

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

(now incorporating *Journal of Studies in Mysticism*)

A Journal in the Study of Religion

MYSTICISM

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Religious Studies,
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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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J. M. Kitagawa
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EDITORIAL

It is with much pleasure that we announce yet another development in the life of our journal. From this issue, *Religious Traditions* will combine with the only other Religion Study journal of long standing in this country — *Journal of Studies in Mysticism* — to present what now most clearly is the only representative publication in the discipline from these shores. With the addition of Greg Bailey from Victoria and Vijay Mishra from Western Australia, we have an Editorial strength of scholarly competence second to none in this country.

It is timely that this merging should occur with an issue devoted to Mysticism, and we feel sure that subscribers to both journals, as well as the discipline at large, will be enriched by this confluence. It is also much to be hoped that Academic Religionists in Australia will support this development, and acknowledge the importance of this strengthened contribution to our discipline by subscribing more widely than they have done in the past. This journal does not exist for its Editors, who gain from it nothing but the delight of making a contribution, and the burden of meeting its debts. It exists for those involved in the discipline, and especially for those involved in this country.

