

MORMON SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 18, No. 1
Spring, 1997

Michael E. Nielsen, Editor

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President's Message

The annual MSSA sessions at SSSR/RRA are just around the corner and thanks to the efforts of Marie Cornwall (SSSR's Executive Secretary) the MSSA sessions will all be held in a block on Saturday, November 8. If you have never attended the annual meetings of SSSR and RRA, make this the year to join us. Set aside Saturday, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., to help plan the future direction of MSSA at the Breakfast Business Meeting, attend sessions dealing with recent social scientific scholarship on the Mormon experience, reflect on the trailblazing work in the social scientific study of Mormonism done by Harold Christensen (Harold will hopefully be in attendance at the session), and join with other MSSA members for lunch and conversation.

The entire Preliminary Program for the annual meetings of SSSR and RRA has just been released. If you are not on their mailing list, please contact me and I will have a copy of the program sent to you. Besides outlining other sessions, it will also provide information on meeting registration and hotel reservations.

Let me also call your attention to the enclosed ballot for MSSA elections and dues notice. If your dues are up-to-date, we have not enclosed a dues notice. Please give timely attention to both of these matters.

Several MSSA members will also be participating at the upcoming Salt Lake City Sunstone Symposium to be held August 6-9. Of particular note is a panel on "Forty Years in Deseret: Reassessing Thomas O'Dea's The Mormons", to be held Thursday, August 7th at 4:45 p.m at the University Park Hotel in Salt Lake City. For more information on the Symposium, call Sunstone at 801-355-5926.

Finally, many thanks to Michael Nielsen for his work as editor of the MSSA newsletter, to Lynn Payne for his help in getting the newsletter printed and distributed, and to Armand Mauss for his consistent willingness to provide bibliographic information for the newsletter. I invariably find the newsletter to be a useful resource and hope that you do as well.

Again, please feel free to contact me if you need a preliminary program for SSSR/RRA or if you have any questions or comments concerning the work of MSSA. You can contact me at:

Larry Young
Sociology
Brigham Young University
Provo, UT 84602
Phone: 801-378-2107
Email: LAYOUNG@FHSS.BYU.EDU

MSSA in San Diego

Plan to attend the MSSA meeting held in conjunction with the SSSR and RRA at the Holiday Inn On The Bay in San Diego November 7-9. The MSSA will sponsor three sessions, and there will be many additional papers and sessions of interest to people in Mormon studies. The SSSR theme is "Borders and Boundaries: Remapping Religion in a Changing World," while the RRA theme is "The

Use and Abuse of Power in Religious Organizations and Denominations." There are sure to be many papers relevant to Mormon studies.

In addition to the stimulating conference sessions, San Diego offers many interesting sites, beautiful weather, and it is conveniently located for most of our MSSA group.

The MSSA sponsored session will all be held on Saturday, November 8 in the Wicker Room. The schedule is as follows:

7:00-7:45

MSSA Breakfast Business

Meeting

7:45-9:15

Mormonism and Homosexuality

9:30-11:00

Reflecting on the Work of Harold Christensen: Trailblazer in the Social Scientific Study of Mormonism

11:00-1:00

Lunch Break (join with other MSSA members for lunch and conversation or else attend the RRA and SSSR Business Meetings)

1:00-2:30

Borders and Boundaries in International Mormonism

Minutes From Nashville

The Nashville meeting was well-attended. More than two-dozen papers were delivered by MSSA members, or on Mormon studies topics. They came from the usual broad mix of social science perspectives, making the conference a good place for inter-disciplinary exchange. The minutes of our business meeting, taken by Lynn Payne, follow:

1. Financial Report--(Lynn Payne) Current account balances are: Savings—\$1000; Checking—\$513.
2. Membership Report—(Lynn Payne) There are approximately 140 members on the mailing list, with about half of them paying regular dues.

3. By-Laws—Recently approved MSSA By-Laws were distributed to those in attendance.
4. Vernon Lecture—Suggestions were taken for the next Glenn Vernon Lecture. The MSSA Board will select a candidate and contact her/him.
5. Future Sessions—Suggestions were taken for future MSSA conference sessions, including Hutterites and Mormons and The Concept of Abuse (offered by Max Stanton and David Knowlton, respectively.)
6. Fund Raising--David Knowlton suggested that the association think of supporting South American scholars who might have an interest in presenting in a future MSSA meeting. Support might originate through SSSR, BYU, COB or MSSA itself.
7. Nominations—elections will be held in the Spring of 1997. Nominations were taken for officers. (See your ballot included in this issue of the newsletter.)
8. Recruitment—Perry Cunningham said that his last effort in office (as past president) would be to draft a three-fold brochure that promotes MSSA for the recruitment of new members. It was also suggested that a request for referrals in the next newsletter would be appropriate.
9. Web Page--Some discussion of a potential web page for the MSSA will be covered in the next newsletter.
10. Newsletter—Contributions to upcoming issues of the MSSA newsletter were solicited.
11. Mauss Bibliographic Project--Armand made a final plea to members of MSSA to contribute works to his upcoming bibliography on Mormon Studies.
12. Communal Studies Association--Max Stanton gave a report on the Communal Studies Association and encouraged those in attendance to consider joining.
13. Hawaii Mormon Sesquicentennial Celebration—Grant Underwood described an upcoming conference sponsored by BYU Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center

to celebrate the Church's sesquicentennial anniversary of the 1847 pioneers entering the SL valley. (See announcement for a description.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSSA Elections

Included with this issue of the newsletter is a ballot for this year's election. Please return the ballot to Lynn Payne along with your dues, if your dues are not current.

Referrals Wanted

We would like to attract more scholars who are interested in Mormonism from social science perspectives. Please alert your colleagues and students that MSSA offers a good way to gain contacts with others who share an interest in Mormon studies. Send their name to Lynn Payne, who will see that their name is added to our membership list. Lynn's address is: Research Info. Div., 18th Floor, 50 E. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150.

Congratulations, Larry!

Our current president, Larry Young, received the prestigious SSSR Distinguished Book Award for his work with Richard Schoenherr on *Full Pews and Empty Altars: Demographics of the Priest Shortage in United States Catholic Dioceses* (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 1993). Well done, Larry!

Utah Demographics

Tim Heaton, Thomas Hirschl, and Bruce Chadwick have combined to release a new book that may be of interest to MSSA members. Their *Utah in the 1990s* (Signature Books) offers a typically thorough look at Utah, and includes many items of interest to people who study Mormonism in Utah. There also are interesting "trivia" items, such as: Utahns eat more marshmallows than do people in the rest of the USA. They also marry at a younger age, which appears to lead to a higher divorce rate than

would otherwise be expected. Utah also has a higher than average juvenile arrest rate.

Pioneers the Pacific

A Sesquicentennial Celebration of Faith and History October 7-11, 1997, Laie, Hawaii, jointly sponsored by BYU-Hawaii, the Polynesian Cultural Center, and the Mormon Pacific Historical Society.

Aloha! "Pioneers in the Pacific" will combine song, dance, feasting, and other forms of cultural display, with a series of conference sessions and panels. Presentations will deal with such broad themes as: LDS Origins and Subsequent History in the Pacific; Culture, Ethnicity, and the Gospel; Adopting and Adapting Church Programs in the Pacific; Social Scientific Perspectives on Latter-day Saints in the Pacific.

Send correspondence to: PIP Program Committee, BYUH Box 1975, Laie, HI 96762. Fax: 808-293-3642.

The Third Eye

In the last issue of the newsletter we noted the publication of *The Third Eye: The Canadian Journal of Mormon Studies*. In order to give you a sample of what this journal has to offer, here are the titles of articles in the first issue, Fall 1996.

Hansen, J. "So Many Paths Not Yet Travelled."

Ellsworth, E. G. "On Writing Canadian Mormon History."

Hansen, K. J. "Under Kaiser and Fuhrer: The Story of a Mormon Family."

Louder, D. "Salt Lake City et Quebec: etude comparative en geographie culturelle."

McCue, R. J. "Married Men as Full-time Missionaries."

Card, B. Y. "Origins of the CMSA: A Dynamic Interpretation."

Beecher, M. U. "Mormon Women converts from Upper Canada."

Johnson, A. "The Place of Women in Mormon Scholarship: A Select Bibliography."

Pollock, G. D. "Cultural Congruity: Mormonism and the Mid-nineteenth Century Maritimes."

Forsberg, C. R. Jr. "King-men or Free-men: The Book of Mormon and the Dilemma of

Canadian Mormonism."

Jost, J. A. His 1855 Diary of His Flight from Halifax to Zion."

For information about the CMSA, contact Jim Rea, Secretary-Treasurer, CMSA/ACEM, C/O 34 Holden Road Sw, Calgary, AB, T2V 3E6.

MSSA Web Page Plans

We would like to establish a web page for MSSA. Such a page could include announcements for upcoming events, information for people who might be interested in joining MSSA, and possibly a list of MSSA members and their research interests and areas of expertise. If you have ideas, comments or suggestions, please contact Mike Nielsen at Dept. of Psychology, Georgia Southern Univ., Statesboro, GA 30460-8041, or <MNIELSEN@GASOU.EDU> .

Bibliography: Last Call

Armand Mauss has nearly completed his bibliography of social science research on Mormons. This is his "last call" for entries of items for that project. If you have not already done so, please send him a list of articles that should be included in that bibliography. He is especially concerned that some scholars at BYU did not reply to his request for information. Make sure that your work is recognized in this research tool. Even if you believe he has your information, send a copy of your items for the bibliography to: Dr. Armand Mauss, Department of Sociology, P.O. Box 2061 C.S., Pullman, WA 99165.

Errata

Send corrections, comments and suggestions to Mike Nielsen, Dept. of Psychology, Georgia Southern Univ., Statesboro, GA 30460-8041, or <MNIELSEN@GASOU.EDU> .

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