



Bahá'í Journal UK

Journal of the Bahá'í Community of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Volume 19, No.5 – October, 2002 / 159BE

 **LARGE PRINT** / Standard Print. Association of Bahá'í Studies – English Speaking Europe 

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Friday, December 20 – Sunday, December 22, 2002

Religious Studies (SIG) Seminar

THE BIENNIAL ABS-ESE Religious Studies (SIG) seminar will last from 7 pm Friday, December 20, 2002, to 5 pm Sunday, December 22, 2002. During these 2-3 days academic papers will be presented and discussed. Sessions on libraries, book collecting and publishing will also be held. Details and programme will be advertised later.

A compact one day *Introduction to Academic Bahá'í Scholarship on Religious Studies* lines by Moojan Momen, Stephen Lambden and others will be held on Friday December 20, 2002 10 am - 5 pm immediately prior to the seminar proper. Persons wishing to embark upon academically oriented Bahá'í Studies are welcome to attend this one day event and the following seminar. Formal qualifications are not necessary though an openness to modern academic approaches will be expected. There is no age restriction or cost involved. Consultative instruction will include informal presentations about the field, history and current state of Bahá'í scholarship; various academic methodologies; primary and secondary source materials and access to them; the study of the various scriptural languages; research needing to be done; computing, cyberspace and Bahá'í scholarship; and (among other things) Bahá'í scholarship in the Bahá'í community.

Venue: TBA (Either Bahá'í Centre, 30 Victoria Square, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, or University of Newcastle upon Tyne.)

Travel: Air travel can now be extremely cheap. Newcastle is easy to reach from London: it is a one hour [supplementary] plane flight; a three hour train journey – there are frequent trains from King's Cross – and an approximately five hour bus trip from London. Newcastle upon Tyne has a good International Airport. Direct flights are obtainable from many European countries and international locations. Bed & Breakfast accommodation in Newcastle is plentiful and not too expensive. The Jesmond Park Hotel for example, (quite close to the venue) provides reasonable B&B accommodation at around 25 GBP / 35 USD per night (74-76 Queens Rd. Jesmond, Newcastle Tel. +44 [0]191 2812821). See their website at: <http://www.snowgoose.co.uk/jespark/> There is also a youth hostel close to the Bahá'í centre and university. All ages can stay there. For more information see their website at: http://www.yha.org.uk/make_booking/process/hostel69.html [link no longer valid]. Other B&B places can be provided on request. It is important to book accommodation early.

Over the last few decades the Religious Studies (SIG) seminars have to a considerable extent become internationalized. Leading Bahá'í scholars from many parts of the world have attended or presented papers and discussion has included many aspects of Bahá'í scholarship and publication. Opportunity also exists for that human interaction which goes beyond philological or intellectual analysis into something like intimate Bahá'í fellowship. Bahá'ís and other empathetic persons are more than welcome to attend these informal academic seminars. Formal academic qualifications are not required though the papers and discussions are usually of a high academic standard. It is hoped that participants will be socially and spiritually invigorated as well as intellectually stimulated.

country and primary language as well as nationality criteria.

For details regarding these events contact Stephen Lambden at hurqalya@blueyonder.co.uk or quinn@oak.cats.ohiou.edu, or Moojan Momen at momen@northhill.demon.co.uk, fax: (+44) [0]1767 627626.

Association of Bahá'í Studies – English-Speaking Europe

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ABSESE WebSite: www.breacais.demon.co.uk/abs/, BSR Website: bahai-library.org/bsr/



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