

IDENTITY ISSUES AND WORLD RELIGIONS



Selected Proceedings of the Fifteenth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions

EDITED BY VICTOR C.HAYES

The Australian Association



for the Study of Religions

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) is a federation of national societies meeting at five-yearly intervals.

It was founded in 1950 in Amsterdam but traces its ancestry back to *Le Premier Congrès International d'Histoire des Religions* held in Paris in 1900. Participants at that Congress took the view that scholars pursuing scientific work in the area of religions should be able to proceed without deferring to Confessional interests.

Subsequent Congresses were held at Basel (1904), Oxford (1908), Leiden (1912), Lund (1929), Brussels (1935), Amsterdam (1950), Rome (1955), Tokyo (1958), Marburg (1960), Claremont (1965), Stockholm (1970), Lancaster (1975), Winnipeg (1980) — and now Sydney (1985). This Fifteenth Congress is the first to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

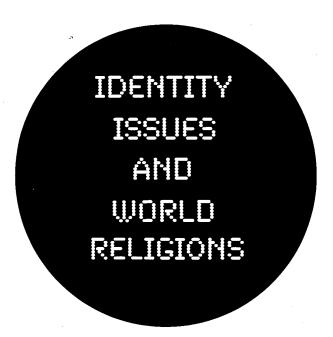
Sydney University, through its Department of Religious Studies — and in conjunction with the Australian Association for the Study of Religions — hosted 439 participants from 29 countries.

Of the 281 papers delivered at the Fifteenth Congress, perhaps one-quarter were related to the Congress Theme: *Religion and Identity*. The final selection of 27 papers for this volume represents the diversity of concerns, academic disciplines, religious traditions, and even world geographic areas, involved in the many Congress theme-related discussions.

The resultant volume has the appeal of any good anthology in which scholarly conversation flows around a topic that is, by deliberate choice, comprehensive and many-sided. It will be of interest to everyone who is caught up in, or concerned with, issues of identity and religion in a pluralistic, changing world.

The selected papers are followed by a "Contextualizing Essay", a Record of Formal Events, Details of the Sectional Program, a List of Participants (with addresses), and Information on IAHR and AASR.

Carole Cusadi 1999



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