The SAR membership as of the December, 2002 report from AAA stood at 574. This represents a growth in membership of nearly 25% over last December's report of 465.

In the spring elections, Michael Lambek was elected President-Elect, and Rebecca Lester as Secretary. Adeline Masquelier, Susan Kenyon and Vimal Bhatnagar (student representative) were elected to the Executive Committee.

At the AAA Annual Meetings in Washington, the section's invited and reviewed sessions were:

1) (Re)constituting pious subjectivity in contemporary Islam. (Invited)
2) Christianities, the Work of Imagination and Everyday Techniques of Self. (Invited)
3) Changing Role of Religion among the Chipaya of Southwestern Bolivia.
4) Christian Ritual and the Limits of Meaning.
5) Mobilizing Faiths: Radical Religious Movements, Class Identities, and Calls to Social Action.
6) Negotiating Women's Roles and Powers in the Practice of World Religions.
7) Piety and Modernity in the Islamic Diaspora.

The Executive Committee was disheartened that despite our growing membership, fewer sessions than last year's 12 were accepted for the meetings in New Orleans, and some papers we had ranked highly were rejected by the AAA program committee. We trust that the AAA executive will examine this issue.


The society convened its first stand-alone spring meeting in Cleveland, April 5-7. We recruited participation from colleagues in religious studies, with cooperation from the recently formed Anthropology of Religion Consultation within the American Academy of Religion. The conference was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity for interaction among scholars in the two disciplines. Last year's Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion was delivered by Edith Turner, with commentary by Mary Douglas. The presidential address was given by Thomas J. Csordas, the SAR Immediate Past President. Plenaries included "Anthropology and Religious Studies: Encounter or Stand-Off?" and "Religious Conflict, Sectarian Violence, and Holy Wars." The program also featured a workshop on teaching the anthropology of religion. The organizing committee was composed of Thomas Csordas, Janice Boddy, and Stephen Glazier.
The society will convene a 2003 spring meeting in Providence on April 24-26 jointly with the annual meeting of the American Ethnological Society. The Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion will be delivered by John D. Y. Peel, with commentary by Miriam Rabelo. Plenary sessions will include "The 'New Fundamentalisms': Disenchantment, Re-enchantment, or the Next 'Order of Things?'," and "Spiritual Truths, Material Consequences: Dilemmas of Religion in the 21st Century." The presidential address will be delivered by Janice Boddy, current president. The organizing committee is composed of Susan Sered, Joel Robbins, Jill Dubisch, and Janice Boddy (AES liaison).

The Executive Committee has agreed to work on an improved web site and facilities for intra-societal communication; we have also agreed to investigate the possibility of offering a book prize, and to cultivate closer ties with international scholars in our field.

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