The Historians Corner

Edited by James B. Allen

In this issue of the Historians Corner, we present two quite different items. The first, by Ted J. Warner, suggests the continuing need for historians to reevaluate the printed word and update their research. His essay on the historiography of B. H. Roberts is not a criticism of Roberts but, rather, a reminder that continued scholarly research and the frequent discovery of new resources creates a continuing need for historical revision. Professor Warner is a nationally known scholar of the Spanish borderlands. Recently he has been deeply involved in editing for publication the journal of the Domínguez-Escalante expedition, in connection with the 1976 bicentennial observance of that expedition.

The second item, submitted by Richard O. Cowan, should be enjoyed by those who are interested in the strictly human side of Latter-day Saint history. The problem of maintaining personal physical fitness is one that confronts us all, and Professor Cowan gives us a brief insight into how Presidents Heber J. Grant and Joseph Fielding Smith felt about it.

B. H. ROBERTS ON A NON-MORMON TOPIC: AN EXERCISE IN HISTORIOGRAPHY

Ted J. Warner

For more than forty years B. H. Roberts' *Comprehensive History of the Church* has been accepted by readers almost as an official interpretation of LDS Church history. One recent historical assessment of it concluded that even if modern scholarship has left certain chapters obsolete, the work is still an important starting point, is still worth reading, and no Mormon need be ashamed of Roberts as a scholar or historian.[1] This thoughtful appraisal of the

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[1]Davis Bitton, "B. H. Roberts As Historian," *Dialogue, A Journal of Mormon Thought* 3(Winter 1968):25-44.