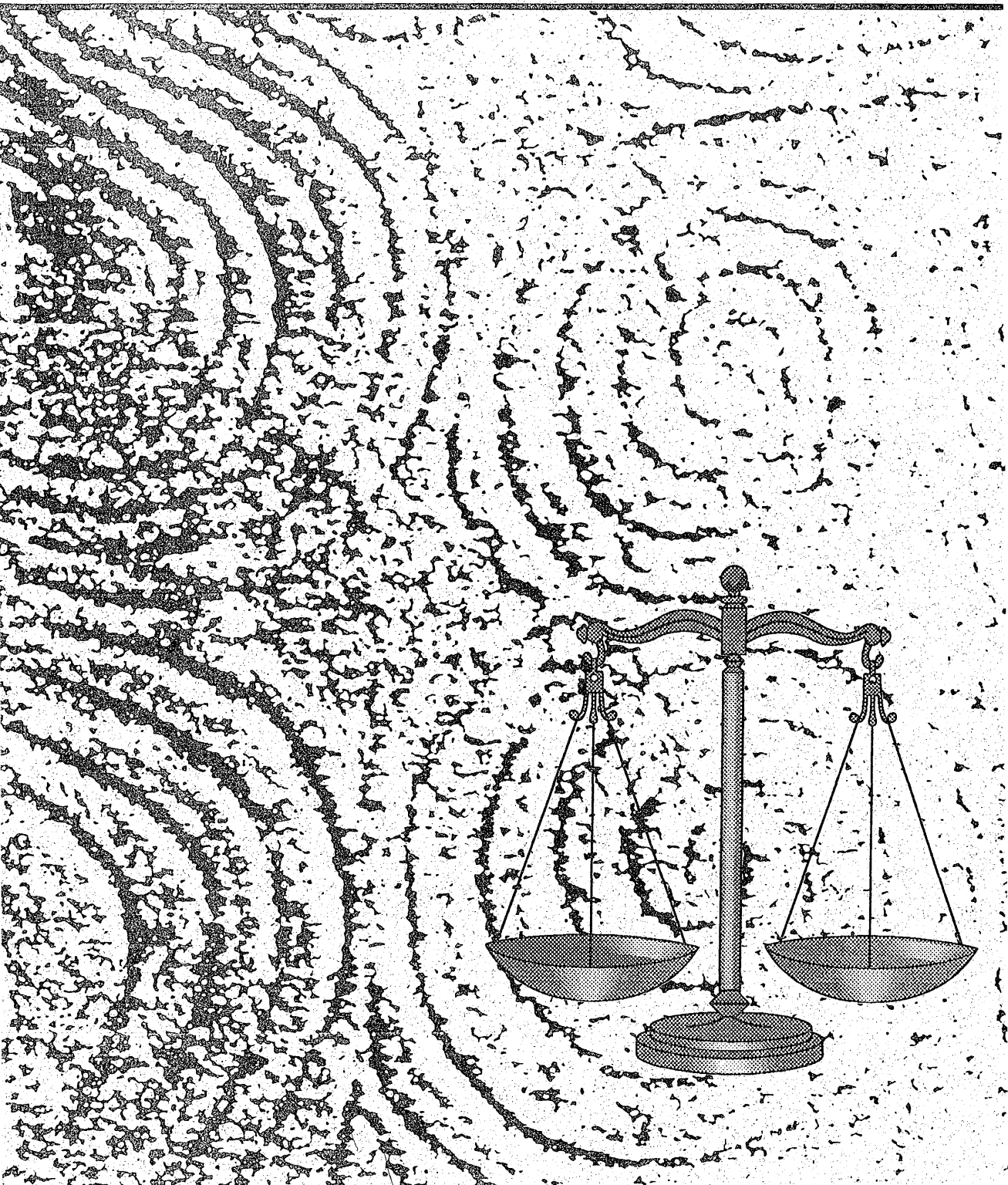


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REVIEW

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The Australian Association for the Study of Religions is a professional organization with a membership of more than 300, made up of teachers, academics, students and others with knowledge and experience of religious traditions.

Many members also hold membership in other societies representing specific disciplines and cross-disciplinary fields. The AASR aims to function as a meeting place where the study of religion in its broadest dimensions may be fostered. It owes a considerable debt of gratitude to the Charles Strong Trust for financial support.

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Editors' Note

It was good to meet many of you at the 1994 Conference in Adelaide last July, to make new acquaintances and to revive older ones. There were some exciting events at the Conference, not least among which was the launch of *Claiming Our Rites: Studies in Religion by Australian Scholars*. The book caught many people's imaginations and has been reviewed in this edition of the journal by Juliet Sheen (p.87.)

The full list of papers presented at the AASR/ANZATS/ANZSTS has also been included in this volume. Some of those papers were excellent in content and in presentation. Others were, to be perfectly honest, a disappointment. John Bodycomb has written his own cogent comment on the variation which might well be noted by future aspiring presenters (p.91).

Some important decisions were made at the Annual General Meeting of AASR. In particular, it was decided to appoint an editorial committee for the AASR Review. By making this a refereed journal, contributors to the journal receive points in the index of research performance which is being used in the allocation of money for research in the universities. For a full explanation of this, see Alan Black's report as president of AASR on page 82. The editorial board is:

Alan Black (UNE) as chair of AASR Publications Committee,
'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes (CRA) as co-editors of the *Review*,
Enid Adam (Edith Cowan University),
Victor Hayes,
Trevor Jordan (QUT),
Elaine Lindsay (US),
Penny Magee (National Centre for South Asian Studies).

Apart from refereeing articles submitted to the *Review*, the committee will be undertaking a review of the style and format of the *Review*. The next *Review* may arrive in a different sized envelope!

With this copy of the *Review*, you will receive an index. Keep it with your copies of the *Review*, and we are sure that you will find it will make them even more valuable.

'Tricia Blombery and Philip Hughes

P.S. We have an apology to make to Robin Gerster whose name was spelt incorrectly in the previous edition of the *Review*.