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President’s Message

One of the things I particularly enjoyed about my sabbatical leave in Salt Lake City this past winter was having closer, direct contacts with various folks who are involved with MSSA. It certainly made me feel much more connected with the Mormon research community and better able to carry out my tasks as MSSA president. Now that I am once again 2,000 miles removed from "Zion," I am re-experiencing that old, familiar sense of being out of touch (if not "out of it" altogether). I am especially looking forward to the upcoming November SSSR meetings as a partial antidote to this "out of it" feeling. If you share a similar syndrome, I hope you plan on joining us in Montreal for temporary relief of symptoms. Beyond the re-securement of valued relationships among colleagues, all of our sponsored sessions (not to mention the larger SSSR agenda) sound intriguing enough to provide their own sufficient reasons for attendance. As just one, personal example of both attractions, I am excited that Warner Woodworth--versatile social psychologist, sociologist, and organizational specialist at BYU--has agreed to give the Glen M. Vernon Lecture. Warner has always had a great many insightful things to say and suggest about the application of Mormon ideals to improving people's lot in life. He will be worth hearing. And, in addition, the personal bonus for me is that Warner--as an old childhood neighbor, friend, and schoolmate--is one of those re-secured connections that provide additional incentive for my own participation in MSSA.

Just one last thought: We will be generating nominations for future MSSA Officers and Board of Directors at this year's MSSA Business meeting. Please give some thought to potential candidates you might suggest. If you are unable to the meeting, names can be submitted to me (shepherd@oakland.edu) or to Lynne Payne (PayneLR@ldschurch.org).

Montreal MSSA Program

Beautiful Montreal is the location of this year’s MSSA conference, held in conjunction with the SSSR and RRA meetings. Montreal’s old world charm provides a lovely backdrop for a conference that features even more diversity than usual. The complete SSSR - RRA program provides all of the session details and registration information; you can obtain one from Lynn Payne (801/240-3990) or by email at <paynelr@chq.byu.edu> or from the SSSR office (Sociology Department, Purdue Univ., 1365 Stone Hall, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1365).

In addition to the annual breakfast/business session, there are three paper sessions and the Glenn M. Vernon Memorial Lecture. Most of the MSSA-related sessions occur on Saturday, Nov. 7. For your convenience, they are listed here:

MSSA cosponsored sessions

MSSA Breakfast, Saturday, Nov. 7, 7:00 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7, 8:00 a.m.
Perspectives on Mormonism (Grant Underwood, Organizer)
Trends in American Religion, with Special Reference to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Saints, James T. Duke
Light-Mindedness Verses Lightheartedness: Conflicting Conceptions of Laughter Among Latter-day Saints, Diana Mahony
The Presence and Value of Religious Icons Among Catholic, Latter-day Saint, and Pentecostal University Students: A Descriptive Study, Ronald Jackson,
Mormon Church Influences in Taiwan, Richard B. Stamps

Saturday, Nov. 7, 9:45 a.m.
Mormonism and the Canadian Experience (Merlin Brinkerhoff, Organizer)
Mormonism in Quebec: A North American Challenge, Dean Lauder
The Impact of Communal Property Act on the Hutterite colonies of Alberta, Max Stanton
Mormonism in Canada: A Conflict of Interest? Clyde Forsberg

Saturday, Nov 7, 3:00 p.m.
The Glen M. Vernon Lecture (Gary Shepherd, Organizer)
Working Toward Zion in the 21st Century, Warner Woodworth,

Sunday, Nov. 8, 8:00 a.m.
Constructing Mormonism on the Margins (David Knowlton, Organizer)
Mormon Intellectuals: Living on the Boundary, O. Kendal White & Daryl White
Ministering Angels and Eunuchs for Christ: Being Mormon in the Sexual Margins, Richley Crapo
The Hyphenated Identities of Gay Mormons, Bob Christensen
Mormonism and the New Age: Constructing Religion from Below, David Knowlton

Other Mormon-related papers throughout the conference:
Mormonism, Pluralism and the Transformation of Religious Devotion among Latter-day Saints, Rick Phillips
Combining Sainthood and Sisterhood: Family, Friends and Faith Amongst Mormon Women, Lori Beaman
Voice from the Dust: A Literary Analysis of the Book of Mormon, Walter Krajewski

Other work at the conference by MSSA members:
Marie Cornwall is convener and discussant of a session on The Interpretation and Transmission of Religious Symbols

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Monograph Series
Remember that a new LDS monograph series has been announced. The South Florida-Rochester-St. Louis Studies in Religion and the Social Order (Scholars Press) announces a new subseries: Studies of Latter-day Saint Religion. Up to three monograph titles a year focusing on any aspect of Latter-day Saint religion but particularly how and why it is significant for culture, society, and the scholarly studies of religion generally will be published in this series. Inquiries or manuscript submissions should be addressed to: Danny L. Jorgensen, Editor, Studies of Latter-day Saint Religion, Department of Religious Studies, University of South Florida, 4202 East Fowler Avenue, CRP 107, Tampa, FL 33620.

Dues
MSSA dues are now payable. Please send a check to MSSA, in care of Lynn Payne (Research Information Division, 18th Floor, 50 E. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150) to keep your membership current. Details are provided on the reminder slip included with this newsletter.

Newsletter Help
Nominations are now being accepted for the position of MSSA newsletter editor. Duties include preparing the basic copy and coordinating duties with the MSSA president and treasurer. It typically requires 6 - 8 hours twice per year. Contact one of the following people to submit your nomination: Gary Shepherd 248/370-2427 <shepherd@oakland.edu>; Mike Nielsen 912/681-5344 <mnielsen@gasou.edu>; Lynn Payne 801/240-3990 <paynelr@chq.byu.edu>; Daryl White
1997 - 1998 BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATE

[Editor’s note: This bibliography of 1997 and 1998 Mormon social science references is provided to us by Armand Mauss and Dynette Reynolds. We are indebted to them for compiling and generously sharing these references.]


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