



Australian
Religion
Studies

REVIEW

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER 1, AUTUMN 1993



Australian Association for the Study of Religions

Paul Rule (La Trobe)
President

Jane Simpson (Canterbury, N.Z.)
Vice-President

'Tricia Blombery (CRA)
Secretary

'Tricia Blombery (CRA)
Treasurer

Victor Hayes (S.A.C.A.E.)
Editor,
AASR Publications

Alan Black (UNE, Armidale)
1993 Conference Program
Committee Chairperson

'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes (Christian Research Association)
Editors, A.R.S. Review.

The Australian Association for the Study of Religions is a professional organization with a membership of more than 300, made up of teachers, academics, students and others with knowledge and experience of religious traditions.

Many members also hold membership in other societies representing specific disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields. The AASR aims to function as a meeting place where the study of religion in its broadest dimensions may be fostered. It owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Charles Strong Trust for financial support.

Membership confers participation in the AASR program which includes:

- * Annual Conferences
- * Access to AASR Publications (books and monographs)
- * A.R.S. Review (articles, book reviews, news and notes on personnel, publications, seminars, conferences, course offerings, school and tertiary curricula).
- * AASR Women and Religion Caucus
- * Affiliation with the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)
- * Strong ties with institutions in Melanesia and New Zealand.

Subscriptions should be sent to:

'Tricia Blombery,
Secretary, AASR,
6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft,
NSW 2065.

1992/93

Members: \$40.00

Students and concessions: \$20.00

Overseas members: \$45.00

ISSN Number 1031-2934

Australian Religion Studies

Review

AN AASR Publication

© Australian Association for the Study of Religions
c/- The Secretary, 6 Balfour Street, Wollstonecraft, 2065

Printed at New Litho, Surrey Hills, Victoria.

The REVIEW is sent free to financial members of AASR.

Additional copies to members: \$6.75.

Price to non-members: \$10/copy (includes postage).

Orders to the Secretary.

Cover design: Stele (Georgian stone), 2nd half of 6th century,
Tbilisi Academy of the Sciences College, Georgia, U.S.S.R..

Table of Contents

Features: Religion and Literature	1
Barbara Hanrahan: Eyeing God: <i>Elaine Lindsay</i>	1
Peter Carey and the 'New/Old (clergy) Man': <i>Peter Bentley</i>	7
A Field All Foreground: Australian Religious Poetry: <i>John Foulcher</i>	15
Adam, Eve and Agatha Christie: Detective Stories as Post-Darwinian Myths of Original Sin: <i>John Wren-Lewis</i>	20
The Qur'an: Some Literary Perspectives: <i>A. H. Johns</i>	24
The Divine Indian Woman: <i>Garry Trompf</i>	37
AASR Update	43
Courses and Curriculum	51
The Hindu Perspective on Studies of Religion: <i>Terence J. Lovat</i>	51
Newslink	56
State News: New South Wales	56
State News: Queensland	58
State News: Victoria	58
State News: Western Australia	59
New Zealand Notes: from The Yana	60
International East-West Philosophy Conference:	64
Tenth Annual Conference in Asian Cultures and Theologies	66
New Journal: International Journal of Comparative Religion	66
State of the Art	68
Feminist Approaches to the Study of Religion: <i>Jane Simpson</i>	68
Book Reviews	76
A New Era in the Study of the New Testament. : <i>Ruairidh (Rory) Boid</i>	76
N. Habel, <i>Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia</i> . <i>Paul Rule</i>	82
C. Jenkin, <i>Collections of Religion & Theology in Australia and N.Z.</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	83
J. Hom, <i>Keyguide to Information Sources on World Religions</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	84
E. Ferguson, <i>Encyclopedia of Early Christianity</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	85
D. Cohn-Sherbok, <i>A Dictionary of Judaism and Christianity</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	86
N. Peat & E. Perry, <i>A World Theology: The Central Spiritual Reality</i> . <i>R. Boer</i>	87
A. Black, <i>Religion in Australia: Sociological Perspectives</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	91
G. Bouma, <i>Religion: Meaning, Transcendence & Community</i> . <i>G. Gorman</i>	91
M. Rodgers & M. Thomas, <i>A Theology of the Human Person</i> . <i>M. Ryan</i>	93
M. Louise, <i>Changing Women, Changing Church</i> . <i>J. Simpson</i>	95
P. Fahy, <i>Faith in Catholic Classrooms</i> . <i>D. Brennan</i>	98
A. Rippin, <i>Muslims: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices</i> , I. <i>P. Riddell</i>	99

Editors' Note

Our thanks to all the people who have contributed to this issue. It makes our job so much more enjoyable if we don't have to search around for material. Particularly appreciated are those who have diligently ferreted out news, reviewed books, and offered pieces for consideration without having to be asked. The REVIEW is the newsletter of our members as well as a forum for discussing religious issues. Your willing assistance promotes the sharing of experience.

There are of course vacancies on the team! Not all campuses have a resident news reporter. Let us know if you could take on that role. Also a lot of books come in for review and are looking for good homes. If you are interested in helping in this area, let us have your name and your chief areas of interest and you could win a free book!

For the next issue I think we must tackle an area of study which has been too long neglected in Australia (except in the popular press). This is the area of New Religious Movements. I would be interested in papers which look at this topic theoretically as well as illustratively. The scope of the topic is intentionally vague and can range from the well-established sects (Pentecostals, Mormons) to the newer Eastern-inspired cults to the more esoteric self-religions of the New Age movement. Also if anyone has a burning desire to guest edit this feature section, don't hesitate to offer. Ring Tricia on (02) 438 2837 if you would like to discuss the feature.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Armidale conference, especially our trans-Tasman pilgrims. If you have not yet contacted Alan Black to tell him you're coming be sure to return the registration form as soon as possible. You can fax Alan on (067) 733317.

'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes