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Editorial (Volume 4, Number 4)

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EDITORIAL

In this issue we present two articles which, each in their own way, point up some of the major difficulties in the continuing conversation between Marxists and members of religious communities, whether they be in communist lands or not. The editors of OPREE are committed to informing their readers about present and past developments concerning religion in Eastern Europe. To that end, we have presented articles which spoke to the complexities of the situation there.

Unfortunately, that complexity is just part of the story. There is still little, if anything, that is done in this country to appreciate that complexity and to place it in some kind of historical context. That historical context would have to include some self-critical attention to our own history and our current circumstances vis a vis the peoples of Eastern Europe. Only then can we turn our attention to the situation of religion in Eastern Europe with eyes generous enough to see the possibilities there and chastened enough to be wary of overly optimistic assessments. We hope that articles such as those of Ingo Roer and Paul Mojzes might help all of us achieve such a vision.

We would like to remind our readers that they are free to comment upon articles published here. We ask that these letters be brief and typewritten. We reserve the right to edit the letters for brevity if necessary. In addition, we have begun reviewing scholarly books written on religion in Eastern Europe.

If you know of such books or would like to a review for OPREE,
please contact Richard E. Sharpless, Department of History,
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