

# RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

(now incorporating *Journal of Studies in Mysticism*)

A Journal in the Study of Religion



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Sydney, Australia, 2006

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There are not so many journals promoting a study of religion that one more is too many. The discipline is too recent of arrival in our academies for that. This is especially so in Australia where the discipline is just beginning. Hence, an initial need for a forum for scholars in Religion, as distinct, say, from Theology or Philosophy, here in Australia, is plain to see - the need any academic community with definable boundaries of interest, even perhaps, of geography, has for a venue through which creative exchange may happen in print. No such forum or venue exists in Australia, and this Journal hopes in some measure to provide one.

Naturally, contributions from places other than this one will be encouraged, indeed sought. There could be no other way to promote a more wide understanding of Religion in Australia, than this. The Journal, in other words, though meant in part to be the product of a need felt among Australian "religionists", must by dint of that very fact, take its place beside other International Journals in the field.

The title is indicative of a certain stress - the desire of the editors to provide a venue for a wider understanding of Religious knowledge, of, that is, the "truth" or "wisdom" Religions seek to convey. Many Journals pride themselves on their standard of scholarly excellence, and often, it would appear, on that alone. Our hope is, whilst sacrificing nothing of substance in scholarship, nonetheless to produce, indeed, promote something more - writings which, in being read, effectively stimulate insight. We express this hope to indicate our earnest policy of producing something that matters, and not yet another place for scholarly self-indulgence. We are concerned, in other words, not merely with knowledge of religion, but as much with religious knowledge.

The first few issues indicative of the approach of the Journal, included papers by:—

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## Ian Kesarcodi–Watson 1938–1984

After an illness of about six weeks duration Ian Kesarcodi–Watson died on May 12, 1984. Ian was one of the founding editors of the journal *Religious Tradition* and worked assiduously for its survival over the last six years. Much of the direction of the journal was due to his guidance and his vision for its future can be seen in his editorial statements found in each issue.

At the time of his death Ian was senior lecturer in Philosophy at La Trobe University, a position he had held since 1975. Prior to the appointment he had been a lecturer in philosophy at the University of Hong Kong for four years. His main teaching interests were in the area of Indian philosophy and the philosophy of the person, interests which are also strongly represented in his publications. He wrote two books, *Eastern Spirituality* and *Studies in Hindu Wisdom*, both of which evidence his profound knowledge of the Upaniṣads and the Bhagavadgītā as well as the sacred texts of some of the other great religions. Not only is his knowledge of the texts revealed through these books, but also his sensitive reading of their contents. Besides these books Ian wrote many articles which were published in the leading journals in philosophy and religious studies. The most impressive of these articles greatly enhance our understanding of such key concepts of Indian religion as *karma*, *deha*, *buddhi* and *mokṣa*.

It is befitting that Ian should have been the founding editor of a journal devoted to the whole gamut of religious studies. His interest was in religion as a living reality and his concern was with unravelling the truths of all religions.

*prāpnuyāt mokṣainandaṃ satyam ca*