



Australian
Religion
Studies

REVIEW

VOLUME FIVE, NUMBER 1, AUTUMN 1992



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Many members also hold membership in other societies representing specific disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields. The AASR aims to function as a meeting place where the study of religion in its broadest dimensions may be fostered. It owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Charles Strong Trust for financial support.

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Subscriptions should be sent to:

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6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft,
NSW 2065.

1991/92
Members: \$30.00
Students: \$15.00
ISSN Number 1031-2934

Australian Religion Studies

Review

AN AASR Publication

© Australian Association for the Study of Religions
c/- The Secretary, 6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft, 2065

Printed at New Litho, Surrey Hills, Victoria.

Front cover: Apostle, late 11th c., Church of St Semin, Toulouse, France.

The REVIEW is sent free to financial members of AASR.

Additional copies to members: \$6.75.

Price to non-members: \$10/copy (includes postage).

Orders to Victor C. Hayes, Editor, AASR Publications,
Flinders University, Sturt Campus, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

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Editors' Note

An article was published in a recent edition of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* predicting the further marginalisation of religion in Australian society. (Bernadette C. Hayes, "Religious identification and marriage patterns in Australia", 30(4) 1991, pp.469-478.) It argued that this will come about due to the increase in the number of people marrying outside their own religious denomination or choosing partners with no religious affiliation. Thus, the power of religious socialisation will weaken.

Predictions about the decline of religion have been made consistently over the past one hundred and fifty years. The persisting interest in religion appears to defy all rational predictions. We were delighted to see a course in religion amongst the new Open Learning Courses now available through the ABC television. It will be fascinating to see the response to the course. We wish the organisers well with the venture.

In days of increasing secularism, the growth of fundamentalism seems ironic. Yet it is a major factor, not just in the Australian religious scene, but throughout the world. Understanding fundamentalism is important for the general understanding of the nature of religious experience and orientation in contemporary societies. As Colin Brown indicates in the first article, it is also often a personal issue, for teachers interacting with students, clergy interacting with parishioners, and neighbours with each other. I am not sure what fundamentalists would make of the similarities in the forms of approach to religion found in other religions. The articles in this issue illustrate well the fact that fundamentalism may be found within a variety of religious traditions.

We would like to thank all the contributors to the journal. As editors, we especially appreciate the contributors who have sent us material on disk and on time. We would also like to express our thanks to Peter Bulmer who responded without coercion to our request for help and has offered to proof-read the issue.

*'Tricia Blombery
Philip Hughes.*