RELIGIONS WISSENSCHAFT IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE
EXCLUDING SCANDINAVIA
Some Factual Data

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It has been the author's feeling that there is a certain paucity of information about the institutional setting as well as the communication media in the field of the study of religion. Although such lack of information may be felt by students of religion everywhere, paradoxically enough it is most palpable on the continent of Europe, with its different cultural traditions and its varieties of language. When we exclude Scandinavia and apply the linguistic criterion, we can distinguish for instance the French area (France and French-speaking Switzerland and Belgium), the German area (Germany and German-speaking Switzerland and Austria), the Italian area, the Dutch area (the Netherlands and Flemish-speaking Belgium), and the Slavonic area (where for this field mainly Russia and Poland are of interest).

The following data were collected when we prepared a survey on the history of religions and allied disciplines in this part of the world 1). Many of these data are based on information kindly communicated by colleagues in other countries 2), especially for the country by country

1) This survey was published in Religion, Journal of Religion and Religions, Vol. V, Nr. 3 (August 1975), pp. 27-54. Pursuant to the request of the Editorial Secretary of Religion, this survey was limited to continental Europe excluding Scandinavia. For purely practical reasons we restricted ourselves to this area also in the present survey, trusting that it will contribute to further international exchange and cooperation between scholars all over the world. The author wants to express his gratefulness to the Editor of Numen, Prof. Dr. C. J. Bleeker, his old Doktorvater, who was prepared to publish this part of the manuscript.

survey in Section I: The present institutional situation of the study of religion. Section II, Means of communication and documentation of completed work, brings together the main meetings in this field organized in Europe during the last years, the main journals, book series, and bibliographies published here, plus a directory of centers for religious research and study existing in 1968.

The author apologizes for the unavoidable omissions and will be grateful for any further information at his address: 72 Stadhouderslaan, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

I. THE PRESENT INSTITUTIONAL SITUATION OF THE STUDY OF RELIGION 3)

(1) France 4)

France has in its Section des Sciences religieuses of the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris an institution which is unique in the study of religion. The École Pratique was founded in 1868 to supplement research and teaching carried out at the Sorbonne, and in 1885 this section of religious studies was added to it for the study of the history of the different religions. Some forty specialists investigate and teach here almost all religions of past and present including Christianity; they work as historians either on a group of related religions or on one religion only or on a period of the history of one religion. There is a clear disinclination among the institute's scholars

3) One should keep in mind that much if not most research on religions and religion is actually carried out in Departments especially of Oriental Studies and Anthropology, but also of Sociology, History, etc. The same thing holds true for the journals in which the results of such research are published. Besides the few professional journals of Religionswissenschaft there are a number of journals of Oriental Studies, Anthropology, Theology, etc., in which articles on the study of religion are published. For practical reasons, however, in this report we have to limit ourselves, with some justifiable exceptions, to the institutional arrangements, journals, etc., of Religionswissenschaft as such.