

Foreword

Dear reader!

Here you have the second issue of the journal “Researches in Religious Studies”. We are going to continue publishing materials on contemporary trends in the field. As it was announced in the first issue the Journal is thematic. The second issue is devoted to the history of religions. To be more specific there are two topics: study of in some sense peripheral traditions and methodological problems within the discipline of the history of religions.

There are articles on Japanese Buddhism (Nadejda N. Troubnikova), “New Israel” movement of Russian colonists in Saint-Javier in Uruguay (Sergey V. Petrov), differences between the two sects in Jainism (Nataliya A. Jeleznova), perspectives in research of Persian religion (Gherardo Gnoli translated by Igor L. Krupnik), Italian school of the history of religion (Marcello Massenzio translated by Ilia S. Anofriev), connection between Gnosticism and Platonism (John D. Turner translated by Ivan Y. Miroshnikov) and translations of important articles of Morton Smith and Jonathan Z. Smith on historic method in Religious Studies and formation of the field from a historic perspective.

The person of the issue for the section “Portrait of a Scholar” is Ninian Smart (1927-2001). There is a first translation of his three articles into Russian in the issue. Subsection “Works” is filled with an article of Stepan A. Opalev about relations of the theory of secularization and rational choice theory. Section “Conferences” comprised the best presentations from Volgograd Summer School on Religious.

The third issue will be devoted to main problems of phenomenology of religion and comparative religion. It also is planned to publish several debat-able works on the problem of “postsecularism”.

The Editorial Board