



January 2004

Reports & News

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Recommended Citation

(2004) "Reports & News," *Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies*: Vol. 17, Article 13.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.7825/2164-6279.1322>

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REPORTS & NEWS

Society for Hindu-Christian Studies News

2003 Annual General Meeting

From the Secretary...

The 2003 Annual Meetings of the Hindu-Christian Studies Society were held in Atlanta, Georgia. On Friday night we enjoyed a panel on the winner of the "Best Book in Hindu-Christian Studies, 2000-2002," which was Corinne G. Dempsey's *Kerala Christian Sainthood: Collisions of Culture and Worldview in South India* (Oxford, 2001). Many thanks to the members of the book award committee, for their hard work picking a winner among so many strong contenders. Thanks also to those who participated in the panel, including Mathew Schmalz, Anne Monius, Joanne Waghorne and Francis X. Clooney, Selva Raj (presider) and Corinne herself, for their provocative questions and comments. As Parimal Patil, chair of the Book Committee, remarked, judging by the quality of books submitted, the field of Hindu-Christian Studies appears to be in very good health.

Another high point of the meetings last year was Saturday morning's panel organized around the question, "Can Women Become Priests?" The papers presented by Susan Ross, Maura Ryan, Vasudha Narayanan and Laurie L. Patton raised fascinating issues about the relationship between authority, gender and

"eligibility." Many thanks to the panelists for participating, to Leslie Orr for her thought-provoking response and to Deepak Sarma for gracefully presiding.

President Rachel Fell McDermott began our annual business meeting by inviting commemorations of the lives of two recently deceased members of the society: Judson Trapnell and Fr. William Cenkner. These were followed by a moment of silence.

According to our treasurer, Bradley Malkovsky, the financial health of the society is good, and the membership is increasing, but needs to increase more substantially to ensure the sound future of the society. Tinu Ruparell, SHCS Webmaster, announced that the website has a new URL: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~shcs/>. A fully updated website should be introduced before the next meeting in 2004.

The assembled members of the Society elected three new members to the board of directors: Mathew Schmalz of College of the Holy Cross, Anne Monius of Harvard University, and Tinu Ruparell of the University of Calgary. Many thanks to outgoing board members Corinne Dempsey, Parimal Patil and John J. Thatamanil, and to Selva Raj and the members of the Nominations and Elections Committee for conducting the elections.

Submitted by Eliza F. Kent, Secretary.