with that of the IAHR at the international level. We therefore have a precise coordination of three forms of association:

The national associations of various countries in Europe
The European Association for the Study of Religions
The International Association for the History of Religions

In view of these ideal arrangements I warmly recommend to you the newly founded European Association for the Study of Religions.

In particular I ask you and your committee to consider taking one or more of the following steps, in accordance with your national procedures:

- (a) Take a decision in your committee to affiliate your association to the EASR,
- (b) If necessary, arrange for your members to vote on your affiliation to the EASR.
- (c) Make a committee recommendation for your affiliation to the EASR,
- (d) Vote in Durban to support the formal affiliation of the EASR to the IAHR,

Please note that the present committee of twelve persons has been elected for a short period only and that new elections will be held in the course of 2001. This means that it is desirable to decide on the affiliation of your association to the EASR *as soon as possible* so that your members will all be able to vote. Also, please inform the EASR of your decisions as soon as possible.

You will soon be receiving a letter from the newly elected President of the EASR inviting your association to be affiliated. The President is Professor Giulia Gasparro Sfameni (Messina, Italy). You may also be hearing from the General Secretary, Professor Tim Jensen (Odense, Denmark) and the Membership Secretary, Professor Kim Knott (Leeds, England). They will provide you with more information about the procedures. You will also receive the record of the inaugural meeting, the agreed text of the statutes, and the full list of elected committee members. You may also be interested to know that the first conference of the EASR will be held in Cambridge in September 2001.

In conclusion I would like to express my gratitude for the hard work of all those colleagues who have shared in the various stages of this complex process from 1995 onwards. I feel sure that the future activities of the European Association for the Study of Religions will provide assistance and inspiration for the generations to come. Please join with me, therefore, in recommending it to your colleagues and taking the necessary steps to ensure a successful and interesting future.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Pye

President of the International Association for the History of Religions

Please see the full text of the EASR constitution on the next pages. [Det umiddelbart følgende i dette nyhedsbrev]

European Association for the Study of Religions

Article 1. Name and registration

- i) The association shall be named "European Association for the Study of Religions".
- ii) In languages other than English it may be referred to informally by means of appropriate equivalents.
- iii) The official acronym shall be EASR.

iv) The association shall be legally registered at The Hague, The Netherlands. In the event of disputes arising concerning these statutes and their application informal mediation shall be sought. In the event that attempts at mediation should fail, all disputes and legal actions which might arise, shall as a last resort, to the exclusion of all other official bodies and insofar as admissible by law, be adjudicated exclusively by the judge entitled to adjudicate in the subject of dispute in the High Court of The Hague.

Article 2. Affiliation

The European Association for the Study of Religions (hereafter EASR) shall seek and if successful thereafter maintain affiliation to the International Association for the History of Religions (hereafter IAHR). Its organisation and activities shall be developed in a manner consistent with the well-being of the IAHR and all other associations affiliated thereto, in particular the relevant national associations within Europe and the regional associations in various other parts of the world.

Article 3. Objective

i) The objective of the EASR shall be to promote the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars normally resident in Europe whose research has a bearing on the subject.

ii) The objective of the EASR shall be pursued by the usual means of scholarly activity such as the arrangement of conferences, symposia or colloquia, the encouragement of scholarly publications, the exchange of information through electronic or other means, and such other activities as the association or its elected officers shall from time to time determine.

Article 4. Membership

i) Membership of the EASR shall be open to all students, researchers and others who share its objective, and who are normally or occasionally resident in or have close academic ties with a European country. Membership may take the form of individual membership, group membership via a national association, or honorary membership.

ii) Applications for individual membership shall be addressed to the appropriate officer of the EASR and the committee shall have the right to approve or reject such applications.

iii) The membership of any individual may be terminated by decision of the General Assembly for good and sufficient reason and after an opportunity for representations to the contrary has been extended.

iv) Individual members shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the committee. The rights and privileges of membership depend on payment of the membership subscription in advance for the membership period in question. Lapsed membership may be restored with reference to a subsequent membership period without further application.

v) Group membership may be sought by the national associations in European countries which are affiliated to the IAHR. In such cases, the payment of a single, reduced subscription by the national association for the membership period in question shall be sufficient to ensure membership rights including voting rights for all of its individual members whose names and addresses are provided by its officers. It shall, conversely, be the duty of the national association to convey essential information to its own members, for example concerning EASR conferences, the General Assembly, and elections to the Committee.

vi) Honorary membership may be granted to individuals by the General Assembly in exceptional cases with the same rights and privileges as ordinary individual membership.

Article 5. General Assembly

i) The governing body of the EASR shall be the General Assembly of its members, presided over by the current president.

ii) The General Assembly shall be convened once in each calendar year. The date may vary from March to October, taking account of the conference programme which provides the context. The Committee shall convene an extraordinary General Assembly at the request of a minimum of two thirds of the members. The minimum notice for an extraordinary General Assembly shall be 30 days by postmark.

iii) The General Assembly shall be convened whenever possible in the context of an academic conference organised by the IAHR, by one of the European affiliate associations of the IAHR or by the EASR. Except when held in the context of a quinquennial Congress of the IAHR the General Assembly shall be convened in one of the countries of Europe. During a year in which a quinquennial Congress of the IAHR is held in a country outside Europe the General Meeting of the EASR may be held in the context of that Congress, by decision of the Committee, but in such case no decisions shall be taken regarding changes to the constitution or dissolution of the association.

iv) Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly shall be given by the general secretary. When notice is given not less than 90 days in advance of the General Assembly a widely available form of communication such as a printed bulletin or an electronic medium is sufficient. If the period of notice is shorter, notice must be sent to all members individually in writing. The minimum period of notice is 30 days by postmark. Non-receipt of notice by one or more members shall not invalidate the decisions of the meeting.

v) The agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly shall be published in advance when the meeting is called. At the decision of the Committee, or if at least ten members in good standing submit this preference in writing, any issue can be referred for decision to a postal and/or electronic ballot which shall be conducted by the general secretary. Proposals for additions to the agenda shall be sent to the general secretary not less than three weeks before the meeting. Any additional alterations to the agenda shall require a two thirds majority of those present.

vi) The minimum number of members required for a meeting of the General Assembly (*quorum*) shall be twenty, of whom at least seven shall be members of the current Committee. If the *quorum* is not achieved, a further meeting shall be called at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

vii) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of those present at a meeting, except for the exceptions stated below. In the case of simple majority votes, abstentions shall be recorded but are not counted as "no" votes. Additions to the published agenda shall require a two thirds majority of all those present. Changes to the constitution or a motion to dissolve the association shall also require a two thirds majority (c.f. Articles 8 and 9).

viii) Specific rules of procedure may be adopted by the General Assembly itself. In the absence of such rules concerning any procedural matters which arise or in the event of dispute concerning their interpretation during the course of a validly convened meeting, the decisions of the president on procedural questions relating to the conduct of the meeting in question is final. The General Assembly may at the same meeting appoint a procedures committee to consider rules of procedure in detail and make recommendations to a future meeting of the General Assembly.

Article 6. Committee and officers

i) The business of the EASR shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of (a) designated officers who shall be elected by all the members, (b) one member each delegated by the European affiliate associations of the IAHR in accordance with their own electoral provisions, (c) two elected representatives of the individual members of the EASR from countries where no national affiliated association exists and (d) one member delegated by the Executive Committee of the IAHR.

ii) The following shall be elected to designated offices: a president, two vice-presidents, a general secretary, a deputy general secretary, a treasurer, a deputy treasurer, a membership secretary, a publications officer and an internet officer. The Committee may assign additional functions to its members on an *ad hoc* basis. The conduct of elections and the periods of office are determined in Article 7.

iii) The EASR may be represented formally by any of the designated officers in accordance with their specified function or as otherwise delegated by the president or by decision of the Committee. In the event of affiliation to the IAHR (c.f. Article 2) the resultant voting rights on the International Committee of the IAHR will be assumed by the president and the general secretary or other delegated committee members, taking account of the rules of the IAHR.

iv) The president, the general secretary and the treasurer shall present an oral or written report at each meeting of the General Assembly. The president in office conducts the General Assembly of the EASR (c.f. Article 5) and the meetings of the Committee. These functions may be delegated by the president, or in the event of serious illness or similar incapacitation by the Committee, to one of the vice-presidents. The general secretary and the treasurer may also be represented by the appropriate deputy officers.

v) The Committee shall meet not less than once annually. The meeting is called by the general secretary with the agreement of the president. A meeting of the Committee requires written notice of not less than 30 days, the attendance of the president or one of the two vice-presidents and at least six other members. Decisions are to be reached as far as possible by consensus and if necessary by simple majority vote. Abstentions may be recorded but do not count as "no" votes.

vi) Specific rules of procedure may be adopted by the Committee itself. In the absence of such rules concerning any procedural matters which arise or in the event of dispute concerning their interpretation during the course of a validly convened meeting, the decisions of the president on procedural questions relating to the conduct of the meeting in question is final. The Committee may at the same meeting appoint a procedures committee to consider rules of procedure in detail and make recommendations to a future meeting of the Committee.

Article 7. Elections

i) The members of the Committee shall be elected for a period of three calendar years running from January 1st. A member may be re-elected, except that no member shall serve in the same office for more than two terms, and no member shall be elected for a total of more than five terms with or without intervening periods. The same terms apply to delegated members.

ii) The elections shall be conducted by postal ballot. Responsibility for the conduct of the elections lies with the Committee. The cooperation and the assistance of the national associations shall be requested in the conduct of the elections. More specific rules for the conduct of the elections may be laid down by the General Assembly, provided always that they are consistent with these statutes.

iii) The right to vote is strictly limited to individuals with valid current membership, either directly or via a national association as registered at the appropriate time with the membership secretary of the EASR (c.f. Article 4).

Article 8. Amendments

i) Amendments to this constitution may be made by two thirds majority of the General Assembly. Details of proposed amendments must be given to the members in advance and not later than the notice for the convening of the General Assembly (c.f. Article 5, iv). Amendments shall come into force immediately after the conclusion of the meeting at which they are carried.

Article 9. Dissolution

i) The EASR can be dissolved only at the recommendation of the Committee and by decision of the General Assembly for which a two thirds majority is required. In the event of dissolution such assets as remain after the settling of all liabilities shall be transferred to the IAHR if in existence or to such other body as has the closest affinity to the objective of the EASR (c.f. Article 3).

Article 10. Enabling measure

i) As an enabling measure an inaugural meeting of the General Assembly of the EASR will be held in Krakau, Poland, on 2nd May 2000. An office-holder of the IAHR shall be requested to conduct the meeting until such time as the EASR shall have elected its own president. The first task of the meeting will be to modify and confirm the above statutes. The provisions of the statutes, for example concerning notice, minimum attendance and voting rights, will come into force at the next subsequent opportunity.

ii) At the inaugural meeting a committee shall be elected for a term to end not later than December 31st. 2001. Any persons who would normally qualify for membership of the EASR may be elected to the committee whether they are present at the inaugural meeting or not. The committee shall consist in the first instance of the designated officers named in Article 6, ii of the statutes. Further members shall join the committee in accordance with Article 6, i as soon as subsequent opportunity permits, for example immediately following the affiliation of a national association. Membership of this committee shall not be counted as a "term" as regulated in Article 7, i.

iii) The task of the committee so elected shall be to initiate the work of the EASR with immediate effect, in particular to apply for affiliation to the IAHR, to establish working relations with the national associations in Europe affiliated to the IAHR, to develop the membership in accordance with the above provisions, to arrange the second General Assembly to which it will report, and to conduct elections to the second Committee which will run for a normal term from January 1st. 2002.

iv) In the event of successful affiliation to the IAHR the words "seek and if successful thereafter" shall be deleted from Article 2 and the words "In the event of affiliation to the IAHR (c.f. Article 2) the resultant" shall be deleted from Article 6, iii.

v) With effect from January 1st. 2002 this article will be automatically deleted from the statutes and preserved archivally.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

IAHR Regional Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, July-August 1999

48 East African scholars of religions from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, met with 11 AASR scholars from other parts of Africa and the world at the Amani ('Peace') Conference Centre on Thika Road, Nairobi, Kenya, a centre run by the Benedictine Fathers. They convened at an IAHR Regional Conference organized by the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) and hosted by the Department of Religious Studies at Kenyatta University in Nairobi. The theme of the conference was 'The Religions of East Africa, and their Study, in the Age of Globalisation'.

The conference was to serve two main purposes. The first was to have scholars from East Africa present papers on religions in East Africa and their study in the universities of East Africa. These papers were discussed critically and extensively in the conference in preparation for their possible inclusion in a volume on the study of the religions of East Africa. This volume will serve two purposes. It should, on the one hand, be useful as a textbook in teaching these religions in introductory courses at the universities of East Africa. It should, therefore, also be published in East Africa itself, at prices affordable to staff and students there. On the other hand, it should also present East African scholarship on the religions of East Africa to the global academic community. The book should, therefore, also be distributed in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

The other aim of the conference was the foundation of an East African Association for the Study of Religions (EAASR). An association of scholars of religions in the universities and other institutions of learning of the three anglophone nations of East Africa was felt to be needed in order to strengthen the academic scholarship of religions in East Africa by providing them with an efficient network for co-operation in research and exchange of its results through a newsletter, conferences and publications. The association will be as multi-disciplinary as is the modern study of religions, comprising scholars from all the different departments and disciplines in the universities of East Africa in which religion and religions are being studied. The association should, in addition, also serve to integrate East African scholars of religions into the global community of scholars of religions by the EAASR becoming an affiliate of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) during the 18th IAHR quinquennial congress.

The conference also served two subsidiary purposes. One was to bring together the members of the AASR Executive and other AASR members who had either been active in the AASR in the past or planned to play a role in its work in the near future. These were to deliberate on important issues of AASR planning for Durban 2000 and for the quinquennial period after it. The other purpose was to provide the IAHR General Secretary, who also participated in this conference, and the four members of the AASR Executive who were also members of the IAHR Executive to deliberate on the Durban congress and other important matters.

The members of the IAHR Executive present had many informal discussions on AASR policy during the conference among themselves and with the other AASR members present. A meeting was hosted by AASR for all AASR members present, the conference committee, other East African scholars and the General Secretary of the IAHR. Several points were discussed, but two shall be mentioned here. The first was on AASR and IAHR concerns to ensure as wide a participation of scholars of religions from Africa at the IAHR congress in Durban as possible. It was acknowledged that African universities can normally only grant leave of absence for attending a congress but have no financial means to assist their staff members in the costs of travel and boarding. The need to apply certain criteria to establish whom to assist with the limited funds available was also discussed. The second point discussed was the AASR policy on printing, publications and book distribution in Africa: the Newsletter, books by African and non-African scholars to be published in Africa by African publishers at prices affordable for the libraries, scholars and students of African universities. The organisation of a workshop by African and Western publishers during the IAHR congress in Durban on how to promote the distribution of such books in Africa was also discussed.

The conference also enabled a meeting of representatives from African universities to discuss their common problems and possible solutions to them. They also discussed the possibility of networking and exchange of external examiners, etc. For the West African representation it also offered a good experience of the AASR and IAHR at work and gave us the opportunity to deliberate on how to get the West African AASR going as well as the possibility of establishing an IAHR affiliate in Ghana.

The members of the IAHR Executive attending the conference - Prof. Armin W. Geertz, Prof Rosalind Hackett (who is also the Programme Chair of the 18th IAHR Congress at Durban in August 2000), Prof Abdulkader Tayob, and Prof Gerrie Ter Haar - met to discuss IAHR business on Thursday night, 29 July 1999.

One of the most encouraging results of the conference was, if not a breakthrough, then at least some advance in the severe book famine of Africa. This concerns the frustrating problem of making academic publications on the religions of Africa and on the discipline, by African and other scholars, available to students and staff in Africa at prices which they can afford by their being published and distributed in Africa by African publishing firms. Discussions at the Nairobi conference have shown that there are developments afoot that may alleviate the book famine in the field of the Study of Religions to some limited degree. It is likely that Prof. Jesse N. K. Mugambi will play a pivotal role in these developments in the coming years. Apart from teaching in the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Nairobi, Prof. Mugambi is a publisher who directs Acton Publishers, a firm for 'academic and specialized publishing'. The firm is already publishing 'The African Christianity Series', in which so far 12 volumes, all by East African scholars in Christianity, at Ksh 500 (US\$7) per volume, have appeared. The volumes are sold to customers in Europe and North America at US\$15 each. The second (and first African) edition of *The Study of Religions in Africa* (the Harare conference volume) will be published by Acton Publishers. Roots & Branches at Cambridge, the publisher of the first, now exhausted edition, has graciously granted permission for a reprint. The volume to come out of the Nairobi Conference will also be published by Acton Publishers before the IAHR Congress in Durban in early August, 2000. (Reported by Jan Platvoet, in abridged form by AWG)

IAHR Special Conference in Brno, Czech Republic, August 1999

A special conference of the IAHR was held 9-13 August 1999 in Brno, Czech Republic, on the theme "The Academic Study of Religion during the Cold War: Ideological and Theological Constraints, East and West". During this conference, invited scholars of religion representing thirteen countries (including the Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, the United Kingdom and the United States) participated in a joint inquiry into the respective historical and political shapings of their field of study in light of Cold-War rhetoric and values with an eye to identifying any continuities that may persist in the definition of this field and its subject matter. In addition to four days of extraordinarily interesting papers and to a meeting of the IAHR Executive Committee, participants in the conference also enjoyed a piano recital by Natasha Koval-Paden prior to an opening banquet at the Old Town Hall in Brno and a cultural tour to the castle and museum of Mikulov in Southern Moravia followed by dinner at a typical Moravian wine cellar. The participants also experienced a near total solar eclipse.

Sponsored by the Czech Society for the Study of Religions and the North American Association for the Study of Religion, the conference was jointly organized by Iva Dolezalová, Bretislav Horyna and Dalibor Papoušek of Masaryk University, Brno and by Luther H. Martin of the University of Vermont. The conference was generously funded by grants from the University of Vermont, from the East Program of the Czech Open Society Fund and by the Spencer Foundation. Proceedings of the conference are currently being edited for publication by Professors Dolezalová, Martin and Papoušek and details of their availability will be announced at the XVIIIth Congress of the IAHR in Durban.

(Reported by Luther H. Martin)

IAHR Special Conference at Cracow, Poland, May 2000

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The conference was organized by the Jagellonian University and sponsored by the International Association for the History of Religions and its affiliate the Polish Society for the Study of Religions to be held in Cracow, Poland, May 1-5, 2000. The theme of the conference was "Contemporary European Approaches to the Study of Religions". The organizers were Halina Grzymala-Moszczyńska (Cracow) and Andrzej Wojtowicz (Warsaw).

In view of the up-coming world congress of the IAHR the aim of this conference was to discuss some of the themes that will be addressed in more detail by colleagues from around the world in Durban, but from a European perspective. It was deemed appropriate to appraise the various methods, approaches, theories and results of the study of religion as it is practiced in Europe. Speakers were encouraged to view their topic in terms of methodological and theoretical concerns. They were also asked to discuss the main approaches of contemporary European scholarship, and determine the directions they are currently taking. Papers dealt with the study of religion in various European countries, and a whole day was set aside to demonstrate the variety of approaches and interests in Polish studies of religion. The papers were informative and the discussions were lively. There was also a reception at the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, which is the oldest part of the University.

On the organizational side, important meetings were held during the conference by the International Association for the History of Religions (the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board of NUMEN), and the founding assembly of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). The new association applied for IAHR affiliation immediately after its foundation.

Publication of the conference proceedings is being planned.
(Reported by AWG)