

# SSSML NEWSLETTER

## SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE

Vol. 8, No's. 2 & 3

October 1986

### MESSAGE FROM THE NEW STAFF

The current year has been a transitional one for SSSML in general, and for this Newsletter in particular. We have had a turnover of officers and a new arrangement for putting out the Newsletter. David Buerger is the new Editor (Personal Computer Center, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053), and Armand Mauss will serve as "Field Reporter" (P.O. Box 2061, C.S., Pullman, WA 99165). Anyone having items for the Newsletter should send them directly to David. Armand will assist by beating the bushes and rounding up additional material. Joseph Olsen (Dept. of Sociology, BYU, Provo, UT 84602), SSSML Secretary-Treasurer, will take responsibility for reproducing and mailing the Newsletter to all members, so be sure that Joe has your most current address. Our greatest need from the membership (besides your dues!) is for news and information of interest to all, including news about yourself (new activities, publications, or other accomplishments). DON'T BE BASHFUL. Let us know what you are doing. We solicit suggestions and assistance from all SSSML members, and we look forward to serving you with a truly interesting, if rather modest, periodical publication on Mormon studies. Do let us hear from you!

David Buerger Armand Mauss

### NEW OFFICERS

The slate of new officers nominated in the last Newsletter were all duly elected to two-year terms. Wilford Smith of BYU, previously

President-Elect, is now President. The new Vice-President (and President-Elect) is Donald B. Lindsay of California State University-San Bernardino. Joseph A. Olsen of BYU is Secretary-Treasurer, and the three new Counsel members are Tim B. Heaton (BYU), George K. Jarvis (U. of Alberta), and Gordon Shepherd (U. of Central Arkansas, temporarily on leave to BYU). See the previous Newsletter for more information on each of these new officers.

### MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SSSML PRESIDENT

As a new school year starts, we are looking forward to continued growth of research on behavior related to Mormon life. Many of us have been intrigued with social consequences of the development of the Church. Many writers are now exploring different aspects of Mormon belief and theology, but not enough is being done in the line of scientific research on phenomena related to the development of Mormon life.

When SSSML was founded, there was no intent to make it a society to debate theology, philosophy, or doctrine. The intent was to see if some real scientific research could produce and analyze data related to Mormon life, with its emphasis on families, physical health, personal industry, and other unique characteristics, in order to develop and test sociological theory.

It was with this in mind that I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation (many years before SSSML) dealing with the differences in moral behavior and judgments of college students, and then followed

up in two subsequent studies over a period of twenty years. My findings that Mormon college students differed widely from non-Mormons over a long period of time (when church attendance was held constant) in behavior related to sex and the Word of Wisdom but not in behavior related to stealing, cheating, or lying, were very impressive to me.

My study of Mormon adherence to the requirements of the Word of Wisdom (with non-Mormon control groups) in Arizona, California, and Utah, when level of church commitment was controlled (showing there was no geographical difference despite some effects of urbanism) was also interesting to me. And it was gratifying to learn that Tim Heaton's re-cent findings in a larger study were basically the same as mine.

Others, too numerous to mention here, have opened the door on other important findings, but there is still so much to learn. What happens to Mormon life among converts from Hindu backgrounds, with traditional beliefs in arranged marriages, reincarnation, and the sacredness of life even to the point of refusal to kill mosquitoes? What is happening to class consciousness related to racial differences now that all worthy males can hold the priesthood? Is it the same in Fiji and Africa as in Utah or California? What is the current cultural emphasis on feminism doing to Mormon family solidarity? What of the new acceptance of homosexuality?

There are hundreds of questions, and many of you have been and are working on them. We hope we can all share in your findings this year at B.Y. Card's conference in Edmonton, in the next PSA meetings, in upcoming Sunstone meetings, Redd Foundation lectures, and in other places. If we do, this society will grow and prosper, and perhaps we will all be wiser. If we don't, we are missing great opportunity.

I wish you all well in 1986-87, and I ask for your support of SSSML.

Wilford E. Smith President

#### IMPORTANT CONFERENCES COMING UP

The annual joint conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association will be held November 13-16, 1986, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Washington, D.C. A special conference rate at the hotel, and a special reduced fare on United Airlines, help to make the meetings more affordable. More information can be obtained by writing the Business Manager, SSSR, 108 Marist Hall, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. 20064. Among the papers being presented at these meetings (by SSSML members and others) with potential interest for our membership are those on Mormon neoorthodoxy (by O. Kendall White); psychological influences on theology and denominational affiliation (by R.N. Williams and W.J. Hintze of BYU); demo-graphic and cultural factors in church affiliation (by James Richardson and Michelle Wider); America's "quasi religious corporations" (by Anson Shupe and David Bromley); Protestant fundamentalist colleges (by Larry Young of BYU); and a great many papers on the relation between religion and the public order (including politics).

"The Mormon Presence in Canada: 1830-1887-1987" is the theme of a special conference to be held at the University of Alberta (Edmonton), May 6-9, 1987. Largely the brainchild of Brigham Y. Card (emeritus, U. of A.), assisted by a team of Alberta sociologists with Mormon background and interests (e.g. Herbert Northcott, Howard Palmer, and George Jarvis), the conference has attracted public interest and financing in Canada. It promises to be an out-standing conference in its own right, as well as a great "lead-in" to the Mormon History Association meetings in England the following July. Presentations on Mormons as an "ethno-religious people in Canadian culture" will be made by such familiar Canadian, American, and European scholars of Mormon studies as Jan Shipp, Dean Louder, Richard Bennett, Herbert

Northcott, B.Y. Card, Melvin Tagg, Howard Palmer, Leonard Arrington, Armand Mauss, Keith Parry, Jeff Jacob, George Jarvis, Jessie Embry, Maureen Ursenbach Beecher, Gisela Demharter (of U. of Munich), Merlin Brinkerhoff, Klaus Hansen, and Phillip A. M. Taylor (of Hull University, England). It should be a great feast! For more information, write Dr. B.Y. Card at the Department of Educational Foundations, 5-109 Education Building North, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 205, Canada.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 1987 CONFERENCES

SUNSTONE SYMPOSIA: The Sunstone Symposium is rapidly producing offshoots and branches. Having become an annual August event in Salt Lake City for the past several years, it has now also become an annual May event in Washington, D.C., and plans are underway to make it an annual winter event in the California Bay Area. The next Bay Area Sunstone Symposium will take place in Berkeley on January 30-31 1987. Proposals for papers, panels, roundtable discussions, etc., should be submitted by November 1, 1986, to Lorie Winder Stromberg, Sunstone Symposium West Coordinator, 9028 Hargis Street, Los Angeles, CA 90034 (phone: 213-559-6649). Final papers will be due in duplicate by December 31st (10-15 pages, typed double-spaced, easily readable in 20 minutes). Those unfamiliar with the usual guidelines for Sunstone presentations should write first to Lorie for further information.

PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its next annual meetings at the Hilton Hotel in Eugene, Oregon, April 8-11, 1987. Papers (or at least extensive abstracts) for these meetings must be submitted by January 7, 1987. A copy of the general Call for Papers, and other rules or information on submissions, can be obtained from Jose A. Cobas, Department of Sociology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

85287. Anyone contemplating papers on Mormon topics should send them to Armand Mauss at Washington State University, who is organizing the PSA session co-sponsored by SSSML. Papers on other religion and social science topics should go to James Richardson, Department of Sociology, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89507.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION will hold its annual meetings, as usual, with the American Sociological Association. The conferences next year will be in Chicago during August 14-16 (and continuing later for ASA). SSSML has been asked to provide and co-sponsor a session at ASR next year. Larry Young (Sociology Dept., BYU) has been selected to organize and chair the SSSML session, and papers on Mormon topics should be submitted to him. Papers not on Mormon subjects should go to the general program chairman, William H. Swatos, 1500 7th Ave., Silvis, Ill. 61282. The deadline for paper proposals or abstracts is February 1st, with notification of acceptance to be received by April 1st. Completed papers will be due by July 1st.

#### ANNUAL SSSML LECTURE SERIES

In response to a suggestion by B.Y. Card, SSSML established an annual lecture series devoted to the dissemination of significant scholarly work on Mormon social life and culture. The lectureship carries a modest honorarium and travel expenses, which have to be funded each year by contributions from benefactors. The chief benefactors so far have been the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, the Family and Demographic Institute, and the Department of Sociology, all at BYU. It is the recommendation of SSSML officers that a special fund for this lectureship be accumulated each year through earmarked contributions from the membership (in addition to regular dues), so that the event can become more independent outside sponsorship and funding. The recommended contribution is \$10 per year (which will entitle each donor to a copy of the lecture each year), though any amount will be gratefully received.

THE 1986 LECTURESHIP last Spring went to Professor Tim Heaton of BYU, whose lecture topic was "The Four Cs of the Mormon Family: Chastity, Conjuality, Children, and Chauvinism." Copies of the lecture are available for \$2.00 from Dr. Heaton, Family and Demographic Institute, 822 SWKT, BYU, Provo, UT 84602.

THE 1987 LECTURESHIP has been awarded by SSSML officers to Professor Marie Cornwall of BYU, whose lecture topic will be "The Family and Religion Connection in Mormonism." The lecture will be presented on March 24, 1987, Brigham Young University (Tanner Building, Room 151, 7:00 p.m.). She will discuss the historical importance of the family in the context of changing family lifestyles. Attendance is open to the general public.

THE 1988 LECTURESHIP is now open for competitive proposals. The DEADLINE for proposals is SEPTEMBER 1, 1987. LET'S GET BUSY! There is no reason or intention to make this a BYU event (grateful, though we are, for BYU funding to date), or to hold it always in Provo (or even in Utah). Send proposals to Professor Wilford Smith, SSSML President, 1177 Ash Avenue, Provo, UT 84604.

#### REVIEWS OF 1986 MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

THE PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION met in Denver during April. Unlike most PSA conferences of recent years, this one did not have a session devoted to Mormon research topics, though it did have a couple of papers on such topics in other sessions: Stan L. Albrecht and Marie Cornwall, "Leaving Mormonism: Disengagement and Disaffiliation"; and James A. Aho, "Idaho Christian Patriotism."

THE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM—EAST, held

in Washington, D. C., last May, included a paper by Marie Cornwall and others on education and faith among the Mormons. The chief question of interest was why it is, when you educate Mormons, you seem to increase their faith. The paper examines the extent to which Mormons are unique when it comes to the association between level of education and religiosity. Using NORC data collected between 1972 and 1985, three separate analyses were carried out. The first examined the effect of education on switching one's religious preference. Findings suggest that the more educated are more likely to switch religions but of the several religious groups examined, Catholics, Jews, and Mormons were least likely to switch religions.

The second analysis examined the extent to which education is related to disaffiliation from a religious organization (switching to no religious preference). The results of this analysis suggests that switching among protestants is primarily due to upward mobility. Protestant switchers switch to other religious organizations. On the other hand, educated switchers among Lutherans and Catholics are more likely to the no preference category than less educated switchers. Insufficient data were available to draw any definitive conclusions about Mormons and Jews. How-ever, it would appear that Mormon switchers with less than a college education tend to switch to an-other religious preference, while Mormon switchers with four or more years of college are much more likely to switch to no preference. This conclusion is supported in other research by Albrecht, Cornwall, and Cunningham on disengagement and disaffiliation among Mormons (forthcoming).

The third analysis examined the amount of association between level of education and six measures of religiosity (attendance, strength of religious preference, frequency of personal prayer, belief in life after death, belief in the Bible as the Word of God, feeling close to God) for stayers only. Findings suggest that education may have some effect on the loss of religious symbolism and meaning.

All findings support the conclusion that Mormons are unique. Being educated is associated with increased levels of religiosity on all measures except the literal interpretation of the Bible.

THE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM—UTAH, held at the Salt Lake City Sheraton, August 20– 23, included a panel co-sponsored by SSSML on "Why Mormon Social Scientists Don't Study Mormons," with contributions from Joseph A. Olsen, Larry Young, and Boyd Rawlins, all from BYU. The panel proceedings were taped and may be available via Joe Olsen. A summary of major points may appear in a subsequent issue of this Newsletter.

At the annual meetings of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION held last August (with ASA) in New York City, there was (as with PSA) no SSSML-sponsored session this year, owing to a scarcity of papers on Mormon topics. Larry Young of BYU presented a paper the demo-graphic transition of the Roman Catholic clergy, but there were no papers presented at ASR this year on the Mormons.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

(NOTE: What follows is not necessarily a complete list; it comprises only what has happened to come to the recent attention of the Newsletter staff. We apologize for unintended oversights or omissions and urge readers to point them out to us for later addition).

In the June, 1986, issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (25:2), "How Does Religion Influence Fertility?: The Case of the Mormons," by Tim B. Heaton.

In the *Review of Religious Research* in recent months:

- June, 1985 (26:4)—"Religion and Family Formation," by Timothy B. Heaton and

Kristen L. Goodman.

- December, 1985 (27:2)—"Mormonism and the New Christian Right: An Emerging Coalition?" by Anson Shupe and John Heinerman.
- March, 1986 (27:3)—"The Dimensions of Religiosity: A Conceptual Model with an Empirical Test," by Marie Cornwall, Stan Albrecht, Perry Cunningham, and Brian Pitcher.

*In Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, the following articles with some degree of sociological significance:

- Winter, 1985 (18:4)—the entire issue is devoted to Mormon relationships with the American Indians.
- Fall, 1985 (18:3)—the main theme of the issue has to do with Mormon women's issues, including the priesthood, early polygyny, and early polyandry.
- Summer, 1985 (18:2)—"Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine: A Mormon Perspective," by Lester E. Bush, and critical panel evaluating "The Godmakers" film.
- Spring, 1985 (18:1)—"LDS Church Authority and New Plural Marriages, 1890-1904," by D. Michael Quinn; also, "Socialist Saints: Mormons and the Socialist Party in Utah, 1900-1920," by John Sillito and John McCormick; and a panel on the plight of the intellectual in Mormonism, with contributions by L. Jackson Newell, Tom Alexander, Stan Kimball, and Francine Bennion.
- Summer, 1986 (19:2)—"The Ahmadis of Is-lam: A Mormon Encounter and Perspective," by Garth Jones; "The United Order of Joseph Smith's Times," by Kent Huff; and "Depression in Mormon Women," by Harry Bluhm, David Spendlove, and Dee Wayne West.

Edward Leo Lyman, *Political Deliverance: The Mormon Quest for Statehood*. Univ. of Illinois Press, 1986.

D. Michael Quinn, *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, Winter, 1986.

T.K. Martin, T.B. Heaton, and S.J. Bahr (eds.), *Utah in Demographic Perspective: Regional and National Contrasts*. Signature Books, 1986 (twenty chapters contributed by experts on a variety of demographic topics, including abortion and teen pregnancy, marriage and divorce, crime and drug abuse, etc., all in comparative perspective with the Inter-mountain region and with the U.S. as a whole).

O. Kendall White, *Mormon Neo-Orthodoxy: A Crisis Theology*. Signature Books, Spring, 1987.

R. Laurance Moore, *Religious Outsiders and the Making of Americans*. Oxford Univ. Press, 1986 (includes chapters on Mormons).

Lowry Nelson, *In the Direction of His Dreams*. Signature Books, Winter, 1986. (Memoirs, in 370 pages, of pioneering Mormon sociologist Lowry Nelson, now 95 years old).

Rodney Stark and William Sims Bainbridge, *The Future of Religion*. Univ. of California Press, 1985. A collection of all the essays jointly produced by these authors during the past decade, based on their theory of the self-limiting nature of the secularization process. Includes some material, and quite a few references, on the Mormons.

Richard S. Van Wagoner, *Mormon Polygamy: A History*. Signature Books, 1985 (a complete and authoritative treatment, drawing on a variety of sources).

Thomas G. Alexander, *Mormonism in Transition: A History of the Latter-day Saints, 1890-1990*. Univ. of Illinois Press, 1985 (a detailed account of the "Americanization" of Mormons and their church).

(Above books are all listed in the latest catalogue of the Signature Books Company and are available through that company. Write for information and/or the catalogue to Signature Books, Suite G-4, 350 South 400 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111).

#### NEWS OF SSSML MEMBERS

(NOTE: Again we add a disclaimer of comprehensiveness! What follows is, again, only what has happened to come to our attention. Please send news of your-self and/or of other members for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Don't be bashful!

HANS BAER, long at work on a unique manuscript on the Levites of Utah (or "Order of Aaron"), has had his finished product accepted for publication by SUNY Press. With the title "Utopia in the Desert" (or something similar), the book will be out in late 1987 or early 1988.

DAVID BUERGER, at the recent Utah Sunstone Symposium, presented a new study on the evolution of the Mormon temple endowment ceremony (with responses from Armand Mauss and Andrew Ehat). The study, which includes substantial data on temple attendance, will appear next year in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*.

HAROLD CHRISTENSEN, emeritus from Purdue University, has been living for a decade in La Jolla (near San Diego), where he is working on his memoirs.

NADINE HANSEN, of Cupertino, CA, who recently completed her J.D. degree from the University of Santa Clara, participated in the August Utah Sunstone Symposium, where she made a presentation on the separation of church and state, as part of a panel entitled, "When (the Constitution) Hangs by a Thread, Will the Sisters of Israel Save It?".

DEAN LOUDER, of Laval University in Quebec City, spent the 1985-86 school year on sabbatical

at Arizona State University but is now back in Quebec.

ARMAND MAUSS (now back in Pullman, Washington, after a sabbatical year in Santa Barbara), was recently elected Treasurer of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and appointed Book Review Editor for the Review of Religious Research.

JIM RICHARDSON, immediate past president of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, has recently finished law school. He is using his new expertise (as well as his old) in a new line of studies on relationships between religion and politics. His ASR Presidential Address in New York City dealt with little-known but potentially significant federal incursions across the "wall of separation".

ALLEN ROBERTS is hard at work (with co-author Linda Sillitoe) on a book planned to be the definitive study of the bizarre Mark Hofmann forgery and bombing affair. Various magazine articles and papers at Sunstone meetings have already come out of their work.

GORDON SHEPHERD (currently on SSSML Council) is spending the Fall Semester at BYU on a sabbatical leave devoted in large part to a study (with brother Gary) of the LDS church missionary system.

O. KENDALL WHITE, long a student and expert on Mormon neo-orthodoxy, has a book on the subject coming out next Spring via Signature Books (see note above on new books).

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST,

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES, so that we can continue to publish this Newsletter and otherwise promote scholarly work on Mormon life and culture.

Some of our members owe dues for 1984 or 1985, and many still owe for 1986. It is not too early to pay for 1987. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT CURRENT, there is an extra note to that effect included with this mailing. Please send us dues (ONLY \$3.00 PER YEAR), for the years indicated, to Joseph A. Olsen, Secretary- Treasurer, SSSML, c/o Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. Hurry, and thanks!

LAST MINUTE FLASH

As this Newsletter was going to press, we were informed by Brigham Y. Card of the death of NELS ANDERSON on October 8, 1986. Dr. Anderson was 97 years old last July 31st. Several years ago, he was a featured speaker at a panel on his work that was held under SSSML auspices as part of the annual ASA meetings. Known especially (among Mormon scholars) for his *Deseret Saints*, written half a century ago, Anderson was also an early observer and investigator of the "skid row" way of life in cities like Chicago (see his *The Hobo*), where he got his MA degree and studied under the early "greats" of the Chicago School of Sociology like Robert Parks. A more extensive obituary will follow in a later issue of this Newsletter.

A TRIBUTE TO NELS ANDERSON

Many people world-wide will be saddened to learn that Nels Anderson, a great humanitarian and sociologist has passed away.

Those who share his Western and Mormon heritage and traditions are among those who will miss him keenly. He was our friend; we his.

We acknowledge our debt to him for keen observation and insightful writing of his experiences as a younger person, resulting in his own autobiography of these years and the classics of *The Hobo* and *Deseret Saints*. We rejoice in the flow of books and papers which has characterized his life and enriched our social understanding for so many more years. We are challenged by his dedication to work as a subject of study, and also as a dynamic in his own life.

To kin and friends at Fredericton this day we extend our sympathy in your loss.

To the members of the Department of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick we pay a heartfelt tribute, for the love, respect and gentle care you have extended to Nels Anderson over the past twenty years. Your many acts of kindness have blessed the live of a great man and distinguished scholar. They are indelibly associated with our memory of Nels Anderson.

Tim Heaton, Brigham Young University  
Armand Mauss, Washington State University  
Brigham Y. Card, University of Alberta for members of the Society for the Sociological Study of Mormon Life

(Prepared for the Memorial Service for Nels Anderson at Fredericton, New Brunswick, October 10, 1986.)

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Change in SSML Lecture

Dr. Marie Cornwall will not be able to present our annual lecture this year as she will be on leave doing research in Britain. Fortunately, Dr Darwin Thomas is developing a report synthesizing major findings from studies conducted by the LDS Church's Research and Evaluation Division. He will give our lecture this year on the topic: "Religious Commitment in Mormon Families." The date and location are unchanged.