

Newsletter

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE (SSSML)

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UPDATE ON FALL ISSUE OF REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS RESEARCH

Armand Mauss has written and indicated that he has no more copies of this issue. Anyone who wants some should write to the general editor of Review of Religious Research who currently is Edward Lehman at SUNY-Brockport. He has some back issues of the journal.

You might be interested to know that SSSML did distribute more than sixty copies on our own representing several hundred dollars that went into paying for the special issue. Orders, often with more than \$5.00 enclosed, came from about fifty of our own members -- about half of the entire membership! -- plus a few others interested in Mormon studies.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL SUNSTONE THEOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

The Sunstone Theological Symposium will be held August 21-24 at the Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City. If you would like to participate in the SSSML session, please contact Joseph Olsen, Correlation Department, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. His telephone number is (801) 531-2727.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

We also plan to have a session at the meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion which will be held on August 23-25, 1985 in the Dupont Plaza Hotel, Washington, D. C. If you have a paper to present at this meeting, contact Marie Cornwall by March 1. These meetings will precede the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of PSR will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 17-20, 1985. There will be a session on the Sociology of Mormonism as well as one on the Sociology of Religion.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LDS GERONTOLOGISTS

The annual meeting of the LDS Gerontologists Association will be held in conjunction with a symposium on Death, Dying and Bereavement on April 12, 1985 at the Brigham Young University Conference Center. The symposium is being co-sponsored by the BYU Resource Center on Adult Development and Aging, Hospice of Utah County, Utah Hospice Organization, Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders Association of Utah as well as the LDS Gerontologists. Title and topic area for presentation/paper must be submitted by March 8, 1985 to Claire Averett and Howard R. Gray, 303 HCEB, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602.

SSSR AND RRA MEETINGS

SSSR and RRA are meeting together this year in Savannah, Georgia. The dates are October 25-27. The theme for SSSR will be "Religion and the Political Order." The program chair is Anson Shupe, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX, 76019. The RRA program theme is "Conflict and Unity in the Churches." The program chair is Larry Ingram, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Martin, TN, 38238. The deadline dates are the same for both meetings:

January 15 -- program suggestions, paper proposals, and so forth.

March 1 -- abstracts due.

September 1 -- completed papers due.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

There have been several published articles containing information from the 1981 Church Membership Survey, U.S.A./Canada including the following:

Tim B. Heaton and Kristen L. Goodman, "Religion and Family Formation," forthcoming in The Review of Religious Research, in which comparisons are made among Mormons, Catholics, Protestants, and people with no religion.

Several reports have appeared in church publications:

Tim B. Heaton and Kristen L. Goodman, "LDS Rank High in Marriage, Low in Divorce, Study Says," *The Ensign*, July 1984.

Twila VanLeer, "Gospel Net Gathers Every Kind," Church News, week beginning September 20, 1983.

Twila VanLeer, "Church Emphasizes Learning," Church News, week beginning October 16, 1983.

Twila VanLeer, "Singleness Becoming More Common," Church News, week beginning, November 6, 1983.

Twila VanLeer, "Temple Marriage Stabilizes Families," Church News, week beginning December 9, 1984.

NEW BOOKS

Gottlieb and Wiley, American Saints: The Rise of Mormon Power, New York, Putnam, 1984.

Linda K. Newell and Valeen T. Avery, Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith, New York, Doubleday Company, 1984.

Two perspectives covering the same period--

Richard L. Bushman, Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism, University of Illinois Press, 1984, 261 pp.

Ernest H. Taves, Trouble Enough: Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, Prometheus Books, 1984, 250 pp.

DISSERTATIONS IN FINAL DRAFT FORM WHICH EXAMINE MORMON LIFE BOTH PAST & PRESENT

The Promises made to the Fathers: a Diachronic Analysis of Mormon Covenant Organization with reference to Puritan Federal Theology, by Rex E. Cooper at the University of Chicago.

Personal Communities: The Social and Normative Bases of Religion, by Marie Cornwall at the University of Minnesota.

The Mormon Ideology of Place: Cosmic Symbolism of City of Zion, 1830-1844, by Steven L. Olsen at the University of Chicago.

Both Steve and Rex are anthropologists while Marie is a sociologist.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Several people have either renewed their memberships or have become new members of SSSML. You might be interested in some of the things with which they are concerned.

MONIQUE CHILDS from California has a wide interest in Mormon Studies with special interest in women's issues.

STEVEN L. MAYFIELD from Colorado has an interest in anti-Mormonism as well as current events in Mormonism.

MAX E. STANTON, who is on a one year exchange from BYU-Hawaii while at Ricks College, is concerned with the LDS in the Pacific and with the LDS and non-LDS (especially the Hutterites and Blood Indians) in Cardston, Alberta area.

THEODORE T. CURTIS, who works in the Department of Sociology of the University of Michigan-Flint, is interested in the creation, maintenance and dissolution of credibility structures for religious individuals in a secularizing world.

CLAUDIA HARRIS from Georgia is interested in women's studies particularly but not exclusively.

PAUL L. WILLIAMS writes that he expects to accept a U. S. Army Chaplain's commission this month but would like to keep in contact with SSSML.

NANNETTE WATKINS from Illinois is also interested in the role of women in the Church.

ALLEN D. ROBERTS, an architect from Salt Lake City, is interested in the philosophy, theology, history, sociology and so forth of Mormonism.

B. Y. CARD has decided to return to Edmonton, Alberta. He expressed a very interesting idea that surely will be appealing to many of you. He would like to see a sociology of the Mormon church written, and wondered what SSSML might do to stimulate the writing or production of research representing the best in sociological and Mormon traditions. One response would be for an annual or biennial lectureship which would yield a published work; these lectures might provide a means of generating more adequate conceptual framework for the sociology of Mormonism, synthesizing research or reporting significant research in progress.