

SSSML Newsletter
SOCIETY FOR THE
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
MORMON LIFE

Vol. 10, No. 2
June, 1988

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

1. The annual summer Sunstone Symposium will be held August 17-20, 1988, at the University Park Hotel, 480 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-9901 (near the campus of the University of Utah), where the rates are somewhat more favorable than at the downtown hotels. You may contact the hotel for reservations there (801/581-1000 or 800/637-4390); and for more information on the program itself, you may contact the Sunstone Foundation, 331 South Rio Grande Street, Suite 30, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1136 (801/355-5926). Pre-registration for the symposium costs \$48.00. As always, there will be many stimulating sessions, starting with a Wednesday evening panel (August 17th) commemorating the 10th anniversary of the bestowal of the priesthood on blacks. Other panels will be part of the same commemoration, including one on the history of the West African Mission, and one on how recent black converts in the

U.S. have fared in various kinds of wards, branches, and groups. SSSML will sponsor a session called "Women in Social Institutions: Insights for Mormons" on August 19th at 8:30 a.m. Additional Symposium topics will include Mormon women and sexuality; cartooning Mormonism; the effect of the Evan Mecham affair on the Mormon community; new approaches to the Book of Mormon; Mormon jurisprudence; a psychoanalysis of violent Mormon fundamentalists; and many, many other exciting things. Sign up now!

Note: There will be a SSSML business meeting at the Symposium on August 19th at 11:30 a.m. The location will be announced in the published schedule.

2. Right after the Sunstone Symposium comes the annual conference of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, held, as usual, in connection with the meetings of the American Sociological Association. The dates of the ASR meeting this year will be August 21-23, and the place will be the Colony Square Hotel, Peachtree and 14th Streets NE, Atlanta Georgia 30361. Contact the hotel directly for reservations, and be sure to mention that you will be participating in the ASR conference. A copy of the preliminary program itself can be obtained by contacting Barbara J. Denison, Executive Secretary, ASR,

Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA 17003-0501. Traditionally the SSSML has held its official annual meeting in connection with this ASR conference, but that will not be the case this year. The main reasons for this decision are (1) Not enough papers were submitted to Marie Cornwall in response to the call for papers in the last issue of this Newsletter; and (2) The officers of SSSML are seriously considering moving our official annual meeting to later in the Fall, when we can meet with the SSSR and RRA (q.v. below), which is a much larger conference.

In any case, even though SSSML itself will not be separately identified at this August's meetings of the ASR, several SSSML members will be there presenting papers, which, along with many of the other papers to be presented, should be of considerable interest to the SSSML membership. Examples are the papers on the Rajneesh movement; on Pat Robertson's constituency; gender-role stereotypes and female ordinations; Protestant fundamentalists; social conditions conducive to conversion (by Jim Duke and Barry Johnson of BYU); reconsiderations of Jonestown and the People's Temple Movement; religion and penology; the role of religion in world law and order; and many others. Several new books will be reviewed in an "Author Meets Critics" format. The Presidential Address, by Professor Roland Robertson, is entitled, "America, Religion, and the World"; and the annual Furfey Distinguished Lecture will be given this year by Professor Harold J. Berman, Emory University School of Law, on "The Interaction of Law and Religion in the Development of a World Order." Several of the sessions will help to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this organization (Association for the Sociology of Religion), which began as

the American Catholic Sociological Association. One of the papers in that connection, on the demography of decline and change in the American Catholic Church, will be given by Lawrence Young of BYU and his co-author Richard Schoenherr of the University of Wisconsin. Visit the old south this summer and enjoy some great intellectual fare at the ASR meetings!

3. Just before Halloween, October 28-30, 1988, will occur the joint annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Religious Research Association, and the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, all at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Special highlights of these meetings will include sessions on televangelism, feminist challenges to patriarchal religion, changes in the Catholic Church, conflict among Southern Baptists, black religion, new directions in the psychology of religion, and many other topics. Pedro A. Ribeiro de Oliveira will make a special presentation on conflict and change in the Catholic Church of Latin America; and George Gallup will offer a plenary session on the impact of religion upon the 1988 presidential elections (which will be coming right up at that point in time!). More information on the program will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In the previous issue of this Newsletter, nominations were announced for the new slate of SSSML officers. Given that there were no competing nominations offered, the new officers are Donald B. Lindsey, President (California State University, San Bernardino); Tim Heaton, Vice-President and President-Elect (BYU); Kristen Goodman, Secretary-Treasurer (LDS

Research and Evaluation); Dean Louder, Council (Laval University); Joseph Olsen, Council (BYU); and Gordon Shepherd, Council (Central Arkansas University). All terms are for two years and will begin this Fall.

- We are informed by Brigham Card that a memorial scholarship fund has been established at Utah State University in honor of Lowry and Florence Nelson. The scholarship is being administered by the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at USU. A news story about this scholarship has appeared, we understand, in the April, 1988, issue of *The Rural Sociologist*.
- An interesting article by Edward Geary appears in the latest issue (22:2) of the *Utah Folklife Newsletter* on "Folklore and the Generation of 1930," with special attention to the work of Nels Anderson, Juanita Brooks, Maurine Whipple, Virginia Sorensen, Samuel W. Taylor, Bernard DeVoto, Charles Kelly, and Wallace Stegner.
- The annual SSSML Lectureship, co-sponsored by the Redd Center and the Department of Sociology at BYU, was awarded this year to Dean R. Louder of the Department of Geography, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec G1K 7P4, Canada. A social geographer, Dean was just installed on our SSSML Council (see above). His very interesting lecture, "Canadian Mormon Identity," was delivered at BYU on March 22, 1988. Copies can be obtained by writing to Dean at the above address.

RECENT CONFERENCES

The annual meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association were held April 5-8, 1988, at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. A number of papers were presented of potential interest to SSSML members, particularly those which

comprised the special session co-sponsored by SSSML. Abstracts of those SSSML papers follow:

- "Mormonism and the American Kingdom of God," by John Jarvis of Washington State University.
This paper elaborated upon the concept of "outsider as insider" put forth by historian Laurence Moore, with particular application to the Mormon case. Just as the American identity was formed in large part by a deliberate cultivation of an "outsider" status vis-a-vis Europe, Mormon identity has been maintained by cultivating the same sense in relation to the rest of the U.S. Given the waves of immigration to the U.S., one could indeed think of this country as a nation of "outsiders." Thus, the adoption of an "outsider" self-concept by the Mormons was very much in the American tradition. The paradox, then, is that while striving to maintain the "outsider" identity, Mormons are actually doing a very American thing and thus behaving as "insiders" after all! The Mormon movement has succeeded, then, more because of its emphasis on being different than in spite of that emphasis.
- "The Mormon Ethic and the Spirit of Altruism: A Rational Choice Explanation of Voluntary Cooperation," by Jodi A. O'Brien, University of Washington.
The altruistic behavior of the Mormons and their thriving, communally-oriented society need not be considered an anomaly to the rational choice paradigm. Rather, this productive and efficient community can be explained as the unintended aggregate consequence of the rational behavior of intentional actors. Behavior such as extreme altruism, which from one perspective appears irrational, may actually be interpreted as the most logical and rational response toward the attainment of a particular goal, once this opaque goal and the contextually specific structural constraints upon behavior are better understood. This paper attempts to

illuminate the Mormon goal, eternal salvation, and to argue that the altruistic behavior so fervently practiced among Mormons, as indicated by contributions of money and services, can be explained as the calculated attempt to garner a supply of salvation capital. Individuals engage in acts of competitive service as a means of assuring their good standing in the eyes of God, and of a guarantee of a place in the top ranks of a stratified heaven. This, then, is the general rubric under which to assemble an interpretation of Mormon culture: behavior is rational and intentional and is best understood within the confines of culturally specific goals and values.

- "Life Events and Religious Change," by Stan L. Albrecht and Marie Cornwall, Brigham Young University. Over the course of a lifetime, virtually everyone experiences change in the level of religious belief and activity. Some of these changes are modest in scope; others are more dramatic, as in the case of religious conversion or loss of faith. This paper examines the effect of a variety of life events on changes in religious belief and behavior. Since not all people attribute religious meaning to different life events, their impact on personal religiosity varies from individual to individual. Nevertheless, it was found that on the aggregate level both the importance of one's religious beliefs and the importance of one's church increase as a result of positive life events, while the opposite occurs following negative life events. This pattern holds for events that are overtly religious in nature, as well as for events that may or may not have religious significance, such as illness, injury, divorce, or the death of a loved one.
- "The Grandparent-Grandchild Relationship in the LDS Subculture," by Evan T. Peterson, Brigham Young

University.

As part of the 20-year "LDS Family Longitudinal Study" involving 1200 individuals from 133 3-generation families throughout the United States, responses were analyzed from 302 granddaughters, 282 grandsons, 156 grandmothers, and 113 grandfathers. Based on research dealing with non-LDS grandparents and grandchildren, five hypotheses were advanced and tested: (1) Younger grandchildren and (2) granddaughters of all ages would have greater involvement with their grandparents than would (respectively) older grandchildren and grandsons; (3) Younger grandparents and (4) grandmothers would have greater involvement with their grandchildren than would (respectively) older grandparents and grandfathers. Finally (5), Grandparents would have greater involvement with their grandchildren than their grandchildren would have with them. The dependent variable, involvement, was operationalized with six questions tapping the interactional dimension of involvement and eight questions tapping the contemplational dimension. Perceptions about the grandparent role were identified by two batteries of questions. Gender turned out to be more important than age in relationships between the generations; moreover, gender of the grandchildren was especially important. Age of the grandchildren was significant only in relation to interaction with and contemplation about grandparents. Differences between some of these findings and those of earlier studies can likely be attributed to the special importance of the family in LDS culture. As expected, there were major differences between the generations in both the interactional and contemplative dimensions of relations with each other. Significantly more grandparents were involved with grandchildren than the other way around. However, contrary to predictions, the grandchildren stoutly

defended the grandparent role, even though they did not do as much with and for their grandparents as the grandparents did with and for them.

- "Family Names across Generations," by Phillip Kunz, Brigham Young University. This was a brief paper describing and explaining the expectation of the survival a certain surname (in this case, Kunz) down the generations, given predictable attrition from loss of the surname through marriage of females, etc.

The annual meetings of the Mormon History Association were held in ideal facilities on the campus of Utah State University in Logan during May 5-8, 1988. The conference opened with a plenary session on the first night which was devoted to marking the tenth anniversary of the change in priesthood policy toward blacks. After a paper by Roger Launius explaining the similarities and differences between the LDS and RLDS handling of the black issue, Jessie Embry and Alan Cherry reviewed some of the findings of their oral history project on black LDS members. Two days later there was another panel on black Mormons, discussing the changes of the past decade, as seen through the eyes of panel participants comprising blacks and whites, as well as LDS and non-LDS observers.

Other MHA panels and/or papers of likely interest to SSSML members were:

(1) A paper by a USU historian on "The Mormon Community and the Sociological Profession." This was rather a strange paper, since the speaker was not very well informed on the sociological literature dealing with Mormons, especially that of the past decade or so. (2) A panel on the social and economic significance of water and irrigation in the development of Mormon communities. (3) A historiographic lecture by the special Tanner lecturer, Professor Henry Warner Bowden of Rutgers University, on the evolution of Mormon studies in the 20th century, in which he saw many parallels to the evolution of American

historiography more generally. (4) A panel on Mormon outmigration during the 20th century and the elites that developed in the diasporic Mormon communities. (5) A panel on Mormon schismatic groups, including RLDS, Gladdenites, and Fundamentalists. (6) A panel on early industrial enterprises in Utah, including the telegraph, mining, and sugar beets. (7) A panel appraising the state of Mormon studies in other countries than the U.S. (8) A panel assessing (and to some extent questioning) the Puritan legacy in Mormonism. (9) A paper on the real "crisis of succession," which apparently occurred after John Taylor rather than after Joseph Smith! Copies of the printed program, of abstracts of most of the papers, and contacts with authors, can probably be obtained by writing Dr. Carol Cornwall Madsen, JFS Institute, BYU, Provo 84602, who chaired the Program Committee for the Logan meetings. Next May the MHA will meet in Quincy (near Nauvoo), Illinois.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- It is worth repeating here the announcement in the previous issue of this Newsletter about the recent publication by SUNY Press of Hans A. Baer's *Recreating Utopia in the Desert: A Sectarian Challenge to Mormonism* (1988). It deals with the schismatic movement called variously "the Levites" or the "Order of Aaron" and is a very sympathetic and perceptive anthropological study. Hans has recently been appointed Book Review Editor of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. For copies (\$14.95, paperback), contact SUNY Press, P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, New York 14850 (800/666-2211).
- Austin E. Fife, with Alta Fife, ed., *Exploring Western Americana, a Study of Mormon and Other Folklore*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: UMI Research Press, 1988.
- Edwin Brown Firmage and R. Collin Mangrum, *Zion in the Courts: A Legal*

History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. University of Illinois Press, 1988.

- F. LaMond Tullis, *Mormons in Mexico: The Dynamics of Faith and Culture*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1987.
- Edwin Brown Firmage (ed.), *An Abundant Life: The Memoirs of Hugh B. Brown*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1988 (a surprisingly candid book in many places).
- Linda Sillitoe and Allen Roberts, *Salamander: The Story of the Mormon Forgery Murders*. SLC: Signature Books, 1988.
- Dan Vogel, *Religious Seekers and the Advent of Mormonism*. SLC: Signature Books, 1988.

ARTICLES

From *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 21:1 (Spring, 1988):

- Margaret Toscano, "Beyond Matriarchy, Beyond Patriarchy."
- Paul Toscano, "Beyond Tyranny, Beyond Arrogance."
- Michael W. Homer, "The Judiciary and the Common Law in Utah Territory, 1850-1861."
- Kenneth C. Driggs, "The Prosecutions Begin: Defining Cohabitation in 1885."
- Allan Kent Powell, Review of Edward Leo Lyman's *Political Deliverance: The Mormon Quest for Utah Statehood*.

From *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 21:2 (Summer, 1988):

- David H. Bailey, "Scientific Foundations of Mormon Theology."
- C. Brooklyn Derr, "Messages from Two Cultures: Mormon Leaders in France, 1985."
- David D. Peck, "Mormonism and Eastern

Mysticism."

- Alan Taylor, Review of D. Michael Quinn's *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View*.

From *Sunstone*, 12:1 (January 1988):

- Malcolm R. Thorp, "James E. Talmage and the Tradition of the Victorian Lives of Jesus: The Genealogy of Jesus the Christ."
- Reviews of D. Michael Quinn's *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* by Jon Butler, Stephen D. Ricks, and Daniel C. Peterson, with a response by Quinn.
- Marie Cornwall, "Differences" (a brief essay on the social and cultural bases for individual differences among the LDS).
- *Sunstone* Correspondents, "Single Adult Wards Stretch Church Policy."

From *BYU Studies*, 27:2 (Spring, 1987):

- Bruce A. Van Orden, "The Decline in Convert Baptisms and Member Emigration from the British Mission after 1870."
- Madison H. Thomas, "The Influence of Traditional British Social Patterns on LDS Church Growth in Southwest Britain."
- Tim B. Heaton, Stan L. Albrecht, and J. Randal Johnson, "The Making of British Saints in Historical Perspective"; actually rather a sociological article.

And in two other journals:

- Robert E. Lewis, Mark W. Fraser, and Peter J. Percora, "Religiosity among Indochinese Refugees in Utah." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 27:2 (June, 1988).
- Barry L. Johnson, James T. Duke, Susan Eberley, and Deborah H. Sartain, "'Wives' Employment Status and Marital Happiness of Religious Couples." Review of *Religious Research* 29:3 (March, 1988); includes Mormons.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Inasmuch as the new officers take over in August, this will be my last message to the members of SSSML as president. In general I have been pleased with the activity in which SSSML has participated during the last two years, and I suspect that even more participation will take place during the next two years. We have a good organization with some very talented members, so activity should continue to improve and increase. I want to thank all of you who have participated during the past two years.

I will be in Norway in August, so I will not be able to attend the Sunstone conference. However, I have looked over the program for this year, and I am impressed that it will be a very interesting conference. I would recommend it to all of you. The SSSML Business Meeting will give you all a chance to meet your new officers and to give them any suggestions you might have.

Our goal has always been to study Mormon life from a scientific perspective, and I hope we can continue to do that. We have gained much knowledge in recent years from scientific studies

carried out by members of SSSML, and this knowledge can be applied to the improvement of sociological theory, thereby increasing our understanding of human behavior.

To Donald B. Lindsey and the other new SSSML officers I extend my very best wishes. I am grateful to them for their willingness to serve, and I am confident that they will find happiness in the continued development of our organization. I hope as many as can will attend the Sunstone Conference SSSML Business Meeting in order to get to know each other better and to start laying plans for the coming two years.

In closing, may I express my gratitude to all of you who have so faithfully paid your dues over the years, and may I remind you that dues for 1989 and beyond should be paid to the new officers, Kristen Goodman being the secretary-treasurer. May I further remind you that your suggestions and your news items are always welcome to this news letter; and, I am sure, to your new officers.

Sincerely,

Wilford E. Smith