



Springfield Conference Report

Over 450 people attended the 2009 annual conference of the Mormon History Association in Springfield, Illinois. Attendees came from coast to coast, Canada, with one member even coming from Thailand. Attendee Debra Marsh reported that: Every year I look forward to the Mormon History Conference. I get to travel to some place fun, spend time with my husband, learn new things, see a few of my favorite people, and make new friends. This year's conference was no exception. Having never been to Springfield before, I particularly enjoyed the Lincoln museum and tomb. Nauvoo, of course, is always amazing, and my time spent there is never regretted (even when my husband gets asthma in the horse drawn carriage).

As for the sessions, one of my favorites was Darius Gray and Margaret Young's showing of their film *Nobody Knows: The Untold Story of Black Mormons*. I am grateful for the insight this film gave me about the difficulties some of my brothers and sisters in the gospel face. Hands down,



*Kathryn M. Daynes, President presents the Thomas L. Kane Award to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke and Illinois General Assembly Representative Daniel J. Burke
Dean Williams Productions, Springfield, Illinois*

though, the best part of any conference is always the people. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it happen and to those who attended. You are what make these conferences amazing!

Another highlight of the conference was the awards. The Thomas L. Kane Award was presented to Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne M. Burke and Illinois General Assembly Representative Daniel J. Burke. The Burkes (brother and sister-in-law) spear headed legislation in the Illinois General Assembly to apologize for the expulsion of Mormons from Illinois in the 1840s. In her acceptance speech Justice Burke said: "I accept [the award] with friendship, the friendship which my husband, Ed, and I have found among so many Latter-day

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On the Road with "May" the MHA Seer Stone

During the 2002 Mormon History Association Conference at Tucson, Arizona, outgoing MHA President Dean May instituted a new MHA tradition—the passing of a MHA Presidential Seer Stone at the moment of presidential succession rather than a gavel.

Former LDS Church Historian Leonard Arrington was Dean May's mentor. As a result, Dean made a pilgrimage to the farm where Leonard Arrington grew up in Idaho and selected a rock to serve as MHA's Presidential Seer Stone. Through a mixture of self-aware humor and a reflection of an authoritative cultural memory, this stone now serves as the token of MHA presidential power.

At the closing of this year's presidential banquet, Passing President Kathryn Daynes placed the MHA Seer Stone into my hands. Upon its receipt, I prayed I might serve our association honorably this coming year. I also experienced a profound sense of appreciation for MHA's wonderfully diverse membership.

My first thought was to place the Presidential Seer Stone in the Community of Christ Archives vault in Independence, Missouri, where it would be held safely throughout the coming year. I will need to have the Seer Stone at hand when it comes time to pass it to William MacKinnon, my successor. But upon reflection, I realized the Seer Stone isn't mine to squirrel away—it belongs to the MHA membership, both past and present. Why not extend this wonderful tradition? The Stone ought to be freed to share with the Association this coming year.

So, I have been thinking about ways to share the Seer Stone both physically and virtually. MHA membership has grown and broadened over the years. It now includes individuals from diverse backgrounds and expansive viewpoints. I invite all who are interested to help extend MHA Seer Stone tradition.

Following MHA, initially my business took me not home to Independence, Missouri, but to Ohio, where I grew up. While there I thought, "I should shoot some pictures of friends holding the Seer Stone." Also, "I'll be traveling to Salt Lake City for the November MHA Council meeting. Why not take the Seer Stone along and get some pictures of it with MHA members?" "We might even be able to send pictures of the Stone virtually via the Internet with people who are traveling to places I won't be able to visit physically."

This sounds like a lot of fun. I invite MHA members to print the attached picture of the Stone then shoot your own pictures holding it

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Ronald E. Romig

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or passing it to a friend in front of your favorite travel destinations this coming year. And, as the 2010 Conference theme, "The Home and the Homeland," is especially intended to encourage young adult scholars to participate in the 2010 Conference, I hope young adults will help ensure that the MHA Presidential Seer Stone visits many interesting places this year.

For this to work well, the Seer Stone needs to have a name. By the powers vested in me, I dub the MHA Presidential Seer Stone "May," in honor of Dean May, the originator of the concept of the MHA Seer Stone.

Please help "May" virtually tour the world this coming year. Post your pictures on your websites and blogs. Also, forward pictures to me at rromig@cofchrist.org and we will share your photographs on my Facebook page and in the MHA Newsletter.

I also invite your suggestions for ideas about ways together we may extend the MHA Seer Stone tradition. Thank you very much for your participation.

Continued best wishes,

Ron Romig

MHA President 2009-2010



*Richard Howard holding
MHA Seer Stone*



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Saints. It has been a great gift to our South side Irish sensibilities."

"Ed's remarkable passion for history has a habit of raising the lights of public awareness to the blind spots of history – none more sorrowful than the events that led to the great journey from Nauvoo to the Great Salt Lake. He always reminds me that – remembering the past gives power to the present. That certainly has been true for us. Your friendship is proof of that."

"Perhaps our most memorable moment in travels to Utah came when we were received by the late President Gordon B. Hinckley, several years ago, and placed in his hands the instrument of regret from the Illinois General Assembly. I can tell you that the forces of history were palpable at the moment. It was a powerful expression of grace. Today, it remains a memory we will always keep close to our hearts."

The Burkes went on to say that of all their many accomplishments the apology from the Illinois General Assembly was one of the most satisfying and generated the most response from the public.

Moving?

In order to keep receiving your newsletters and journals please send address, telephone or E-mail updates to:

mha_slc@msn.com

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2008 Mormon History Association Award Winners

The Mormon History Association presented the following awards at the annual conference to encourage and foster the highest ideals in scholarly research and publication.

LEONARD J. ARRINGTON AWARD

Edward Leo Lyman

MHA BEST BOOK AWARD

Ronald W. Walker, Richard E. Turley, Jr. and Glen M. Leonard, *Massacre at Mountain Meadows*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

SMITH-PETTIT BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD

William P. MacKinnon, *At Sword's Point: A Documentary History of the Utah War to 1858*. Norman, Okla.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 2008.

STEVEN F. CHRISTENSEN BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Dean C. Jessee, Mark Ashurst-McGee, and Richard L. Jensen. *The Joseph Smith Papers: Journals, vol. 1, 1832-1839*. Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Press, 2008.

ELLA TURNER-ELLA BERGERA BEST BIOGRAPHY AWARD

William B. Smart, *Mormonism's Last Colonizer: The Life and Times of William H. Smart*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2008.

Gary Topping, *Leonard J. Arrington: A Historian's Life*. Norman, Oklahoma: Arthur H. Clark Co., 2008.

THOMAS R. KING FAMILY- COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARD

Wendel Walton with Hilary Hendricks, *The Family of John Birch & Ann Craven in the Nineteenth Century*. Authors, 2008.

GERALDINE MCBRIDE WOODWARD AWARD FOR BEST PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL MORMON HISTORY

Mark L. Grover, *A Land of Promise and Prophecy: Elder A. Theodore Tuttle in South America, 1960-1965*. Millennial Press, 2008.

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST

UNDERGRADUATE PAPER
Benjamin E. Park, "'Build, Therefore, Your Own World': Ralph Waldo Emerson, Joseph Smith, and American Antebellum Thought," undergraduate, Brigham Young University.

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST

GRADUATE PAPER
Matthew Bowman, "Liturgy As History: An Approach to Mormon Worship, 1830-2008," graduate student, history, Georgetown University.

LESTER E. BUSH BEST THESIS AWARDS

Zachary Ray Jones, "Conflict Amid Conversion: Mormon Proselytizing in Russian Finland, 1860-1914," College of William and Mary, January 2008.

Samuel A. Smith, "The Wasp in the Beehive: Non-Mormon Presence in 1880s Utah," Pennsylvania State University, August 2008.

GERALD E. JONES DISSERTATION AWARD

Mark Ashurst-McGee, "Zion Rising: Joseph Smith's Early Social and Political Thought," Arizona State University, December 2008.

J. TALMADGE JONES AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Matthew Bowman, "The Crisis of Mormon Christology: History Progress, and Protestantism," *Fides Et Historia, Journal of the Conference on Faith and History* 40 (Summer/Fall 2008).

Samuel Brown, "The Translator and the Ghostwriter: Joseph Smith and W. W. Phelps," *Journal of Mormon History* 34 (Winter 2008).

T. EDGAR LYON AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR

J. Spencer Fluhman, "An 'American Mahomet': Joseph Smith, Muhammad, and the Problem of Prophets in Antebellum America," *Journal of Mormon History* 34 (Summer 2008).

THOMAS L. KANE AWARD

Anne M. Burke
and
Daniel J. Burke

For spearheading legislation in the Illinois General Assembly to apologize for the expulsion of Mormons from Nauvoo.

SPECIAL CITATIONS

Warren Archer
Brent Corcoran
G. Kevin Jones

Lavina Fielding Anderson
For their contributions to the *Journal of Mormon History*.

Newell Bringhurst

For serving as the MHA historian from 2002 to 2008.

2010 Independence Missouri Conference Call for Papers

The Home and the Homeland: Families in Diverse Mormon Traditions

The forty-fifth annual conference of the Mormon History Association will be held May 27-30, 2010, at the Kansas City Sports Complex Hotel in Kansas City, MO. It has been twenty-five years since the last MHA conference was held in Missouri. The 2010 theme, "The Home and the Homeland: Families in Diverse Mormon Traditions" recognizes the family as a central social and religious institution within Mormon traditions. Tanner Lecturer Catherine Brekus of the University of Chicago will address the topic of "Women in Early Mormonism."

Mormon traditions (also called Restoration traditions) have historically recognized the family and home as the spatial, social, and emotional place where men, women, and children become religious and moral people. Fatherhood and motherhood have been interpreted as religious, as well as biological and social roles.

Papers and panels on all aspects of the history and practice of family life in all Restoration traditions are welcomed. Since Independence, Missouri, serves as the "homeland" to dozens of Restoration traditions, we especially encourage papers that examine or compare lesser studied groups. Of special note, 2010 marks the sesquicentennial of Joseph Smith III's ordination as leader of the Community of Christ and the twenty-fifth anniversary of its first priesthood ordinations of women. Both events sparked controversy and caused the re-examination of how family roles shaped religious practices. Presenters could explore religious interpretation of the family, gender roles within the family, the Mormon religious experience within families, children and childhood, Mormon domestic architecture, or Mormon material culture.

MHA invites and actively seeks proposals for complete sessions, panels, and other presentations. While we encourage presentations related to the theme, we also welcome other proposals. While the Program Committee will give preference to complete two or three paper session proposals, individual paper proposals will be considered. Please send an abstract of the paper (no more than 300 words) that outlines your argument and the sources that will be used plus a short CV (no longer than two pages) for each speaker. Previously published papers will not be considered.

The deadline for proposals is **October 1, 2009**. Proposals should be sent by email to: mhameeting2010@gmail.com. Hard copies of proposals can also be sent to: Susanna Morrill, Lewis & Clark College, MSC 45, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd., Portland, OR 97219 or David Howlett, 222 E. Market St. Apt. 32, Iowa City, IA 52245. Notification for acceptance or rejection will be made by January 1, 2010. Additional instructions will be available on the MHA website at <http://mhahome.org>.

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Ardis E. Parshall
Independent Researcher,
Salt Lake City, UT



BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices
By
J. Michael Hunter

- Aird, Polly. *Mormon Convert, Mormon Defector: A Scottish Immigrant in the American West, 1848-1861*. Norman, Okla.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 2009.
- Bitton, Davis, and Thomas G. Alexander. *Historical Dictionary of Mormonism*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2008. 3rd ed.
- Brown, Matthew B. *A Pillar of Light: The History and Message of the First Vision*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant Communications, 2009.
- Howe, Susan Elizabeth, and Sharee Maxwell Bench. *Discoveries: Two Centuries of Poems by Mormon Women*. Provo, Utah: BYU Studies, 2009.
- Johnson, Janiece L. "Give It All Up and Follow Your Lord:" *Mormon Female Religiosity, 1831-1843*. Provo, Utah: BYU Studies, 2008. Publication of 2001 BYU Master's Thesis.
- Kimball, James N., and Kent Miles. *Mormon Women: Portraits & Conversations*. Salt Lake City: Handcart Books, 2009.
- Snyder, Lu Ann Taylor, and Phillip A. Snyder. *Post-Manifesto Polygamy: the 1899-1904 Correspondence of Helen, Owen, and Avery Woodruff*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 2009. Life Writings of Frontier Women Series.
- Taylor, John Arthur. *Clarence Dixon Taylor: His Life and Works*. Provo, Utah: Clarence Dixon Taylor Trust, 2009.
- Woods, Fred E. *When the Saints Came Marching In: A History of the Latter-Day Saints in St. Louis*. Orem, Utah: Millennial Press, 2009.

Selected Articles
by
Jennifer St Clair

- Barlow, Brent A. "Israel Barlow and the Founding of Nauvoo." *The Religious Educator* 10, no. 1 (2009): 11-20.
- Blakesley, Katie Clark. "'A Style of Our Own': Modesty and Mormon Women, 1951-2008." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 42, no. 2 (Summer 2009): 20-53.
- Brimhall, Sandra Dawn. "Friends at All Times: The Correspondence of Isaiah Moses Coombs and Dryden Rogers." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 77, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 151-165.
- Compton, Todd M. "The Big Washout: The 1862 Flood in Santa Clara." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 77, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 108-125.
- Duffy, John-Charles. "Mapping Book of Mormon Historicity Debates – Part 1: A Guide for the Overwhelmed." *Sunstone* 152 (January 2009): 46-61.
- Kimball, Richard. "Muscular Mormonism." *International Journal of the History of Sport* 25, no. 5 (April 2008): 549-579.

- Lyon, Joseph L., and David W. Lyon. "Physical Evidence at Carthage Jail and What It Reveals about the Assassination of Joseph and Hyrum Smith." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 4 (2008): 5-50.
- Oman, Nathan B. "'The Living Oracles': Legal Interpretation and Mormon Thought." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 42, no. 2 (Summer 2009): 1-19.
- Phipps, Kelly Elizabeth. "Marriage and Redemption: Mormon Polygamy In The Congressional Imagination, 1862-1887." *Virginia Law Review* 95, no. 2 (April 2009): 437-487.
- Woods, Fred. "Andrew Jenson's Illustrated Journey to Iceland, the Land of Fire and Ice, August 1911." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 4 (2008): 101-116.

ANDERSON HONORED AS SHE RETIRES AS JOURNAL EDITOR

Lavina Fielding Anderson retired at end of the Springfield Conference as editor of the *Journal of Mormon History* after eighteen years service to MHA. She was recognized as being a "force of nature" in establishing the *Journal of Mormon History* as a premier publication for both scholar and layman. Anderson became the *Journal's* fifth editor in 1991 and during her tenure oversaw the publication of more than forty issues. Under her stewardship, the *Journal* became a semiannual in 1992, a tri-annual in 2005, and a quarterly in 2008.

Executive director, Pat Scott presented Anderson with a special citation and read tributes by *Journal* executive committee members, Kahlile Mehr and Breck England. Anderson was recognized "as a master editor," whose encyclopedic knowledge, profound commitment, cheerful disposition, and compassion created a publication for the twenty-first century reflecting all aspects of the "grand mosaic." Anderson was also awarded a lifetime subscription to the *Journal of Mormon History*.

Exciting News We Are Going Green With Our Newsletter!!

The MHA Board voted at their spring meeting to distribute the *MHA Newsletter* online. This will start in January 2010. By distributing the *Newsletter* online we will not only conserve precious resources but save costs for the Association as well. We will also be able to increase the size of the *Newsletter* when necessary. At this time we would also like to know if the *Newsletter* is meeting your needs and what type of information you would like added to it. However, hard copies will be available upon request by contacting our office. **You will find the most current E-mail address that we have for you on your *Newsletter* mailing label. Please check it to make sure that it is correct. If there is not an E-mail address on the mailing label and you have one please let us know what it is. Send all corrections to mha_slc@msn.com.**

Position Announcement

The Hole in the Rock Foundation needs a project historian/researcher for the development of a new historic site. Funds have been secured and construction has begun on restoring Fort Bluff, terminus of the Hole in the Rock trail, San Juan County, Utah. Over 30,000 people have already visited the new site. Contact Doug Major at dlmajor@charter.net or view foundation goals at www.hirfoundation.org.

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