

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE (SSSML)

Vol. 6, No's. 1 & 2

April, 1984

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR APPOINTED

As retiring editor of this Newsletter, I am happy to report that at long last there has been a more-or-less enthusiastic response to the "Want-Ad" for a new editor with which the previous issue of the Newsletter began. Please welcome EVAN T. PETERSON, Department of Sociology, SWKT, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. You should begin immediately to send him your news tidbits. We are especially interested in news about YOU that may have anything to do with your research work, teaching, or other scholarly activities (and you don't have to be an academic type to be engaged in scholarly activities!). We also need information about conferences or symposia of possible interest to our members, both the events themselves and the calls for papers which are usually issued earlier. I am sure Evan will do a fine job as Editor, but he will need your help in collecting newsworthy material. If you don't send it, he can't publish it. I hope his schedule will permit him to publish at least two more issues of the Newsletter this year, and then get on a more regular quarterly schedule than I was able to do in recent months. As my final word on this matter, I would like to thank all those SSSML members who have cooperated with me in my four years as Editor to make this a useful instrument of communication. And now, best wishes, Evan

Armand L. Mauss

RECENT MEETINGS OF THE PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

This year the PSA held its convention in Seattle at the new Sheraton Hotel there (April 11-14). The session on the Sociology of Religion was chaired by Professor PATRICK McNAMARA, Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico, and included papers on meditation, conversion, and a reconsideration of standard socialization theory; Marxism, feminism, and the sociology of religion; "circulation of the saints" in South America (compared to the same phenomenon in North America); and the new southern California crusade of the Rev. Cole Terry. Readers interested in copies of these papers should inquire about their availability through Professor McNamara.

A separate session on the Sociology of Mormon Life was sponsored by SSSML and chaired by Professor DONALD B. LINDSEY, Department of Sociology, California State University/San Bernardino. This session contained the following three papers, which can presumably be obtained by writing to their respective authors:

"Developmental Change, Network Capacity, and Adaptive Functioning in the Mormon Community," by Professor Ted C. Smith, Department of Sociology, University of Utah.

"A Conceptual Framework for the Near-Death Experience: Mormon Theology Examined," by Professor Harold A. Widdison, Department of Sociology, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.

"World War II and Role Perceptions of Mormon Women as Seen Through the Pages of the Relief Society Magazine," by Marjorie Draper Conder, Department of Sociology, University of Utah.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION is meeting this year at the BYU Conference Center in Provo, Utah, May 10-13. These meetings are always well attended and feature many different sessions on various aspects of Mormon history, some of it quite current. There are always a number of papers of sociological interest, and the conference is a great opportunity to meet prominent scholars from both the LDS and the RLDS traditions. Those of you living in Utah should really try to take in at least some of this conference, since next year it will be in Independence, Missouri, and then who knows where?! This year a special 1-day conference on demography and history will precede the MHA meetings on May 9th. Review the previous issue of this Newsletter for more information on both these conferences. The next issue will contain some more information about the proceedings.

Besides these Spring meetings of interest, there are others coming up in the summer that might be of special interest to SSSML members: The annual SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM is scheduled for Salt Lake City on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, AUGUST 23-25, 1984. Again this year, SSSML has been asked to provide one of the sessions, which will deal with "Religion and the Social Sciences." Those who may have papers in preparation, or clear ideas for papers that could be ready by then, should make immediate contact with MARIE CORNWALL, who is SSSML's organizer for this special Sunstone session. She should be contacted no later than JUNE 1st, either by mail at 1792 Lake Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105, or by telephone during the day at (801)+531-2727. Whether or not you wish to submit a paper, you should do your best to attend, this entire annual Symposium, which always features exciting scholarly, literary, and artistic events involving some of the most prominent figures in Mormon cultural and intellectual life. Perhaps you can attend the Symposium on your way to . .

The annual meetings of the two major national sociology associations, the AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION and the SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, will take place in SAN ANTONIO, Texas, also late in August. The SSSP will meet in the Marriott Hotel, AUGUST 23-26, and the ASA in the nearby Convention

Center, AUGUST 27-31. Overlapping with both of these is the annual conference of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (publisher of the important journal Sociological Analysis), which will be held in San Antonio's charming and classical Menger Hotel AUGUST 25-27. Among the sessions of this ASR conference are always at least a few papers on Mormon-related topics and others of likely interest to SSSML members.

An especially good reason for attending at least these ASR meetings this year, and staying in the ASR (Menger) hotel while you are in San Antonio, is that the ASR is co-sponsoring our own annual SSSML program and providing the space and time-slots for it! The SSSML program promises to be especially rich this year, with two good sessions of scholarly papers on (respectively) Sunday, AUGUST 26th, and Monday, AUGUST 27th. Both of these sessions have been organized by SSSML President, James T. Duke (Sociology, BYU), from whom more information can be obtained. Meanwhile, however, note the contents of these two fascinating sessions:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1984

"Modes of Ecclesiastical Rhetoric: Exposition and Admonition of Belief at General Conferences of the LDS Church," by Gordon Shepherd, University of Central Arkansas, and Gary Shepherd, Oakland University (Michigan).

"Dynamics of Defection from Mormonism," by Howard M. Bahr and Stan L. Albrecht, Department of Sociology, BYU.

"The Influence of In-Group Participation and Out-Group Association on Personal Religiosity," by Marie Cornwall, Correlation/Evaluation Department, LDS Church.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 1984

"Religion and Suicide: A Record-Linkage Study," by Phillip R. Kunz, Department of Sociology, BYU.

"Love Thy Neighbor, Marry Thy Neighbor?: Religious Social Distance among University Students," by Merlin B. Brinkerhoff and Marlene M. Mackie, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary.

"Value Acquisition and Religious Socialization among LDS Adolescent Males," by Stan E. Weed and Joseph A. Olsen, Correlation/Evaluation Department, LDS Church.

"The Religious Socialization of Mormon Girls: Description of a New Research Project and Some Initial Findings from Canadian Data," by Gisela Demharter, University of Munich.

You can see clearly now the benefit of attending our annual meetings this summer in San Antonio! When you come, be sure to stay at the MENDER HOTEL, since that will help pay the meeting costs of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, which has been kind enough to provide us a time and place for our meetings. More information on the rest of the ASR sessions, and on registration for both the hotel and the conference, can be obtained by writing this year's ASR Program Chairman, Professor ANSON D. SHUPE, Department of Sociology, University of Texas-Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019.

Then, later in the year, OCTOBER 26-28, the SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION and the RELIGIOUS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION will hold their annual meetings jointly at the Bismarck Hotel in CHICAGO, Illinois. See the previous issue of this Newsletter for more information on these programs, which also usually feature papers on Mormon-related topics.

INFORMATION ON OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Through SSSML member JEFF BRADSHAW, we continue to get information on the activities of the Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychologists (AMCAP), particularly on its active chapter in the Seattle area, where monthly meetings offer discussions on many stimulating topics. Our previous Newsletter carried more complete information on AMCAP, so we shall refer you back to that issue at this time.

We have also received the March, 1984, issue of the newsletter, MORMON ANTHROPOLOGY, published by the Department of Anthropology, BYU, from which you can obtain more information and perhaps access to your own copies of this occasional newsletter. The latest issue contains interesting information on collections and activities at the BYU Museum of Peoples and Cultures, as well as on the thriving Anthropology Department itself, and the specific activities of several of its faculty and students.

Finally, we will offer one more "plug" for the Society for the Study of Mormon Theology (SSMT), recently organized in the Long Beach area of southern California. This promising organization has already sponsored some fascinating events and research activities. Refer again to the previous Newsletter for more information on SSMT and how to get in contact with it.

FALL ISSUE OF SPECIAL SSSML-SPONSORED PUBLICATION

It's really going to happen! Next Fall's issue of the Review of Religious Research (Vol. 26, Issue No. 1) is going to be devoted almost entirely to articles collected and sponsored by SSSML, and paid for by money raised through SSSML, through BYU's Institute for Family and Demographic Research, and through the Sociology Department at BYU. Certain individual donors to this SSSML cause have been especially generous. We hope

that SSSML will one day have its own journal, as the Mormon History Association does, but meanwhile this publication is an important milestone for us. The journal will contain the following articles:

Guest Editor's Introduction by Armand L. Mauss "The Rise of a New World Faith," by Rodney Stark

"Mormonism in Secular Society: Changing Patterns in Official Ecclesiastical Rhetoric," by Gary and Gordon Shepherd.

"Secularization, Higher Education, and Religiosity," by Stan L. Albrecht and Timothy B. Heaton.

"Spiritual Well-Being and the Consequential Dimension of Religiosity among Mormons," by James T. Duke and Barry L. Johnson.

"Comprehensive Bibliography of Social Science Literature on the Mormons," by Armand L. Mauss and Jeffrey R. Franks.

All of the articles are based on recent empirical data and carry important theoretical implications for understanding stability, growth and change in the Mormon subculture. The comprehensive bibliography at the end is intended to be very comprehensive, containing more than 500 entries of articles and books written on Mormons during the 20th century. The bibliography is organized, furthermore, into some 30 different topical sections and subsections (e.g., Religiosity, Family Life, Politics, etc.). Since the journal is now at the press, this will have to be the **LAST CALL FOR ORDERING YOUR OWN COPIES** of this valuable issue of RRR, for we will soon have to give the printer a final figure on the number of copies to produce. We have received several orders already during the past year, but we would like to give everyone a last chance. If you would like to order any copies, please send \$5.00 per copy to our Secretary-Treasurer, Rosemary Bahr, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. All orders must be received **BY THE END OF MAY**. For those who have sent only pledges so far, now is the time to send the money. For those who have already sent money, it would be a good idea for you to write me (A. Mauss) for **CONFIRMATION** that a copy has been reserved for you.

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

that have come to your editor's attention and might be of interest to readers are:

The entire December, 1983, issue of the Review of Religious Research (25:2), containing several articles on Mormon topics, most of them demographic in nature, assembled quite apart from our own forthcoming SSSML-sponsored RRR issue.

The new book by Gary and Gordon Shepherd, *A Kingdom Transformed: Rhetorical Themes in the Institutionalization of Mormonism*. Salt Lake City, University of Utah Press, 1984 (see Spring announcements brochure of the U. of U. Press).

The new book by Lester E. Bush and Armand L. Mauss, *Neither White nor Black: Scholars Encounter the Race Issue in a Universal Church*. Salt Lake City, Signature Books, 1984 (largely a collection of the authors' previous articles on the subject, with two new essays and a comprehensive bibliography on the Mormon/Black issue).

S. L. Albrecht and H. M. Bahr, "Patterns of Religious Disaffiliation: A Study of Lifelong Mormons, Mormon Converts, and Former Mormons," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 22:4 (1983).

A. P. Hampshire and J. A. Beckford, "Religious Sects and the Concept of Deviance: The Mormons and the Moonies," *British Journal of Sociology* 34:2 (1983).

J. Heeren, D. B. Lindsey, and M. Mason, "The Mormon Concept of Mother in Heaven: A Sociological Account of Its Origin and Development," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 23:4 (December, 1984 - in press).

O. Kendall White, "Overt and Covert Politics: The Mormon Church's anti-ERA Campaign in Virginia," *Virginia Social Science Journal* 18 (Winter, 1983).

IT'S ELECTION TIME!

This year is the time not only for the presidential election in the U.S., but also the time for our own biennial election of new officers for SSSML. Let us begin by expressing our appreciation for the services of our RETIRING officers:

James T. Duke (BYU), President
Marie Cornwall (LDS Correlation/Evaluation Office), Vice-President and President Elect
Rosemary Bahr (BYU), Secretary-Treasurer
and Council Members: Harold Christensen (Purdue, Emeritus) Clark Knowlton (University of Utah) Gary Shepherd (Oakland University)

According to Article VI, Section 4, of our SSSML Constitution, an election must be held every other Spring for officers to take over the organization at our next annual meeting (August). A slate of officers is to be nominated by an Ad Hoc Elections Committee (appointed by, or else consisting of, the current officers), and then the membership is to be invited to vote for the slate, or else to write in names of alternative candidates, when the ballots are returned. From the membership roster included with this issue of the Newsletter, any member can solicit the support of other members to organize a write-in campaign, and if there is not a clear majority for any one candidate for any office, a run-off election can be held. These election arrangements are similar to those followed in the

Mormon History Association. They are not intended to manipulate or "railroad" the process, but only to simplify and streamline it in a small organization with few available candidates and no known controversies. Any member(s) of SSSML who would like to offer alternative candidates to the new slate (below), and/or to be given time to organize a campaign for the same purpose, should communicate immediately with President Duke at BYU. Not hearing anything of the kind from the membership by the END OF MAY, the current leadership of the organization will offer the following slate of officers for election by ballots to be enclosed in the next issue of this Newsletter:

Marie Cornwall, (LDS Correlation/Evaluation Office), President (This is automatic, since she is now President-Elect)

Wilford E. Smith (BYU), Vice-President and President-Elect Rosemary Bahr (BYU), Secretary-Treasurer (for re-election)

Council Members: Jon Alston, Texas A & M University
Merlin Brinkerhoff, University of Calgary
Joseph A. Olsen, LDS Correlation/Evaluation Office

It might be of interest to note that Wilford Smith, soon to return after three years as LDS Mission President in Fiji, and one of the "founding fathers" of SSSML, was once elected to this same post but had to resign in favor of Jim Duke when he was called to Fiji. Accordingly, Wilford will be, in effect, just picking up where he left off!

IT'S DUES TIME - PLEASE!!

Despite the pointed reminder in the final 1983 issue of this Newsletter, many SSSML members still have not paid their dues for 1984. They are now past due, but so is this Newsletter, so we are not going to get nasty about it! However, the SSSML treasury is now fully drained by the expense of the newsletters and of the special publication coming out next Fall. Therefore, we urge you to submit your 1984 dues immediately. If an application for membership renewal is enclosed with this Newsletter, that means that our records show that you still owe your \$3.00 dues for 1984. Please don't make 'us "dun" you again for such a small amount. We regret to report in that connection that we have had to drop from our mailing list about 25% of our membership who did not pay any dues for 1983, either. Our current membership roster, which follows, is now just at 100 members, INCLUDING YOU, so do let us hear from you, not only with your dues (if they are owed for 1984), but also with any tidbits of news about yourself and what you are doing.

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