

*Since its inception, the National Endowment for the Humanities has supported a variety of projects on religions of the world. Here is a sample of those projects.*

**A Selection of Recent NEH-Funded Projects on Religion (2009-2012)**

**Out of Many - Religious Pluralism in America: An NEH Bridging Cultures Project**

Newberry Library, Chicago, IL

A cooperative agreement for a multi-year professional and curriculum development project for faculty and administrators from five community colleges on religious pluralism in America.

2012

**Speaking of Faith® Biographical Series**

Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul

Production of four one-hour radio programs and a companion website profiling significant figures in the history of religious and ethical thought worldwide.

2011

**Investigating Consciousness: Buddhist and Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives**

College of Charleston, SC

A two-week institute for twenty college and university faculty members on consciousness as understood in phenomenology, analytic philosophy, and Buddhist philosophy.

2011

**Dialogues with Krishna: The Bhagavad Gita in Great Time**

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Completion of a book-length historical study of the life of the *Bhagavad Gita*, both in its own compositional setting and as it has been received, re-situated, and reemployed by later listeners and readers in medieval and modern times.

2011

**Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project**

University of Washington, Seattle

Preparation for publication of transcriptions, translations, and extensive annotations of Gandhari texts documenting the early history of Buddhism.

2011

**A Preservation Assessment for Collections of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society**

Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Nashville, TN

A general preservation assessment and the purchase of storage furniture for oversized documents and prints. The materials document missionary work in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America; the Disciples of Christ's involvement with the civil rights movement; and the personal papers of several church leaders, scholars, and missionaries.

2011

### **A History of Hasidism: A Pietistic Revival Movement in the Modern World**

University of California, Davis

Preparation for publication of an 800-page collaborative history of the Jewish Hasidic movement.

2011

### **Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible**

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC

Implementation of a traveling museum exhibition and a traveling library panel exhibition, public programs, and a website on the history and influence of the King James version of the Bible.

2010

### **Mysticism and Monotheism**

Center for Independent Documentary, Sharon, MA

Scripting for a two-hour television broadcast and companion website on mystical practice and its contemporary role in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

2010

### **The Mandaean Book of John: Critical Edition, Translation and Commentary**

Butler University, Indianapolis, IN

Funding work on one of the central ancient texts of the only surviving Gnostic sect, the Mandaeans, who number some 60,000 people now mostly in diaspora from their Mesopotamian homeland.

2010

### **Medieval and Early Modern Islamic Iberia**

University of Virginia, Charlottesville

This four-week Seminar for School Teachers covers the cultural history of Islamic Iberia. It seeks to provide a series of unique cultural perspectives on both the role of Islam and Islamic culture in European history, as well as upon the complex multicultural civilization that flourished for nearly a millennium in what is present-day Spain and Portugal.

2010

### **Sustaining the Rare and Special Collections of Burke Theological Library**

Columbia University, New York, NY

A planning project to analyze and recommend improvements to environmental conditions in the rare book and special collections area of the Union Theological Seminary's Burke Library, a repository documenting the history of Christianity and Western religions from the medieval era to the present.

2010

### **The Buddha and Pilgrimage and Buddhist Art**

Asia Society, New York, NY

Implementation of a traveling exhibition, a symposium, a catalog, and educational and public programs, together with production of a complementary two-hour documentary film; the film concerns the sites of major events of the life of the Buddha, and the traveling exhibition concerns the art of Buddhist pilgrimages to those sites.

2009

### **The Library of Israel in Late Antiquity: Jewish Writings Related to the Bible from the Second Temple Period**

Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, PA

Completion of a volume of translations of writings by Jews in Judea and the Diaspora from roughly 300 BCE to 100 CE.

2009

### **Muslim Societies of Latin Christendom, ca. 1050-1615**

University of California, Santa Cruz

Studying Muslim communities under Christian rule from 1050-1615 and analyzing the impact of Christian domination, reciprocal influences of the majority and minority, and their influence on Latin society and culture. A diverse range of methodological approaches illuminates not only the history of the Muslims of Latin Christendom, but the nature of ethnic and confessional identity and majority-minority relations in general.

2009

### **Examples of Past NEH-Funded Projects on Religion**

#### **War and Peace in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: The Influence of Texts and Commentaries throughout History**

San Diego State University Research Foundation, San Diego, CA

Engaging middle and high school history teachers in an intellectually rigorous exploration of the history of religious thinking on war and peace in the three monotheistic traditions -- Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

2008

#### **Creating a Digital Resource of Islamic Manuscripts**

Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD

Developing the illuminated and illustrated Islamic manuscripts of the museum, which are currently inaccessible to all but a tiny minority, into the Islamic Digital Resource, aiding in their preservation and making them accessible.

2008

#### **Holy Land and Holy City in Classical Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

A five-week summer institute for twenty-five college and university teachers on the significance of the Holy Land and Jerusalem in classical Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, to be held at Oxford University.

2007

**The Middle East between Rome and Iran: Early Christianity and the Path to Islam**

University of Notre Dame, IN

A seminar drawing on the literature and material culture of the region to explore the ways in which the resurgent indigenous cultures there -- Arabic, Syriac, and Armenian -- re-emerged with the decline of local Hellenism to form a population that would in the seventh century be receptive to a new political and religious hegemony.

2006

**The Malta Center: Endowing Records of a Christian/Muslim Island Crossroad**

St. John's University, Collegeville, MN

A Challenge Grant for endowment to support a curatorial position and funds for cataloguing off-site access, a variety of support for visiting scholars, workshops/symposia and the acquisition of materials to supplement and complement the collection at the Malta Study Center, which includes the archives of the Knights of Malta, the Roman inquisition in Malta as well as many documents from Cathedral Museum in Medina.

2003

**Women in Islam**

West Virginia University, Morgantown

A project for college teachers from across West Virginia to study the ways in which Islamic women's lives have been informed by their religion.

2002

**Cataloging and Creating Electronic Access to Buddhist Literary Texts**

University of Virginia, Charlottesville

The preparation of an online descriptive catalog of *The Collected Tantras of the Ancients*, a canon of Tibetan Buddhist literature that contains both translated Indian texts and original Tibetan works from the 8th-15th centuries.

2000

**A History of God**

Maryland Public Broadcasting Foundation, Owings Mills

Consultation with advising scholars to develop a four-hour television documentary series exploring significant aspects of the history of the monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

1999

**Jewish Civilization: The Next Phase of the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies**

University of California, Los Angeles

Course development for a revised undergraduate major in Jewish Studies and an endowment for a colloquium, residential research fellowships, and library acquisitions.

1999

**Islamic Origins**

University of Chicago, IL

A five-week national institute for 25 college and university teachers to review a range of theories on the rise of Islam as a major phenomenon in world history.

1999

**Endowment to Support the Library of Early Christianity**

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

A Challenge Grant for endowment to support a new series of volumes on early Christianity with original texts and new translations.

1997

**Carriers of the Dream Wheel: Visions, Prophecy, and Apocalyptic Narratives in Native American Religions**

College of Charleston, SC

A fellowship for Professor Lee Irwin to study themes in Native American religions.

1997

**North African Christianity in Religious and Cultural Context**

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA

A re-examination of five centuries of North African Christianity, supplementing traditional textual accounts with primary evidence from archaeology, epigraphy, and a study of material culture.

1996

**The Future of the Jewish Past**

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York, NY

Planning for national and regional symposia, film series, radio programs, and other public programming that explore how American Jews understand their past.

1995

**Science in Medieval Islam, Judaism, and Christendom**

University of Wisconsin, Madison

A conference undertaking a comparative study of the history of medieval science within the three monotheistic religious traditions of the time: Islam, Judaism, and Christendom.

1992

**Buddhism and Christianity: Toward the Human Future**

Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA

An international conference investigating hermeneutical, historical, and philosophical issues involved in the comparative study of Buddhism and Christianity.

1986

**Publication of the Dead Sea Scrolls**

The University of Notre Dame, IN

Continuing preparation of editions of the Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient writings that include the earliest versions of many Old Testament texts and a wealth of other religious writings.

Funded on multiple occasions between 1986 and 2012

**Encyclopaedia of Islam, New Edition**

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The revision, expansion, and updating of the authoritative *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, a comprehensive seven-volume reference work, first published in 1908, documenting the history and culture of the Muslim world from the 7th century to the present.

Funded on multiple occasions between 1985 and 2000

**Visual Anthropology of Hindu Worship**

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

The completion of three one-hour films -- part of a series of six called "Pleasing God--How Hindus worship" -- which document particular aspects of community worship and explore the relationships of ritual and every-day life in Hindu India.

1984

**Islamic Culture and Religion**

National Committee for the 14<sup>th</sup> Centennial of Islam, Washington, DC

A discussion series in nine libraries throughout the U.S., in conjunction with a major museum exhibition "Heritage of Islam," examining the relationship between Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

1982