

Peter Metcalf, Lesley Sharp, Edie Turner and Richard Werbner

We also finished our year with selection set of candidates, placing 6 members into nomination for the 4 open two-year terms.

Bonnie GlassCoffin

Peter Metcalf

Lesley Sharp

Tanya Lurhman

Stewart Guthrie

Edie Turner

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This has been a very successful year in terms of membership recruitment. Another big project has been the production of the first ARS newsletter, "Points of View," which was mailed to members and others interested in ARS in mid-November. The newsletter includes an update on ARS status within the AAA, information on panels of interest at the AAA meetings in Philadelphia, a forum for ARS members to list calls for papers, information about the upcoming ARS elections, and the ARS bookshelf. Of particular interest to members will be Andrew Buckser's column on "Teaching the Anthropology of Religion." Since we are just getting the newsletter up and running, we are aiming to begin by producing two issues a year. We are soliciting suggestions for names for the newsletter ("Points of View" was merely a working title).

AAA Program Editor's Report (from Stephen Glazier)

The Anthropology of Religion Section served as reviewer for the eleven panels

that were included in the 1998 AAA meeting in Philadelphia. In addition we

served as cosponsors for a number of sessions.

"Ritual and the World of Commodities" (ARS invited session)

"Mediating the Boundaries of Belief: Papers in Honor of Morton Klass" (ARS

invited session)

"Reinventing Religious Traditions: Race, Warfare and the Appropriation of

Culture"

"Inventing Modernity and Tradition in Islamic Societies"

"The Poetics of Spirit Possession"

"Contemporary Ritual: Invention and Tradition"

"Religion, Ritual, and Latin American Identities"

"Chinese Religions: Reflections from the Field"

"Texts, Textuality and Practice: The Challenges of Text to Religious Practices

and Ritual " (double session).

"Christianity, Populations, and Globalization"

"Politics and Epistemology in the Anthropology of Buddhism"

Nominations: The nominations committee, under the chairmanship of Michael Winkelman, produced two slates of candidates for the 1998 (with Stewart Guthrie and Sarah Caldwell) and 1999 elections (with Deborah Shepherd and Rebecca Lester). The year began with our fielding a full slate of candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 one-year Board members, and 4 two-year Board members, including a student member. The election results were:

President: Tom Csordas

Vice President: Steve Glazier

Secretary: Deborah Shepherd

Treasurer: Andy Buckser

Executive Committee 2 year terms:

James Dow, Jill Dubisch, Laurel Kendall

Student Member Rebecca Lester

Executive Committee 1 year term

From: michael winkelman <michael.winkelman@asu.edu>
To: <LVANOLST@aaanet.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 23, 1999 6:19 AM
Subject: annual report ARS

ANNUAL REPORT 1998
ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION SECTION
Submitted by
Michael Winkelman, Past President

The Anthropology of Religion section has just concluded an intense first year, moving from a newly established probationary section to achieving its requisite 250 members.

The Interim Executive Committee and first official Board of the Anthropology of Religion section were:
President, Michael J. Winkelman (Arizona St U)
Vice President, Benson Saler (Brandeis U)
Secretary, Eileen M. Mulhare (Colgate U)
Secretary, Deborah Shepherd (U of Minnesota);
Treasurer, Andrew S. Buckser (Purdue U);
Board Member, Erika Bourguignon (Ohio State U)
Board Member, Sarah Caldwell (U of Michigan);
Board Member, Stewart Guthrie (Fordham U-Lincoln Center)
Board Member, Morton Klass (Barnard C)
Board Member, Michael Lambek (U of Toronto)
Board Member, Rebecca Lester (UC-San Diego);
Board Member, James L. Peacock (U of North Carolina).

Communications

A variety of activities were undertaken to enhance communication with the ARS membership. These included:

AR-News list serve initiated by Sarah Caldwell

A web page established by Deborah Shepherd at

<http://www.uwgb.edu/~sar/index.htm>. The web page includes membership information, by-laws, annual reports, announcements, and links to related sites.

A newsletter established by Rebecca Lester and Deborah Shepherd

The ARS column in the Anthropology Newsletter was edited by Andy Buckser

A syllabi project was initiated by Andy Buckser

Conferences and AAA Sessions

Benson Saler chaired the first Anthropology of Religion Conference, with Michael Winkelman and Morton Klass as members. The conference was carried out in conjunction with the 75th Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society (CSAS) in Kansas City, Missouri. from April 2-5, 1998. There were 40 presentations in our portion of the program. At the annual conference, we held a business meeting, which was attended by AAA president Jane Hill.

Membership Committee Report (from Rebecca Lester)