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Introductory Information and Introduction

Harold Coward

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EDITORS

EDITOR: Harold Coward
Centre for Studies in Religion and
Society
University of Victoria
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 2Y2, Canada
E-mail csrs@uvic.ca

CO-EDITOR: Anand Amaladass
Institute of Philosophy and
Culture
81 Lattice Bridge Road
Thiruvanniyur, Madras
India 600 041

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Ludgard De Decker

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Shirley Embra

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The Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin is an annual scholarly journal published jointly at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, Canada, and at the Institute of Philosophy and Culture, Madras, India. It is the official publication of the Society for Hindu-Christian Studies.

The aim of the *Bulletin* is to create a worldwide forum for the presentation of Hindu-Christian scholarly studies, book reviews, and news of past and upcoming events. Materials selected for publication will be balanced between historical research and contemporary practice and, where possible, will employ analytical and theoretical analysis set within the context of our shared contemporary experience. Contributions are invited and may be addressed to either the Editor or the Co-Editor. Articles of 3000-3500 words are preferred. Send manuscript in paper form as well as on diskette. A stylesheet is available on request. The *Bulletin* adopts a policy of non-gender specific language where applicable. All articles are subject to review before acceptance and may receive editorial modification in the course of publication.

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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

WITH THE MILLENNIUM upon us, our thoughts turn to "time" in an almost obsessive fashion. Views of time have changed over the years. In the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, most people did not know the exact year of their birth or the year in which they were living. Without newspapers and news broadcasts constantly before them proclaiming a world in constant change, there was little need to know the exact calendar year. A long life could be lived without seeing major changes. One year resembled another, timing one's sensitivity to eternity rather than to the pressures of time we feel today.

Time is the simplest subject and yet the most complex – as the poet shows:

Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past...
At the still point of the turning world. Neither
flesh nor fleshless;
Neither from nor towards; at the still point,
there the dance is,
But neither arrest nor movement. And do not
call it finity.
Where past and future and gathered.

T. S. Eliot, "Burnt Norton"

Each religion has expressed this simple complexity in its own way, in scripture, theology, and silence. In this issue of the *Bulletin* we explore reflections on time found in Christianity and Hinduism – a suitable way to mark the millennium.

Harold Coward, Editor

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies: Annual Meeting
Friday, 19 November 1999
Saturday, 20 November 1999
at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion /
Society of Biblical Literature

Discussions of
Julius Lipner's *Brahmabandhab Upadhyay: The Life and Thought of a Revolutionary*
and of "The Conversion Controversy and the Hindu-Christian Encounter in India Today"
as well as Annual Business Meeting.

Both parts are open to all who are interested.

Contact: Mary McGee (mm383@columbia.edu) or see www.acusd.edu/theo/hcs-1

For further details, see p. 39.