

In Memoriam
KARL CHRISTIAN SANDBERG

ON APRIL 26, 2000, Karl Sandberg passed away, at the age of 69, in St. George, Utah. He is mourned by his family, students, colleagues, and countless friends. Karl was a part of many communities—Mormon and academic—and he navigated these communities with congenial grace. He spent his childhood in Southern Utah. A French-speaking mission for the church sparked his life-long interest in French language, culture, and history. He received a PhD in French and Humanities from the University of Wisconsin in 1960. He was a respected teacher at several universities, including Duke, the University of Arizona, the University of Minnesota, and—for twenty-four years—Macalster College in St. Paul, Minnesota. His many published writings range widely—from popular French language textbooks and scholarly articles to a children's book and many, many poems.

Karl's learning had enormous breadth—he knew intellectual history and the history of religions. Parallel insights from American and European religious history often enriched his penetrating analyses of modern Mormonism. "Karl loved the Sunstone/Dialogue quest for religious truth," writes Todd Compton, "he loved the alternative voice community, and the articles he published were gracefully written, often witty, always thoughtful, expressing both deep faith and critical thought."

He was respected for his integrity, thoughtfulness, humor, and depth of character as well as for his intelligence and scholarly contributions. His bishop in St. Paul, Stephen Pusey, says, "His contributions were great but not always public. He had a good Christian heart, a noble soul." Along with his many academic achievements and his active participation in the Mormon "alternative voice" community, he was a devoted husband and father. His son David writes "We had a remarkable childhood. Dad was very much involved with the family." Karl is sorely missed by all who knew him. We are honored to publish in this issue two of his final poems.