

THE DARK SIDE

Proceedings of the Seventh Australian and International Religion, Literature and the Arts Conference 2002

Edited by Christopher Hartney and Andrew McGarrity



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Christopher Hartney and Andrew McGarrity eds.

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Acknowledgements

The papers in this volume were given at the 2002 conference of the Religion, Literature and the Arts Society (RLA) held from October 5th to 7th, 2002. The conference theme was 'The Dark Side'. Three excellent keynote addresses were delivered: Mark Juergensmeyer (UCLA) 'Terror in the Mind of God', Joan Kirkby (Macquarie University) "'We Grow Accustomed to the Dark'": Emily Dickinson, Religion and Nineteenth Century Science' and Tony Bond (AGNSW) 'Terror of the Void'; the last two of these are included in this publication. The conference was also enlivened by poetry readings by Charlotte Clutterbuck, a Jungian workshop by Danah Zohar and Ian Marshall, and a stunning solo performance of Euripides' *Medea* by Jane Alquist. Gamelan Langen Suka, directed by Vi King Lim set the tone for the conference with its wonderful performance at the conference opening.

The conference theme was suggested by Dr Colette Rayment who also organised the three keynote speakers together with the assistance of Dr Ivan Head. The conference was organized by Dr Carole Cusack, with special assistance from Frances Di Lauro and further assistance from Christopher Adams, Daniel Bray, Glenys Eddy, Jacques Goldman, Christopher Hartney, Jonathan Hastie, Andrew McGarrity and Dominique Wilson. Sancta Sophia College provided the perfect venue and the staff of the Department of Studies in Religion facilitated the conference atmosphere, both intellectual and social.

This volume has been refereed in accordance with Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) requirements, and thanks are due to the referees.

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List of Contributors

Tony Bond has been the General Manager of Curatorial Services at the Art Gallery of New South Wales since 1995. He is also Head Curator of Western Art with special responsibility for the twentieth century and contemporary International collections. His curatorial specialisation is in twentieth century and contemporary International art. His recent major projects include curating *Trace*, the inaugural Liverpool Biennial in England (1999) and *Body*, an exhibition held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 1997 tracing realism in art from the mid-nineteenth century to today. In 1999 his work *Body* (which accompanied the exhibition) was awarded the inaugural Power Institute Award for best book on art history. His ongoing research is in the function of objects and materials in art as memory triggers and the issue of objectivity in affect.

Daniel Bray is a doctoral candidate in Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney, studying *blót* ('sacrifice') in Old Norse religion. He has studied extensively in the areas of Celtic and Germanic language, literature and religion, as well as comparative Indo-European historical linguistics and mythology.

Gabrielle Carey is the author of a number of works, both fiction and non-fiction, including *The Borrowed Girl*, *In My Father's House* and *The Penguin Book of Death*. She holds a Master of Arts in English from the Australian Catholic University and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Western Sydney.

Roland Clark has recently completed a joint honours degree in History and Religious Studies at the University of Sydney, focusing on twentieth century Russian religious philosophy, in particular Russian religious existentialism in the work of Lev Shestov. He is currently teaching English in Romania.

Carole M. Cusack is a lecturer in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. She is the author of *Conversion Among the Germanic Peoples* (Cassell, 1998). Her research interests are in European mythology as well as the factors influencing religious conversion, secularisation and the growth of 'New Age' religion.

Contributors

Frances Di Lauro is completing an honours degree in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. Her diverse interests range from archaeology to Chinese textual history to Celtic mythology. She has two publications to her credit: 'Through Christian Hands: Evidence for Elements of Pre-Christian Tradition in the Mongàn myth' in the *Australian Celtic Journal* (2001) and 'Keeping to the Centre: *Ru* and Daoist Ideals' in the last RLA volume, *Seeking the Centre* (RLA Press, 2001).

Michael Godfrey is an Anglican priest working in Casino, in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. He holds a Masters degree in English for a thesis on resurrection in D.H. Lawrence and is currently researching a doctorate on the place of 'the outsider' in Pauline soteriology.

Christopher Hartney has worked and studied in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. In 2003, he completed his doctorate on Caodaism, a new religious movement from Vietnam. He was also chief organiser of the Religion, Literature and the Arts Society's successful 'From Culture to Multiculture' conference which took place in October 2003. In 2004 Chris will be lecturing on religion and the arts and religion and film in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney before then taking up the position of Visiting Professor at the Department of World Religions at the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Ray Kerkhove is a researcher and consultant based on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. He has just completed his PhD in Studies in Religion at University of Queensland. His Masters thesis was on the topic of Aztec human sacrifice. He has run courses on Amerindian Civilizations at the University's Adult Education unit, and wrote on Aztec civilization for Bruce Scofield's *Day Signs: Native American Astrology from Ancient Mexico* (Amherst: One Reed, 1991) and Wayne Hudson's *World History Made Graphic* (Nathan: Griffith University, 1995). His interests with the field of Studies in Religion cover a wide range. He has written two definitive works on the life and teachings of the Indian figure Meher Baba (1894-1969), and piloted courses and education kits on South-East Queensland Aboriginal culture. His most recent work (soon to be published) was funded by two Arts Queensland (RADF) grants. It is one of the first multi-faith histories of an Australian region: *Soul Haven: The Story of Spiritual Centres on the Sunshine Coast*.

The Dark Side

Andrew McGarrity is a doctoral candidate and tutor in Indian Subcontinental Studies at the University of Sydney. His main areas of research are in Buddhism and Indian philosophy and Sanskrit and Tibetan language study. He is especially interested in the role of hermeneutics and exegesis in religious, philosophical and literary traditions.

John Moses trained at the Universities of Queensland, Munich and finally, Erlangen, in Germany where he received his PhD in 1965. Since then, he has taught German History at the University of Queensland and published widely on German labour history, trade unionism, German colonies in the Pacific and German church history as well as on Australian historiography and the origins of Anzac. He is currently Adjunct Professor at the University of New England in Armidale and is about to publish a short work entitled *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: God's Revolutionary*.

Marius Paul O'Shea is a doctoral candidate in Fine Art at the University of Newcastle. His area of research is in the hermeneutics of the visual image. Before coming to Australia he taught in Singapore from 1986 to 2000, first, on the Art Elective Program (AEP), one of the governments many social engineering experiments, and then at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, training art teachers. Prior to working in Singapore, he spent many years involved in art education in inner-city London. Marius Paul O'Shea holds a degree in Fine Art (History of Art) as well as a Masters in Education and Mass Communication.

Sarah Penicka is currently completing an Honours in Musicology for her Bachelor of Arts/Music degree at the University of Sydney. She specialises in the study of ethnomusicology and has twice received the University of Sydney's John Cooper Memorial Prize. She works as a conductor, composer and music teacher and spends her free time attempting to garden in her tiny inner-city terrace.

Barry Spurr is a Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Sydney. He is the author of books on liturgical language, Lytton Strachey and studying poetry and of numerous articles on poetry and religion. He is currently completing a book on T.S. Eliot's Anglo-Catholicism.

Contributors

James Tulip is a former Associate Professor of English at the University of Sydney where he was also Head of the School of Studies in Religion from 1991 to 1996. He continues to have an active interest in religious and theological studies at the tertiary level.

Jane Williams-Hogan is Professor of Sociology and also holds the Carpenter Chair of Church History at Bryn Athyn College of the New Church where she has taught since 1975. She organized the International Swedenborg Symposium at Bryn Athyn in 1988 in honour of the 300th anniversary of Swedenborg's birth and she chaired the Swedenborg Studies Seminar at the American Academy of Religion for seven years. A recent publication is 'Emanuel Swedenborg and the Kabbalistic Tradition' in Richard Caron et al. (eds) *Ésotérisme, Gnose et Imaginaire Symbolique: Mélanges offerts à Antoine Faivre* (Peeters, 2001). She has written several articles on artists inspired by Swedenborg and is currently working on a new biography of Emanuel Swedenborg.

John Wu is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Indian Sub-Continental Studies at the University of Sydney. He is working on the question of time and being by weaving together the phenomenological strands that run through Heidegger, Tibetan Buddhism and the Western esoteric tradition. Between 1998 and 1999 he was a coordinator of Tibetan human rights advocacy at the University of Sydney, and today continues to promote the non-violent cause of the Tibetan people, as well as working at the University of Sydney's Fisher Library.