

August 1, 1979

Lilly Endowment Project:  
Influence of Religious Studies upon Religion

I have completed two of the four articles (Smith & Greene) as well as your fine summary report.

What follows are only preliminary remarks and I hope to finish the ms. tomorrow.

Me thinks--

what you have described in your summary report, together with your WINGSPREAD REPORT might provide a comprehensive survey of "the state of the art" of religious studies.

As it stands now, the Lilly articles do not complement your introduction. They do not speak to the issues you raised. Further, I do not have the sense that they "hang together" in and of themselves.

Perhaps we could do a bit of shuffling. Some of the Lilly articles together with a few articles from the Wingspread conference might provide very interesting coverage for an anthology devoted to "Religious Studies: the development of an intellectual discipline" or "Changing Perspectives in the study of Religion" --something on that order.

Your introduction, together with Wingspread report would frame the articles.

Smith's Lilly piece provides some historical sense to development of rs as subject-field in american universities.

Some of the articles from Wingspread on new subject fields may serve as indicators of things to come.

Over all, an anthology of this type could cover both religious studies as research field and as one component in humanistic education. In this respect, we could cover both intra-discipline issues as well as inter-humanities questions.

As I read this over, I sense that what I'm suggesting is closer to the Wingspread model. At that conference we had reports from scholars in the various disciplines (intra-discipline issues) and then the word from the deans (Smith and Pelikan) on the state of religious studies in relation to the humanities in general. Me thinks--it would also prove useful to include something from Harold Cannon on research in the humanities.

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