

AASR Up-date

From the Secretary

AASR members are asked to take note of the enclosure with this issue of the *REVIEW*. It concerns election of Officers for the 1988/89 year.

As described by the Constitution, tenure of all offices terminates at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting, and the Nominations committee has ac-

cordingly submitted names for the vacant positions.

The next Annual General Meeting of the AASR will be held at 4 pm, Saturday, September 3, 1988, at the University of Queensland. Further nominations may be made from the floor of that meeting.

—Raymond O. Harrison

From the Treasurer

A detailed statement of the Association's accounts will be presented at the A.G.M. in Brisbane. For the present, the Preliminary Statement below should suffice to give a broad overview of our financial situation.

The figures suggest our situation is satisfactory: at the close of the 1987/88 fiscal year our balance was over \$11000, i.e. some \$3000 up on 1986/87. This is in spite of a relatively slow rate of payment of membership fees. (Over 100 of our 322 members are one year or more in arrears.)

Looking ahead to 1988/89, the Executive foresees some major expenditure increases, all relating to publication. The first arises from the fact that the *REVIEW* is naturally more expensive to produce than its predecessors. The planned three issues per year will increase our annual expenditure by some \$4500 — a sound investment, given that the *REVIEW* will undoubtedly become increasingly important as the Association's major medium of communication.

The second major expense will be for an updated version of the AASR Members' Directory planned for early next year. The cost of this is estimated at around \$800-\$1000.

But the biggest item is book publication. This aspect of the Association's activities succeeds well in paying for itself overall, thanks largely to Vic Hayes' admirable cost-saving initiatives. It does, however, operate within very narrow financial margins. Whenever a printing or binding job comes up we really have to count the cents.

Such considerations have led to the suggestion that an increase in the annual membership fee should be considered. An increase in the full fee from the present \$20 to \$25 (while retaining the current student rate of \$10) has been proposed. This would increase our balance by about \$1500 per year and give us the much needed leeway in budgeting for publications.

A proposal for such a fee increase will therefore probably be on this year's A.G.M. agenda.

In this connection it is worth noting that many comparable organizations charge \$40 or more for membership. Our proposed fee of \$25 is therefore relatively low, especially in view of the many benefits (among them free or specially low-priced copies of the Association's publications) that go with AASR membership.

AASR
Preliminary Statement of Income and Expenditure
for the Period 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1988

<u>Balance brought forward, 1 July 1987</u>		
Uni Credit Union account		\$8018.75
 <u>Add Income</u>		
Membership fees	4900.00	
Book sales	3561.09	
1987 Conference surplus	1020.13	
Interest: Uni Credit Union	<u>883.77</u>	<u>10364.99</u>
		\$18383.74
 <u>Less Expenditure</u>		
Taxes and Bank Charges	19.80	
IAHR affiliation (2 years)	400.00	
1988 Conference advance	600.00	
REVIEW production costs	1550.00	
Book production costs	3250.00	
Postage & reimbursement of secretarial expenses	<u>1304.45</u>	<u>7124.25</u>
		<u>\$11259.49</u>
 <u>Balance carried forward, 1 July 1988</u>		
Uni Credit Union account		<u>\$11259.49</u>

—Rod Bucknell
19 July 1988

**The Australian Association for the Study of Religions
13th Annual Conference
The Women's College
University of Queensland
1-4 September, 1988**

The Department of Studies in Religion of the University of Queensland is looking forward to hosting many of you for the 13th Annual Conference of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions when it meets at The Women's College on 1-4 September.

This year's conference is unique in that the three plenary speakers will be women. Deborah Bird Rose from the Australian National University will be the Charles Strong Senior Lecturer. The title of her address, "Ned Kelly Died for Our Sins", is provocative as well as appropriate for the bicentennial year. The paper examines the aboriginal response to the white "conquerors". It represents an important alternative approach to the more usual concern to rehearse history from the perspective of the conquerors. The Charles Strong Junior Lecturer, Majella Franzmann, is a tutor and Ph.D. student in the Department of Studies in Religion. She is working on the Odes of Solomon with Dr. Michael Lattke and has already a number of published works to her credit. Her lecture will be on the symbolism of water in both the mythology and the cult of the Mandaeans. We are also fortunate to have with us to present a plenary address Dr. Eileen Barker of the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is visiting The University of New England and the University of Queensland. Many of you will be familiar with her well-known book, *The Making of a Moonie: Choice or Brainwashing*. In her plenary address to the conference at the conference dinner, she will be speaking about the Moonies. In addition to these three outstanding lecturers, nearly forty other

members of the association will deliver papers.

The Women's College at the University of Queensland has gained a reputation as an outstanding venue for staging conferences at the University of Queensland. It overlooks the University Lake and the Brisbane River. The surrounds are like a park, a pleasant area for morning and afternoon walks. A rain forest created by the Alumni Association is nearby.

We hope that everyone can be here in time for the Charles Strong Senior Lecture on Thursday evening (1st September). On the Thursday afternoon there will be free coffee and tea in the registration office, which will be large enough to enable you to mingle and to renew acquaintances. After the lecture we will assemble for a wine-and-cheese evening. Most of the conference papers will be delivered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Of course this is the year when Brisbane is staging Expo 88. There have been many visitors to the city, and rooms are scarce. If you plan to stay on in Brisbane after the conference, you should write directly to The Women's College to make prior bookings for rooms. Unless you do so, accommodation may be difficult to come by when you are in Brisbane.

Philip Almond, who is the conference chairperson, was granted a study leave by the University of Queensland and will be in London studying when the conference is staged here. Ed Conrad and Rod Bucknell have taken on the task of finalising plans for the conference. Special thanks should go to Rod, who has handled all the correspondence and treasury matters.

We will be pleased to welcome a number of people from Western Australia. Enid Adam who is vice-president of the AASR, has done an excellent job in initiating plans for the 1989 conference. The planning committee, chaired by Iain

Gardner, has preparations well under way for the conference.

—Edgar W. Conrad
University of Queensland

Eileen Barker: AASR Plenary Speaker A Background Note

Dr. Eileen Barker is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is best known for her work in the study of new religious movements, especially the Unification Church (the "Moonies"), and her book *The Making of a Moonie* received the annual Distinguished Book Award of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in 1985. She has given numerous guest lectures at universities in North America, Europe and Asia. Her 1985 Ferguson Lectures at the University of Manchester will shortly be published under the title *Armageddon and Aquarius*.

She has made over 100 radio or television broadcasts in Britain, the U.S.A. or Canada. Two films and an audio-cassette used by the Open University are devoted to her research methods, which have primarily been those of participant observation. She has served on the Executive Councils or Committees of the British Sociology of Religion Study Group, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion,

the Conference Internationale de Sociologie des Religions, the Association for the Sociology of Religion and the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Religion.

She has recently received a grant from the British Home Office to establish INFORM, a non-sectarian organization that has as its primary purpose the provision of accurate and unbiased information about new religious movements, and about available counselling.

Her visit to Australia in August-September 1988 is being sponsored primarily by the Department of Sociology at the University of New England. In addition to addressing a plenary session at the AASR Annual Conference, she will be giving lectures and seminars in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland and the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Sydney.

—Alan Black
University of New England