

NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE ON MORMON SOCIETY AND CULTURE

No. 2, 1975

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

CMSC Student Research Paper Contest

Research papers prepared by students are invited on any aspect of the subject Mormon Society and Culture. This is taken to include any aspect of the life of the Mormon people. Papers should be factual, yet the body of fact should be analyzed and interpreted according to sound standards of scholar-ship. Creative literature or studies which are mainly descriptive or doctrinal are not eligible. The intention behind the contest is to stimulate production of papers which will increase understanding of how Mormons have behaved, thought, and felt, now or in the past.

Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded the three best papers, if they are of publishable quality. Entries should be submitted by December 20, 1975, to the Committee on Mormon Society and Culture. A similar competition with identical prizes will have an April 25, 1976, deadline.

Students at any institution may enter.

No format is specified, since the entries may come from various fields. Any format used by an established scholarly journal will do. (Entrants may refer to BYU Studies or Dialogue if no other format suggests itself.) Papers under consideration for publication at the time of submission should not be submitted here.

Awards will be based on quality and appropriateness of the data, logic of the analysis, graceful expression, careful preparation of the manuscript, and value of the overall contribution to understanding Mormon society and culture.

BYU Centennial Conferences

A large number of papers have been or will be presented as part of the Centennial which shed new light on Mormon society and culture. Much of this newsletter is devoted to listing them and their authors. Where we have been able to determine publication plans, that information is also provided. Where no definite publication planning has been done, readers interested in a particular paper will have to write directly to the author. If that approach fails and you still are intent on seeing the piece, then write to the Committee

where we hope to obtain all the papers listed here.

Economics and the Mormon Culture

This two-day meet took place on Oct. 6 and 7 and was attended by around a hundred persons, many of whom were professional economists who are also LDS. In general two types of papers and three types of discussants participated. Papers were either attempts to use current economic models or techniques to shed some light on the economic behavior of Mormons and the Church as an organization, or else they projected, speculated or took a "what might have been" viewpoint. In other words there was tension in the conference between those emphasizing the role of economist against those seeing themselves first as LDS. In addition to discussion participants from both those camps, a few also took a wholly external viewpoint, in a sense looking at the economists looking at the Mormons. Aside from a few notable exceptions, there was little questioning among the attendees of the basics of neoclassical economic thinking in the USA, although adherents or more than one school came to light. The strongest challenge to this predominant position, and one of the highlights of the conference, was historian Thomas Alexander's comments in the first session which asked in essence whether what was being said was not based on unexamined assumptions about "Mormon economic systems" which begged many of the most important historical questions.

The most valuable papers from CMSC viewpoint were:

Lee Anderson (College of Marine Studies, U. of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711). "Mormons and Public Policy in a Market Economy." Sensible overview of the topic but no data to speak of.

Dean May (Church Historical Dept.). "Marriner S. Eccles and Public Policy -- the 1930's." Proposed that Eccles was a source of important ideas in the New Deal which stemmed from his Mormon background and later were manifest in Keynesianism.

Lowell Wood and Carlton Infanger (475 WIDB, BYU). "The Resource Requirements for Church Growth in Latin America." A broad perspective, backed with some data of value, on possible growth in the area.

Garth Mangum (Human Resources Institute, U. of Utah, 84112). "The Church as a Human Resource Development Institution." Discursive rather than analytical, but a valuable beginning to treating this topic.

Dwight Israelsen (313 JKB, BYU). "Economics of the United Order." Examined primary sources on actual results of United Order of the 1870's in Utah in a sample of such communities against control communities. Interesting findings include the point that inequality measures sometimes increased but overall remained the same for both U.O and

non-U.O. communities.

George Rhodes (Dept. of Economics, Ohio State U., Columbus, 43210). "Optimal Capital Growth and Allocation in a United Order Economy." Vigorous wrestle with substantial ideas but no data.

Gordon E. Wagner (Wells College, Aurora-, NY 13026). "Consecration and Stewardship: A Socially Efficient System of Justice." This summary of Wagner's nearly-completed dissertation at Cornell is one of the most substantive of the conference (although nearly ignored there), representing probably the most ambitious yet most sensitive exposition of consecration and stewardship, both in scriptural terms and in its practical economic and administrative implications.

Robert Crawford (311 JKB, BYU). "An Analysis of Power, Authority, and Control in the Church."

Allen Sanderson (Dept. of Economics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23181). "Economics, Religion, and Church Income." Included current estimates of income based on projections from earlier years. His estimates are much more conservative than the often sensational guesses from journalists. Also figured the lack of equity in tithing burden due to tax benefits for different income.

F. Reed Johnson (Dept. of Economics, Illinois State Univ., Normal, IL 61761). "The Mormon Church: Resource Allocation in a Non-Market Organization."

L. Mayland Parker (Dept. of Geography, Arizona State U., Tempe, 85281). "Mormon Values, Economic Preferences, and Ethical Principles." Basically polemical: "why don't the Mormons get on with consecration in fact?" Included interesting survey information showing the strong capitalistic bias of current Mormons.

Larry Wimmer, Marvin Hill, and Keith Rooker. (BYU). "The Kirtland Economy Revisited: A Market Critique of Sectarian Economics." Rather complete treatment revising the revisionists.

Some of these papers will be published, but which and in what medium has not yet been determined, according to the conference organizers. (An organization of Mormon economists was discussed at the conference and may eventuate. A list of LDS economists is available.)

"BYU and the History of Higher Education in America"

This early November attempt to put BYU in context failed to get concrete, but some overview resulted. Prof. Hugh Hawkins of Amherst was the keynote speaker. His summary paper was based on extensive writing in the field and did make a stab at

connecting the Y in at a few points. A prestigious panel which followed Hawkins ended up saying nothing of value. Dean Jessee read a paper on Brigham Young in relation to this topic, while Douglas Tobler discussed Karl G. Maeser's German background in education. It is reported that Hawkins' views of the role of private institutions, and particularly BYU's, was affected by his visit and that this change will be reflected in his forthcoming volume on American higher education in the 20th century.

"The Mormon Role in the Settlement of the West"

Sponsored by the Geography department, the conference took place on Nov. 13 and 14 under Richard Jackson's chairmanship. Sessions were usually well-attended, although the number of non-BYU professional people there was small. The overall quality of the papers was outstanding. A publication of the papers is planned. Those of greatest CMSC interest are mentioned here.

Leonard J. Arrington (Church Historian). "Mormon Communalism." An historical overview of forces involved in changing Mormon settlements and communal attitudes.
Dean May (Church Historical Department). "A Mormon Settlements Information File." Described a Historical Dept. project to put some 26 characteristics from over 500 Mormon settlements listed by Andrew Jenson on a computerized file which will be available for scholars' use.

Wayne Wahlquist (Weber State College, Ogden). "Population Growth in the Mormon Core Area, 1847 to 1890." Basic treatment of fertility and immigration factors and their reconciliation to account for population results.

Dean Louder and Ben Bennion (Universite Laval and Humboldt State College, respectively). "Mapping Mormons across the Modern West." Extensive calculations and map displays show changing weightings of LDS locations through 1973.

Wilford R. Gardner (Dept. of Soil Science, U. of Wisconsin, Madison). "Mormons and the Development of Irrigation Science." A very comprehensive survey of the continuing major contributions (even virtual dominance) of LDS in this field, originating with John A. Widtsoe and others at Logan. Interesting history of science perspectives and explanatory speculations.

Charles (Chas.) Peterson (Dept. of History, USU, Logan). "The Imprint of Agricultural Systems in the Western Landscape." Very comprehensive treatment of successive landscape changes resulting from modifications in agricultural techniques. Breaks new ground, if you'll pardon the expression.

Michael Raber (P.O. Box 343, Ephraim, 84627; Yale University). "The Development of Irrigation Systems and Land Use: The Sanpete County Example." Fine-grained history of development of land use and water systems in Spring City, taking special account of the

changing ecological, economic, social, cultural milieu.

Richard H. Jackson (Dept. of Geography, BYU). "The Erroneous Concept of the Mormon Village." Shows that supposed uniquenesses of the Mormon village presumed to derive from the "plat of the city of Zion" all had parallels in the America of Joseph Smith's time, consequently claims that "there is no evidence" that the plat had much influence in determining Mormon community plans.

Lynn Rosenvall (Dept. of Geography, University of Calgary, Alberta). "Defunct Mormon Settlements, 1830-1930." Presented a comprehensive catalog of such settlements with reasons for their abandonment or decay.

William Reeder (Rural Sociology, Cornell U.). "Mormon Community Structure in the Development of a Unique Culture and a Unique Society." On applicability of his complex theory of social organization to explain Mormon uniquenesses through interplay of beliefs and action. Handouts to the audience included tables reporting data from his survey of a northern Utah community of a few years ago which is still unpublished. Also a strength-of-belief survey of LDS and Congregationalists.

Jay M. Haymond (Utah State Historical Society). "Mormon Contributions to Land Use and Conservation in the West." Historical development of ideas on conservation in the face of worsening conditions.

Hans Baer (Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Utah) and Fred S. Buchanan (Dept. of Cultural Foundations of Education, U. of Utah) combined in two presentations to describe the origin, structure, and present condition of the Order of Aaron (Levites) with emphasis on their Eskdale communal settlement in Millard County, Utah. Baer emphasized the order as a revitalization movement, after A.F.C. Wallace. The presentation included a short film of Eskdale.

R. Lanier Britsch (119 FOB). "The Lanai Colony." History of the abortive development of a Mormon settlement on this Hawaiian island in the 1850's.

Davis Bitton and Gary L. Bunker (respectively of the Church Historical Dept. and Dept of Psychology, BYU). "Gentile Images of the Mormons in 19th Century Graphic Materials." Vigorous anti-Mormon ironic cartooning shown.

Edward A. Geary (Dept. of English, BYU). "Mormon Contributions to Regional Literature of the West." Wide-ranging interpretation of history and present position of fiction by and about Mormons.

Recent Publications

Klaus D. Gurgel, of the Department of Geography, Syracuse U., has completed "The 1974

Washington Temple Survey; A Socio-spatial Analysis," 1975. He himself is the publisher. The 84 page soft-cover monograph gives complete details on the instrument, administration of the instrument and results. The author says this is part of a "larger, ongoing research program which was commenced in 1973 by the author to study and interpret the spatial, socio- - economic and behavioral patterns of the millions of visitors, Mormon and non-Mormon alike, who annually visit places of religious and historical significance within the Mormon culture," He earlier studied visitors to the 1973 Hill Cumorah pageant. A few highlights of his findings include the following facts:

Slightly more males visited, but age distribution was fairly even between 20 and 60.

Compared with residents of the major counties (separately studied) from which visitors came, these were underrepresented -- blacks (4% of the visitors), Baptists from the strong Baptist areas to the south, and Catholics from strongly Catholic areas (but overall Catholics were most numerous of denomination among the visitors).

Seventy-one percent had post-high school education, and slightly more than 15% had completed seven or more years of college. Two-thirds of visitors had incomes above \$15,000, most falling above median incomes for the counties involved. Fully 29% had incomes between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

The largest single group were white collar workers in professional and managerial positions, then government employees.

Thirty eight states and three countries contributed visitors, but over 90% came from within a 100-mile radius of the Temple.

Information is also included on visitors' subjective responses and on media through which they learned of the event. Informal communication was the most important single source of information.

William W. Reeder, sociologist at Cornell and stake patriarch in Ithaca, has completed a survey of hill Cumorah Pageant visitors for 1974 on behalf - of the New York Rochester Mission. A few highlights include these findings: 65% were not LDS; 70% of the non-members came from within 100 miles; 78% of members traveled over 300 miles; three out of four non-members were seeing the pageant for the first time; around 30% were in business or professions; Catholics were by far the most heavily represented; the pageant has little direct effect to benefit the Church in the northeast but its general public relations effects are substantial.

The American West Center at the University of Utah has issued "Social Accommodation in Utah," edited by Clark Knowlton. Knowlton, John Sorenson, Lyman Tyler, Davis Bitton, and Gordon Harrington have for several years organized sessions in the Utah Academy on this topic, and the papers in this volume in the Occasional Papers series of the Center, of which Tyler is director, represent some of those given at the Academy

meetings. In the Introduction Knowlton compares his personal experience as a token Mormon in a small college in Georgia and as a student of and activist among Spanish-speaking people in El Paso and New Mexico with the social situation he finds in Utah. J. Kenneth Davies "The Secularization of the Utah Labor Movement" recounts the shift from Mormon-dominated to Gentile-dominated power structure in Utah unionism in the late 1900's. Sorenson offers a non-quantitative characterization of "The Second Gathering: The New Migrants To Utah." Bitton writes on "The Cradlebaugh Court (1859): A Study in Early Mormon-Gentile Misunderstanding." Fred Buchanan (University of Utah) and Raymond G. Briscoe (Westminster College) discuss "Public Schools As a Vehicle of Social Accommodation in Utah: The Strangers Within Our Gates," which considers the rarely-discussed problem of the non-Mormon minority in Utah; finally Henry J. Wolfinger, of the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, details the experience of an early black Mormon in "A Test of Faith: Jane Elizabeth James and the Origins of the Utah Black Community."

LDS Linguistics and Language Concerns

A recent symposium held at BYU treated a number of important aspects of communicating Mormon messages across cultural boundaries. Summaries of the presentations are now in press and may be obtained soon from the BYU Language Research Center (267 FB) for \$2.00.

On the occasion of the symposium a discussion was held about the possibility of organizing an Association for LDS Linguists and Communicators. Robert Blair (157 FB, BYU) chairs a committee now considering how to bring such an organization about. Address inquiries to him if you have interest but have not previously been contacted.

The Language Research Center plans for next March 22-23 a combined conference on linguistics, intercultural concerns, and Mormon language. If interested in making a presentation, attending, or merely to inquire about plans, address Lynn Tyler (267 FB).

Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists

In 1954 a group of LDS counselors at a national professional meeting got together socially, then continued associating as the LDS Personnel and Guidance Association. By 1975 its membership topped four hundred. Recently that organization expanded to form the new Association (AMCAP) to include professionals in counseling and psychotherapy. Lynn Eric Johnson (142B BRMB, BYU) is President.

At AMCAP's First Annual Convention/Workshop held in Salt Lake City Oct. 1-2, the following presentations were made:

Carlfred B. Broderick, "New Wine in New Bottles: The Contemporary Counselor in the

Contemporary Church."

G. Hugh Allred, "How to Make a Good Marriage Great."

Bishop Vaughn J. Featherstone and Victor L. Brown, Jr., each spoke.

Robert D. Card, "Counseling the Homosexual."

Victor L. Cline, "The Impact of Media Violence on Children's Behavior."

Addie Fuhrman, "Counseling the Single Adult."

Reports from attendees at the session indicate that the presentations, talks and workshops were substantive and significant for a number of concerns of those wishing to understand Mormon society.

Periodicals of Interest

If you have not examined *BYU Today*, the alumni newspaper, recently, you may find that it has become quite communicative about Mormon life. The review of "Saturday's Warrior" and the subsequent rebuttal are well worth reading as serious commentary, for a change.

Sunstone, the new journal for young LDS adults and students has also put out its first issue. It is more handsome than meaty, but at least it exists and has promise. Illustration of some stained glass windows in LDS chapels is the first publication of that medium.