

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE ON MORMON SOCIETY AND CULTURE

No . 3 1974

P.O. Box 7258, Univ. Sta.
Provo, Utah 84602

New Members

Charles H. Ainsworth
Asst. Prof., Sociology/Anthropology, University of Montevallo
Montevallo, Alabama 35115

Special interests: 1) social, cultural and behavioral research on Mormons; 2) history, especially sociocultural, of Mormons in the South; 3) Mormons and minorities in the South; 4) cooperation and conflict between LDS and others.

Studies: 1) sample survey (underway) on Mormons in Alabama and Georgia on attitudes regarding current and traditional issues, along lines of work by Glock and Stark and also Armand Mauss.

Scott G. Kenney
(at Graduate Theological Union) 2508 Hillegass, Berkeley, CA 94704

Special interests: 1) Mormonism and American civil religion, historically treated; 2) biblical studies, especially Mormonism and the Old Testament; 3) Mormon history, particularly the 1894-1920 shift.

Dean R. Louder
Asst. Prof., Geography, Laval University, Quebec 10, Canada

Special interests: 1) the Mormon phenomenon outside Utah; 2) explanation for differential regional growth of the Church; 3) geographic/demographic studies, e.g. migration and spatial variation in LDS birth rates; 4) factors explaining "propensity to convert"; 5) ecclesiastical units as social geographic units.

Studies: 1) Ph.D. dissertation at University of Washington, 1972: "A Diffusionary and Distributional Analysis of the Mormon Church, 1950-1970." 2) Co-investigator with Ben Bennion in examination of LDS migration patterns since 1940, data from a 1% sample of Church membership records in the U.S. and Canada, in progress.

Joseph B. Romney
1203 Madonna Rd., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Special interest: "to keep abreast of developments."

Calvin N. Smith

Assoc. Prof., Speech-Communications, Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Illinois 61920

Special interests: 1) Joseph Smith's preaching and persuasion and the speaking of other early Illinois Mormons; 2) intercultural communications; 3) Mormonalia in Germany.

Studies: 1) Ph.D. dissertation at Purdue, 1965: "The Public Speaking of Joseph Smith, First President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; 2) "Joseph Smith as a Public Speaker," *Improvement Era*, April, 1966.

Larry T. Wimmer

Assoc. Prof., Economics, BYU (306 JKB)

Special interests: 1) economic history of Mormons; 2) aspects of the economic life of Mormons today; 3) use of genealogical records as sources for economic history.

Studies: 1) "The Kirtland Safety Society," with D. Paul Sampson, *BYU Studies*, Summer 1972; 2) a review of marginal Mormon economic thought in the form of Robert Preston's book, *How to Prepare for the Coming Crash*, in *BYU Studies*, Summer 1974.

Responses to Last Newsletter

The response to the inquiry regarding possible contributions to a yearbook or annual research publication for next year was too slight to allow realistic planning of such a venture.

"Have you manuscripts or duplicated papers on which you would like comments by other CMSC people, and are you willing to send copies to them if they request it?"

Larry T. Wimmer and Clayne L. Pope, "The Genealogical Society Library of Salt Lake City: A Source of Data for Quantitative Historians." Submitted to *Historical Methods Newsletter*.

Douglas F. Tobler, "Mormonism and Human Dignity;" "The Mormon Contribution to the Resistance Movement against Hitler: Hulmut Hubener and Friends;" and "Some Implication for American Mormons of Belonging to a World Church." All in preparation.

John L. Sorenson, "Mormon Personality or Social Character;" "A Mormon Picture of Creation;" and "Mormonism and Science as Traditions."

Dean Louder and Ben Bennion will be producing papers later on their large migration study and will let us know of their availability through this newsletter.

Surely more than this is underway. Are there other offers now?

Invitation to Dialogue

One of our members, Edward Geary, the book review editor for *Dialogue*, invites CMSC members to suggest to him books to be reviewed as well as possible reviewers. He desires three types of reviews: 1.) brief informative notes (under 250 words); 2) analytical reviews of

individual books (50-1500 words); and 3) longer review essays which explore the issues raised by either a single important book or a group of related books. Geary is especially interested in suggestions for books to be reviewed which can be handled from a Mormon point of view even though not published primarily for a Mormon audience.

“Economics and the Mormon Culture”

CMSC member J. Kenneth Davies has sent an invitation to us which all our members will find of interest. The Department of Economics at BYU, as part of the university’s centennial year, will sponsor a conference on the general theme “Economics and the Mormon Culture.” It will take place Oct. 6-8, 1975, on the Provo campus. Expressions of interest in participating are now being solicited and may be addressed to Davies. Not only economists but other interested participants are welcome. There will apparently be some funds with which to subsidize travel expenses of those giving papers, and an issue of BYU Studies will be devoted to some of the best papers.

The illustrative topics offered include the following major headings:

1. Mormon Economic History
2. Mormon Economic Thought
3. Economics of the Mormon Family
4. Theories of Church Economic Behavior
5. Mormons in Less Developed Societies
6. Mormons and the American Culture

The sub-topics indicate that “economic” is being construed rather broadly. Copies of a tentative list of LDS economists (numbering 260) can be obtained, along with the list of topics and a form for expressing the nature of your interest, from the organizer at 304 JKB, BYU.

Mormon Scientists and Scholars

Kenneth R. Hardy, one of our number, recently published an extremely important article: “Social Origins of American Scientists and Scholars,” *Science*, Vol. 185, 9 August 1974, pp. 497-506. The piece especially considers the religious background of scientists and scholars. The Latter-day Saints are prominently mentioned. Hardy has data showing some changes in the rate of production of such experts over time. Not only the data, but the analysis, is significant. The author offers a reprint to CMSC people who send a request to him (1234-B SFLC, BYU).

Journal of Mormon History Published

If you are a member of the Mormon History Association, you already have received this journal. The first issue includes an article on “Mormonism’s Encounter with Spiritualism” by Davis Bitton, of the CMSC Executive Committee, as well as a significant work by Michael Quinn, “The Evolution of the Presiding Quorums of the LDS Church.” The latter, along with

Duane Jeffrey's article in Dialogue on the development of LDS thought on evolution and Gordon Irving's "The Law of Adoption" in the Spring 1974 BYU Studies gives impetus to interpreting LDS thought in the context of changing society which many of us will profit from.

Nibley Volume Underway

Jack Welch of CMSC (2222 Strebtor Rd., Durham, NC 27705) is the moving force behind preparation of a volume of essays contributed by students and friends of Professor Hugh Nibley. Those wishing further information can inquire directly to Welch.

Family History Conference?

G. Wesley Johnson (History Department, University of California-SB, Santa Barbara, CA 93107) is considering conducting a conference next year at BYU on family history. If you have a contribution or wish to attend, you could write to him. He taught a very successful course in the subject last summer in Provo.

No Third Conference on Mormon Language?

Harold Madsen and John Sorenson, who organized conferences on Mormon language the last two years, have decided that there is too little promise of new ground being turned regarding the subject to justify holding a third conference. They would be pleased to assist anybody who feels they would like to undertake planning for a third meeting. They plan to edit a volume on Mormon language, mainly from papers given at the conferences, but contributors can still submit other materials for consideration.

Should CMSC Meet?

Several members of the Committee have suggested that the time may be near when some kind of face-to-face meeting of the membership should occur. An early April one-day session would be possible. Considering how few written communications are submitted for the newsletter, a meeting may not make much sense. Do we have anything to say to each other? Are any of you interested in attending? Your comments will be welcome, so that if plans are to be laid, it can be done promptly.

The next issue of the newsletter, which will complete the first year, will appear immediately after Christmas. Any meeting in the Spring ought to be at least scheduled for announcement in that issue.

Christiansen Report Availability

Newsletter 2 reported availability of a report done in 1959 by John R. Christiansen for the General Melchizedek Priesthood Committee, which included extensive data from a stratified sample of stakes. What also needs to be known is that the report falls into four parts, each of

which is quite lengthy: Elders' Activity, 116 pp., Temple Marriage, 123, New Convert Activity, 88, and Senior Aaronic Priesthood Member Activity, 88 pp. You can request copies directly from Chad Flake, Mormon Americana librarian, 407 HBLL. The Church Historical Department also has a copy.

Bibliography on Mormon Society and Culture: II

Following is a continuation of the bibliography begun in Newsletter 2. It features doctoral dissertations, plus essays to fill out space. Some addenda are:

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