

RELIGION AND
AMERICAN CULTURE

A Journal of Interpretation

R&AC

Published for
The Center for the Study of
Religion and American Culture by
the University of California Press

Statement of Purpose

Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation explores the interplay between religion and other spheres of American culture. The journal embraces a diversity of methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives. Although concentrated on specific topics, articles illuminate larger patterns, implications, or contexts of American life. *Religion and American Culture* is, thus, devoted to promoting the ongoing scholarly discussion of the nature, terms, and dynamics of religion in America.

Religion and American Culture (ISSN 1052-1151) is published bi-annually by the University of California Press for the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. Subscription rates per year are \$23 individual, \$53 institutional. Outside N. America, add \$15 postage per volume for air freight. Single issues are available for \$12 individual, \$28 institutional. Please notify the University of California Press of any change of address. Issues not deliverable because of outdated addresses will not be replaced. GST Registration No. 122058662.

Address business correspondence, including inquiries regarding advertising and requests for permissions, to University of California Press, Journals Division, 2000 Center Street, Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223.

Address all manuscripts and editorial correspondence to Thomas J. Davis, Managing Editor, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Cavanaugh Hall 341, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140. All manuscript submissions, four copies of each typescript, should conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Typescripts should be 25–35 pages in length.

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*. Articles are also indexed by *Religion Index One: Periodicals*, published by the American Theological Library Association and available on CD-ROM from ATLA.

Copying Notice: Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of \$1.00 per copy is paid directly to CCC, 222 Rosewood Dr., Danvers, MA 01923. For permission to photocopy materials for classroom use, call CCC's APS Customer Service Department at 978/750-8400 or fax 978/750-4744.

© 2000 by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture. This journal is printed at Capital City Press on totally chlorine-free (TCF) paper. This paper is bleached using hydrogen peroxide rather than chlorine compounds thus eliminating the introduction of dioxin into the environment. This paper is acid free.

RELIGION AND
AMERICAN CULTURE

A Journal of Interpretation

R&AC

Winter 2000 Volume 10 Number 1

CONTENTS

- 1 Forum: Public Theology in Contemporary America
*with contributions by William Dean
Mark A. Noll
Mary Farrell Bednarowski
J. Bryan Hehir*
- 29 The Aura of Wellness: Subtle-Energy Healing and
New Age Religion
by Catherine L. Albanese
- 57 The Difference Difference Makes: Justine Wise Polier and
Religious Matching in Twentieth-Century Child Adoption
by Ellen Herman
- 99 Infallible Proofs, Both Human and Divine:
The Persuasiveness of Mormonism for Early Converts
by Steven C. Harper
- 119 List of Contributors

EDITORS

Conrad Cherry

Rowland A. Sherrill

Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

MANAGING EDITOR

Thomas J. Davis

Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis

BOARD OF EDITORS

Mary Farrell Bednarowski, *United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities*

Joseph A. Conforti, *University of Southern Maine*

Betty A. DeBerg, *University of Northern Iowa*

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *Emory University*

Giles Gunn, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

Bruce Kuklick, *University of Pennsylvania*

Edward Tabor Linenthal, *University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh*

George M. Marsden, *University of Notre Dame*

Martin E. Marty, *University of Chicago (emeritus)*

Deborah Dash Moore, *Vassar College*

David J. O'Brien, *College of the Holy Cross*

Leigh E. Schmidt, *Princeton University*

Jan Shipps, *Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (emeritus)*

Rhys Williams, *Southern Illinois University*

John Wilson, *Princeton University*