

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE (SSSML)

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CALL FOR PAPERS, SPRING, 1983 MEETINGS

There are two good opportunities coming up for western sociologists and other social scientists with an interest in Mormon studies to present papers or otherwise participate in conferences of major scholarly associations. The first of these will be the annual conference of the PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (PSA), to be held April 7-10, 1983, at the Red Lion Inn (near the airport) in SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. The session there on the Sociology of Mormon Life will be jointly sponsored by the PSA and by our society (SSSML). James Duke, current SSSML President, is organizing the session. The other opportunity is provided by the WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (WSSA), which will be meeting in ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, April 27-30, 1983, at the Hilton Inn. The session there on Mormon studies is being organized by John Seggar.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A SOCIOLOGIST OR ANY KIND OF SOCIAL SCIENTIST in order to attend or read papers at either conference, though your paper should reflect some sort of social science framework, of course. SEND COMPLETED PAPERS OR THOROUGH ABSTRACTS OF THE SAME to Jim Duke (for PSA) and/or to John Seggar (for WSSA). Both are at the Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. The DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15, 1983, and preference will be given to completed papers, as opposed to abstracts.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SUBSCRIBERS TO SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

We are approaching closure in our negotiations with one of the scholarly social science journals in the field of religious studies for SSSML to co-sponsor a special issue of that journal to be devoted to recent studies on Mormon life and culture. We will finalize negotiations soon after the start of the new year. What we envision is an issue of 150-200 pages, containing 8 or 10 essays, plus an extensive current bibliography of sociological books and articles on Mormon society and culture. The essays may be arranged around a common theme, but not necessarily; it will depend on what is submitted. Sophisticated theoretical essays will definitely be considered, though preference will probably be given to essays based on empirical data. No one kind of empirical data or methodology will be preferred; the greater the variety the better. SPECIAL CO-EDITORS for the issue will be RODNEY STARK (current President of the Association for the Sociology of Religion) and ARMAND MAUSS (ASR

Council member and immediate past president of SSSML). What is needed NOW from you, our members, are two critical things: (1) Publishable MANUSCRIPTS on Mormon topics (as per description just above); and (2) MONEY: We are not yet sure how much money we will have to raise (that is part of what is being negotiated), but some amount will have to be contributed from our organization to justify, in effect, the total "turning over" of an issue of a regular scholarly journal to a single co-sponsoring organization like ours. Furthermore, it is to be anticipated that the printing of this particular issue will have to be larger than usual in order to meet the demand for special copies outside the regular subscriber list. In consideration of all these needs, we have included in this mailing a PLEDGE FORM, on which you can indicate your desire to contribute either manuscripts or money or both. We are expecting copies of this special issue to be available to our membership for \$5.00 each, and we are hoping to raise an average of \$10.00 from each SSSML member (which will, of course, include the cost of a copy). Please help us all you can. We know you will like the finished product.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1982 NATIONAL MEETING OF SSSML

The annual national meeting of the SSSML for this year was held in San Francisco, September 5th, in conjunction with the national meetings of the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (the latter society having graciously provided our meeting room). In a brief preliminary business meeting, outgoing SSSML President Armand Mauss made a number of announcements (most of which are included somewhere in this Newsletter), introduced other outgoing and incoming officers present, and then transferred the figurative gavel to Jim Duke, who will be our president until the national meetings in 1984. After the business, the audience enjoyed the presentations by a varied panel of four talented women addressing the theme, "Is There Life After E.R.A.?: Problems and Prospects for Mormon Women in the 1980s and Beyond." Summaries of the four presentations will be found at the end of this Newsletter. They were all exceptionally substantive and stimulating, and were very well received by the largest audience ever to attend one of our national meetings (40 some-odd people!), including JESSIE BERNARD, nationally prominent scholar in the sociology of the family and women's studies. Next year's annual meeting will be in Detroit; let's hope we can get as stimulating a program and as good a turnout as in 1982! Your suggestions toward that end will be much appreciated.

#### NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Since the last issue of our Newsletter in the summer, the following new members have joined SSSML to put our total membership over the 100 mark:

LAVINA FIELDING ANDERSON, of Salt Lake City, well-known for her many contributions to official and unofficial publications in the Mormon world, is the new Associate Editor of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, which has just moved its

editorial headquarters from the Washington, D. C. area to Salt Lake City. Lavina is currently at work with two other female scholars on a study of Mormon widows between 1857 and 1957.

IRENE M. BATES, of Pacific Palisades, California, does historical and sociological studies on Mormon women and their perceptions about their place in the Church; also on the office of Patriarch to the Church and some of the men who have held that position, including William Smith (younger brother of the Prophet), on whom she gave a paper at last May's meeting of the Mormon History Association.

MERLIN BRINKERHOFF, author of many articles on religion generally and the Mormon setting in particular, has finally joined us from the Department of Sociology, University of Calgary, Alberta.

ALFRED L. BUSH, an anthropologist at the Princeton University Library, has one of the largest collections of Mormon materials outside of Utah, and he is adding our humble Newsletter to his collection!

HOWARD M. BAHR and  
BRUCE A. CHADWICK, both of the Sociology Department at BYU, are nationally prominent sociologists, associated most recently with the MIDDLETOWN III Project, and co-authors with Theodore Caplow and others of the first book out of that project (on changes and continuities in the family life of Middletown). Both have also made their contributions over the years to Mormon studies, the most recent being Howard's article in the latest Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion on contrasts among Mormons, Catholics, and Protestants in family role definitions.

JOHN E. CLARK, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, also an anthropologist, has recently joined SSSML, and we shall await more information on him and his activities.

DENNIS DONITHORNE, of San Jose, California, is just starting his studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley.

MARK L. GROVER, of Provo and Pleasant Grove, Utah, is an historian doing his Ph.D. dissertation on Mormonism in Brazil. Currently working at the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU, Mark has recently published an index of periodicals on the Mormon Church in Latin America (1976), and a monograph on the Catholic Left in the same region (1980). More generally, he is also interested in religion and dependency in the Third World.

CLAUDIA HARRIS, of Decatur, Georgia, is another new member of SSSML about whom we hope to learn more. The same is true of . . . .

J. TAYLOR HOLLIST, of Oneonta, New York . . . .

Our heartiest welcomes to both, even if all we know is their names and addresses!

ALLAN LAMBERT, of Springville, Utah, was one of our earliest members and has found his way back to us!

BRUCE D. LOUTHAN, of Moab, Utah, is an archaeologist who studies prehistorical regional cultures, but has a general interest also in Mormons, finding them "a nice tribe to study."

STEVEN L. MAYFIELD, a Deputy Sheriff around Denver, Colorado, is a Mormon history buff and a researcher, collector, and cataloguer of both historical and contemporary materials on anti-Mormon groups and individuals. (We assume that there is no special connection between his vocational and his avocational activities!).

STEVEN L. OLSEN, of Salt Lake City, is an anthropologist doing his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Chicago on the cosmic symbolism of the City of Zion in the 19th century. More broadly, he is interested in all kinds of Mormon symbolism and celebrations. Recently appointed Coordinator of Research at the new Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City, Steve has had articles appear during 1982 in BYU Studies, Sunstone, and Dialogue, which many of our members have no doubt seen.

VICTOR L. PURDY, of Provo, Utah, is a librarian and historian with interests in things Mormon, and we hope to learn more about him.

REORGANIZED LDS CHURCH (Library and Archives, The Auditorium, Independence, MO.), whose interest in things Mormon needs no explanation, has recently joined our Society and is collecting our Newsletter.

ELLEN STUTZ, of Provo, Utah, is an anthropologist who has recently joined us, and about whom we hope to learn more.

BARRIE THORNE, recently of the Sociology Department at Michigan State University, is now with the Feminist Studies Program, Center for Research on Women, Stanford University.

WARREN C. VAN PELT, of Provo, Utah, has the distinction of being last year's oldest graduating student at BYU. He is an historian and historical archaeologist of things Mormon, having done his Master's Thesis on Lower Goshen (Old Goshen), Utah's Homesite No. 29. Just after joining us last summer, he left for Palmyra, New York, to assist in the excavation of the site of the cabin of Joseph Smith, Sr.

DAVID M. WALDEN, of Provo, Utah, and Holstein, Iowa, has studied history and sociology at BYU, and holds an MA in Behavioral Science from the University of Guam. David is an expert on Mormonism in Micronesia (both historical and current). He has deposited in our SSSML files (among other places) a long bibliography on this subject, as well as a catalogue of taped personal interviews with some 20 informants on Mormon life

in Micronesia (including local church leaders, missionaries, and converts). Interested parties may contact him at Box 244, Holstein, Iowa 51025, for access to the bibliography or the list of tapes.

O. KENDALL WHITE, Jr., is a Professor of Sociology at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia. He recently joined SSSML after a decade or more of research and writing on Mormon theology, Mormon race relations, and Mormon feminism. Welcome aboard, Ken!

CAROL WIEBELL, of Northridge, California, recently discovered us at our San Francisco meeting last September, and we hope to hear more from her.

#### NEWS OF OTHER MEMBERS

In Providence, Rhode Island, October 22-24, 1982, three scholarly societies in the field of religion combined their annual meetings at the Biltmore Hotel: the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Association for the Sociology of Religion, and the Religious Research Association. Featured among the sessions of one or more of these three societies were the following presentations by SSSML members: C. LEROY ANDERSON and LARRY J. HALFORD on measuring the intensity of religious conflict via the Simmel-Merton proposition; DAVID G. BROMLEY on the archetypal cult and the social construction of deviance (Dave also participated in a panel discussion on countercultures); JAMES T. DUKE and colleagues on national differences in conversion rates to the Mormon Church in Latin America; ARMAND L. MAUSS on the Mormon struggle with assimilation and quest for peculiarity (preliminary version of a lecture given a few days later at the Redd Center (BYU) under the title, "The Angel and the Beehive"), plus serving as discussant for two other panels; JOSEPH OLSEN (and other colleagues from the LDS Church Research & Evaluation Division) on predicting the religious commitment of Mormon adolescent boys; JOHN R. POTTENGER, discussant for a panel on Liberation Theology; JAMES T. RICHARDSON, chairman of a session on Money and Power in the New Religions, and author of a paper in that session on IRS policy development vis-a-vis the new religions; RODNEY STARK was moderator for a workshop panel on field studies of new religious movements; and GLENN M. VERNON on micro and macro level religious phenomena. Congratulations to all you SSSML members for your continuing scholarly activities!

OTHER NEWS FROM MEMBERS . . . . MARVIN RYTTING has two interesting lines of research going: (1) a sociological case study of a contemporary polygamous family in Utah as an instance of an "alternative life-style," as family researchers call it these days; and (2) comparative study on sex-typed personality characteristics, and perceptions about same, as between Mormons and Methodists. Mary would like very much to hear from anyone sharing his interests in either of these two areas of inquiry; he is in the Psychology Department, Indiana/Purdue Universities at Columbus, 2080 Bakalar Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47201. GLENN VERNON (Sociology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 84112)

is getting up another issue of his annual Measuring Mormonism, and he would like to hear from anyone with manuscripts to offer. GARY AND GORDON SHEPHERD have an important book in press at the University of Utah Press, due out some time in 1983: A Kingdom Transformed: Rhetorical Themes in the Institutionalization of Mormonism, based on Mormon General Conference sermons over the years. ANY OTHER NEWS FROM OUT THERE? Don't be bashful! Tell us what you are doing that might be interesting or helpful to other SSSML members. If you don't tell us, we can't pass it on. On the enclosed Dues Notice, you will see some space for your latest news (use the reverse side of that form, too, if necessary, but let us hear from you!).

## NEW PUBLICATIONS IN MORMON STUDIES

In previous issues of this Newsletter, we have tried to make sure that our members are aware of such well-established scholarly publications as Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, Sunstone (a magazine), Sunstone Review, Exponent II, and the Seventh East Press. Anyone not familiar with these publications, and who might like more information, can write Armand Mauss at Washington State University (Pullman, WA 99164-4020) for the editorial addresses. The numbers and variety of these "unofficial" publications are beginning to mushroom! Thanks to a recent issue of Sunstone Review, we can pass along some information about some brand new ones:

1) HORIZON: TIJDSCHRIFT OVER DE MORMOONSE GEMEENSCHAP (A Magazine about the Mormon Community) is published by a foundation headed by Dr. Wilfried Decoo, Chairman of the Department of Education, University of Antwerp. Currently appearing in Dutch, the magazine will later be published also in French, German, and perhaps some other languages. It features both scholarly and more popular pieces for the benefit of non-English readers interested in the life of the Mormon community(ies) outside the United States. Subscription rates in the U.S. are \$16 per year by surface mail and \$75 by airmail, payable to the editorial headquarters in Belgium (Fonds Horizon, Postbus 26, 2610 Wilrijk, Belgium), or to the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies, PO Box 7113, Univ. Station, Provo, Utah 84602, which is serving as American agent for Horizon.

2) HORIZONS, not to be confused with the above publication, is published in English bi-monthly for the benefit primarily of the Mormon community(ies) in the Australasian region, hoping to provide "a forum for the discussion of the many facets of Mormonism" there. Information, submissions, and subscription rates can be obtained via Glen Gordon, PO Box 123, Holme Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia, or via Gerald E. Jones, Institute of Religion, 2368 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709.

3) PACIFIC STUDIES is published twice a year at a subscription rate of \$5.00 by the Institute for Polynesian Studies at BYU-Hawaii, Laie, HI 96762. Edited by Gloria Cronin, this publication is in its 5th year. It is devoted to scholarly studies on the Pacific Island cultures from all disciplines.

4) LITERATURE AND BELIEF is the official publication of BYU's Center for the Study of Christian Values in Literature, which has as its goal the exploration of the relationship between religious and aesthetic values. Information and subscriptions (@\$4.00 per year) can be obtained via the Institute at A-279, JKB, BYU, Provo 84602.

5) JOURNAL OF MORMON SCRIPTURE is slated soon for publication by the Mormon Scripture Society at BYU. The editor is Kent Jackson, Assistant Professor of Ancient Scripture there. This journal will attempt to stimulate scholarly investigation into the historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts of the Standard Works of the Church.

In the previous issue of this Newsletter, we told our readers about the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS), PO Box 7113 Univ. Station, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602. Recent issues of the FARMS Newsletter report on a large number of interesting research projects underway, particularly on Book of Mormon research, and on the progress being made in compiling the multi-volume Book of Mormon Encyclopedia, an exhaustive Book of Mormon bibliography, and the archives for the Hugh Nibley and the Sidney Sperry collections. The FARMS Newsletter is free to those who write contributions for it, and others may obtain it for a small (unspecified) donation. Its stock of reprints of various scholarly papers is especially interesting. A sister Newsletter is that published by the Department of Anthropology at BYU as Mormon Anthropology, available quarterly via that department, 940 SWKT, Brigham Young University, Provo 84602.

#### DUES AND DONATIONS

We hate to end on a solemn note, but the time has come once again for the annual dues to our organization, @\$3.00 per year. Some of you have already paid for 1983, and you may either skip this payment or keep paying a year ahead! Two copies of our dues notice have been enclosed herewith, one of which is for you to tear off and give to a friend. We hope you will agree that the three or four Newsletters we send you each year more than compensate you for the small amount of your dues, but we count on you to be prompt so that we can easily cover the costs of the 1983 Newsletters. Please don't make us "dun" you again.

We have included also a PLEDGE FORM on which you can estimate what you might be able to send us, in either manuscripts or money or both, in support of the special issue of the scholarly journal that we described near the beginning of this Newsletter. Do let us hear from you on that, too. No money at this time, though: only pledges!

#### ABSTRACTS OF THE PANEL PRESENTATIONS FROM THE 1982 ANNUAL MEETING

Earlier in the Newsletter, we promised you the abstracts from the panel presented by the four women at our annual meeting in San Francisco. Here they are:

### Trends in Attitudes Toward Sex Role Characteristics and the Division of Family Role Behavior

Rosemary Bahr

Statewide surveys of adult Utahans were conducted by the BYU Family and Demographic Research Institute in 1974, 1980 and 1981. Topics addressed included attitudes about desired male and female characteristics; attitudes dealing with the appropriate relationship between spouses in age, education, and intelligence; and attitudes as well as behavior in the marital division of labor. Major findings included:

1. Most respondents reported that aggressiveness, daring, bravery, and independence were more appropriate for boys than for girls.
2. Timidity, being good-looking, submissiveness and sympathy were reported as more appropriate for girls.
3. Intelligence was highly valued for both boys and girls.
4. There has been a significant move toward a desire for more equalitarian marriage relationships in age, education, and intelligence over the seven-year period.
5. In 92 percent of the comparisons between Mormons and non-Mormons, the non-Mormons manifested desires for more equalitarian marital relationships in age, education, and intelligence than did Mormons.
6. Desired division of labor in the family shows that the recreation and child socialization roles are the roles that most respondents believe should be shared between spouses. Housekeeping, home repairs and the provider role were defined as more sex-specific.

### Women and the Church: An Organizational Analysis

Marie Cornwall

Much attention has been given over the past several years to what seems to be a declining influence of women in the LDS Church. Even more discussion has been generated by the involvement of the Church in the defeat of the Equal Rights

Amendment. To understand the actions of the Church over the past several years with regard to both these issues, one must consider organizational efforts to deal with overwhelming growth, worldwide expansion, and the social and political environment in which the Church exists.

This paper reviews changes made at headquarters and in the field in an effort to accommodate to these pressures. Drawing from the literature on organizational design, the declining influence of women in the Church is documented as the unintended



consequence of efforts to provide for greater coordination between the various auxiliaries and departments at headquarters and in the field.

The movement into the ERA battle is also explained as a response to organizational concerns. The primary forces moving the Church into the ERA battle were (1) growing trends towards secularization, (2) history of conflict between the federal government and the Church, and (3) the conflict which arose between BYU and HEW over Title IX interpretations.

## Constraints Upon the Expansion in Status and Authority for Mormon Women

Nadine Hansen

### I. Scriptural constraints.

There are no scriptural constraints upon the ordination of women and there is a small amount of support for it. I discuss how scripture has been used to limit women's roles and to subordinate them to men. I also mention the cultural contingency of Pauline and pseudo-Pauline attitudes toward women and conclude that scripture is a constraint for women only if we choose to see it as such.

### II. Ecclesiastical and para-ecclesiastical constraints.

This section examines statements by church leaders and others on the subject of women. I quote former church leaders who spoke about women and priesthood and consider how our concept of God confines women to subordinate roles. I also briefly mention the problem of how women and girls are portrayed in church lesson manuals, and express my wish for more positive and realistic role models for women and girls to emulate and for men and boys to respect.

### III. Social and cultural constraints.

In this section I relate my own observations about church members' attitudes and actions concerning women. I tell about a recent activity in my ward for young women and their parents in which all the work was done by women and girls, but when it came time to pray men were called upon. I believe this rather typical event both reveals and reinforces our real feelings about who is most important and who is most suited to conversing with God. I also talk briefly about reaction to my Dialogue article, "Women and Priesthood", and I conclude with my feeling that change is inevitable and that the upcoming generation will be less inclined than my own to accept the status quo.

## Features in Mormon Culture Facilitating an Expansion in the Status and Authority of Women

Carol Lynn Pearson

There is a number of elements that might contribute to an expanded role for women in the Church. Among these are the existence of a prophetic mechanism for change within the Church; a great deal in our heritage that shows examples of women acting powerfully in spiritual and secular roles; the continuing emphasis on education within the Church, which necessarily must bring a more accurate perception of women's history and current needs; the existence in the Church of large numbers of women who have felt the personal pain of living in a situation in society in general and in the Church in particular in which maleness is valued more highly than femaleness; and the existence in the Church of large numbers of men who are fair-minded and compassionate.

At the theological level, the Church has already in its platform a plank that could well be expanded to prove very significant--the doctrine of God being Mother as well as Father. This concept could with very little difficulty be developed in such a way that it would cause no tremendous revolution or confusion, and yet would serve in profound ways to benefit both women and men, who at present suffer life in a Motherless House.