

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

11/7/75

Dear Walter:

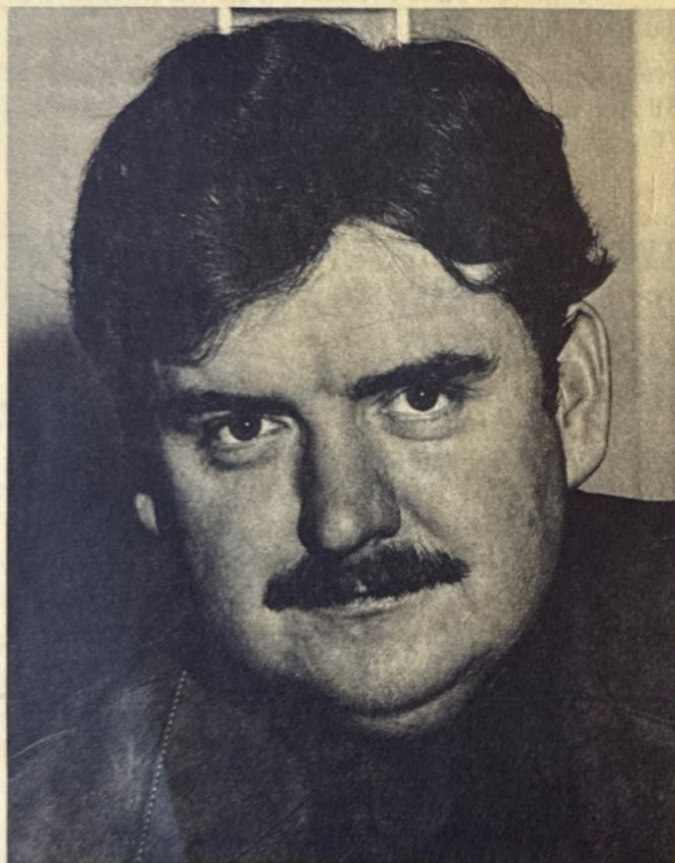
This is all so exciting. What a marvelous job you are doing. It is out of things like that great university campuses are made. I really am ever so impressed. You are a remarkable person -

He is also interested that relates to...  
Thompson is...  
PLANNED FOR APRIL

"The Interpretation of a Text" will be the theme of a three-day symposium...  
Best.  
Bob

AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES  
COMMEMORATIVE BICENTENNIAL  
A two-quarter distinguished series...  
The series developed through an...  
which faculty representing more than a half...

**WILLIAM IRWIN THOMPSON  
TO GIVE SECOND ANNUAL  
IRVING F. LAUCKS LECTURES**



William Irwin Thompson, noted author and futurologist, has been selected as the second Irving F. Laucks Lecturer on the Science of Man, sponsored by the Institute. Thompson will present two public lectures on "Mysticism vs. Mechanism in the Evolution of World Order" November 24-25, 1975, on the UCSB campus.

The lecture series honors Irving F. Laucks, Santa Barbara chemist, inventor, humanitarian, and social philosopher. For many years, Mr. Laucks has worked to promote human understanding and world peace. His social philosophy reflects a belief that religion and science can cooperate in reconceiving the nature and future of man.

He is also insistent that religion be updated, that constricted religious attitudes not obscure vast ranges of human insight, and that religion's influence upon man's conceptions of the future be more compelling. The lectures in his honor are designed "to correlate a realistic and imaginative scientific sense of the age in which man lives with a coherent and critical portrayal of man's subjective and cultural religious histories."

Thompson is recognized for two best-selling books, *At the Edge of History* and *Passages About Earth: An* (continued on page 2)

**PAUL RICOEUR SYMPOSIUM  
PLANNED FOR APRIL**

"On the Interpretation of a Text" will be the theme of a three-day symposium, set tentatively for April 29-31, 1976, in honor of the philosopher, Paul Ricoeur.

Ricoeur will participate in the symposium, and will give a public lecture.

The symposium is the fifth in a series sponsored by the Institute to deal with the thought of significant "catalytic figures" in the study of religion. Previous symposia have focused on the work of Georges Dumézil, Erik Erikson, Geo Widengren, and Mircea Eliade.

Scholars who wish to attend, participate, or make presentations are asked to contact the Institute.

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY SERIES  
COMMEMORATES BICENTENNIAL**

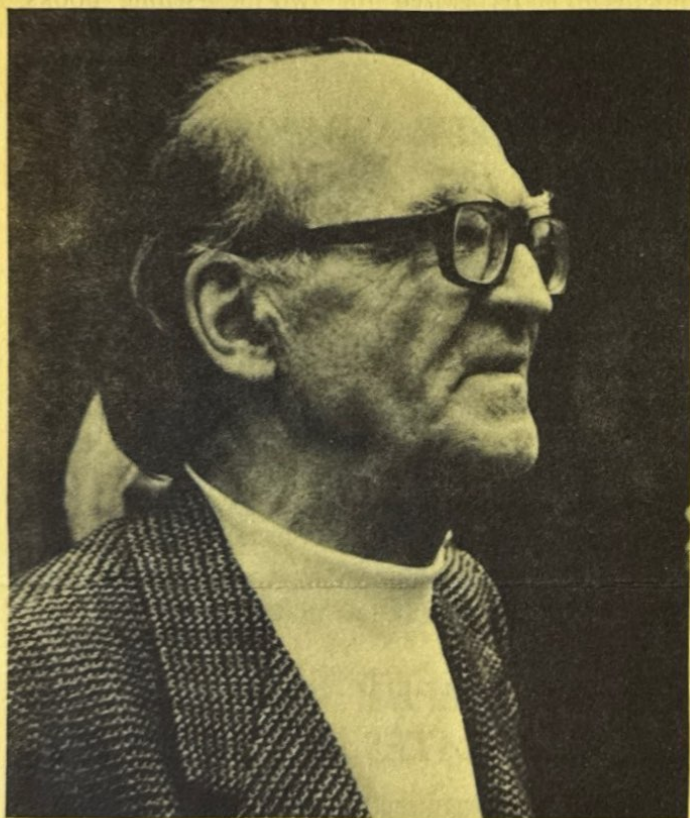
A two-quarter distinguished lecture series on the autobiographical impulse in America is scheduled for the winter and spring quarter, 1976, sponsored by the Institute and UCSB Bicentennial Committee. The series is scheduled to include five guest lecturers beginning with Alfred Kazin and Fawn Brodie.

The series developed through an occasional seminar in which faculty representing more than a half dozen academic departments are participating. Daniel Peck, English, and G. Wesley Johnson, History, are co-conveners of the seminar and organizers of the lecture series.

*Exploration of the New Planetary Culture*, both of which chronicles changes in the ways in which human beings understand themselves. The books also trace Thompson's intellectual development, from teaching positions at Cornell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and York University to the establishment of the Lindisfarne Community in New York, a futurist monastic community which is designed to be a vehicle for the emerging planetary culture.

In Thompson's view, "the whole cultural movement that began in the Reformation has reached its limits in the New Yorks and Los Angeleses of the modern world; that movement is now finished, and a whole new cultural movement is beginning. The decentralization of American cultural experience has just begun."

The first Irving F. Laucks Lecturer was Robert N. Bellah, Ford Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Japanese and Korean Studies, University of California, Berkeley. His lectures entitled "The Roots of Religious Consciousness" are forthcoming in book form.



### **SYMPOSIUM HELD IN HONOR OF MIRCEA ELIADE**

Nearly one hundred scholars participated in a symposium on "The Encounter Between Archaic and Contemporary Reality" in honor of the work of Mircea Eliade, November 14-16, 1974, sponsored by the Institute. Among the participants were Professors Kees Bolle, UCLA, David Rasmussen, Boston College, Douglas Allen, University of

Maine, Garry Trompf, U.C. Santa Cruz, Michael Chelik City University of New York, Marlene Dobkin de Rios, U.C. Irvine, Mac Linscott Ricketts, Louisburg College, Dennis Doeing, Canisius College, Francis P. Sullivan, Loyola University (New Orleans), Jacques Waardenburg, University of Utrecht, Amos Funkenstein UCLA, Jacob Needleman, California State University, San Francisco, Jonathan Z. Smith, University of Chicago, together with Raimundo Panikkar, Gerald J. Larson, Birger A. Pearson, M. Gerald Bradford, Charles Wendell, Robert Michaelsen, Richard Hecht, and Walter H. Capps of UCSB.

The symposium focused on topics of life-long interest to Professor Eliade, including specific treatment of his early Romanian literary work. A final summary session on "Category Formation in the Study of Religion" provided serious and speculative analyses of the future of methodology in religious studies.

The proceedings are currently being transcribed and edited for publication in book form.

The symposium was made possible by grants from the UCSB Alumni Association, the Sheinbaum Foundation, and the Chancellor's discretionary fund.

### **INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES NEW PUBLICATION SERIES JOINTLY SPONSORED WITH AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION**

*Religious Syncretism in Antiquity: Essays in Conversation with Geo Widengren*, the first book in a new series jointly sponsored by the Institute and the American Academy of Religion, will be published this fall under the auspices of Scholars Press, University of Montana.

Edited by Birger A. Pearson, the book includes chapters by Stanislav Segert, UCLA, G.W. Ahlstrom, University of Chicago, Jonathan Z. Smith, University of Chicago, David Winston, Graduate Theological Union, Douglas M. Parrott, U.C. Riverside, Eric Segelberg, Dalhousie University, Walter H. Capps, UCSB, in addition to a chapter by the editor and an essay by Professor Widengren. The book originated from the symposium in honor of Geo Widengren in 1973.

*Encounter with Erikson* is the second book planned for the series. This is a collection of essays from the recent symposium in honor of Erik Erikson.

### **THE Gnostic ATTITUDE, IN SECOND PRINTING**

Response to the publication of Geo Widengren's *The Gnostic Attitude*, translated from the Swedish and

Michael C. ...  
Dobkin de ...  
burg College ...  
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ardens ...  
Jacob ...  
20 ...

by Birger A. Pearson, UCSB, has been so positive the monograph, first issued in 1973, has been re-edited.

Widengren, Swedish historian of religion, dean-emeritus of the faculty in theology in Uppsala University, and former president of the International Association for the History of Religions, was visiting Research Scholar in the Institute during the spring quarter, 1972.

Pearson's translation is based on the latest Swedish edition of *Religionens värld* (1971), and incorporates the additional textual material and footnotes of the German translation of the book, *Religionsphanomenologie* (1969). The monograph includes a section missing in the German editions, in which Widengren illustrates Gnostic motifs by referring to the writings of the Swedish poet, Eric Johan Stagnelius.

The book is designed for scholars in the field, general readers, and for classroom use. Copies may be ordered from the Institute. A donation of \$3.00 (payable to The Regents of the University of California) is requested to defray printing and mailing costs.

## COMSTOCK TRACES EMERGENCE OF A NEW WORLD VIEW

W. Richard Comstock, Professor of Religious Studies, UCSB, has written an essay entitled "Metaphor, Myth, and Model: Toward the Emergence of a New World View" which explores the metaphoric texture of certain tendencies in contemporary philosophy of science.

The paper is a revised version of Comstock's presentation to an Institute-sponsored faculty seminar on literary symbols, structuralism, and hermeneutics.

A copy of the essay is available for a donation of \$1.00 (payable to the Regents of the University of California) through the Institute.

## ON DUMEZIL & INDO-EUROPEAN MYTHOLOGY

*Myth in Indo-European Antiquity*, edited by Gerald J. Larson, and co-edited by C. Scott Littleton, Occidental College, and Jaan Puhvel, UCLA, is available from University of California Press.

The book consists of the revised proceedings of the symposium on the work of Georges Dumézil, well known for his "new comparative mythology," which was co-sponsored in 1971 by the Institute and the Center for the Study of Comparative Folklore and Mythology, UCLA.

## HUMANITIES COLLOQUY

Beginning with the 1975-76 academic year, the Institute is sponsoring an interdisciplinary colloquy on the state of the humanities. The purpose of the colloquy is to draw attention to significant recent developments within the various fields and disciplines of the humanities on a cooperative basis.

The colloquy will involve a core group of UCSB faculty who will meet together two or three times per quarter throughout the academic year. Each meeting will be devoted to significant recent developments within a specific field or discipline (as, for example, literary theory, analytical philosophy, linguistics, structuralism, value theory, dramatic arts, etc.) as presented by invited specialists from within such fields and disciplines. The core group will function to give continuity and stability to the colloquy, but the meetings will be open to the entire faculty and to graduate students.

Presentors at the meetings will include UCSB faculty as well as invited guests. Each presentor will be asked to describe recent developments within the field of his/her specialization in terms the non-specialist (or the specialist in another field) can understand.

At a time when the future of the humanities is being threatened by increasing vocationalism and institutional fragmentation, the colloquy is designed for sharing insights and integrating resources. It is anticipated that some of the results or products of the colloquy will be published.

## PROGRAM FOR VISITING RESEARCH SCHOLARS

The Institute offers to qualified professors and instructors from other institutions the possibility of becoming visiting research scholars at UCSB. Appointment to this non-salaried position gives one the opportunity to participate in symposia and seminars sponsored by the Institute and the Department of Religious Studies, and to conduct one's research in association with a community of scholars. Library and other academic privileges are also provided. Persons interested are invited to write to the Director of the Institute.

From the director's desk—

As this issue of the *Bulletin* goes to press, I find myself responding to still another request to describe the function of the Institute. After consulting the proposal for the Institute's founding, which is as close as I can come to a sacred text, I have just written: "According to the original charter, the purpose of the Institute is not to define or regulate the research activity of faculty members, but to assist and supplement the same through cooperative interdisciplinary undertakings." The next line will read: "The Institute's role is supplementary at best." Then I will add some descriptive action like "facilitating cooperation," "providing corporate advantages," "fostering opportunities for doing together what individual scholars would have difficulty arranging by themselves," and so on. The charter supports this view. I find it eminently sensible.

On another pile on top of the desk, there are several manilla folders, each one containing a growing collection of papers and correspondence on projects in preparation, but still unfinished, with notable loose-ends. One of these is a lecture series (to be followed by discussions and a concluding conference) on "Human Self-Understanding in the Age of Quantum Mechanics." We want to explore the influence of quantum theory on the way in which we understand ourselves and our relation to the world. If it happens, the series will be co-sponsored by the Quantum Institute on campus, and will involve scholars in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. The

folder right beneath the top one includes plans for a midwinter conference on "The Monastic Alternative as Personal and Cultural Strategy." This will treat the monastic revival, the fate of the counter-culture, the development of spirituality in the east and west. The bottom folder is marked "1976 Laucks Lectures," and contains copies of correspondence with Ivan Illich of the Center for Inter-Cultural Documentation in Cuernavaca, who will give the 1976 Irving F. Laucks Lectures on the Science of Man.

Such ventures illustrate the force of the distinction I was making: the function of the Institute is not to define or regulate, but to supplement, embellish, to build an interdisciplinary cooperative base. This makes us vulnerable, certainly, for it implies that there is no single purpose for which we exist, no one subject (not even religion) to which we devote undivided attention. Furthermore, in reaching into a number of areas we run constant risk of overstepping our competencies and of upsetting border controls.

Supplementation implies multiple ventures. Multiplicity requires an operational model in continual process of formation. We are disposed this way in obedience to our materials: subjects so perpetually fascinating, never ever exhaustible, that they always yield more and more when placed in fresh perspective and revised constellation.

The example of midwifery comes to mind. If supplementation means this, it also gives the Institute the privilege, from time to time, of assisting at the process of birth.

Walter H. Capps

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