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ISSN 1607-4815



# ***Bulletin***

**World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies  
Unión mundial de las sociedades filosóficas católicas  
Weltunion der Katholischen Philosophischen Gesellschaften**

**n.s. Vol. 2, no. 1**

**summer / été / verano 2003**

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This is the third issue of the new series of the *Bulletin of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies* (WUCPS).

In this issue we feature information on the XXI World Congress of Philosophy and the International Conference on *The Dialogue of Cultural Traditions : A Global Perspective*, to be held in Istanbul, starting on August 8, 2003.

We also include information on forthcoming conferences, calls for papers, and news from past conferences in which the World Union has been involved.

Those wishing to receive future issues of the *Bulletin* are invited to copy and complete the form on the back page of the *Bulletin*.

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**Council - WUCPS/ Conseil - UMSCP  
2000-2005**

<p><b>President / Président</b> Prof. George McLean Cardinal Station, P.O. Box 261 Washington, DC, 20064 USA tel.: (202) 319-5636 fax.: (202) 319-6089 e-mail: mclean@cua.edu</p>	<p><b>Past President / Président sortant:</b> Prof. Jean Ladrière Rue de Charnoy 6/208 B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium / Belgique</p>	<p><b>Secretary-General / Secrétaire generale:</b> Prof. William Sweet Department of Philosophy St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5 tel.: (902) 867-2341 fax: (902) 867-3243 e-mail: wsweet@stfx.ca</p>
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The purpose of the World Union is:

*i) to initiate and develop contacts with individuals and associations who are engaged philosophical research and study in, or consistent with, the Catholic Christian tradition—particularly with those who, for social or political reasons or on account of geographical location, have not been able to do enter into a closer relationship with philosophers elsewhere.*

*ii) to serve as a conduit of information about meetings, conferences and other matters of common interest*

*iii) to help, when asked, and as far as possible, in organizing and sponsoring lectures and educational exchanges, particularly in those regions where there is an interest in the Catholic Christian philosophical traditions*

*iv) to help, when asked and as far as possible, in the publicity and organisation of conferences on themes consistent with the work of the World Union and, especially, with world congresses of Christian philosophers*

The Bulletin is also available on the Website in electronic format (ISSN 1607 – 4823)

***For further information on the World Union, see “What is the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies?” on pages 14 and 15, or check the***

**Website:** <http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/wu-info.html>

**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR****MOT DU REDACTEUR**

This issue of the Bulletin is published just prior to the XXI World Congress of Philosophy (to be held, August 10 to 17, in Istanbul, Turkey), and also prior to the International Conference on *The Dialogue of Cultural Traditions : A Global Perspective*, to be held in Istanbul, at the Istanbul Kültür University [E5 Karayolu No: 22 Sirinevler Bahçelievler], on August 8-9, 2003.

The World Union is actively involved in both conferences.

The conference on *The Dialogue of Cultural Traditions*, organized by the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (CRVP) (through the efforts of Prof. George McLean and by Prof. Safak Ural, Chair of the Philosophy Department of Istanbul University) will meet over two days, with several keynote addresses, and concurrent panel discussions on: “Ways of thinking” (e.g., epistemology and hermeneutics), “Person and community” (e.g., rights and duties), “Global horizons” (e.g., pluralism and tolerance), and “Ethics.”

In the evening there will also be Regional colloquia for delegates from i) Africa, ii) South and East Asia, and iii) Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

(For more detailed information, see <http://www.crvp.org/conf/Istanbul/program.htm>)

The conference will build on the over 100 volumes published by the Council in the RVP series, “Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change,” produced by teams of philosophers from all parts of the world. It will enable mutual critique of work done, determine work that is now needed, and plan responses through regional and global cooperation in philosophy.

The World Union, along with the International Society for Metaphysics (President: Prof. Tomonobu Imamichi, Tokyo), are co-sponsoring this conference.

The World Union is involved in the organization of two **Round Tables** during the XXI World Congress of Philosophy.

The first Round Table – on “Philosophy Facing Society in the World Context: Identity in Crisis” – will be held at the very beginning of the conference, on **Sunday, August 10**, 2003, from 14h00 to 15h50, in the Marmara room of the Convention Centre. Speakers will include Dr. William Sweet (Canada), Dr. Anja Steinbauer (Germany), Dr. Kuan-Min Huang (Taiwan/China), Dr. Cristal Huang (Taiwan/China) and Dr. John Ozolins (Australia).

The second Round Table – on “Rights, Responsibilities, and Tradition” – will be held on **Friday, August 15**, from 14.00 to 15.50, in the Red Hall. Speakers will include Dr. Tran Van Doan (Taiwan), Dr. Chih-Sheng Yang (Taiwan), Dr. John Ozolins (Australia), and Dr. William Sweet (Canada).

The Round Table will be chaired by the President of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies, Dr. George F. McLean.

During the next five years, the World Union will be actively consolidating contacts in Asia and Africa, as well as expanding contacts in Latin America, Europe, and North America. Individuals and philosophical organizations interested in the objectives of the World Union, who wish to participate in World Union sponsored events, or who would be interested in publicizing conferences and colloquia that would be of interest to World Union members, are invited to contact Professor William Sweet, at Department of Philosophy, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2W5 CANADA / Phone: (902) 867-2341 / fax: (902) 867-3243 / e-mail: [wsweet@stfx.ca](mailto:wsweet@stfx.ca)

*The Dialogue of Cultural Traditions : A Global Perspective*

Istanbul Kültür University  
 E5 Karayolu No: 22 Sirinevler Bahçelievler,  
 Istanbul, Turkey  
 August 8-9, 2003

**August 8**

9.00: Opening Session - George F. McLean (U.S.A.); Safak Ural (Turkey); Cetin Bolcal (Turkey)

9.30-12.45 : Keynote addresses: Zagorka Golubovic (Serbia); Semou Pathe Gueye (Senegal); Vincent Shen (Taiwan/Canada)

12.45-13.15 : Brief Introduction of Panel Themes: Burhanettin Tatar (Turkey): Ways of Thinking and Interpreting; Plamen Makariev (Bulgaria): Person and Community; Chibueze C. Udeani (Nigeria/Austria): Globalization; Tadeusz Buksinski (Poland): Ethics and Values

13.15-14.15 : Lunch (provided)

14.15-16.30

Panel A-I. "Ways of Thinking: Epistemology" Chair: Jerzy Wojciechowski (University of Ottawa, Canada) Discussion Leader: Tran Van Doan (National University of Taiwan, Taiwan)

Panel B-I. "Person and Community: Rights and Duties" Chair: Abu Yaareb Marzouki (University of Tunis, Tunisia) and Som Sujimon Mohamad (International Islamic University of Malaysia, Malaysia) Discussion Leader: Plamen Makariev (University of Sofia, Bulgaria)

16.30-16.45 : Tea Break

16.45-18.45

Panel A-II. "Ways of Interpretation: Hermeneutics" Chair: Tomonobu Imamichi (University of Tokyo, Japan) Discussion Leader: Burhanettin Tatar (University of Samsun, Turkey)

Panel B-II. "Person and Community: Cultural Foundations and Civil Society" Chair: Oliva Blanchette (Boston College, U.S.A.) Discussion Leader: William Sweet (St. Francis Xavier University, Canada)

18.45-19.00 : Snacks (provided)

19.00-20.30 : Regional Colloquia: Africa / South and East Asia / Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**August 9**

9.00 Panel Discussions

Panel C-I. "Global Horizons: Pluralism and Tolerance" Chair: Pham Minh Hac (Academy of Social Sciences of Vietnam) Discussion Leader: Gazala Irfan (Lahor University, Pakistan)

Panel D-I. "Ethics and Aesthetics" Chair: S.R. Bhatt (University of Delhi, India) Discussion Leader: Tadeusz Buksinski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)

11.15-13.15

C-II. "Global Horizons: Dialogue vs Hegemony; Cooperation vs Conflict" Chair: G. Avani (Iranian Institute of Philosophy and Wisdom, Iran) and Faruk Akyol (Istanbul University, Turkey) Discussion Leader: Chibueze C. Udeani (University of Salzburg, Austria/Nigeria)

D-II. "Ethics: Ecology and Public Service" Chair: Venant Cauchy (University Montreal, Canada) and Joseph Nyasani (University of Nairobi, Kenya) Discussion Leader: Ouyang Kang (Huazhong University, China)

13.15-14.30 : Lunch (provided)

14.30-16.30 : Reports of panels, discussion

Tran Van Doan (Taiwan): Ways of Thinking and Interpreting, William Sweet (Canada): Person and Community, Gazala Irfan (Pakistan): Globalization, Ouyang Kang (China): Ethics and Values

16.30-16.45: Tea Break

16.45-18.00 : Regional Reports and forward planning and Concluding Observations

G. Avani (Iran), S.R. Bhatt (India), Venant Cauchy (Canada), Tomonobu Imamichi (Japan), Faruk Akyol (Turkey), Hu Yeping (China)

18.00-18.15 : Snacks (provided)

18.15-19.15 : Special session on H. Reichenbach.

## THE COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN VALUES AND PHILOSOPHY

### 2003 FALL SEMINAR

#### **Communication Across Cultures: The Hermeneutics of Culture in a Global Age**

Sept. 4 - Nov. 6, 2003, Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.

For further information, please contact:

The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy

Cardinal Station, P.O. Box 261

Washington, D.C. 20064 USA

tel./fax or voice message: 202/319-6089

e-mail: [cua-rvp@cua.edu](mailto:cua-rvp@cua.edu) website <http://www.crvp.org>

or

see [http://www.crvp.org/seminar/seminar\\_03.htm](http://www.crvp.org/seminar/seminar_03.htm)

For information on **CRVP Conferences for 2003-2004**, please check

<http://www.crvp.org/conf/index.htm>

**Please contact Professor George McLean (at: [mclean@cua.edu](mailto:mclean@cua.edu)) in case there are any changes or additions to this schedule**

## World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies

Round Tables during the XXI World Congress of Philosophy - Istanbul  
(held at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center)

### **Round Table 1: Philosophy Facing Society in the World Context: Identity in Crisis**

August 10, 2003, 14h00-15h50

Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Center – Marmara Room

#### **Speakers:**

1. "Locating the Self: Community, Relationships and Identity,"  
Dr. John Ozolins, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia.
2. "Cultural Identity in Contemporary Confucianism"  
Dr. Anja Steinbauer, Editor: *Philosophy Now*, Germany
3. "Philosophy? A Question of Cultural Identity"  
Dr. Kuan-Min Huang, Department of Philosophy, Hua-Fan University, Taiwan
4. "Self-identity and Cultural Crisis: De-constructing 'Crisis' in the Context of Generalizable Interests,"  
Dr. Cristal Huang, Dept. of Philosophy, Soochow University, Taiwan
5. "Cultural Identity and Cultural Integrity"  
Dr. William Sweet, Department of Philosophy, St Francis Xavier University, Canada

**Chair:** Dr. William Sweet

### **Round Table 2: Rights, Responsibilities, and Tradition**

August 15, 2003, 14.00-15.50, Red Hall

Discussions of rights--natural rights, civil rights, and human rights--dominate political discourse not only in the west, but the world over, and it is fair to say that many of us live in societies in which there is (at least officially) a 'human rights culture.' Particularly since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the expression of the value of human dignity has often been framed in terms of these rights.

But this emphasis on rights has been criticized by some who argue that it promotes rights while ignoring responsibilities, and that it favours the individual while ignoring the effects on traditions and cultures.

In this round table, participants will discuss rights and the human rights culture and their implications for the community, culture, and tradition.

#### **Speakers:**

1. "Rorty, Rights and Obligations"  
Dr. John Ozolins, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia.
2. "Rights and Cultural Traditions"  
Dr. William Sweet, Department of Philosophy, St Francis Xavier University, Canada
3. "Response as Duty - Reflection on Responsibility"  
Dr. Tran Van Doan, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.
4. "The Right Must Be Right: Why Hegel Makes His Ethics in Philosophy of Right?"  
Dr. Chih-Sheng Yang, Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University

**Chair:** Dr. George F. McLean, President, World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies

## CALL FOR PAPERS

***Philosophy, Culture, and Traditions***

*a journal of the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies  
(a member of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP))*

The Journal invites papers in English, French, Spanish, Italian, or German for publication in its third number on “**Rights, Responsibilities, and Traditions.**”

The themes of future numbers will include: “**Social Teaching and Cultural Pluralism,**” and “**Faith and Freedom.**”

The journal is refereed, is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index* and will be indexed in the *Reperatoire bibliographique de philosophie* (Louvain).

Papers should be no longer than 7,500 words in length, and should normally relate to the theme of the issue.

Articles outside the theme of the issue will also be considered for publication.

For additional information on technical requirements and bibliographical style, please contact:  
Professor William Sweet, Editor, ***Philosophy, Culture, and Traditions***  
Department of Philosophy, St Francis Xavier University,  
Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5  
CANADA  
fax 1 902-867-3243; tel 1 902-867-2341; Internet: wsweet@stfx.ca

**Prajña Vihāra: The Journal of Philosophy and Religion**  
Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand

*Prajna Vihara* is a multicultural, pluralistic journal of philosophy and religion dedicated to the promotion of mutual understanding among the peoples of the world. The Pali term “prajna vihara” means “temple of wisdom,” and indeed the editors encourage creative academic work that shares the wisdom of the trained academic mind with a readership of scholars working throughout the world.

The Editor and editorial board of *Prajna Vihara* welcome specialized articles on philosophy and religion that seek to shed light upon pluralism and harmony between the various philosophical and religious traditions of peoples and races. They especially welcome those articles that exhibit the role and importance of philosophical and religious thinking which aim at harmonizing the various traditions of both the East and West.

*Prajna Vihara* is published biannually by the Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion at Assumption University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Editorial correspondence, including manuscripts for submission (on diskette or by E-mail as file attachments) and books for review should be sent to:

Dr Imtiyaz Yusuf, Editor, *Prajna Vihara*  
Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion  
Assumption University, Hua Mak  
Bangkok, Thailand 10240

Tel.: +662 3004543-62, ext. 1325,1330 Fax: +662 7191521 E-mail: prsisy@au.ac.th

## Conferences and calls for papers

**Please notify the Editor if there are conferences, symposia, or special events that you would like to publicize, without cost, in the *Bulletin***

**For a current list of conferences, please check:**

[http://www.crvp.org/Philosophical\\_Calendar/](http://www.crvp.org/Philosophical_Calendar/)

or

[http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/Conference\\_Page.html](http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/Conference_Page.html)

20-25 August 2003 - The Olympic Center for Philosophy and Culture, Ancient Olympia  
Anglo-American Idealism Conference

Organising Committee: Professor Leonidas Bargeliotes, Faculty of Philosophy in Athens  
or Dr. Stamatoula Panagakou, University of York

Contact: [sp117@york.ac.uk](mailto:sp117@york.ac.uk)

Web page: <http://iago.stfx.ca/arpa/idealism2003.htm>

18-25 August 2003 - Warsaw, Poland - 3rd Dialogue and Universalism Congress

"Towards A New Young Europe": Co-Creating Europeanism as a Meta-Theory: The Scientific, Metaphilosophical and Ethical Planning of Integration and Universalization Processes

Organised by: DIALOGUE AND UNIVERSALISM, Institute of Philosophy, Warsaw University  
Krakowskie Przedmieocie 3, 00-047 Warsaw 64, Poland

Phone: (48-22) 55-23-705 // Fax: (48-22) 826-57-34 and 826-75-20

E-mail: [dialogue@mercury.ci.uw.edu.pl](mailto:dialogue@mercury.ci.uw.edu.pl) // <http://www.dialogue.uw.edu.pl>

16-19 October – Chicago, USA

The American Maritain Association 2003 Annual Meeting  
at Hyatt Regency Hotel / University of Chicago - Chicago, Illinois

Theme: "The Human Person and A Culture of Freedom"

Contact: Program Chair, Christopher Cullen, S.J., Fordham University, Spellman Hall, Bronx,  
New York 10458, or by email: [ccullen@fordham.edu](mailto:ccullen@fordham.edu).

24-25 October - Ottawa, Canada

The Canadian Jacques Maritain Association / l'association canadienne Jacques-Maritain

Theme: **Maritain and Immortality**

Contact: Prof. William Sweet, Department of Philosophy, St. Francis Xavier University  
P. O. Box 5000, Antigonish, N. S. B2G 2W5

Voice: (902) 867-2341; Fax: (902) 867-3243; Email: [wsweet@stfx.ca](mailto:wsweet@stfx.ca)

<http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/Maritain03b-1.html>

31 October - 2 November - Houston, Texas, USA

ACPA (hosted by The University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX)

Theme: "Philosophy and Intercultural Understanding,"

18-21 December - New Delhi, India

IAHR Regional Conference on the Study of Religions in India  
Theme: Religions in the Indic Civilisation  
Contact: Madhu Kishwar, Convenor, at [www.indicreligions.com](http://www.indicreligions.com)  
Email: [madhukishwar@indicreligions.com](mailto:madhukishwar@indicreligions.com) or [madhuk@csdsdelhi.org](mailto:madhuk@csdsdelhi.org)

## 2004

19-21 January - University of Natal and University of Durban-Westville  
31st Annual Conference, Philosophical Society of Southern Africa,

Dates TBA - Ottawa, Canada

The Canadian Jacques Maritain Association / l'association canadienne Jacques-Maritain  
in association with the Institut Internazionale Jacques Maritain (Rome)

Theme: Philosophy, Globalization, and the Environment

For further information, please contact:

Prof. William Sweet, Department of Philosophy, St. Francis Xavier University

P. O. Box 5000, Antigonish, N. S. B2G 2W5

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<http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/Maritain03b.html>

1-6 April, Barcelona,

The Tenth European Conference on Science and Theology,

Theme: Streams of Wisdom? Science, Theology and Cultural Dynamics

Contact: Dr. Hubert Meisinger, Ev. Studierenden-/Hochschulgemeinde, Erbacher Str. 17,

D-64287 Darmstadt, Germany Phone: +49 6151 49 44 48 // Fax: +49 6151 42 41 11 /

e-mail: [meisinger@esg-darmstadt.de](mailto:meisinger@esg-darmstadt.de) Website: <http://www.ope-uex.com/esssat2004>

6-8 May - Université de Montréal, Canada

Deliberation, Desires, and Emotions: A Debate among Medieval and Contemporary Philosophers: a bilingual conference

Contact: Fabienne Pironet, Université de Montréal, Département de philosophie,

C.P 6128, Succursale Centre-ville, Montreal, QC H3C 3J7

or [christine.tappolet@UMONTREAL.CA](mailto:christine.tappolet@UMONTREAL.CA)

30 - 31 May - University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Canadian Jacques Maritain Association

Theme: **Ideas Under Fire**

Contact: Dr. Jonathan Lavery, Philosophy and Contemporary Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University:

Brantford, 73 George Street, Brantford, Ontario, CANADA N3T 2Y3;

Telephone: (519) 756-8228; Fax: (519) 759-2127;

e-mail: Jonathan Lavery, [jlavery@wlu.ca](mailto:jlavery@wlu.ca) // or Louis Groarke, [groarke@yorku.ca](mailto:groarke@yorku.ca)

// William Sweet, [wsweet@stfx.ca](mailto:wsweet@stfx.ca) URL:

<http://iago.stfx.ca/people/wsweet/Maritaincall04a.html>

14 - 17 July - Melbourne, Australia

International Society of Business, Economics and Ethics WORLD CONGRESS Theme: Freedoms and Responsibilities - Ethics, Leadership and Corporate Governance in a Global Economy

<http://www.conferences.unimelb.edu.au/ISBEECongress/index.html>

Full papers should contain no more than 4200 words (plus a 100-150 word abstract) and must be submitted by January 5, 2004. Notification of acceptance for presentation (30 minutes) will be given by March 15, 2004.

2 - 7 August - The University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain.

International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI), Ninth International Conference

Contact: Ezra Talmor, Kibbutz Nachshonim, DN Merkaz, 73190, Israel

Email: ISSEI@nachshonim.org.il or <http://www.unav.es/cee/issei/default.html>

24 to 28 August - Nantes, France

Trentième Congrès de l'Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de Langue Française

Theme: L'homme et la Reflexion

Présentation, appel à communications, conditions, sont sur le site du congrès :

<http://www.congres-scientifiques.com/asplf04/> or

<http://www.societenantaisedephilosophie.com>

Contact : [secretaire@societenantaisedephilosophie.com](mailto:secretaire@societenantaisedephilosophie.com)

## News of Past Conferences

**Symposium on: Philosophy, Religion, and Science / Philosophie, religions, sciences** (May 26-27, 2002 - University of Toronto, Canada)

The conference was held in association with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities and with the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (additional support was obtained from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, and the Canadian Jacques Maritain Association).

The conference took place in French and English; the conference was divided into 4 thematically coherent sessions. Papers were presented by Profs. **Hannah Gay** (History, Simon Fraser University /Imperial College, University of London), **Ludovico Galleni** (Science, Università di Pisa), **Richard Feist** (Philosophy, University of Ottawa), **Leslie Armour** (Dominican College), **Kenneth Himma** (Philosophy, University of Washington), **John Bell** (Philosophy, University of Western Ontario) **Lawrence Dewan** (Philosophy, Dominican College, Ottawa), **Jerome Gellman** (Philosophy, Ben Gurion University, Israel), **Gregory J. Walters** (Theology, Saint Paul University), **Willem B. Drees** (Theology, University of Leiden, the Netherlands), and **Neil A. Manson** (Philosophy, University of Notre Dame) There were three papers by graduate students / recent graduates: **François Poitras** (Théologie, Université Saint-Paul), **Paul Allen** (CTNS and Theology, PhD Saint Paul University), and **Michael Kurak** (PhD Philosophy, University of Warwick).

In **Session 1**, discussion focussed on the background and history of the interrelation of science, religion and philosophy. Since much of the contemporary debate draws on or alludes to the nineteenth and early twentieth century discussion of science and religion, it was important to see what scientists, philosophers, and religious thinkers actually held and what specific issues were raised by scientific discoveries and by reflection on religion and religious belief. The **second and third** sessions dealt with the implications of recent work in cosmology, biology, and consciousness studies for religion and religious belief. Specifically, the second session focussed on the issue of intelligent design and 'fine tuning' arguments which bear on attempts at providing cosmo-

logical or design accounts compatible with or implicit in religious belief. The third sub-theme focussed on how the rise of scientific method, of the biological sciences (e.g., genetics), and of technology bears on an adequate understanding of the human person as a being open to a transcendent reality. The **fourth session** focused on 'conceptual issues' underlying the previous themes. They also dealt with issues affecting the possibility of effective communication among scientists, philosophers, and theologians.

Several of the papers will be published in a volume to be edited by William Sweet and Richard Feist (Saint Paul University, Ottawa). Publication is anticipated in late 2003

**The Philosophical Encounter Circle**, met in Taipei, Taiwan, August 15-17, 2002. The conference theme was "Philosophy, Your World & You."

This year's conference was, as usual, organized by Dr Cristal Huang (cris@mail.scu.edu.tw ; fax: +886-2-28281632 ).

Speakers included Professors Du Bauruei ("The Philosophical Consciousness and the Way of Doing Toward the Study of the Chinese Philosophy"), Bernard Li ("Tao-Logos: Lao Tzu and Philo"); Kuo Chao-Shun ("Interpretation and Practice-About Tiantai Zhiyi's Interpretation of Guanxin"); Michael Mi ("The Concept of Possible Worlds"); Alastair Beattie ("Classical Greek Philosophy As a Base for the Cause of Gravity"); Lee Hsien-Chung ("To Reflect the Syncretism and its development from the Spirits of Science and Humanism in Confucianism and Mohism"); Joseph Hsiao ("The Thanatological Dimension of Transcendental Anthropology"); William Sweet ("Being Human"); Huang Kuan Min ("Image-in-the-world"); Chung-Chi Yu ("Life-world and Cultural Difference"); Hans-Rudolf Kantor ("The Concept of World in Tiantai Thought"); Shihan Deng ("Man's Encounter with the Historical World"); and Cristal Huang ("Interpretation and the Frontier of Our World")

For more information on *The Philosophical Encounter Circle*, please contact Dr Huang or see: <http://mail.scu.edu.tw/~cris/>

**The Asian Association of Catholic Philosophers** and the **International Society for Metaphysics** met in Akademia Park, Kisarazu-shi, Chiba (Japan) from August 20-23, 2002.

The theme was: "Violence and Peace in Our Time: Refections and Advice from the Side of Philosophy and Theology."

The meeting was organized by Prof. Tomonobu Imamichi, of the *Centre International pour Etude Comparée de Philosophie et d'Esthétique*, and the President of the AACP, Fr. Eui-Chai Tjeng, Sogang University, Korea.

The Conference opened with remarks by the President of the AACP, Fr Tjeng, and by Professor Imamichi. Plenary papers were read by Professor Jean Ladrière, Université catholique de Louvain (Violence and Religion); Wook Chang, Yonsei University, Seoul (A Thomistic Reflection on Violence in the Contemporary World), Manuel B. Dy, Jr, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines (Fasting as a Way to Peace, Gandhi and Chuang Tse); William Sweet, St Francis Xavier University, Canada (Freedom of Religion and the Justification of Violence); I. Bambang Suharto, Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia (Religion and Violence); Youngsuck (Simon) Moon, Kangnam University, Korea (Global Healing in Cross Cultural Perspective); Tran Van Doan, National Taiwan University (The Dialectic of Violence in Asian Philosophy); Warayuth Sriwarajuel, Assumption University, Thailand (The Justification of Pacifism); Kwan-chun Lee, Myong Ji College, Korea (School Violence in Korea and Catholic Philosophic Approach); and Vu Kim Chinh, sj, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei (The Messianic Voice of Suf-

fering Victims).

There were workshop sessions on “The Corporate Citizen as a Member of Civil Society” and “The Symbolism of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan,” and also visits to several religious sites.

**Symposium on: Philosophy, Religion, and Democracy / Philosophie, démocratie, religions,** held at Dalhousie University - Halifax, Canada, on Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 1, 2003

The conference was held in association with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities and with the financial support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. (Additional support was obtained from The Centre for Philosophy, Theology, and Cultural Traditions of St Francis Xavier University, and the Canadian Jacques Maritain Association.)

Papers were presented by Profs. Forough Jahanbakhsh (Religious Studies, Queen's University), Stephen Scheck (Political Science, Catholic University of America); Miguel Rumayor (Philosophy, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico); Marcela Cristi (Sociology, Wilfrid Laurier University); Kim Parker (Religious Studies, Memorial University of Newfoundland); Leslie Armour (Philosophy, Dominican College); S. Paneerselvam (Philosophy, University of Madras); David Lea (Philosophy, American University of Sharjah (UAE)/University of Papua New Guinea); Louis Perron (Philosophy, Saint Paul University); and William James (Religious Studies, Queen's University).

Two graduate students were also involved: Priyadarshi Shukla (Harvard Divinity School) and Chris Callaway (Philosophy, Saint Louis University)

In Session 1, discussion focused on “Origins: Politics, religion, and democratic principles”—i.e., the ‘origins’ of liberal democracy in the western world, and the relation of religion and philosophy to democratic theory. Since much of the contemporary debate draws on or alludes to ideals of democracy and the history of the intersection of politics and religion, this session dealt with what earlier philosophers and religious thinkers actually held, what specific theoretical issues were raised by political events and conflicts of the time, and by the activities of religious institutions.

The second session dealt with “Democracy and Religious Traditions”—i.e., on the place of democracy within (principally) non-western religious traditions today.

The third session concerned “Roles of Religion in Contemporary Democratic Societies / religion dans les sociétés démocratiques contemporaines.” During the discussion, the audience took up the conclusions of earlier discussions of the relation of democracy and religion in order to see what room there is for religion in both postmodern and contemporary liberal democratic discourse

The fourth session focused on some of the implications of current events—the attacks in the United States and Indonesia, as well as crises in developing states (such as Papua New Guinea)—for the broader question of the relation of democratic ideals and religion.

By pursuing each of these sub-themes, the conference served to identify what (and where) the key issues in the discussion are, and what options are available to us in describing relations between religion and democracy.

Several of the papers will (subject to further editorial review) be published in a volume to be edited by William Sweet.

## New journals

### International Journal of Philosophy, Cultures and Values

– A journal of the Department of Philosophy, Lagos State University, Ojo invites scholarly papers for future publication.

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## What is the World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies?

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The World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies (WUCPS) was established in 1948 in Amsterdam, and is a founding member of the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP). (The Federation was founded in keeping with the general policy of UNESCO, promoting the development of democratic structures for the coordination of scholarly work, as an alternative to leaving this to the politics and ideologies of self elected academies.) The principal aim of the World Union (as described by its first President, I.M. Bochenski) is to represent the Catholic philosophical societies of the world in the deliberations of FISP.

For its first two decades the World Union remained in this formal role, which it still fulfills, of representation within FISP. In the 1960s two factors suggested that this was not enough. First, the Second Vatican Council developed the human dimension of the Catholic vision, stressing the presence of the Spirit working, within each person and people. Second, the general social turmoil throughout the world at that time reflected the process of decolonization and the search for equal participation by all groups.

By implication this moved the vision of Catholic philosophers and their societies from concentration upon the precise interpretation of a perennial scholastic philosophy to engaging the deep human issues experienced by peoples as they move ahead in time. The new emergence of the sense of the person and of human solidarity was a point of central concern in the face of the remaining, totalitarian oppression which marked the post World War II period. Hence, for example, in 1978 a World Union conference was hosted by Cardinal Wojtyla in Krakow. This was the last scholarly critique of the philosophy of solidarity before, with his election to the papacy as John Paul II, it blossomed into a movement which, within the decade, dramatically changed the complexion of the region. The volume of papers from this Krakow conference: *The Philosophy of Person: Solidarity and Cultural Creativity: Polish Philosophical Studies*

*I* was published then in samizdat form and in 1994 by The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy in Washington and by Paideia Publishers in Bucharest.

The natural evolution of this effort was to build bridges of cooperation not only within the community of Catholic philosophers, but to those of other traditions also concerned with the deeper philosophical foundations of human dignity and social progress. This has been done with the International Society for Metaphysics (ISM), a membership organization integrating philosophers from all traditions, and The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP), a committee of leading philosophers from all cultures to identify human issues in need of philosophical reflection, to bring together the needed personnel, and to publish the results of their research -- over 40 volumes published thusfar.

Since 1976, there has been a series of annual world conferences initiated through the WUCPS and the ISM, treating such themes as the human person, society and civil society, and culture.

In 1977, a series of 10 joint colloquia was initiated with Academies of Science in Central and Eastern Europe. These constituted the major systematic bridge for joint philosophical reflection and exchange between East and West Europe during the late '70s and '80s. Since 1987 a similar series of 10 colloquia with the Academies of Science in Beijing and Shanghai and with Peking and Fudan Universities has been the main point of philosophic interchange with China. A series of corresponding volumes is now being brought through press.

In 1980, in order to enable continued in-depth work beyond the possibilities of the single annual general conferences, the African member philosophers developed an approach through research teams. Each is based in a distinct university center thereby enabling continued substantive cooperative reflection and critique in the process of developing a joint volume on a specific theme. Before publication the drafts of these volumes are critically discussed in meetings of representatives of other teams.

To manage this progressively more intensive and extensive effort the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP) was formed in 1983. This committee of leading philosophers from all cultures of the world works to identify human issues in need of philosophical reflection, to bring together in teams the needed personnel, and to publish the results of their research. It serves to coordinate these projects and regional conferences, as well as to co-publish the resulting volumes.

This approach has resulted in a number of volumes from Africa. Since 1989 it has been the major mode of coordinated collaboration in Central and Eastern Europe, where 8 volumes on "Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Change" have been published and another 10 on "Building Democratic Societies: Values and Rights" are in process. Similar sets of volumes, especially on Civil Society, are now being developed in Central and South America, Africa and Central and South Asia.

An annual 10 week seminar in Washington brings together 10 representatives of these teams from all regions of the world along with an equal number of scholars from other disciplines, for interdisciplinary and intercultural studies of such crucial contemporary issues as "Relations between Cultures", "Freedom and Choice in a Democracy" and "Civil Society and Social Reconstruction", from each of which a volume is published.



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## Membership

### World Union of Catholic Philosophical Societies Union mondiale des sociétés catholiques de philosophie

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