

Theological Journals in Australia - A Survey

Of the proliferation of journals there seems to be no end. In this respect theology is no different from other areas of scholarship or interest. Many sound, often laudable, reasons can be advanced for the publishing of journals in general and for each new title to appear sufficient people have been convinced that the venture was justified for the time, effort and money to be committed.

The dissemination of scholarly work, the reporting of research and the provision of a forum for scholarly exchange are the reasons for the existence of journals which spring most readily to mind among those of the academic community. Yet comparatively few journals have these as their sole or even major purposes. Many institutions publish a journal as a service to alumnae and a forum for members of the faculty as well as for the kudos which a worthy publication can bring to the institution. Likewise learned and professional associations see a journal as a means of maintaining contact with members, of providing useful professional information and an opportunity for members to have material published. Groups with a special area of interest or with a particular confessional position have seen the publication of their own journal as a way of promoting their interest or position, often when it is perceived that insufficient exposure is gained in journals of a more general purpose.

All of these purposes can be seen in the various theological journals currently being published in Australia - both with the general theological journals and those in related but more specific areas.

Over the last few years quite a few new titles have appeared in the catalogues and this at a time when costs of production and postage have risen steeply. Not

since the middle 1960's has there been such a development. In 1986 *One Voice: A Magazine about Church Music*, published by the Queensland Branch of the Royal School of Church Music, and *Phronema* (see below) first appeared. The next year brought *Australian Journal of Liturgy*, published by the Australian Academy of Liturgy, *Lucas: An Evangelical History Review*, published by the Evangelical History Association, and *Women-Church: An Australian Journal of Feminist Studies*. Most recently, in 1988, *Pacifica* (see below) and this present publication, *Australian Religion Studies Review*, have joined the lists. These new publications represent a wide variety of interests and their appearance indicates that the medium of the printed word is still alive and flourishing.

Discussion about the new titles and the continuing problem of maintaining existing journals prompted the Reviews Editor of this journal to ask me briefly to survey the major scholarly theological journals in Australia. What follows is a list, with some comments, of general (Christian) theological journals published in Australia.

In selecting titles to be included I have omitted publications dealing with more specialised subject areas, including such well-established journals as *Australian Biblical Review* (published by the Fellowship for Biblical Studies), the *Journal of Christian Education* (published by the Australian Teachers' Christian Fellowship), and the *Journal of Religious History*. In surveying the field I have used H. Arns and M. Dacy, *Australian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections* (AULOTS), National Catholic Research Council, 1983. My choices involve, of necessity, subjective judgement, but I have endeavoured to be both comprehensive and fair. Even so, there may be other titles which could have

been included.

For each publication listed there is given, wherever it is relevant and available, the following information: title, subtitle, publisher, editor, when the publication began, frequency of publication and the nature of the contents.

AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC RECORD

Published at St. Patrick's College, Manly. Edited by a large editorial board with no one designated as editor. Quarterly. First published 1895 to 1913 and then a new series began in 1924. Wide range of subject matter of Roman Catholic interest by Roman Catholic authors. The longest-running of the journals listed.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

Published annually by Catholic Theological College, Clayton since 1978. Editor: J. Begley, SJ. Wide range of subject matter mainly of Roman Catholic interest. Authors mainly from CTC faculty.

COLLOQUIUM: THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

Published by the Australian and New Zealand Society for Theological Studies. Two issues per year. Editor: Brian J. Jackson, CM. Began in 1964 as *New Zealand Theological Review* published by the Faculty of St. John's College, Auckland and became a trans-Tasman enterprise in 1966 with its present title. It gradually became more closely associated with ANZSTS and is now published by ANZSTS. There is a wide range of subject matter, many articles having been read as papers at the annual conference held jointly by ANZSTS and the ANZ Association of Theological Schools. Mostly Australian and New Zealand authors with some contributions from various

overseas scholars. *Colloquium* has the widest range of interests and of authors of all the titles listed.

COMPASS THEOLOGY REVIEW

Editor: Peter Malone, MSC. Published quarterly since 1967. Subject matter ranges through theology and current social and ethical issues. *Compass* has a Roman Catholic perspective and mainly Roman Catholic contributors.

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL

Published by the Faculty of Luther Seminary, North Adelaide. Editor: John Strelan. Three issues per year since 1967. General range of Biblical, theological and pastoral subjects published to be of use to Lutheran pastors and other scholars. Mostly Lutheran contributors.

PACIFICA: AUSTRALIAN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Published by Pacifica Theological Studies Association. Editors: Mark Coleridge, John Honner, SJ and Francis J. Maloney, SDB. Three issues per year. First published 1988. The Association "was formed to publish a scholarly journal covering all aspects of theology and to provide a forum for theologians of Australasia and the West Pacific basin". In the editorial in the first issue it is stated, "*Pacifica* arose out of a meeting in Melbourne of Roman Catholic theologians ... But the theological enterprise in Melbourne is strongly ecumenical, and it is hoped that *Pacifica* will consistently reflect both its Catholic provenance and its ecumenical associations". A high standard of scholarly writing has been maintained in the first volume, but the contents of the volume and the authors reflect more its provenance than its associations.

PHRONEMA: ANNUAL REVIEW OF ST. ANDREW'S GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Published by the Faculty of St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, Redfern. Editor: Guy A. Freeland. The College was opened in 1986 and *Phronema* was first published in that year. The journal was launched at the instigation of Archbishop Stylianos, Dean of the College, to mark the commencement of Orthodox tertiary theological education in Australia. In a preface to the first issue Archbishop Stylianos noted: "Basically, the term 'phronema' signifies *mind, spirit, intention*. As such it expresses the mentality, the identity, the conscience of a person or group." This well describes the purpose of the journal. Most of the articles are on issues relating to Orthodoxy and are by Orthodox scholars.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

Published by the Calvinistic Society of Australia. Editors: R. Swanton and David G. Peterson. Three issues per year since 1942. Articles on Biblical and theological issues mainly from a reformed perspective. "Reformed", in this case, includes both Presbyterians and those Anglicans who would describe themselves by this term.

ST. MARK'S REVIEW: A JOURNAL OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND OPINION

Published by St. Mark's, Canberra. Editor: Wayne Hooper. Quarterly since 1955. The review "aims at lively, responsible and relevant discussion of matters which seem important to the Christian community in Australia and for the life of our society." Some articles are intended for scholars but the majority are aimed at "ordained and lay members of the churches and the general reader." Although of Anglican provenance, *St.*

Mark's Review is ecumenical in its range of interests and contributors. In 1988 a larger, livelier format was adopted.

TRINITY OCCASIONAL PAPERS

Published by Trinity Theological College, Brisbane. Editors: Olive Cullen, James Haire and Hendrik C. Spykerboer. Two issues per year since 1981. The aim of *Trinity Occasional Papers* is "to ensure that ministers and church members are well-informed about current discussions and new developments within the Uniting Church in Australia." Accordingly, the emphasis is on the dissemination of information although most issues include some scholarly articles.

VOX REFORMATATA: AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP

Published by the Faculty of Reformed Theological College, Geelong. Editor: R.O. Zorn. Two issues per year since 1962. Articles on Biblical and theological issues by scholars from the Reformed tradition.

Issues Worth Noting

From this brief survey of the general theological journals currently published in Australia a number of issues arise. To pursue them at length is beyond my present intention but the issues are worth noting.

1. Is the amount of material being published too much to maintain standards? Are we being drowned in a sea of paper? Or, on the other hand, is the welter of publication a healthy sign that Australians have something (worthwhile) to say in the field of theology? Given the wide range of purposes for which the journals are produced, I tend to the opinion that the volume of publication is a sign of

health in the theological community. Much of what is being written addresses the Australian situation directly and reflects a growing realization of our own identity. This is something that others cannot do for us and that is appropriately done in journals of Australian provenance. The Australian market is small, however, and most Australian journals depend on overseas subscribers to maintain their existence. This need to sell overseas will save the journals from a narrow parochialism and put Australian theology into a wider context. Whether or not the market-place can sustain the number of publications is a question that only the market-place can answer. The dilemma of those seeking to launch a new journal or to maintain an established one is well expressed by Douglas Galbraith in the first issue of *One Voice*. "To offer a new magazine on church music is to risk scoring a bullseye in no man's land."¹

2. Given the sectarian nature of Australia's religious history, the denomination/tradition-specific nature of most of the journals surveyed is not surprising. Only *Colloquium*, *Pacifica* (in intention at least) and *St. Mark's Review* can be described as ecumenical or representing a variety of traditions and points of view. This link between a journal and an institution and the propagation by a journal of a distinctive theological tradition facilitates access to a client group but at the same time limits the extent of that group. Some of the purposes for which the journals exist are promoted but the opportunities for wide-ranging discussion of issues and the interaction between scholars from different traditions is limited. When the losses and the gains are weighed it seems that the Australian theological community would be better served by a shift in emphasis towards a more ecumenical orientation in journals.

3. There is a growing literature on the question of an Australian theology and the contextualisation of theology in Australia. The journals provide a forum for the discussion of this question and for the enterprise of doing theology in Australia. It is probably in the journals listed that the fruits of this endeavour will first be available for wide public discussion and the emergence of anything distinctively Australian will be seen.²

4. The usefulness of the journals is greatly enhanced when access to them is readily available. In recent years this access has been facilitated in a number of ways. Some Australian journals have been included in international indexing and abstracting services and, since 1978, the Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS) has indexed selected journals. More specific aids have been provided. One was *Religion in Australian Life: A Bibliography of Social Research* compiled by G. Fitzpatrick, edited by Michael Mason and published in 1982 as a joint project of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions and the National Catholic Research Council. Another was the 1983 production Australian Union List of Serials in Theological Collections (AULOTS).

The immediate future, however, will see the publication of Australasian Religion Index (ARI) which will index "articles and book reviews in the fields of religion and theology from key serials published in Australia and New Zealand". This most significant development is discussed in some detail in a subsequent article in this issue.

Notes

1. D. Galbraith, Editorial in *One Voice*, 1 (1986), p. 4.
2. Robert Banks has provided an interest-

ing discussion of the part played by journals in Australian theology in the period 1915-1965. "Fifty Years of Theology in Australia 1915-1965: Part One", in *Colloquium*, 9 (October 1976), pp. 36-42, and "Fifty Years of Theology in Australia 1915-1965: Part Two" in *Colloquium*, 9 (May 1977) pp. 7-16. An example of the part played in a journal in doing theology in Australia is seen in Peter Malone (co-ordinator),

Discovering an Australian Theology, St. Paul Publications, 1988. The book consists mainly of articles published originally in *Compass Theology Review*.

— R. Wesley Hartley
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College, Adelaide
Dean, Adelaide College of Divinity
Editor, *Australian Journal of Liturgy*,
Business Manager of *Colloquium*.

The Proposed Australasian Religion Index (ARI)

"There is at present no comprehensive indexing service covering religious serials published in Australia and New Zealand; at the same time a fairly crude analysis of titles listed in *The Australian union list of theological serials (Aulots)* suggests that there are some 200 titles produced in the region". So writes Fr Gary Gorman in an article published in *Australasian College Libraries* 6 (2/3) June/Sept 1988, pp. 64-70.

Fr. Gorman is lecturer at the Centre for Information Studies at Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education. His remedy for the unhappy situation here identified is both obvious and important, plainly stated in the title of his article: "Improving reference service in theological libraries: the proposed Australasian Religion Index".

Existing reference services, whether foreign or indigenous, are described by Gorman as "inadequate for Australian theological inquiries". He points out, for instance, that *Religion Index One (RIO)*, which is produced by the American Theological Library Association and which is regarded as "the premier anglophone indexing service in this field", covers only 8 of "the better known Antipodean theological serials". Even the *Australian public affairs information service*

(*Apais*), indexes only 22 relevant publications, most of them being of the "news and views" variety rather than scholarly journals. And "neither of these services provide adequate indexing of the titles ostensibly covered" (p. 66).

Gorman concedes, of course, that many of the more than 200 Australasian titles are "marginal in terms of information or scholarly content" but he insists that "many others are of acceptable quality and, together with the major metropolitan newspapers, deserve indexing in a single comprehensive source." Since publication of Gorman's article in *Australian College Libraries*, the project committee has drawn up an initial list of 42 serials as likely candidates for indexing in *ARI*. Gorman explains:

"the focus of the proposed service is religious serials of all types produced in Australia and New Zealand by and for various traditions. Publications of individual denominations and orders, of scholarly and professional bodies, of local or regional focus are to be included. There is no limitation on the subject coverage, and the sole criterion for inclusion should be the quality of a serial's contents. Those with substantial scholarly content are to be in-

cluded, as are those which discuss issues at a more popular, pastoral or devotional level." (p. 66)

Also since the appearance of Gorman's article (June/Sept 1988), a feasibility study has been conducted. Participating institutions were Loehe Memorial Library (Luther Seminary) in Adelaide, Veech Library (Catholic Theological Institute) in Sydney, Joint Theological Library (at Ormond College) in Melbourne and the libraries of Whitley College and Ridley College in Melbourne. Each of these libraries indexed the contents of five different serials.

In October 1988, final approval for the project was given at the Australian and New Zealand Theological Libraries Association (ANZTLA) Canberra Conference. The same Conference established an Editorial Board to develop the project and nominated the following persons as members:

Dr. L. McIntosh and Mr. P. Harvey (Joint Theological Library/Ormond College), Mr. H. Cain (Ridley College, Parkville), Ms. L. Pryor (Whitley College, Parkville), and Fr. G. Gorman, Mr. J. Henri and Mr. J. Mills (Centre for Information Studies, Wagga Wagga).

Fr. Gorman is acting as the editorial liaison between the Board and the Centre for Information Studies (CIS). The Board has full authority with regard to the Australasian Religion Index (ARI) and copyright is jointly held between ANZTLA and the CIS.

Note also that the Centre for Information Studies (Wagga) will serve as the initial project base because of its excellent computing, publishing and editorial

facilities; that responsibility for indexing titles will be shared equitably among ANZTLA libraries; and that coverage of serials will be determined by the Board on the basis of clearly articulated criteria.

Subscription costs will be AUS\$50.00 per annum (AUS\$30.00 for ANZTLA members). There will be two issues per annum (appearing in June and November), the second being a cumulation. Subscriptions are to be directed to Mr. S. J. Henri at the Centre, payable to the Centre.

Proposed Initial Core List for the Australasian Religion Index

The following list, devised according to the Editorial Board criteria, includes titles which are likely candidates for indexing in ARI. This list is currently being circulated to selected ANZTLA members for comment and further recommendations. Since AASR members now have this list in their hands, they too are invited by Fr. Gorman to get in touch with him if they wish to draw attention to other quality serials produced from within the various religious traditions. In other words, the following list is a core working list and will probably be expanded. Exclusion from this initial list does not imply continuing exclusion from ARI.

Key

C = comprehensive indexing

S = selective indexing

? = most uncertain

RIO = currently being indexed by Religion Index One (6 of these 42 titles)

EPAIS = currently being indexed by Australian public affairs information service (9 of these 42 titles)

(S)(EPAIS)	AD 2000
(C)	Australasian Catholic record
(S)	Australasian journal of philosophy
(S)	Australian & New Zealand Theological Library Assoc. Newsletter
(S)	Australian Baptist
(C)(RIO)	Australian Biblical Review
(S)	Australian Historical Studies
(S)	Australian Jewish Historical Society: Journal of Proceedings
(S)(RIO)	(?)Australian Jewish Times
(C)	Australian Journal of Liturgy
(S)	Australian Journal of Sex, Marriage and Family
(S)	Australian Ministry
(C)	Australian Religion Studies Review
(S)	Australian Society
(C)(EPAIS)	Church Heritage
(S)	Church Scene: Australia's National Anglican Weekly
(C)(EPAIS)(RIO)	Colloquium: the Australian and New Zealand Theological Review
(C)	Compass: Theology Review
(S)	(?)Interaction
(C)	Journal of Christian Education
(S)	Journal of Pacific History
(S)(EPAIS)(RIO)	Journal of Religious History
(S)(EPAIS)	Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society
(C)	Lucas: An Evangelical History Review
(C)(EPAIS)	Lutheran Theological Journal
(S)	National Outlook
(S)	On Being
(C)	Pacifica
(C)	Phronema
(S)	Prudentia
(S)	Record (formerly Australasian record and Advent world survey)
(C)(RIO)	Reformed Theological Review
(C)(EPAIS)	Religious Education Journal of Australia
(C)(EPAIS)(RIO)	St. Mark's Review
(S)	Sophia: A Journal for Discussion in Philosophical Theology
(S)	Tjurunga: An Australasian Benedictine Review
(C)	Trinity occasional papers
(S)	Tyndale paper
(C)(EPAIS)	Vox Reformata
(C)	Women-church
(C)	Word in Life: Journal of Religious Education
(S)	Zadok Perspectives

— *Information compiled by Victor Hayes, South Australian College: Sturt campus, from an article by and correspondence with Fr. Gary Gorman, updated to January 1988.*

AASR BOOKS IN PRINT 1988

Identity Issues and World Religions: Selected Proceedings of the fifteenth Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, edited by Victor Hayes. Religions are in a constant interplay between identity and change, dynamic processes in which the survival of traditions are at stake. What gives identity to a religion? How do religions maintain their identities when faced with dispersal, secularism or pluralism. How do religions relate to the quest for identity? What are the religious dimensions of various identities? These and other issues are addressed — largely in terms of specific case-studies — in this selection of 28 papers from the 15th IAHR Congress held in Sydney in 1985.

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Religion in Australian Life. A Bibliography of Social Research, edited by Michael Mason, compiled by Georgina Fitzpatrick. A bibliography of 3,600 research publications (not primary sources) on religion in Australian life, published both in Australia and elsewhere from 1945 to 1977, with selected materials up to 1981. Aboriginal religion, well covered in other bibliographies, is not included.

264 pages, 6" x 9", paper \$A15.95

ISBN 0-908083-09-2

Interpreting Aboriginal Religion: an Historical Account, by Tony Swain. Australian Aborigines have long been a high focus of attention for Western anthropologists and have had a tremendous impact on anthropological theory. Tony Swain has investigated these Western investigators and composed a history of anthropological and pre-anthropological attitudes towards Australian Aboriginal religion, dating from 1606 to the modern era.

Bibliography, 166 pages, 5.5" x 8.5", paper \$A10.95 ISBN 0-908083-11-4

Powers, Plumes and Piglets: Phenomena of Melanesian Religion, edited by Norman C. Habel. A synopsis of various types of religious phenomena found in Melanesia, including rites and customs which up to now have received scant attention. The materials have been arranged to facilitate their educational use. Adopted by academic institutions in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Glossary, 240 pages, 5.5" x 8.5",
paper \$A10.95 ISBN 0-908083-07-6

Let Sleeping Snakes Lie: Central Enga Traditional Religious Belief and Ritual, by Paul Brennan. A major analysis of the Enga religion completed after eight years of anthropological research in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

Bibliography, 64 pages, 6" x 9", paper \$A4.95 ISBN 0-908187-01-3

Central Australian Religion: Personal Monototemism in a Polytotemic Community, by T. G. H. Strehlow. Professor Strehlow's famous study representing his mature thinking about the core of Central Australian religion, which is a major contribution to anthropology and religion studies in this area. It first appeared as an article in the *Festschrift für A. D. Jensen* (1964), but has been completely redesigned and reset for this edition.

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