

AASR Update

From the President

The majority of my duties as President have been connected with the 1992 International Conference. I have been involved in frequent communication with Kent Richards of S.B.L. who will be chairing the Conference. A variety of Associations will be in attendance (in alphabetical order).

AAJS - Australian Association for Jewish Studies

AAR - American Academy of Religion

AARE - Australian Association of Religious Educators

AASR - Australian Association for the Study of Religion

ANZATS - Australia/New Zealand Association of Theological Schools

ANZSTS - Australia/New Zealand Society of Theological Studies

ATS - Association of Theological Schools

CBAA - Catholic Biblical Association of Australia

NZTZ - New Zealand Association of Theological Schools

SBL - Society of Biblical Literature

Efforts to involve the Asian Studies Society have so far failed.

The conference will be opened by Professor Davis McCaughey who is at present Governor of Victoria. It will be held at Melbourne University and accommodation will be available in Colleges and local motels. I would advise booking accommodation as early as possible because the numbers likely to attend are unknown. Kent Richards is expecting a minimum of 750 and probably twice that number.

Kent Richards visited Australia in May of this year and a meeting of the joint organising committee (which consists of representatives from the participating Associations) was held on 24 May at La Trobe University. A variety of Plenary sessions were planned with individual Australians taking responsibility for the preliminary organisation of each one.

Each participating organisation has been asked by Kent Richards to contribute towards the deposit required by Melbourne University. The AASR recently sent \$500.

Anne E. Gardner

Minutes of the AASR Annual General Meeting 5 OCTOBER 1991

1. Opening Remarks

Dr Anne Gardner, President of the AASR, opened the Annual General Meeting at 4.10pm and welcomed members on the occasion of the 16th Annual Conference 1991, being held at St John's College, University of Sydney.

2. Attendance

A total of 35 members were in attendance, as follows: Anne Gardner, Tricia Blombery, Greg Bailey, Colin Brown, John McGrath, Rachael Kohn, Lecia Coombe, Winifred Ward, Peter Riddell, Jacky Angus, Lynn-Marie Lewis, Erin White, Iain Gardner, Elizabeth Fletcher, Rod Bucknell, Wendy Brown, Terry Lovat, Erid Adam, Robin Weston, Richard Hutch, Douglas Pratt, Ian Fraser, John Noack, John Cradwick, Pat Gesch, Donald Wodarz, Lawrence Nerner, Gary Trompf, Jim Tulip, Debbie Selway, Basil Moore, Victor Hayes, Norman Habel, Robert Crotty, Michael Mason.

3. Agenda

The agenda as prepared by the President was submitted and approved.

4. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Paul Rule, Val Noone, Trevor Jordan, John Bodycomb, Ed Conrad, Alan Black.

5. Minutes of Annual Meeting 1990

It was moved and seconded (Lewis/Noack) that the Minutes, as printed in the ARS Review of Spring 1991, be taken as read and confirmed.

6. Business arising from 1990 Minutes

i. It was noted that the Association of Religious History, which had expressed

interest (Minutes 3.b.) in coordinating its annual conference with the 16th AASR Conference, had been unable to join as it had intended.

ii. The President noted that the 1990 Minutes had recorded the 1990 AGM agreement to hold future conferences in July rather than September. This had not been possible in 1991 owing to accommodation problems and a potential scheduling clash with the annual conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies. However, from 1992 AASR conferences would be scheduled for July.

7. President's Report

Anne Gardner presented the President's report. (See this issue.)

There had been frequent communication with Kent Richards of the Society for Biblical Literature regarding the combined 1992 conference. This conference will be jointly held by AASR, SBL, and a range of other organisations including AAJS, AAR, AARE, ANZAAS, ANSSTS, etc. The conference will be held from 12-17 July, and as heavy attendance is expected, members are advised to make accommodation arrangements early.

At a meeting of the Joint Organising Committee at La Trobe University in May 1991, member organisations were asked to contribute towards the hire of the Melbourne University facilities. AASR contributed \$500.

Though the conference is a combined venture, individual annual general meetings for all participating bodies will be held during the conference.

AASR members wishing to deliver papers were urged to submit their abstracts forthwith, as the deadline for the receipt of abstracts had passed.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the report be received.

8. Secretary's Report

Tricia Blombery presented the Secretary's report.

Peter Bentley has been engaged on the staff of the AASR for administrative purposes. He has examined and updated the membership list, by sending out reminder notices and deleting listed names which have not been financial members for some time.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the report be received.

9. Treasurer's Report

Tricia Blombery presented the Treasurer's report for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991. The Financial Statement prepared by the Auditors for this period was circulated for discussion.

In summary, it showed an income of \$12788.98 and expenditure of \$16557.44. Taking into account savings and the term deposit, the balance of AASR accounts carried forward represented a credit situation of \$14318.66.

A fall in income from the 1989-90 financial year was largely due to a decrease in sales of books and the contract production of the AASR Review.

It was asked whether it would be possible to introduce three-yearly membership subscriptions in advance. The Secretary replied that the feasibility of this would be examined.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the report be received.

10. Publication Committee Chair Report

Vic Hayes presented and circulated the report of the Publication Committee

Chair. In summary, it showed book sales of approximately \$2000. Reprints of both *Maori Religion* and *Central Australian Religion* had been ordered. A volume on religion and multiculturalism will appear in 1992, while it is anticipated that in 1993 a volume on the feminist challenge to religion studies will be published.

11. Election of President and Vice-President

The maximum tenure of two years for both positions meant that the incumbents should stand down. It was proposed that because of special circumstances, the current team should be re-elected. After discussion, it was agreed that the constitution would not allow this.

It was moved and seconded (Pratt/Gardner) that Paul Rule be nominated for the AASR Presidency. No further nominations were received. Paul Rule was duly elected.

It was moved and seconded (Gardner/Pratt) that Val Noone be nominated for the AASR Vice-Presidency. No further nominations were received. Val Noone was duly elected.

12. Future AASR Conferences

i. It was agreed in discussion that conference presidents should be elected two years in advance to allow sufficient time for planning. It was moved and seconded (Habel/Gardner) that UNE be approached to hold the 1993 AASR annual conference, to coincide with conferences to be held by the departments of Ancient History and Classics of the UNE. If UNE was not able to meet this request, it was agreed that the University of South Australia should be approached to hold the 1993 conference.

ii. It was moved and seconded that New Zealand members be invited to investigate the possibility of hosting the 1994 AASR annual conference to coin-

Report of Publication Committee - October 1991

1. Receipts from Book Sales for Year 1990-1991 167 volumes for \$1928.49

Note: The Swain and Rose volume (Australian Aborigines and Christian Missions) continues to shine. It has sold 128 volumes this year for \$1725.44. Of the 1250 printed, 184 copies remain in stock (about a year's supply). This title cost AASR \$13 030. So far sales have totalled \$13 343

2. The following titles are OUT OF PRINT (sold out) and there are no plans to reprint them

<i>A Guide to Religious Studies in Australia</i>	Printing:	200
<i>Australian Essays in World Religions</i>		750
<i>Towards Theology in an Australian Context</i>		1 000
<i>Interpreting Aboriginal Religion</i>		1000

3. REPRINTS

<i>An Introduction to Maori Religion</i> (1000 copies for \$2700 due in Nov 1991)	Two printings sold out: 2000
<i>Central Australian Religion</i> (1000) copies to be reprinted for \$2300)	Three printings sold out: 2500

4. BOOKS IN PRINT

<i>*Identity Issues and World Religions</i> (Hayes)	Printed 1000	Sold: 581
<i>*Religious Experience in World Religions</i> (Hayes)	Printed: 1000	Sold: 747
<i>High Calling, High Stress</i> (Pryor)	Printed: 1000	Sold: 824
<i>*Ways of Transcendence</i> (Dowdy)	Printed:1000	Sold: 669
<i>Powers, Plumes and Piglets</i> (Habel)	Printed: 2000	Sold: 1551
<i>Let Sleeping Snakes Lie</i> (Brennan)	Printed: 1100	Sold: 954
<i>Aboriginal Aust'ns</i> (SwainRose)	Printed:1250	Sold: 1066
<i>Religion in Australian Life</i> (Mason)	Printed: 1000	Sold: 900

Note 1. 'sold' includes free books to members.

Note 2. With the exception of three volumes (asterisked *) all our titles have covered costs and returned a profit to AASR.

Note 3. The AASR Publications program 1976-1991 has produced 14 titles (17 printings) for a total of 16 942 volumes

Net cost to AASR: \$57 646

Sales of 10 795 books have totalled	\$57 208
Free books to members (2777 vols)	\$21 200
Value of stock (approx.)	<u>\$12 000</u>
Total value to AASR	<u>\$90 408</u>

cide with the conference of the ANZSTS. The New Zealand members will liaise with the AASR executive, and make a concrete proposal at the 1992 AASR annual general meeting.

iii. It was moved and seconded (Trompf/Mason) that a theme relevant to the AASR be proposed to the Humanities Research Centre of the ANU as its annual theme for 1995.

iv. It was agreed in discussion that the number of AASR delegates to the 1995 IAHR conference should be discussed and decided upon at the 1993 AASR annual general meeting.

v. It was moved and seconded that the Executive should devise a proposal to identify convenors according to particular disciplines for the 1993 annual conference. These disciplines should be advertised broadly as categories for papers e.g. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Women and Religion, as it was felt that too narrowly defined categories may discourage offers.

13. Other business

i. Women's Caucus Report. The Caucus agreed to support and encourage women in religion studies, and expressed the hope for AASR support. It invited all women in the AASR to participate in the 1992 Women's Caucus. (A full report of the Women's Caucus meeting occurs elsewhere in this issue.)

ii. It was moved and seconded (Mason/Habel) that the AASR should add its support to a letter being sent to the ABC criticising cutbacks in the budget of the ABC Religious Studies department, and should issue a press release in this regard.

iii. The Annual General Meeting thanked the Conference planning committee for organising the 1991 conference.

iv. The AGM expressed its thanks to Anne Gardner and Greg Bailey for their contributions as outgoing President and Vice-President respectively.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 5.35pm.

Minutes prepared by Peter Riddell

Report from Women's Caucus

The AASR Women's Caucus met in October 1991 during the 16th Annual Conference in Sydney and reaffirmed its continued existence as an important professional network.

An issue of concern raised during the Caucus meeting was the standard of post-graduate supervision available for women. The matter will continue to be monitored by the Women's Caucus.

The meeting further resolved to establish branches in each state. The Caucus encouraged women to nominate campus representatives and instigate regular branch meetings.

As a way of information dissemination, the meeting sought to resurrect the Women's Caucus *Newsletter*. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to c/ Tricia Blombery, 6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft 2065. Please mark your contributions 'Women's Caucus Newsletter'.

The Women's Caucus of the AASR look forward to flourishing and strengthening throughout the 1990s as a vital network for women in the field of Studies in Religion.

Debbie Selway

Report of Sixteenth Annual AASR Conference Sydney, 3-6 October 1991

With some 180 full time registrations, the organising committee was delighted with the response and intellectual vitality of last year's conference at St John's College, the University of Sydney. The major theme was Multiculturalism and Religion, with all the plenary speakers entering the debate about multiculturalism in Australia.

Following the opening proceedings, Dr Robert Crotty delivered the first of the two Charles Strong Lectures. His subject, thoughtfully handled, produced some lively discussion about legal technicalities, initiated by Senator the Hon. Michael Tate, Federal Minister for Justice, who attended the first evening's session. On Friday numbers swelled with day registrations with most of the day taken up with consideration of the new Religious Studies syllabus for NSW Secondary schools. Representatives from the Education Department participated in an important forum, preceded by sound advice in Dr Terry Lovat's plenary address.

Our overseas guest, Emeritus Prof Noel King, from the University of California, Santa Cruz, delivered a scintillating oration on Saturday about uneasy relationships between universities and the academic study of religions. He warned that contemporary universities would tolerate the Study of Religion only insofar as it conformed to the blinkered visions of their 'new managers' and suggested that there was now little room for the imparting of wisdom in a western-style university setting.

On the final day black Australian theologian Anne Pattel-Gray presented a trenchant, if not devastating, appraisal of

Australia's 'Great White Flood' - the awful consequences of the continent's recent and rapid invasion for her first settlers. According to Anne Pattel-Gray, the Australian government cannot pretend to be multicultural until it has settled the question of bi-culturalism - Aborigines *vis-à-vis* the invading others.

Dr Victor Hayes delivered his 'Swan Song' with some fascinating reflections on 'Faithful Syncretism', in the second of the Charles Strong lectures. Many presentations in the non-plenary sections in fact, where in honour of Vic Hayes' valuable contribution over the years. Conference sections were grouped under such headings as Indian and Islamic Studies, Ancient Near East, Ethics, Gender and Society, and Literature of Religion. Papers were of a consistently high quality, and one section - on inter-faith dialogue - held out the prospect of a solid book.

It was a pleasure working with the members of the organising committee. My thanks go to 'Tricia Blombery, Rachael Kohn and Jim Tulip for their splendid team effort, for Terry Lovat's support and for his meeting with the committee when he was able to get down from Newcastle, and especially Jani Klotz, our paid staff, who provided such a friendly and efficient secretariat. My thanks also go to all the conference participants who each contributed to the achievement and pleasure of the whole, and I include special mention here of those University of Sydney postgraduates who responded with alacrity to the challenge of presenting their first conference papers.

The conference made a profit of at least \$300 for the AASR.

Garry W Trompf
1991 Conference Convenor

The 1992 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS - Update

Including the ASSR Conference 1992

Registration

Preliminary registration forms were sent with the membership renewal notice in early November. By now I hope all of you will have taken advantage of the reduced fee for early registration and sent your replies to

1992 International Congress
c/- Scholars Press
P O Box 15399

Atlanta GA 30333-0399 USA
or FAX: 0015 1 404 636 8301

Registration can be made to this address till 24 May or you may pay on site at a higher rate. If you have lost your form but wish to attend the Congress contact 'Tricia Blombery.

Programme

We hope to have a programme shortly and will send it on when available. Papers have been proposed in the following areas:

Biblical and Related Studies

ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN STUDIES
ARCHAEOLOGY
METHODS and MATERIALS
Hebrew Bible
Early Christianity
HEBREW BIBLE

Pentateuch
Historical Books
Prophets
Psalms, Proverbs, Job
Megillot
INTERTESTAMENTAL HISTORY
AND LITERATURE
EARLY CHRISTIAN LITERATURE
Gospels and Acts
Catholic Epistles
Revelation
Pauline Literature
Johannine Literature
NEW TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA
HISTORY OF INTERPRETATION

Study of Religion

GEOGRAPHICAL
Africa
Asia
Europe
Americas
Australia
Oceania
TRADITIONS
Buddhism
Hinduism
Christianity
Judaism
Islam
Tribal Religions
APPROACHES
Historical
Comparative

Theological
Social Scientific
Phenomenological
SUBJECT AREAS
Religion and Literature
Religion and Art
Religion and Society
Women's Studies
Ethics
Religion and Education
Spiritual Formation
Social Justice

to improve this arrangement to allow members to book accommodation locally and will let you know when we have anything definite available.

AASR Events

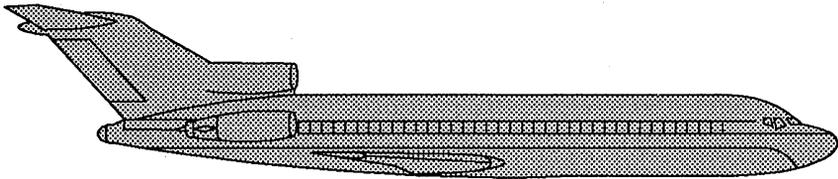
We will have space in the programme for an AASR AGM and also hope to arrange a social event. Details to follow for those who are registered.

Congress Coordinator

Prof Kent Richards
1992 International Congress
2201 South University Blvd
Denver, Colorado 80210 USA

Accommodation

All accommodation at present is being offered through Wilcox World Travel in USA. They are offering accommodation in motel, serviced apartments and colleges. We are currently negotiating to try



International Association for the History of Religions

The Secretary of the Association

The Secretary-General, Prof Michael Pye has taken up an appointment at Lancaster University. His address there is:

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