

# AMONG THE MORMONS

## A Survey of Current Literature

*Edited by Ralph W. Hansen*

As we came to mid-1966 the scarcity of new publications which would be of interest to our readers gave this author some concern as to whether our survey of current literature would have enough substance to warrant inclusion in this issue. Opportunely a new title, *Are You Mormons "Ignoramuses?"* came to our attention and we realized that even if no other Mormon works were published this year (1966) it would not be an entirely lost year. Stephen G. Morgan asks the rhetorical question regarding Mormon intelligence (Salt Lake City, Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr., \$3.95) in an apparent effort to jog us into increased missionary activity. As a prelude to further examination of the year's literary output we might repeat Brother Morgan's question: "Are You Mormons 'Ignoramuses?'" The reader is invited to press on and come to his or her own conclusion.

The Church has continued to receive its share of national attention, and to capitalize on this potential market of readers two noteworthy books appeared in 1966. Robert F. Mullen's *The Latter-day Saints: the Mormon Yesterday and Today\** (Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, \$5.95) is the work of a sympathetic non-Mormon and has been well publicized in Church publications. This might be said to be a "company book." On the other hand a work not listed in the *Church News* is Wallace Turner's *The Mormon Establishment\** (New York, Houghton Mifflin Co., \$6.00) in which the author hands the Church bricks with his bouquets in a penetrating analysis of current Church affairs.

Biographical studies were particularly numerous this year, culminated by a reprint of the standard *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah* (Salt Lake City, Western Epics, Inc., \$5.00). In alphabetical order the biographies are: *Melvin J. Ballard: Crusader For Righteousness* (Bookcraft, \$3.50); *George Brooks, Artist in Stone* by Juanita Brooks (St. George, Utah, published by the author); *Oliver Cowdery: The Man Outstanding* (not an outstanding effort) by Joseph Hyrum Greenhalgh (Phoenix, Arizona: Chico Press, 1965, \$2.50); *John Hunt — Frontiersman: Stories and Life Sketches of John Hunt, His Wives, Mother, and Daughter* by Nattie Hunt Rencher (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, \$5.00); *J. Golden Kimball†* by Claude Richards (Bookcraft, \$3.95); and Albert R. Lyman, *The Edge of the Cedars; the Story of Walter C. Lyman and the San Juan Mission* (New York: Carlton Press).

President McKay is the subject of a limited biographical study by his sister Jeanette McKay Morrell, *Highlights in the Life of President David O. McKay†* (Deseret Book Co., \$4.95). While on the subject of President McKay,

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may we call your attention to a record produced by R. Don Oscarson for the B.Y.U. Communications Service Division. *The Voice of a Prophet* represents four of President McKay's discourses selected from tape recordings of his numerous addresses at General Conference and at B.Y.U. Devotional Assemblies (33 $\frac{1}{3}$  speed disc; no price information available at press time).

Subjects of additional biographies are *B. H. Roberts, A Biography*† by Robert H. Malen (Deseret Books, \$2.95); *Orrin Porter Rockwell: Man of God, Son of Thunder*\* by Harold Schindler (University of Utah, \$7.50); *George Romney and Michigan*\* by Richard C. Fuller (New York: Vantage Press, \$2.75); *Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet*\* by John J. Stewart (Salt Lake City: Mercury Publishing Co., \$4.00); and Brigham Young, one of eight men whose lives were subject to a study by Jonathan Hughes in *The Vital Few*\* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., \$6.95).

On the Utah scene Leonard J. Arrington has published his study *Beet Sugar in the West: The History of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, 1891-1966*† (Seattle: University of Washington Press, \$7.50); and Frank H. Jonas came out with a little volume on the late Douglas Stringfellow, *The Story of a Political Hoax*† (University of Utah Institute of Government). Of parochial interest are Mabel Harmer's *Our Utah Pioneers* (Deseret Book, \$2.95) and W. A. Raynor's *The Everlasting Spires; The Story of the Salt Lake Temple*\* (Deseret Books, \$2.95).

I am not sure the following work can be considered even parochial, but having taken a great deal of interest in Utah's neglected mining history while residing in fair Zion I feel constrained to mention *Nuggets From Mammoth* by Bessie Berry Toone (available from the author, Mammoth, Utah, \$3.50). If Mrs. Toone has included the stories I heard from the area's "old-timers" her book will be entertaining and enlightening. For those living far from home two recent (1965) centennial volumes may touch a responsive chord. *Memory Book to Commemorate Gunnison Valley's Centennial, 1859-1959* (available from Lamar H. Stewart, Gunnison) and *Our Own Sevier, Centennial History, 1865-1965* (Sevier County Commissioners, \$7.50) continue the excellent Utah tradition of publishing local history.

Of theological interest are James R. Clark's third volume of *Messages of the First Presidency* (covering 1885-1901, Bookcraft, \$4.50); Roy W. Doxey, *Zion in the Last Days* (Salt Lake City: Olympus, \$1.25) — Zion is Missouri and this work concerns itself with the expulsion and what must happen before the return; Gerrit de Jong, Jr., *The Gospel Today*† (Deseret Book, \$4.95); L.D.S. Institute of Religion, Logan, Utah, *The Annual Joseph Smith Memorial Sermons*† (2 volumes covering the addresses of 1943 through 1962); Truman G. Madsen, *Eternal Man*† (Deseret Book, \$2.00); Blaine R. Porter, *The Latter-day Saint Family, A Book of Selected Readings*† (Deseret Book, \$4.95); and W. Cleon Skousen, *The Fourth Thousand Years*† (Bookcraft, \$6.95). Not included in this survey were several new items on the Book of Mormon, i.e. an adaptation, a digest, and a chronology.

On the minus side of the ledger are three books critical of the Church for a variety of reasons. *I was a Mormon* by Einer W. Anderson (London: Oliphants, \$2.95, previously published in the U.S.) and *Meeting the Mor-*

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mons: *A Study of the Mormon Church in Scotland and Elsewhere* by J. Roy Paterson (Edinburgh: The Home Board of the Church of Scotland, 5s) are no doubt reactions to proselyting activities in Great Britain. The Paterson book is an answer to Mormonism after its "sudden" appearance in Scotland. What else is new, Roy? The Order of Aaron is in print again with a doctrinal book, *Purified as Gold and Silver* by Blanche W. Beeston (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, \$.95).

Reprints and new editions were also substantial last year and include some significant titles formerly unavailable or available only in expensive trade editions. Reprints are *Desert Saints* by Nels Anderson (Phoenix, \$2.95); Leonard J. Arrington, *Great Basin Kingdom* (Nebraska, \$2.40); Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-over District* (Harper Torchbooks, \$2.45); Wallace W. Elliott, *History of San Bernardino County, California* (from the 1883 edition, Riverside, Calif.: Riverside Museum Press, \$12.00); Norman F. Furniss, *The Mormon Conflict* (Yale, \$1.95); and Henry Inman, *The Great Salt Lake Trail* (from the 1898 edition, Minneapolis: Ross & Haines, 1966, \$8.75). A new edition of Stanley B. Kimball's *Sources of Mormon History in Illinois, 1839-48* . . . † (Southern Illinois University) is now available. Related to Kimball's work is a new study, *A Bibliography of Illinois Imprints, 1814-1858* by Cecil K. Byrd (University of Chicago Press, \$12.50). Byrd's work describes the products of Mormon presses in Illinois. A second edition of David E. Miller's *Hole in the Rock* also came out in 1966 (University of Utah, \$5.50).

Paperbacks and pamphlets produced three interesting titles, two of which were written by Ezra Taft Benson. Elder Benson's theme in *Strength for the Battle* (Bookcraft, \$.25) and *Internal Threat to the American Way of Life* (Bookcraft, \$.35) is political rather than theological. Bookcraft has also published Fletcher B. Hammon's *Geography of the Book of Mormon* (\$.60).

Works of fiction consist of three titles this year, Gordon J. Allred's *Valley of Tomorrow* † (Bookcraft), Paul Bailey's story of Chief Walker and the Mormons, *Hawk of the Mountains* (Westernlore Press, \$5.95), and John C. Murdock's *Under the Covenant: A Story of the Mormons* (New York: Vantage, \$7.50).

Perhaps by now the reader (as well as this writer) wishes that the bibliographic outpouring of the latter half of 1966 had not been so voluminous. Have courage — for we approach the end of our new book shelf with a look at works broadly concerned with the Great Basin. William H. Goetzman, *Exploration and Empire* (New York: Knopf, \$10.00); W. Eugene Hollon, *The Great American Desert, Then and Now* † (Oxford University Press, \$6.00); Howard Roberts Lamar, *The Far Southwest, 1846-1912; A Territorial History* (Yale, \$10.00); John Upton Terrell, *War for the Colorado River*, 2 vols. (Glendale, Colorado: Clark, \$17.50) all have the same thing in common — they cannot avoid the part played by Mormons in the evolution of the American West.

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## HUGH NIBLEY: A SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Louis Midgley

The name Hugh Nibley has become common coin of the Mormon realm. The household quality of the name in part depends upon the frequency with which his work appears in the *Improvement Era*. Since 1948 he is exceeded in regularity in the *Era* only by Beneficial Life. With the passing of B. H. Roberts, Nibley more than anyone else has assumed the role of defender of the Faith and the Saints. In some ways his many appearances in the pages of the *Era* have actually harmed his reputation in certain circles within the Church. Sometimes his work is rejected because he has become known as "Church writer" or he is discounted as merely an "apologist" for Mormonism. However, those who hold such opinions are not always aware of the extent of his contribution, most especially to scholarly journals, but even in the *Era* and other Church magazines, as well as those various other forms that reach primarily the Mormon audience. (Why is it, incidentally, that Deseret Book Company and Bookcraft do not list their titles in *Books in Print*?)

Nibley has surprisingly wide interests and remarkable capacities for originality; he is an indefatigable researcher, an adroit and witty writer (*The Mythmakers* is the only book I know with a funny table of contents). His craftsmanship and style as a writer, coupled with his knowledge and industry, have made him a powerful and sometimes biting social critic and defender of the Gospel. He really believes that the Gospel is true and has dedicated himself to its defense. He is singularly well equipped for his role in Mormon intellectual life. He regularly employs Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German, French, Russian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Coptic and even English in his research.

He has published five books and two pamphlets. The pamphlet, *No Ma'am, That's Not History* (1946), marks his entrance on the scene as an apologist. This pamphlet is a short, witty reply to Fawn Brodie. The second pamphlet, Nibley's lecture entitled *Writing and Publication in Graduate School* (Mimeographed, 1966, by the Brigham Young University Graduate School) contains his reflections on the scholarly enterprise and the state of scholarship in Mormon circles. The books are more substantial: *Lehi in the Desert and The World of the Jaredites* (1952), which in a somewhat different form appeared as two series in the *Era* between 1950 and 1952; *The World of the Prophets* (1st ed., 1954; 2nd ed., 1962), a series of radio talks given over KSL; *An Approach to the Book of Mormon* (1st ed., 1957; 2nd ed., 1964), which was originally a priesthood lesson manual; *The Mythmakers* (1961), a very amusing and significant effort to show the confusion in the ranks of the early critics of Joseph Smith; *Sounding Brass* (1963), a satirical reply to Irving Wallace's popular "story" of Brigham Young and Ann Elisa (wife number whatever-it-was). In the near future Nibley will publish his long-awaited study of the historicity of the Pearl of Great Price. This promises to be his best scriptural study.

However, Nibley's most significant and impressive publications are not those generally known by Mormons but essays and articles published in scholarly journals and most readily known and available to specialists (and this means, for the most part, people outside the Church).

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- 1942 "New Light on Scaliger," *Classical Journal*, XXXVII (1942), 291-295.
- 1945 "Sparsiones," *Classical Journal*, XL (1945), 515-543.
- 1949 "The Arrow, the Hunter, and the State," *Western Political Quarterly*, II (1949), 328-344. A study of the role of the marked arrow in ancient statecraft; his first essay on the origin of the state.
- 1951 "The Hierocentric State," *Western Political Quarterly*, IV (1951), 226-253. His second important study of the origin of the state.
- 1953 "The Unsolved Loyalty Problem: Our Western Heritage," *Western Political Quarterly*, VI (1953), 631-657. An examination of the problem of loyalty in the 4th century, with obvious significance for our own time.
- 1955 "Do History and Religion Conflict?" in *Great Issues Forum*, Series 2 (Religion), No. 5 (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1955), 22-39.
- 1956 "Victoriosa Loquacitas: The Rise of Rhetoric and the Decline of Everything Else," *Western Speech*, XX (1956), 57-82.
- 1959-60 "Christian Envy of the Temple," *Jewish Quarterly Review*, L (1959-60), 97-123, 229-240. A long study showing the various reactions of Christian theologians to the destruction of the Temple.
- 1961 "The Passing of the Church: Forty Variations on an Unpopular Theme," *Church History*, XXX (June 1961), 131-154. He presents forty different arguments for the apostacy in the lead article of the journal of the American Association of Church Historians. The readers will be interested in two letters commenting on Nibley's argument. See Hans J. Hillerbrand, "The Passing of the Church: Two Comments on a Strange Theme," *Church History*, XXX (1961), 481-482; and a defense of Nibley by R. M. Grant, "The Passing of the Church: Comments on Two Comments on a Strange Theme," *Church History*, XXX (1961), 482-483.
- 1965 "Qumran and the Companions of the Cave," *Revue de Qumran*, V (1951), 177-198.
- 1965 "The Expanding Gospel," *Brigham Young University Studies*, VII (1966), 3-27. An examination of Gospel themes in the literature of the ancient world.
- 1966 "Evangelium Quadraginta Dierum," *Vigiliae Christianae*, XX (1966), 1-24. A study of the tradition of the secret teaching of Jesus in the forty days after his resurrection.
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- 1948-49 "Baptism for the Dead in Ancient Time," IE, Vol. 51-52 (Dec. 1948-April 1949)
- 1950 "Lehi in the Desert," IE, Vol. 53 (Jan.-Oct. 1950).

- 1951-52 "The World of the Jaredites," IE, Vol. 54-55 (Sept. 1951-July 1952) .  
1953 "The Stick of Judah and the Stick of Joseph," IE, Vol. 56 (Jan.-May 1953)  
1953-54 "New Approaches to Book of Mormon Study," IE, Vol. 56-57 (Nov. 1953-July 1954)  
1955 "The Way of the Church," IE, Vol. 58 (Jan. 1956-Dec. 1957)  
1956-57 "There Were Jaredites," IE, Vol. 59-60 (Jan. 1956-Feb. 1957)  
1959 "Mixed Voices," IE, Vol. 62 (Mar.-Nov. 1959)  
1961 "The Liahona's Cousins," IE, Vol. 64 (Feb. 1961)  
1961 "Censoring the Joseph Smith Story," IE, Vol. 64 (July-Nov. 1961)  
1964 "Since Cumorah," IE, Vol. 67-68 (Oct. 1964-Dec. 1966)

*Articles in the Instructor:*

- 1953 "Columbus and Revelation," Vol. 88 (Oct. 1953), 319f.  
1956 "More Voices from the Dust," Vol. 91 (March 1956), pp. 71ff.  
1963 "The Dead Sea Scrolls, Some Questions and Answers," Vol. 98 (July 1963), pp. 233ff.  
1965 "Early Accounts of Jesus' Childhood," Vol. 100 (Jan. 1965), pp. 35ff.

