

CSPS/ACÉP Bulletin, vol. 24, no. 2 (November 2000)

MESSAGE DU PRESIDENT / FROM THE PRESIDENT During the past year, **Kevin Coyle** was president of the Society. The year was especially busy with the International Conference on Patristic Studies at Oxford in August 1999 and our hosting of the Plenary Address at the Learned's in Edmonton (May 2000). For Kevin's hard work we are thankful, and we also are thankful for the work of **René-Michel Roberge**, who has been our treasurer for the last three years, and for the work of **Constance McLeese**, who has been our secretary. Our new treasurer is **Tim Hegedus** and our new secretary is **Patrick Gray**.

The year 2000 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the society, and in part we are publishing a new Membership Directory in hard copy to mark the occasion. You can also find the Directory, the names of the executive, and much else on our splendid [website](#), to which **Lucian Turcescu** gives much time and attention.

The executive held its autumn telephone meeting on 19 October. We discussed a number of matters, including our participation in the next Learned's. We shall be meeting at Université Laval, 27-29 May 2001. **Anne Pasquier** graciously agreed to be our local representative, and **Lucian Turcescu** is chair of the Programme Committee. **Gérard Vallée** has accepted our invitation to give a presentation on his book, *The Shape of Christianity: The History and Literature of its Formative Centuries [100-800]*. **Harry Maier** and **Tim Hegedus** will be the respondents. There will be a cooperative seminar, organised by **Theo de Bruyn**, with the Buddhist Studies Group of the CSSR on 26 May on the topic of parallels between "naming" varieties of Buddhism in Canada and varieties of Christianity in antiquity (see below for details). Papers for the seminar will be by invitation.

Our membership numbers have dropped and is a matter for concern. We encourage you all to approach people who you think might be interested in being members of the Society, and especially students. Application forms are available at <http://www2.ccsr.ca/csps/application.html> or from Patrick T.R. Gray, CSPS Secretary, York University (Atkinson), 4700 Keele Street, North York, ON M3J 1P3 Canada.

Peter Widdicombe
McMaster University

2001 Book Discussion Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que à notre prochaine conférence **Gérard Vallée** a accepté de nous présenter son livre intitulé *The Shaping of Christianity: The History and Literature of its Formative Centuries (100-800)* (New York: Paulist Press, 1999). ISBN: 0809138670.

We are happy to announce that at our next conference **Gérard Vallée** has accepted to present his book, *The Shaping of Christianity: The History and Literature of its Formative Centuries (100-800)* (New York: Paulist Press, 1999). ISBN: 0809138670.

You can easily purchase a copy of the book from <http://www.chapters.ca/books/details/default.asp?mscssid=PPS9QPRAP3S92J0U00A3HCANARCD9D8B&WSID=1911B676ACC9BB5011D490E000508B62B1513015&ISBN=0809138670> (in Canadian funds) or <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0809138670/qid=974334267/sr=1-15/002-0796710-0532804> (in US funds).

Naming Religious Groups: Cooperative Seminars between the Buddhist Studies Group of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) and the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies (CSPS)

2001 Congress, Saturday afternoon, May 26, 2001

At the 2000 meeting of the CSSR, the Buddhist Studies Group held a panel discussion on problems associated with different systems of nomenclature for Buddhists in Canada, which are based on ethnicity, systems of thought, social scientific categories, and so on. It occurred to me that it would have been interesting if scholars of religion in late antiquity could join the discussion. We wrestle with similar problems in determining what is the best nomenclature for the religious groups we study, but we do so without the benefit of living affiliates of those groups. While Buddhist scholars in Canada can be corrected by living Buddhists, we are chastened only by evidence, debate, and changing sensibilities.

The Buddhist Studies Group will continue its discussion at the 2001 meeting of the CSSR, and, upon my inquiries, has agreed a series of sessions that would permit a dialogue with scholars of religion in late antiquity. The tentative title for the sessions is: "Naming Religious Groups: Cooperative Seminars between the Buddhist Studies Group of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR) and the Canadian Society for Patristic Studies (CSPS)".

The sessions will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, May 26, 2001. This is the last day of the CSSR meetings, and just before the CSPS meetings, which begin on May 27. I am hoping that members of CSPS will choose to arrive early on Saturday to take advantage of reduced air fares and participate in the sessions.

The format for the sessions would be as follows: Each group will hold a separate session focusing on the issues that pertain to its field of study.

These sessions will be consecutive, and members of both groups would be encouraged to attend both sessions. After the two separate sessions, there will be a third session, structured informally, in which members of both groups discuss common concerns.

I am developing the session devoted to late antiquity as a panel discussion involving four or five participants. Each is being asked to discuss the following question for 10 minutes with regard to a disputed "name" (i.e., pagan, Jew, Christian, gnostic, Manichaeon): What are the impetuses toward explicit reflection and qualified definition in the naming of religious affiliation or identity?

I would encourage CSPS members to attend. For further information you may contact me at tel: (613) 730-7841 or email: <tdebruyn@cyberus.ca>

Theodore de Bruyn

PRIX D'ESSAI Nous invitons les membres de la faculté à nous recommander pour ce prix des essais sur le christianisme ancien du II^e au VI^e siècle. Sont éligibles les essais reçus au cours de l'année civile 2000 de vos étudiants de premier cycle ou d'études supérieures.

Prix: Le gagnant ou la gagnante recevra le status de membre-étudiant de l'association pour un an, ainsi que le choix entre un cheque de 100 dollars ou l'assurance de recevoir des frais (jusqu'à concurrence de 200 dollars)

de son voyage au Colloque Annuel de l'Association pendant les réunions des Sociétés Savants à l'Université Laval, Québec, QC, le 27-29 mai 2001, dans l'objectif d'y présenter l'essai gagnant.

Date limite: le 15 janvier 2001

Notification: le gagnant/la gagnante sera notifié/e le 22 mars 2001 ou avant cette date.

Veillez adresser les textes à: Lucian Turcescu, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5, Canada.

Veillez indiquer le nom, l'adresse, et le numéro de téléphone de l'étudiant.

ESSAY PRIZE Faculty are invited to recommend student essays which deal with early Christianity (100-600) for this prize. To be eligible, essays should have been submitted in the course of the calendar year 2000. Both graduate and undergraduate essays will be considered.

Award: The winning essayist will receive one year of membership in the Society, as well as the choice between a cheque for 100 dollars or the assurance of receiving the costs (up to a limit of 200 dollars) of his or her travel to the Annual Conference of the Society during the meetings of the Learned Societies at the Université Laval, Québec City, QC, May 27-29, 2001, for the purpose of presenting the winning essay.

Deadline: January 15, 2001

Notification: The winner will be notified on or before March 22, 2001.

Please address submissions to: Lucian Turcescu, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5, Canada.

Please include the name, address, and telephone number of the student.

NEW MEMBERS Our society welcomes several new members:

Maureen Kelly

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Brighton, MA 02135-3128 USA

Guy Lévesque

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Mihai-Vlad Niculescu (PhD candidate)

Philosophy, Univ of Toronto

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Toronto, ON M4K 2G9

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For an up-to-date Membership Directory/ Annuaire de membres please check our Society's homepage www2.ccsr.ca/csps. Please send the Editor any address corrections or new homepages.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS **ANDRIY CHIROVSKY** (Saint Paul University) announces us that in June 2000 the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies officially approved the opening of the graduate concentration of Eastern Christian Studies in the Faculty of Theology at Saint Paul University. Thus, according to Andriy, the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies within this Faculty of Theology will be the first place in the Western Hemisphere to offer a fully accredited program of studies in Eastern Christian theology, from the 24-credit undergraduate certificate, through the B.A. with concentration in Eastern Christian Studies, the B.Th in Eastern Christian Studies and the M.A.(Th.) and the Ph.D. in Eastern Christian Studies. Since Saint Paul University also holds a pontifical charter, the Sheptytsky Institute also offers, through the Faculty of Theology, the ecclesiastical B.Th., Licentiate and Th.D. Several members of CSPA are involved: Andriy Chirovsky, the founder-director of the Sheptytsky Institute, and Prof. Charles Kannengiesser among others. Eastern Christian Theology always has a very high patristic content. The opening of the first doctoral program in Eastern Christian theology in the "new world" is a historic moment. A special celebration is planned for Monday December 4, 2000 at 7:00 PM, when Dr. Kyriake Fitzgerald, a Greek Orthodox theologian from Massachusetts will deliver a lecture entitled: "Therapeia: Insights for Healing from Orthodox Theology and Spirituality" in the SPU amphitheatre.

NICOLA DENZEY (Skidmore College) published "Genesis Traditions in Conflict? The Use of Some Exegetical Traditions in the Trimorphic Protennoia and the Johannine Prologue" *Vigiliae Christianae* (December 2000). Nicola would also like to remind you all of the website she maintains for the **Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion** at the following address: <http://www2.ccsr.ca/> You really should take a look at it. The site has many useful and attractive features, including a listing of job openings. There is a place to sign up so that you are entered on the Registry of scholars, never a bad idea; such lists get counted. You can post notices on a Bulletin Board, and there are already serious contributions posted on the site by two of our members, Harold Remus and Louis Painchaud.

MICHEL DESJARDINS (Wilfrid Laurier University) published *Text and Artifact in the Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity: Essays in Honour of Peter Richardson* (co-edited with Stephen G. Wilson. *Études/Studies in Christianity and Judaism* 9. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2000) (his chapter was titled "Giving to Peter What Has Belonged to Paul," 3-30). Michel also published "Reconstructing Valentinian Families," in *Religionswissenschaft in Konsequenz: Beiträge im Anschluß an Impulse von Kurt Rudolph*, eds. Rainer Flasche, Fritz Heinrich and Carsten Koch (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2000), 115-26, and "Touching the Tassels: The Changing Role of Course Syllabi in the Academy," in *Religious Studies News* 14/2, "Spotlight on Teaching" 7/1 (1999): 7-8.

PATRICK GRAY (York University) gave an invited paper entitled "The life-giving body of the Saviour in Eucharist and Christology: Cyril of Alexandria and his tradition" at a conference in Hungary entitled "The Eucharist in Theology and Philosophy: Issues of Doctrinal History in East and West, from the Patristic Age to the Reformation," October 2000. Patrick was also asked to contribute a chapter on Justinian's theology and church-policy to a book introducing Justinian to students, to be edited by Paul Maas of Rice University.

MARGARET Y. MACDONALD published [*Colossians and Ephesians*](#), Sacra Pagina New Testament

Commentaries Series (general editor Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.) (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2000). In June 2000 Margaret was elected **President** of the [Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion](#) for a three-year term.

VLAD NICULESCU (University of Toronto) published "Origen in Gethsemane: A View on Origen's Understanding of His Ever-Candidacy to Martyrdom," *Adamantius. Newsletter of the Italian Research Group on "Origen and the Alexandrian Tradition"* No. 6 (2000).

HAROLD REMUS (Professor Emeritus, Wilfrid Laurier University) has published "Apuleius to Symmachus (and Stops in Between): Pietas, Realia, and the Empire" in S. G. Wilson and M. Desjardins, eds., *Text and Artifact in the Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity* (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2000), pp. 527-50. At the Congress in Edmonton in May he delivered the Plenary Address "'Things': A Case Study in Late Antiquity" to the joint session of the Canadian religious studies societies; he also presented a paper, "Life-long Learning," to a panel on teaching at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies.

PETER RICHARDSON (University of Toronto) became Professor Emeritus on 1 July 2000, on retirement from full-time teaching. And a month earlier he was presented with a surprise **Festschrift**: Stephen G. Wilson and Michel Desjardins, editors, *Text and Artifact in the Religions of Mediterranean Antiquity. Essays in Honour of Peter Richardson* (Studies in Christianity and Judaism 9; Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2000) xvi + 616. During the summer Peter was again site architect on the Khirbet Cana Excavations in the Galilee, where we have been continuing to excavate an early-Roman through Byzantine town, with a veneration cave in which the water-to-wine incident was memorialized.

T. ALLAN SMITH (University of St. Michael's College) is organizing a **Conference on Byzantine Monasticisms**. The Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Michael's College is hosting an interdisciplinary conference on the varieties of ascetical life in the Byzantine Empire [6th - 13th century]. The conference will be held from Friday, 30 March - Sunday, 1 April 2001. This conference will focus on the current state of scholarly research in Byzantine monasticism and highlight areas in need of further study. Papers were invited on the following themes: People (Founders, Reformers, Benefactors), Forms of Ascetical Life (Eremitic, Lavriotic, Cenobitic) and Monastic Philanthropy. Prospective participants were invited to submit a 250 word abstract of their proposal to T. Allan Smith, Faculty of Theology, University of St. Michael's College, 81 St. Mary's Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1J4, Canada. (fax 416-926-7294; allan.smith@utoronto.ca) by 11 October 2000. Information about registration and other details is available at: www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/theology/

LUCIAN TURCESCU (St. Francis Xavier University) has accepted a tenure-track cross-appointment as Assistant Professor in the Catholic Studies Program and the Religious Studies Department at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Lucian is also the **Combined Programme Coordinator** for the [Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion](#) (2000-2003). He recently published "'Blessed Are the Peacemakers, for They Will Be Called Sons of God': Does Gregory of Nyssa Have a Theology of Adoption?," in [Gregory of Nyssa. Homilies on the Beatitudes. An English Translation with Supporting Commentaries and Studies](#), eds. Hubertus R. Drobner and Albert Viciano (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2000) 397-406.

GÉRARD VALLÉE (Professor Emeritus, McMaster University) has published *Soundings in G.E. Lessing's*

Philosophy of Religion (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2000). Gérard assures us that although the title does not look very much like belonging to patristics, the book has one chapter on the Fathers.

PETER WIDDICOMBE (McMaster University) announces us that the revised paperback version of his book, *The Fatherhood of God from Origen to Athanasius* (Oxford University Press), will appear in Canada in January 2001 (and in the UK in mid-November 2000). Also, to be published soon, his "Justin Martyr's Apophaticism," given at the Thirteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies and to be published in *Studia Patristica* and "The Fathers on the Father in the Gospel of John", *Semeia* 86 (2000). Peter has already published "Fatherhood and the Conception of God in Early Greek Christian Literature," *Anglican Theological Review* 82 (2000), pp. 519-36.

**Report on the 9th International Congress on Gregory of Nyssa
"Jesus Christ in the Theology of St. Gregory of Nyssa,"
Athens 7-12 September 2000**

Organized by Prof. Elias Moutsoulas (and his capable team of graduate students)

Unlike previous Gregory of Nyssa conferences devoted to a particular treatise, the theme of this one allowed for considerable diversity of approach. Papers focused on Christology dealt with treatises against Eunomius and Apollinarius, as well as the *Catechetical Oration*. Discussion of the incarnation included *The Life of Moses*, the *De Hominis Opificio*, and *De Anima et Resurrectione*; in fact, anthropology received considerable attention in the presentations, as did the crucifixion and institution of the eucharist. Scholars discussed their subjects from a philosophical, more strictly dogmatic/ theological, or spiritual/ contemplative approach.

We received reports on important projects, like the *Lexicon Gregorianum* (F. Mann) and the editing of *De Hominis Opificio* (H. Hoerner). A high level of discussion was maintained, with a number of flashpoints around issues of Platonism in Gregory's work and (negative) views of Orthodox Christians on Christology in Western context. The congress had approximately 100 participants. Since Athens was our host, Greek scholars were well represented, but other European countries (Germany, France, Spain, etc.) also sent scholars.

In Athens itself the congress was something of a public event. Archbishop Christodoulos addressed the opening session, with the press much in evidence. Members of the congress were received graciously at the office of the city mayor, at the inauguration of an exhibit of manuscripts of Gregory's work at the National Library, at the theological faculty of the university, and Petraki monastery (Holy Synod of Greece). Prof. Moutsoulas' stature in both intellectual and ecclesiastic contexts clearly opened many doors for us. Especially memorable was the gracious reception given by the Igoumen of the 10th century Byzantine monastery of Hosias Loukas; after patiently explaining the features of the church (including a rare iconographic portrayal of Gregory of Nyssa) he treated us with warm hospitality in the living quarters. During the course of the visit we discovered he was a former student of Prof. Moutsoulas.

The congress was certainly a forum for scholarly exchange of information and viewpoints. Equally important was the opportunity it provided for better mutual understanding between scholars from the Orthodox and the 'Western' worlds. The warmth of hospitality contributed in no small measure to the positive spirit of this meeting of minds. Prof. Moutsoulas and his students are to be commended for their organization of this impressive conference.

Wendy E. Helleman
Visiting Professor, Philosophy
Moscow State University

BUREAU DE L'ACEP/ CSPS EXECUTIVE

(2000-2001) To contact the Executive officers, please see the [Membership Directory / Annuaire des membres](#)

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The *Bulletin* is published twice each year, in April and November, by the Association Canadienne des Études Patristiques/ Canadian Society of Patristic Studies, and distributed to members of the Society and other interested parties. It is available on the Society's homepage: <http://www2.ccsr.ca/csps>

Contributions, new information on research and other scholarly activities in patristics, and corrections of addresses, etc., are always welcome. Please address all correspondence to the **Editor**:

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