

SSSML Newsletter
SOCIETY FOR THE
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
MORMON LIFE

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David J. Buerger, Editor
Armand Mauss, Reporter-at-Large

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

1. QUICK! The deadline for submission of papers for the next meetings of the Pacific Sociological Association is mid-January, just about the time that you are receiving this Newsletter. If you have a paper on a Mormon topic, please make IMMEDIATE contact with Wilford Smith, 1177 Ash Avenue, Provo, UT 84604, who is organizing our PSA session. The PSA meetings this year will be held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas during April 5-8.
2. If you don't already know about the 1988 Sunstone Symposium West (see previous Newsletter), it may have passed by the time you get this Newsletter. It is scheduled for January 15th & 16th at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles.
3. The Mormon History Association will meet this year in Logan, Utah, during May 5-8. It may still be possible to add papers to the program, if you hurry. Contact Carol Cornwall Madsen, Program Chair, 302 KMB, BYU, Provo, UT 84602.
4. The Association for the Sociology of Religion will meet as usual at the same time and place as the American Sociological Association, this year in Atlanta, Georgia, August 21-23, 1988. The theme of this year's conference is "America, Religion, and the World." Proposals, suggestions, and abstracts for papers are due by February 1st, with the actual papers due on July 1st. All should be sent to the ASR Program Chair, Frank Lechner, Department of Sociology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322. As usual too, SSSML will organize a session on Mormon studies for ASR and hold our own "official" annual meeting under these auspices. Abstracts or papers for the SSSML session of ASR should be sent to Marie Cornwall, Department of Sociology, BYU, Provo 84602, who will be organizing that session for us.
5. The next annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (jointly with the Religious Research Association) will take place at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago on October 28-30, 1988. The theme of the conference this time will be "Religion and Social Conflict." Those who wish to organize sessions should make immediate contact with Madeleine Adriance, Mount Ida College, 777 Dedham Street, Newton Centre, MA 02159. Abstracts for papers will be due March 15th, and the papers themselves on August

1st. The 1989 conference will be held in SALT LAKE CITY, a first for SSSR!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. This Newsletter contains a roster of all paid-up members of the SSSML, the first current membership roster that we have published in some time. We hope that your name is on it. If not, please consult with our president, Wilford Smith, 1177 Ash Avenue, Provo, UT 84604, about getting your name added. Dues are only \$3.00 a year. Please note that 1988 dues are now due and payable. We hope that, among other things, this membership roster will facilitate contacts and communications within the network of people interested in Mormon studies from a social science viewpoint. Our network is not large, so spread the word and help us recruit the many others who are "out there" and should be part of it.
2. We are saddened to announce the passing of Lowry Nelson at age 93 on November 21, 1986. An appreciative obituary by B. Y. Card appears at the end of this Newsletter. Lowry is the second (and probably the last) of the great old-time founders of Mormon sociological studies to leave us recently, after Nels Anderson who died just a month earlier at the age of 97 (See SSSML Newsletter 8:2 & 3).
3. On a happier note, we are pleased to announce that the annual SSSML Lectureship for 1988 has been awarded to Professor Dean Louder of the Faculty of Geography of Laval University, Quebec City. The lecture, to be presented in March at BYU, is entitled "Canadian Mormon Identity." More information about the time, place, and content of the lecture can be obtained from our SSSML president, Wilford Smith. Particularly welcome in this lecture will be the non-US perspective which it will bring to its observations about Mormon life. We express our thanks once again to the Redd Center and to the Department of Sociology at BYU for making this lectureship possible by supplementing the meager resources of SSSML.
4. The new editor of the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, is Armand L. Mauss, P.O. Box 2061 C.S., Pullman, WA 99165. Armand's 4-year term will begin next June, when he will receive his first manuscripts for review. Manuscripts on Mormon studies will, of course, continue to be at least as welcome as they have been under past editors!
5. SSSML members who have not already heard, especially those outside Utah, might be interested to know that another independent student newspaper has started up at BYU. The Student Review: BYU's Unofficial Magazine, now well into its second year of publication, is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters and monthly the rest of the year. For more information or subscriptions, contact the Student Review, P.O. Box 7092, Provo, UT 84602, phone (801) 377-2980.
6. PLEASE OFFER MATERIAL FOR THIS NEWSLETTER to our Editor (David J. Buerger), our Reporter-at-Large (Armand Mauss), or to our President (Wilford Smith). What the three of us are able to gather together by ourselves overlooks, we fear, much news about studies and students of Mormon life that should be made known to our membership out there. In particular, we would like news about our members and their activities. DON'T BE BASHFUL! Let us know about you, and turn in your friends, too!

RECENT CONFERENCES

SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION AND THE RELIGIOUS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The joint annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association were held October 30–November 1, 1987, at the charming old Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Quite a number of the participants this time were either SSSML members, or gave papers on Mormon topics, or both. (See previous issue of this Newsletter for a list of such papers and participants). Contact authors directly for copies of their papers. Among the papers on Mormon topics for which we have abstracts were the following:

- "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, Alberta.
Apostasy, at times referred to as religious disaffiliation or defection, is usually treated as a dependent variable, as we search for its causes and correlates. This paper views apostasy as an independent variable and explores its impact on one's image of self. Data come from a sample of 949 university students in the U.S. and Canada (including Mormons). Responses to self-administered questionnaires yield reliable factor analytic scales which are examined by multivariate analyses. The complex relationships among apostasy, religious salience, religiosity, and self-image are clarified when taking into account selected background factors.
- "Religious Ferment: Where Religious Conversion is Taking Place and Why," by James T. Duke and Barry L. Johnson, BYU.
This paper seeks to measure religious ferment, to compare the nations of the world on this measure, and to describe where and how and under what social conditions religious conversion occurs (to various religions, not just to Mormonism in particular). In essence, this is an

"epidemiological" study of conversion. Data are taken from David Barrett's World Christian Encyclopedia, which enumerates religious adherents and converts per annum, 1970-80, for 224 political entities in the world. Though preliminary, the findings indicate that the least religious ferment is occurring in nations that are either Marxist or Muslim, and the most ferment in sub-Saharan Africa and in South Korea. Political, economic, and social conditions associated with ferment are explored.

- "Religious Differences in the Relative Socio-Economic Status of Women," by Tim B. Heaton, BYU. (Abstract not available.)
- "Mormons and the Uses of the Concept 'Ethnicity'," by Armand L. Mauss, Washington State University.
Despite the extensive assimilation of Mormons into American culture during the current century, some scholars have translated the Mormon idea of "a peculiar people" into the anthropological concept of "ethnicity," with dubious consequences. O'Dea was perhaps the first to use the rhetoric of ethnicity in reference to the Mormons a generation ago, but more recently the Mormons were given a special chapter in the 1980 Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups. This paper reviews the various uses of the concept of "ethnicity" in an effort to assess its appropriateness to the Mormons. Survey data are presented to estimate the extent of Mormon assimilation in the U.S. The paper then discusses the functions and heuristic consequences, both for scholars and for Mormons in various cultural settings, of trying to understand the Mormons as an "ethnic group."
- "Affirmation: A Study of Homosexual Mormons," by Keith Bryan Shcolnik, University of Colorado. (See abstract in previous Newsletter under the proceedings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion last August.)
- "Irrationality and Authoritarianism in the

Mormon Neo-Orthodox Religious Experience," by O. Kendall White, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450.

For Mormon neo-orthodox theologians, the encounter with "modernity"—a profound cultural crisis—is itself a revelation of human contingency and powerlessness. Both sensations are manifest in the personal religious experience of the neo-orthodox theologians through the psychological phenomena of irrationality and authoritarianism. While the former affirms human inadequacy and helplessness the latter posits an external power as the means of human salvation. Consequently, the irrationality and authoritarianism are generalized to the human condition and become the basis for the neo-orthodox doctrines of human depravity, divine sovereignty, and salvation by grace. [NOTE: Ken's interesting new book on this general subject, *Mormon Neo-Orthodoxy: A Crisis Theology*, is now available for \$11.95 (paperback) through Signature Books, Salt Lake City.]

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS¹

- Maureen Beecher and Lavina Anderson (eds.), *Sisters in Spirit: Mormon Women in Historical and Cultural Perspective*. University of Illinois Press, 1987. Containing contributions from many female scholars in Mormon studies, this book explores official statements on motherhood, the doctrine of Mother in Heaven, the role of temple ceremonies, decision-making in Mormon marriages, women's definitions of priesthood, interpretations of the meaning of Eve, and

- the Mormon scriptures' view of women.
- Scott G. Kenney (ed.), *Memories and Reflections: The Autobiography of E. E. Ericksen*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1987, with Foreword by Sterling M. McMurrin. This is the autobiography of another of the rare early scholars of Mormon life, author of the early classic, *Psychological and Ethical Aspects of Mormon Group Life*. The editor is his loving grandson and a founder of Sunstone.
- Jessie L. Embry, *Mormon Polygamous Families: Life in the Principle*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1987, with Foreword by Linda King Newell. Based on interviews with husbands, wives, and children of polygamous families of the 19th and early 20th centuries, this study puts together a picture of daily life demonstrating that polygamous families were not very different from their monogamous counterparts of the same era.
- Martin E. Marty, *Religion and Republic: The American Circumstance*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987. Using Mormonism, Southern evangelism, and Christian fundamentalism as models, Marty shows how beliefs and values are generated in subcultures and incorporated into society, and how society affects the assumptions and values of the subcultures in a pluralistic give-and-take.
- Stephen C. LeSueur, *The 1838 Mormon War in Missouri*. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 1987. This is a balanced treatment of the reciprocal provocations that led to the tragic events involved in the Mormon expulsion from Missouri.
- Steven L. Shields, *The Latter Day Saint Churches: An Annotated Bibliography*. This bibliography covers the main literature from and about the 150 some-odd churches based upon the work of Joseph Smith (some 60 of which still exist). This book is most directly available through Garland Publishing, Inc., 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY

¹ All available through Signature Books in SLC.

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ARTICLES

From the most recent issue of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (20/4, Winter, 1987):

- David John Buerger, "The Development of the Mormon Temple Endowment Ceremony."
- Armand L. Mauss, "Culture, Charisma, and Change: Reflections on Mormon Temple Worship."
- Jessie L. Embry, "Burden or Pleasure? A Profile of LDS Polygamous Husbands."
- ... plus a number of less sociological pieces on the Mark Hofmann case, on the place of erotica in Mormon life, and on fidelity, polygamy, and celestial marriage.

From recent *Utah Historical Quarterly's*:

- Ernest Pulsipher, "A Few Personal Glimpses of Juanita Brooks." Vol. 55/3:268–77 (Summer, 1987). (Pulsipher is Juanita Brooks's first son.)
- B. Carmon Hardy, Review of Thomas G. Alexander's *Mormonism in Transition*. Vol. 55/4:377–79 (Fall, 1987).

From the most recent issues of *Sunstone* to make their appearance, the following articles might be of interest to SSSML members:

- Michael Collings, "The Rational and the Revelatory in the Science Fiction of Orson Scott Card." Vol. 11/3:7–11 (May, 1987).
- John Durham Peters, "Perfection: A Social Criticism and a Theological Alternative." Vol. 11/3:20–24 (May, 1987).
- Bobbie Berleffi, "Interview" (on the May, 1987, PBS Special "The Mormons: Missionaries to the World"). Vol. 11/3:45–48 (May, 1987).

- Marie Cornwall, "What Do We Do About the Singles Problem?" Vol. 11/3:5–6 (May, 1987).
- Thomas G. Alexander, Review of Leo Lyman's *Political Deliverance: The Mormon Quest for Utah Statehood*. Vol. 11/3:33.
- Wendell Berry, "Men and Women in Search of Common Ground." Vol. 11/4:8–12 (July, 1987).
- Charles E. Curran, "Interview—Creative Fidelity: Keeping the Religion a Living Tradition." Vol. 11/4:45–47 (July, 1987).

Not to mention ...

- Book review by Thomas G. Alexander of Heinerman's and Shupe's *The Mormon Corporate Empire*. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Vol. 26/3:417 (September, 1987).

A final bibliographical tip to those interested in Mormon folklore: The Folklore Society of Utah, 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84102, publishes and distributes a great deal of material dealing with Mormon folklore and folk arts. The Society also publishes a Newsletter two or three times a year that lists much of this available material, including work by such well-known folklorists of the Mormon scene as the Fifes, Wayland Hand, and William (Bert) Wilson. Annual membership dues in the Society are only \$5.00.

IN MEMORIAM: LOWRY NELSON

I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished Mormon pioneer in sociology, who was born April 16, 1893, and died at age 93 on November 21, 1986. My Canadian perspective is necessarily peripheral and based upon limited personal contacts.

On Pass Creek in Waterton Lakes Park, Alberta, in the summer of 1930, as a 16 year-old Canadian Boy Scout during a Tri-Stake Fathers and Sons Outing, I was invited to the headquarters tent and

introduced to Dr. Lowry Nelson, a sociologist from Utah. I noted that Dr. Nelson was a highly intelligent man and a keen observer, who asked questions in a relaxed way. That was my first encounter with both sociology and Dr. Nelson.

That casual meeting in 1930, of no great significance to me at the time, took on strategic meaning during my doctoral years at Stanford University (1947–51). There, when the Canadian Prairie Provinces became a focus for my own sociological research, I discovered the invaluable community study of Mormons in southwestern Alberta by Lowry Nelson. It was in *C.A. Dawson's Group Settlement: Ethnic Communities in Western Canada*, Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada, 1936.

I was deeply impressed by Lowry's 91 pages in that volume, 35 of which were later included in his better-known classic, *The Mormon Village*, University of Utah Press, 1952. These pages described and analyzed the settlement process and communities of Utah migrants immersed in a Canadian context of governmental and economic institutions, and array of ethnic groups, of which Mormons were considered one. I liked the thoroughness of Nelson's research, which looked at the geographical, economic, and ecological factors in settlement, in conjunction with organizational and religious aspects of the process, with which I was familiar but had never before seen so completely and objectively described.

The Nelson study was purposely sandwiched between studies of the Doukhobors and Mennonites as examples of close-knit ethnic communities, on the one hand, and the German Catholics and French Canadians, with their more loosely integrated communities, on the other. This Nelson and Dawson conceptualization portrayed Mormons, in effect, as "a North American ethno-religious people in Canadian cultures," which was the theme we adopted for the first scholarly conference on Mormons in Canada, sponsored by the University of Alberta

in May, 1987.

My second meeting with Lowry Nelson was on July 29, 1986, at his Provo residence, to thank him at long last for his outstanding and useful work of the 1930s, when, at considerable personal sacrifice, he made the first sociological study of Mormons in Canada. As we communicated with the aid of 3 x 5 cards and bold writing to accommodate his limited vision and total deafness, he recalled the fear expressed by Professor Dawson that, being a Mormon, he might not be able to be objective. Nelson replied, "You need to know something of the inside, or you can't understand Mormons." Counterbalancing the Dawson concern and the Nelson response remains a challenge to all of us.

As I read recently Lowry Nelson's memoirs, *In the Direction of His Dreams*, brought into print by the Philosophical Library in 1985 through the kind assistance of the late Don Martindale of the University of Minnesota, and as I listened in respectful appreciation to a transcription of the simple funeral service for Lowry of November 26, 1986, I recalled that handful of young Utahns of his generation who pioneered notable careers in sociology. Five of these were Nels Anderson (born 1889), Lowry Nelson and Kimball Young (both 1893), Dean Nathan L. Whetten (1900)², and T. Lynn Smith (1903). From their collected papers (which, for Anderson and Nelson, are in Special Collections at the University of Utah Library), one could find the documentary material for significant research into the origins of Mormon sociologists and their sociologies. The living sources of data diminish yearly. The time has come, indeed is long past, for such research, that the full heritage of Mormons as sociologists might be retained and shared, as we are reminded by the passing of Lowry Nelson.

2 Whetten was also involved in the research on the Canadian Frontiers of Settlement Project, 1930-32, when he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the changing economic and social structure of trade centres in the Prairie Provinces from 1910 to 1930, under the supervision of Carle C. Zimmerman, who had just transferred, along with Pitirim Sorokin, from Minnesota to Harvard.

B. Y. Card

Edmonton, Alberta

SSSML MEMBER DUES		1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Thomas G. Alexander						
Jon P. Alston			3.00	3.00	.	.
Leonard J. Arrington		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Howard M. Bahr		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Ed Berkovich			3.00	3.00	.	.
Donald W. Bowers		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
David John Buerger		.	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Alfred L. Bush		.	3.00	3.00	.	.
Brigham Y. Card			3.00	3.00	.	.
Harold T. Christensen		3.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
Center for Family & Community History				3.00	.	.
Patricia G. Court		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Gavnel R. Davis			3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Dialogue		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
James Duke		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Gerrv L. Enslev		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
L. Kay Gillespie			3.00	3.00	.	.
Richard S. Godfrey		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Kristen L. Goodman		.	3.00	3.00	.	.
Mark L. Grover			3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Larrv J. Halford		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Nadine R. Hansen		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
LDS Church Historical	Dept.	.	3.00	.	.	.
'Robert R. Hubble		.	3.00	3.00	.	.
-Bron B. Ingoldsbv.	Ph.D		3.00	3.00	3.00	.
George K. Jarvis		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Duane Jefferv		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Barry Johnson				3.00	.	.
Jerrv C. Jolley		3.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
Graeme Lang					3.00	3.00
D. B. Lindsev			3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
-Dean R. Louder		4.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
Armand L. Mauss		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Steven L. Mavfield		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	6.00
Douglas P. McGrory		3.00	.	3.00	.	.
Brent Miller		3.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
Dr. Richard Allen Nelson		3.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
'Bill Norman		.	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Joseph A. Olsen			3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Steven Olsen		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Michael D. Palmer		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Keith Parrv		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
John Durham Peters		3.00	3.00	3.00	.	.
Evan T. Peterson				3.00	3.00	.
Victor W. Purdy		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
James T. Richardson		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
JoAnn Schmalz		.	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Richard Sharp		.	3.00	3.00	3.00	6.00
Garv Shepherd				3.00	3.00	3.00
Gordon Shepherd		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Wilford E. Smith		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Donald R. Snow		3.00	.	3.00	.	.
Richard Stamps		.	3.00	3.00	3.00	.
Rodney Stark					.	.

Mary E. Stovall,	Director	.	3.00	3.00	.	.
Sunstone Foundation						
Robert G. Vernon		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	6.00
David M. Walden		.	.	3.00	3.00	.

SSSML MEMBER DUES	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Nannette Watkins	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
O. Kendall White	.	.	3.00	3.00	3.00
Carol Wiebell	.	.	3.00	.	.
Laurence M. Yorgason	.	3.00	3.00	.	.
Lawrence A. Young	.	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Lavina Fielding Anderson	3.00	.	.	.	.
Jeffrey M. Bradshaw	3.00	.	.	.	.
Merlin Brinkerhoff	.	.	.	.	.
David J. Burton	.	.	.	.	.
Victoria J. Chambers	.	.	.	.	.
Marjorie Draper Conder	3.00	3.00	.	.	.
Marie Cornwall	3.00	.	.	.	.
Theodore T. Curtis	3.00	3.00	.	.	.
Dr. William DeHart	.	.	.	.	.
Thomas J. DeLong	.	.	.	.	.
Gisela Demharter	.	.	.	.	.
Linda Ebmeier	.	.	.	.	.
Jessie L. Embrv	.	3.00	.	.	.
Howard Forsyth	3.00	.	.	.	.
La Veil Gold	.	3.00	.	.	.
Sara Hallier. Librarian
Charlotte Hamblin
Claudia Harris	3.00
Tim Heaton	.	3.00	.	.31*-."	.
Donald Herrin
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Jeffery O. Johnson
Shigeo Kanda
Richard B. Laney	3.00
Dave McCammon
Jean-Paul Montminy	3.00
Lowry Nelson	.	.	.	.	.
Richard Ovellette	.	.	.	.	.
Elbert Peck	3.00	3.00	.	.	.
Kyle L. Pehrson	.	.	.	.	.
Christopher Plant	.	.	.	.	.
Vonda C. Porter	3.00	3.00	.	.	.
John R. Pottenger	.	.	.	.	.
Patrick Robbins	.	.	.	.	.
Allen Roberts	3.00	.	.	.	.
Boyd C. Rollins	.	.	.	.	.
Marvin Rytting	.	.	.	.	.
Fay Schrenyer	.	.	.	.	.
Rosemarv Smith	.	.	.	.	.
Max E. Stanton	.	.	.	.	.
Ellen Stutz	.	.	.	.	.
Darwin L. Thomas	.	.	.	.	.
Gordon C. Thomasson	.	.	.	.	.
Barrie Thorne	.	.	.	.	.
Arland Thornton	.	.	.	.	.
David N. Westwood	.	.	.	.	.