

## Newsletter

### SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE (SSSML)

Vol. 5, No's. 3 & 4

December, 1983

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WANTED: A NEW EDITOR FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. Duties: Collect and write copy for 3 or 4 issues per year. Remuneration: Mostly later on in heaven, though the Editor does get in on the news of many scholarly activities sooner than the readers do, has an opportunity for creative writing, and is reimbursed by SSSML for any expenses incurred in producing the Newsletter.

Thus writes our current Editor, Armand Mauss, who has held this post now for the past several years and finds that other obligations and future plans (including a sabbatical leave next year) will make it increasingly difficult for him to produce future SSSML Newsletters in a timely fashion. The tardiness of the current issue testifies to the problem. No. 3 was supposed to be out in September or October, with a fourth one for the year appearing about now. Instead, our membership is getting a double issue (or, at least, it's a little longer than usual), much of which should have been out a couple of months ago. In this situation, abject apologies are offered and the above appeal made all the more urgent. It would help a great deal if someone could offer even just for a year. The material that you would type up would be sent to you in bits and pieces from SSSML officers and members. You would not necessarily have to see to the reproducing and mailing out of the Newsletters (though it would be helpful if you could, and you would be immediately reimbursed for expenses). You could just mail clean copy for photo-reproduction to the SSSML Secretary, who would see to the reproducing and mailing. All offers in response to the above "want-ad" will be gratefully received and considered by the current SSSML President, James Duke, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. Write today, while you still have the Christmas Spirit!

#### RECENTLY HELD MEETINGS OF INTEREST

As promised, our annual SSSML meetings were held in late August and early September at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. While only about a dozen people showed up, we did get a chance to see some of our members who live in that area and find it difficult to attend when our meetings are much farther to either the east or the west. On the afternoon of August 30th, we enjoyed a paper by HAROLD T. CHRISTENSEN on his lifelong struggle to reconcile faith with scholarship. Since Harold was unable to be present in person, his paper was read for him by HOWARD M. BAHR. Then ARLAND THORNTON delivered a fascinating analysis of recent demographic trends in the nation and in the church, and made a few provocative "prophesies" about the implications of

these trends for the near future. A third scheduled paper, by Rodney Stark, had to be cancelled when Rod suddenly became ill and had to leave for home. The pleasant room and the time-block for this meeting were provided for us by the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, to which we are most grateful. A couple of days later, we had a reception and informal social gathering which was attended by an even smaller group. The time and place were provided this time by the AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, to which we are also very grateful. Next year we plan to meet again, as usual, during the annual meetings of both the SSSP and the ASA at about the same time of year, but this time in San Antonio, Texas. We hope you will lay plans starting even this early to attend our 1984 meetings, about which more information will be provided in subsequent Newsletters.

Just prior to last summer's Detroit meetings, the annual SUNSTONE THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM took place at the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City. Appropriate to the year, this symposium featured a Luther theme mixed in generously with its usual explorations of things Mormon. Several of our SSSML members took part in this symposium, as either presentors or discussants of papers, and some of the panels were of genuine sociological interest. Watch for announcements of next year's Symposium. We strongly recommend that you consider stopping in for it on the way to the SSSML, SSSP, and ASA meetings in San Antonio, if you are going to be travelling from the west in late August.

A new sister organization called the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MORMON THEOLOGY (SSMT) has been formed in southern California (PO Box 6855, Huntington Beach, CA 92615). Totally independent, of course, of the LDS Church itself, SSMT sponsors programs and fosters research among those "who desire to participate in the work of theological clarification and formulation necessary for the preservation and propagation of authentic religious faith . . . with special emphasis on those elements which most adequately represent our progressive theological heritage ..". On October 29, 1983, the SSMT sponsored a program at the LDS Institute in Long Beach on "The Problem of Evil," with papers by RICHARD SHARP, of the Claremont Graduate School ("The Problem of Evil in Classical Judeo-Christian Theology"); JOHN R. POTTENGER, of California State University at Long Beach ("The Free-Will Argument"); CHAD FRANCISCO, of the University of Judaism ("A Theodicy of Response and Revolt"); and RANDAL L. HEPNER, also of CSULB ("Toward a Process-Finitistic Theodicy"). Interested persons should write to the above address for more information and/or for membership applications.

The combined annual meetings of the SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION and the RELIGIOUS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION were held November 4-6, 1983, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. Always rich in papers on religious studies from an interdisciplinary viewpoint, these meetings featured at least two papers related to things Mormon: JOHN HEEREN, DONALD B. LINDSEY, and MARYLEE MASON, "Religious Ideology and Women's Status: The Mormon Example"; and LARRY C. JENSEN, DAVID A. HAIMSON, and ROBERT CHRISTENSEN, "Religious Preference and Parenting Motivation." Information on the first of these papers

can be had by contacting Professor Lindsey, Department of Sociology, California State University, San Bernardino, California 92407, and on the second paper via Professor Jensen, Department of Psychology, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602. GLENN M. VERNON, a founding father of SSSML, chaired one of the RRA/SSSR panels. The call for papers is already out (see below) for the late 1984 meetings of these same organizations.

In mid-November, there was an organizational meeting in Los Angeles for a newly forming association tentatively named the NORTH AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION. The main purpose of this organization is to resist the persecution and defamation, legal and illegal, currently being directed against a variety of "unpopular" religions, including the new so-called "cults." The unlikely collection of "bedfellows" in attendance at this conference included high-ranking representatives of the Unification Church, the Hare Krishnas, the Church of Scientology, the Love Israel Family, and numerous other groups more rarely heard of, PLUS Thomas Szasz, the maverick psychiatrist, delegates from the National Council of Churches, and from the American Civil Liberties Union, whose national president, Norman Dorsen, gave the keynote address. The LDS Church did not send any official delegates, though Armand Mauss went as a sociologist and had a fascinating experience. Persons living in either the U.S. or Canada, who are interested in learning more about the purposes and activities of this new organization may write to NARLA, c/o the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Social Problems, PO Box 45745, University Station, Seattle, WA 98105.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS OF OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

The ROCKY MOUNTAIN COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES will be held during February 23-25, 1984, in Tucson, Arizona, featuring a panel entitled "MORMONS IN MEXICO," containing papers by CLARK JOHNSON of BYU ("Mormon Education in Mexico"); and STEVE WOOD of Cornell University ("The History and Ideology of Mormon Cooperative Movements in Mexico"), with comments by DEBORAH BALDWIN of the University of Kansas. For more information, contact SSSML member MARK L. GROVER, 6218 HBL Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

A call for papers has been issued for the 12th annual conference on RELIGION AND THE FAMILY, sponsored by the Family and Demography Research Institute at BYU. The conference itself is scheduled for March 7 and 8, 1984, and will feature some interesting special guest speakers: HOWARD BAHR and BRUCE CHADWICK, SSSML members and co-authors of the first two volumes out of the Middletown III Project, Middletown Families and All Faithful People (on religion in Middletown); WILLIAM D'ANTONIO, current ASA Executive Officer, past president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, co-editor of the recent Sage book, Families and Religions, and a specialist in Catholic family life; ABRAHAM KAPLAN, of the University of Haifa and UCLA, author of several books and an internationally recognized authority on Hassidic Judaism; LETHA DAWSON SCANZONI, professional author, lecturer, and consultant to various Protestant organizations on religion and social issues, including

feminism; and SSSML member ARLAND THORNTON, research scientist at the University of Michigan in religion, family, divorce, gender roles, and fertility. This looks to be a fascinating conference, for which ABSTRACTS of proposed papers are supposed to be received by Christmas. Considering how late this notification is, interested prospective authors may wish to make telephone contact immediately with the Chairman for this conference, Professor Darwin L. Thomas, (801)+378-6706 or 378-2948.

The PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will meet as usual in the Spring and will again feature a panel on the sociology of Mormon life. The time is during April 11-14, 1984, and the place is the new Sheraton Hotel in downtown SEATTLE. Papers are supposed to be submitted by January 15, 1984. If you have a prospective paper on the sociology of Mormon life, you should write or phone session chairman Professor DONALD B. LINDSEY, (a SSSML member), Department of Sociology, California State University, San Bernardino, CA 92407. If your paper would deal with the sociology of religion more generally, it should go to Professor PATRICK McNAMARA, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. For information on where to send other kinds of papers, contact the PSA program chairpersons, either JON MILLER or BETH HAMILTON, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0032. Especially you SSSML members living along the West Coast should plan to attend these PSA meetings, since we (SSSML) will no doubt be having some sort of meeting or reception of our own besides while we are in Seattle. We look forward to seeing you there?

The WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION usually meets at about the same time of year as does the Pacific Sociological Association, but we have so far received no more information about the meetings of that organization for 1984, or the extent to which it is going to have papers on Mormon topics. We understand, however, that interested persons may find out more by contacting the WSSA program chairperson for this year, MARILYN STEMBER, Department of Sociology, University of Denver, 4200 East 9th Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.

In early May, the annual meetings of the MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION will take place in Provo, Utah, this year. Taking advantage of that location, the BYU Administration is sponsoring a special adjunct conference under the joint auspices of the Family and Demography Institute and the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute of Church History. Scheduled for May 9, 1984, this SPECIAL DEMOGRAPHY CONFERENCE is described as "a gathering of interested scholars/researchers . . . participating) in a free-wheeling day of informal presentations and discussions about Mormon demographic studies . . . ". The weekend following this demography conference is when the MHA conference itself will take place. Those who have prospective papers for either the special demography conference on May 9th, or the MHA conference immediately thereafter, should contact (as soon as possible) MAUREEN URSENBACH BEECHER, J.F. Smith Institute, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602, for further information.

Looking ahead into the Summer and Fall of next year, the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY

OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS (SSSP) will meet from August 23-26, 1984, and the AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ASA) from August 27-31, both in SAN ANTONIO, Texas, one of the most colorful cities of the U.S. The SSSP meetings will be in the Marriott Hotel there, and the ASA meetings at the nearby Convention Center. SSSML will hold a session of our own at one of these sites or the other during the final week of August, so do plan to attend. As ASA members have long known, the deadline for the submission of papers for the San Antonio conference is December 31, 1983, but there is perhaps still time to meet the deadline for SSSP papers, which is January 16, 1984 (inquire of SSSP Program Co-Chairperson RICHARD E. RATCLIFF, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13210).

An even better possibility is for participation in the meetings of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION, also held in San Antonio at about the same time (August 25-27, 1984). This organization will meet at the charming old Menger Hotel in San Antonio, where the rates will likely be lower and the distance still not far from the ASA-SSSP activities. Furthermore, the ASR deadline is not until February 1, 1984 (for proposals, abstracts, or program suggestions) or March 1, 1984 (for two copies of the actual paper). The theme of the ASR conference in 1984 will be "Religion and Secular Change: Problems of Conflict and Accommodation." Submit abstracts and inquiries to Professor ANSON D. SHUPE, Department of Sociology, University of Texas/Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019. We hope to see as many of our SSSML members as possible participating in the San Antonio meetings of the ASA, SSSP, and/or ASR during late August, and we will be advising you in the next couple of Newsletters about SSSML activities during that same time and place.

FINALLY, we have received the announcement and call for papers for the 1984 joint meetings of the SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION and the RELIGIOUS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION. These will be held during October 26-28, 1984, at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The relevant deadlines are: January 15th for the submission of proposals for sessions or panels; March 1st for the submission of abstracts for papers; April 1st for notification to authors of acceptance (or rejection) of papers; May 15th for submission of final versions of abstracts and any other materials for the printed program; and September 1st for the final versions of the actual papers to be read. Direct abstracts, papers, and inquiries for the SSSR to Dr. DEAN HOGE, Youth Research Center, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064; and for the RRA to Professor MICHAEL WELCH, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556. Papers on Mormon topics have always been very welcome at the October meetings of the SSSR and RRA, as well as at the August meetings of the ASR.

#### INFORMATION ON OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

SSSML member JEFFREY M. BRADSHAW keeps us informed on some of the activities of one of his other favorite organizations, AMCAP: ASSOCIATION OF MORMON

COUNSELORS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS. Jeff serves as Secretary-Treasurer for an active SEATTLE area chapter of AMCAP, about which SSSML members in the Northwest might wish to obtain more information. Jeff's address is 742 N. 80th, Seattle, WA 98103. Information on the AMCAP national organization can be obtained via the general Secretary-Treasurer, PAUL F. COOK, 121 KMB, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

Since anthropology is one of our sister disciplines, many SSSML members may be interested in keeping track of the work and activities of Mormon anthropologists, some of whom do their research in the anthropology of Mormon life, but many of whom are engaged in anthropological and archaeological work of a more general kind. In any case, we are reminded that we can keep current on all of this, and on the continuing output of anthropological literature on the Mormons, via the newsletter Mormon Anthropology, available for the asking from the Department of Anthropology, 700 SWKT, BYU, Provo 84602.

A closely related enterprise is the FOUNDATION FOR ANCIENT RESEARCH AND MORMON STUDIES (FARMS), PO Box 7113, University Station, Provo, Utah 84602. FARMS promotes archaeological and ancient scripture research of various kinds, but gives special attention to the Book of Mormon. While FARMS takes that work seriously as ancient scripture, and therefore represents the viewpoint of the "believing scholar," it nevertheless fosters only careful and professionally responsible scholarship, rather than what might be called "merely apologetic scholarship." A number of projects with potential scholarly value to social scientists are carried out under FARMS auspices, including the ongoing compilation of a multi-volume Book of Mormon Encyclopedia; a regular Newsletter of activities and projects; a large Reprint Series of earlier articles by the likes of Hugh Nibley, Sidney Sperry, John Sorenson, and Lester Bush which have appeared in Dialogue, BYU Studies, and in other scholarly publications; grants and scholarships for research on ancient scripture, archaeology, etc.; and many other important scholarly resources. Inquiries may be directed to FARMS, PO Box 7113, University Station, Provo, Utah 84602.

AND SPEAKING OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE LIKE . . . We are informed via the latest Mormon Anthropology Newsletter of fellowships of potential interest to social scientists studying Mormon matters: The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at BYU has invited applications for summer fellowships during 1984. The applicant should be proposing work on "some aspect of change in relation to developments in the Mountain West during the 20th century," based on research methods from the humanities or the social sciences. Awardees must spend any consecutive period of two months from May through August, 1984, in residence at BYU, at the end of which period he/she will give a lecture on the preliminary results of the research. The stipend is \$3,000, plus as much as another \$3,000 in research support. Both new and ongoing projects are eligible. Deadline for submission of applications is March 1, 1984. Inquiries should go to Dr. Thomas G. Alexander, Director, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, 4069 HBL Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602, and can be made for 1985 as well as

1984.

#### UPDATE ON SPECIAL SSSML PUBLICATION PROJECT

The special issue of Review of Religious Research co-sponsored by SSSML is still underway but delayed by a setback. A couple of the papers we had wanted to publish were based upon church-sponsored research, which we thought had been cleared for publication (or readily would be) by the interested church agency. In that respect, we turned out to be optimistic, or at least premature. We still have hopes for the clearance (other work thus sponsored has been cleared and has already appeared in scholarly journals), but rather than wait beyond a certain new deadline, we will go to press without those pieces. Already committed are Rod Stark's paper on the growth of the Mormon religion toward the status of "the first new world religion since Islam," based upon both past growth data and future growth projections; Stan Albrecht's and Tim Heaton's paper on patterns of church disaffiliation among life-long Mormons vs. among Mormon converts; Gordon and Gary Shepherd's paper on changing themes and rhetorical patterns in official Mormon sermons over 150 years; and Armand Mauss's comprehensive bibliography of social science work on the Mormons. All of these papers have been accepted for publication by the Editors of this special issue, and some of them have also successfully completed the RRR editorial review process. The General Editor at RRR is now reserving for our material the Fall issue, 1984 (26:1), and we expect no difficulty in that schedule, given the progress already made. Meanwhile, we understand that serendipity has produced an assemblage of Mormon-related papers quite independently of SSSML efforts in the current issue of RRR (December, 1983).

#### NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

As has been earlier announced, Volume 10 (1984) of the Annual Review of Sociology will contain the essay by Armand Mauss, "Sociological Perspectives on the Mormon Subculture," with a bibliography of references numbering over 270 items. This bibliography is reduced at the insistence of the Annual Review editors from an original length of more than 400 items. The original (longer) bibliography, along with a short introduction, will appear next Fall in the special issue of RRR mentioned just above. While it would be unfeasible and prohibitively expensive to offer either of these bibliographies right now to all interested persons, Armand is willing to share preprint versions of either the shorter or the longer version with anyone having an urgent research need for them. This is partly in the Christmas spirit, and partly as penance for getting out this Newsletter so late! It is hoped and anticipated that the overwhelming majority of our SSSML readers can wait until these bibliographies are published next Fall, but urgent needs will be accommodated on a limited basis for those writing to the author c/o Department of Sociology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4020.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND DUES TIME!

The officers of the SSSML and the Editor of this Newsletter all join in wishing the membership a joyous holiday season. While we are at it, we wish to add reminders for two categories of members: One we shall affectionately call the "Jack-Member," referring to those who have not yet paid their dues (\$3.00) for 1983. For your benefit, we have enclosed one more time a membership renewal slip for you to mail back with your dues. Sorry as we will be to lose you, this is positively your last Newsletter without renewal; a year is as long as we can afford to "carry" you.

To those of you in the even more affectionately-regarded category of "Paid-up Members," we thank you very much for your promptness and offer you this reminder that you can get a head start on your 1984 dues, and save us the trouble of "dunning" you in the first Newsletter of 1984, if you will send your 1984 dues NOW (\$3.00) to our SSSML Secretary-Treasurer, Rosemary Bahr, Department of Sociology, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602. While you are at it, PLEASE include a few words of NEWS about yourself for subsequent issues of this Newsletter. Don't be modest; let us know what you have been doing of possible interest to SSSML members and colleagues.

## NEWS OF NEW (AND RENEWED) MEMBERS

SIEGFRIED ANDREE, of Munich, Germany, expects to finish a Master's Degree at the University of Munich in 1984 in American Studies, with special focus on pioneer Mormonism and its transformation into a major subculture of the U.S. He has also scheduled some travel in Utah and the American west as part of his research.

WILFRID BAILEY retired in June after many years on the Anthropology faculty of the University of Georgia. We trust he will keep us informed of his scholarly and other activities during retirement.

B.Y. CARD is back in Red Deer, Alberta, again during the current school year as a part-time lecturer at Red Deer College. He had been spending a year or two since formal retirement working in Canadian studies at BYU. He continues his interests in Canadian Mormons and in Mormonism more generally as "an aspiring open social system and symbol system."

D. JEFF BURTON, of Salt Lake City, who is interested in everything and anything having to do with Mormon studies, has recently joined SSSML.

VICTORIA J. CHAMBERS, of Orem, Utah, also a new member, works for the Correlation/Evaluation Department of the LDS Church, where she is involved in two fascinating social research projects.

REX E. COOPER, of Salt Lake City, works in the same place and has recently joined us.



An anthropologist, his chief interests lie in Mormon group identity and solidarity.

MARIE CORNWALL, our current Vice-President and President-Elect, while living and working in Salt Lake City (also in Correlation/Evaluation), is hard at work on her Ph.D. dissertation via the University of Minnesota. She has been working on new ways of conceptualizing and measuring Mormon religiosity.

GISELA DEMHARTER, a colleague of Siegfried Andree's at the University of Munich (see above), is spending the current school year at the University of Calgary, Alberta, as a base of study and research activity for her doctoral dissertation in American Studies on the topic of the socialization of Mormon children. She recently spent two weeks at various libraries in Utah, where, she reports, she was very hospitably treated by SSSML members and other colleagues.

BRIAN HATCH, of Salt Lake City, reports that he has joined SSSML recently, mainly by virtue of vicarious interest through relatives who are sociologists.

ROBERT R. HUBBLE, of Kearns, Utah, joins us with a strong interest in the Mormon communitarian tradition and its applicability to today's social problems. He has what he calls "The Project for Latter-Day Studies," whose goals are to disseminate ideas and information on communitarianism and to locate funds with which to purchase lands for communitarian experiments.

ARMAND MAUSS reports that his summer course at the University of Calgary on the sociology of Mormon life had 20 eager students, of whom only one had any LDS background.

ALLEN ROBERTS, long active in scholarly publication ventures like Sunstone and Dialogue, has recently joined SSSML in Salt Lake City. His interests range far and wide in the sociology of religious belief, including faith, conversion, and testimony, as well as in history, theology, and philosophy.

GORDON C. THOMASSON, who has done advanced studies here and there for some years, and has been a prominent author in scholarly publications like Dialogue, is now in Provo, Utah, from which we are pleased to see that he has renewed his membership in SSSML.

DAVID M. WALDEN, also now of Provo, has recently renewed his membership. He retains his long-standing scholarly interest in Mormon activities in Oceania, especially Micronesia, and he has been active in recent conferences held at Utah State University (the Fife Folklore Conference and the AAAS). His most recent work has consisted of doing oral history and other research on Mormon relations with American Indians.

PAUL L. WILLIAMS, until recently of University of California-Santa Barbara, where he completed his M.A. in Religious Studies, is now at BYU doing advanced studies in

educational psychology in preparation for a career as an LDS military chaplain.

DUANE WILSON, of Salt Lake City, is working on an advanced degree in economics and has a special interest in the ways in which economic factors affect Mormon family life.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR! ONE OF NEXT YEAR'S ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER WILL CONTAIN AN UPDATED LIST OF MEMBERSHIP NAMES AND ADDRESSES.