

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 RÉDACTEUR

This issue of the *Bulletin* includes an address by the new President of the CSSR, Paul Bowlby, as well as profiles of two longstanding members of the CSSR. Bill James, the past President, has agreed to serve as Program Chair for the 1999 Congress of Societies at Sherbrooke/Lennoxville, Quebec. There are three new members on the Executive: Brian Clarke, Dawne McCance, and Jean-Marc Larouche. Please note the new fee structure. Personal notes that have been submitted will be published in the 1999 spring issue of the *Bulletin*. The list of members and their addresses, usually appended to the fall issue, has been dropped to save paper and expenses.

Ce numéro du Bulletin comprend un mot de Paul LBowlby, le nouveau Président de la SCÉR, ainsi que des profils de deux membres de longue date de la SCÉR. Bill James, le Président-sortant, servira de Président pour le programme durant le Congrès de Sociétés de 1999, qui aura lieu à Sherbrooke/Lennoxville, Québec. Il y a trois nouveaux membres au Conseil: Brian Clarke, Dawne McCance et Jean-Marc Larouche. Veuillez noter le nouveau barème de cotisation. Des notes personnelles seront publiées dans le numéro du Bulletin qui paraîtra au printemps 1999. La liste de membres et leurs adresses qui se retrouve habituellement dans le numéro

A complete list of members with their addresses will be maintained on the CSSR Web site. If members wish to have their e-mail address added to the CSSR Web site, please forward your address to the Membership Secretary at baitken@Nickel.Laurentian.ca.

d'automne n'a pas été ajoutée afin d'économiser le papier et les dépenses. Vous pourrez retrouver une liste complète des membres avec leurs adresses sur le site Web de la SCÉR. Si des membres aimeraient que leur adresse de courriel soit ajoutée au site Web de la SCÉR, veuillez communiquer ces renseignements au Secrétaire aux Admissions au baitken@nickel.laurentian.ca.

**Brian W.W. Aitken
Huntington College in Laurentian University
SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6**

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II. The executive / le conseil 1998-99

President/Président and Program Chair

**Dr. Paul Bowlby
Religious Studies Department
St. Mary's University
HALIFAX NS B3H 3C3**

Phone: 902-420-5863

Fax: 902-420-5181

E-mail: paul.bowlby@stmarys.ca

Vice-President/Vice Président

**Dr. William Closson James
Religious Studies Department
Queen's University
KINGSTON ON K7L 3N6**

Phone: 613-545-6000, ext. 4326

Fax: 613-545-6879

E-mail: jameswc@post.queensu.ca

<p>Secretary/Secrétaire</p> <p>David Seljak Religious Studies Department St. Jerome's College University of Waterloo WATERLOO ON N2L 3G1</p> <p><i>Phone: 519-884-1110</i> <i>Fax: 519-884-5759</i></p> <p>E-mail: dseljak@watarts.uwaterloo.ca</p>	<p>Treasurer/Trésorier</p> <p>Dr. Brian Clarke 75 Queen's Park Cres. TORONTO ON M5S 1K7</p> <p><i>Phone: 416-585-4539</i> <i>Fax: 416-585-4516</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: ec.office@utoronto.ca</i></p>
<p>Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions</p> <p>Dr. Brian Aitken Religious Studies Department Laurentian University Ramsey Lake Road SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6</p> <p><i>Phone: 705-673-4126</i> <i>Fax: 705-673-6917</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: baitken@nickel.laurentian.ca</i></p>	<p>Member-at-Large / Conseillère</p> <p>Dr. Dawne McCance Religious Studies Department University of Manitoba WINNIPEG MB R3T 2N2</p> <p><i>Phone: 204-474-8120</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: McCance@ms.umanitoba.ca</i></p>
<p>Member-at-Large / Conseillère</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Porter Religious Studies Department Memorial University of Newfoundland ST. JOHN'S NF A1C 5S7</p> <p><i>Phone: 709-737-2469</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: jporter@plato.ucs.mun.ca</i></p>	<p>Member-at-Large/Conseillère</p> <p>Dr. Marie-Andree Roy Département des Sciences Religieuses UQAM c.p. 8888, Succ. Centre-Ville MONTREAL QC H3C 3P8</p> <p><i>Phone: 514-987-3000, poste 7860</i> <i>Fax: 514-987-7856</i></p> <p><i>E-mail: roy.marie-andree@uqam.ca</i></p>

**Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee
Chair**

Dr. Tom Faulkner
Department of Comparative Religion
Dalhousie University
HALIFAX NS B3H 3J5

Phone: 514-487-2076

Fax: 514-848-4541

E-mail: tom@is.dal.ca

Représantant de la SQÉR:

Dr. Jean-Marc Larouche
Faculté de theologie
Université Saint-Paul
223, rue Main
OTTAWA ON K1S 1C4

III. PRESIDENT'S CORNER / MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

It was a great honour to be elected President of the CSSR/SCÉR at the Annual Meeting in Ottawa in June. Together, with the new members of the Executive and those who are continuing their terms, we will work to ensure the continued vitality of our Society. I want to express my gratitude to our past president, William James, for his excellent work as President and most especially for his acceptance of the task of organizing the conference at Bishop's University next year. The Call for Papers is in this edition of the Bulletin and will posted on our web site <http://www.CHASS.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/CSSR.html>.

At the first meeting of the new Executive, we discussed a number of initiatives. For example, we will again be extending an invitation to department chairs from across Canada to come to our next conference to discuss the current state of religious studies and how best our Society can assist departments in our field. This discussion will develop further the findings of Michel Desjardins who is visiting many campuses across Canada researching how the Corporation for Studies in Religion and its constituent societies, such as our own, can serve the interests of departments in the future. Of particular interest is how our Society could alter the format of our annual conference to better serve the development, research and teaching in our universities in Canada.

As many members now know, the membership at the last Annual Meeting agreed to raise our fees. As funds continue to be downloaded from federal research agencies to membership fees, it is important that we all realize the ways in which those fees support our collective academic life

in Canada. The full membership fee provides a subscription to Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses, Society membership in the International Association of the History of Religions, and membership in and representation on the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada. This membership still permits us to obtain funds to assist faculty and graduate students to attend our Annual Meeting and conference. Most recently, we have joined the Allied Associations (Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures/L'association des littératures canadiennes et québécoise, Association for Canadian College and University Teachers of English, Association for Canadian Theatre Research/Association pour la recherche théâtrale au Canada, Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Canadian Comparative Literature Association/Association canadienne de littérature comparée Christianity and Literature Study Group, Consortium for Computing in the Humanities/Consortium pour l'utilisation des ordinateurs en sciences humaines, Canadian Society of Medievalists/Société canadienne d'études de la Renaissance, Society for the Study of Religion/Société canadienne pour l'étude de la religion, and Film Studies Association of Canada/Association canadienne des études cinématographiques) with whom we published a consolidated conference program. In addition, we have supported a joint application for funds to establish an Allied Societies' Secretariat which could help administer our conference and other Society activities.

Our next conference will be based principally at Bishop's University and also at the Université de Sherbrooke. The overall themes of the Congress are "Space and Place, Heritage and Identities, Education and Social Cohesion." It is my personal hope that we can take up these themes with special speakers and events and work to make research about religions in Canada as public as possible.

Please contact the members of the Executive and/or me to make suggestions about how to develop our Society and the study of religion in Canada.

Paul Bowlby

IV. CALL FOR PAPERS /INVITATION À PROPOSER UNE COMMUNICATION

The Program Committee invites submissions for the 1999 Annual Meeting of the CSSR, to be held in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities on the campus of the Université de Sherbrooke/Bishop's University, between June 3-6, 1999. Papers are especially encouraged on the Congress theme, "Space and Place: Our Heritage and Identity." As well, the Program Committee encourages submissions on religious studies in a culture increasingly defined by "management" values, panels on books published by CSSR/SCÉR members, and panels on religion in Quebec.

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 examination of goals, methods, and styles of teaching

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 de Sherbrooke/Bishop's University, du 3 au 6 juin 1999. On encourage surtout les présentations discutant le thème du Congrès: "Espace et Place: Notre patrimoine et notre identité." De plus, le comité encourage les soumissions en matière de sciences religieuses dans une culture qui est, de plus en plus, identifiée par des valeurs de gestionnaires, des commissions discutant de livres reçus par les membres de CSSR/SCÉR et des commissions examinant la religion au Québec.

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

demanded by the

- discipline.

There are three types of submissions; you should indicate which type you want your presentation to be:

- 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 January 15, 1999.

- 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

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 pédagogies propres à

- l'étude de la religion.

Trois types de propositions sont recevables.

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 janvier 1999, accompagné d'un précis.

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

and discussion. A 150-word abstract should be submitted by January 15, 1999. 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.

- **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 January 15, 1999. Panel organizers will be expected to coordinate communication between members of the panel(s) and the Program Chair.

précis de 100-150 mots (maximum) doit être soumis avant le 15 janvier 1999. 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. 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 janvier 1999. L'organisateur/ l'organisatrice assurera la coordination nécessaire entre le président du comité du programme et les autres participants.

Completed special papers, abstracts of papers and panels, etc., are to be sent by January 15, 1999, to:

Dr. William Closson James
Religious Studies Department
Queen's University
KINGSTON ON K7L 3N6

Phone: 613-545-6000, ext. 4326

Fax: 613-545-6879

E-mail: jameswc@post.queensu.ca

PLEASE NOTE: The Program 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).

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

Dr. William Closson James
Religious Studies Department
Queen's University
KINGSTON ON K7L 3N6

Phone: 613-545-6000, ext. 4326

Fax: 613-545-6879

E-mail: jameswc@post.queensu.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 pas présenter la même communication à la réunion annuelle, ainsi qu'à une autre conférence quelconque.

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

Graduate students: the name, address and telephone number (e-mail if available) of a faculty advisor must be included. Please make sure that a letter supporting the proposal is sent by a faculty advisor directly to the Chair of the Program Committee.

Some financial assistance is available for members who wish to attend the 1999 CSSR meeting at Bishop's University. For information, contact the CSSR Treasurer:

Dr. Brian Clarke
75 Queen's Park Cres.
TORONTO ON M5S 1K7
Phone: 416-585-4539
Fax: 416-585-4516
E-mail: ec.office@utoronto.ca

proposition est envoyée par un(e) directeur/directrice d'études directement d'études directement au Président pour le programme.

De l'assistance financière est disponible pour les membres qui aimeraient aller à la réunion de la SCÉR de 1999 qui aura lieu à Sherbrooke. Pour plus de renseignements communiquez avec le trésorier de la SCÉR:

Dr. Brian Clarke
75 Queen's Park Cres.
TORONTO ON M5S 1K7
Phone: 416-585-4539
Fax: 416-585-4516
E-mail: ec.office@utoronto.ca

V. ESSAY CONTESTS / CONCOURS D'ESSAI

1. Undergraduate Student Essay contest / Concours d'essai étudiant(e) 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, à 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 \$
- **Deadline/Echéance:** One copy of the completed essay, with the accompanying letter, must be submitted no later than April 16, 1999/La rédaction et l'attestation d'inscription

doivent être reçues au plus tard le 16 avril 1999

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

2. Graduate Student Essay Contest / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle

- **Subject/Sujet:** A theme in the general field of religious studies/Un thème relevant domaine 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 16, 1999/le 16 avril 1999

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. Marie-Andrée Roy

Département des Sciences Religieuses, UQAM

c.p. 8888, Succ. Centre-Ville

MONTREAL QC H3C 3P8

Phone: 514-987-3000, poste 7860

Fax: 514-987-7856

E-mail: roy.marie-andree@uqam.ca

3. Undergraduate Student Essay Contest—1997-98 Winner / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 1er cycle—

Gagnant 1997-98

The first prize of \$200 was awarded to Brian Fleming from the University of Regina, for

his essay entitled "Puja and the Domestic Dimension of the Ganesh Cathurti Festival: Confronting the Divine in Hinduism."

The second prize went to Trevor Robertson from the University of Regina for his essay entitled "The Brainwashing Hypothesis and Symbolic Freedom."

4. Graduate Student Essay Contest—1997-98 Winner / Concours d'essai pour étudiant(e)s du 2e cycle—Gagnant

1997-98

Fabien Richard from Laval University won this award for his essay entitled "La gnose au Québec: ouverture sur un exemple: women's conversions to the United Church."

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

VI. profiles / profils

1. Jacques Goulet

Jacques Goulet, long-time professor of religious studies at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, has chosen to retire in the spring of 1999, and to switch careers. Dr. Goulet plans to participate full-time in an international service such as OXFAM or Amnesty International. He has been involved in the work of these organizations as a volunteer for several years and wants to explore ways of becoming more involved. During the 1960s — for seven years —, Jacques lived among the Bahutu and Baghuts people in what is now Rwanda-Zaire, so he is fluent in Kinyarwanda, the indigenous language of that area. Jacques has been a member of the CSSR for over twenty years and served on its Executive for two terms. Thanks, Jacques, for your efforts to widen the understanding of religion in Canada. We wish you well in your continuing life journey.

Brian Aitken

2. Abraham Khan

Abraham Khan is one of the most distinguished members of the CSSR. He is a professor of religious studies at Trinity College at the University of Toronto. Some of his honours and activities include the following: Senior Fellow, Harvard University; Centre for the Study of World Religions (January-May 1997); Program Unit Chair, History of the Study of Religion, American Academic of Religion (1997-); Consulting Editor, Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions; and member of the Organizing Committee of Conference on Caribbean Religions in Comparative Perspective, York University (November 1998). He is also a member of the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. In the past two years he has given twelve papers, many on his area of specialization, Soren Kierkegaard's thought. Some of his recent papers include the following: "Melancholy: an elusive dimension of depression?" in the *Journal of Medical Humanities* (1994), 15 (2), 113-22; "The centre out there for early pre-Islamic pilgrims: Is the Kabéah the original sacra of Mecca?" in the *Year Book of Christian Archaeology Supplement* (Aschendorffsche Verlag: 1995), 906-13; "The challenge of information technology for literary studies" in the *Journal of Religious and Technological Information* (1996), 2 (2), 59-72; "Kierkegaard as Firechief in Denmark," *Religious Studies* (1996), 25 (4), 445-58; "Identity, personhood and religion in Caribbean context," in *Harvard Working Papers on Latin America* (1997), Cambridge: Harvard University, the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Paper No. 96/97-98; "Indian identity and religion in Caribbean literature: Shikwa/Complaint," *Ilu, Revista de Ciencias de las Religions*.

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 September 1, 1998, for the October 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, de congrès que vous organisez.

Laissez-nous savoir des nouveaux développements, des retraites aussi bien que des nouveaux postes. Faites parvenir avant le 1 septembre 1998 pour l'édition du mois d'octobre.

SEND TO: / ENVOYEZ À:

Brian W.W. Aitken

Membership Secretary cssr/scér

Huntington University in Laurentian University

Ramsey Lake Road

SUDBURY ON P3E 2C6

E-mail: Baitken@nickel.laurentian.ca

VIII. 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.

BRUCE ALTON: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/>

CSSR: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~bsalton/cssr.html>

BIBLIOGRAPHY: <http://eir.library.utoronto.ca/MandT/index.cfm>

IX. MINUTES OF Three EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

AND THE ANNUAL MEETING /

PROCÉS-VERBAL DE DEUX RÉUNIONS DU CONSEIL ET DE L'ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE

A. Executive Committee Meeting (May 27, 1998) / Réunion du Conseil (27 mai 1998)

Present/Présence: Aitken, Bowlby, James, Joy, Paper, Porter, Roy, Seljak, Sinha

1. Welcome / Bienvenue

James welcomed members and explained that because Tom Faulkner, the Chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom, could not be present, the Executive Committee would hold a special meeting on May 28.

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

Sinha/Paper Carried

3. Adoption of the Minutes of May 31 and June 3 / Adoption du procès-verbal du 31 mai et 3 juin 1997

The minutes were approved with one change. The first sentence of number 3 of the May 31, 1997, meeting should read, "The minutes of the meeting were approved ..." (not "minutes of the agenda").

4. Business Arising from the Minutes / Affaires en découlant

James reported that Bruce Alton had agreed to act as "webmaster" for the CSSR/SCÉR web site for one more year. It was agreed that we would seek another person from the membership at the AGM. The person would need to know web-site technology, understand the goals and nature of the Society, and have appropriate institutional support. It was decided that we would express to the representatives from the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada our desire that they provide all member societies with infrastructural support for web sites.

5. Reports / Rapports

a) Treasurer/Trésorier (Jordan Paper)

Paper reported that since Braj Sinha, the Program Chair, had informed him that the "Religion in Mexico" session had been cancelled, it was decided that the HSSFC grant of \$600 be applied to the panel on The Impact of Feminist Critical Theory on Biblical Studies (jointly sponsored by the CSBS) instead. Paper emphasized that \$600 is available to each member society and each congress for any interdisciplinary panel, but the money must be applied for and a report must be sent. HSSFC no longer requires that two societies sponsor an event for it to be considered "interdisciplinary."

Paper presented a report entitled "Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer."

Paper presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement of the Society. He noted that last year the Society had a deficit of about \$7000; about half of this was a planned deficit (to pay for the high costs of travel to St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1997), but the other half was the result of the Executive Committee's decision last year to fund more generously travel to the St. John's meeting, as well as other decisions. Such deficits could mean the depletion of all reserves within three years.

Paper reported that Wilfrid Laurier Press (which collects dues for the Society) wished to

introduce the option of renewing by credit card; this option would cost the Society 4% on every transaction.

Paper presented five budget options for 1998-99. Decision on the budget was delayed until the report of the Membership Secretary.

- **MOTION:** that funding not be normally provided for travel for the purpose of attending an Executive Committee meeting (overturns Motion of May 31, 1997).

Paper/Sinha Carried

Discussion on the subsidy of the Society's delegate to the International Association for the History of Religion followed.

- **MOTION:** that the subsidy to the IAHR delegate to attend the meetings of the International Committee of the IAHR (which meets twice every five years) be increased to \$1500 upon the approval of the Executive Committee and the submission of a statement of expenses.

Paper/Aitken Carried

Discussion on the Graduate Essay Contest ensued. It was felt that given the financial restraints placed upon the Society, the prize should be more modest.

- **MOTION:** that the amount of the Graduate Essay Prize be reduced from \$500 to \$300.

Paper/Porter Carried

Paper said that the Society needed to provide continuity in transferring the Treasurer's work to a new Treasurer.

- **MOTION:** that Jordan Paper be authorized to continue to have signing authority over the Society's finances until the books are turned over to the new Treasurer at their mutual convenience but no later than September 30, 1998.

Porter/Bowlby Carried

Paper also noted that the Society should designate a second signer in case of an emergency (incapacity of the Treasurer, etc.). Paper was invited to attend the Sunday Executive Committee

meeting as a non-voting guest.

Paper noted that Brenda Blackstock of York University has prepared our financial statements free of charge for the length of his tenure as Treasurer.

- **MOTION:** That the CSSR/SCÉR thank Brenda Blackstock for her voluntary work as auditor for the Society.

Paper/Aitken Carried

b) Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux Admissions (Brian Aitken)

Aitken reported that overall membership is 262 (up 7% from last year) of whom 193 are paid-up members and 67 are in arrears. Membership was broken down according to length of tenure. One disturbing trend is that membership in the 6-10 years category has dropped.

Aitken apologized for the late mailing of the *Bulletin*. Late program changes and the late arrival of the SQÉR conference program were responsible for the delay. It was agreed that in the future, the *Bulletin* be mailed earlier.

Aitken brought up the possibility of creating "honorary memberships" for retiring professors who have made outstanding contributions to the Society or to the study of religion in Canada.

- **MOTION:** that the President establish an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of creating a category for honorary members.

Aitken/Joy Carried

The Committee returned to the Treasurer's report. A number of options were discussed. James suggested the possibility of creating a mechanism to accept donations to the CSSR/SCÉR; the consensus was that this was worth exploring.

- **MOTION:** that the Society accept payment of membership fees by credit card.

Paper/Aitken Carried

- **MOTION:** that the Executive Committee recommend to the AGM that fees for full members be increased by \$15, and fees for all other categories be raised by \$10.

Paper/Porter Carried

In effect, the Treasurer's recommended budget was approved with the preceding modifications.

c) American Academy of Religion Representative / Représantant du AAR

Tim Bryson, the Associate Executive Director of the AAR, spoke informally to the Committee. He emphasized that the AAR has no ambitions to become the de facto "international society" for the study of religion. Instead, it would like to create formal lines of communication with existing national and international societies in order to co-sponsor symposia and other projects.

The AAR will hold its 2002 annual meeting in Toronto. The decision was partly in response to an e-mail from Bill James about the treatment of Canadian scholars and subjects at the AAR annual meeting.

d) 1998 Program Chair / PrÃ©sidence pour le programme 1998 (Braj Sinha)

Sinha reported that the December 1 deadline for the Call for Papers had a very low response but the January 30 deadline was quite successful. He noted that the panel on "Religion in Mexico" was cancelled because the participants failed to receive travel funding elsewhere. Another session on the Violence Mythos was compromised because Barbara Whitmer was not notified of the change in date and could not make it. James noted that he would send apologies to Ms. Whitmer for the unfortunate series of mistakes leading to the rescheduling of her session.

The Committee agreed on the following procedures to facilitate the organization of the 1999 program: the deadline for proposals will be set for January 15; the Executive Committee members will actively solicit proposals before November 1; the Call for Papers will include specific headings and categories which will be broad enough to include a wide variety of papers (e.g., religion and the social sciences, religion and women, etc.).

- **MOTION:** that the deadline for the Call for Papers be January 15.

Sinha/Joy Carried

James asked members if they felt that we should participate in further joint ventures with the Allied Associations. The consensus was that we should.

- **MOTION:** that the conference fee be raised from \$8 to \$10 to partly cover the cost of the Allied Associations' joint program.

Roy/Sinha Carried

It was further agreed that the joint program be distributed at the early reception and at the first sessions of the first day of the Annual Meeting.

e) Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation Canadienne des Sciences Religieuses (Paul Bowlby)

Bowlby reported that he had attended the Corporation meeting and raised three concerns: the CSSR/SCÉR Publication Officer position is redundant and should be eliminated; people who are publishing at the Corporation are not necessarily members of the constituent societies; members of the constituent societies are not publishing with the Corporation unless they are part of a series.

- **MOTION:** Whereas the role of the publication officer to the CCSR has become redundant, the President shall represent the Society to the CCSR and the position will be discontinued.

Bowlby reported that the CCSR is resurrecting the series on Comparative Ethics started by Charles Davis. As well, the State of the Art Report on Religious Studies in Atlantic Canada is nearing completion. Finally, it was noted that the CSSR/SCÉR needs to find six people to volunteer as our representatives to the 1999 AGM of the CCSR.

f) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations (Morny Joy)

The Nominations Committee consisted of Joy, Aitken, and Roy. The slate they prepared includes Paul Bowlby (president); Brian Clarke (treasurer); and Dawne McCance (member-at-large). Further nominations will be accepted from the floor of the AGM.

- **MOTION:** that the report of the Nominations Committee be accepted.

Joy/Roy Carried

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

Joy reported that four papers had been submitted to the Society for the Graduate Essay Contest. She had asked Roy to assist her since the two best papers were in Roy's field, the sociology of religion.

Porter announced that only seven papers had been submitted to the Undergraduate Essay Contest, a sharp drop from last year. She was still undecided about this year's winners.

h) IAHR (Braj Sinha)

Sinha reported on his attendance at the most recent meeting of the IAHR and noted that democratic reform was moving forward in that society. The next meeting of the IAHR will be in Durban, South Africa.

i) Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR) (Marie-Andrée Roy)

Roy reported that the 1998 SQÉR conference at Université Laval was a great success. Part of the success was due to the Society's organization of three colloquia within the conference: religion and public debate; post-modernity and religion; and theological discourse and religious experience.

Roy reported that Jean-Marc Larouche of St. Paul's University had been elected President of the Society. The Society has about 150 members and faces many of the same membership problems as the CSSR/SCÉR.

Roy reported that the Commission des universités sur les programmes (CUP) created by the Conférence des recteurs et principaux des Universités au Québec (CREPUQ) to evaluate all programs and disciplines at Quebec universities had finished its study of departments of theology and religious studies. The SQÉR had some concerns that sciences religieuses was lumped in with theology, and religious studies people found it difficult to communicate the difference between their discipline and theology. The report of the commission will be published in June.

j) President's Report / Rapport du Président (Bill James)

James reported that Tom Faulkner could not be present to deliver his report on academic freedom. There was some urgency since the appointments of John Franklin and others had been terminated at the Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological College (now known as Tinsdale College). It was agreed to hold a brief meeting on academic freedom on May 28.

Some members expressed concern that the important issue of academic freedom was being left to one member of the Society. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to aid Faulkner in his investigations.

6. Adjournment

- Roy/Porter Carried

B. Executive Committee Meeting (May 28, 1998) / Réunion du Conseil (28 mai 1998)

Present/Présence: Aitken, Bowlby, Faulkner, James, Paper, Porter, Roy, Seljak, Sinha

1. Academic Freedom / Liberté académique

Faulkner presented his report on academic freedom to the Committee. He presented the history behind the termination of John Franklin's appointment at the Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological College (now known as Tinsdale College). Concerns were raised on the matter of process. Some members preferred to be informed in advance of specific cases of problems concerning academic freedom. Others wanted case reviews to be done by a committee of three and not by one person. It was suggested that the report be amended to include the fact that both John Franklin and Brian Stiller, head of the OBC/OTS, had read the report and found it to be factually accurate.

- **MOTION:** that the Executive Committee accept the report of the Chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom as amended.

Paper/Aitken Carried unanimously

- **MOTION:** that, in light of the report of the Chair on the Committee on Academic Freedom, the CSSR regrets the termination of Professor John Franklin's appointment at OBC/OTS and wishes him success in resuming his career as a professional scholar.

Seljak/Aitken Carried unanimously

- **MOTION:** that the CSSR/SCÉR offer its assistance to the OBC/OTS in revising its faculty handbook.

Sinha/Porter Carried unanimously

2. Adjournment

- Paper/Seljak Carried

C. Executive Committee Meeting (May 31, 1998) / Réunion du Conseil (31 mai 1998)

Present/Présence: Aitken, Bowlby, James, Porter, Porter, Roy, Seljak, Paper (invited guest)

REGRETS: Clarke

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

- An informal agenda was adopted.

2. Allied Associations

James reported on the Allied Associations' theme for the 1999 Congress which dealt with "Space and Place, Heritage and Identities" and "Education and Social Cohesion." It was decided to purchase the joint programs for \$50 and distribute them at the early arrivals' reception and opening sessions of the 1999 Annual Meeting. In addition, the Allied Associations will have a table at the 1999 Congress where programs will be available.

3. 1999 Program Chair / Présidence pour le programme 1999

James will be the Program Committee Chair for the 1999 meeting. The Committee members will be Seljak and Roy.

A letter of apology is to be sent to Barbara Whitmer.

Next year, the Program Committee will have to allow for two hours for the AGM; it must be earlier in the day.

Seljak introduced a new version of the Guidelines for chairing a Session, which was adopted; it was decided to include these guidelines with every letter of acceptance.

The Society will explore the possibility of organizing papers over the next three years in order to create a book on religion in Canada which would be ready by the time of the 2002 AAR conference in Toronto.

Ideas for the 1999 Program were suggested; these included a session on religious studies in a

culture increasingly defined by "management" values, more panels on books published by members, and a panel on religion in Quebec.

4. Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations

The Nomination Committee will consist of Aitken (chair), Seljak, and Roy. Positions to be filled are the Membership Secretary and Member-at-Large.

5. Student Essay Awards / Prix pour les essais étudiant(e)s

Porter will judge the undergraduate contest; Roy will judge the graduate one.

6. Web Site

James reminded the group that we need to find a new home for the Society's web site next year. Several members have come forward to volunteer to maintain the site.

7. Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation Canadienne des Sciences Religieuses (Paul Bowlby)

Bowlby raised the question of the Corporation's role in facing the issues of department closures and diminishing faculty numbers. What role do the religious studies societies have to play? Bowlby suggested a session at the Annual Meeting which would bring together department chairs. He also noted that the Corporation is planning a serious review of *SR* in January and our Society should pay close attention to it.

8. IAHR

There is a possibility of a regional meeting of the IAHR in Canada in the near future. Discussion centred on what role the Society might play in this venture.

9. Academic Freedom / Liberté académique

The current Chair, T. Faulkner, will continue to chair the new committee.

- **MOTION:** that the Executive Committee appoint a standing committee on academic freedom, consisting of a chair and two members.

Seljak/Aitken Carried

10. Membership Secretary / Sécretaire aux Admissions (Brian Aitken)

Aitken suggested that the membership list on the web site should include institutional addresses. This would help protect the privacy of members.

He also suggested that the membership renewal form could be fine-tuned; members will be encouraged to give their institutional addresses only and asked to indicate three or four areas of research.

In an attempt to increase membership, Aitken agreed to send letters to department chairs encouraging them to speak to their faculty.

He indicated that he would outline the reasons for the fee increases in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. Paper suggested that he could help with this.

James offered to write a short article for the *Bulletin* reminding people that if they were not members of a Canadian learned society, they would not be a member of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada or any other significant lobby group for post-secondary education.

The issue of honorary memberships was discussed.

11. Adjournment

Roy/Porter Carried

D. Annual General Meeting (May 30, 1998) / L'assemblée annuelle (30 mai 1998)

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

- Neufeld/Dumais Carried

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the June 2, 1997, Meeting of the Executive Committee / Adoption du procès-verbal de l'assemblée annuelle de 2 juin 1997

The minutes were approved with one change: the date of the meeting was June 2, not June 1.

- Berg/Roy Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes / Affaires en découlant

There was none.

4. Reports / Rapports

a) President/Président

James announced that Bruce Alton would manage the Society's web site for one more year. He asked members to look for another person from the Society who would need to know web-site technology, understand the goals and nature of the Society, and have appropriate institutional support.

James reported on the visit by Tim Bryson, Associate Executive Director of the American Academy of Religion, to the Executive Committee meeting. In response to complaints by CSSR/SCÉR members, the AAR has decided to hold its 2002 conference in Toronto.

He extended his thanks to Leona Anderson for the publication of the joint program of the Corporation-linked societies.

He asked the membership to forward reactions to the Society's participation in the Allied Associations.

b) Treasurer/Trésorier (Jordan Paper)

Paper presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement for the Society. He noted that last year the Society had a deficit of about \$7000; such deficits could mean the depletion of all reserves within three years.

Paper reported on the Executive Committee's decision to accept payment of membership dues by credit card.

Paper explained that every member costs the Society about \$27 in terms of publications, collection fees, and fees paid out to other societies. Student memberships of are subsidized by others.

- **motion:** that the Auditor's Report be accepted.

Dawson/Berg Carried

Paper noted that Brenda Blackstock of York University has prepared the Society's financial statements free of charge for the length of his tenure as Treasurer.

- **MOTION:** that the CSSR/SCÉR thank Brenda Blackstock for her voluntary work as auditor for the Society.

Goulet/Parkhill Carried

James noted that Paper is leaving the Executive Committee and thanked him for his work as Treasurer over the past years.

c) Membership Secretary / Secrétaire aux admissions (Brian Aitken)

After distributing copies of his report, Aitken reported that overall membership is 262 (up 7% from last year) and up significantly from four years ago when it was 238. Of these numbers, 193 are paid-up members and 67 are in arrears.

- **MOTION:** that the report of the Membership Secretary be accepted.

Aitken/Goulet Carried

The assembly returned to the Treasurer's report with regard to dues. Aitken reported on ways in which the Executive Committee was seeking to control costs and increase payment of dues. Discussion ensued over the advisability of raising dues.

- **MOTION:** that the fees for full members be increased by \$15 and fees for all other categories by \$10.

Aitken/Paper Carried

It was agreed that the Membership Secretary would explain the increase in fees to the membership in the next *Bulletin*. Other suggestions for lowering costs included sending the *Bulletin* out in electronic form only or dropping the membership mailing list from the fall *Bulletin*.

d) 1998 Program Chair / Présidence pour le programme 1998 (Braj Sinha)

Sinha announced a correction in the printed program; the Program Committee consisted of himself, Roy, and Porter (not Paper).

He reported on the successes of the 1998 program (especially the Joint Panel) and the two sessions which fell through.

James announced that the next Annual Meeting would take place in Sherbrooke, Quebec (split between Bishop's and Sherbrooke) from June 3 to June 6, 1999.

Some members expressed concern that there be more coordination with the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies on dates of annual meetings.

e) Nominations Committee / Comité pour les nominations (Morny Joy)

The Nominations Committee consisted of Joy, Aitken, and Roy. Joy brought forward the following nominations:

Dawne McCance for Member-at-Large. McCance is Chair of the Department of Religion at the University of Manitoba and writes on hermeneutics, critical theory, ethics, and body history. Nominations were invited from the floor, with none forthcoming.

- **MOTION:** that nominations for Member-at-Large be closed.

Sinha/Warne Carried

Brian Clarke (Emmanuel College) for Treasurer. A long-time participant in the Society, Clarke has served as Treasurer for the Canadian Society for Church History. Nominations were invited from the floor, with none forthcoming.

- **MOTION:** that nominations for Treasurer be closed.

Berg/Warne Carried

Paul Bowlby (St. Mary's University) for President. Bowlby has long been active in the Society and served last year as the Society's representative to the Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion. Nominations were invited from the floor, with none forthcoming.

- **MOTION:** that nominations for President be closed.

Sinha/Warne Carried

Bowlby will be the new President of the CSSR/SCÉR.

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

Graduate Award: Joy reported that four papers had been submitted. She had asked Roy to assist her since some papers were on the sociology of religion. The winner of this year's prize was Fabien Richard (Université Laval) with his essay, "La gnose au Québec: ouverture sur un exemple" (sponsored by Prof. Raymond Brodeur, Université Laval).

Undergraduate Award: Porter reported that, despite a drop in the number of submissions (only seven compared to last year's 28), two papers still merited being recognized this year. First prize went to Brian Fleming (University of Regina) for his paper, "Puja and the Domestic Dimension of the Ganesh Cathurti Festival: Confronting the Divine in Hinduism" (sponsored by Leona Anderson, Coordinator, Religious Studies Program, University of Regina). Second prize went to Trevor Robertson (also from the University of Regina), for his paper, "The Brainwashing Hypothesis and Symbolic Freedom: Women's Conversions to the Unification Church" (sponsored by Dr. Jackie Kuikman, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Campion College, University of Regina).

James extended his thanks to Joy and Porter; he noted that Joy was leaving the Executive Committee after four years of service.

g) Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion / Corporation Canadienne des Sciences Religieuses (Paul Bowlby)

Bowlby reported on a variety of concerns which representatives of the Society raised about the CCSR. These included the issue of confidentiality regarding the reporting of manuscripts and the fact that the position of Publications Officer was redundant and should be eliminated.

Bowlby reported that Michel Desjardins will be contacting different departments regarding the journal *SR*. Questions arose about the purpose of the journal for our Society. Could the journal be distributed electronically in the future? Bowlby reported that Wilfrid Laurier Press had received some money to explore the possibility of on-line journals.

h) Academic Freedom / Liberté académique

Faulkner spoke to his report on academic freedom, which focused on the termination of the appointment of John Franklin at the Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological College (now

known as Tinsdale College). Several motions arose from the Executive Committee meeting of May 28.

- **MOTION:** that the CSSR/SCÉR accept the report of the Committee on Academic Freedom.

Faulkner/Joy Carried unanimously

- **MOTION:** that, in light of the report of the Committee on Academic Freedom, the CSSR/SCÉR regrets the termination of Professor John Franklin's appointment at OBC/OTS and wishes him success in resuming his career as a professional scholar.

Faulkner/Neufeld Carried unanimously

- **MOTION:** that the CSSR/SCÉR offer its assistance to the OBC/OTS in revising its faculty handbook.

Faulkner/Warne Carried unanimously

A member asked if St. Stephen's in Edmonton had responded to suggestions from the Society regarding academic freedom and due process. Faulkner reported that the College has not responded.

Faulkner emphasized that the Society should focus on tenure as a means of protecting academic freedom. He suggested that we should be reluctant to transfer credits from Bible Colleges which do not have a policy of tenure.

i) IAHF (Braj Sinha)

Sinha reported on his attendance at the most recent meeting of the IAHR and noted that democratic reform was moving forward in that society. He presented information on the next meeting of the IAHR in Durban, South Africa, and invited members to participate.

5. Société Québécoise pour l'étude de la religion (SQÉR) (Marie-Andrée Roy)

Roy reported on the 1998 SQÉR conference and that Jean-Marc Larouche of St. Paul's University had been elected President of the SQÉR.

6. Other Business

J. Goulet announced that the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada had begun a consultation headed by Dr. John English on the role of the National Archives and National Library. Submissions by learned societies are being sought.

James expressed his thanks to Dan Berg, local representative for the University of Ottawa; to members of the Society for support during his tenure as President; and best wishes to the new President, P. Bowlby.

- **MOTION:** that the Society express its thanks to James for his work as President.

Sinha/Joy Carried

7. Adjournment

Paper/Dumas Carried

X. CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN RELIGION AND SOCIETY

(University of Victoria)

Non-Stipendary Visiting

Research Fellowships 1999-2000

- **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 their 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.: 250-721-6325; Fax: 250-721-6234.
- **Deadline:** January 31, 1999. Please submit project description and C.V. with the names and full addresses of three referees.