

SSSML Newsletter
SOCIETY FOR THE
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
MORMON LIFE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Once again we begin with a "dun notice" directed at members whose dues are delinquent (with apologies to those many others who are paid up!). We are in the process of compiling a current Membership List, which we will include with the the next (December) issue of this Newsletter. If you are not paid up, you will not be on the new list, and this will be your last Newsletter. Sorry to have to get hardnosed about it, but there have been two previous and very direct notices, and we cannot afford to continue mailings without your minimal financial support. Dues are only \$3.00 per year, and some of you owe for one or two previous years, as well as the current one. Why not send a check (made out to "SSSML") TODAY, before you forget; and while you are at it, why not pay for 1988, as well as for 1987 and any back-years? Mail checks to our SSSML president, Wilford Smith, 1177 Ash Avenue, Provo, UT 84604.
2. The Pacific Sociological Association will soon issue its formal annual call for

- papers to be presented at its Spring 1988 meetings. We should all be thinking about (and preparing) papers that can be presented at those meetings. SSSML's co-sponsored session will be organized this year by Wilford Smith. Send papers, abstracts, and/or inquiries to him as soon as possible. The deadline for papers will be about mid-January, so there isn't a lot of time.
3. The call for papers is out for the 1988 Sunstone Symposium West, scheduled for January 15–16 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles. Especially welcome are papers and panels that deal with relationships between religious and social issues. The deadline for submitting papers is December 15th. For more information, contact Lorie Winder Stromberg, 9028 Hargis St., Los Angeles 90034; phone (213) 559-6649.
 4. The joint annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) and the Religious Research Association (RRA) will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, October 30–November 1, 1987.
 5. Social scientists who read German will be interested in the HLT Forum, which has been published for more than two years now ("HLT" is the German equivalent of "LDS"). A quarterly publication, it contains translations from sources like Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought, as well as original articles written by scholars of things Mormon in Germany and other parts

of Europe. It thus gives us some understanding of the scholarly matters and ideas of greatest interest to our European colleagues. For information about subscriptions, write to R.Lynn Pugmire, HLT FORUM, Osterndel 28, D-2800 Bremen 44, West Germany.

6. Speaking of Dialogue, it now has new editors: F. Ross Peterson and Mary Kay Peterson of Logan, Utah, both scholars at Utah State University. For now the editorial offices will remain at 202 West 300 North, Salt Lake City 84103, but the new editors have already taken over. Their first issue will be 21:1 (Spring, 1988). A welcome to the new editors, plus a tribute to the outgoing editors (Linda and Jack Newell), were among the features of an elaborate celebration of Dialogue's 20th anniversary held August 27, 1987, on the campus of the University of Utah, and attended by several hundred Dialogue pioneers and well-wishers.
7. The Utah State Historical Society, in one of its latest newsletters, reports that it has acquired the papers of SAMUEL W.TAYLOR, prolific author of Mormon social history and fiction (Family Kingdom, Nightfall at Nauvoo, Rocky Mountain Empire, and others). For more information, write the USHS, 300 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City 84101.

RECENT CONFERENCES

MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The Mormon History Association met July 3–14 at Oxford University in England. The conference schedule provided alternate days of scholarly presentations and days of tours to historic locations (e.g. Oxford itself, Stratford, Stonehenge, Bath, and castles or mansions at Longleat, Blenheim, and Warwick; and those of special LDS interest like the Herefordshire area, Liverpool, Preston, and the towns of the upper

Ribble Valley, where so many conversions took place in the 1840s).

Special highlights of the conference were premier performances of (1) the talented James Arrington's new one-man show on Wilford Woodruff, and (2) the choral cantata "Now Behold a Marvelous Work" by Harriet Petherick Bushman of London.

There was also the usual feast of fascinating historical papers, with special emphasis, appropriately, on topics relating to Mormon history in Britain and Europe. Among those of likely interest to social scientists especially were:

- "Women Alone: The Economic and Emotional Survival of Mormon Women During the 19th Century," by Linda Thatcher.
- "The Fiction of Nephi Anderson: Evidence of the Mormon Melting Pot in Utah," by Ole Podhorny of Norway.
- "Radical Approaches to Male-Female Relationships in Early Mormonism: An Analysis and Reconsideration," by Ian Barber.
- "The Mormon Woman as Defined in Authoritative Church Discourse," by Vella Neil Evans.
- "Genealogical Demographics of British Converts in the 19th Century," by Lee L. Bean and Geraldine P. Mineau.
- "Demography of the British Saints Then and Now," by Tim B. Heaton.
- "A Pressing Invitation: British Migration to Mormon Nauvoo," by James E. Smith.
- "Strange Saints: The Image of Mormons in Italian Catholic Literature," by Massimo Introvigne of Turin University.
- "Citations of Milton's Christian Doctrine in Early Mormon Defense of Polygamy," by John Sears Tanner.
- "Mormonism: The American Counterpart of Irvingism," by Robert L. Lively.
- "Sectarian Conflict in Early Victorian Britain: The Mormon Experience 1837-1860," by Malcolm R. Thorp.

- "The Religious Milieu of British Mormonism," by Grant Underwood.
 - "Artisans, Millhands, and Labourers: The Mormons of Leeds and their Nonconformist Neighbors in the Early Victorian Era," by Susan Fales.
 - "Money Digging and Folk Magic Themes in the Forged Mormon Documents of Mark W. Hofmann, 1978-1985," by Allen Roberts.
 - "British and Continental Antecedents of Early Mormon Folk Magic," by D. Michael Quinn.
 - "Reconsidering the 'Twin Relics of Barbarism:' A Comparison of the Historiography of American Slavery and Mormon Polygamy," by Lawrence Foster.
 - "Mormon History 1966–1986: Productivity and Controversy," by Marvin S. Hill.
 - "A Contrast of Orientation: The LDS Publications Available in Germany Compared with the Amount of English Material and their Consequences," by Peter C. Nadig of Duisburg, West Germany.
 - "Mormon Object Relations," by Gert Raeithel of Munich.
 - "Mormonism and the Industrial Revolution," by Tony Bunch of West Yorkshire, England.
 - "The Religion and Family Connection within Mormonism," by Marie Cornwall and Jeffrey O. Johnson.
 - "Mormons as Ethnics: Variable Historical and International Implications of an Appealing Concept," by Armand L. Mauss.
 - "The Kingdom and the Reichs: The Relationship between the Mormon Church and the German Governments—1850-1945," by Douglas F. Tobler.
 - "Religious Change and Migration: The Mormon Church in Portugal" (a sociological analysis), by Mark L. Grover.
 - "The British Mission as a Catalyst in the Expansion of European Missions—1850-1860: Italy as a Case Example," by Michael W. Homer.
- More information about these MHA papers and their authors can be obtained by writing the 1987 MHA Program Chairman, Thomas G. Alexander, Redd Center for Western Studies, HBLL, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

The Association for Me Sociology of Religion (ASR) met at the Midland Hotel in Chicago during August 14-17, 1987, and featured, as usual, a session on Mormon topics jointly sponsored by SSSML. The SSSML session consisted of four papers:

1. "In the Heavens are Parents Single? Mother in Heaven Theology within Mormonism," by Marie Cornwall and Allen Litchfield (BYU).
Feminism presents a difficult dilemma for the religious woman. More radical feminists suggest that patriarchal religions have nothing to offer women and have sought for new definitions of the transcendent. Other feminists, however, struggle with loyalty to a particular religious tradition and seek to find a place within it. This paper is an examination of the extent to which Mother in Heaven theology within Mormonism provides Mormon feminists with a perspective which allows loyalty to their conservative church. The paper presents data collected from some 300 members of Mormon women's support groups and their husbands or significant male partners. The survey data address three questions in particular:
 - (a) How central is Mother in Heaven theology in the religious worldview of

- these women and of their men?
- (b) How do they (and their men) understand the role of the Mother in Heaven?
- (c) To what extent is identification with a Mother in Heaven correlated with feminism, devotion to God and the transcendent, and commitment to the institutional church?

As one might expect, the women and their men showed somewhat different survey results on those (and related) questions.

2. "Recruiting the Recruiters : Member Mobilization and Missionary Socialization in Mormon Culture," by Gordon Shepherd (U. of Central Arkansas) and Gary Shepherd (Oakland University of Michigan). This paper describes and analyzes aspects of the Mormon missionary system which not only make possible the rapid international expansion of Mormon membership but also profoundly affect the maintenance of member commitment and sectarian attitudes from one generation to another. Particular emphasis is given to the institutionalized ways in which the Mormon Church is able to mobilize the resources required to operate such a large-scale system of volunteer, full-time service, including the pervasive socialization of members to regard a missionary calling as both a privilege and a sacred obligation. Specific missionary training procedures are discussed, as are mission field arrangements and experiences that exercise motivational and behavioral controls over the attitudes and performance of missionaries and constitute a rite of passage for young Mormons into potential careers of continued devoted service to the church.
3. "A Comparative Analysis of Elderly Mormons and Non-Mormons," by Evan T. Peterson (BYU). The problem under consideration is

whether a religious ideology with direct as well as indirect references to the last years of life is translated into specific differences in the lives of its adherents which empirically differentiate them from non-adherents. With interview data from 378 elderly people, including 295 Mormons, five hypotheses were tested, namely that Mormon (compared to the non-Mormon) elderly would be more (1) family-oriented; (2) health-conscious; (3) active in their church; (4) conservative in religious beliefs; and (5) happy and content with their lives. Substantial evidence was found in support of the first, third, and fourth hypotheses. Some support also was found for the fifth. All things considered, it appears that theology, supported by church organization, does have some positive impact on the Mormon elderly. However, with respect to general health and morale, old age is "no respecter of persons."

4. "Affirmation: A Study of Homosexual Mormons," by Keith Bryan Shcolnick, University of Colorado, Boulder. This paper utilizes original questionnaire data to analyze Affirmation, a group of homosexual Mormons. The data were collected from 48 members of the Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and California Bay Area chapters of Affirmation. The modal age of this opportunity sample was around 30 years, with college educations and incomes of around \$20,000. While the organization is intended for both sexes, very few Lesbians belong, and most women who participate are supportive family members of the male homosexuals. Considering the Mormon Church's adamant opposition to alternative sexual orientations, a surprisingly large number of respondents expressed an affective and intellectual (if not behavioral) attachment to their church, and especially to its basic doctrines. Affirmation functions mainly as an educational and social support organization. Several hypotheses were tested, but not

statistically supported, regarding the effects of a respondent's length of membership in Affirmation on various practices and beliefs regarding the church and homosexuality. Members do not expect the church to change its position on homosexual expression, but despite a feeling of rejection by the church, Mormon homosexuals (unlike those of some other religions) are not likely to evolve into a new religious sect or cult.

Outside of the SSSML session itself, SSSML members James Duke and Barry Johnson (BYU) presented a paper on "Protestantism and the Spirit of Democracy," and Armand Mauss (with co-author) on the continuing debate over the "Differential Growth Rates of Liberal and Conservative Churches." There was also one additional and very interesting paper on a MORMON subject: "Social Change and Denominational Response—The Case of Women's Roles in the Mormon Church," by Carrie A. Miles and Laurence R. Iannaccone (Santa Clara University, CA). Based on content analyses of *The Ensign* magazine, 1950-1986, this study indicates that official church literature has come increasingly to accommodate modern definitions of women's roles, with a favorable impact on the church activity at least of the younger women.

SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM

The ninth annual Sunstone Symposium met at the Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel during August 26-29, 1987. It featured special panel discussions on changing family roles in Mormonism; religious communities and perspectives on organizational and mental health; D. Michael Quinn's new book, *Mormonism and the Magic World View*; life in the church after conversion; community planning and Mormonism; women's reflections on the Mormon temple experience; surrogate parenthood; our obligations to the homeless; mothering in the modern church; faith

and politics; Mormon women in historical and cultural perspective; affinities and conflicts between Mormonism and science fiction; the dynamics of the LDS mission; neo-orthodoxy as a movement within Mormonism; the views of plural wives in contemporary polygamous families; the persistent struggle of being black in the church; the Catholic Bishops' letter on the economy; the forthcoming book by Allen Roberts and Linda Sillitoe on the Mark Hofmann case; and Relief Society in the modern church (by a panel of Relief Society presidents).

There were also individual papers on such sociological topics as feminism and the church; cultural conflict in the worldwide church; Joseph Smith and folk religion; conflicting goals in the church at the local vs. central levels; various forms of mysticism in early Mormonism; feminist interpretations of doctrine and scripture; the growth and decline in world religions since 1900; life on the staff at the Missionary Training Center; the sources and the ethics of homosexuality; the final years in the life and career of Hugh B. Brown; the positive value of love, sex, and danger in the movies; monogamy, polygamy, and fidelity; the politics of the Sermon on the Mount; an exposition of Christian anthropology; a content-analysis of the values and ideals in *The Friend* (the church's magazine for children); a psycho-historical study of the original Smith family; the influence of Victorian interpretations of Jesus on the work of James E. Talmage; sex education in the Mormon Church (a content-analysis of *A Parents' Guide*); the development of hymnody in recent church history; modern science and Mormon theology; the impact of the "correlation movement" in the church; and the evolution of the Three Nephites folklore in modern Mormonism.

Besides the panels and papers, of course, there were many artistic presentations, including readings by poets, essayists, and novelists Emma Lou Thayne, Carol Lynn Pearson, Eugene England, Mary Lythgoe Bradford, Bruce W. Jorgensen, Linda Sillitoe, Levi Peterson, and Mike Yaconelli (satirist); also an exhibition of Mormon art works

by Wulf Barsch at the nearby Delores Chase Gallery; occasional instrumental music performances at plenary sessions by Mark and Cindy Henderson (baritone and flute), Jeffrey Olpin (violin), David Randall (clarinet), and Mack Wilberg (piano); and a "readers' theatre" presentation of a new play set in Liberty Jail: Burdens of the Earth, by playwright Susan Howe.

Copies of the complete Symposium program, and audio tapes of most of the panels and papers, can be obtained by inquiring at the Sunstone office, 331 Rio Grande, Salt Lake City 84101; phone (801) 355-5926.

CONFERENCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE

The joint annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association will be held this year at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, during October 30–November 1, 1987. Papers scheduled include:

- "Religious Differences in the Relative Socioeconomic Status of Women," by Tim B. Heaton of BYU.
- "Studies in Religion and the Independent Sector," by Jan Shipps (Indiana/Purdue University).
- "Irrationality and Authoritarianism in the Mormon Neo-Orthodox Religious Experience," by O. Kendall White (Washington and Lee University).
- "Apostasy, Religious Salience, and Self-Image: A Multivariate Exploration of the Role of Religion in the Evaluation of the Self," by Merlin B. Brinkerhoff and Marlene M. Mackie, University of Calgary.
- "Mormons and the Uses of the Concept of Ethnicity," by Armand L. Mauss, Washington State University.
- "Affirmation: A Study of Homosexual Mormons," by Keith Bryan Shcolnick,

University of Colorado.

- "Religious Ferment: Where Religious Conversion is Taking Place and Why," by James Duke and Barry L. Johnson (BYU).

In addition to those papers, several others on various topics will be presented by authors who are SSSML members or have been associated with Mormon studies: Hans A. Baer, John Heeren, Cardell K. Jacobsen, Donald B. Lindsey (SSSML President-Elect), James T. Richardson, Rodney Stark, and Laurence A. Young.

Information on special airfares for attending this conference can be obtained via USAIR: (800) 428-4322. Reservations at special convention rates (until September 28) can be made directly with the Seelbach Hotel at (502) 585-3200.

THE PACIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Sociological Association will meet in the Spring (see the beginning of this Newsletter under "Announcements"). The Call for Papers is being prepared.

THE MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

For the Mormon History Association, the call for papers, panel discussions, and other program ideas is already out. Interested persons should contact Dr. Carol Cornwall Madsen, 1988 MHA Program Chair, 302 KMB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602. The MHA will meet during May 5–8 in Logan, Utah.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- D. Michael Quinn's *Early Mormonism and the Magic World View* has just been published (1987), offering probably the definitive analysis of the subject, what it

means to Mormon historiography, and what it does not mean. It will give but little comfort either to traditional-minded Mormons or to anti-Mormons.

ARTICLES

From the Review of Religious Research 29:1 (September, 1987):

- Marie Cornwall, "The Social Bases of Religion: A Study of the Factors Influencing Belief and Commitment" (using Mormon data).
- Gordon Shepherd, review of John Heinerman's and Anson Shupe's *The Mormon Corporate Empire*.

From the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion 26:2 (June, 1987):

- Anson Shupe, review of Thomas G. Alexander's *Mormonism in Transition: a History of the Latter-day Saints, 1890-1930*.
- Thomas Robbins, review of R. Laurence Moore's *Religious Outsiders and the Making of Americans* (a book containing

a lot of analysis on the Mormons).

- And, incidentally, an article on the conversion process by Armand Mauss (and co-author), and a response by Donald Lindsey and John Heeren to a critique of an earlier article of theirs.

From *Sociological Analysis* 48:1 (Spring, 1987):

- Charles E. Garrison, review of the Heinerman's and Shupe's *Mormon Corporate Empire*.

From *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 20:3 (Fall, 1987):

- Warner P. Woodworth, "Brave New Bureaucracy" (a critique of management in the contemporary Mormon church).
- Robert and Sharyn Larsen, "Refugee Converts: One Stake's Experience."
- Merlin B. Brinkerhoff, Jeffrey C. Jacob, and Marlene M. Mackie, "Religious Tolerance: Mormons in the American Mainstream."
- Harold T. Christensen, "Memoirs of a Marginal Man: Reflections of a Mormon Sociologist."
- F. Ross Peterson, review of Lowry Nelson's memoirs, *In the Direction of His Dreams*.