

BAHA'I STUDIES SEMINARS AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

1977 - 1980

From 1977 until 1980 (16-17 April 1977; 15-16 April 1978; 7-8 April 1979; 11-13 April 1980), the Departments of Religious Studies and of Sociology at the University of Lancaster lent their support to a succession of four annual Baha'i Studies Seminars held under the convenership of Peter Smith, then a post-graduate student in the Department of Sociology. Designed to further academic research into the Babi and Baha'i religions, these seminars afforded opportunity for a number of post-graduates from Europe and America to present and discuss papers on various aspects of "Baha'i Studies". Most of the substantive papers presented at the seminars have since found their way into print or been incorporated into the participants' doctoral theses.

The papers presented were as follows:

Bramson, Loni (Louvain)

(1979) Internal opposition to ^cAbdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament and the establishment of the Guardianship.

- See Bramson's Ph.D. thesis, "The Baha'i Faith and Its Evolution in the United States and Canada from 1922 to 1936" (Université Catholique de Louvain, 1980).

Cole, Juan Ricardo (U.C.L.A.)

(1980) Rashid Ridá on the Bahá'í Faith in Egypt, 1897 - 1921.

Lambden, Stephen (Newcastle)

(1980) Divine splendour motifs in the Bible and writings of Bahá'u'lláh: Kábód in the Old Testament, Doxa in the New Testament and aspects of the 'theology of Bahá' and the Sinai epiphany motif in the writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

Lee, Anthony (U.C.L.A.)

(1978) The Bahá'í community of ^cIshqábád from the beginnings to the Russian Revolution.

- Published in slightly revised form as "The rise of the Bahá'í community of ^cIshqábád". Bahá'í Studies 5 (1979):1-13.

MacEoin, Denis (Cambridge, 1977-79; Fez, 1979-80)

(1977) The late eighteenth century reformation in Shi^cism: Its background and influence.

(1978) The Shaykhí reaction to Babism in the early period

- To be published in Studies in Bábí and Bahá'í History, ed. M. Momen (Los Angeles: Kalimat Press, 1983).

- For both the 1977 and 1978 papers see MacEoin's Ph.D. thesis, "From Shaykhism to Babism: A Study of Charismatic Renewal in Shi^cí Islam" (University of Cambridge, 1979).

- (1979) The concept of jihád in the Bábí and Bahá'í movements.
- Published in part as "The Babi concept of holy war". Religion 12 (1982):93-129.
- (1980) Ritual and semi-ritual observances in Babism and Baha'ism.
- Momen, Moojan
(1977) Some problems connected with the Yazd episode of 1850.
- See pp.106-13 in Momen, The Bábí and Bahá'í Religions, 1844-1944: Some Contemporary Western Accounts (Oxford: George Ronald, 1981).
- (1978) Early contact between Bahá'ís and Christian missionaries.
- To be published in Studies in Bábí and Bahá'í History, ed. M. Momen (Los Angeles: Kalimat Press, 1983).
- (1979) The social basis of the Bábí upheavals: A preliminary analysis.
- To be published in International Journal for Middle East Studies 15 (1983):157-83.
- (1980) The trial of Mullá ^cAlí Bastámfí: A combined Sunni-Shí'í fatwá against the Báb.
- Published in Iran 20 (1982):113-43.
- Mossop, Denise
(1978) The mediatory role of Bahá'í: A comparison of Sufi and Bahá'í mysticism.
- Peltola, Harri (Helsinki)
(1978) The history of the Bahá'í Faith in Finland: A case study in the sociology of countercultures.
- Scholl, Steven
(1980) Imámí Shí'ism and the Baha'i Faith.
- Smith, Peter (Lancaster)
(1977) The routinization of charisma? Some comments on Peter L. Berger's "Motif messianique et processus social dans le Baháisme".
- Published in shortened and amended form as "Motif research: Peter Berger and the Bahá'í Faith". Religion 8 (1978):210-34.
- (1978) The American Bahá'í community, 1894-1917.
- To be published in expanded form in Studies in Bábí and Bahá'í History, ed. M. Momen (Los Angeles: Kalimat Press, 1983).
- See also Smith's Ph.D. thesis, "A Sociological Study of the Babi and Baha'i Religions" (University of Lancaster, 1982).
- (1979) Millenarianism in the Bábí and Bahá'í religions.
- Published in amended form as "Millennialism in the Babi and Baha'i religions", pp.231-83 in Millennialism and Charisma, ed. R. Wallis (Belfast: The Queen's University, 1982).

For short accounts of the Seminars see the following: For the 1977 and 1978 Seminars, the United Kingdom Bahá'í Journal 245 (June 1978):16-17 (See also the erratum in issue no.248 (Jan. 1979):11); for the 1979 Seminar, the Bulletin of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies 6 (1979):119-23.