

SSSML Newsletter
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ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

1. The Pacific Sociological Association will meet at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas Tuesday through Friday, April 5-8, 1988. Registration will take place on Tuesday afternoon and the first sessions will start early Wednesday morning. A direct phone call to the hotel might still reserve a room at the convention rate of \$56. Delta Airlines is offering special low fares for the conference (Call 800/241-6760 and refer to File No. D0495 for the PSA conference). There are several sessions that would be of possible interest to SSSML members, whether or not they are sociologists. First and foremost, of course, is our own SSSML session, which meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, chaired by our president, Wilford Smith. The following papers are scheduled for that session:

- "Mormonism and the American Kingdom of God" (John Jarvis, Washington State

University).

- "Family Names across Generations" (Phillip Kunz, BYU).
- "Grandparent-Grandchild Relations in the LDS Subculture" (Evan T. Peterson, BYU).
- "A Rational Choice Explanation of the Basis of Voluntary Cooperation among the Mormons" (Jodi O'Brien, University of Washington).
- "Life Events and Religious Change" (Stan Albrecht and Marie Cornwall, BYU).

Other sessions of potential interest to SSSML members will deal with Cults and Social Influence, Perspectives on the Family, and Religion and Politics in the U.S. In addition, there will be plenary sessions featuring panels of distinguished social scientists on general topics of current interest, including "The 10-Year Outlook Report on the Social Sciences" (Neil Smelser, Herbert Costner, James Short, and Morris Zelditch); and "Author Meets Critics" (on the new book by William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged*). Besides the intellectual fare itself, there will be opportunities for interaction with SSSML members, especially at the SSSML session on Wednesday morning.

2. The Mormon History Association will meet this year in Logan, Utah, during May 5-8, as announced in the previous Newsletter. Among the sessions there will be two that

deal with the recent history of Mormon relationships with black people. For more information, contact Carol Cornwall Madsen, MHA Program Chair, 302 KMB, BYU, Provo, UT 84602.

3. The Tenth Annual Sunstone Symposium will be held in Salt Lake City during August 17-20, 1988, and will feature many sessions and papers of interest to SSSML members, including one being organized under SSSML auspices by Tim Heaton (Department of Sociology, BYU). For more information, contact Tim or else Lynne Kanavel Whitesides, Sunstone Foundation, 331 So. Rio Grande Ste, Suite 30, Salt Lake City 84101-1136 (or phone 801/355-5926).
4. The Association for the Sociology of Religion will meet as usual at the same time and city as the American Sociological Association in Atlanta, August 21-23, 1988. There will be a special SSSML session under ASR auspices. See the previous Newsletter for more information, or contact Marie Cornwall, Department of Sociology, BYU.
5. The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion will meet jointly as usual with the Religious Research Association at the Bismarck Hotel in Chicago during October 28-30, 1988. Again, please see the previous Newsletter for more information.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. New officers for SSSML are being chosen this year, and nominations are open. The Nominating Committee has offered the following candidates: TIM HEATON for Vice-President and President-Elect; KRISTEN GOODMAN for Secretary-Treasurer; and, as Council Members, DEAN LOUDER, JOSEPH OLSEN, and GORDON SHEPHERD. Dean is at Laval University in Quebec City, and Gordon is

at Central Arkansas University. The others are at BYU. Our current President-Elect, who will automatically become President in August, is DONALD B. LINDSEY of California State University, San Bernardino. DAVID JOHN BUERGER, of Santa Clara University, has agreed to continue as Editor of this Newsletter, but the Reporter-at-Large, starting in August, will be LARRY YOUNG of BYU. Please note that although this slate of new officers has been nominated by the committee, the SSSML membership is encouraged to offer additional nominations. Nominate yourself or someone else. Don't be bashful! Get involved. However, please get your additional nominations to Wilford Smith as soon as possible (1177 Ash Ave., Provo, UT 84604, or 801/377-4024), preferably no later than April 1st.

2. The latest issue of the Utah Folklife Newsletter, published by the Folklore Society of Utah, has a number of items of potential interest to SSSML members, including announcements about available materials on Utah (especially, but not only, Mormon) folklife. Examples: "Utah Traditions," an audio cassette of the 13-part radio series last Fall on Utah folk music; an ongoing series of articles on the history of folklore studies in Utah; and various books and records by folklorists such as the Fifes, Jan Brunvand, Thomas Cheney, Hal Cannon, Wayland Hand, and Bert Wilson. Membership in the Folklore Society is very reasonable (only \$25 for a lifetime membership!). Contact the Folklore Society of Utah, 617 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.
3. Via the Newsletter of the Utah State Historical Society, we have learned of two kinds of awards of potential interest to SSSML members:
 - The David Woolley and Beatrice Cannon Evans Biography Award of \$10,000 annually for significant biographies of

persons important in the culture or history of the West. Inquire via the Mountain West Center, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-0735.

- The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at BYU has announced a \$500 prize and guarantee of publication for a monograph relating to the Mountain West from any discipline in the humanities or social sciences. The next deadline is May 1, 1988. The Redd Center also offers two summer fellowships for research scholars. Inquire via the Redd Center, 4069 HB Lee Library, BYU, Provo, UT 84602.

RECENT CONFERENCES

The annual Sunstone Symposium West was held in mid-January this year at the Sheraton-Universal Hotel in Los Angeles. The Plenary Sessions featured such notables as Sterling M. McMurrin on the theological and philosophical foundations of early Christianity; D. Michael Quinn on early Mormon folk magic; and Rosemary Radford Reuther on the liberation of Christianity from patriarchy. Following are some brief abstracts of papers presented there that might be of special interest to SSSML members:

- Lavina Fielding Anderson, "A Different Drummer: The Benson Beat for Mormon Parents." The direct and official counsel of President Ezra Taft Benson to "Mothers of Zion" in early 1987 reversed a cautious trend on the parts of Church leaders to recognize both the increasing numbers of Mormon women in paid employment and the range of reasons for decisions to work. This paper (1) examines the text of the talk to identify its image and role assignments to both men and women; (2) explores some of the theological and social implications of these roles in the context of the past 15 years of official statements; and (3) reports on some of the personal responses of women who heard

the speech.

- Ian Barber, "'There Was No Sin In It': Perceptions and Experiences of Women in Extra-Monogamous Relationships in Early Schismatic Mormonism." This paper considers the several schismatic groups that formed trajectories from Joseph Smith's Nauvoo development of Mormonism. Its focus is upon women and their involvement in the several manifestations of extra-monogamous forms of male-female relationships characteristic of many of these early Mormon schisms. Frequently sexual, these relationships developed in schismatic context during Joseph Smith's lifetime with John C. Bennett and William Smith, and recur in the polygyny of Strang, Wight, and perhaps even the Rigdon movement in some form. The paper asks what the attraction may have been for women; how women felt these relations were justified as deviations from society's contemporary marital norms; and what constituted the female experience in these relationships.
- Guy Bishop, "A Study in Mormon Domestic Ritual: The St. George Temple, 1877-1887." This paper focuses on the rituals of adoption, baptism for the dead, and celestial marriage as practiced at the St. George Temple during its first decade. Data on how these rites were practiced have been drawn from the records of the St. George Temple and from the diaries of ordinance workers such as Henry Bigler, John Henry Smith, and J.D.T. McCaliister (Temple President).
- Martha Sonntag Bradley, "Women and the Raids: Short Creek, 1953." The 1953 raid by the Arizona state government on the polygamous community of Short Creek was precipitated in large measure by outrage at the practice of polygamy. The outcome of this major confrontation between the government and polygamists had as well a distinct gender bias. In many important and basic ways the raid can best be understood by questioning the attitude of the

government toward polygamous women, the fundamentalist vision of womanhood, and the role that women played in fundamentalist Mormon society.

- Newell G. Bringhurst, "Ambivalent Mormon Responses to Fawn M. Brodie and *No Man Knows My History*." This paper deals with the varied ways that the Mormon community responded to Fawn Brodie's book from the time of its initial publication in 1946 down to the present. Mormon ambivalence was first evident among Brodie's own relatives, who offered both praise and condemnation, then spread into the larger Mormon community, including both scholars and church leaders. Ironically, despite her efforts (particularly in the book), Brodie was unable to resolve her own deep inner conflicts regarding her Mormon heritage; and at the same time, the larger Mormon community faced a similar difficulty in coming to terms with Brodie and the book.
- Jessie Embry, "Victorian Ladies or Liberated Feminists? Mormon Women and Polygamy." To many 19th century contemporaries of Mormon polygamous wives, like Harriet Beecher Stowe, polygamy deprived the Mormon women of their Victorian ideal. Scholars in the 20th century have also seen plural wives as not fitting the pattern of staying at home and caring for hearth and family; but instead of condemning them, they have applauded their independence. Were Mormon polygamous wives "deprived" or "liberated" compared to the Victorian ideal? How did Mormon women, monogamous and polygamous, view their roles during the late 19th and early 20th centuries? This paper compares the roles of these women and shows that polygamous wives followed a Victorian pattern similar to their monogamous counterparts, and then offers an interesting comparison to the experiences of the women of Short Creek in the 1950s.
- C. Jess Groesbeck, "The First Mormon Family: The Smiths and their Dreams and Visions." The idea set forth in this paper is that an understanding of the Smiths' family relationships is central to the understanding of Joseph as a prophet in the making. The paper then goes on to utilize the insights of psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and anthropology to develop a psycho-historical investigation into the life of Joseph Smith and his family in an attempt to engender new questions and to open new fields of inquiry about one of the most remarkable men of the 19th century, whose influence now seems larger than ever.
- William Russell, "From Sect to Denomination: The RLDS Church in the Twentieth Century." This paper deals with the RLDS move from its traditional sectarian stance to its current more modernist position, with restoration distinctiveness downplayed, and operating more like a denomination than a sect.
- Robert Starling, "'These Signs Shall Follow Them That Believe'—A Study in LDS Glossolalia." The 7th Article of Faith refers clearly to a belief in tongues. Yet in a Christian world filled with "charismatic" experiences, Mormons, when asked about their beliefs in this area, try to get off the subject as quickly as possible. What is the LDS doctrine regarding glossolalia? What has the gift of tongues meant in the Church in the past, and what does it mean today?
- Dan Vogel, "Religious Seekers and the Development of the Mormon Concept of Authority." Religious Seekers radically differed from the vast majority of those who participated in the primitive gospel movement, especially with regard to the proper source of authority and to the correct manner in which to proceed with the Restoration. The thesis of this paper is that the early Mormon claims of restored authority seemed to have fulfilled 300 years of Seeker expectations. Further, once

restored, the early Mormon concept of authority developed to a more pronounced and clearly definable Seeker position.

For copies of these Sunstone papers, or more information about them, contact the authors directly or check with the Program Coordinator, Lorie Winder Stromberg, 9028 Hargis St., Los Angeles, CA 90034 (213/559-6649).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

A very fine new book has just been published by the State University of New York Press (1988): Hans A. Baer, *Recreating Utopia in the Desert: A Sectarian Challenge to Mormonism* (256 pages, \$14.95 in paperback). This is one of the very few books ever to have been written on Mormon schismatic movements.

It is the account of a millenarian sect, the Aaronic Order, whose story tells us much about the social tensions, especially class tensions, that emerged in the Mormon Church during its assimilation period from the beginning to the middle of the present century. The Aaronic Order, or Levites, emerged as the Mormon Church evolved from a religious utopia to a new American denomination and finally an international theocratic corporation. We see in the Levites too the seemingly inevitable processes of institutionalization and fission characteristic of revitalization movements that survive. By explaining the impetus for the development of sectarian groups such as the Levites, the author offers important insights for the discussion of religious communitarianism and schismatic movements in contemporary religion.

You may order a copy via SUNY Press, P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, New York 14850 (or 800/666-2211).

ARTICLES

- Richley H. Crapo, "Grass-Roots Deviance from Official Mormon Doctrine: A Study in Latter-day Saint Folk Beliefs." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 26/4:465–485 (December, 1987).
- Randall D. Guynn and Gene C. Schaerr, "The Mormon Polygamy Cases: Politics, Religion, and Morality in the Court of Last Resort." *Sunstone* 11/5:8–17 (September, 1987).
- Richard L. Bushman, "Treasure-Seeking Then and Now." *Sunstone* 11/5:5–6 (September, 1987).
- Edwin Brown Firmage, "Hugh B. Brown in His Final Years." *Sunstone* 11/6:7–11 (November, 1987).
- Tim B. Heaton, "Role Remodeling in the Mormon Family." *Sunstone* 11/6:6 (November, 1987).
- John A. Hostetler, "A Theology of Redemptive Community: Christian Living from a Mennonite Perspective" (an interview). *Sunstone* 11/6:47–48 (November, 1987).
- David Knowlton, "Two Sides, A Ritual, and an Intractable Issue" (on missionary work in exotic settings). *Sunstone* 11/6:36–37 (November, 1987).
- Jonathan D. Thomas, "LDS Counselors Discuss Homosexuality" (re: October conference of AMCAP). *Sunstone* 11/6:43–44.
- Claudia Bushman, Review of *Sisters in Spirit: Mormon Women in Historical Perspective* (Maureen Ursenbach Beecher and Lavina Fielding Anderson, eds.). *Sunstone* 11/6:37–39.

... and as miscellany, we have received the following very thorough research paper on the 1826 trial of Joseph Smith: "It's Time to Halt the Nonsense about Joseph Smith's So-Called '1826 Trial'" by Gerry I. Ensley. Inquiries about copies of this paper may be directed to the author at 11771 Montecito, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

AGAIN, PLEASE SEND NOMINATIONS FOR

OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS!

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- "Mormon Music: A History," by Michael Hicks, a completed manuscript on the evolution of music, especially hymns, in the Mormon culture from the beginning to the present. The author is on the Music faculty at BYU.
- "Health and Medicine in the Mormon Tradition," by Lester E. Bush, Jr. (part of a series of monographs on religious communities and their medical traditions under the general editorship of Martin Marty, this manuscript is about 2/3 completed).
- A biography of Fawn Brodie, by Newell G. Bringham, which will in part examine Brodie's life and career through a perspective reminiscent of the one she used for Joseph Smith!
- A biography of Lowell L. Bennion, by Mary L. Bradford, which will be welcomed by all whose lives have been blessed by this remarkable Saint.

As president of SSSML, I again thank Armand Mauss for the excellent review of literature and conferences which deal with topics of interest to our members. When Larry Young becomes Reporter-at-Large in August, Armand has agreed to help him with the compilation of such items.

I also thank David Buerger again for the excellent work he does in preparing the news letter for publication, and for his willingness to continue as our editor under the new SSSML administration beginning in August.

And again I thank the BYU Sociology Department for publishing and mailing the news letter. I also thank them for the support they give to our annual SSSML-Charles Redd lecture, which this year was given by Dean R. Louder of Laval University at BYU on March 22nd,

"Canadian Mormon Identity." We invite all interested persons to prepare a paper for consideration for March of 1989.

Wilford E. Smith

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