

Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review

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Introduction

With this issue, the *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review* begins its second volume. Based on initial feedback from colleagues, the *ASRR* has been well received. Frankly, I continue to be surprised by how many new books are being published in the field of new religions, and am more convinced than ever of the need for a periodical like the *ASRR*.

This issue includes a new section that will become a regular feature in the future, namely an article section. However, in order not to compete directly with the other journals in the field, the majority of articles will be pieces that, for one reason or another, would not otherwise find their way into such journals. These kinds of articles include, for example, annotated bibliographies, longer-than-normal articles that a purely electronic journal like *ASRR* is able to accommodate, and works-in-process, such as conference papers and research notes.

In the present issue, we are publishing three peer-reviewed articles that were to have appeared in *Syzygy: Journal of Alternative Religion and Culture* before that periodical ceased publication. These are Jean-François Mayer's "The Alternative Religiosity Market: Visit to an Esoteric Fair" (a translation of a piece that was originally published in French), Kelly Therese Pollock's "Working her Magic: How Starhawk's Language of Spirituality Empowers Women and Revalues Nature," and Arthur Herman's "God, Evil and Annie Besant." Though their references may be a little dated, the information and the analyses in these excellent papers are as fresh as the day they were written.

The fourth article was the basis for a chapter on the Branch Davidians that was to have appeared alongside Stuart A. Wright's "Revisiting the Branch Davidian Mass Suicide Debate" in the recently published anthology, *Violence and New Religious Movements* (Oxford University Press, 2011). However, though the complete manuscript was approved by reviewers, the publisher eventually insisted that I shorten the manuscript, which could only be accomplished by deleting some chapters. So I dropped "The Branch Davidians." From a certain perspective this has turned out for the best, as we are able to print the original, significantly longer version in the *ASRR*.

This issue of the *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review* also includes a research note by Inga B. Tøllefsen on "Ecofeminism, Religion and Nature in an Indian and Global Perspective," and, of course, a set of fine book reviews on a wide diversity of publications.

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