

Bulletin:

The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
La société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion

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I. A WORD FROM THE EDITOR / MOT DU REDACTEUR

This issue of the Bulletin contains some new features. I would like to single out Bruce Alton's statement with regard to the Internet and David Seljak's submission comparing his experience at the American Learned's with the Canadian Learned's. I have included as well a breakdown of the CSSR membership.

Ce numéro du Bulletin contient quelques nouveautés. Je voudrais mentionner en particulier l'opinion de Bruce Alton au sujet de l'Internet, et l'article de David Seljak, dans lequel il compare la réunion des sociétés savantes aux États-Unis et celle du Canada. De plus, j'ai ajouté une analyse de répartition des membres de la SCÉR.

Brian W.W. Aitken ...

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II. CSSR/SCÉR THE EXECUTIVE / LE CONSEIL 1995-96	
President/Président: - Dr. William Closson James	Vice-President/Vice Président: - Dr. Morny Joy
Secretary/Secrétaire - Dr. Randi Warne	Treasurer/Trésorier - Dr. Jordan Paper
Membership Secretary Secrétaire aux admissions - Dr. Brian Aitken	
Members at Large / Conseillers - Conseillères	
Three years/Trois ans	One year/Un an
Dr. Marie-Andree Roy	Dr. Pierre M. Boucher
Dr. Braj Sinha	Dr. Marsha Hewitt

Sqér Representative/Représentif de la Sqér	Corporation Representative/Publications Officer
Dr. Michel Desplands	Dr. Paul Bowlby

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III. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE / MESSAGE DE LE PRESIDENT

I should begin by saying now what I didn't get a chance to say at our business meeting in May when you elected me: thank you for the trust and confidence shown in making me president of the CSSR/SCÉR. Why you would want a middle-aged, mostly unilingual male from Ontario as president of this society, I'm not sure.

The CSSR/SCÉR has been very important to me as a scholar—I value the stimulating forum it provides, its role in the academic study of religion in Canada, and especially the collegial contacts and personal friends I've gained over the past twenty years or more.

A few years ago in the preparation of *Religious Studies in Ontario: A State-of-the-Art Review*, we asked faculty about the role of learned societies in their work. It was good to hear the CSSR/SCÉR praised as an important Canadian alternative to the mammoth and sprawling AAR: we meet on a university campus in May or June, not in downtown hotels in November; we usually have just over one hundred members present, not five or six thousand; we have a couple of parallel sessions, not dozens. It sounds as if I'm just talking about size and locale if I compare Philadelphia with St. Catharines, or New Orleans with St. John's. Well, there is something that contextualizes our work when we meet with each other in university buildings housing departments like those we come from. Though it's difficult to articulate, I find a different vision of the nature of religious studies implicit in the Canadian Learned as contrasted with the AAR/SBL. Perhaps more coherent and inclusive and less fragmented and ghettoized into academic sub-specialties. Communication has always been a Canadian preoccupation—how to get people together in some form of community in this vast and sparsely populated country—and the CSSR fosters dialogue and collegiality.

We should have an interesting next couple of years. Randi Warne has set forth a cogent assessment of some of the challenges facing us and asked some probing questions about our direction (see "A Word from the Secretary" in the April 1996 *Bulletin*, and reproduced on our Web Site). There is no doubt that cutbacks and restructuring will change the face of religious studies even as Canadian universities are being changed. And, with that, we have the transformation of the CFH and the SSHRC, and of the Learned too. Probably we will be driven to a closer and more cooperative relationship with other societies for the study of religion in Canada. Probably we will have to develop a new role too for the Corporation (CCSR).

Talk to some of our senior members and you might hear about a very early and very small meeting of the CSSR in St. John's. Though they might have met in the proverbial phone booth, they were instead gathered in a bar when a local man asked one of them (a scholar of Chinese religions) what he did for a living. He replied, in the evasive

way we sometimes do, that he taught. “And what do you teach, my son?” Our colleague said that he taught religion. The questioner persisted: “What religion do you teach?” The answer was Buddhism. Then the next question was, “And what does Buddhism say?” When the professor told that man in the bar that Buddhism says that you must be responsible for yourself, the man raised his glass and said, “I’ll drink to that!” Perhaps you too have a repertoire of stories about Learned’s past—whether you were there or not (I wasn’t).

My own first “Learneds” were in Toronto in 1974. Since then I’ve added Laval (twice), UQAM and the U of M; Dale and UNB; Carleton and the U of O; Western, Mac, Guelph, Brock, and (of course) Queen’s; Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Alberta; Calgary and UBC, and perhaps one or two others. I’m looking forward to being in St. John’s next spring for our Annual Meeting. Please give careful consideration to the Call for Papers issued in this *Bulletin* and consider whether you might participate in the program.

Be sure to visit our CSSR Web Site (the URL is <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/CSSR.html>). Bruce Alton has been putting things together for us and the result has been a very impressive site, with information about the Annual Meetings, a complete membership list, links to departments of religious studies, academic presses, other societies and organizations, religious studies list servers, e-mail addresses for Executive members, the MUN Learneds Web Site, and so on. It’s a very rich plate of offerings and you would enjoy visiting it. Bruce has done a superb job and put a lot of hard work into bringing this together. It’s an example, I think, of one of the ways we can enhance our communication among ourselves at very little cost.

I have a great deal of admiration for the other members of the Executive of the CSSR/SCÉR who are working on your behalf for the Society’s well-being. Feel free to contact any one of us with your suggestions, comments on our meetings, concerns, or anything that relates to how we do our job. The names and addresses are printed in this *Bulletin* and your feedback is important to us. Again, with my thanks for your support and my best wishes.

[**Bill James**, President of the CSSR/SCÉR]

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IV. THE CSSR IS ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB

Thanks to the good services of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities (CFH), the CSSR has been able to establish a web site. Pay us a visit on the Internet at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/CSSR.html>. Here are some commonly asked questions, and some answers:

a) WHY SHOULD WE HAVE A WEB SITE?

All of the CFH societies, and most universities in Canada and elsewhere, are quickly establishing a home page. Some think this is just being trendy but, even if it is, there are good reasons for jumping aboard this particular trend. Our mandate is to promote the academic study of religion in, and with special reference, to Canada. There are plenty of religious hucksters on the net; rather than let them take over, we think we should lead the way in promoting serious academic inquiry.

b) IS OUR WEB SITE SPECIAL?

Yes. We think every scholar of religion in Canada (and many elsewhere) should have it on their list of frequently used resources. First, we are deliberately making it connective. From the site you can link to every department for the study of religion in Canada, and many in the United States and worldwide. You can connect with the journal SR, with the site of the next Learned's meetings in St. John's, Newfoundland (to register, plan accommodations, etc.), with discussion groups on the study of religion, and with an increasingly large number of web sites with information on the study of religion.

Second, the site is interactive. You can make suggestions to improve the site itself; find out how to pay your annual dues; send an e-mail to members of the Executive, and eventually to other members, directly from the site.

Third, as expected, the site is unusually informative. There is a list of members and how to contact them; information about the Society, its Constitution, etc.; memos from the Executive; etc.

c) SO WHO SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS SITE; HOW CAN I HELP PROMOTE IT?

All of your colleagues with whom you correspond on academic matters would probably like to know about and visit the site. Send them an e-mail with the URL, especially if they are not members. Help us to promote the Society, and the study of religion, by telling everyone you can!

d) WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE INTERNET CONNECTIONS?

Most universities make Internet connections available to faculty and students, so even if you don't have a personal computer you can easily pay the site a visit. We hope you'll find it a worthwhile use of your time.

e) WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Bruce Alton is the present site manager. E-mail him from the site or directly at bsalton@chass.utoronto.ca.

V. THE VALUE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CSSR/SCÉR

Two things reaffirmed my faith in the usefulness of the Annual Meeting of the CSSR/SCÉR this year. One was the quality of the programme during our June conference. The other was the experience of presenting a paper at the AAR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia last November.

The religion and social sciences section had announced a session on religion and civil society. I had proposed a paper on the theoretical material of José Casanova's new book *Public Religion in the Modern World* which takes issue with Jurgen Habermas' contention that ethical discourse in modern society can only be "neutral" and "rational" and never religious. While the theoretical debate on the place of religion in civil society is a hot topic in the United States, the illustrative example I was going to use of a religious community's contribution to a public debate that neither represented a regression to pre-modern theocracy nor a rear-guard defense of religious privileges was the contribution of the Catholic Church to the referendum debate in Quebec. A very nice professor from the southern United States phoned to tell me that my proposal was judged to be outstanding by the programme committee but that I would not be asked to present my paper. Its focus, he said, was "too local." As compensation, he asked me to send a copy of my paper which would be offered for sale with the four papers that would make up the session. As I was very busy, I declined. Only later did I wonder if I had chosen an American illustration—one which would have addressed the possibility of the break-up of the United States—would my proposal have been turned down.

I then got a call concerning my second proposal, a paper entitled, “Episcopal Authority and National Identity in Quebec: Exercising Teaching Authority on Public Issues in a Secular Nation.” I had sent in this proposal to the Roman Catholic Studies section which called for papers on identity and authority. This time a professor from Boston called to offer me good news. My paper had been accepted. I was to present in a session with four other scholars, three of whom would talk about authority and identity in the United States and one who would talk about the Catholic Church in Australia. We had been lumped together, I was told, because Canada, like the United States and Australia, was “an English-speaking country.”

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I tried to explain that Canada had two official languages and that I was doing my paper on the church in Quebec. So?, I was asked. So Quebec is officially a French-speaking society, I replied. That is the whole issue behind the referendum. What referendum? I found myself searching for words. Did this professor say she lived in Boston—a five-hour drive from Montreal?

In Philadelphia, the audience for our session was close to a hundred people. The three American speakers presented their papers to the standing-room-only crowd. Then the moderator called for a five-minute break before the two speakers from Australia and Canada. More than two-thirds of the audience got up and left—along with the three American presenters! While the Australian scholar presented his paper, the crowd noisily conversed in the adjacent corridor. A few more people dropped in to hear my paper—mostly Canadians.

When I related my experiences to colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the CSSR/SCÉR, they smiled, finding it charming that someone could still be disconcerted by such a familiar scenario. At a recent Executive meeting of our Society, Jordan Paper reported on a disturbing trend among American scholars to see the AAR as THE international forum for the study of religion. He warned against that idea.

My experience—confirmed by others—was a rude lesson in the fact that Canadians dealing with Canadian topics will almost certainly be treated like second-class citizens at the AAR. While the AAR will still provide a useful forum for some of my work, I will always need a CANADIAN society for the study of religion. (I should add that I am a member of the Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion as well.) **[David Seljak]**

VI. PERSONAL NOTES / NOTES PERSONNELLES

Antonio Gualtieri

- A. Gualtieri 's revised and expanded edition of his book *The Vulture and the Bull: Religious Responses to Death* will soon be available. This book explores the meaning of death and afterlife in selected religious traditions and secular world views. It is structured on the premise that death is an existential threat to which the symbol systems of religion attempt to give, in varying ways, a transformative or therapeutic answer. Emphasis is placed on the Hindu teaching of the immortal soul; the Hebraic idea of collective survival; the Christian doctrine of resurrection of the body; the Buddhist conception of no-soul and nirvana; and secular humanism's commitment to this-worldly value. For information contact Prof. Gualtieri at Carleton University (Religion Department). Fax: 613-520-3962.

Ravi Ravindra

- One of Prof. Ravindra's courses, *Mystical Consciousness and Modern Science* (cross-listed in the Departments of Comparative Religion and Physics), has been selected for an award of \$5,000 U.S. by the Templeton Foundation in their 1996 competition for Science-Religion courses. A similar amount will also be given to Dalhousie University as part of the total award.
- His *Yoga of the Christ* (Element Books, Shaftesbury, U.K., 1990, revised edition, 1992) was published in German by Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag in May 1996. This book has also been published in French (La Table Ronde, Paris, 1991), in Portuguese (Editora Teosofica, Brasilia, 1993), and in Greek (Pyrinos Kosmos, Athens, 1995). Spanish, Dutch and Italian translations are under preparation.
- His book, *J. Krishnamurti: Two birds on One Tree*, was published by Quest Books, Wheaton, Illinois, in 1995. Prof. Ravindra was invited to the Symposium on *Revelation and Environment* held at sea in September, on a ship sailing from Athens to Istanbul and later to the Island of Patmos where the revelation of St. John took place in 95 CE. This symposium was sponsored by the Orthodox Church and the World Wildlife Fund.
- He has also been invited to present a paper on "Self-consciousness in *Yoga Sutras* and its Implications for Spiritual Practice" in the World Philosophers' Meet in Pune, India, in November 1996.

Will C. van den Hoonaard

- Prof. van den Hoonaard has recently published "The Baha'is in Canada: A Study in the Transplantation of Non-Western Religious Movements to Western Societies," in *ARC: The Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University* (March 1996), vol. 24: pp. 97-118.
- He has also received the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme grant of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to publish his new work, *The Origins of the Baha'i Community of Canada, 1898-1948*, which is currently in press with Wilfrid Laurier University Press and will be published this year. Anyone interested in receiving a list of Prof. van den Hoonaard's scholarly publications and presentations about the Baha'i community should request the same at his e-mail address: Will@unb.ca.

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VII. NOTES / INFORMATIONS

Request for Participation: CSSR Bulletin

Votre participation au Bulletin demandée

Inform us of your new academic activities, your latest publications, the organization of seminars, colloquia, and conferences.

Tell us about appointments and retirements, and new developments in the teaching of religious studies. Send

materials before March 1, 1997, for the April edition.

Le Bulletin de la SCÉR d'autant plus intéressant que vous y apporterez votre participation. Faites connaître vos nouvelles activités académiques, vos publications récentes, la tenue de séminaires, de colloques, de congrès que vous organisez.

Laissez-nous savoir des nouveaux développements, des retraites aussi bien que des nouveaux postes. Faites parvenir avant le 1 mars 1997 pour l'édition d'avril; le prochain *Bulletin* paraîtra en avril.

Send to:
Brian WW Aitken
Membership Secretary CSSR/SCÉR

Address/Adresse

Huntington University in Laurentian University
Ramsey Lake Road
SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6
FAX: 705-673-6917

From

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS / ANNONCES

1) CALL FOR PAPERS

The Programme Committee invites submissions for the 1997 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Learned Societies on the campus of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, between May 31-June 3.

These submissions may be of three types:

a) Special Papers

In order to effect a fuller discussion of complete studies by Society members, blocks of time may be set aside for the presentation of, responses to, and discussion of "special" or "major" papers. A special paper may be grounded in a special field, but it should address matters important to all students of religion. In order to be considered, a complete version of the paper together with an abstract is to be submitted by November 15, 1996.

b) Regular Papers

The Committee invites proposals for presentations of works in progress and shorter scholarly papers for presentation. Normally, the time for actual delivery is twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussion. A 100-150 (maximum) word abstract should be submitted by November 15, 1996. All audio-visual needs must be clearly noted with your initial submission. Submission on a three-and-one-half-inch disk (IBM format/WordPerfect 6.0) would be helpful.

c) Panels

The Committee encourages proposals for panels, workshops and seminars. The organizer is responsible for setting the topic and involving the participants in a maximum two-and-one-half-hour block of time. An abstract(s) as above, together with the names and institutional affiliations of the participants, equipment needs, and the name of a chair (who should not be making a presentation) is to be submitted by November 15, 1996. Panel organizers will be expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Programme Chair.

Completed special papers, abstracts of regular papers and panels, etc., are to be **sent by November 15, 1996**, to:

Prof. Braj Sinha
Department of Religious Studies
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Drive
SASKATOON SK S7N 5A5
Office: 306-966-6771; Fax: 306-966-6950/8839; E-mail: sinhab@duke.usask.ca

Please note: The Executive of the CSSR has asked the Program Committee to remind members of the following regulations and to ask their cooperation in following them:

- Persons presenting papers at the Annual Meeting should be members in good standing and must have paid the Learned Societies' conference fee for the year;
- A person delivering a paper to the CSSR Annual Meeting may not present the same or a similar paper to another society;
- Due to shrinking SSHRCC funds and expanding travel costs, travel subsidies will be limited;
- Please include the following information with your submission: institutional affiliation, mailing address, phone number(s), fax number, and E-mail address (if available).

Graduate students: the name, address and telephone number (e-mail if available) of a faculty advisor must be included (a brief reference from same is suggested).

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INVITATION À PROPOSER UNE COMMUNICATION

Le comité du programme vous invite à lui faire des propositions de participation pour la prochaine réunion annuelle tenue dans le cadre des Société savantes sur le campus de l'université de Memorial à St John's, Newfoundland, May 31-June 3, 1997. Trois types de propositions sont recevables.

a) Conférence

Afin de permettre un débat plus en profondeur des travaux d'envergure préparés par nos membres, un certain nombre des périodes seront réservées à la présentation, à la réponse préparée à l'avance et à la discussion des conférences. Solidement appuyé sur une expertise précise, ce type de communication doit cependant déborder la spécialisation étroite pour aborder des questions générales intéressant tous ceux et celles qui étudient la religion. On prendra en considération que le texte complet de ce type de communication doit être soumis avant le 15 novembre 1996, accompagné d'un résumé.

b) Communication régulière

Le comité vous invite à proposer des communications faisant état de travaux en voie de réalisation ou des communications érudites plus brèves. D'habitude, la durée de l'exposé sera de vingt minutes suivi de dix minutes de questions et de discussion. Un précis de 100-150 mots (maximum) doit être soumis avant le 15 novembre 1996. La demande pour des machines audio-visuelles doit être signalée dans votre soumission initiale. Veuillez faire votre soumission sur disquette 3 1/2", format IBM, Wordperfect 6.0 si possible.

c) Tables rondes

Le comité encourage les propositions pour l'organisation des tables rondes, des ateliers, ou des séminaires. La personne responsable du choix du sujet (l'organisateur/l'organisatrice) s'occupe également de l'engagement des

participant(e)s pour une période maximum de deux heures et demie. Un précis, comme ci-dessus, avec les noms et les institutions des participant(e)s, le matériel requis et le nom du président (de la présidente) de la séance [qui *ne devrait pas* faire de présentation] doit être soumis avant le 15 novembre 1996. L'organisateur/l'organisatrice assurera la coordination nécessaire entre le président du comité du programme et les autres participants.

Envoyez les textes complets des conférences, le précis des communications régulières et des tables rondes à:

Prof. Braj Sinha

Department of Religious Studies

University of Saskatchewan

9 Campus Drive

SASKATOON SK S7N 5A5

Office: 306-966-6771; Fax: 306-966-6950/8839; E-mail: sinhab@duke.usask.ca

NOTE: L'exécutif de la SCÉR a demandé au comité du programme de rappeler aux membres les points suivants:

- Ceux et celles qui présentent des communications doivent être membres réguliers de la Société et avoir acquitté les frais des Sociétés Savantes pour cette réunion annuelle.
- On ne peut présenter la même communication à la réunion annuelle.
- Avec la subvention du CRSHC étant réduite et les frais de voyage augmentant, la subvention de voyage sera limitée.

2) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANT(E)S DU 1er CYCLE

Subject/Sujet: Any topic in the general field of religious studies/Un thème relevant du domaine des sciences religieuses

Length/Longueur: 10-15 pages, typed and double-spaced/10 à 15 pages dactylographiées, double interligne

Eligibility/Éligibilité: Any undergraduate currently registered in a Canadian university or college/Toute personne inscrite dans une université ou un collège Canadien

Prize/Prix:

1st prize: \$200 / 2nd prize: \$100

1er prix: 200 \$ / 2e prix: 100 \$

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(9) **Deadline/Echéance:** One copy of the completed essay, with the accompanying letter, must be submitted no later than April 18, 1997/La rédaction et l'attestatin d'inscription doivent être reçues au plus tard le 18 avril 1997

Essays do not need to be written specifically for this contest. They may be assignments from a religious studies

course. All essays must be accompanied by a letter from a member of the sponsoring religious studies department, indicating that the student is an undergraduate in good standing in that university or college.

Les rédactions présentées dans le cadre du concours peuvent avoir été rédigées en vue de répondre aux exigences d'un cours de sciences religieuses. Une attestation d'inscription, rédigée par un professeur du département des sciences religieuses de l'institution, doit accompagner la rédaction.

A person entering the contest should send a copy of her/his essay, along with the letter of certification, to/Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagné de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

PR. PIERRE M. BOUCHER
DÉPARTEMENT DES SCIENCES RELIGIEUSES
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONCTON
MONCTON NB E1A 3E9

3) GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANTS DU 2E CYCLE

Subject/Sujet: A theme in the general field of religious studies/Un thème relevant du dans le champ général des sciences religieuses

Language/Longue: English or French/Anglais ou français

Length/Longueur: 3000-5000 words/mots

Eligibility/Éligibilité: Full-time M.A. student status in a Canadian university/Tout(e) étudiant(e) présentement inscrit(e) à temps plein dans un programme de maîtrise appartenant à une université ou un collège au Canada

Prize/Prix: \$500 **Deadline/Echéance:** April 18, 1997/le 18 avril 1997

All submissions must include a letter from the chairperson of the department certifying the full-time status of the candidate.

Les essais doivent être accompagné d'une lettre rédigée par le directeur (la directrice) du programme de l'institution attestant que l'auteur(e) est bien un(e) étudiant(e) présentement inscrit(e) à temps plein dans un programme de maîtrise.

A person entering the contest should send a copy of her/his essay, along with the letter of certification, to/Envoyer une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagné de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

DR. MARSHA HEWITT
TRINITY COLLEGE
6 HOSKIN AVE
TORONTO ON M5S 1H8

4) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST—1995-96 WINNER

CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANT(E)S DU 1ER CYCLE/GAGNANT 1995-96

The prize of \$200 was awarded to Sharon Anne Trofimuk from Queen's University in Kingston. Honourable mention was given to Carla Sorbana (McGill) and Sean Stell (Memorial). The Society congratulates Ms. Trofimuk. Because it is impossible to notify all entrants personally, readers of the *Bulletin* are asked to notify their own students who submitted essays.

Please post the notice of the contest for 1996-97, and encourage students who submit outstanding papers in your courses to send their papers in to the contest.

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5) CSSR MEMBERSHIP: FACTS AND FIGURES

<i>Membership Breakdown</i>		<i>Duration of Subscription</i>	
Associate	29	20 years and over	59
Full	144	10 - 20 years	54
Part-time Associate	4	0 - 10 years	151
Part-time Employed	8	last 3 years	99
Retired Associate	5	<i>By Region</i>	
Retired	9	Atlantic Provinces	22
Student	53	Quebec	53
Student Associate	11	Ontario	125
<i>Gender Breakdown</i>		Western Provinces	43
Female - 81	Male - 182	Outside Canada	20

IX. (A) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (May 25, 1996) / REUNION DU CONSEIL (25 mai 1996)

PRESENT/PRÉSENCE: D. Berg (arrived 12:30), P. Bowlby, J. Goulet, M. Hewitt, M. Joy (President), J. Paper, D. Seljak, B. Sinha, R. Warne

ABSENT: B. Aitken, B. Boucher, M. Desplands (SQÉR), M. Saunders (Program Chair)

1. WELCOME / BIENVENUE

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA / ADOPTION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 1995 / ADOPTION DU PROCÉS-VERBAL DU 3 JUIN 1995

It was suggested that the minutes be circulated to all Executive members prior to publication in the Bulletin to ensure accuracy, a practice begun by Warne the previous year. Minutes of the meeting of June 3, 1995, were approved.

[Warne/Paper] Carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / AFFAIRES EN DECOULANT

a) It was suggested that an e-mail news group be set up for the Executive. Tabled until the Executive meeting of 28 May 1996.

b) J. Paper requested that revisions to the Executive list be dated by the secretary. Agreed.

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5. REPORTS / RAPPORTS

a) Treasurer / Tresorier

Jordan Paper reported that we are in good financial shape overall, with a surplus of approximately \$12,000. We received the maximum grant available from SSHRC (\$6,026 for the 1996-97 fiscal year, \$3,198 for AGM travel, and \$2,878 for infrastructure support). The latter amount of support is being phased out, so that next year we will receive only half the infrastructure support. As a policy change, the treasurer suggested that travel subsidies only be provided to those giving or responding to papers, not for those with administrative responsibilities (as has been

our recent policy), to general agreement from the executive. Due to a surplus from previous travel subsidy grants, approximately \$6,000 should be available for our members to travel to the 1997 Learned's in Newfoundland.

The treasurer also reported on difficulties with funding the Joint Reception, making the following suggestion: That the society responsible for inviting the guest speaker for the joint lecture in any given year be responsible—including financial responsibility—for the joint reception; all costs will be billed directly to the sponsoring society. Further, that the CSSR initiate this new procedure by taking on the full costs of the 1996 joint reception and not request donations from other societies. It was decided that president Morny Joy should follow up this suggestion with other society presidents and report back.

Finally, the treasurer requested that the following be added to our procedures: that prior to the Executive meeting—the date to be determined by the local representative—the president will query all those who may or should attend the Executive meetings. Those who fail to respond by the required date should not expect refreshments or meals.

b) New Items (in lieu of the report of the absent Membership Secretary)

i) Honorarium for the Joint Reception speaker. It was agreed that an honorarium of \$200-\$250 be offered to Dr. Grace Jantzen.

(ii) Due to low registration, the scheduled tours of the wine country for May 24th and 26th were canceled. As the CSSR had planned to take the tour on the 26th, alternate ad hoc arrangements will be made by J. Paper.

c) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

Randi Warne reported that the committee (Warne, Seljak, Aitken) was fortunate to have found two excellent candidates—for president, William Closson James, and for member-at-large, Marie-Andree Roy.

d) 1996 Program Chair / Présidence pour le programme 1996

Thanks were extended to Martha Saunders for having served as Program Chair for the 1996 Learned's, even though no longer on the Executive. In the past, the Executive approved the program at the January meeting; in the absence of that meeting, approval should be given at the first Executive meeting at the Learned's.

MOTION That the Executive officially endorse the 1996 Learned's program.

[Sinha/Hewitt] Carried

e) Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais d'étudiant(e)s

i) **Graduate award:** Marsha Hewitt reported that she had received 4 submissions, one in French. Braj Sinha helped in the selection of the winning essay, which was "Zarathustrianism: A Reform for Religion and Society" by Aptin Khanbaghi (McGill). The Treasurer will send a check to Khanbaghi for \$500, and a letter of congratulations will be sent by the Graduate Essay judge (Hewitt). Letters of notification will also be sent by Hewitt to the other entrants.

ii) **Undergraduate award:** Pierre Boucher sent a written report about the undergraduate essay contest. Response

was excellent—32 papers were received; 27 in English, and 5 in French, though none of the latter were from Quebec. Three papers were rejected. The winning essay was by Sharon Trofimuk (Queen's), for "The Globe and Mail During the Holidays: Religiously Indifferent and a Bit Sloppy." The Treasurer will send a check for \$200 to Trofimuk. Boucher also reported an "honorable mention" for Carla Sorbana's (McGill) excellent paper "Asceticism and Apathy in Augustine's Confessions and Beckett's First Love." On the basis of the quality and number of undergraduate submissions, it was suggested that a second prize of \$100 be established. The matter will be referred to the AGM.

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f) Web Page - List Server

D. Berg's report was given on his arrival. A web site has been established for the CSSR, at the following address: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/CSSR.html>. Enthusiastic congratulations were extended to Dan Berg for his work on setting up the web site.

g) CSSR/SCÉR Representative at Brock

Jordan Paper reported a new appreciation for the work done by the local representative, indicating that it is an enormous task. He also reported on the new arrangements made for the CSSR dinner, with a bus tour of the wine country and dinner at the Olde Stone Inn, to replace the original arrangements, which had been canceled by the Secretariat due to lack of registration.

h) Bulletin / Officier responsable des publications

The report was postponed to the May 28 Executive meeting.

i) Society's Representative on the HSSFC (Jacques Goulet)

Several matters regarding the Corporation societies' relation to the new Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada were discussed. M. Joy read CCSR President John Williams' letter regarding representation on the new HFFSC Executive, which indicated the possible strategy of all Corporation societies nominating a single representative to increase chances of their election to the HSSFC Executive. Six representatives from the CSSR were needed for the Corporation meeting at which this issue was to be discussed. The following names were brought forward as representative of various perspectives within the society: Tom Faulkner, Ron Neufeldt, Morny Joy, Randi Warne, Mavis Fenn, Brian Clarke.

MOTION That these designates be accepted to the Corporation strategic planning session.

[Seljak/Goulet] Carried

Paul Bowlby asked about his position as publications officer. In the past, the position also encompassed being the society's representative to the corporation, but the minutes of the last AGM indicated that Martin Rumscheidt would be filling the latter role until 1997. The president will clarify this discrepancy.

As our representative on the Aid to Scholarly Publications program of the HFFSC, Jacques Goulet reported an 86% cut in funding from the new federation for SR.

j) Society's Representative on the CSSR (Paul Bowlby)

Paul Bowlby reported that the corporation is healthy, but shocked by the cut in funding. The corporation is interested in the perspectives of all its member societies, and seeking their input regarding our common future in these new circumstances.

k) Women's Issues Caucus (Randi Warne)

After discussion, two panel proposals were brought forward for the 1997 Learned's to follow up on the very successful session sponsored by the Caucus at the Calgary Learned's. Marsha Hewitt will organize a panel on generational differences amongst women scholars in religion. Randi Warne will organize a panel on the impact of gender critical scholarship on the teaching of introductory religious studies courses, specifically, Introduction to Religious Studies, and World Religions.

l) IAHR

Jordan Paper read his letter to IAHR President Michael Pye expressing serious reservations about the voting processes used at the IAHR meetings in Mexico City regarding the proposed name change for the IAHR. (The motion to change the name was defeated.)

MOTION: That the Executive direct the treasurer to forward a one-time contribution of \$1,000 to the IAHR endowment to assist the activities of the IAHR.

[Sinha/Goulet] Carried

Morny Joy will contact Armin Geertz to determine why none of the Executive have received the IAHR Bulletin.

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6. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

CSSR Secretary Warne absented herself from the room for the discussion of the St. Stephen's case. Notes were taken by David Seljak.

Tom Faulkner presented his report on Academic Freedom, encompassing the following topics: Part 1: AUCC Policy on Church-related Colleges, the structure and protocol of the academic freedom committee, relations with certifying agencies; and Part 2: the specific case of St. Stephen's College and the United Church of Canada.

MOTION: That the Executive recommend Part 1, recommendations 1 and 2, and Part 2, recommendation 3, for adoption at the AGM.

Recommendation 1: That the AGM of the CSSR/SCÉR elect the chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom for a three-year term with the possibility of renewal, that the membership of the Committee consist of the members of the CSSR/SCÉR Executive and any other members as the Committee may choose to co-opt, and that its decisions to act be taken by meeting at a distance or by reference to the AGM.

Recommendation 2: That the CSSR/SCÉR subscribe to the ATS Bulletin and mandate its Committee on Academic Freedom to offer comments to the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada in a timely fashion as circumstances require, reporting to the CSSR/SCÉR membership in the usual manner.

Recommendation 3: That the CSSR/SCÉR direct the chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom to appeal directly to the Moderator of the United Church of Canada to ensure a response from the church to the CSSR/SCÉR's offer to assist in efforts to bring the human resources policy of St. Stephen's College into line with the standards of Canada's university system.

[Goulet/Sinha] Carried

Recommendation 4 was re-worded as follows:

That the CSSR/SCÉR directs its Committee on Academic Freedom to prepare a summary of this issue by 1997, including any response from the United Church of Canada, and to publish it in the CSSR Bulletin de la SCÉR, and make the information available to appropriate agencies, including the Association of Theological Schools of the United States and Canada.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried unanimously

7. SOCIÉTÉ QUÉBÉCOISE POUR L'ÉTUDE DE LA RELIGION (SQÉR)

The new president of SQÉR is Michel Desplands (Concordia). In his absence, Tom Faulkner gave a brief report of the SQÉR meetings, which he attended. SQÉR continues to be a lively, healthy academic society.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT / RAPPORT DU PRESIDENT

a) The Archives are currently being housed in Toronto, courtesy of Bruce Alton.

b) Jacqueline Wright from the new federation will address the Executive at the May 28 meeting.

c) The president extended sincere congratulations to Pierre Boucher for his superlative job in translating the CSSR Constitution into French.

d) The president read a letter from Harold Remus regarding the proposed name change for the IAHR, querying

whether it duplicated an already existing organization. The ensuing discussion led to the conclusion that a "map" of all the various RS organizations and their relation to one another was needed.

e) The Society's gratitude for all their hard work and excellent service was extended to the three outgoing members of the Executive, Jacques Goulet, Dan Berg, and David Seljak.

The meeting was adjourned by common consent.

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IX. (B) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (May 28, 1996) / REUNION DU CONSEIL (28 mai 1996)

PRESENT/PRÉSENCE: B. Aitken, P. Bowlby, B. James (President), J. Paper, M.-A. Roy, B. Sinha, R. Warne

(B. Clarke, CSSR delegate to the Corporation, was invited to sit in)

ABSENT: M. Hewitt

The meeting was conducted informally, as per past custom.

1. MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HSSFC

The Executive met with the following representatives of the HSSFC: Judith Herz (Corbeau Commission); John Scott (Acting co-president of the new federation); Marcel Lauziere (Director General of HSSFC), Jacqueline Wright (formerly of the CFH). They reported that there had been pressure on Lynn Penrod, President of SSHRC, to reconsider the severity of the cuts to scholarly societies. As a result, funding has been restored to our journal, SR, and funding for years two and three is also open to re-negotiation. The Learned's will be gone after 1997, but a new Congress will be instituted, orchestrated by Ottawa, which will cause less financial risk to the hosting universities.

Yearly meetings of the societies will continue and a permanent secretariat will be established to address any problems which arise. A thematic program will be published, and a "master program" provided electronically. Each year's meetings will have a general theme. Societies are not constrained by that, but will receive funding for adhering to the theme. Money for joint sessions with other societies will also be available. Overall, the transition to the new federation has been very smooth.

Structure: In December 1996 representatives of all 54 member societies and 60 university representatives will meet in General Assembly. This Assembly will meet yearly (possibly one-half of travel expenses will be paid for society representatives). A president will be elected to a single two-year term; a vice-president to a two-year term, renewable once. A board of directors will also be elected to two- or three-year terms (to ensure overlap as the new federation continues). Our current contact person to the HSSFC is Jacques Goulet.

Marcel Lauziere asked for input on the thematic program. He also described a project aimed at new graduates and their employment prospects. In this pilot project, the government would pay half the wages of a newly hired humanities or social sciences graduate in participating businesses. The purpose is to show employers how valuable university graduates are as employees.

Regarding a student voice in the new federation, Lauziere noted that the SSFC counted students amongst its members within the funding structure, but the CFH did not. The membership of the CSSR is currently under 225 (and therefore qualifies only as a "small society") if students are not counted.

The representatives from the new federation were thanked for meeting with us.

2. REPORT FROM THE CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE (JOHN BOWLBY)

HSSFC: There was general discussion of the corporation's potential new responsibilities with the new federation. Bowlby indicated his willingness to be part of a working group addressing that topic (e.g., should the corporation attempt to coordinate a common program amongst religion societies? Should amalgamation of the various religion societies be a goal?). The CSSR Executive supports the idea of cooperation amongst religion societies, but rejects the AAR model of amalgamation.

Publications: Concern was expressed regarding the information distributed at the corporation meeting.

MOTION: In order to protect the privacy of authors, the Executive of the CSSR urges that only the author and manuscript titles of accepted manuscripts be listed in the report of the publications officer for the corporation.

[Joy/Paper] Carried

(Full information may be forwarded to the secretary of each society for their records, if deemed appropriate.)

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AAR Reception: Bowlby will write to John Williams, president of the corporation, regarding the AAR reception. Thus far the presidents of the CSBS and the CTS have agreed to donations of \$200 each. (The total cost of the reception is generally \$600-\$700 with a cash bar.)

3. REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (BRIAN AITKEN)

The list of 61 unpaid members was discussed. Executive members agreed to contact those whom they knew to remind them to pay. Normally unpaid members receive two reminders, and then are dropped.

MOTION: That the membership secretary drop unpaid members from the membership list at his discretion." The membership secretary will develop new forms which will request members' e-mail addresses. In addition, members will be asked to give their institutional address as this saves the society considerable mailing costs because a large proportion of the membership is on IUTS.

4. PROGRAM CHAIR (BRAJ SINHA)

The CSSR dates for the 1997 Learned's are May 31-June 3. Jennifer Porter of Memorial is our local arrangements representative. The call for papers will go out in September. Abstracts will be expected by mid-November, when the proposals will be reviewed. The program chair will fax or e-mail the proposed program to the Executive. The finalized program (lacking only room numbers) will appear in the February Bulletin.

MOTION: That the normal schedule for the Program Committee shall be a call for paper proposals and panel submissions by September 15; approval of the submissions by November 15; a tentative program from the Program Committee by December 15; publication of the program in the February Bulletin.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

It was agreed that papers must be received by respondents at least two weeks before the session. The Program Committee for 1997 will be comprised of Sinha (Chair), Paper, and Roy.

MOTION: In cases of paper or panel proposals coming from members of the Executive, the Program Committee will consult with the president for other readers to avoid possible conflict of interest. Further, no members of the Program Committee may submit a special paper.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

5. STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS

Marsha Hewitt will judge the 1997 graduate student essay contest. Pierre Boucher will judge the 1997 undergraduate student essay contest.

Adjournment was by common consent.

IX. (C) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (May 26, 1996)

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the following changes: item 4f was deleted. Item 4g (representative to HFFSC) was moved to 4f, and item 4h (representative to the corporation) was moved to item 4g.

[Seljak/Paper] Carried

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 1995

Carried unanimously

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) **Amending the constitution:** A whole new French translation has been provided by Pierre Boucher. The society extends its sincere appreciation for this work.
- b) **1996 Program:** The guideline for presented papers was published in the Bulletin. No objections have been received from the membership to these guidelines, under which the 1996 Program Committee operated.
- c) **AAR Reception:** As discussed at our last year's AGM, due to rising costs the CSSR terminated hosting a Canadian reception at the AAR. The treasurer has received some complaints about this, but no financial contributions.
- d) **The Craigie Lecture:** The lecture was given by Dr. Grace Jantzen, John Rylands Professor and Research Fellow at the University of Manchester. The title of her presentation was "Gender, Power, and Mysticism."

4. REPORTS / RAPPORTS

a) President (Morny Joy)

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and the Social Sciences Federation of Canada have merged to form a new organization: the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada (HSSFC). An Executive for the new federation will have to be voted on, but it is not clear, as was discussed in the corporation meeting on the 25th, whether the CSSR will even get a delegate because it apparently falls under the category of a "small society." M. Joy read a letter from the president of the corporation, John Williams, which suggested we might want to consider a single nomination for the Executive from all corporation members. This would allow block voting and help the chances of the religion societies to have an Executive member elected who would reflect our societies' interests. Tom Faulkner noted that—as the largest single cluster of societies—the corporation would have a good chance of getting someone on the Executive Board of the new federation. A number of names were offered as possible nominees, but no formal action was taken at this time, as the nomination process will not begin until the fall.

The CSSR's representatives to the CCSR for 1996-97 are Morny Joy, Randi Warne, Tom Faulkner, Ron Neufeldt, Mavis Fenn, and Brian Clarke.

The HSSFC has drastically reduced its funding to scholarly journals, a 57% reduction in budget rather than the anticipated 14%. SR has received a cut of 86%, from \$19,000 to \$3000. John Sandys-Wunsch indicated that the matter is under appeal, and SR can expect the status quo to hold for the next couple of years. Also, at this point the corporation is almost self-sustaining.

Web page: the president thanked Dan Berg for setting up the society's first web site.

Guide to chairing sessions: the president thanked David Seljak for producing the guidelines for chairing sessions which will be used in future programs.

b) Treasurer (Jordan Paper)

We received \$3,000 from SSHRC for travel to the 1996 AGM. Infrastructure support for the society will end in two years, but monies will still be available for travel to the last Learned's in Newfoundland. Currently the society

has a cushion of approximately \$10,000.

MOTION: That thanks be extended to Brenda Blackstock (York University) for auditing the treasurer's report.

[Paper/Hedayetullah] Carried

MOTION: That the president write to Blackstock extending the society's thanks.

[Fenn/Seljak] Carried

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c) Membership Secretary (Brian Aitken)

Membership in the society is increasing from 236 (1994) to 242 (1995) to 264 (1996). Graduate students are the primary source of this increase. Apologies were extended for any errors in the Bulletin in the process of moving operations from Queen's to Laurentian.

MOTION: That the membership secretary's report be accepted.

[Aitken/Sinha] Carried

d) Programme Chair

Braj Sinha will serve as program chair for the 1997 Learned's.

e) Nominating Committee (Randi Warne)

Bill James (Queen's) was nominated president of the CSSR for a two-year term, 1996-1998. No nominations were offered from the floor.

MOTION: That the nomination be accepted.

[Sinha/Badertscher] Carried

Marie-Andree Roy (UQAM) was nominated for a three-year term as member-at-large. No nominations were offered from the floor.

MOTION: That the nomination be accepted.

[Berg/Paper] Carried

f) Student Essay Contest

i) **Graduate:** Braj Sinha announced the winner, "Zarathustrianism: A Reform for Religion and Society" by Aptin Khanbaghi (McGill). The treasurer will send a check to Khanbaghi for \$500.

ii) **Undergraduate:** Jacques Goulet presented on behalf of Pierre Boucher. The winning essay was by Sharon Trofimuk (Queen's), for "The Globe and Mail During the Holidays: Religiously Indifferent and a Bit Sloppy." The treasurer will send a check for \$200 to Trofimuk.

Boucher noted an "honorable mention" for Carla Sorbana's (McGill) excellent paper on "Asceticism and Apathy in Augustine's Confessions and Beckett's First Love."

MOTION: The Executive recommends that, given the number of excellent submissions to the undergraduate student essay contest, a second prize be instituted, with a cash award of \$100.

[Joy/Couture] Carried

g) HSSFC

The society representative, Jacques Goulet, reported that while the Learned's will cease after the 1997 meetings in Newfoundland, scholarly societies will continue to meet on a yearly basis, beginning in 1998 in Ottawa. These meetings coincide with a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the University of Ottawa.

There will be NO GENERAL MAILING of information regarding the 1997 Learned's. Those wishing to attend must contact Memorial directly. {NOTE: See the Memorial Learned's web site. A link is provided through the CSSR web site as of 08/96}

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h) CSSR Representative (Paul Bowlby)

Bowlby reported that the corporation is in general good health. It is eager to hear the wishes of its member societies. People were urged to come to the corporation meeting on May 27. Brian Clarke suggested as a means of increasing communication amongst all members, as we discuss these important issues, that e-mail addresses be included in the membership list published in the Bulletin. The matter was referred to the membership secretary.

i) SQÉR

Michel Desplands (Concordia) has succeeded Jean-Paul Rouleau as president of SQÉR. Tom Faulkner reported that the ACFAS meetings were very well attended, and that the society continues to be healthy and vibrant.

j) Academic Freedom (Tom Faulkner)

Faulkner presented the report on Academic Freedom discussed at the Executive meeting of May 25 for the approval of the AGM. Jacques Goulet offered thanks on behalf of the CSSR for the thoroughness of the report, and Faulkner's continued work on behalf of academic freedom. A friendly amendment was presented.

MOTION: That the chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom of the CSSR/SCÉR be authorized to subscribe to the ATS Bulletin at the CSSR's expense.

[Faulkner/Paper] Carried

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:00 p.m.

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CSSR/SCÉR MEMBERSHIP FEE 1997 / COTISATION 1997

Please use this form in forwarding your membership fees, whether a new membership or a renewal. Your membership fee pays your 1997 CSSR dues, your CFH dues and, unless you are an associate member, a subscription Studies in Religion. In addition, this entitles you to receive the bi-annual Bulletin of the Society and to make presentations to the Annual Meeting as approved by the Programme Committee. It does not cover your registration fee for the Annual Meeting.

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