

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE (SSSML)

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1982 OFFICIAL ANNUAL MEETING

WHY NOT SPEND LABOR DAY WEEKEND IN SAN FRANCISCO? If you do that, you will be able to attend not only the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association (September 6-10 at the Hilton Hotel), and the meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (September 3-6 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel), but, even more important, you can attend the annual meeting of our organization, SSSML! We will be meeting with the SSSP at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, because SSSP is willing to give us free space and publicity, in exchange for which we are being urged to stay at the SSSP hotel, where the rates are relatively reasonable for San Francisco (\$61. for singles, \$68. for doubles, and as many as two children can occupy the same room with parents for no extra charge). Reservations can be made by writing or phoning the Sheraton Palace Hotel, 639 Market St., San Francisco, CA., 94105, (415) + 392-8600. Be sure to mention that you are participating in the meetings of SSSP in order to get these special rates. If you check in during the SSSP-SSSML meetings (Sept. 3-6), you can stay on at the same relatively low rates for the ASA meetings (Sept. 6-10), which will be a 10-minute walk away at the higher-priced Hilton.

OUR PROGRAM, IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE AN INTELLECTUAL FEAST: We will meet from 1:30-3:30 PM on Sunday, September 5th, in the State Suite of the Sheraton Palace. After a brief business meeting, we will hear from a distinguished panel on the theme, "IS THERE LIFE AFTER E.R.A.?: Problems and Prospects for Mormon Women in the 1980s and Beyond." The panelists are all members of SSSML: MARIE CORNWALL will review the Church's policies toward women in the light of both the organizational and the external political environments. ROSEMARY BAHR will discuss some of the results of her research on the contrasts among rhetoric, attitudes, and behavior in Mormon family relationships. NADINE HANSEN, building upon her recent article in Dialogue, will examine some of the doctrinal and ecclesiastical constraints upon an expansion of the authority and status of Mormon women, distinguishing those constraints which have a canonical, scriptural basis from those which are simply part of the Mormon subcultural heritage. CAROL LYNN PEARSON will take the other side of that question and review those aspects of the Mormon doctrinal and cultural heritage which might promote and facilitate an expanded role for Mormon women (e.g., the Mother-in-Heaven concept). We may eventually add also a distinguished discussant to the panel. HOW CAN YOU MISS A PROGRAM LIKE THAT?! Be sure to join us on September 5th. If you

need directions to our meeting room after you arrive at the hotel, simply inquire at the Registration Desk of the SSSP (or the hotel desk).

OTHER MEETINGS RECENTLY HELD

During April 21-24, SSSML co-sponsored sessions with two regional organizations simultaneously: The Pacific Sociological Association, meeting in San Diego, and the Western Social Science Association, meeting in Denver. It was a shame that the simultaneous scheduling required us to "divide our forces" (so to speak) and kept some of us from attending both meetings. All indications are that both sessions were well attended and very successful. The titles and authors of the presentations were provided in the last Newsletter for your information, in case you would like to write for copies of the papers. In the PSA session, Brian Pitcher, representing a team of researchers at the LDS Research and Evaluation Office (Correlation Department) reported on the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the large project in progress there on the causes and processes leading to inactivity in the Church. Rich Crapo (Utah State University) found that, as one might suspect, Church lesson manuals do stress somewhat different norms and values for men and for women; in particular, women are more likely to be presented with "thou shafts" and men with "thou shalt nots." Glenn Vernon found that people who leave the Mormon Church are unlikely to join other churches; rather, they tend to move toward a non-affiliated status. He invited those in attendance to help him explain that generalization. The Heaton and Calkins paper analyzed time-series data and found that while Mormon family size has tended to stay well above the national average in the USA, the resort to contraceptives has become about the same as for other Americans, and Mormon family size, on the average, is declining. Finally, Stan Weed (as always) offered some salient and stimulating criticisms and suggestions on all the papers, and the audience participated actively in the discussion.

Meanwhile, in Denver, the WSSA session on Mormonism featured three papers: Rich Crapo and Sharon Cannon (Utah State University) did still a different kind of content analysis of Church teaching materials for this program. Here they focused mainly on authoritarian themes in the lesson manuals for Relief Society and the priesthood quorums. They found that such themes were prominent only in the two areas of obedience to church authority and acceptance of traditional familial sex roles. Other doctrinal areas did not carry authoritarian treatments, leaving church members considerable room for individual (and even idiosyncratic) interpretation of doctrines. Genevieve and Arturo DeHoyos (BYU) examined various models of psychotherapy used by Mormon counselors (based on content analyses of articles appearing in the AMCAP journal (Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists). Despite a wide variety of models ranging from uniquely Mormon to more conventional social science ones, the authors found, Mormon counselors tend generally to emphasize in their work the theme of individual responsibility and control over one's life. The third paper was presented by William Reeder, now at Utah State University after having recently retired from a long and distinguished career in rural sociology at Cornell; this paper was essentially a summary of

much of the research done by Reeder over the years comparing Mormons and Protestants from both New York and Utah, and studies done in other nations, as well. From all his various studies, Reeder presented a rather complex theory of human nature and of society. More information can be obtained directly from him at the Sociology Department, USU. After these three WSSA papers, Vernon W. Larsen (BYU) presented an excellent and enlightening discussion of them.

NEWS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTERPRISES

FARMS (the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies) was described briefly in the last issue of this Newsletter. A report from a recent issue of their newsletter tells of a gigantic project which FARMS is promoting to produce a multi-volume Book of Mormon Encyclopedia covering persons, places, archaeology, legal systems, philosophy, writing styles, political institutions, military activities, family and tribal organizations, and nearly every conceivable aspect of Book of Mormon commentary (but not doctrinal commentary). While the final library edition of this encyclopedia would not appear until the end of the decade, preliminary articles could be circulated along the way before that time. YOUR SUPPORT for this enterprise is urgently solicited, in the form of recommendations for contributing authors; offers of assistance in typing, editing, proofreading, and the like; and, of course, tax-deductible donations of funds. Write FARMS, Box 7113, University Station, Provo, Utah, 84602, with all offers and suggestions, and with requests for newsletters or more information on this organization.

"HORIZON: A Magazine about the Mormon Community" is a new bi-monthly magazine of about 60 pages published alternately in various European languages to keep the Latter-Day Saints of Europe abreast of important happenings around the world involving the Church or its members. It will deal also with the problems peculiar to being Mormon outside North America, with the history of Mormonism in various countries, with cultural and scientific articles on things Mormon, and so on. The magazine is published in Belgium by the Horizon Foundation (locally Fonds Horizon), and the editor and principal founding father is Professor Wilfried Decoo, Chairman, Department of Education, University of Antwerp. The first issue, in Dutch, came out in January, 1982. French and German language issues are planned for the near future. Further information may be obtained by writing FARMS (see above) or HORIZON, Postbus 26, 2610 Wilrijk, Belgium.

CALL FOR PAPERS

There is a possibility that SSSML will be able to sponsor or co-sponsor a future issue of one of the professional journals that can be devoted entirely to publishing recent scholarly and scientific research on Mormons. Negotiations for such an enterprise are just now starting, and the prospects look good. Meanwhile, we would like to start collecting possible manuscripts or ideas for manuscripts. The eventual product will be thoroughly

refereed, and we expect quite a bit of competition among good manuscripts for the limited space available. Pending selection of a guest editor, please send your ideas, prospectuses, abstracts, or completed papers either to our current president, Armand Mauss (Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA., 99164), or to our incoming president, James Duke (Department of Sociology, BYU, Provo, UT., 84602). THIS PROJECT IS TRULY OPEN TO ALL SCHOLARS AND WE VERY MUCH WANT TO HEAR FROM AS BROAD A SCHOLARLY CONSTITUENCY AS POSSIBLE, so that the competitive editorial review process will result in a product that is both distinguished and representative.

CALL FOR HELP!

Armand Mauss has just accepted a commission to prepare a review essay entitled "Sociological Perspectives on Mormonism" for the ANNUAL REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY. This essay will appear in the 1984 volume of the ARS (Volume 10) and will cover, among other things, the "state of the literature" on Mormonism from the social science perspective. This is an enormous task that cannot be done without a lot of assistance from all of you who collectively know a great deal of the relevant literature. PLEASE SEND to Armand any bibliographies you have compiled or acquired on any aspect of Mormonism, any ideas you have for approaching the enterprise, or any relevant work of your own that is near completion, or recently completed, so that these can all be included in the review essay. Such help will, of course, be gratefully acknowledged in print.

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

In the last issue of our Newsletter, we got as far as "K" in the alphabet in passing along the latest news from SSSML members who filled out their news sheets to send along with their annual dues. Here we will begin with a couple of recent additions earlier in the alphabet (Ebmeier and Ellis) and then go on from the "Ks" to finish the alphabet. Some of the members listed below are so new that their names and addresses are not included on the latest roster we sent out to all members with the February Newsletter this year (4:1). They are indicated here with an asterisk (*). Anyone wanting to make contact with them can do so by writing Armand Mauss for their addresses. So, here we go . . .

*LINDA EBMEIER (Department of Sociology, University of Aberdeen, Scotland) becomes our first member in Europe! She is interested in authority structures, women, and the growth of the Mormon Church in Britain.

GODFREY ELLIS, still at Oklahoma State University, has finally finished his long project as Guest Editor of an issue of the Journal of Family Issues on the media and the family.

*NORMAN B. KOLLER (not to be confused with Douglas Koller mentioned in the last issue) is interested in Mormon history and in Mormonism and the sociology of knowledge. He recently published an article on orthodoxy and the handling of social issues from the pulpit (*Sociological Analysis* 41:2-1980), and he is currently gathering data via in-depth interviews with ministers on the non-Mormon Christian minority in Utah.

*E. JAY LARSON, at Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston, Idaho), is an instructor and consultant in the capabilities and applications of microcomputers in households, local church units, and small businesses, and he is available to help SSSML members with data management, storage, processing, and analysis. He is also interested in the historical influence of Mormons on law and politics.

DONALD B. LINDSEY, at California State College/San Bernardino, is at work with two colleagues on the uses of the Mormon "mother-in-heaven" concept.

DOUGLAS P. McGRORY, of Salt Lake City, is interested in Mormon history and doctrine, with special reference to Mormon/non-Mormon relationships and to anti-Mormon literature and its rebuttals.

*CAROLYN S. MILLIGAN, also Salt Lake City, is a psychologist doing research on the impact of Mormon religious activity and belief on psychological functioning, with particular focus on the problem of depression.

JEAN-PAUL MONTMINY, a sociologist at the Universite Laval in Quebec, is a colleague there of long-standing SSSML member Dean Louder, and of more recent member Eric Foucart, mentioned in our last Newsletter. M. Montminy is interested in new religious movements, as well as in more established sects. He and his colleagues are starting a comparative study of Mormons and other unconventional religious groups in Quebec. His work has appeared recently in the *Annual Review of Religion* (London) and in *Recherches Sociographiques* (Quebec).

JOSEPH ALLAN OLSEN, of the LDS Church Correlation Department, is a social psychologist with special interests in evaluation research, statistics, and research methods. He is currently at work on a study of religious involvement and commitment among Mormon adolescents.

WILLIAM D. PAYNE, having moved from the Utah State Division of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to the Office of Policy Planning and Budget in the State Department of Social Services, is doing economic impact studies on energy development sites in the state.

*CAROL LYNN PEARSON, well known for her poetry, prose, and plays on Mormon topics, now lives in Walnut Creek, California, and is currently focusing her considerable creative talents upon women's issues and, in particular, on the Mother-in-Heaven tradition in Mormon thought.

EVAN T. PETERSON of BYU is currently at work on the problems of the Mormon elderly with the help of survey data from about 400 older Latter-Day Saints.

JAMES T. RICHARDSON, of the University of Nevada, a member of the SSSML Council, who seems to publish about a book a year, is interested in social control within the Mormon Church and in Mormon political involvements. Having recently spent a year on a Fulbright Fellowship at Catholic University, Nijmegen (Netherlands), he has just been given a sabbatical leave for next year to study the relationship of federal agencies to the new religions in the USA.

DALE B. ROBERTSON, who has been at Sarah Lawrence College, is now at BYU-Hawaii, along with another SSSML member, Max Stanton.

MARK SCHUSTER, of San Diego, is a psychologist with a practice in marriage, family, and child counseling.

TED C. SMITH, of the University of Utah, does (among many other things) Mormon community studies, with special focus on the impact on rural Mormon communities of large-scale development projects; also network analyses of adaptive coping behavior among Mormons.

*DONALD R. SNOW, of the Mathematics Department, BYU, does mathematical models of Mormon Church growth projections; he gave a very successful presentation on this topic at a recent meeting of the Mormon History Association.

*JOHN L. SORENSON (Anthropology, BYU), is our chief link with work going on in our sister discipline of anthropology. His own work is as much sociology as anthropology, having a broad focus on all aspects of Mormon culture and society. He is currently at work on a social and cultural history of Mormons in the 20th century, and in his spare time he produces an occasional newsletter something like this one for anthropologists: "Mormon Anthropology." He is trying especially to keep track of all ethnographic work on Mormons. One of his graduate students, Kelly Grant-Horrocks, is doing a thesis on the internalization of Mormon values.

*RICHARD STAMPS is an anthropologist and archaeologist at Oakland University (Rochester, Michigan), where newly elected SSSML Council member Gary Shepherd also is on the faculty. Among the interesting work Stamps has been doing has been some excavating and consulting on the Nauvoo Restoration Project.

MAX E. STANTON, BYU-Hawaii, is interested in comparative religious research, with special attention to the Samoan Mormon community, but he is also starting a study in SW Alberta comparing Mormons, Hutterites, Blood Indians, and other Canadians. He recently presented one paper on the impact of tourism in Hawaii at a conference in New Jersey, and another paper on immigrant Mormon Polynesian employees of the Polynesian

Cultural Center (Laie, Hawaii) at a meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Edinburgh, Scotland. He reports, furthermore, on the existence of a 4-year-old Mormon Pacific History Association headed by Dr. Kenneth Baldrige, also of BYU-Hawaii.

RODNEY STARK (University of Washington) is hard at work on a comparative history of past and current religious movements in America in an attempt to identify the chief determinants of success and survival of such movements across time. He features the Mormons as the chief case-study of a successful movement. He recently spent a couple of days in Utah, where he lectured on such subjects at BYU and consulted on some of the research underway at the Church Correlation Department.

ARLAND THORNTON, University of Michigan, one of our charter members, works mainly on family and demography (fertility, marriage, divorce, work patterns), among both Mormons and others.

ROBERT G. VERNON, of Salt Lake City, though practicing law in the fields of oil, gas, and mining lease and investment, is intensely interested in all aspects of Mormon religious and cultural life and is collecting voluminous files of materials on the same. He focuses particularly on the Mormon family unit, and how it can best be sustained through the tools and insights of the behavioral sciences. He is also a sponsor of the B. H. Roberts Society.

WALT WEST operates a used book store in Orem, Utah, where he tries to keep up with all kinds of intellectual developments among Mormons. Before his retirement from federal government service with the Social Security Administration, he developed interests, which he still retains, in the financial and health problems of the elderly and disabled.

*LAURENCE M. YORGASON, of Ogden, Utah, is a doctoral student at BYU in history, with an interest in Mormon culture and in the relationship of the fine arts to the general culture.