

AASR News

Minutes of the AASR Annual General Meeting Ballarat, 8 July 1995

The meeting opened at 4.45pm with the President in the Chair and 26 members present.

1. Apologies

Majella Franzmann, Doug Pratt, Vic Hayes, Enid Adam, Philip Hughes, Elaine Lindsay

2. Appointment of Minutes Secretary

Trevor Jordan agreed to take minutes of the meeting

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the 1994 AGM as printed in Review, 7, 1 were accepted as a true account of the meeting. (N. Habel, B. Moore) CARRIED

4. Business Arising From The Minutes

4.1 Membership of IAHR - The Secretary reported that an adjusted figure of \$100 had been sent to the International

Association for the History of Religions as affiliation fees.

5. President's Report

Alan Black presented the President's Report. Motion to accept report (P. Rule, P. Malone) CARRIED

6. Secretary's Report

6.1 'Tricia Blombery presented the Secretary's Report (See below). Motion to accept report (M. O'Donahue, R. Lacey) CARRIED

6.2 **World Wide Web Home Page** - Motion: That the AASR explore the possibility of a World Wide Web Home Page or alternatives. Possibility to be explored by M. Mason, M. O'Donahue and J. Cohen and reported to the Executive for approval ASAP. (M. Mason, M. O'Donahue) CARRIED

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 The financial statement for the period 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995 as prepared by 'Tricia Blombery was circulated and presented. (See below) 'Tricia Blom-

bery explained that because of the short time between the end of the financial year and the meeting it had not been possible to get the books audited. Moved: That the statement be accepted and an audited report be published in the next Review (M. O'Donahue, M. Beck) CARRIED

7.2 Increase in Membership fees - Motion: That AASR membership fees be increased to \$50 per annum (J. Cohen, B. Moore) CARRIED

8. Publications Committee Report

8.1 The report of the Publication Committee was presented (see below) Motion: That the Committee review the cost of publication of the Review by exploring publication in an A5 format. (P. Malone, N. Habel) CARRIED

8.2 Vic Hayes' Book - The Publications Committee reported that publication of Dr Vic Hayes' book entitled *Schelling's Philosophy of Mythology and Revelation* had been approved following the receipt of favourable reports from a panel of reviewers. Printing costs are being met by Dr Hayes. Motion: That, after all costs incurred by AASR are met (eg promotion and distribution), the income from sales of this book be divided equally between AASR and Dr Vic Hayes. (A. Black, M. Mason) CARRIED

9. Women's Caucus

Penny Magee reported on the meeting of the Women's Caucus. The focus of discussion was the possible need for a re-thinking the changing nature of its ongoing role. Through the Caucus many battles had been fought and won to support and raise the profile of women schol-

ars of religion in Australia. Motion to accept report (M. Beck) CARRIED

10. Conferences

10.1 Motion: That the members express their sincere appreciation to Rod Lacey for his organisation of the Ballarat conference. (A. Black) CARRIED by spontaneous acclamation.

10.2 Annual Conference 1996 - After discussion it was agreed that the 1996 Annual conference would be held from 4-7 July at Lincoln University, Christchurch, NZ in conjunction with the NZASR.

10.3 Annual Conference 1997 - It was also agreed that Queensland be explored as the site for the 1997 Annual Conference and that discussion be entered into for reference back to the AGM for approval in 1996.

11. Election of Office Bearers

President - Majella Franzmann - elected unopposed

Vice-President - Trevor Jordan - reelected unopposed

Secretary - Tricia Blombery - reelected unopposed

Treasurer - David Burgess - elected unopposed

Chair of Publications Committee - Alan Black - reelected unopposed

Past Conference Chair - Rod Lacey

Next Conference Chair - Jane Simpson

12. General Business

12.1 Presidential Address - There was a discussion about the possibility that in the future a Presidential Address be added to the proceedings of the Annual Conference. Such an address could ex-

plore the current state of the art in the study of religions. No motion was put.

12.2 Credit Card Payment for Membership and Publications -It was agreed that the Treasurer explore the feasibility of offering credit card facilities for the payment of membership fees and purchase of publications.

12.3 AASR Representatives to IAHR meeting - It was agreed that Prof Garry Trompf and Dr Morny Joy be asked to represent AASR at the International Committee and General Assembly in Mexico City in August 1995.

Secretary's Report

At June 30 1995 there were 322 members of the Association of which 52 were institutional members, 219 full members, and 40 student members. Among the full membership 24 are overseas. There are also 11 complimentary memberships which include statutory deposits of the journal with libraries, reciprocal memberships with allied associations, and emeritus memberships. At 30 June 38 members were still unfinancial having not paid 1994 memberships. People who had not paid for a longer period, despite several reminders, have been removed from the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement for 1 July 1994 to 30 June 1995

Balance brought forward

Westpac term deposit	10000.00	
Westpac Advantage saver	<u>3968.33</u>	<u>13968.33</u>

Add income

Membership fees	10677.67	
Sale of books	7671.37	
Sale of REVIEW	8.00	
REVIEW advertising	50.00	
Bank interest	333.80	
Copyright fees	1279.03	
1994 Conference surplus	<u>3363.93</u>	
	<u>23383.80</u>	<u>37352.13</u>

Less expenditure

Wages	1600.00	
Administration	275.30	
Postage - administration	126.76	
Telephone - administration	49.25	
Bank charges	53.76	
REVIEW -printing	6787.00	
-publication	4689.90	
-stationery	71.90	
postage	1898.15	
BOOKS -printing & prodn	17043.00	
-retailing	1525.95	
1995 Conference advance	1000.00	
IAHR membership 1994	<u>156.20</u>	<u>35277.16</u>
Balance carried forward 30 June 1995	<u>2074.97</u>	

Prepared by 'Tricia Blombery for Neville Jarvis, Treasurer
30 June 1995

Recommendations

On the basis of rising costs and the depleted cash reserves it is recommended that membership be increased to \$50 for full members, \$25 for concession members, and \$A55 (with no concessions) for overseas members.

AASR Publications Committee Report

July 1 1994 - June 30 1995

AASR books in stock

Title	No sold	No in stock
Aboriginal Australians & Xn Mission	1	-
Central Australian Religion	1062	438
Claiming Our Rites - paperback	350	221

hardback	42	258
Identity issues in World Religions - pb	1	158
- hardback	-	12
Maori Religions	41	504
Let Sleeping Snakes Lie	3	46
Powers, Plumes and Piglets	27	234
Multiculturalism & Religion in Oz	143	249
Religious Experience in World Religions	41	167
Religion in Australian Life	1	11
Ways of Transcendence	1	154

Book Income 1994/5

Total income from all sources:
\$7671.37 (this sum includes Rainbow Book payments for April-June 1994, but not payments since October 1994 from Rainbow which were outstanding at 30 June.

Book Expenses 1994/5

Printing and publication
 Claim ing our Rites \$15505.00
 Central Australian Religion 2493.00
 Retailing (incl. postage, marketing)
 1525.95 \$18577.95
 REVIEW Expenses 1994/5 \$13446.75

Book Publishing

During the past year the Committee has been offered three manuscripts and

two publishing proposals. One manuscript from Vic Hayes has been accepted and produced. This is a self-funded project but bears the AASR imprint. One manuscript and one publishing proposal are still under consideration but given the current financial position authors are being encouraged to seek alternative funding to assist with production.

ARS REVIEW

A proposal to decrease the size of the REVIEW to A5 is being considered as this would result in cheaper printing and postage.

*Alan Black
 Chair Publications Committee
 30 June 1995*

IAHR News

Here's the bad news. Morny Joy one of our delegates to the IAHR Conference in Mexico City reports that the vote to change the name of the International Association for the History of Religions to the International Association for the

Study of Religions was lost. Against 58: For 26: Abstain 8. The older European societies (with the exception of Germany and UK) wanted to retain the name as did newly admitted societies - Spain, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, India, Ukraine.

**Report on the Seventeenth Congress of the
History of Religions, Mexico City, 5-12
August 1995**

The local newspapers reported that there were up to 400 participants in the 17th IAHR conference. If that were indeed the case, most of them would have been Mexicans because comparatively fewer international visitors made their appearance at this conference than at the previous ones in Rome, Sydney and Winnipeg. The non-arrival of scholars who had their names down but did not show up led to many foreshortened sessions. The diversity of workshops was truly remarkable, however, and although the guests were fewer the feast was indeed rich.

Australasian scholars were thin on the ground. Richard Hutch from the University of Queensland participated in the session on Magic, which had been convened by the Australian anthropologist Mary Macdonald who now works in the United States. Morny Joy, an AASR member but teaching in Canada, combined interests in feminism and post-modernity while Garry Trompf from the University of Sydney was part of the new attempt to widen the IAHR agenda to include esotericism(s). Plenary sessions were absent, except with the opening and welcoming event at the Anthropological Museum and with the final general meeting. An excursion during the middle day of the conference allowed a visit to the great pyramids of the sun and moon at Teotihuacán, just outside Mexico City.

Politicking in preparation for the voting in of new office bearers was disturbingly indeco-

rous. At the IAHR International Committee meeting itself, a bid to reshuffle the executive failed on the technical point that the submission was made one month before the middle of the conference rather than the beginning. Prof Zwi Werblowsky, taking over the chair from Prof Ugo Bianchi (who recently died while still holding the Presidency), made life difficult for those who sought office but had no clear representative base for being at the meeting. Prof Ursula King, who had made a bid to be the first woman President, was not even present at the meeting and apparently did not turn up to the conference until the following day. She was easily outvoted by Prof Michael Pye, who became the new President and Chairman, with Prof Peter Antes and Dr Yoloth González Torres the Vice presidents, Prof Armin Geertz Secretary-General and Prof Don Wiebe Treasurer. Amongst 'opposition'-looking contenders the Africanist Prof Olupona emerged as the only black face on the executive, while Ursula King and Harvard South Africanist Prof Sullivan curiously failed to secure any office at all. At the general meeting it was agreed, among many other and varied decisions, to extend honorary membership of IAHR to Prof Eric Sharpe.

The IAHR presented a gift to the AASR at the International Committee Meeting - a copy of the Beijing regional conference proceedings entitled *Religion and Modernization in China*, which has been sent to our then President A/Prof Alan Black.

*Garry Trompf
Sydney*