

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

A Journal in the Study of Religion

Vol. 3 No. 1
April—May, 1980

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

A Journal in the Study of Religion

Executive Editors:

ARVIND SHARMA,
Religious Studies,
University of Sydney,
Sydney, Australia, 2006

IAN KESARCODI-WATSON,
Department of Philosophy,
La Trobe University,
Bundoora, Victoria, Australia, 3083.

Regional Editor:

GEORGE M. WILLIAMS,
Department of Religious Studies,
California State University,
Chico, California, 95926, U.S.A.

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

A Journal in the Study of Religion

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ISSN 0156-1650

Co-Editors:

ARVIND SHARMA,
Religious Studies
University of Sydney,
Sydney, Australia, 2006

IAN KESARCODI-WATSON,
Department of Philosophy,
La Trobe University,
Bundoora, Victoria, Australia, 3083.

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 academics 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 will be indicative of the approach of the Journal and will include papers by:—

Eric J. Sharpe
J. M. Kitagawa
Klaus Klostermaier

J. G. Arapura
A. K. Saran
R. M. Berndt

S. S. Barlingay
H. V. Guenther
S. H. Nasr

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:

A. L. Basham, Australian National University
R. M. Berndt, University of Western Australia
M. Charlesworth, Deakin University
E. J. Sharpe, University of Sydney
J. G. Arapura, McMaster University
A. K. Saran, University of Jodhpur
G. M. Bailey, La Trobe University
P. C. Craigie, University of Calgary
L. A. Hercus, Australian National University
P. Donovan, Massey University
J. Dunham, University of Melbourne
A. K. Kazi, University of Melbourne
V. Mishra, Murdoch University
T. Rahula, University of Melbourne
S. D. Singh, University of Queensland
K. N. Tiwari, Victoria University of Wellington
D. R. Brewster, University of Canterbury
Richard Barz, Australian National University

BOARD OF CONSULTANTS:

Mircea Eliade, University of Chicago
Ninian Smart, University of Lancaster
S. S. Barlingay, University of Poona
Kalidas Bhattacharyya, Santiniketan
Shlomo Biderman, University of Tel Aviv
Pratima Bowes, University of Sussex
Margaret Chatterjee, Delhi University
J. B. Chethimattam, Fordham University
Rita M. Gross, University of Wisconsin — Eau Claire
H. V. Guenther, University of Saskatchewan
J. M. Kitagawa, University of Chicago
Klaus Klostermaier, University of Manitoba
E. Lamotte, Louvain
H. D. Lewis, University of London
B. K. Matilal, Oxford University
Basil Mitchell, Oxford University
S. H. Nasr, Tehran University
Jacob Neusner, Brown University
Huston Smith, University of Syracuse
Frederick J. Streng, Southern Methodist University
Julia Ching, Yale University
H. Nakamura, Tokyo

MEDIA CONSULTANTS:

Maureen McInerney, Australian Broadcasting Commission
Leslie Maitland, New York Times

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS:

Peter Fenner, University of Queensland
Henry Cruise, La Trobe University

Religious Traditions is published twice a year, in April and October. Subscription rates in Australia: \$6.50 per issue, \$12.00 annual; outside Australia: U.S. \$8.00 per issue, U.S. \$14.00 annual, \$20.00 for 2 years' subscription. Special subscription rates for students: \$9.00 annual, \$16.00 for two years. Special rates for Asian subscribers (excluding Japan): \$6.50 annual, \$12.00 for two years' subscription. All figures are in Australian dollars unless specified otherwise.

CONTENTS

Editorial	iv
Articles	
Religious Traditions <i>Pratima Bowes</i>	1
The History of Religion and the Religion of Israel <i>John Sandys-Wunsch</i>	22
Vladimir Solovyov and the Russian Ideal of the 'Whole Man' <i>Jonathon Sutton</i>	29
Murder in Baghdad: A Modern Egyptian Drama of Al-Halaj by S. 'Ard Al-Sabur* <i>D.P. Brewster</i>	39
Communications	
In Defence of a Mystical Ontology <i>Philip Almond</i>	50
Some Methodological Comments on the Use of the term 'Hinayana' in the Study of Buddhism <i>Nathan Katz</i>	52
Reviews	
The Cult of Tara: Magic and Ritual in Tibet <i>by Stephen Beyer (Kenneth G. Zysk)</i>	59
Nuns <i>by Marcelle Bernstein (Sister Marie Augusta Neal)</i>	61

EDITORIAL

The first paper of this issue bears the same title as this journal and is therefore particularly appropriate as a lead-in. Sandys-Wunsch provides a fitting follow-up with a discussion of a particular religious tradition. Jonathan Sutton follows closely on the heels of Hans Mol, whose paper in the previous issue emphasised the need for seeing things steadily and seeing them whole. This search for wholeness, however, in a mystical sense, may have cost Al-Hallaj his life, as is demonstrated dramatically in the paper by Brewster.

This issue also contains communications from our readers for the first time. It is hoped that our readers will communicate with us often enough, and briefly enough, for this to become a regular feature of the journal; something one may use either as an appetiser or a dessert in relation to the more sumptuous pabulum of the papers.

