

Bulletin

***The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion
La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion***

Volume XXI, No. 1 ISSN 0708-952X

October/Octobre 1997

CONTENTS / TABLE DES MATIÈRES: CLICK THE UNDERLINED ITEMS TO JUMP TO THEM

I.	A Word from the Editor / Mot du rédacteur
II.	The Executive / Le Conseil
III.	Call for Papers / Invitation à proposer une communication
IV.	Essay Contests / Concours d'essai <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undergraduate Student Essay Contest / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle 2. Graduate Student Essay Contest / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle 3. Undergraduate Student Essay Contest/1996-97 Winner / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle/ Gagnant 1996-97 4. Graduate Student Essay Contest/1996-97 Winner / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle/ Gagnant 1996-97
V.	Personal Notes / Notes personnelles

VI.	Profiles / Profils <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Eldon Hay</td> <td>Randi Warne</td> <td>David Seljak</td> <td>Jennifer Porter</td> </tr> </table>	Eldon Hay	Randi Warne	David Seljak	Jennifer Porter
Eldon Hay	Randi Warne	David Seljak	Jennifer Porter		
VII.	Notes / Informations				
VIII.	Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria				
IX.	The CSSR and the Worldwide Web / La SCÉR et le réseau WWW				
X.	Report on the Regional IAHR Conference Compte-rendu de la conférence régionale du IAHR				
XI.	Minutes / Procès-verbal EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (May 31, 1997) / REUNION DU CONSEIL (31 mai 1997) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (June 1, 1997) / L'ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE (1er juin 1997) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (June 3, 1997) / RÉUNION DU CONSEIL (3 juin 1997)				
XII.	CSSR 1998 Membership Fee / SCÉR Cotisation 1998				
XIII.	Membership List / Liste des membres				

I. A WORD FROM THE EDITOR / MOT DU RÉDACTEUR

This issue of the *Bulletin* has a slightly new format in addition to some special features. Most noteworthy are profiles of four CSSR members who have or are still giving leadership to the Society, Bruce Alton's ongoing expansion of the CSSR's presence on the Worldwide Web, and the new simplified fee structure for 1998.

Ce numéro du *Bulletin* est présenté sous un format un peu différent et comprend quelques nouveautés spéciales. Veuillez noter les profils de quatre membres de la SCÉR qui sont, d'une façon ou une autre, des dirigeants de la Société, la présence de la Société sur le WWW grâce aux efforts de Bruce Alton et la cotisation simplifiée pour 1998.

Brian W.W. Aitken

II. *The Executive / Le Conseil 1997-98*

<u>President/Président</u> - Dr. William Closson James	<u>Vice-President/Vice Président</u> - Dr. Morny Joy
<u>Secretary/Secrétaire</u> - David Seljak	<u>Treasurer/Trésorier</u> - Dr. Jordan Paper
<u>Membership Secretary</u> <u>Secrétaire aux admissions</u> - Dr. Brian Aitken	<u>Program Chair</u> - Dr. Braj Sinha
<u>Corporation Representative/Publications</u> <u>Officer</u> Dr. Paul Bowlby	<u>Academic Freedom and Tenure</u> <u>Committee Chair</u> Dr. Tom Faulkner
<u>Representatif de la SQÉR:</u> - Dr. Michel Desplands	<u>Member-at-Large/Conseillère</u> Dr. Marie-Andree Roy - Dr. Jennifer Porter

III. CALL FOR PAPERS

The Programme Committee invites submissions for the 1998 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities on the campus of the University of Ottawa, between May 28-31, 1998.

In preparing submissions for the program, members should keep in mind the objectives of the Society as spelled out in Article II of the Constitution:

-
- The Society provides a meeting place for all who are involved in the academic study of religion; for example, anthropologists, historians, phenomenologists, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, theologians.
- The Society fosters an interdisciplinary discourse in order to arrive at a better, integrated understanding of religious phenomena.
- The Society encourages research in the development of the study of religion with particular reference to the Canadian scene.
- The Society promotes a critical

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 Sociétés Savantes sur le campus de l'université d'Ottawa, du 28 au 31 mai 1998. Trois types de propositions sont recevables.

STATUTS, Article II: Buts

-
- La Société constitue un lieu de rencontre pour tous ceux qui s'intéressent à l'étude de la religion: anthropologues, historiens, phénoménologues, philosophes, psychologues, sociologues, théologiens et autres.
- La Société cherche à promouvoir le discours interdisciplinaire en vue d'arriver à une meilleure compréhension des phénomènes religieux.
- La Société favorise la recherche dans les sciences de la religion et stimule leur développement en fonction notamment du milieu canadien.
- La Société incite ses membres à l'examen critique des buts, des méthodes et des pédagogiques propres à l'étude

examination of goals, methods, and styles of teaching demanded by the discipline.

1. 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, three copies of a complete version of the paper together with an abstract is to be submitted by December 15, 1997.

2. REGULAR PAPERS

The Committee invites proposals for presentations of works in progress and shorter scholarly papers. Normally, the time for actual delivery is twenty minutes, with ten minutes for questions and discussion. A 150-word abstract should be submitted by December 15, 1997. All audiovisual 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.

de la religion.

1. CONFÉRENCE

Afin de permettre un débat 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 adresser 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 décembre 1997, accompagné d'un résumé.

2. 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 décembre 1997. La demande pour des machines audiovisuelles doit être signalée dans votre soumission initiale. Veuillez faire votre soumission

sur disquette 3 1/2," format IBM,
Wordperfect 6.0 si possible.

3. 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. A one-page proposal for the panel indicating the separate presentations of each participant and the relationship among them, as well as abstracts from each participant, are to be submitted all together by the organizer. 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) are to be submitted by December 15, 1997. Panel organizers will be expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Program Chair.

Completed special papers, abstracts of papers and panels, etc., are to be sent by December 15, 1997, to:

Prof. Braj Sinha
Department of Religious Studies
University of Saskatchewan
9 Campus Drive
SASKATOON SK S7N 5A5
Office: 306-966-6771
Fax: 306-966-4559
E-mail: sinhab@duke.usask.ca

3. 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, ainsi que 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] doivent être soumis avant le 15 décembre 1997. 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: 306-966-4559

E-mail: sinhab@duke.usask.ca

PLEASE NOTE: The Programme Committee would like 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 Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities conference fee for the year. Even if a paper is accepted by the Program Committee, its presentation will not be allowed if outstanding fees are not paid.
 - A person delivering a paper to the CSSR Annual Meeting may not present the same or a similar paper to another society. No one may present more than one paper at the CSSR in any given year, although a presenter may chair or be a respondent at a different session.
 - 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. Please make sure than a letter supporting the proposal is sent
- - 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 pas présenter la même communication à la réunion annuelle.
 - Veuillez vous assurer que les renseignements suivants sont compris: affiliation académique, adresse postale, numéros de téléphone et de télécopieur, et courrier électronique.
 - Étudiant(e) de 2e cycle: le nom, l'adresse et le numéro de téléphone (et le courrier électronique, si possible) d'un(e) directeur/directrice d'études doivent être inclus. Assurez-vous qu'une lettre appuyant la proposition est envoyée par un (3) directeur/directrice d'études directement d'études directement au Président pour le programme.

by a faculty advisor directly to the Chair of the Program Committee.

Some financial assistance is available for members who wish to attend the 1998 CSSR meeting in Ottawa. For information, contact the CSSR Treasurer:

Dr. Jordan Paper
East Asian, Religious and Women's Studies Programs
242 Vanier College, York University
NORTH YORK ON M3J 1P3
Phone: (416) 736-5158
Fax: (416) 545-4584
E-mail: jpaper@yorku.ca

De l'assistance financière est disponible pour les membres qui aimeraient aller à la réunion de la SCÉR de 1998 qui aura lieu à Ottawa. Pour plus de renseignements communiquez avec le trésorier de la SCÉR:

Dr. Jordan Paper
East Asian, Religious and Women's Studies Programs
242 Vanier College, York University
NORTH YORK ON M3J 1P3
Phone: (416) 736-5158
Fax: (416) 545-4584
E-mail: jpaper@yorku.ca

IV. ESSAY CONTESTS

1. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Subject: Any topic in the general field of religious studies

Length: 10-15 pages, typed and double-spaced

CONCOURS D'ESSAI

1. CONCOURS D'ESSAI ÉTUDIANT(E) DU 1er CYCLE

Sujet: Un thème relevant du domaine des sciences religieuses

Longueur: 10 à 15 pages dactylographiées, double interligne

Eligibility: Any undergraduate currently registered in a Canadian university or college

Éligibilité: Toute personne inscrite dans une université ou un collège canadien

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

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

Deadline: One copy of the completed essay, with the accompanying letter, must be submitted no later than April 17, 1998

Echéance: La rédaction et l'attestation d'inscription doivent être reçus au plus tard le 17 avril 1998

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:

Envoyez une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Jennifer Porter
Religious Studies Department
Memorial University of Newfoundland
ST. JOHN'S NF A1C 5S7
Phone: (709) 737-2469
E-mail: jporter@plato.ucs.mun.ca

Dr. Jennifer Porter
Religious Studies Department
Memorial University of Newfoundland
ST. JOHN'S NF A1C 5S7
Phone: (709) 737-2469
E-mail: jporter@plato.ucs.mun.ca

2. GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

2. CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANT(E)S DU 2e CYCLE

Subject: A theme in the general field of religious studies

Sujet: Un thème relevant domaine général des sciences religieuses

Language: English or French

Longue: Anglais ou français

Length: 3000-5000 words

Longueur: 3000-5000 mots

Eligibility: Full-time M.A. student status in a Canadian university/

Éligibilité: 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: \$500

Prix: \$500

Deadline: April 17, 1998

Echéance: le 17 avril 1998

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

Les essais doivent être accompagnés 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

Envoyez une copie de la version finale de l'essai, accompagnée de la lettre d'attestation, à l'attention de:

Dr. Randi Warne
Religious Studies Department
Mount St. Vincent University
HALIFAX NS B3M 2J6

Dr. Randi Warne
Religious Studies Department
Mount St. Vincent University
HALIFAX NS B3M 2J6

3. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST—1996-97 WINNER CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANT(E)S DU 1^{er} CYCLE/GAGNANT 1996-97

The first prize of \$200 was awarded to Chris Klassen from St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo, for his essay entitled "The Effects of the Meiji Restoration on Japanese Religion."

The second prize went to Benjamin Fleming from the University of Regina for his essay entitled "Hajj Murals and Their Context."

4. GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST—1996-97 WINNER CONCOURS D'ESSAI POUR ÉTUDIANT(E)S DU 2^e CYCLE GAGNANT 1996-97

Corinne Walsh from Memorial University won this award for her essay entitled "Envisioning a Different History: A New Understanding of the Chronology of the Johannine Writings and the Johannine Community."

It is impossible to notify all entrants personally; therefore, readers of the Bulletin are asked to inform their own students who submitted essays.

V. PERSONAL NOTES / NOTES PERSONNELLES

ELDON HAY

- Eldon Hay has recently published a book titled The Chignecto Covenanters: A Regional History of Reformed Presbyterianism in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1827 to 1905, McGill-Queens Press, 1996. As well, Eldon has published a monograph, The Reverend Nevin Woodside and the Pittsburgh and Ontario Reformed Presbyterian Presbytery, 1883-1910, Dormont, PA: The Presbyterian Historical Society of the Upper Ohio Valley, 1996.

CLAUDE MICHAUD

- Claude Michaud has recently published une nouvelle (1997) édition revue et augmentée: Les saisons de la vie. Les étapes du développement de l'individu et du couple/Les étapes prévisibles du divorce. Editions Meridien, Montreal.
- Des autres publications récentes sont:
 - (1996) "Du passage de la religion subie à la religion choisie: des acteurs peu rationnels. Ce que révèle une enquête". Dans Spiritualité contemporaine. Menar, C. and Villeneuve, F. (eds.) Montréal: Fides, pp.

295-313.

- (1996) "Le mariage et la famille: des réalités déssoudées." Dans Recueil de réflexions sur la stabilité des couples-parents. Conseil de la famille. Gouvernement du Québec, pp. 195-208.
- (1996) "Étude de l'interface entre le profil psychospirituel et le développement psychosocial des futurs maîtres." La revue de la pensée éducative/Journal of Educational Thought. 30 (1), pp. 31-56.
- (1997) "La preception du mariage chez les futurs maîtres: Une crise de sense non résolvé. Ce que révèle une enquête." La revue de la pensée éducative/Journal of Educational Thought. 31 (3).
- (1996) "Du mariage sans amour à l'amour sans mariage." Dans Foi et Culture. 30 (146), pp. 11-23.

BARRY L. WHITNEY

- Barry Whitney (Religious Studies, the University of Windsor) has been appointed Editor of the Los Angeles-based international journal, Process Studies. Dr. Whitney replaces founding editor, Lewis Ford, who has edited the journal since 1971.

VI. PROFILES / PROFILS

1. ELDON HAY

Eldon Roy Hay was born in 1931 on a farm in Marvelville, ON, a hamlet of some thirty-five miles southwest of Ottawa, the second son of three children of George Hay and Anna Carscadden. At his home church, Marvelville United, for which he was later a candidate, he had a wonderful Sunday School teacher, Anne Wood. Educated at local schools, he graduated with a BA from Carleton University (Ottawa, ON), and with an MA and BD from Queen's University (Kingston, ON). He was ordained a minister in Montreal (QU) in 1957. Eldon pursued postgraduate studies in Glasgow, Scotland, and Basel, Switzerland, being awarded the PhD degree from Glasgow University in 1960. He was minister of the Kineear's Mills-Thetford Mines pastoral charge in Quebec-Sherbrooke presbytery for two years.

Since 1962 Eldon's career has centred in Mount Allison University. For a three-year stint, he was part-time chaplain. With the exception of sabbaticals (at Harvard, MA, Toronto, ON, Claremont, CA, and Saskatoon, SK), he has taught in the Department of

Religious Studies, focusing on undergraduate courses in world religions. He was head of the department for a time. He has written scholarly articles, served on numerous committees, and contributed in other ways to the wider university community. He retired from Mount Allison in June 1997.

For a decade, beginning in 1979, Eldon was weekend supply, Point de Bute-Jolicure pastoral charge in Chignecto presbytery. One of the two churches is situated close to a little graveyard known as "The Jolicure Old Presbyterian Cemetery." Some local research started there. Further study revealed that a Covenantor church had been built on the site in 1833, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Alexander Clarke, Reformed Presbyterian (Covenantor) missionary-founder of several congregations. The study has resulted in a book—*The Chignecto Covenantors: A Regional History of Reformed Presbyterianism in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1827 to 1905*—published in 1996. Eldon has researched and written about the Covenantors in various parts of Canada, and lectured in Canada and the United States. He hopes to continue this research in retirement.

Eldon has served on a number of congregational, presbytery, conference and national committees. For a time, he chaired the Conference Staff Committee; later he chaired the Children's Working Unit of the national Division of Mission in Canada. He was also active in human relations training. More recently, and directly as a result of God's gift of being blessed with a gay son, Eldon has expended much time and energy on PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Eldon currently co-leads a chapter in Moncton, NB, and another in Amherst, NS; and is committed to pursuing this cause in retirement.

Twice married, Eldon is the father of four adult children; their mother is Vivien Hicks of Sackville, NB. Eldon lives in Sackville, NB, with wife Anne Pirie, and their three children—Alexander and James (twelve-year-old twins) and Donald (seven) Pirie-Hay.

(Brian Aitken)

2. RANDI WARNE

With the hiring of Randi Warne as its new tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Religious Studies Department, Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax, NS) has struck gold—real gold! As the Good Book says:

How hard it is to find a capable person.
She is worth far more than jewels!

... Give her credit for all she does.
She deserves the respect of everyone.
(Proverbs, 30/10/31)

Having had access to her C.V. (which remains confidential), numerous peer evaluations of Dr. Warne's teaching attest to her effectiveness in the classroom. Her scholarly record is impressive, with three books and many journal articles. Her services to professional societies such as CSSR where she served as Executive Secretary, and the Canadian Society for Church History, where she served as President, are proof of the high confidence and trust held in her by her colleagues.

We might note her special talent for artistic performance of dramatic monologues of Nellie McClung for both scholarly and popular audiences. She is also great to have as an opponent at a bridge table

As I worked with Randi on the CSSR Executive in the nineties, and read and thought about her views, the old feminist slogan of the sixties and seventies kept coming back to me: "The personal is the political." And, in Randi's case, it could be rephrased to say, "the personal is the ecclesial."

Welcome, Randi! Thank you for all you have done so far, and for all you will do as Chair-elect of the MSVU Religious Studies Department, but more specifically as a human being committed to basic justice and equality, to diversity and multiculturalism.

(Jacques Goulet)

3. DAVID SELJAK

David Seljak is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at St. Jerome's University, a Catholic college affiliated with the University of Waterloo. He recently received his doctorate from McGill University in the sociology of religion. His dissertation was entitled "The Catholic Church's Reaction to the Secularization of nationalism in Quebec, 1960-1980." He has published numerous articles on religion and politics. He has been attending the CSSR/SCÉR annual meetings since 1988 and served as "member-at-large" on the Executive Committee from 1993 to 1996. He is also a member of the Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR). His current research interests remain in Quebec Catholicism and the sociological analysis of questions of identity, culture, and religion. He lives in Waterloo, ON, with his wife Katryn and three children. David is the new Secretary of the CSSR/SCÉR.

(Brian Aitken)

4. JENNIFER PORTER

Jennifer Porter is Assistant Professor of religion and modern culture in the Department of Religious Studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She received her PhD from McMaster University in 1995. Her research and teaching interests include contemporary alternative spirituality and the social scientific study of religion. She has been a member of the CSSR since 1991 and is a new member-at-large on the Executive of the CSSR.

(Brian Aitken)

VII. NOTES / INFORMATIONS

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION: CSSR Bulletin

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 31, 1998, for the April edition.

VOTRE PARTICIPATION AU Bulletin DEMANDÉE

Le Bulletin de la SCÉR sera 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, ou de congrès que vous organisez.

Laissez-nous savoir des nouveaux développements, des retraites aussi bien que des nouveaux postes. Faites parvenir le tout avant le 31 mars 1998 pour l'édition d'avril: le prochain Bulletin paraîtra en avril.

SEND TO: Brian WW Aitken Membership Secretary CSSR/SCÉR Huntington
University in Laurentian University Ramsey Lake Road SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6 FAX:
705-673-6917 E-MAIL: baitken/@nickel.laurentian.ca

VIII. CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY

The University of Victoria is seeking Non-Stipendiary Visiting
Research Fellowships 1998-99

SUBJECT: Scholarly study of religion in relation to the sciences, ethics, social and
economic development, and other aspects of culture.

ELIGIBILITY: Scholars of established reputation; younger scholars holding a
doctorate or offering equivalent evidence of aptitude for advanced study; scholars who
have completed a doctorate at least two years before the Fellowship would be taken up.

VALUE: No stipend; office space provided; secretarial support.

TENABLE: University of Victoria; four weeks to one year.

DETAILS: For application details write to Dr. H.G. Coward, Director, Centre for
Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Victoria, BC,
V8W 2Y2, Canada. Tel: 205-721-6325; Fax: 205-721-6234.

DEADLINE: 31 January 1998. Please submit project description and C.V. together
with the names and full addresses of three referees.

IX. THE CSSR AND THE WORLDWIDE WEB / LA SCÉR ET LE RÉSEAU WWW

Thanks to the work of Bruce Alton, the CSSR has an excellent home page on the
World Wide Web. Bruce has also established the first version of an Internet

Bibliography in Method and Theory in the Study of Religion. Bruce welcomes any comments about these sites:

CSSR

BIBLIOGRAPHY

X. REPORT ON THE REGIONAL IAHR CONFERENCE HELD IN TURKU, FINLAND, AUGUST 4-7, 1997 / COMPTE-RENDU DE LA CONFÉRENCE RÉGIONALE DU IAHR QUI A EU LIEU À TURKU EN FINLANDE, DU 4 AU 7 AOÛT, 1997

The theme of this conference was Methodology in the History of Religions. In the opening talk, Professor L. Honko of Turku reflected on the changes that had occurred in the discipline since a conference on the same topic was held in Turku in 1973. Among two of the most important changes that he noted were firstly the growing awareness of the importance of the status of the informant and the concomitant recognition of the voice of a culture itself in issues of description and definition. Secondly, he made reference to questions from a feminist or gendered perspective. Both of these developments were in evidence among the ninety odd papers presented, mostly by scholars from Scandinavian countries, with a sprinkling of North American contributions.

Papers witnessed the wide variety of disciplines and approaches that contribute to the ongoing debate surrounding the area of methodology in History of Religions. Among the most obvious disciplines were anthropology, archaeology, art, history, sociology. Many different approaches were also employed, for example, ethnohermeneutics, feminist, iconographical, linguistic, philological, post-colonial, post-modern, phenomenological, pragmatic, structuralist, textual. All this is indicative of the rich diversity in the study of religions as it moves away from its former preoccupations with just historical, philological and comparative issues to meet the challenges of cyberspace and the phenomenon of increasing diasporic religious concerns. This does not prevent the anachronistic desire of trying to contain or unify the study of religion by adherence to one all-encompassing method from resurfacing.

Cognitive science was prominent among the methods promoted as the most likely to provide legitimacy for the study of religion as a scientific project. Indeed, Don Wiebe's paper focused firmly on this issue, disparaging the polymethodological approach

because it all too easily (in his opinion) slides into polymethodism, replete with all varieties of undesirable humanistic and religious aberrations.

There were other voices of reason, however, who, while they admitted the phenomenological project was flawed because of the varieties of ontological baggage that had been imposed on it, did not reject it and the humanistic project out of hand. Revisions/refinements—even a new nomenclature—need to be undertaken, but the value of multidisciplinary and plurimethodological contributions were acknowledged. Michael Pye, the President of the IAHR, discussed the particular clustering of methods that combine to provide the study of religions with its unique perspective. He acknowledged that while there need not be complete consensus regarding the definition of what the exact components of the study of religions should be, further investigations and discussions, including Pye's own presentation, are needed to help decipher in what directions the possibilities of integration lie.

Obviously, such remarks only lead to further disputation, but the hope is that this desire for conceptual clarification will not too facilely reduce the dynamism and variety so manifest at this conference to prescriptive and restrictive formulations.

(Morny Joy, CSSR Representative to the IAHR)

XI. MINUTES OF TWO EXECUTIVE MEETINGS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING / PROCÉS-VERBAL DE DEUX RÉUNIONS DU CONSEIL ET DE L'ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (May 31, 1997) / REUNION DU CONSEIL (31 mai 1997)

PRESENT/PRÉSENCE: Alton, Joy, Roy, Boucher, Paper, James, Warne, Aitken, Sinha
ABSENT: Hewitt

1. Welcome/Bienvenue

2. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour [Joy/Paper] Carried

3. Adoption of the Minutes of May 25 and 28/Adoption du procès-verbal du 25 et 28 mai 1996

The minutes of the agenda were approved with two changes: 1) (Item 4, Program Chair's Report): "In case of a paper or panel proposal coming from members of the Program Committee [not "Executive"] the Program Committee will consult with the president for other readers to avoid possible conflict of interest." 2) (Item 5a, Treasurer's Report): "subject to general agreement of the Executive," not "to general agreement"

[Boucher/Joy] Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes/Affaires en découlant

Several changes were made to the travel subsidy form.

MOTION: Item 2 was changed to: "not receive duplicate funds from any other source for claimed expenses (original receipts required)." Item 4 was changed to: "to participate in the program as a presenter, discussant/respondent, or panelist." The checklist at the bottom of the page was replaced with the following statement to be signed: "I fulfill the above conditions."

[Bouchard/Joy] Carried

Marie-Andrée Roy will translate the travel subsidy form into French for inclusion in the next program.

MOTION: Executive members not participating in the program may apply to the Executive for travel funds.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

5. Reports/Rapports

a) Treasurer/Tresorier

Jordan Paper presented the Auditor's Report, the Summary Report, and the Transaction Report, plus a memo regarding travel funds to the Memorial Learned. \$3482.48 had been reserved from previous subventions plus \$3198 from the current subvention to make \$6680.48 presently available to reimburse travel to Newfoundland.

MOTION: to authorize the treasurer to augment by an additional \$3000 the travel funds available to reimburse program participants due to the exceptional expenses of travelling to Newfoundland.

[Paper/Bouchard] Carried

Sinha will fill out the report form to the Federation to receive funds for our joint program session, and if he is not sent a form he will seek it.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report.

[Paper/Joy] Carried

b) Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux Admissions

Brian Aitken brought forth the Report he will submit to the AGM, expressing concern for the drop in membership. Reasons for the drop were discussed, and some remedies offered, for example, a brochure for publicity purposes to be included in the Bulletin, and a letter from the president to departments.

Wilfrid Laurier University Press has requested that we reduce the number of membership categories for the Society from eight to a maximum of five.

MOTION: that the CSSR adopt five membership categories as follows: Full (\$75); Other (\$50); Student (\$40); Associate (\$30); Student Associate (\$20). Other includes part-time, retired, unemployed, etc. Associate members receive SR through another society.

[Paper/Aitken] Carried

c) Nominations Committee/Comité pour les nominations

An error on p. 5 of the April Bulletin was noted. Marie-Andrée Roy should be listed as a member-at-large for three years, not two. The chair of the committee, Morny Joy, brought forth the following nominations: for Secretary, David Seljak (St. Jerome's College); for member-at-large, Jennifer Porter (Memorial).

MOTION: that the Executive seek the unanimous consent of the AGM to suspend the Constitution and bylaws to allow for the nomination and election of a treasurer whose term will begin at the 1998 AGM and to permit the election at the 1997 AGM.

[Paper/Sinha] Carried

d) 1997 Program Chair/Présidence pour le programme 1997

Braj Sinha indicated that the experiment to have an early deadline for papers was not successful. Changes to the program were noted, and the suggestion made that the Program Chair serve a two-year term. The importance of secretarial support was noted. Further discussion will be brought to the new Executive on June 3. MOTION: to receive the Report of the Program Chair.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

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

• Graduate Award: Randi Warne reported that three essays were submitted, all in English from female M. A. students. Two submissions were from Concordia and one from Memorial. All essays were

competently executed, but the winning essay was exceptional for its facility of expression and ability to argue a bold hypothesis effectively. Corinne C. Walsh will receive the graduate student essay prize of \$500 for her essay "Envisioning a Different History: A New Understanding of the Chronology of the Johannine Writings and the History of the Johannine Community." A copy of the letter sent to Ms. Walsh will be forwarded to Jordan Paper with Ms. Walsh's address so that a cheque may be issued to her.

- Undergraduate Award: Pierre Boucher reported that twenty-six essays were submitted, twenty in English, six in French. There were many excellent submissions, across a very broad spectrum of topics. The diversity and quality of the essays made the decision a difficult one. Chris Klassen of St. Jerome's College (Waterloo) will receive the first prize of \$200 for the essay "The Effects of the Meiji Restoration on Japanese Religion." Benjamin Fleming will receive the second prize for his essay "Hajj Murals and Their Context." All are congratulated by the Society for their superior accomplishments.

MOTION: to receive the reports of the student essay contest judges.

[Boucher/Paper] Carried

It was suggested that students submit abstracts with their papers so that the abstracts of the winning essays might be printed in the Bulletin. It was also noted that undergraduate students need not be in religious studies to submit an essay. In addition, an essay may be submitted the following year if it was written after the contest deadline.

f) Web Page

Bruce Alton reported on the CSSR web page. A policy statement will need to be developed for the future webmaster. Bruce has taken early retirement, and while the site is secure at its current address for the next year or so, a more permanent site needs to be found. Bruce recommended two possibilities: (1) approach a university site, with the proviso that the webmaster will be able to make regular changes to the site (for example, the arrangement the Canadian Philosophical Society has with the University of Windsor); (2) go commercial, at a cost of approximately \$250 a year. Our current server does not allow checking the number of times the site has been hit. This would be an advantage of going commercial. The best way to search the site is to type in CSSR/SCÉR. Information about the site will be included in the next Bulletin. Sincere thanks to Bruce Alton for all his work in maintaining this site.

g) CSSR/SCÉR Local Representative at MUN

Jennifer Porter addressed the Executive about local arrangements. Few people had signed up for the dinner, so efforts will be made to encourage people to attend. Thanks to Jennifer for all her efforts on the Society's behalf.

h) Bulletin/Officier responsable des publications

Brian Aitken reported on the Bulletin. The fall edition includes minutes and a membership list, while the spring edition outlines the program for our Annual meetings, at a cost of \$1550-2000 per edition. Paper suggested that more news from the Society be included, and that the membership list be placed on the web site, freeing up space in the Bulletin for other items. A hard copy of the membership list will be

printed every two or three years in the Bulletin. Members are strongly encouraged to give their university addresses, to reduce mailing costs, and to include their e-mail addresses as well.

i) HFFSC

Discussion was deferred to the Executive meeting on June 3.

j) IAHR

Morny Joy is the Society's representative and will be presenting a paper at the Intercongress meeting in Finland in August 1997. MOTION: to increase travel funds from \$1000 to \$2000 to cover our representative's expenses at this Intercongress meeting.

[Paper/Roy] Carried

6. Electronic Publishing Project

David McCallum from Industry Canada, a federally funded program, outlined IC's agenda, to promote electronic dissemination of information on a non-profit basis. The web site is <http://www.schoolnet.ca/vp/cesn>. The Society was encouraged to support this initiative by bringing the following to the AGM for approval.

MOTION: This organization recognizes the legitimacy of scholarly material published in electronic form when such material conforms to broadly accepted standards of peer review.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

Tom Faulkner noted that the motion has been warmly endorsed by a CAUT motion to bring this endorsement to the AGM.

7. Handbook for Administrative Offices and Procedures

Each member of the current Executive will submit a detailed outline of the duties of their position to the secretary of the Society by August 1, 1997. These descriptions will be placed in a three-ring binder and will be part of the Society's "policies and procedures" document.

8. Academic Freedom

Tom Faulkner raised two issues for consideration. (1) Transfer credits: Faulkner proposed to undertake a survey of the departments and schools represented by the CSSR/SCÉR membership to determine what practices and principles are at play in the granting of transfer credits, and in particular how respect for academic freedom shapes such decisions. (2) St. Stephen's College: Faulkner approached the Moderator of the United Church of Canada to determine why his several communications with its various offices regarding St. Stephen's College's personnel policy had not been answered. Following this, a letter was apparently sent from the division of MP&E to Faulkner and Morny Joy, but no letter has yet been

received. The acting secretary of the division suggested to Faulkner that since the UCC cannot enforce policy on individual colleges, he might consider addressing in detail how St. Stephen's policy might be changed to uphold the rules of natural justice, and to send those suggestions directly to the college. [Warne absented herself from the room for the remainder of this discussion.] Faulkner queried the Executive regarding their views: ought this be done, or should a strong argument be made for tenure as well? Faulkner feels that he will be successful in obtaining consensus from them regarding the fact that their policies of hiring, retention, etc., be brought into line with the laws of natural justice, but he is not optimistic that a policy on tenure will be forthcoming from them. He cautioned that arguing for tenure would give the College a strong basis to reject the whole document, as church colleges are divided on this issue. The Executive approved his continuing to pursue this matter according to his best judgement.

9. SQÉR

Marie-Andrée Roy reported that there is significant debate between those with a theological orientation and those with a more "scientific" approach to the study of religion, and consequent discussion of what constitutes an appropriate program for SQÉR. Roy suggested that conversations begin between the presidents of SQÉR and CSSR regarding a joint membership in the two societies. Bill James will contact Michel Desplands on this matter.

10. President's Report

Bill James reported on the following:

- AAR/SBL Reception: The joint reception is now the WLU Press reception for Canadian Scholars. Sandra Woolfrey will handle local arrangements. Jordan Paper will contact Woolfrey with details about the process. Currently about \$800 has been committed by CCSR societies.

MOTION: to contribute \$200 to the reception for the November meetings in San Francisco.

[Sinha/Paper] Carried

- Confidentiality: James noted that he had to reiterate the Society's concerns about confidentiality in the publication process at the Corporation meetings in Montreal in January—notably, that the Corporation publications officer only give the names of authors whose manuscripts are receiving funding, not those still in process or those who have been denied funding. Also, James expressed concern about the minimal role of society publication officers. He will write a letter to the Corporation expressing the Executive's concerns on these matters.

- Women's Issues Network: Randi Warne will represent the Society on the Women's Issues Network of the new Federation.

- Program Chair for 1998 Meetings:

MOTION: that Braj Sinha continue as Program Chair for the 1998 meetings.

[Paper/Boucher] Carried

- Representatives to the Corporation Meeting on June 2, 1997: Roy, Warne, Joy, James, and Faulkner will attend the meeting on the Society's behalf.

11. Adjournment/Fermeture de la seance

Adjournment was by consensus at 5:00 p.m.

B. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (June 1, 1997) / L'ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE (1er juin 1997)

1. Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour

MOTION: to change item 4h from "Academic Liaison" to "Committee on Academic Freedom."
[Goulet/Oxtoby] Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes of May 26, 1996/Adoption du procès-verbal du 26 mai 1996

MOTION: to change item 3d regarding Grace Jantzen's lecture from the Craigie lecture to "joint lecture."
[Coward/Joy] Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes/Affaires en découlant

- Michael Desjardins (CSBS and secretary of the CSSR) represents the Corporation societies on the Council of the HHFSC.
- The drastic cuts to funding SR announced at the last AGM were reversed the following day. Funding is currently restored although it is uncertain how long that will last.

4. Reports/Rapports

a) President/Président

Deferred to the end of the meeting under Other Business.

b) Treasurer/Trésorier

Jordan Paper reported that 1996-97 was our last year for infrastructure funding from the Federation. Our travel subsidy for attendance at the AGM has also shrunk, although we are still receiving that support for the time-being. Our Society remains financially healthy.

c) Membership Secretary/Secrétaire aux admissions

Brian Aitken reported that we have 256 members, of whom 66 are in arrears for their dues. The majority of members are full-time professors and students. The gender ratio continues to improve (currently 75 female and 181 male). The lowest percentage of members are those who have been affiliated with the Society one to six years. The greatest drop in membership occurred in 1992-93, which coincides with the formation of SQÉR. Also, not as many retired people are retaining their membership. The value of SR was highlighted as a solid interdisciplinary journal. Several strategies to encourage membership were offered, among them the development of a brochure which could be distributed widely, a letter of personal appeal from the president to all religious studies departments, and advertising the CSSR/SCÉR with related disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, history, etc.

MOTION: to accept the membership secretary's report.

[Aitken/Berg] Carried

WLU Press has strongly requested that we reduce the number of categories in our dues structure. After discussion, the following schedule was proposed:

MOTION: Full (\$75); Other [not fully employed, retired] (\$50); Student (\$40); Associate (\$45); Student Associate (\$20).

[Aitken/Paper] Carried unanimously

It was noted that Associate members receive SR through another society. The mover and seconder revised their original figure of \$30 to \$45 for Associate members prior to the vote. The new dues structure will be in effect in 1998.

Members should send their e-mail addresses to Bruce Alton (Toronto) for inclusion on the web page. The membership form will be changed to request e-mail addresses, a fuller description of where our dues go, and to reflect the change from the CFH to the HSSFC. The membership list will be available on the web page, with a hard copy being printed in the Bulletin every second or third year. Institutional addresses are requested, as they allow considerable savings on mailing costs.

d) 1998 Program Chair/President pour le programme 1998

Braj Sinha agreed to serve again; a two-year term is preferable. The early deadline strategy implemented last year was not successful. Alternatives will be discussed at the Executive meeting on June 3. Overall, the 1997 program was well balanced. There were two co-sponsored panels, a valuable form of connection with other societies. Next year's meeting will be held at the University of Ottawa, Thursday, May 28 to Sunday, May 31, 1998. The Executive meeting will be on May 28; the program begins May 29. The religion societies overlap two-three days with one another. Preregistration: \$70; On-site registration: \$90; Registration for unwaged persons: \$30.

Thanks were extended to Jennifer Porter for her excellent job as the local arrangements person. Dan Berg (Ottawa) has offered to do local arrangements for the 1998 meetings.

Braj Sinha noted that panel proposals should have participants from more than one institution. Also, people should let Braj know what kinds of programming they would like to see. Will Oxtoby suggested that the times of the first and last presentations be advertised so that people might make their travel

plans accordingly. This could be done on the web site after the program is confirmed in January. The printed program will also direct members to the web site for late-breaking changes to the program.

A coordinated program of all the Corporation societies was compiled by Leona Anderson.

MOTION: Sincere thanks to Leona for this important contribution.

[Gualtieri/Sinha] Carried

e) Nomination Committee and Elections/Comité pour les mises en candidatures et pour les élections

Morny Joy reported on behalf of the Committee. The following nominations were brought forward:

- David Seljak (St. Jerome's College) for secretary. Seljak is a former member-at-large of the Executive, has been active in the program for the last eight years, and is fully bilingual. Nominations were invited from the floor, with none forthcoming.

MOTION: that nominations for secretary cease.

[Coward/Sinha] Carried

David Seljak will be secretary of the CSSR/SCÉR from 1997-2000.

- Jennifer Porter (Memorial) for member-at large. Porter has been active in the Society for several years, and has served as our local arrangements' representative for Memorial. Nominations were invited from the floor, with none forthcoming.

MOTION: that nominations cease.

[Sinha/Alton] Carried

Jennifer Porter will be a member-at-large of the Society from 1997-2000.

The positions of president, treasurer, and member-at-large will need to be filled next year. Suggestions should be sent via e-mail to Morny Joy, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Thanks were extended to Randi Warne for her seven years of service on the Executive, four as secretary. Warne is moving on to the Board of the Corporation as a member-at-large. Thanks were also extended to outgoing member-at-large Pierre Boucher for his contributions to the Executive and to the Society.

Bill James explained item 5c regarding the motion to be brought to the AGM: "That the Executive seek the unanimous consent of the AGM to suspend the Constitution and bylaws to allow for the nomination and election of a treasurer whose term will begin at the 1998 AGM and to permit the election at the 1997 AGM." Given that the election of a new treasurer takes place after the beginning of the fiscal year, the early election of a treasurer for 1998 was proposed to facilitate the transition. A nominee was approached, but declined. Currently we have one individual potentially interested, but no final nominee to

bring forward to the meeting, hence there is no need to bring forward the motion initially proposed by the Executive.

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

- Undergraduate Award: Pierre Boucher reported that twenty-six essays were submitted, twenty in English, six in French. There were many excellent submissions, across a very broad spectrum of topics. The diversity and quality of the essays made the decision a difficult one. Chris Klassen of St. Jerome's College (Waterloo) will receive the first prize of \$200 for the essay "The Effects of the Meiji Restoration on Japanese Religion." Benjamin Fleming will receive the second prize for his essay "Hajj Murals and Their Context."
- Graduate Award: Randi Warne reported that three essays were submitted, all in English from female M. A. students. Two submissions were from Concordia and one from Memorial. All essays were competently executed, but the winning essay was exceptional for its facility of expression and ability to argue a bold hypothesis effectively. Corinne C. Walsh will receive the graduate student essay prize of \$500 for her essay "Envisioning a Different History: A New Understanding of the Chronology of the Johannine Writings and the History of the Johannine Community." A copy of the letter sent to Ms. Walsh will be forwarded to Jordan Paper with Ms. Walsh's address so that a cheque may be issued to her. John Williams suggested that contest winners also be given a year's subscription to SR. It was also suggested that we have a place on the program for presentation of the winning papers, though Paper expressed concern about travel costs. In future, students will be requested to provide an abstract which can be posted on the web site. Opinion was mixed about whether the papers themselves should appear in full on the web site, with some feeling that it might be an invitation to contest the judges' decisions.

g) Representative to the Corporation/Représentatif de la Corporation

Paul Bowlby is in Japan; Bill James spoke on his behalf. Concern was expressed about the diminishing role of society publications officers. WLU Press will be taking over arrangements for the AAR/SBL Canadian reception at the meetings in San Francisco. Contributions towards the reception have been made by the CCSR, DSBS, CSSR, CSPS, and WLU Press. The Corporation will be encouraged to help us increase the positive profile of religious studies.

h) Committee on Academic Freedom

Tom Faulkner circulated his report, highlighting his intended action to provide detailed guidelines to St. Stephen's College about how to bring their Human Resources Policy in line with principles of natural justice. He also noted his upcoming study of principles and practices around transfer credits in Canadian academic institutions which house our members, and the place of academic freedom in shaping those practices.

5. SQÉR

Jacques Pierre represented the SQÉR, reporting that it is an interdisciplinary organization which includes both theological and "scientific" approaches to the study of religion. However, the discipline of sciences religieuses is currently being threatened by the compression and "rationalization" of academic programs

in Quebec. Theology programs, which have a much longer history in the province, are poised to overtake smaller and newer SR programs if/when the government compresses "duplicate" programs. The membership in SQÉR has experienced some decline, partly due to colleagues retiring, and there is some anxiety about the future.

6. Other Business/Varia

a) Bill James noted that David McCallum from Industry Canada addressed the Executive to obtain the Society's support for the following motion: "This organization recognizes the legitimacy of scholarly material published in electronic form when such material conforms to broadly accepted standards of peer review." This motion has been warmly endorsed by CAUT and other academic organizations. The motion was brought forward by the Executive to the AGM, voted on, and carried.

b) Bruce Alton reported on the web site, indicating that while it is secure for the now, some time in the future a new webmaster will be required. Please send Bruce your e-mail addresses and any suggestions for the cite.

c) Bill James noted David Seljak's piece in the fall Bulletin regarding his negative experiences as a Canadian scholar at the AAR. Bill forwarded the article to Barbara di Concini, an officer of the AAR, who informed Bill that the AAR has created an ad hoc committee on international relations. Please send any anecdotes about your experiences at the AAR to Bill.

d) Tom Faulkner suggested that we should begin thinking about our meetings in the year 2000, possibly highlighting a millennial theme.

e) Harold Coward drew the Society's attention to his Centre for Religion in Victoria, and its accommodations for visiting scholars.

7. Adjournment/Fermeture de la séance

Adjournment was moved at 5:40 p.m.

[Joy/Dumais] Carried unanimously

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (June 3, 1997) / RÉUNION DU CONSEIL (3 juin 1997)

PRESENT/PRÉSENCE: Aitken, Joy, Roy, Paper, Faulkner, Porter, James, Sinha, Warne (for Seljak)

1. Program

In future, proposers will be asked to indicate times they would be unable to present due to religious reasons, and the Program Chair will try to accommodate their needs accordingly.

2. Federation

Marcel Lauziere and Jacqueline Wright from HSSFC addressed the Executive. They handed out a booklet of the Federation's activities, to be published twice yearly; this information is also available at their web site. The mandate of the Federation is to foster understanding of the humanities and social sciences in the world outside the academy. One way it does this is through its publication program. In future, Congress book exhibits may be turned into book fairs in which the larger community is involved. Their pilot project Career Vision continues to work to find jobs for people with degrees by providing a wage subsidy to prospective employers. The Breakfast on the Hill series has selected academics to address politicians on important subjects. These meetings may be expanded into provincial venues in future. Other initiatives of the Federation, including the Women's Issues Network, are available at the web site as well.

The Federation representatives were asked if the Federation could provide a home for the web sites of member societies. They responded that their web site is in stage 1, primarily a site for information about the Federation. Stage 2 will consider whether the site will be a forum for discussion, and stage 3 may look to the former CFH model where space was provided for member societies. No decision has been made regarding the latter two stages as yet. The Executive stressed the importance of a positive decision regarding stage 3 for us.

Future congresses: 1998—University of Ottawa; 1999—Bishop's/University of Sherbrooke; 2000—University of Alberta. Faulkner suggested that the 2000 meetings should have a millennial theme, but noted that he anticipated resistance on this by academics. The importance of joint sessions with other societies was raised.

Joy asked the Federation representatives directly what the Federation did for member societies. They responded that they are taking a more active role in building bridges with the general public than the former CFH and SSFC. The Federation continues to provide subsidies to member associations, supports learned journals, and lobbies on behalf of the societies. That lobbying takes place primarily in Ottawa; Joy expressed concern as an Albertan about the need to have a provincial presence as well.

3. Nominations Committee

Positions to be sought: president; treasurer; member-at-large. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of Morny Joy (chair), Brian Aitken (membership secretary), and Marie-Andrée Roy. It was suggested that the past president might in future continue to chair this committee, with the membership secretary and a member-at large as members.

MOTION: to accept the composition of the Committee.

[Paper/Sinha] Carried

4. Program Committee

The Program Committee will be comprised of Braj Sinha (chair), Jennifer Porter, and Marie-Andrée Roy.

MOTION: to accept the composition of the Committee.

[Paper/Aitken] Carried

Concerns were raised about the 1997 program. Paper noted that abstracts and a statement of methodological approach, as required by the Procedures for Selecting an Annual Meeting Program (1995), were not submitted to Sinha with the proposals. Also, the guidelines for chairing sessions, developed by David Seljak the previous year, were not followed. Faulkner noted the poor organization of several sessions, and suggested the Executive be much more intentional about ensuring the proper conduct of sessions. It was agreed that Seljak would provide a copy of the chairing guidelines to all members of the Executive. Warne will provide Sinha with a copy of the Procedures document. Salient portions of the document should be included with the Call for Papers and/or published in the Bulletin. Faulkner suggested: (1) presenters circulate a single page outlining their argument, or make available full copies of their paper; (2) respondents be required to open up discussion; (3) the Executive chair all sessions to ensure proper handling of the sessions. Suggestion 3 was modified in discussion such that all chairs will be sent a copy of the chairing guidelines by Sinha.

Several 1997 program participants were not paid-up members of the Society. It was suggested that membership should be the cost of submitting a proposal. After discussion it was agreed that proposers whose dues are in arrears would be given two weeks after notification of acceptance to pay their dues. Those still in arrears after that time would be dropped from the program.

Academic affiliations of program participants will be included in the program in future. March 15 is the deadline for receipt of the program by the membership secretary. The experiment to have earlier deadlines for submissions did not prove helpful, so the customary schedule will be resumed. The Bulletin should be published in the first week of April. Joint sessions with other societies are encouraged. Porter noted that the local representative can help facilitate such events by ensuring that specific societies' meetings are scheduled in the same or adjacent buildings.

5. Student Essay Contests

1998 undergraduate essay judge—Jennifer Porter; 1998 graduate essay judge—Morny Joy. Loose posters on coloured paper advertising the contests will be included in the Bulletin. The winner of the graduate student essay contest, Corinne C. Walsh, will send a copy of her paper electronically or via diskette to Bruce Alton for posting on the web.

6. Web Site

Our current web site is secure for the next year. However, a new web site will eventually have to be found. The Corporation's apparent lack of interest in developing a Corporation web site was noted with some frustration. Porter suggested her colleague, Hans Rollman—someone extremely well-versed in web sites—as a possible webmaster when Alton relinquishes that task. Bill James will write a letter of thanks to Bruce Alton for his ongoing excellent work in maintaining the CSSR/SCÉR web site.

7. Secretarial Support

It was agreed in principle that the Executive might in future provide some funds toward secretarial

support for the offices of the program chair and/or of the membership secretary, to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

8. CCSR

There was discussion of the appropriateness/usefulness of the Corporation's publishing program. Bill James will outline these concerns in a memo.

9. Reports at the AGM

There was discussion about the suggestion to streamline the AGM by having committee reports posted on the web in advance of the meeting. The consensus was that this is not necessary. Information for reports is often not available far in advance. Further, presentation and discussion of these reports at the AGM has not been time-consuming.

10. Federation Women's Issues Network

Warne indicated that she would serve in 1997-98 but that a new representative for the CSSR needed to be found for 1998-99.

11. Adjournment/Fermeture de la séance

Adjournment was by consensus at 3:30 p.m.

XII. CSSR 1998 Membership Fee / SCÉR Cotisation 1998

#1	Regular members/Membres réguliers receiving SR/ recevant SR	\$75.00/75,00 \$
#2	Other members (retired, part-time, etc.) Autre Membres (retraité(e)s, à temps partiel, etc.) receiving SR/ recevant SR	\$50.00/50,00 \$
#3	Students/Étudiant(e)s receiving SR/recevant SR	\$40.00/40,00 \$

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| #4 | Associate members/Membres associés receiving SR through another Society/recevant SR d'une autre société | \$40.00/40,00\$ |
| #5 | Student associates/Étudiant(e)s associé(e)s receiving SR through another society/recevant SR d'une autre société | \$20.00/20,00 \$ |

Your membership fees pay your CSSR dues, your SSHFC and IAHR dues, and, unless you are an associate member, a subscription to 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 Program Committee. It does not cover your registration fee for the Annual Meeting.

Votre cotisation couvre votre adhésion à la SCÉR, à la FCSHS, à L'AIHR et, à moins que vous soyez membre associé, un abonnement à la revue Sciences Religieuses. De plus, votre cotisation vous permet de recevoir deux fois par année le Bulletin de la Société et de présenter, suite à l'acceptance du comité du programme, des communications au congrès annuel. Votre cotisation n'inclut pas les frais d'inscription au Congrès annuel.

Make cheque payable to:

Wilfrid Laurier University Press

Mail, with your cheque to:

Wilfrid Laurier University Press
Wilfrid Laurier University
WATERLOO ON N2L 3C5

Chèque à l'ordre de:

Wilfrid Laurier University Press

Envoyez à:

Wilfrid Laurier University Press
Wilfrid Laurier University
WATERLOO ON N2L 3C5

CC:

Membership Secretary (Dr. Brian
Aitken)
Huntington College, Laurentian
University
Ramsey Lake Rd
SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6
FAX: (705) 673-6917
E-MAIL: baitken@nickel.laurentian.ca

CC:

Secrétaire aux admissions (Dr. Brian
Aitken)
Huntington College, Laurentian
University
Ramsey Lake Rd
SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6
FAX: (705) 673-6917
COURRIER ÉLECTRONIQUE:
baitken@nickel.laurentian.ca

XIII. Membership List / Liste des membres

NOTE: The Membership List has not been duplicated here. It is available on-line at: Members