

SSSML Newsletter
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SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plans are to hold our annual meeting during the forthcoming SSSR meetings in Salt Lake, October 27—29 with the exact time and place TBA. Initially, SSSML plans called for our annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the April PSA meetings. However, that changed when it became apparent we would not be able to field a session on Mormons Life. After some quick checking around, it was found that so many of our members were gearing up for the SSSR's it was decided that it would be best to hold our meeting when most of our constituency would gather in one place during the same time period.

If any of you "out there" have agenda items that you would care to have discussed at our annual meeting please write them up and send them to me: Don Lindsey, Department of Criminal Justice, California State University San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407. In particular, we are looking for new ideas and new ways that we can build membership or improve upon what we're

about or doing.

Marie Cornwall, one of our past SSSML Presidents, has recently been appointed Director of the Women's Research Institute at BYU. The institute's mission is to promote and conduct research concerned with womens issues. Congratulations Marie, we wish you a successful tenure in your new position.

Our thanks and complements to Armand Mauss for his report (following) on the proceedings of the Mormon History Association and his bibliographic contributions.

RECENT CONFERENCES

The annual conference of the Mormon History Association convened May 11—14 in Quincy, Illinois, located in southwestern Illinois across the Mississippi River (and slightly north) from Hannibal, Missouri, made famous by Mark Twain. Quincy was the first stopping place of the Mormon refugees streaming out of Missouri during the winter of 1838—39. The mayor and citizens of that town showed much compassion and for several months gave the Mormons a base from which to regroup and plan for their future (which soon included the settling of Nauvoo, 50 miles north). Even during the controversial Mormon presence in Nauvoo, and the eventual exodus again out of Illinois, Quincy citizens continued to offer their services as mediators between the Mormons and

their hostile neighbors in the area. A plaque in the old city park commemorates Quincy's place in Mormon history.

Understandably, several of the MHA sessions dealt with the Nauvoo period of history in one way or another, and some of them actually convened on sites of special significance in Nauvoo and in Carthage, such as Masonic Lodge, the Seventies Hall, the Red Brick Store, the Parley Street Landing, and (of course) the old Carthage Jail. Buses and private autos carried conference participants between Quincy and the other historic towns. An opening plenary session in Quincy featured a panel of LDS, RLDS, and local non-Mormon scholars discussing the various meanings of the Nauvoo experience from these three different viewpoints. It was an interesting study in differing social constructions of historical reality. A closing plenary session, again featuring both LDS and RLDS scholars, was devoted to a 25-year retrospect on Robert B. Flanders' *Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi*, which blew the lid off the traditional RLDS interpretation of that historical period.

The annual Tanner Lecture (traditionally awarded to an especially distinguished non-Mormon scholar in religious studies) was delivered this year by R. Laurence Moore, widely known for his 1986 book, *Religious Outsiders and the Making of Americans* (Oxford University Press), which contains a prominent section on the Mormons. In his MHA lecture, "Learning to Play: The Mormon Way and the Way of Other Americans," Moore contrasts the recreational and cultural activities of Mormons and others across time and finds that modern Mormons have, in a sense, traded places with other American Christians. Since the 19th Century, when Mormons were regarded as outrageously avant-garde in condoning dancing, drama, and other "worldly" recreation, other Americans have now moved past the Mormons in that direction, while the Mormons have moved back in a more austere direction.

Other MHA sessions dealt with various Mormon theologies of history; Mormon schismatic groups; the Mormon "lost generation" (Brodie, etc.); early Mormon participation in international women's movements; Mormon legal struggles over polygamy; non-Mormon perspectives on the conflicts of the Nauvoo period; and many other topics. Several sociologists were in attendance, some as session participants. The usual complement of "gentile" scholars was also prominent, including Jan Shipps, Mario DePillis, Lawrence Foster, Elizabeth Dulany, and (this year) Annette P. Hampshire, a British sociologist and author of the only study of the Nauvoo period as it looked to the non-Mormons of the time (*Mormonism in Conflict: The Nauvoo Years*, Volume 11 in *Studies in Religion and Society*, [New York and Toronto: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1985]). All in all, it was a fulfilling weekend, both intellectually and spiritually.

More information about MHA, the Quincy conference, its papers, and its participants can be obtained by writing to Susan L. Fales, Executive Secretary, MHA, Box 7010 University Station, Provo, Utah 84602. MHA publishes a quarterly Newsletter and the annual *Journal of Mormon History*. Annual dues are only \$10.00. Next year's MHA conference will convene in Hawaii!

A COMMENTARY AND REVIEW: "REFUTATION BY FORGERY: THE HOFMANN CASE REVISITED"

"Refutation by Forgery: The Hofmann Case Revisited," is the title of yet another commentary and book review of the Mark Hofmann case. Written by Bryce Nelson, the review appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 1989, Nelson is an USC journalism professor who has written extensively about the American West.

The focus of Nelson's review is Linda Sillitoe and Allen D. Robert's book, *Salamander*. His critique thus rounds out the *Times'* "Book Review" coverage of the Mormon murders trilogy, reported on in earlier SSSML newsletters.

Parts of Nelson's review are excerpted and reprinted here because of the fresh approach his review offers. Unlike many commentaries that emphasize the damage Hofmann caused the Church, community, individuals and other institutions, Nelson turns to another issue of some importance.

He first reports: "The pot that document forger Mark William Hofmann brought to a boil by killing two people with bombs on Oct. 15, 1985, in Salt Lake City is still simmering. Three books on the fascinating case have been published in recent months and television specials have appeared. The biggest electronic treatments, a four hour CBS miniseries and a 20th Century Fox film, are in the works."

"The Washington Post has reported that some Mormons are trying to tone down the CBS miniseries which is partly based on The Mormon Murders, a rather sensationalistic account by Steven Naifeh and Gregory White Smith. The Fox film is based on A Gathering of Saints, a well-written book by Robert Lindsey, the able former West Coast bureau chief of the New York Times."

Nelson continues by pointing to one of the strengths of Sillitoe and Roberts' book that other reviews only mention in passing. That is the "comprehensive treatment of the bizarre story of the man who has been called the world's greatest forger."

"Not surprisingly," he adds that "all three books focus on religion. Indeed Hofmann was a self described 'eighth generation Mormon' who murdered two outstanding Mormons partly to divert attention from his inability to produce a collection of Mormon documents for the leaders of the Church."

"Perhaps no American state or religion is dominated by an obsession with history as is Utah and its predominately Mormon population.

It may require such a history-haunted region to nurture such a forger of history. Hofmann has long been preoccupied with history, with documents and with books."

"One book that influenced him most was No Man Knows My History, Fawn Brodie's biography of the Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith Jr. Hofmann seemed particularly fascinated by Joseph Smith whom he viewed much as Brodie had; a remarkable charismatic fraud. Hofmann talked at length about the way in which Smith was able to 'create history'. While most Mormons revere Smith, Sillitoe and Roberts write, 'Hofmann seemed to admire him as a deceiver, the ultimate con artist.' "

"While all three recent books emphasize the Mormon tradition, they do not focus sufficiently on the personal and psychological factors that lead someone to almost causally kill those who did him no harm. After all, deranged people can come from any religion or culture. What was it in Hofmann's life that led to murder?"

The review goes on to describe some key events and features of Hofmann's life involving his remarkably deceptive, schizophrenic relationship with the Church and many others with whom he dealt. Nelson concludes with: "While the judge and the Board of Pardons said he must stay in prison for life, there were some in Utah who said this coldblooded killer deserved death. Others argued that his life imprisonment gives an opportunity to explore what went into the making of such a talented brutal manipulator."

"In their riveting book, Sillitoe and Roberts provide important clues in understanding a confidence man who upset the Mormon Church as it has not been upset for many years."

Whether we will ever learn enough about Hofmann to very much understand the man and his life is, of course, anybody's guess. However, another perspective on Hofmann and his deeds, more likely his misdeeds, is in the making. Rick Turley, an attorney, and who is currently the Church

Archivist, is presently in the process of preparing an "officially" sanctioned version of Hofmann's double dealings. Perhaps some additional clues may be revealed about his life and the social and psychological factors that led him on such a destructive path.

CONFERENCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE

The Sunstone Foundation will hold its annual meeting August 23—26, 1989. The various sessions will convene on the University of Utah campus. At the time of this writing sufficient detail as to times and exact location was unavailable.

The 1989 Association for the Sociology or Religion (A.S.R.) Annual meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, Sir Francis Drake Hotel, August 6—8 on "Religion, Social Problems, and Religion as Social Problem." These meetings are scheduled just before the 1989 American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting, Aug 9—13, in the same city.

The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) has just announced some of its plans for its 1989 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, October 27—29, at the Marriott hotel. Reprinted here are "Program Highlights" from the SSSR's June newsletter. It would appear that an outstanding program is in the making including a strong component involving Mormon studies.

The meeting begins Friday morning with a kickoff session which will include welcoming remarks by a Salt Lake official; introductions of SSSR and RRA officers; recognition of new members; and information about the program, the location of meeting rooms, and special events such as our guided tours on Friday and Saturday and Saturday night's buffet. Regular sessions start immediately after the kick-off and run throughout the day.

Friday afternoon, noted researcher and

consultant to churches, Carl Dudley, will present RRA's H. Paul Douglass Lecture. Carl will talk about research on congregations and their role in local communities. Carl's talk will be followed by a bounteous reception and time for dinner at any one of the excellent nearby restaurants. On Friday night, there will be a special plenary session at which several distinguished scholars will discuss "Growth and Change in New Religious Movements: Mormonism as Case Study."

Sessions resume early Saturday morning and go all day. Saturday afternoon features a plenary session honoring Rodney Stark and his contributions to the study of religion.

Following that, we will host an all-you-can-eat buffet at the very special price of only \$10.

This will be the best deal in the city; you won't want to miss it! The buffet will include barbecued ribs, chicken, Rocky Mountain trout, a complete salad bar, baked potatoes, baked beans, corn on the cob, biscuits and cornbread, vegetables, and pies. The buffet theme ("Utah's Mountains and Canyons") will be depicted in colorful decorations throughout the room. Meredith McGuire will top off a wonderful day with her Presidential Address at 8 p.m. She will discuss the role religion plays in transformative experiences related to gender, illness, and other dimensions of self.

Sunday morning will include many outstanding sessions and reserved seats for the broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Sessions end at noon.

Arthur (Larry) Greil, SSSR's Program Chair, and Marjorie Royle, RRA's Program Chair, have put together over 70 sessions dealing with topics such as changing patterns of work, family, and religion; AIDS and religion; a workshop on teaching the sociology of religion; feminist reflections on religious language; church growth, region and religious diversity; Mormonism; the results of the recent Gallup poll on the "Religious State of the American People"; women's spirituality; psychological approaches to religious experience; liberation theology; religious

responses to modernity; religion and politics; a symposium on God's Federal Republic by William Everett; satanism; and an Author Meets Critics session featuring works by Felicitas Goodman.

Planning is proceeding for next year's conference of the Canadian Mormon Studies Association, to be held in Lethbridge, Alberta, at the University of Lethbridge, June 20-24. The conference theme is "Mormons in Canada: A Local and Comparative Perspective." Would-be participants should send proposals for papers, sessions, or other contributions to Professor Keith Parry, CMSA 1990 Conference, c/o Department of Anthropology, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, T1K 3M4. While Canadian content is eminently desirable, contributions which amplify the "local and comparative" dimension of the conference are also acceptable. Participants can expect to have their travel and accommodation expenses covered. Lethbridge, a prairie city of 60,000 people, is close to Alberta's "pale of Mormon settlement" — in Lowry Nelson's phrase. It is also close to Canada's Rocky Mountain parks. So why not submit your proposal?

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INTEREST

Books:

- Michael Hicks, *Mormonism and Music: A History*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1989
- Levi S. Peterson, *Juanita Brooks: Mormon Woman Historian*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1988
- Susan L. Fales and Chad J. Flake, *Mormons and Mormonism in U.S. Government Documents: A Bibliography (1830-1930)*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989
- Rick Grunder, *Mormon Parallels: A Preliminary Annotated Bibliography (pre-1830 literary influences on Joseph*

Smith). Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1989

- Dan Vogel, *Religious Seekers and the Advent of Mormonism*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1988
- Marvin S. Hill, *Quest for Refuge: The Mormon Flight from American Pluralism*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1989

Articles:

As this Newsletter goes to press, the Summer issue of *Sociological Analysis* is yet to appear. The June issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* (28:2) contains one item on Mormon studies: Howard M. Bahr and Stan L. Albrecht, "Strangers Once More: Patterns of Disaffiliation from Mormonism."

The June issue of the *Review of Religious Research* (30:4) contains Tim B. Heaton's "Religious Influences on Mormon Fertility: Cross-National Comparisons" (Britain, Mexico and Japan).

In the Winter 1988 issue of *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* (21:4), there were the following items of some sociological interest:

- Lavina Fielding Anderson, "A Voice from the Past: The Benson Instructions for Parents"
- John C. Lehr, "Polygamy, Patrimony, and Prophecy: The Mormon Colonization of Cardston"

The Spring 1989 issue of *Dialogue* (22:1), had three articles by Mauss, Elliott, and McCue (respectively) reported in the previous issue of this Newsletter. In addition, there were two more items of possible sociological interest:

- Levi S. Peterson, "Juanita Brooks, My Subject, My Sister"
- Rebecca Reid Linford, "Review of Sisters in Spirit: Mormon Women in Historical and Cultural Perspective" (Edited by Maureen

Ursenbach Beecher and Lavina Fielding Anderson)

In the Summer 1989 issue of Dialogue (22:2) was:

- Philip L. Barlow, "Why the King James Version?: From Common to the Official Bible of Mormonism"
- Jeffrey C. Jacob, "Explorations in Mormon Social Character: Beyond the Liahona and Iron Rod"
- Newell G. Bringham, "Fawn Brodie and her Quest for Independence"
- Irene M. Bates, Karen Marguerite Moloney, and John Sillito, "Life in Zion after Conversion: Hazed or Hailed?" (three personal post-conversion accounts)
- Claudia L. Bushman, "Sunset Ward" (a personal socio-historical nostalgia piece)
- Gary Topping's review of Levi Peterson's new biography of Juanita Brooks (see above under "New Books")

The most recent issues of Sunstone contain:
From Issue 12:4 (July, 1988):

- Neal C. Chandler, "Zion's Gulag: Reflections on Intellectuals, Inquisition, and the Consolation of Philosophy"
- Eugene England, "The Achievement of Lowell Bennion"
- Eugene England, "A Bibliography of Works by and about Lowell Bennion"
- Lowell L. Bennion, "The Moral Component of Religion"
- T. E. Behrend, "Voice from Abroad: Report from Indonesia"
- David Knowlton, "Hidden Saints"
- Don Norton, "The Navajo's Painful but Blessed Lot" (a review of the 1987 autobiography of George P. Lee, Silent Courage)

From Issue 12:5 (September, 1988):

- Karl Sandberg, "Modes of Belief: David Whitmer, B. H. Roberts, and Werner Heisenberg"
- Donald Worster (interview), "Expanding our Moral Vision Beyond the Human Community" (world religions and the environment)
- Marie Cornwall, "Individualism and the Challenge of Community"

From Issue 12:6 (November, 1988):

- Ogden Kraut, "The Singer/Swapp Siege: Revelation or Retaliation?"
- Robert A. Rees, "Every Soul Has Its South Africa"
- Garth Jones, "If Only It Were That Simple"
- David C. Knowlton, "Sticks and Stones: A Monologue on Conversation" (Mormonism in Bolivia)

From Issue 13:1 (January, 1989):

- David C. Knowlton, "Missionary, Native, and General Authority Accounts of a Bolivian Conversion"
- Janice M. Allred, "Pride or Self-Esteem? A Mormon Concept of the Self"
- Edwin B. Firmage, "Restoring the Church: Zion in the Nineteenth and Twenty-First Centuries"
- Orson Scott Card, "Prophets and Assimilationists"
- Kira Pratt Davis, "Absurdity" (trying to make American Mormon ways t in Europe)
- Plus . . . book reviews of Edwin B. Firmage and Richard C. Mangrum's Zion and the Courts; Stephen C. LeSueur's The 1838 Mormon War in Missouri; and Larry M. Logue's "A Sermon in the Desert" (a demographic history of St. George).

From Issue 13:2 (April, 1989):

- Mark Koltko, "Mysticism and Mormonism: An LDS Perspective on Transcendence and

Higher Consciousness"

- Hugh Nibley, "What is Zion? A Distant View" (Zion vs. Babylon: The Game has Always been Money)
- Nola W. Wallace, "The Contingency of Woman."

In the most recent issues of BYU Studies are the following items of potential interest:

- Helen Candling Stark, "BYU Student Life in the Twenties." 28:2 (Spring, 1988)
- J. Keith Melville, "Joseph Smith, the Constitution, and Individual Liberties." 28:2 (Spring, 1988)
- Charles R. Harrell, "The Development of the Doctrine of Pre-existence, 1830–1844." 28:2 (Spring, 1988)
- Ronald W. Walker, "Brigham Young on the Social Order." 28:3 (Summer, 1988)
- Scott H. Duvall, "1987 Mormon Bibliography." 28:3 (Summer, 1988)

From the Duvall bibliography just mentioned, we noticed in particular the following items on Mormons that have not been picked up in previous lists for this Newsletter:

- Douglas L. Anderton et al., "Intergenerational Transmission of Relative Fertility and Life Course Patterns," *Demography* 24 (November, 1987): 467–480
- Allen E. Bergin et al., "Religiousness and Mental Health Reconsidered: A Study of an Intrinsically Religious Sample." *Journal of Counseling Psychology* 34 (April, 1987)
- Bruce A. Chadwick et al., "Evaluation of an Indian Student Placement Program." *Social Casework* 67 (Nov., 1986)
- Moshe Dann, "The Mormon Church, Israel, and the Arabs." *Midstream: A Monthly Jewish Review* 33 (May, 1987)
- Byron W. Daynes and Raymond Tatlovich, "Mormons and Abortion

- Politics in the United States." *International Review of History and Political Science* 23 (May, 1986)
- Charles Hobart, "Challenges Facing Mormonism as it Approaches the 21st Century." *Religious Studies and Theology* 7 (January, 1987)
- Ronald J. Hrebenar and Clive S. Thomas (eds.), *Interest Group Politics in the American West*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1987
- George K. Jarvis and Herbert C. Northcott, "Religion and Differences in Morbidity and Mortality." *Social Science and Medicine* 25:7 (1987)
- L. B. Jorde and Kenneth Morgan, "Genetic Structure of the Utah Mormons: Isonymy Analysis." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 72 (March, 1987)
- Larry M. Logue, "Modernization Arrested: Child-Naming and the Family in a Utah Town." *Journal of American History* 74 (June, 1987)
- Brent C. Miller, et al., "Adolescent Self-Esteem in Relation to Sexual Attitudes and Behavior." *Youth and Society* 19 (September, 1987)
- Richard Miller, "Trends in Marital Happiness in Provo, 1955—1983." *Sociology and Social Research* 71 (June, 1987)
- John R. Pottenger, "Mormonism and the American Industrial State." *International Journal of Social Economics* 14(1987):25—38
- Utah Governor's Commission on the Status of Women, *Utah Women and the Law: A Resource Handbook*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1987
- Robert L. Millet, "Joseph Smith's Translation of the Bible: Impact on Mormon Theology." *Religious Studies and Theology* 7 (January, 1987)
- William S. Abruzzi, "Ecological Stability and Community Diversity during Mormon Colonization of the Little Colorado River

- Basin." *Human Ecology* 15 (September, 1987)
- Douglas L. Anderton, "Intermarriage of Frontier Immigrant, Religious, and Residential Groups: An Examination of Macrostructural Assimilation." *Sociological Inquiry* 56 (Summer, 1986)
 - Leonard J. Arrington, "Historical Development of International Mormonism." *Religious Studies and Theology* 7 (January, 1987)
 - Lee L. Bean and G.P. Mineau, "The Polygamy-Fertility Hypothesis: A Re-evaluation." *Population Studies: A Journal of Demography* 40 (1986): 67–81
 - Lee L. Bean et al., "The Fertility Effects of Marriage Patterns in a Frontier American Population." *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History* 20 (Fall, 1987)
 - M. Guy Bishop, "Preparing to 'Take the Kingdom': Child-bearing Directives in Early Mormonism." *Journal of the Early Republic* 7 (Fall, 1987)
 - Margaret K. Brady, "Transformations of Power: Mormon Women's Visionary Narratives." *Journal of American Folklore* 100 (October-December, 1987)
 - Vella Neil Evans, "The Mormon Women: Defined in Authoritative Discourse, 1830-1980." *Religious Studies and Theology* 7 (January, 1987)
 - Kenneth W. Godfrey, "Non-Mormon Views of the Martyrdom: A Look at Some Early Published Accounts." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 7 (1987):12–20
 - Henry M. Holzer, "The True Reynolds vs. United States." *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* 10 (Winter, 1987)
 - Richard Jackson and Lloyd Hudman, "Border Towns, Gambling and the Mormon Culture Region." *Journal of Cultural Geography* 8 (Fall-Winter, 1987)
 - Grant Underwood, "Apocalyptic Adversaries: Mormonism Meets Millerism." *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 7 (1987): 53–61