

Ray L. Hart Chronology
Edited by Andrew D, Scrimgeour

- 1929 Born 22 March, Hereford, Texas
- 1945-8 McMurry College
- 1948- 9 BA, University of Texas (Philosophy, English, German)
- 1949- 53 BD, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University (Theology)
- 1951 Marriage to Juanita Fern Morgan (Tenth Avenue UMC, Amarillo, TX)
- 1952 Ordination, Elder, Northwest Texas Conference, United Methodist Church
- 1953-6 PhD, Yale University (Religious Studies)
Thesis: *The Role of the Imagination in Man's Knowledge of God*
- 1955- 6 Assistant Instructor in Religion, Yale University
- 1956 Birth of son Douglas Morgan Hart (New Haven, CT)
- 1956- 63 Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology
Theological School, Drew University
- 1957 Birth of son Stuart Bracken Hart (Amarillo, TX)
- 1967 Purchased property on the North Fork River (across from Glacier National Park) with Robert W. Funk
- 1963-9 Associate Professor of Philosophical and Systematic Theology
The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University
Director of Graduate Studies in Theology and Ethics
- 1965-2013 Consultant to public universities, leading to the founding or reorganization of over a dozen religious studies departments across the United States and Canada.
- 1968 *Unfinished Man and the Imagination: Toward an Ontology and a Rhetoric of Revelation* (Herder and Herder, 1968); reissued by Seabury Press, The Seabury Library of Contemporary Theology, 1979; Scholars Press, Reprint and Translation Series, 1985.
- 1969-85 American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Editor, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (JAAR), 1969-79
The development of the Journal's intellectual breadth and depth under Hart proved a factor in the AAR gaining membership in the American Council of Learned Societies (1979), a national recognition of AAR's coming of age.
Board of Directors and Executive Committee, 1969-92
Research and Publications Committee, 1969-79
AAR's representative to the Board of Directors, Scholars Press, 1974-80

AAR's first delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, 1979-92

President, American Academy of Religion, 1984-5

Secured grants from the Henry Luce Foundation and the Exxon Educational Foundation to support the 75th anniversary meeting which featured a roster of international scholars, a program exploring the disciplinary challenges which have emerged for the scientific study of religion, and works of music and art commissioned for the occasion.

The Presidential Address, 'To Be *and* Not to Be: *Sit autem sermo (Lógos) vester, est, est; non, non . . .*,' Published in *Trajectories in the Study of Religion, Addresses at the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the American Academy of Religion*, Ray L. Hart, ed. (Scholars Press, 1987), 81-98.

AAR Task Force on Governance and Development—1984, Co-Chair. Its charge was to envision the agenda of the AAR for the next twenty-five years.

The AAR Board of Trustees established the 'Ray L. Hart Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Study of Religion' (1985). Awarded periodically by the AAR Executive Committee.

- 1969-89 Professor of Religious Studies, University of Montana
Founded the Religious Studies Department with Robert W. Funk
Chair of the Department, 1969-74, 1986-9
- 1969-70 President, North Fork Homeowners Association
Mayor of Polebridge, Montana
- 1973, 1975, 1979 Visiting Professor of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, State University of New York at Stony Brook
- 1980 *Unfinished. . . : Essays in Honor of Ray L. Hart*, Mark C. Taylor, ed. *A Thematic Series of The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, XLVIII, Number 1, 1980.
- 1980-3 Car accident, hospitalization, and convalescence.
- 1983-9 Resumed teaching
- 1989-95 Board of Directors, Council for a Parliament of World Religions
- 1989-2016 Professor of Philosophical and Systematic Theology, Boston University
Chair, Department of Religion, 1989-97
Director of the Graduate Division of Religious and Theological Studies, 1989-97
Dean *ad interim*, School of Theology, Boston University, 2003-10
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy of Religions and Theology, 2016
- 2016 Retirement, HartsCore on the North Fork, Polebridge, Montana
God Being Nothing: Toward a Theogony (University of Chicago Press, 2016)

'God Being Nothing. The Speculative Theology of Ray L. Hart,' Special program, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, Texas, 2016. Panelists included Thomas Altizer, Thomas A. Carlson, Douglas Hedley, Lisa McCullough, and Cyril J. O'Regan. Hart responding.

2018 Visiting scholar, School of Religious Studies, McGill University

2021 Hart bequest to the School of Religious Studies, McGill University. This landmark legacy gift will 'lead to the establishment of two "Hart Chairs" in Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology, which will be matched by two additional chairs— one in Philosophy of Religion and another in Religion and Literature— endowed by the University. It will support doctoral fellowships and strategic initiatives within these fields as well.' In due course, Hart's extensive professional library, as well as his archival materials, will be housed in the Ray L. Hart Seminar Room in the historic Birks Building and become part of the library of the School of Religious Studies.

2024 *Unfinished God: The Speculative Philosophical Theology of Ray L. Hart*, Alina N. Feld and Sean J. McGrath, eds. New Perspectives in Ontology Series, Edinburgh University Press, 2024.