

Tribute to Enid Adam: 1936–2002

*Presented at the AGM of the Australian Association for the
Study of Religions Annual Conference,
University of New England, Armidale, 6 July 2002.*

Enid was an enthusiastic member of this Association, joining in the mid 1980's, attending a number of annual conferences, and sitting on the Publications Committee.

She was born Enid Lilian Fletcher in Adelaide in 1936. In the late 1950's she graduated from the University of Adelaide with an Honours degree in Geography and a Diploma in Education. Following graduation, she embarked on a career as a teacher, in secondary schools, in South Australia and in England. Following her marriage to Campbell Adam, she gave birth to a son and a daughter, and in 1967, the family moved to Perth. When her children reached their teens Enid undertook a Post-graduate Diploma in Religious Education Studies at the WA College of Advanced Education, Claremont (now part of Edith Cowan University). She completed that Diploma with Distinction in 1984.

Subsequently she enrolled as an external student in the School of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland, where she was awarded a Master of Arts in 1991. Her thesis was published as the book, "Buddhism in Western Australia". During the years 1992 -1998 Enid was a part-time tutor and sessional lecturer in the School of Religious Studies at Edith Cowan University. During this period, she co-authored with Philip Hughes the book, "The Buddhists in Australia," published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research.

Enid's interest in Buddhism led to her membership of an International Association of Buddhist Women. She attended the Association's conferences in Bangkok, Colombo, Ladakh and Lumbini, Nepal. She was also involved with a number of Buddhist organizations in Perth, and contributed as a radio broadcaster and writer to religious journals.

I would like to round out this tribute by highlighting three aspects of Enid's character.

First, her unfailing cheerfulness and enthusiasm for life

Soon after the birth of her second child, Enid suffered a (benign) brain tumour and lost part of her sight and quite a deal of her physical mobility. Her

inner qualities of cheerfulness and zest for life (which I had got to know and appreciate in our University days in Adelaide) helped carry her through many difficulties. And, in the last three years of her life, as she battled the cancer that was invading her body, she continued to live life with exhilaration and joy.

Second, her courage and quiet determination

After surgery for the brain tumour, Enid could no longer drive a car. It was even difficult for her to cross a busy road. When she resumed study in the early 1980's she spent many hours just in commuting across the city of Perth between her home and the Claremont campus. Years later, she enjoyed telling the story of how, on a visit to her neurologist, he asked her how she was filling in her time. She replied that she had just completed her Masters thesis, whereupon he stared at her in amazement. How could that be, he asked, as her visual impairment meant that she couldn't read! What had happened was that Enid, through sheer persistence over around twenty-five years, had retrained other cells in her brain to take over the task of those she had lost through surgery. She was one of a handful of cases world-wide where this recovery of function occurred.

Third, there was the depth of what I would call her soul-life and her soul-work

Not only was Enid a scholar of religion, she also understood its experiential dimension. During the first round of surgery for her brain tumour, she had a Near Death Experience. I believe this was a significant factor in deepening her commitment to her religious faith. She understood the value of spiritual discipline. She valued the ritual and liturgy of the Anglican Church. And her keen interest in Buddhism seemed to deepen her appreciation of the religious way of life.

*Beryl Harrold
Psychologist, Armidale*

Books Received 2002

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John Bowler (ed) 2002 *"Religions" Cambridge Illustrated History*, Cambridge University Press.

Hilary C. Rubenstein, Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Abraham J. Edelheit, William D. Rubenstein 2002 *The Jews in the Modern World: A History since 1750*, Oxford University Press.

Bruce Kaye (ed) 2002 *Anglicanism in Australia: A History*, Melbourne University Press.

• Fergus Kerr 2002 *After Aquinas: Versions of Thomism*, Blackwell.

Ira M. Lapidus 2002 *A History of Islamic Societies* (2nd Edition) Cambridge.

Phillip Arnold & Ann Grodzins Gold (eds) 2001 *Sacred Landscapes and Cultural Politics: Planting a Tree*, Ashgate.

Ashok Kumar Malhotra 2001 *An Introduction to Yoga Philosophy: An Annotated Translation of the Yoga Sutras*, Ashgate.

Alister E. McGrath 2002 *The Future of Christianity*, Blackwell.

Steve Bruce 2002 *God is Dead: Secularization in the West*, Blackwell.

Joshua Hoffman & Gary S. Rosencrantz 2002 *The Divine Attributes* Blackwell.

Notes on Contributors

Lorna Collingridge is currently completing her PhD in the School of Theology at Griffith University. Her thesis explores the images of the Divine evoked in four of Hildegard's devotional songs. At the present time, she is a visiting scholar at Duke University's Divinity School in North Carolina, where she is researching and teaching in both the Divinity School and in Women's Studies. She has composed music for inclusive worship, and intends to continue this work post-PhD, as well as further investigation into imaging the Divine, especially in women's liturgical experience.

Alice Dwyer is a PhD candidate in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. She is examining the causes of and possible solutions to religious conflict, and is also interested in narratives of religion and globalisation, peace and conflict studies and the intersection between environmental concerns and religious ideas and practices.

Jay Johnston BA (UWS) M.Art Admin (CoFA, UNSW) MA (Hons) (UWS) is currently working on a PhD thesis "Becoming Angel: Subtle Subjects, Aesthetics and Ethics." Previously an artist, arts administrator and curator of contemporary visual art, her research interests include aesthetics, subjectivity, feminist spirituality, ethics, eastern metaphysics, alternative therapies and esoteric philosophy. She is currently a Research Assistant in the School of Humanities, University of Western Sydney.

Kerry King (BappSc Speech Pathology) (Syd) Speech Pathologist, Manly Hospital. Interested in Religion and Literature and the Arts and a member of the RLA Project. Undergraduate studies in English Literature were completed at Macquarie University. She has recently completed post-graduate studies (MLitt) from the School of Classics, History & Religion, University of New England, Armidale, co-supervised by the School of English, Communication and Theatre.

Joan Relke completed her BA in Canada in 1977, majoring in English Literature and Visual Arts. Her subsequent work as a sculptor and interest in female imagery, particularly figurines, led her to further academic studies in ancient and prehistoric religion. Convinced that both the Goddess Feminists and archeologists could be right about the use of prehistoric female figurines, despite their disagreements, she undertook Honours and post-graduate investigations of the prehistoric figurines of Mesopotamia and Egypt, and received her doctorate in 2001. Joan's sculptural interpretations of female mythological figures can be seen at <<http://www-personal.une.edu.au/~jrelke>>. She is currently an Honorary Associate in Studies in Religion at the University of New England.

W. Bede Waterford, DD (Somerset, UK) MTh (BCT) was formerly a lawyer. He has been researching biblical issues for many years. His Somerset University Doctoral Thesis was "Evidence for and against the Lineage of the Synoptic Gospels". He is currently a student at Griffith University, Brisbane, where his doctoral thesis is "Differences Between Reading and Listening to Biblical Texts."

Marion Maddox holds PhDs in theology (Flinders, 1992) and political philosophy (UNSW, 2000). She has published widely on the intersections of religion and politics, including *For God and Country: Religious Dynamics in Australian Federal Politics* (Canberra: Parliament of Australia, 2001). She is currently Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies at Victoria University, Wellington, NZ.

Majella Franzmann convenes the Studies in Religion program at the University of New England, Armidale NSW, where she has been lecturing in comparative religion since 1994. She has had two terms as President of the AASR, in 1995-7 and her current term beginning in 2001. While concerned for the continuing viability and vitality of Studies in Religion as an area of study in Australian universities, she is also engaged in the promotion of theological education, serving on panels for the accreditation of theological degrees for the Queensland Office of Higher Education.

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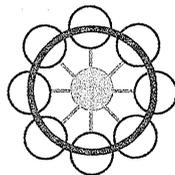
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Wuthnow, R. 1978. *Experimentation in American Religion*. University of California Press, Berkeley

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**Australian Association
for the Study of Religion
ISSN Number 1031 - 2943**