The History of Ideas Unit is concerned, in an inter-disciplinary way, with the development of ideas about man and society, primarily in the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Members of the Unit have been working on Marx and Marxism and their impact on philosophy, jurisprudence, modern theories of society and religion, on theories of revolution and revolutionary ideologies and on the ethical and political stance of radical Christian thinkers and movements. The work of the Unit has been further strengthened by the arrival, late in the year, of a second Research Fellow who will be studying the impact of scientific thinking and technology on social belief and practice, particularly in connection with progress as an immanent principle of historical change.

Much of the Unit's research during the year has been directed toward publication at book length: five books have been completed, or brought near completion, during the year. Dr Kamenka has worked on a number of related books on the life and thought of Karl Marx and has prepared additional material for the proposed second edition of his Ethical Foundations of Marxism. In collaboration with Dr Alice E.S. Tay (Faculty of Law, School of General Studies), he has completed a study of
Marxist theories of law in the light of the development of law and legal theory in Communist countries and of the relationship between Marxism and jurisprudence. He is now turning to a more general study of the development of the concept of law (again in collaboration with Dr Tay) and to a book on the interplay between Freudianism and ethics. Dr Banks' work on the philosophical, ethical and political stance of radical Christianity led him during the year to an examination of the antecedents of contemporary radical Christian thought in the writings of the Young Hegelians. He is now following this up with a full-scale examination of the encounter between Christianity and Marxism. His articles have been published in a number of journals devoted to theology and religious studies. Dr Caton, who took up his appointment in the Unit in October, has been revising the manuscript of a book, *The Origin of Subjectivity: An Essay on Descartes*, which is to be published by Yale University Press in 1972. He is now turning to his study of the application of science to social thought, involving a 'case method' examination of prominent instances of the intersection of science and politics in literature, political ideology, etc.

Four Research Students have worked in the Unit during the year. Mrs Marlene Hall, B.A. (Syd.), has been continuing research which has crystallised into an examination of the idea of taste, 1750-1820. Mr G. Trompf, B.A. (Melb. and Oxon.), M.A. (Monash), Dip.Ed. (Melb.), has been working on the notion of recurrence in Western historical thought; during the year he completed his initial examination of Polybius and the Hellenic tradition and of Luke-Acts. He has now accepted the offer of appointment as Lecturer in Religious Studies in the University of Papua and New Guinea and will be resigning his scholarship from 28 February 1972. He hopes to submit his thesis in the ensuing twelve months. Mr A.C. Wilson, M.A. (Canterbury), continued his study of Marxist aesthetics and the development of the doctrines of socialist realism in the Soviet Union. Illness forced him to forego the opportunity of spending a year working on this topic in the Philosophy Faculty of Moscow State University under the A.N.U.-Moscow State University Exchange Scheme; he is expected to resume his scholarship early next year. Mrs Marian Sawer, M.A. (A.N.U.), took up her scholarship in the Unit in April 1971; she has been examining the function of the concept of oriental despotism in Western European thinking in general and in the work of Marx and Engels in particular as part of her thesis work on 'Russian Marxism, Azlachina and the idea of oriental despotism'.

Two Visiting Fellows worked in the Unit in 1971. Dr Maximilien Rubel, Maître de Recherche in the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, a leading authority on the life and thought of Karl Marx, spent three months in the Unit working and lecturing on the development of Marxism and on various aspects of the Paris Commune. Professor Kichitaro Katsuda, Professor of Political Theory in Kyoto University, spent three months working in the Unit as Leverhulme Fellow, making use of the Russian pamphlet collection in the National Library in connection with a forthcoming study of the Russian intelligentsia and its social and political attitudes. Professor S.N. Eisenstadt of the Hebrew University visited the Unit in January and read a paper on 'Socialism and Tradition'. Professor Peter Ludz
of the University of Bielefeld had to cancel, at the last minute, plans to spend four months in the Unit working on Marxist revisionism and the thought of Georg Lukács.

In July the Unit organised a series of well-attended public university lectures on 'Revolution and Counterrevolution: The Paris Commune, 1871-1971'. The lectures, together with additional material, have grown into a book, *Paradigm for Revolution? The Paris Commune, 1871-1971*, edited by Eugene Kamenka and to be published by the ANU Press in January 1972. Other contributors are Professor R.B. Rose (Tasmania), Dr Maximilien Rubel, Professor Austin Gough (Adelaide), and Dr F.B. Smith (History, Research School of Social Sciences). The Unit has also held regular Monday morning seminars on a wide range of topics in the history of ideas, which have attracted speakers and listeners from many departments in the University.

Members of the Unit have given a number of lectures in other institutions. Dr Banks and Mr Trompf attended the Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Theological Studies held in Sydney in August, where both read papers; Dr Banks also read a paper to the Annual General Conference of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland held in Brisbane in May. Dr Rubel, during his period as Visiting Fellow, lectured to students of the History Department in the School of General Studies and to History and Politics Departments in La Trobe University, the University of Adelaide and Flinders University and to the Philosophy Department in the University of Newcastle. Dr Kamenka lectured to students in Philosophy and in Asian Civilisation in the School of General Studies, to students and staff in the English Department in the University of Melbourne and to the History and Philosophy Departments in the University of New South Wales. He addressed participants in the History Summer School in Sydney in January and read a paper to the Conference of the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy held in New York late in December.

**PUBLICATIONS**

BANKS, R.J.

'How revolutionary is "revolutionary theology"?', *Theology Today, 4*, 27, 394-408.

** 'Jesus' attitude to the Law: conservative, radical or -------?', *Colloquium, 4*, 3, 13-28.

'From fellowship to organisation: a study in the early history of the concept of the Church', *The Reformed Theological Review, 3*, 30, 79-89.

'A Christian revolutionary tradition?', *Journal of Ecumenical Studies, 1*, 8,

'Liberal trends in conservative thought?', *Crux, 4*, 73,

** Based on work done prior to joining this University
CATON, H.

** 'The problem of Descartes' sincerity', Philosophical Forum, 11, 3, 355-370.

KAMENKA, E. and TAY, ALICE E.S.

'Beyond the French Revolution: Communist socialism and the concept of law', University of Toronto Law Journal, 21, 109-140.

+ RUBEL, M. (Ed.)


TROMPF, G.W.


'The first resurrection appearance and the ending of Mark's Gospel', New Testament Studies, XVII

'The concept of God in Hebrews 4, 12-13', Studia Theologica, XXV

WILSON, A.C.


** Based on work done prior to joining this University

+ A member of the Faculty of Law, School of General Studies.

+ Visiting Research Worker.