

SSSML Newsletter
**SOCIETY FOR THE
SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF
MORMON LIFE**

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Lawrence A Young, Editor

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ANNUAL SSSML LECTURE

Date: February 6, 1991
Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Place: 375 ELWC, BYU

Lee L. Bean and Geraldine P. Mineau will deliver the upcoming Annual SSSML Lecture on Wednesday, February 6, 1991 at Brigham Young University. Bean and Mineau, who are both at the University of Utah, will address the topic, "Demographic Characteristics of Women on the American Frontier." Bean and Mineau will discuss issues raised in their recent book (co-authored with Douglas L. Anderton), *Fertility Change on the American Frontier: Adaptation and Innovation*.

The lecture which is being co-sponsored by the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University is being held in conjunction with the International Conference on Gender and Family, which is sponsored by the Women's Research Institute at Brigham Young

University.

SSSML members are urged to attend the lecture and are invited to make recommendations for future lectures by contacting any of the board members. In past years we have been able to pay a modest honorarium and/or pay transportation costs to BYU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. SSSML will supply you with complementary copies of the newsletter if you have colleagues who might be interested in becoming a member. Each complementary copy will include a cover letter describing the activities of SSSML and an invitation to join the Society. Send requests for complimentary copies to:

Tim B. Heaton
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

1. All SSSML members are urged to consider submitting short articles (such as the ones by Hans Baer and Sam Otterstrom in this issue), interesting data or news items.

Materials should be sent to:

Lawrence A. Young
Department of Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel good about the progress we have made forging a link with the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR). The current plan is that we hold an annual business meeting and sponsor sessions (two for next year) in conjunction with the SSSR meetings. In return, SSSR will note our sponsorship of sessions and provide us with meeting space. Several other issues were also discussed. We hope the new format will encourage more people to keep up with their dues. Also, extra newsletters are available to use for recruiting new members. If you would like extras for this purpose, please let us know. Finally, we are anxious to get suggestions or papers for sessions at Sunstone or the next SSSR meetings.

At a time when bombs are dropping and bullets are flying, we long for peace. Let us also hope that our efforts as a group will in some small way promote greater understanding and tolerance. As with many wars in the past, religion seems to be as much a source of conflict as a impetuous for peace. Perhaps greater understanding of religious beliefs, behaviors, and institutions can help to make it otherwise.

FLASH: the text of the letter from James Davidson summarizing the SSSML-SSSR link is reprinted below.

James R. Davidson
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Dear Tim:

Thanks for your recent letter summarizing the results of SSSML's meeting in Virginia Beach. I also appreciate the list of SSSML members.

It looks as if we continue to be on the same wave length with regard to future relations between SSSR and SSSML. I concur with each of the following items pertaining to your letter.

- that you and Perry Cunningham proceed

with your plans to organize two sessions for the 1991 meeting in Pittsburgh; I will tell Bradley Hertel to look forward to your proposals in January and your final list of participants, addresses, and paper titles in April so he can get them into the preliminary program.

- that SSSML will conduct its business meeting concurrently with other sessions at a time which will be decided by Bradley this spring and in a place which he and I will determine in the fall when we put the final program together.
- that I will send letters to all SSSML members, telling them of our interest in building closer ties between our two associations and urging them to become members of SSSR so they will get all of our newsletters, etc.
- that you will send me a double-spaced page of information about SSSML and its newsletter by April so I can include it in our June newsletter to all SSSR members.
- that SSSML will provide SSSR an updated membership list each April (in time for the preliminary program).
- that members of SSSML will get copies of this year's preliminary program, which will contain all the information they need regarding preregistration for the meeting and for the hotel.
- that we will add a space on the pre-registration form so members of SSSML can indicate which of the three societies they belong to: SSSR only, RRA only, SSSML only, or some combination of the three.
- that profit sharing at the meetings is based on the number of "SSSML members only" who attend the annual meeting.
- that SSSML will not share in the profits of this year's meeting in Pittsburgh or other future meetings until such time as we see how many "SSSML members only" attend the annual meeting.
- that we will experiment with our proposed relationship at this year's meeting and,

assuming all goes well, I will submit a proposal to our Council recommending the formal relationship described in my letter to Don Lindsay, October 8, 1990, this letter, and any future communications between you and me.

Please let me know if these propositions are acceptable to you, or if you have any additional questions.

It looks to me as if we are on the right track and can look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship in the years ahead.

Best wishes to you and your colleagues. I hope 1991 will be a good year for all of you.

Sincerely,

/s/James D. Davidson
Executive Secretary

If any of you have any questions or concerns regarding this link with SSSR, please let me (Tim) know. Also, let's make a good showing at the Pittsburgh meetings. Send papers, abstracts, or proposals to Perry Cunningham or to me.

RECENT CONFERENCES

Numerous SSSML members participated at the 1990 annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, held at Virginia Beach, VA. Of greatest importance to SSSML members was the SSSML annual business meeting held on Friday, November 9th. The key issue discussed was the possible formalization of SSSML ties with SSSR. The discussion is summarized elsewhere in this newsletter (see Tim B. Heaton's "Message from the President"). Following the business meeting, approximately a dozen SSSML members enjoyed a seafood dinner at a local Virginia Beach restaurant.

Most SSSML members focused on non-Mormon topics in their formal presentations but one paper at the SSSR meetings did deal directly with Mormonism:

Young, Lloyd R. (Southwest Missouri

State University), "Disestablishment and the Rise of Mormonism."

In his paper, Young argues that "the early 19th century rise of Mormonism can be understood in relationship to the nearly concurrent struggle to disestablish the various denominations which had been supported in law in the various states of the new Union. Mormonism can even be understood as an audacious attempt to establish a national church in response to the void created by the severing of church/state relationships which began in Virginia and ended in Massachusetts."

CONFERENCES IN NEAR FUTURE

1991 ANNUAL MEETING of the SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION will be held on 8-10 November at the Vista International Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Abstracts are due on March 15th. Tim B. Heaton and Perry Cunningham are organizing the two SSSML sponsored sessions at the meeting. Contact Tim or Perry as soon as possible if you would like to be a participant in one of the two SSSML sessions. Send proposals to Tim B. Heaton, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602 or Perry Cunningham, Research and Evaluation Division, LDS Church Office Building-18th Floor, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. In addition, the SSSML annual business meeting will be held in Pittsburgh during the SSSR meeting.

SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM WEST will be held in the San Francisco Bay Area on 1-2 March 1991. To submit proposals and for more information, contact: Steve Eccles, 1482 Winston Court, Upland, CA 91786 (714/982-4752).

THE WASHINGTON, D.C. SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM will be held on 19-20 April 1991 at the American University Campus. Proposals for papers and panel discussions are now being accepted. Contact: Donald Gustavson, 413 Clearview Avenue, Torrington, CT 06790 (203/496-7090).

1991 SALT LAKE SUNSTONE SYMPOSIUM will be held earlier than usual, on 7-11 August at the University Park Hotel. Proposals for papers or panel discussions are now being accepted. Send to Cindy Dahle, Sunstone, 331 Rio Grande Street, Suite 30, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1126 (801/355-5926). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF A SSSML-SPONSORED

SESSION, CONTACT TIM B. HEATON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

1991 ANNUAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION will be held on August 21-23 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Abstracts are due by February 15. Send to Kevin J. Christiano, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

SSSML will not be sponsoring sessions at the annual meetings of the Western Social Science Association or the Pacific Sociological Association. If you are attending either of these meetings, please consider summarizing any Mormon related papers and submitting a note for an upcoming SSSML Newsletter.

RESEARCH NOTES

The Mormon Church in the former German Democratic Republic:
Observations before the Opening of the Wall and German Reunification

by Hans A Baer
University of Arkansas-Little Rock

While I was a Fulbright Lecturer at Humboldt University in East Berlin during the 1988-89 academic year, I had the opportunity to visit the LDS Visitor's Center and the grounds of the LDS Temple in the small city of Freiberg on the edge of the Erzgebirge (a mountain range which forms the border between eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia). At the time of my visit on February 10, 1989, the Freiberg temple was the

only Mormon temple in a socialist-oriented society. Herr Georg Birsefelder, a Swiss retiree, provided me with an account of the status of Mormons in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). He and his wife, Anna, were serving as the first Mormon missionaries in the GDR, but were permitted by the GDR state only to give information about the Mormon Church at the Visitor's Center. In October 1988, Erich Honnecker, the General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, and other GDR leaders in a meeting with Gordon B. Hinckley and Thomas Monson agreed to permit LDS missionaries to proselytize in the country beginning in April 1989.

Herr Birsefelder reported that there were some 4,000 Mormons in the GDR. Prior to World War II, the area that became the GDR had about 12,000 Mormons, most of whom later emigrated to the Federal Republic of Germany or the United States. The first Mormon ward in eastern Germany was established in Dresden in 1855. Herr Birsefelder said that the Mormon Church exhibited a relatively slow pattern of growth in the GDR, particularly in comparison to certain other European countries, such as Portugal. Henrik Burkhardt, a physician, served as the President of the LDS Church in the GDR and the President of the Freiberg Temple. The president of the Freiberg Stake was proprietor of a small auto electronics shop. Three types of Mormon congregations existed in the GDR: 1) the Gemeinde or ward, 2) the Zweig or branch, and 3) the Gruppe or a group of several members. The Freiberg Stake consisted of 12 congregations (5 wards and 7 branches) and the Leipzig Stake consisted of 20 congregations (4 wards, 11 branches, and 5 groups) (Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzen Tage, DDR, n.d.).

Herr Birsefelder said he did not perceive any overt antagonism between Mormons and other religious groups in Freiberg. He added that the Mormon Church did not maintain formal ties with other religious bodies in the GDR. A state combine based in Karl Marx Stadt began to construct the Freiberg Temple in April 1983. Prior to the dedication of the Freiberg Temple in 1985, many GDR Mormons faced difficulty in visiting Mormon temples in other parts of Europe. Some combined visits to relatives in the Federal Republic of

Germany with visits to temples in Western European countries (The Frankfurt Temple in the FRG was not dedicated until 1987). In addition to GDR Mormons, the Freiberg Temple was intended to serve Mormons in other Eastern European countries. Hungary granted official recognition to the Mormon Church in 1988 and an LDS ward house recently was opened in Warsaw, Poland.

The Mormon Church in the GDR eschewed overt political involvements. While some Mormons apparently belonged to the Christian Democratic Union, Birsefelder did not think it would be appropriate for a Mormon to belong to the Socialist Unity Party because of its atheistic philosophy. He read several quotes from the writings of Lenin that guarantee religious freedom under socialism. Mormons could support the GDR's family policies and health care system and serve in the GDR military. Herr Birsefelder felt that Mormon children don't experience overt discrimination in GDR schools. While he said that membership in the Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth) was a matter for parental discretion, he had never seen a Mormon child in a FDJ uniform.

As a result of reunification, the sociopolitical status of Mormons in eastern Germany are now similar to those in West Germany. Nevertheless, the brief chapter of Mormonism in the former Germany Democratic Republic raises some interesting sociological questions. Why, given that in many ways Mormonism has incorporated American value orientations and a commitment to a capitalist economic system, did the GDR leaders permit a rapprochement between the GDR state and the Mormon Church? Despite their obvious differences, the two had arrived at some significant convergences. Like the Mormon Church, the GDR state emphasized a strong family policy and work ethic, which it viewed as being essential for the construction of a developed socialist society. According to Rainier Hagan, a scholar at the Institute of International Relations in East Berlin, the Mormon Church's emphasis on education and "clean living" also

had made a favorable impression on GDR leaders. Although the GDR state had achieved a rapprochement of sorts with the Lutheran Church, it was a tenuous one because the latter provided a sanctuary for the alternative peace and environmental movements. In contrast, the Mormon Church discouraged its members from becoming involved in political protest and encouraged them to become model GDR citizens to the extent that their religious principles permitted.

Reference

Kirche Jesu Christi der Heiligen der Letzen Tage, DDR n.d. Die Kirche Jesus Christi der Heiligen der Letzen Tage stellt sich vor. Dresden, German Democratic Republic: Regionsburg.

[Editor's Note: Sam Otterstrom graduated from BYU in December, 1990 with a B.S. in geography. This research note is based on material contained in his Senior Honors Thesis which was chaired by Tim B. Heaton.]

LDS Church Growth and Per Capita GNP

by Sam Otterstrom

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has enjoyed significant success in working toward the goal of sharing the gospel "with every nation, kindred, tongue, and people." From the end of 1980 to the end of 1989, Church membership increased by more than 2.6 million individuals. The rapid growth (about 5 percent per year) of the Church around the globe is quickly changing its national and financial makeup, because Church growth has not been constant across geographic regions. For example, from 1988 to 1989 U.S., Canada, and Europe only gained 122,000 new members while Asia and Latin America accounted for an increase of over 324,000 persons. This trend continued in 1990 as only 10 of the 41 new stakes created before November 26, 1990 were located in the U. S. (27 were in Latin America).

These Church population shifts to poorer nations have had a marked downward effect on

LDS per capita income. Per capita gross national product (GNP) figures from 37 countries were used to estimate this change. Included in this analysis were nations which had more than 10,000 LDS members at the end of 1989 (excluding French Polynesia, Taiwan, and Puerto Rico) plus Ghana and Zimbabwe in Africa. Church data for the study were from the years of 1974 and 1989 (Church Almanac, 1991-92, and 1976).

Actual per capita GNP for the LDS membership in each country was not known. It was therefore assumed that the Church membership's per capita GNP was the same as the country's per capita GNP. The per capita GNP for the Church membership in each country was calculated by multiplying the country per capita GNP by the number of members in that country, adding all the country totals together, and then dividing that number by Church membership figures (See World Tables 1989-90 for GNP figures).

Based on this analysis, the 1974 world average GNP of Church members, without the U.S., was \$4,030 (to account for inflation, all figures are in standard 1980 dollars; see Figure 1). The corresponding 1989 amount was much less at \$2,700. When the U.S. was combined with the rest of the world, the LDS per capita GNP jumps up to a level closer to the United States. However, the average Church GNP still fell from \$9,410 in 1974 to \$9,040 in 1989.

The shift over the past few decades to a worldwide and poorer membership base is notable. Moreover, the future appears to hold prospects of growth and change which far surpass the past. During the past decade, Church growth has continued at about 5% per year. Assuming that this rate remains constant, by the end of the year 2030 the total LDS population would be over 57 million.

A more striking alternative to the whole Church growing at one rate, is the possibility of each world region (i.e. South America, Europe, Africa, etc.) increasing at its own rate. Assuming that each region continues to experience its 1980-89 regional Church growth rate, there would be

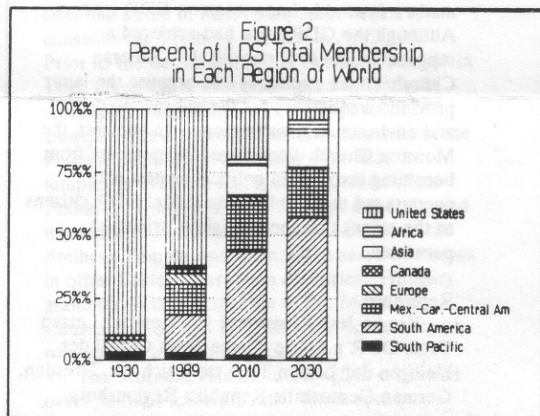
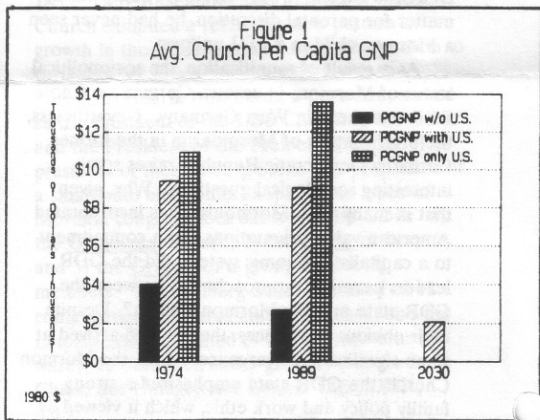
over 300 million LDS Church members by 2030. Only 4% of the members would live in the United States while over 76% would reside in Latin America (see Figure 2).

With such high growth projected for the less developed regions of the world it follows that the average per capita GNP of the Church will continue to decline. Assuming that per capita GNP stays the same for each country the world Church average GNP would be about \$2070 (See Figure 1) in the year 2030 (in 1980 \$). This is only 23% of the 1989 figure of \$9,040.

We may conclude that LDS membership will most likely continue to become more international, and at the same time relatively poorer. How this will affect future Church policy is unclear. One thing is certain, however; we all better learn Spanish!

References

- Membership Data. 1990. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Salt Lake City.
- Miller, G.T. 1988. Living in the Environment. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishers.
- Order, D V. (ed.). 1990. Deseret News 1991-92 Church Almanac. Salt Lake City: Deseret News.
- Smart, W. (ed.). 1976. Deseret News 1976 Church Almanac. Salt Lake City: Deseret News.
- World Tables 1989-90. 1989. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Editor's Note: Armand Mauss provides the bibliographic information contained in this section of the newsletter. We thank Armand for his continuing service. If other readers are aware of additional recent publications which should be included in future newsletters, please send references to Lawrence A. Young, Department of Sociology, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.]

Recent Publications on Mormon Topics (as of January 1991)

Books

Bean, Lee, Geraldine P. Mineau, and Douglas L.

Anderton. *Fertility Change on the American Frontier: Adaptation and Innovation.*

Berkeley: University of California Press.

Card, B. Y., H. C. Northcott, J. E. Foster, Howard Palmer, and G. K. Jarvis (eds.), *The Mormon Presence in Canada.* Edmonton: University of Alberta Press and Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1990. (408 pp. \$30, clothbound).

Hanks, Maxine (ed.), *Women and Authority: Re-emerging Mormon Feminism.* Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1990. (275 pp. \$12.95, paperback).

Poll, Richard D. *History and Faith: Reflections of a Mormon Historian.* Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1990. (150 pp. \$9.95, paperback).

Articles

In *Social Forces* 68 (4) June, 1990:

Iannaccone, Laurence R. and Carrie A. Miles.

"Dealing with social change: The Mormon Church's response to change in women's roles." Pp. 1231-1250.

Sandomirsky, Sharon and John Wilson. "Processes of disaffiliation: Religious mobility among men and women." Pp. 1211-1229 (includes Mormons and compares them with other denominations).

In *Review of Religious Research* 32 (2) December, 1990:

Book Review

Hill, Marvin. *Quest for Refuge: The Mormon Flight from American Pluralism*, reviewed by Anson Shupe.

(No other Mormon-related articles or reviews in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Review of Religious Research*, or *Sociological Analysis* since the last report in the January-April issue of the SSSML Newsletter).

In *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 23 (1) Spring, 1990:

- Embry, Jessie L. "Separate but Equal? Black branches, genesis groups, or integrated wards?"
- Grover, Mark L. "The Mormon Priesthood revelation and the Sao Paulo, Brazil Temple."
- Larson, Stan. "The odyssey of Thomas Stuart Ferguson."
- Oswald, Delmont R. "A lone man in the garden." (Response to President Benson's address to single men).
- Young, Lawrence A. "Being single, Mormon, and male." (Response to President Benson's address to single men).

Book Review

Sillitoe, Linda. "Walking on the dark side." (A review of Jack Olsen, Doc: The Rape of the Town of Lovell; see related essay in the last issue of this Newsletter).

23 (2) Summer, 1990:

- Bradley, Martha S. "The women of fundamentalism: Short Creek, 1953."
- Driggs, Ken. "Fundamentalist attitudes toward the Church: The sermons of Leroy S. Johnson."
- Panel including Karen Marguerite Moloney, Levi S. Peterson, Karen Lewis, Leona Mattoni, Richard L. Popp, and Carrie A. Miles: "Eternity be Damned? The impact of interfaith vows."

Book reviews:

- Baer, Hans A. *Recreating Utopia in the Desert: A Sectarian Challenge to Modern Mormonism*, reviewed by Mark Leone.
- Logue, Larry M. *A Sermon in the Desert: Belief and Behavior in Early St. George, Utah*, reviewed by Allan Kent Powell.
- Millet, Robert L. et al. (eds.). *To Be Learned is Good if . . .*, reviewed by Robert J. Wooley.

23 (3) Fall, 1990 (a special women's issue)

- Barber, Phyllis. "The Mormon woman as writer."
- Bentley, Amy L. "Comforting the motherless children: The Alice Louise Reynolds

Women's Forum."

- Castleton, Anne. "Speaking out on domestic violence."
- Lindsey, Betina. "Woman as healer in the modern church."
- Sillitoe, Linda. "Rescue from home: Some ins and outs."
- Walker, Alison. "Theological foundations of patriarchy."

23 (4) Winter, 1990

- Anderson, Lavina Fielding. "The grammar of inequity."
- England, Eugene. "On being male and Melchizedek."
- Evans, Vella Neil. "Mormon women and the right to wage work."

Book Reviews

- Hatch, N. O. *The Democratization of American Christianity*, reviewed by Robert C. Woodward.
- Hughes, R. T. and C. L. Allen. *Illusions of Innocence: Protestantism in America - 1630-1875*, reviewed by Robert C. Woodward.

In Sunstone:

- 14 (1) February, 1990, issue #75:
- Bradley, Martha S. "Changed faces: The official LDS position on polygamy, 1890-1990."
- Card, Orson Scott. "The hypocrites of homosexuality."
- Lambert, "Males, Mormons, and myths: Issues men face."
- Roberts, Stan. "Pastoring the far side: Making a place for believing homosexuals."
- Schow, H. Wayne. "Homosexuality, Mormon doctrine and Christianity: A father's perspective."
- Tarjan, John. "Goal displacement in the Church: Or, why did they carpet the gym?"

14 (2) April, 1990, Issue #76

- Elliott, Dorice Williams. "'Unto the least of these': Another gender gap."
- England, Eugene. "Are all alike unto God?: Prejudice against blacks and women in

popular Mormon theology."

Kenny, Scott. "God's alternate voices."

Mauss, Armand L. "Alternative voices: The calling and its implications."

14 (3) June, 1990, Issue #77

Bohn, David E. "Our own agenda: A critique of the methodology of the new Mormon history"

Christensen, Debbi. "The developmental process of Mormon women."

Cornwall, Marie. "Women: Changing ideas and new directions."

Gibbs, Linda Jones. "Spirituality and modern art: Beyond the literal in search of the sublime."

Gustavson, Mark S. "Truth as meaning: Faithful history and the interests of the Mormon Church."

Kunich, John C. "Multiply exceedingly: Book of Mormon population sizes."

Russell, William D. "Defenders of the faith: Varieties of RLDS dissent."

14 (4) August, 1990, Issue #78

May, Dean L. "The economics of Zion."

Norman, "A kinder, gentler Mormonism: Moving beyond the violence of our past."

Scharbach, Thomas S. "The American Catholic Church since Vatican Council II."

Book Reviews

Hicks, Michael. Mormonism and Music: A History, reviewed by Thomas L. Durham.

Novick, Peter. That Noble Dream: The "Objectivity Question" and the American Historical Profession, reviewed by Louis Midgley.

In Brigham Young University Studies 30 (1) Winter, 1990:

No articles of a social science kind, but some worthwhile book reviews:

Book Reviews

Logue, Larry M. A Sermon in the Desert: Belief and Behavior in Early St. George, Utah, reviewed by Armand L. Mauss.

Poll, Richard D. History and Faith: Reflections of a Mormon Historian, reviewed by S. George Ellsworth.

Hill, Marvin S. Quest for Refuge: The Mormon Flight from American Pluralism and

Winn, Kenneth H. Exiles in a Land of Liberty: Mormons in America, 1830-1846, reviewed together by Mark Grandstaff.

Vogel, Dan. Religious Seekers and the Advent of Mormonism, reviewed by Grant Underwood.

In BYU Studies 30 (2) Spring, 1990:

Grandstaff, Mark R. and Milton V. Backman. "The social origins of the Kirtland Mormons."

Madsen, Gordon A. "Joseph Smith's 1826 trial: The legal setting."

Swinyard, William R. and Thomas J. DeLong. "Moral choices and their outcomes."

In Utah Historical Quarterly

58 (1) Winter, 1990:

Hicks, Michael. "Ministering minstrels: Blackface entertainment in pioneer Utah."

58 (4) Fall, 1990

the entire issue is devoted to the theme of Utah during World War I, and many articles of some sociological significance are included.

In the Journal of Mormon History, 16 (1990):

Moore, R. Laurence. "Learning to play: The Mormon way and the way of other Americans."

(Much of this issue is devoted to articles reviewing the historiography and the historical significance of Nauvoo in Mormon history).