

THE STUDY OF RELIGION

Richard Millett
Southern Illinois University

In 1974 a group of North and South Americans, representing academic and religious vocations, agreed to establish the Inter-American Association for the Study of Religion. The rapid changes within traditional churches in recent years, the rise of new religious groups, and the development of new patterns of social and political action and of theological reflection have all combined to create greatly increased interest in the past, present, and future roles of religion in the Americas. The purposes of the new association are to encourage additional research, discussion, and publication within this area; to foster communications between those in the United States and those in Latin America; to stimulate dialogue between those involved in religious activities and those engaged in the academic study of religion in the Americas; to promote comparative studies of religion in the hemisphere; and to provide a forum for the dissemination of news, research, and other material related to the study of religion in the Americas.

To accomplish the last of these purposes, a *Bulletin of the Inter-American Association for the Study of Religion* is issued several times each year. Membership in the association is open to anyone upon payment of \$2.00 annual dues, which covers the cost of a subscription to the *Bulletin*. Those interested in joining or wishing sample copies should address their inquiries to Professor Ted Zolty, Department of Political Science, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. Anyone having news of meetings, publications, research, or any other material relating to the study of religion in the Americas should send it to the author, Department of History, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL 62025.