

## SSSML Newsletter

# SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Annual SSSML Business Meeting:  
Friday, October 27, 1989, Marriott Hotel,  
Salt Lake City, Utah. Our annual  
business meeting will be held in  
conjunction with the 1989 annual  
meetings of the Society for the Scientific  
Study of Religion. While a specific time  
and room have not been set, Donald  
Lindsey, President of SSSML, has  
indicated that arrangements will be made  
for a late afternoon meeting. SSSML  
members should check the SSSR  
Conference Bulletin Board at the  
Marriott or contact one of the SSSML  
officers.
2. 2. Annual SSSML Lecture: Mormonism  
as a Case Study: The Growth of New  
Religious Movements (A Panel  
Discussion), October 25, 1989, 7:30 p.m.,  
at 375 ELWC, Brigham Young  
University. The two speakers include  
Rodney Stark, Professor of Sociology,  
University of Washington who will speak  
on "Modernization and Mormon Growth:  
The Secularization Theories Revisited."

Jan Shipps, Professor of Religious  
Studies and History, Indiana University-  
Purdue University at Indianapolis will  
speak on "Making Saints: In the Early  
Days and in the Latter Days." Eileen  
Barker, Professor of Sociology, London  
School of Economics, and Darwin L.  
Thomas, Professor of Sociology,  
Brigham Young University will respond  
to Professors Stark and Shipps.  
The lecture is co-sponsored by The  
Society for the Sociological Study of  
Mormon Life, the Society for the  
Scientific Study of Religion and the  
College of Family, Home, and Social  
Sciences, the Charles Redd Center for  
Western Studies, the Women's Research  
Institute, the Center for Studies of the  
Family, Brigham Young University.  
The panel discussion will be repeated as  
the Friday Plenary Session at the Society  
for the Scientific Study of Religion  
annual meetings on October 27, 1989,  
8:15 p.m., Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City.

### RECENT CONFERENCES

SSSML members Tim B. Heaton, Larry  
Iannaccone, Grame Lang, Armand L. Mauss,  
Rod Stark, Daryl White, O. Kendall White and  
Larry Young all recently participated at the 1989  
Association for the Sociology of Religion  
meetings held August 6-9 in San Francisco. The

only paper to deal directly with Mormon life was presented by O. Kendall White and Daryl White. A short abstract of their paper follows:

O. Kendall White and Daryl White, "Reflections on the Question of Mormon Ethnicity." Following a brief discussion of the application of the concept of ethnicity to explain nineteenth century Mormon experience, this paper examines Armand Mauss's analysis of the ideological uses of "Mormon ethnicity" among scholars and within the Mormon community. While Mauss concludes that the conceptualization of Mormonism in terms of ethnicity may profitably be abandoned, we argue that such conceptualization remains meaningful for understanding modern Mormonism.

It should be noted that Armand Mauss was discussant for the session in which White and White presented their paper. The dialogue between the presenters and the discussant was lively, to say the least.

Several SSSML members also participated at the 1989 Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City held last August. A future newsletter will summarize some of the sessions which might be of particular interest to SSSML members.

#### **CONFERENCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

1. The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (jointly with the Religious Research Association) will hold its annual meetings at the Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel in Salt Lake City on October 27-29, 1989. The theme of the conference this time will be "Religion, Diversity and Change." This is the first time SSSR has held its meetings in the Western United States and future opportunities for hosting the meetings in the West are somewhat contingent upon adequate attendance at these meetings. Please encourage colleagues who might be interested in the meetings to consider

attending.

This year's meetings will have a special focus on Mormon related issues and SSSML members are broadly represented on the program. Nine sessions are devoted exclusively to Mormon topics. Several other sessions include one or more papers dealing with Mormonism. At last count, over 40 papers will deal with some aspect of Mormon life and it is anticipated that at least one book dealing with the social scientific study of Mormonism will emerge from the meetings.

Besides the intellectual fare itself, there will be opportunities for interaction with SSSML members, especially at the annual business meeting to be held Friday Afternoon.

2. The Mormon History Association will hold its annual meetings at the BYU-Hawaii campus on June 10-17, 1990. For further information contact Martha Sonntag Bradley, Program Chair, 4611 Belmour Way, SLC, UT, 84117. Larry Gelwix of Morris travel has arranged for a package which will cost approximately \$825 for six nights and seven days. This includes air travel from SLC, housing, all meals and several additional activities. For reservations and information, write: Larry Gelwix, Morris Travel, 260 East Morris Ave., SLC, 84115.
3. The Canadian Mormon Studies Association will hold a conference on "Mormons in Canada, Local and Comparative Perspectives." The Conference will be held June 20-24, 1990 at the University of Lethbridge. For further information contact Keith Perry, Program Organizer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Lethbridge.

4. Upcoming Sunstone symposiums include:
  - Seattle Sunstone Symposium to be held 10–11 November 1989. For further information contact Molly Bennion, 1150 22nd Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112 (206/325-6868).
  - Sunstone Symposium West to be held 2–3 March 1990 in Los Angeles. For further information contact the Sunstone office in SLC (801/355-5926).
  - Washington D.C. Sunstone Symposium to be held 7–8 April 1990. For further information contact Sunstone in SLC.
  - A conference dealing with community building, to be held in Provo, Utah, on 4–5 May 1990. For further information contact Sunstone in SLC.
5. The 32nd Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association is to be held 25–28 April 1990 at Portland, Oregon. For further information contact WSSA President-Elect and Program Coordinator: Professor Dennis Reinhartz, Department of History, University of Texas-Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019.
6. The 1990 Annual Meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion will be held August 9-11, 1990 in Washington D.C. The conference theme will focus on "Religion, Tradition and Innovation." Session proposals are due January 1 while abstracts for papers are due February 1. Send abstracts and proposals to Madeleine Adriance, ASR Program Chair, Mount Ida College, 777 Dedham Street, Newton Centre, MA 02159-3310.

#### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Commencing with this issue of the SSSML Newsletter, Larry Young has become Reporter-at-Large. If any

SSSML members have news they would like included in future newsletters, please send the information to Larry Young, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. David Buerger will continue as Editor, and Armand Mauss has agreed to continue providing information concerning recent publications.

2. Several SSSML members spent time at BYU during the Summer of 1989 working on on-going research projects. Extending their research interest in African-Americans and Mormonism, Daryl and Kendall White spent several weeks for a second summer examining the Black Mormon oral histories at the Charles Redd Center at BYU. They will present a paper on Black Mormons in the South at the key symposium on "African-Americans and the South" at the Southern Anthropological Society meetings in Atlanta, Georgia in April 1990. Also, pending acceptance, they will present a paper on African-American Mormons at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C. in November 1989. This research constitutes part of a book they are writing on Blacks and Mormonism. Graeme Lang, Associate Professor of Sociology at Memorial University of Newfoundland, made his initial visit to Utah and BYU during August of 1989. His research focused on Mormon imagery of heaven and hell and is part of a larger comparative study on the sociology of heaven and hell. Graeme's SSSR paper will focus on this issue.

#### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INTEREST**

##### **Books:**

- Rodger L. Anderson, *Joseph Smith's New York Reputation Reexamined* (Salt Lake

- City: Signature Books, 1990).
- Jean Bickmore White, ed., *Church, State, and Politics: The Diaries of John Henry Smith* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1990).
  - Denny Roy, Grant P. Skabelund, and Ray Hillam, eds., *A Time to Kill: Oral Histories of LDS War Veterans* (Salt Lake City, Signature Books, 1990).
  - Richard L. Jensen and Malcolm R. Thorp, eds., *Mormons in Early Victorian Britain* (University of Utah Press, 1990).
  - Rex E. Cooper, *Promises Made to the Fathers: Mormon Covenant Organization* (Salt Lake City, University of Utah Press, 1990).
  - Kenneth H. Winn, *Exiles in a Land of Liberty: Mormons in America, 1830-1846* (University of North Carolina Press, 1989).

**Articles:**

From the *American Journal of Sociology* 94(4), Jan., 1989:

- Douglas L. Anderton and Rebecca Jean Emigh, "Polygamous Fertility: Sexual Competition versus Progeny."

From the *Review of Religious Research* 31(1), Sept., 1989:

- Stan L. Albrecht and Marie Cornwall, "Life Events and Religious Change." (Mormon data).

From *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 22(3), Fall 89:

- Stephen C. Clark and Richard A. Van Wagoner, "Christ and the Constitution: Toward a Mormon Jurisprudence."
- Karen Coates, "The Holy War Surrounding Evan Mecham."
- Alleen Pace Nilsen, "Evan Mecham: Humor in Arizona Politics."

From *Sunstone* 13(3), June, 1989:

- Marvin S. Hill, "Counter-Revolution: The Mormon Reaction to the Corning of American Democracy."

From *BYU Studies* 29(1), Winter, 1989:

- James V. D'Arc, "Darryl F. Zanuck's Brigham Young: A Film in Context."
- James R. Christianson, "Humanity and Practical Christianity: Implications for a Worldwide Church."
- David J. Whittaker, "A Book Review Essay with a Chronology and Bibliography of the Hofmann Case." (Followed by reviews of the three main books on that case).

From *BYU Studies* 29(2), Spring, 1989:

- Stan L. Albrecht, "The Consequential Dimension of Mormon Religiosity." (A long and valuable summary and analysis of the state of knowledge on the topic).