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Reports & News

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REPORTS AND NEWS

2005 Annual General Meeting
Philadelphia, PA

Friday, November 18, 2005

7:30–10:00 p.m
Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Commonwealth A2

Missions to India – A Mixed Legacy:
Revisiting de Nobili at 400, Ziegenbalg at 300

The Friday night panel last year was a standing-room only affair, in which a group of international scholars including Paul Collins, University College Chichester, Daniel Jeyaraj, Andover-Newton Theological School, and Will Sweetman, University of Otago, shared new and ongoing scholarship on two pioneering, and controversial, figures in the history of Christianity in India. Many thanks to our Vice-President, Corinne Dempsey, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, for presiding (and helping to organize) and to Frank Clooney, Harvard University, for organizing the panel and giving us insights as a panelist into his own work on de Nobili. I was honored to serve as respondent to these four excellent papers.

Saturday, November 19th, 2005

9:00 am – 11:00 am
Courtyard by Marriott, Philadelphia Downtown, Room 104

Loving God in Light of Hindu and Christian Perspectives

On Saturday morning a large crowd enjoyed another outstanding panel, organized by Frank Clooney. Our panelists offered diverse examinations of the category of love for God in both Hindu and Christian traditions, comparing bhakti (within Ramanuja’s thought and Srivaishnava performance traditions) with love of God in several Western Christian contexts including the thought of Thomas Aquinas, Plato and Leibniz. Many thanks to our President, Deepak Sarma, Case Western Reserve University, for presiding, and to the panelists for their excellent contributions: Archana Venkatesan, St. Lawrence University; Martin Robindra Ganeri, University of Edinburgh; and Tinu Ruparell, University of Calgary. Special thanks are also due to John Carman, Harvard University, for his thoughtful and stimulating response.

Business Meeting: 11:00-11:30 a.m.
Deepak Sarma presided over the business meeting last Fall. At this time, the assembled members elected Michael T. McLaughlin was elected to the Board of Director’s in an off-year election. We fielded suggestions for the coming year’s panels, as usual, and discussed the desire to return to the SCHS custom of having at least one panel with a more creative format. We also announced a new membership outreach campaign that entails sending letters to prospective members, drawn by our board members from the AAR membership guide. Many apologies to those among our current members who mistakenly received a letter asking them if they wanted to join this fabulous society! We appreciate your patience as we fine-tune our direct marketing skills.

See you next year in Washington, DC!

Sincerely,

Eliza Kent, Secretary