

## NEWSLETTER

### COMMITTEE ON MORMON SOCIETY AND CULTURE

No. 1, 1975

P.O. Box 7258, Univ. Sta.  
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#### Membership

Our intention had been to publish four newsletters in 1974, however lack of publishable material from the membership combined with a tight schedule for the editor at the end of the year to prevent the intention. If you wish to continue support of CMSC, now is the time to send \$2.50 for dues for 1975. This copy of the newsletter is a bonus to you if you should not wish to renew! Do you know others who might wish to join with us? Call them up or drop them a note, now.

#### Whither CMSC?

Members of the Executive Committee feel no desire to change the direction of our group but rather the need to persevere in our established course which is seen as very much worthwhile. We shall, therefore, continue the Newsletter generally along the lines of the first year, with the hope that members will submit more information and ideas to share with each other through this medium.

#### Contest: 1975

In order to stimulate production and publication of worthy contributions to the study of Mormon society and culture, Chairman John L. Sorenson announces his own contest to CMSC members and all other comers. A prize of \$100 will be given to the best unpublished paper on the topic submitted by Nov. 1 of this year. The winner will be announced in the last issue of CMSC Newsletter of this year. "Unpublished" means not having been accepted nor being considered for publication elsewhere at the time of submission. The winning paper and any others of appropriate quality submitted will be published in this Newsletter, CMSC resources permitting. The intent is not to compete with established publication outlets but rather to smoke out papers otherwise likely to remain unavailable. Student papers are welcome. All judging will be at the discretion of the sponsor. Any subject within the broad range of "Mormon society and culture" may be treated, but with special concern for the twentieth century. Mail entries to the address above.

#### Symposium Planned

The Department of Geography and College of Social Sciences, as part of the observance of the BYU Centennial, will hold an interdisciplinary symposium on "The

Mormon Role in the Settlement of the West” on Nov. 13-14, 1975 at BYU. Abstracts of papers are invited before May 1.

Illustrative types of topics include: settlement (immigrants, expansion, settlement type, architecture, etc.); economic impact (e.g. agriculture, industry, mining); exploration and geographic knowledge; development of transportation; diffusion of technology (e.g. irrigation).

Submit a one-page double-spaced abstract or indicate a desire to attend to Richard H. Jackson, Dept. of Geography, 167 HGB, BYU, Provo, UT, 84602.

### Symposium on Economics and the Mormon Culture

Newsletter 3, 1974, noted the intention of the Department of Economics at BYU to sponsor this symposium, on Oct. 6-8, 1975. Inquiries may be directed to J. Kenneth Davies, 304 JKB, BYU.

### Mormon History Association Meetings

For those who might not have seen an announcement, we note the MHA sessions planned at BYU and nearby April 11-13. Among topics of special interest to CMSC people are: 1) workshop on “Quantification in Mormon History,” involving Ben Bennion and Dean Louder of our membership; 2) “International Aspects of LDS History,” involving Richard O. Cowan, R. Lanier Britsch, Douglas F. Tobler, F. LaMond Tullis of CMSC; and 3) Thomas Alexander's presidential address on “Wilford Woodruff and the Change in the Nature of Mormon Religious Experience.”

It is too late for advance registration, but you can contact Pres. Alexander (490 HBLL, BYU) for a program and an answer about registering at the door.

### BYU Family Research Conference

Several empirical and interpretive papers given Feb. 6-7, 1975, are of interest: Evan T. Peterson, “Parental Adolescent Relationships in the Mormon Family;” Harold T. Christensen, “Some Next Steps for Research on the Mormon Family;” Davis Bitton, “Historical Aspects of the Mormon Family;” Mary Ann Johnson & Kenneth L. Cannon, “Relationship of Educational Level and Length of Dating to Romantic Love Feelings and Liking of LDS Girls for their Engagement Partners;” Glenn Jensen, “Antecedents and Consequences of Mormon Family System: The Known and the Unknown;” Stephen J. Bahr and J Howard M. Bahr, “Religion and Family Roles: A Comparison of Catholic, Mormon, and Protestant Families;” Jay D. Schvaneveldt, “Adolescence: Coming of Age in the Mormon Family;” Brent Miller, “Fertility-Related Attitudes of Mormon Women across Three Generations;” Stan L. Albrecht and C. Bradford Chappell, “Intergenerational Contact and Alienation in Elderly Mormon

Families;” Spencer J. Condie, “An Assessment of Role Stress within the Mormon Family;” Brent Barlow, “The Mormon Family in Transition;” Tim B. Heaton and Barry L. Johnson, “Church Attendance, Family Interaction, and Psychological Well-Being among Mormons;” and C. Jay Skidmore, “Psychotherapy in the Mormon Family.”

A volume of proceedings, including a selection of these papers and some from previous annual conferences, is in preparation and should appear within a few months. Anyone with urgent need to see a particular paper can send a request to the CMSC address, or if on the BYU campus contact Phil Kunz, 197 FOB.

#### Welch Lecture Series Paper

This annual series, arranged and chaired by CMSC member Jack Welch, emphasized work of interest to Hugh Nibley, who was being honored. One paper, by Michael Quinn, is of interest here: “A History of LDS Prayer Circles,” Requests for copies probably can be sent to Welch at 2222 Strebor Road, Durham, North Carolina 27705.

#### Sperry Symposium Paper

At the Third Annual Sydney B. Sperry Symposium not long ago, a paper by Lael J. Woodbury was given which is of possible interest to readers of the Newsletter: “The History and Uses of the Sacred Hosanna Shout.” This and two other papers are being edited for publication by Robert J. Matthews, Dept. of Ancient Scripture, BYU.

#### BYU History Week: Family Heritage and Family History

Among papers given at this event, held March 26-28, were the following.

Maureen Ursenbach (Church Historical Dept.), “Sources for the History of Mormon Women.”

William A. Wilson (English Dept., BYU), “Folklore and Family History.”

Mark P. Leone (Anthropology, Princeton U.), “Mormon Uses of History.”

Darwin L. Thomas (CDFR Dept., BYU), “Research Trends on the Mormon Family: Some Answered and Some Unanswered Questions.”

Owen E. Clark (M.D., Seattle), “A Child in the Cycle of Life: Psychosocial Developments in the Context of the Family.”

Davis Bitton (Church Historical Dept.), “Mormon Diaries as a Source for Family History and Biography.”

Kenneth W. Godfrey (LDS Institute, Ogden), “Religious Training in Mormon Homes, 1830 to 1900: A Mother's View.”

Vicky Burgess Olson (Grad. student, Northwestern U.), “Family Structure and Dynamics in Early Utah Mormon Families, 1847-1887.”

Edward Geary (English Dept., BYU), “The Genteel Tradition in Mormonism.”

You will recognize Leone, Bitton and Geary as CMSC participants.

### Redd Lecture on Mormon Folklore

The March lecture in the series sponsored by the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies was by W.A. (Bert) Wilson, whose presentation on Mormon folklore in a functional framework was outstanding. It will be published later in the year in the Redd Monograph Series. It is probably the most instructive treatment of this topic yet given.

### Exponent II

If any CMSC members are not yet acquainted with this publication, a tabloid periodical for and about Mormon women, you should be. In the most recent issue, comments by psychiatrist Martin Nalder, and associated observations by a group of LDS women, are most revealing concerning the problems of women in Mormon life today. The address for Exponent II is Box 37, Arlington, MA 02174.

### Invitation to Presentation of Papers

John Sorenson has been conducting a BYU Honors Program class this semester whose topical focus is the Impact of American Society on the Mormons in the Twentieth Century. The participants have done a series of papers on aspects of the topic. Each student will present his best paper in scholarly style before an audience composed of the other class members and invited guests. Each paper will be allowed fifteen minutes. You readers are among the invited. The session will be held from 4 to 7 P.M. on the 16th in 321 ELWC (Little Theatre). Most or all of the papers will be published during the summer, about which you will learn more through the Newsletter. Tentative participants and subjects:

Wade Christofferson, The Growing Use of Scripture to Limit Deviation  
David Clawson, Mormon Charity in American Patterns  
Denise Coldren, Development of the Health Programs of the Church  
Michael Gale, The Church's Position in Administering Welfare (also has done a paper on Changing Mormon Views of Lawyers)  
Linda Grimm, American Impacts on the Mormon Position in the Philippines  
C. Martin Hinckley, Some Economic and Social Impacts in Interaction  
Karlyn Lewis, The Lady Missionary and the Role of Women  
Cynthia Reading, Two Welfare Systems  
A. Kim Smith, An Effect of Media Coverage on General Conference  
Kenneth Stewart, Mormon Fertility and Social Factors

### Abstracts on Mormon Society and Culture in the Twentieth Century

John Sorenson has developed, with the help of student research assistants, a file of summaries of the literature on this topic. A standard form was used including call number (and library), author, title, publication data, abstract (its own if possible), location of the

Mormons treated, time period, whether comparison is made with (which) other groups, proportion of the piece about Mormons, comment on the quality of the research, framework or approach used, data sources used, listing of tables or other “hard” data, and whether the piece reviews rebuts or extends a previous publication. Much of this is now available on approximately 700 items. By the end of the summer it is hoped to have at hand treatments of virtually the whole set of relevant literature--articles, books, theses, dissertations and unpublished papers.

Despite incompleteness and possible inaccuracy of the reviews, they may well be valuable to students of the subject. Any visitor to the campus is welcome to examine this file, and it could be copied at five cents per page. In time it may lead to an annotated bibliography. to be circulated through this Newsletter.

### CMSC Face To Face

In accordance with a suggestion from a member, a room has been scheduled at the Mormon History Associate for CMSC members to visit. Room 371 ELWC is booked from 9 to 10 A.M. on Saturday, April 12. Drop in if you can be free and wish to talk.