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Religion in Eastern Europe to Cease Publishing this Year

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Most things in life do have an end. In our thirty-second year of publication we have - with much regret and searching for alternatives - come to the conclusion that our next issue (November 2012) will be our last. For the past five-six years we have tried, with some success, to continue with regular publication despite shortage of resources, but have now concluded that the time has come to end our efforts. Hence this is the penultimate issue of REE.

The reasons for the decision are many but they boil down to two major causes:

First, we have been unable to bring in enough income with our subscriptions to cover the increasing production and mailing cost, despite the fact that the editorial work and the articles were all a labor of love. In the last two years we were no longer able to send out gratis the 150-200 copies to different theological and other libraries in the former Communist countries, but mailed them a CD with the four annual issues. Even that has become a burden. Our income does not match the expenditures and we have been unable to raise additional funds. Nor have we been willing to follow some other publishers and raise the subscription prices way beyond the reasonable.

Second, the production of scholarly papers dealing with various aspects of all the religions in Eastern Europe has dropped off dramatically. Since the 1990s we have been able to obtain solicited and unsolicited papers without worrying what the content of the next volume or two will be. Now we find it difficult to secure a sufficient number of quality papers. REE is not the only publication affected by this new scarcity; others have already been forced to cease publication or to broaden the area of coverage; REE remained the sole publication exclusively devoted to the former Soviet Union and other socialist countries of Eastern Europe. We see little evidence that interest in this area study is likely to increase.

Readers are reminded that a comprehensive index of all articles and reviews are posted on the REE website at http://ree.georgefox.edu/ and will be included in the final CD that is expected to contain all issues in digital form from 2000-2012. Subscribers and readers may request a mailed copy from Walter Sawatsky following the publication of the November 2012 issue. Analytical surveys of our journal’s contributions and intent, usually alongside articles about sister journals, have appeared at key turning points. Over the past two decades the percentage of articles from newer scholars from Eastern Europeseeking conversation by writing in English has grown greatly, an indication of a fertility of thinking and rethinking that we hope will continue to find its way into print in English, as evident in the articles for this issue.

We hope that this is not an absolute end for what was associated with CAREE even before REE started. The plan is for Paul Mojzes to revert to publishing Occasional Papers in Eastern Europe, but this time only electronically, whenever he receives appropriate submissions by scholars and religious leaders. The publication began as Occasional Papers on Religion in Eastern Europe as it was impossible at that time to know whether there would be authors whose work we could publish. Now, for altogether different reasons we are in an analogous situation. It is not yet clear how we will finance this reduced operation. If our readers have some suggestions as to how to proceed with OPREE please feel free to send it to pmojzes@rosemont.edu.

Paul Mojzes and Walter Sawatsky, co-editors