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# AASR Update

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## From the Secretary

We have been trying to tidy up the membership files and are pleased to report that all details are now computerised. At the time of writing membership stands at 301 all but 25 of whom are fully paid up. Two eager members have even paid for the coming year!

With the last *REVIEW* we sent reminder notices to all unfinancial members and most were rapid in their reply, either paying their subs or asking to be removed from the files. 38 people who were more than two years in arrears have been removed from the files. It is regrettable to lose contact with members who in some cases have continued over many years but with membership not even covering costs there is no alternative.

On the positive side a steady stream of enquiries from libraries and individuals (particularly students) has resulted in

several new memberships. Representation from some university departments is falling off and members could assist by bringing the AASR to the attention of both their colleagues and their post-grad students.

If you have any other ideas about improving the Association or for broadening the membership base please get in touch at the Conference or write with your suggestions. Our interdisciplinary diversity is one of the great strengths of the AASR but we all need to foster and nurture it.

The resolution at last conference to pay a fee for secretarial assistance has been very successful and I am indebted to Peter Bentley for his efficient and cheerful cooperation.

*'Tricia Blombery  
Christian Research Association, Sydney*

## Minutes of AASR Annual General Meeting Canberra, 30 September 1990.

The meeting opened at 11.00 am in the Senior Common Room, John XXIII College, ANU.

Attendance: 22 members - Anne Gardner, Val Noone, John Bodycomb, Ed

Conrad, Tricia Blombery, Ian Somerville, Trevor Jordan, Deborah Rose, Paul Stange, Peter Riddell, Paul Rule, Jim Norman, Lynn-Marie Barber, Georgia Cassidy, John Noack, Bronia Hatfield,

Charles Joyce, Antony Campbell, Robert Barnes, Anthony Johns, Roderic Lacey, Peter Bentley.

Observers: Philip Hughes, Mary Doyle, Audrey Somerville.

Chairman: Anne Gardner.

**1. Apologies:** many members could not be present because of the refuellers' strike disrupting airline services.

**2. Minutes of 1989 Annual General Meeting:** Acceptance moved Paul Stange, seconded Tricia Blombery, carried.

**3. Business arising:**

a) Women's caucus report. No formal report available. But Anne Gardner reported that a letter from Penny McKibbin re feminist-oriented theses was ready to go out.

b) Future conferences.

i Association for the Journal of Religious History proposal, per Garry Trompf Sydney, for joint conference.

There was discussion of AJRH proposal per Garry Trompf for joint conference. The meeting supported collaboration but opposed a merger.

A straw vote indicated 9 votes for simultaneous and integrated conference with AJRH, 14 votes for one or two days overlap and no votes for a back-to-back proposal. Following that the president gained agreement from all on linking up but having separate organising committees with separate finance. There was some disagreement about the mechanics of this.

Correspondence between Garry Trompf and president read. As the refuellers' strike had prevented AASR executive meeting, Anne Gardner to contact other executive members re this matter.

Motion: that a group of people including members of the executive and Sydney-based persons be appointed [by the

executive] to enter into negotiations with the Association for the Journal of Religious History in order to develop a conference program which does justice to the aims and identity of both organisations, moved Tricia Blombery, seconded John Bodycomb, carried unanimously.

Re liaison with Sydney for 1991: John Bodycomb asked who we were going to appoint to represent this meeting in the planning group. Tricia Blombery was nominated; moved P Stange, seconded I Somerville, carried.

Timing of 1991 conference: some discussion of July or September. ANZATS 1991 is in Sydney in July. Vote for change to July, moved President, seconded, Lynn-Marie Barber, carried.

ii International Society of Biblical Literature and American Academy of Religion proposal for 1992 Melbourne AASR joint conference.

The president said that the proposal for AASR to meet in Jakarta in 1992 was now ruled out because of a proposed Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and American Academy of Religion (AAR) conference in Australia in 1992. Kent Richards of SBL visited Australia in June. AASR president agreed on association's behalf to link AASR 1992 conference to SBL-AAR conference in Australia. Possible attendance of 700 people from Pacific region. Norm Habel has worked to make this happen. After consideration Melbourne Conference Centre chosen as venue because of direct flights from USA and Europe. Date proposed 12-16 July 1992. Papers have been called for and will close in September 1991. President is seeking comments on draft topics for that conference. Members requested that details be published in *ARS REVIEW*. Kent Richards has requested a list of major scholars of the

region who should be invited; Norm Habel wants members to suggest more names. President read list she had suggested. Discussion followed. The following were nominated by the meeting to draw up a list: P. Rule, D. Rose, P. Stange, A. Johns, J. Bodycomb.

c) Editorship of ARS REVIEW: The president thanked Penny McKibbin for all her work, as well as Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes who now look after production. Endorsed by the meeting, moved P Stange, seconded R Lacey, carried.

4. **President's report**: The president explained that she had given a substantial report in the course of Business Arising from Previous Minutes; and then raised the matter of AASR representation to Australian Research Council, tabling letter from John Bowden, honorary secretary of FASSO. The meeting suggested Alan Black, Max Charlesworth, Paul Rule, or Philip Almond.

5. **Secretary's report**: not available. Ed Conrad requested to encourage Mavis Rose to send report to Tricia Blombery for *ARS REVIEW*.

6. **Treasurer's report**: Copies were given to each member present. A copy was published in *ARS REVIEW* Spring 1990. Acceptance moved Ian Somerville, seconded Paul Rule, carried. 7. **Publication Committee Chair Report**: Copies were circulated and one is appended to these minutes. Acceptance moved Ian Somerville, seconded Paul Rule, carried.

8. **Elections**: Secretary and Treasurer have resigned.

Editor, AASR Publications: President announced that Vic Hayes would like the production of publications to be taken over by others although he would be happy to stay involved. Ed Conrad and Anne Gardner have asked Tricia Blom-

bery and Philip Hughes to consider taking on publications production. Philip Hughes has estimated costs and gave the example of 1000 copies of 150 page book at approximately \$6000. President asked that Vic Hayes and Norm Habel be consulted. Paul Rule moved, seconded Ian Somerville, that incoming committee take care of this matter, carried.

Secretary: no nomination was received. President suggested an honorarium be paid. Tricia Blombery volunteered for Secretary and explained that Peter Bentley who already did contract work for her would work for an honorarium, suggesting \$15 an hour. This proposal was accepted, moved Anne Gardner, seconded, Ian Somerville, carried.

Treasurer: no nomination was received. Discussion. Agreement was reached that a Sydney person be appointed but with Peter Bentley doing the day-to-day work. Executive to follow this up. Tricia Blombery to approach Bill Jobling to act as Treasurer.

Chairperson for next conference: executive to approach Garry Trompf and appoint if he accepts.

9. **Pooling of Resources**: President raised possibility of AASR members pooling resources by considering forms of agreement for students to spend a semester at another institution when their own institution did not have the expertise sought and the other did. She pointed out that some institutions are stronger in language, others in history, others in sociology, for example. Paul Stange asked that AASR publish a detailed inventory of courses and degree programs. Paul Rule said that exchanges were possible under the regulations at La Trobe University but thought that some universities may have

regulations against it. Matter to be carried forward to next year.

10. Any other business: New members were asked to pay 'Tricia Blombery.

The president expressed thanks to Mavis Rose, Rod Bucknell and Penny McKibbin.

MEETING CLOSED At 12.54 pm.

*Volunteer minute-taker: Val Noone*

## AASR

### Preliminary Financial Statement for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991

Balance carried forward 1 July 1990

Uni-Credit access account	10087.12	
Uni-Credit cashable term deposit	<u>8000.00</u>	<u>\$18087.12</u>

Add Income

Membership fees	7933.99	
Book sales	1952.33	
Advertising	102.00	
REVIEW sales	452.05	
Interest - Uni-Credit	805.35	
- Westpac	662.62	
1990 Conference advance repayment	1000.00	
1990 Conference surplus	<u>860.67</u>	<u>\$13779.01</u>
		<u>\$31866.13</u>

Less Expenditure

Wages -Administration	645.00	
Administration costs	653.21	
Bank charges	101.44	
REVIEW Production	2250.00	
Printing	9018.00	
Postage and stationery	2177.60	
WCC press representation	230.00	
Directory	899.68	
Members book offer	81.00	
IAHR Membership 1990	204.00	
IAHR Membership 1991	290.00	
1991 Conference advance	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>\$17549.93</u>

Balance carried forward 1 July 1991

Westpac savings account	7316.20	
Westpac term deposit	<u>7000.00</u>	<u>\$14316.20</u>

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## **International Association for the History of Religions**

### **The Name of the Association**

During the General Assembly at the Rome Congress a motion was passed by a large majority requesting "the Executive Committee of the IAHR to consider the implications of changing the name of the Association to the International Association for the Study of Religions."

### **The Executive Committee of the IAHR 1990 - 1995**

Prof. U. Bianchi (President), Rome  
Prof. M. Pye (Secretary-General), Lancaster University  
Prof. A. Geertz (Treasurer), Aarhus Universitet, Denmark

Prof. R.D. Abubakre, University of Ilorin, Nigeria  
Prof. P. Antes, Germany  
Prof. M. Araki, Tsukuba University, Japan  
Prof. L. Backman, Stockholm University  
Dr Y. Gonzales Torres, Museo del Carmen, Mexico  
Prof. J. Leclant, Institut de France, Paris  
Prof. L. Sullivan, Harvard University  
Prof. Z. Werblowsky, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem  
Prof. D. Wiebe, Trinity College, Toronto, Canada  
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