

BAHA'I STUDIES SEMINAR

CAMBRIDGE

30 September - 1 October, 1978

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, September 30th

1. Morning Session, introduced by Peter Smith

JUSTIFICATION FOR BAHA'I STUDIES

Suggested Topics:

Are different areas more justifiable than others at present? Are there areas into which it may not be appropriate to enter now? How can we justify the use of sensitive biographical and other material?

2. Afternoon Session, introduced by Moojan Momen

METHODOLOGY OF BAHA'I STUDIES

Suggested topics:

'Baha'i' or 'academic' standards? Possible variations in approach between Baha'i and non-Baha'i scholars? Discussion of the Central Figures of the Baha'i Faith. Methodological problems in cases of cooperation between Baha'i and non-Baha'i scholars. Double standards in Baha'i and non-Baha'i work? Linguistic style and its bearing on method. The use of confidential archives of LSA's, NSA's, etcetera.

Sunday, October 1st

3. Morning Session, introduced by Denis MacEoin

RELATIONS BETWEEN BAHA'I SCHOLARS AND THE BAHA'I COMMUNITY

Suggested topics:

Prejudice against scholarship and its removal. Attacks on scholars -- What measures can be taken for protection? The responsibility of scholars to other believers. The review of scholarly works for publication. The role of scholars in fixing limits on the growth of myth and legend in popular Baha'i historiography.

4. Afternoon session

WORK IN PROGRESS

Suggested topics:

Progress reports from individuals. Sharing ideas and problems. The production of a bibliography. Difficulties in obtaining materials in various languages. International coordination of efforts. Oral and manuscript history projects. Concrete proposals for future developments. Establishment of an International Institute for Baha'i Studies.

BAHA'I STUDIES SEMINAR

CAMBRIDGE

23-24 September 1978

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday 23rd.

1. Morning session, introduced by Peter Smith

JUSTIFICATION FOR BAHAI STUDIES

Suggested topics:

Are different areas more justifiable than others at present?  
Are there areas into which it may not be appropriate to enter now?  
How can we justify the use of sensitive biographical and other material?

2. Afternoon session, introduced by Moojan Momen

METHODOLOGY OF BAHAI STUDIES

Suggested topics:

'Baha'i' or 'academic' standards?  
Possible variations in approach between Baha'i and non-Baha'i scholars.  
Discussion of the central figures of the Baha'i faith.  
Methodological problems in cases of co-operation between Baha'i and non-Baha'i scholars.  
Double standards in Baha'i and non-Baha'i work?  
Linguistic style and its bearing on method.  
The use of confidential archives of LSAs, NSAs, etc.

Sunday 24th.

3. Morning session, introduced by Denis MacEoin

RELATIONS BETWEEN BAHAI SCHOLARS AND THE BAHAI COMMUNITY

Suggested topics:

Prejudice against scholarship - its removal.  
Attacks on scholars - what measures can be taken for protection?  
The responsibility of scholars to other believers.  
The review of scholarly works for publication.  
The role of scholars in fixing limits to the growth of myth and legend in popular Baha'i historiography.

4. Afternoon session

WORK IN PROGRESS

Suggested topics:

Progress reports from individuals; sharing of ideas and problems.  
Production of a bibliography.  
Difficulties of obtaining materials in various languages.  
International co-ordination of efforts.  
Oral and manuscript history projects.  
Concrete proposals for future developments.  
Establishment of an International Institute for Baha'i Studies.