

Communal Societies

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Published by the Communal Studies Association

PURPOSE

The Board of Directors of the Communal Studies Association has authorized the annual publication of *Communal Societies* to provide an outlet for manuscripts representing original research and analysis of historic and current communal groups. The widest range of academic disciplines shall be represented. Authors are urged to write articles that will effectively transmit information across disciplines.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Communal Societies is published annually under the general sponsorship of the Communal Studies Association (CSA). The association offices are located at P.O. Box 122, Amana, IA, 52203. Other communication possibilities are: Voice and fax number: (319) 622-6446; Internet: csa@netins.net; Web site: <http://www.ic.org.csa>. The CSA executive secretary is Dr. Donald E. Janzen; Internet: djanzen@searnet.com.

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Books for review should be sent to Dr. Jonathan G. Andelson, Dept. of Anthropology, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112-0806.

Authors should prepare their manuscripts in accordance with the guidelines of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993). Endnotes should be numbered consecutively throughout the manuscript, using superscript, and produced in double-spaced format on separate pages following the text. Except for quotations, manuscripts should be written in English, although exceptional articles in other major languages will be considered.

Manuscripts should be submitted in two copies; they should be double-spaced. All articles undergo a process of evaluation by competent referees.

All authors are expected to submit manuscript copies on computer disc, utilizing Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. Authors alone are responsible for the content of their articles and will be asked, prior to publication, to certify that these present original work not published elsewhere.

Articles appearing in *Communal Societies* are abstracted and indexed in *Historical Abstracts*, *America: History and Life*, and *Religion Index Two: Multi-Author Works*.

BUSINESS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

All business and subscription correspondence should be addressed to Gina Walker, Library, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712; voice number: (812) 464-1896; Internet: gwalker@usi.edu

Annual membership in the CSA is currently: \$15 student, \$25 regular, \$25 community, \$50 sustaining, and \$50 institutional. Membership includes the annual issue of *Communal Societies*, the CSA newsletter (*Communique*), and the annual conference program. All changes of address must include both the old and the new address. Single copies of the journal are currently \$15 each. Copyright c 1999 by the Communal Studies Association.

Contents

FROM THE EDITOR

Articles

BRAD WHITSEL

Taking Shelter from the Coming Storm: The Millennial Impulse
of the Church Universal and Triumphant's Royal Teton Ranch

1

SORA H. FRIEDMAN

No Place Like Home: The Settling of Jersey Homesteads,
New Jersey

23

LYMAN TOWER SARGENT

The Ohu Movement in New Zealand: An Experiment in
Government Sponsorship of Communal Living in the 1970s

49

YAACOV OVED

Communes in the Twentieth Century

67

JOHN E. MURRAY AND METIN M. COSGEL

Regional Specialization in Communal Agriculture:
The Shakers, 1850-1880

73

GRAHAM MELTZER

Cohousing: Linking Community and Sustainability

85

PHILIP E. WEBBER

Jakob Sylvan's Preface to the Zoarite Anthology, *Die Wahre
Separation, oder die Wiedergeburt*, As an Introduction to
Un(der)studied Separatist Principles

101

Reviews

ELIZABETH A. DE WOLFE

Bodies of Life: Shaker Literature and Literacies

Etta M. Madden 129

LUCY JAYNE KAMAU

Les Icariens: The Utopian Dream in Europe and America

Robert P. Sutton 131

MIKE TYLDESLEY

Against the Wind: Eberhard Arnold and the Bruderhof

Markus Baum 134

Cover

The journal cover shows a harvest scene at the Zoar community (see the article by Philip Webber), circa 1890. Both men and women worked during the grain harvest. This is one of a series of photographs which were made into post cards and sold to visitors during the last years of the Zoar Society's existence. The photograph is provided courtesy of the Ohio Historical Society.

From the Editor

THIS ISSUE OF *COMMUNAL SOCIETIES* — my first as editor — includes a mix of articles dealing with historic and contemporary communal groups (both religious and secular) in various parts of the world. Also included is an article on the semi-communal cohousing movement.

We begin with Brad Whitsel's analysis of the Church Universal and Triumphant, a contemporary intentional community with a large following. The latter assemblage represents an interesting blend of political conservatism and New Age millennialism. Whitsel's article bears immediate relevance for life in the United States at the turn of the century due to the emergence of hundreds of survivalist groups.

Whitsel's piece is followed by two articles which deal with little-known government-funded communal attempts; one in the state of New Jersey (in the 1930s), and another in New Zealand (in the 1970s). Both communal experiments exhibit a social/political/economic vision which is far different from the ideology adhered to by members of the Church Universal and Triumphant.

Sora Friedman's study of the Jersey Homesteads development is an example of a New Deal program which targeted a particular ethno-religious group, in this case Jewish garment workers from New York City. Jersey Homesteads was the dream of Jewish agrarian socialists and bore some similarity to certain modern cohousing endeavors. The Communal Studies Association is proud to publish Friedman's article. An earlier rendition was the 1997 winner of the association's "starting scholar" award.

Lyman Tower Sargent's description and analysis of a Labour Party of New Zealand experiment in communalism follows. The Ohu movement was a New Deal-like attempt to fund community development in accordance with socialist as well as traditional Maori principles.

Sargent's article is followed by esteemed kibbutz advocate Yaacov Oved's address to the 1998 meeting of the International Communal Studies Association. Oved's statement is provided in essentially unedited form as it was presented. At the time Oved did not expect that his speech would be published but it is full of insightful reflection. In the form in which it has been

published, the speech gives the reader a good sense of the Oved persona as well a brief introduction to 20th century communalist endeavors in global perspective. There is also specific reference to contemporary tensions within the kibbutz movement in Israel.

The next article, economists John Murray and Metin Cosgel's work on the Shakers, deals with variance in agricultural practices between Shaker communities in different parts of the United States during the period 1850-1880.

Following this the journal introduces an article dealing with the modern cohousing movement with particular focus given to Southside Park Cohousing in Sacramento, California. Cohousing has indeed introduced a variety of semi-communal institutions into a modern America which has lost its traditional village-style moorings. This issue of *Communal Societies* concludes with Philip Webber's introduction and translation of an important document in the history of the Zoar Society.

It is fascinating to note the wide variety of academic departments represented by the contributors to this volume, showing once again, the integrative attraction of communal studies. Readers will note a highly abbreviated book review section in this issue. This is due to the present editor's commitment to fall publication deadlines. The subsequent issue will have an extended book review section.

As the new editor of the journal I welcome the submission of research papers which deal with all aspects of communal life. We are particularly interested — for the next issue — in articles which deal with millennial issues. That will be our first *fin de siecle* publication. But all prospective articles are welcome.

Rod Janzen

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