



NEWSLETTER

MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Volume 39.5 No. 3



Maurine Carr Ward makes announcement

MHA ANNOUNCES THIRD ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF MORMON HISTORY

The Provo conference was exciting in many ways and one special event was announced with great enthusiasm by Maurine Carr Ward, council member and publication committee chair. MHA has reached the long awaited goal of publishing three annual issues of the *Journal*. Editor Lavina Anderson is still cheering the event. Check the announcement on the newsletter back page.

Donald Q. Cannon elected MHA President



Donald Q. Cannon MHA President

During the annual MHA business meeting, held in conjunction with the May 2004 Provo conference, Donald Q. Cannon was elected president of MHA for the year 2005. He will be directing the affairs of MHA, and the planning for the 2005 conference to be held in Vermont.

Don is a professor of LDS Church history and doctrine at Brigham Young University. He and his wife

JoAnn live in Orem, Utah.

Start saving your dollars, schillings, pounds, pesos, guilders, and yen because it's coming. . .

. . . the 2005 Vermont MHA Conference

will be held May 26-29, 2005 at the Killington Grand Hotel. We will celebrate Joseph Smith, his life and legacy; the 200th anniversary of his birth, and in addition the 40th anniversary of the founding of MHA.

Speakers will include Tanner lecturer Charles L. Cohen, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Richard L. Bushman, Professor emeritus, Columbia University, considered the foremost authority on the life and history of Joseph Smith.

Weave together Church and American history with a pre-conference tour to Fort Ticonderoga and other museums; and a post-conference tour to the sights of Boston. Walk the Freedom Trail, experience a Pilgrim's feast at Plimouth Plantation, dine at Longfellow's Wayside Inn, learn about pesky patriots, and hear Salem witch stories. **PLAN NOW!**

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS INSTALLED



Philip L. Barlow was installed as President-Elect and will begin his term as President following the 2005 annual meeting in Vermont.



William P. MacKinnon will serve on the council for three years. His current assignment is Chair of the Fund-raising Committee.



Sarah (Sally) Barringer Gordon also serves for three years and her current assignment is Chair of the Liaison Committee.



*Mormon History
Association*

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Volume 39.5

No. 3

President's Message

The Provo MHA Conference left me physically exhausted, but mentally refreshed. The formal sessions, the field trips and the plenary sessions caused me to think deeply about several things: history, Mormon history and the Mormon History Association.

As I contemplated the current situation I came to the conclusion that we live in an age of anti-history. People want to live exclusively in the present and their lives are directed toward recreation and entertainment and away from reflection. Public schools, universities and other schools offer far fewer history courses than they did before. In reading tastes, the public seems infinitely more interested in fiction than history. Even in government, policies are crafted without reference to historical precedent. This condition is especially sad because history has such a wide range of intrinsic value. We can't fully understand the present without a study of the past. Commenting on the general value and worth of history Cicero said:

History is
the witness of the times
the torch of truth
the life of memory
the teacher of life
the message of antiquity.

In harmony with Cicero and in opposition to the anti-historical trends of our time stand the members of the Mormon History Association. Almost every activity conducted by the MHA promotes the cause of history and historical thinking. The success of the Provo conference is a reflection of this strong commitment to history. Let me illustrate with some statistics. 648 people attended the conference. A survey completed by those in attendance in Provo indicated that most were favorably impressed with the quality of the scholarly papers given in the formal sessions. Furthermore, at any given time, nearly 60% of attendees participated in formal sessions where papers were presented. Of course, support for history is engendered by informal discussions in the hallways, at dinner tables and hotel rooms of the convention center.

As members of the Mormon History Association we recognize the value and purpose of history. This common interest in the Mormon past unites all of us, whether Utah Mormons, members of the Community of Christ or others from outside the Restoration tradition. We all share an enthusiasm for Mormon history.

This interest has helped in the tremendous production of items related to Mormon history. There has been an astonishing flood of material concerning the Mormon past. Research and publication in this field has steadily increased over the years. Evidence of this historical enterprise is the massive bibliography, *Studies in Mormon History* prepared by James Allen, Ronald Walker and David Whittaker and published by The University of Illinois Press. In its 1152 pages of double column, small type faced entries one finds a treasure trove of published sources related to Mormon history. The entries for plural marriage, for example, occupy twelve pages. Another recent book, a historiography, titled *Excavating Mormon Pasts* provides striking evidence of this remarkable flowering of Mormon historical writing. Containing interpretive essays on the historiography of Mormon studies for the past half century, this book contains 394 pages and was published by Kofford Books.

Truly Mormon history is alive and well under the auspices of the Mormon History Association!

Don Cannon

2005 VERMONT CONFERENCE

Call for Papers

Joseph Smith: His Life and Legacy

In recognition of the bicentennial of Joseph Smith's birth, the theme "Joseph Smith: His Life and Legacy" has been chosen for the May 26-29, 2005, conference. The Program Committee solicits submissions of presentations that focus on the life of Joseph Smith (1805-1844), including but not limited to his roles as a founding prophet, civic leader, friend, and family member. Papers may also address early Mormon doctrine, the social and cultural history of early Mormonism, and relations with host societies. Submissions that trace Mormonism to its social, cultural, and religious roots in early America and Europe are also welcome. The theme of the legacy of Joseph Smith is open to inquiries located in a more contemporary setting, such as histories of the faiths which claim him as their founder, the implications of his doctrinal preaching, fictional works, or celebrations of his memory. Because the conference will be held in Vermont near the Joseph Smith birthplace, papers which consider the role of historic sites in Mormon memory are also solicited. Proposals that do not address the theme explicitly will also be considered.

Due to a growing number of submissions for MHA meetings, the Program Committee prefers proposals of full panels of three papers and a commentator.

To assist you in forming a panel, we will create an electronic bulletin board at the MHA web site where you can post your paper topic and make inquiries. We urge you to incorporate a diversity of presenters on your panels, looking outside your circle of colleagues to incorporate those who may approach the topic from a new angle or who may be at a different stage of their careers. We especially encourage innovative sessions, such as book roundtables or panel discussions on the state of the field. Of course, we will also consider single-paper proposals. For all proposals, please attach Proposal Form (available very soon at www.mhahome.org) to your document.

The deadline for all proposals is October 1, 2004. Proposals should be mailed to the Program Committee Chair, Susan Sessions Rugh, History Department, 323 KMB, Provo, UT 84602-4446. Electronic proposals may also be sent, by the deadline, to susan_rugh@byu.edu (underscore after Susan). Updated information about the process will be available on the MHA web site. Inquiries may be made to any member of the program committee. We expect notifications of acceptance or rejection to be mailed by January 1, 2005.

MHA PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

- Chair: • Susan S. Rugh, Associate Professor of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
- Tona Hangen, Lecturer, American Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
 - Richard N. Holzapfel, Associate Professor of Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
 - Richard I. Kimball, Assistant Professor of History, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
 - Lachlan Mackay, Historic Sites Coordinator, Community of Christ, Kirtland, Ohio
 - Mark Staker, Senior Curator, Museum of Church History and Art, Salt Lake City, Utah

REFLECTIONS ON THE PROVO CONFERENCE . . .

I'm not sure what the worshippers at my church thought when I announced at the end of Mass, 'I'll be away this week, communing with the Saints.' I was not sure what to expect myself. After several years of personal interest in Mormon history, the fact that one of the members of my congregation is an MHA member convinced me it was time to join MHA and to attend the convention in Provo, my first such attendance.

"Returning, I am left with three 'senses': A sense of how little I know. Not a bad thing – a sense of humility is the prerequisite for all true learning. After all my reading and pilgrimages in connection with the history of the Saints, the banquet of topics spread out before me brought home how I had just begun with the appetizers of Mormon history, a history not my own. A lifetime of study and reflection waits ahead.

"A sense of wonder. As a Catholic priest, I study Mormon history because it seems to be an unfolding of Pentecost and the saga of the early Christians all over again. I came away from the convention with a renewed perception that what I tell people about the Catholic Church is true also for this people: it's not just a Church, it is a culture and a way of life. To see, in the panopoly of

matters discussed, how this faith has pervaded every aspect of the lives of its adherents, renews my appreciation of how necessary it is for my own Church to develop and maintain its culture.

"A sense of belonging and not belonging. There was never a question of feeling unwelcome at the gathering of MHA. Everyone was gracious and inviting. I was happy to win the banquet centerpiece, the portrait of the Prophet Joseph Smith etched in glass, which I display now in my office at the headquarters of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle. Sitting under the trees at Manti, listening to Paul Anderson enthusiastically describe the glories of the renovation of the temple there, I wanted to say, 'I can't wait to go inside' – but I know I can't. Alongside the perduring graciousness, there is the realization that I will remain one who cannot enter fully into the culture of a people for whom this history is family history. That is an important perspective to bring to Mormon history. Looking forward to Killington, I am grateful there is room under the MHA tent for the sojourner as well as the resident."

Father Paul Pluth, Seattle, Washington

(continued on page 4)

For me, MHA 2004 opened in the bowels of Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library, at L. Tom Perry Special Collections. The 'stuff' of history served as an appropriate backdrop, as documents, rare books, photographs, artifacts, and poems form the work of history and critical analysis in which we are about to embark.

"Location and physical architecture meant everything. From the shadow of majestic Mt. Timpanogos and the tunnel of trees along the Provo River for the first annual Dean May Memorial Run. . . to dinner at the restored Brigham Young Academy building; from nineteenth-century structures of Sanpete County, to the Gothic steeples of the Provo Tabernacle, the sites and spirits of the past mingled with the present. . . it was a delight to peer around the columns of the Academy ballroom to watch Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's presentation and to examine carefully the repieced Fourteenth Ward quilt.

Location meant more than the mere physical presence of curious architecture; the commingling of people created a whole new locality for me. As a fledgling scholar, my heart jumped to be on the same bus as Kathryn Daynes and hear her talk about plural marriage in Sanpete County, or to look across the banquet room and catch a glimpse of Maureen Ursenbach Beecher at the next table. People whose names appear on the covers of the books and in the journals lining my shelf or whom I met at MHA last year, have become friends. I loved listening to Jan Shipps talk excitedly about her experience at the graduate student reception. To have Laurel Ulrich attend my session and make meaningful comments on my paper was a personal highlight I will never forget. And to participate in conversations extending well beyond the walls of scheduled sessions meant that I had actually entered the scholarly discussion my graduate professors had described.

The Cultural Landscape of MHA 2004 was physical as well as personal. With seasoned scholars, students, and history buffs, I re-discovered a connection with people who share a similar passion for Mormon history. In that spirit of camaraderie, I found the energy to press forward in the work and to draw upon the relationships I've forged."

Jenny Reeder, Provo, Utah

Historians like archives. They are usually quiet spaces filled with old letters, books, broadsides, diaries, and other types of handwritten or printed materials. I have spent many hours in these wonderful places researching the past, basking in the solitude of discovery and learning. Many historians, in fact, would rather be researching in dusty archives than writing in sterile offices.

"Traditionally, documents have been the historian's diet. Recently, however, a growing number of scholars have found great meaning and value in the study of material artifacts. Historical objects, things you can hold and examine, are increasingly working their way into the writings and sources of historians. I have even dabbled in the study of material culture myself in graduate school.

"So I was excited to learn that material culture would feature prominently at the Provo conference. And it did. My eyes were opened to the value of studying quilts, pots, ceramics, seer stones, Native American gorgets, and various forms of art. I was impressed how so many presenters attempted to use historical artifacts, rather than just relying on traditional historical sources to buttress their arguments and illuminate their claims. I was invited to touch and feel evidence in several of the sessions I attended as it was passed around the room. This was a new experience for me at a historical

conference.

"The Provo conference was also meaningful to me because of the number of younger students and scholars who participated on the program and attended the proceedings. I appreciated the efforts of many senior scholars who said hello and made an effort to make me and my younger peers feel welcomed. At the second annual student reception, several distinguished historians shared their thoughts on the future of Mormon Studies and hints for graduate school with us students. I know they had many other obligations to fulfill and lots of other friends to visit with but they spent their evening with us. And we appreciated their company.

"Kudos to MHA for once again organizing a wonderful conference and for making all feel at home. I'm beginning to worry less and less about the "graying" of the Mormon History Association as I see the promise the younger generation holds."

Reid Neilson, Carrboro, North Carolina

MHA in Provo gave me a myriad of special experiences. I was especially looking forward to spending 'A Day With Porter Rockwell' because of family connections to the old codger. My husband's great-great-grandfather was a station boy for 'Old Port' in Lehi. Michael Molen also herded cattle for Port on the summer range of Castle Valley. We brought our two grandchildren, Rachel and Daniel, along on the field trip in hopes they might feel a connection to their past. I think they did.

"Sanpete County also has a connection to my Danish ancestry and my mother grew up in Axtell, now only a ghost of the community that once existed. It was a treat to be invited into the homes of Spring City; especially Orson Hyde's former home. The aroma of fresh baked chocolate chip cookies filled the air enticing us in to hear the story of the modern owners. Spring City really does allow us to look through a time tunnel to a world many of us know only superficially. Paul Anderson shared some of the harrowing and wonderful experiences of remodeling the Manti Temple. I certainly have a greater reverence for that marvelous edifice. My husband's ancestor, John Lowry helped settle Manti and my mother was baptized in the Manti Temple.

"Freezing on the steps of the Provo Tabernacle as we sang 'O My Father' will be remembered in future MHA meetings.

"Oh yes, I attended sessions as well. Jill M. Derr always enlightens me with new insights and glimpses into a Church that in many ways is unrecognizable today. L. Gilbert Bradshaw gave me a new perspective on the importance of the temple ritual to many early Saints. What an interesting list of 'Holy Places' for receiving those rites so unique to the Mormon people.

"Have you thought of the DUP Museum in SLC as 'Utah's Attic'? Kari Main took us on a visual tour of the relics kept there and left us wondering if DUP's declining membership will be able to continue the memory-keeping mission they adopted in 1901.

"Lynde Mott 'wowed' us with her detailed Sarah Kimball costume and beautiful paintings of the Nauvoo Relief Society women. What a privilege to enjoy such a visual feast up close.

"I missed seeing the Jorgensens as well as Tony and Marilyn Larson. We were shocked to learn that Tony passed in June after a struggle with cancer.

"I always return home from MHA with an expanded understanding of our common restoration history as well as memories of new acquaintances. Hats off to the planning committee for another memorable event."

Julie Molen, Auburn, Washington

MHA Book and Article Awards

MHA Best Book Award - \$1,500

Armand Mauss

All Abraham's Children, Changing Mormon Conceptions of Race and Lineage

University of Illinois Press

Smith-Pettit Best First Book Award - \$1,000

Ethan Yorgason

Transformation of the Mormon Cultural Region

University of Illinois Press

Turner-Bergera Best Biography Award - \$1,000

Alan K. Parrish

John A. Widtsoe, a Biography Deseret Book

T. Edgar Lyon Best Article of Year Award - \$300

Paul H. Peterson and

Ronald W. Walker

"Brigham Young's Word of Wisdom Legacy"

BYU Studies, Vol. 42, No. 3 & 4, 2003

J. Talmage Jones Awards of Excellence - \$500

(\$250 ea.)

William P. MacKinnon (For both articles)

"Epilogue to the Utah War: Impact and Legacy"

Journal of Mormon History, Vol. 29, No. 2

"Like Splitting a Man up His Backbone: The Territorial Dis-
memberment of Utah, 1850-1896"

Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 71, No. 2

Mark L. Staker

"Thou Art the Man: Newell K. Whitney in Ohio"

BYU Studies, Vol. 42, No. 2, 2003

Leonard J. Arrington Award

Jessie L. Embry



Armand L. Mauss (R) receiving the Best Book Award from Doug Alder, presenter (C). Liz Dulany (L) represents the University of Illinois Press, publisher.



Paul H. Peterson (L) and Ronald W. Walker (C) receiving the Best Article Award from Ken Godfrey (R), presenter.

Christensen Best Documentary Award - \$700

Charles M. Hatch & Todd M. Compton, eds.

A Widow's Tale, The 1884-1896 Diary of

Helen Mar Kimball Whitney

Utah State University Press

Thomas Rice King Best Family or Community History Award - \$500

William G. Hartley

Stand by my Servant Joseph, the Story of the Joseph Knight Family and the Restoration

Deseret Book and the Smith Institute, Brigham Young University

Juanita Brooks Best Graduate Paper - \$400 ea.

David Howlett

University of Missouri

- Kansas City

"The RLDS Church and Late Twentieth-Century American Spiritual Transformations"



David Howlett (L) receiving the Best Graduate Paper award from Alexander Baugh (R), presenter.

Patrick Q. Mason, Uni-

versity of Notre Dame

"God and the People:

Theodemocracy in Nineteenth-Century

Mormonism."

Juanita Brooks Best Undergraduate Paper - \$300

Julina Magnusson, Brigham Young University

"The Effect of the Utah War on Mormon Emigration"

Certificate of Merit - \$100

Douglas Geilman

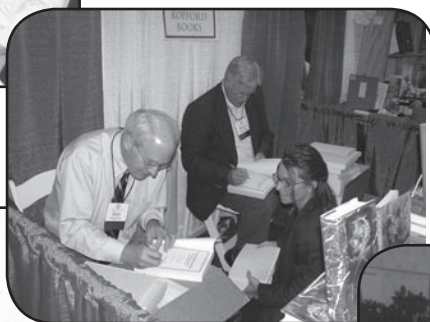
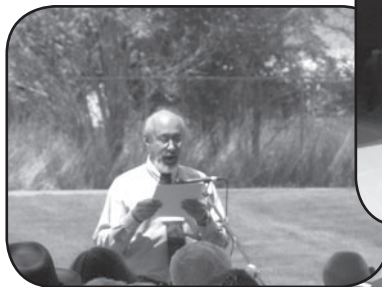
Previously awarded at the Brigham Young University Annual Religious Student Symposium.

Thomas L. Kane Award

Jere Krakow, Superintendent, and Kay Threlkeld, Data Base Administrator National Trails System, National Parks Service.

For their important contribution to the mapping, marking, preserving, and protecting the Mormon Pioneer National History Trail from Iowa to Utah.

Sights and Sounds of Provo...



... more Sights and sounds of Provo



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POWER, GLORY, AND PUNCTUATION!

The *Journal of Mormon History* is looking for volunteer editors and/or proofreaders to share the delights of publishing three issues a year, starting in 2005. No experience is necessary. Training, tutoring, and mentoring will be provided; but candidates must have access to a computer.

Job description: Staff editors will usually edit one article per issue, and proofread at least one edited manuscript and typeset page proofs as well (total of nine articles at various stages).

If you're interested, please contact Lavina Fielding Anderson, <lavina@elavina.org> or send a note about your interest to 1519 Roberta Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. It will be helpful to know reading interests, writing experience (if any), and editing background (if any), also the word processing program with which you are most familiar.

JWHA ANNUAL MEETING September 23-26, 2004

Jan Shipps, Program Chair and JWHA President-elect writes, "*The Spatial and Metaphorical Geography of the Restoration* is the theme for the 32nd annual meeting of the JWHA that will be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This theme is designed to direct the attention of this gathering to the character of the Restoration that gave rise to the Community of Christ as well as to the places where and the culture in which the Restoration has found and continue to find a home. Papers on a variety of other topics in the history of the Reorganization will also be presented."

The conference will be held in the newly renovated and renamed Council Bluffs Ramada Inn.

Visit us online at www.jwha.info.

American Historical Association 2005 Annual Meeting January 6-9, 2005

Events will be held in the Washington State Convention Center, the Sheraton Seattle, and the Westin Seattle.
stune@historians.org

**44th Annual WHA Conference
October 13-16, 2004
Las Vegas, Nevada
The Riviera Hotel & Casino
"Representing the West
in Image and Record"**

**45th Annual WHA Conference
2005 Call for Papers
Phoenix, Arizona
October 12-15, 2005**

For the 45th annual meeting of WHA at the Camelback Inn in Phoenix on October 12-15, 2005, the program committee invites the submission of individual papers, roundtable discussions, panels, and sessions relating to "Western Traditions and Transitions: Cultural Diversity and Demographic Change."

www.unm.edu/~wha/conf/2005