

Mormon Bibliography 1963

The 1963 Mormon bibliography again follows the pattern adopted in the previous issues of *Brigham Young University Studies*. It consists of those items listed in the 1963 (v. 4) *Mormon Americana* dealing specifically with Mormon subjects. *Mormon Americana* began in 1960 as a cooperative listing of materials concerning the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah, and related areas. In the following bibliography only items dealing with the Church are listed.

One of the most important publishing trends in the last few years has been the number and quality of reprints of earlier classics issued in various forms. The quality of these reprints usually depends upon the form of printing used and tends to be higher in productions of older well-established houses. Those which have been reprinted by reputable publishing companies with photo offset printing are of high quality and are of great help to the scholar of Mormonism. The reprints by private individuals tend to be less readable and therefore of less real value.

One of the finest reprints in recent years was the Brigham Young University Press reprint of B. H. Roberts' *Comprehensive History of the Church*. This was done on an offset press, is excellently printed, and follows the original with complete integrity. In 1957 a "photo lithographic" reprint was made of Edward Tullidge's *The Women of Mormondom*. This not only retained the integrity of the original printing but attempted to retain this integrity in binding. The reprint of the *Journal of Discourses* by Gartner Printing and Publishing Lithographic Company in 1956 made this extremely valuable source more readily available to scholars although the printing does not have the excellence of the books mentioned above. Yet its print is readable and maintains integrity of text due to the method of printing involved.

One of the problems involved in photographic reprints is that of reproduction of illustrations. This is demonstrated in James E. Talmage's *The House of the Lord* (Bookcraft 1962)

and James Linforth's *Route from Liverpool to Salt Lake City* (Bookcraft 1957). In both cases the plates are far inferior to the original though the text is well printed.

Undoubtedly the poorest reprints on Mormon subjects are those printed by The Modern Microfilm Company. Although these seem to be as expensive as any mentioned above, the quality of the printing bears no comparison. An interesting comparison can be made of two editions of *The Book of Commandments*. The first, published by Wilford Wood under the title *Joseph Smith Begins His Work*, v. 2, is an excellent reprint. The second, published at approximately the same time by the Modern Microfilm Company, has pages which are completely unreadable. Again the comparison can be seen between *The Seer*, published by Eugene Wagner, and the *Times and Seasons*, v. 1, published by Modern Microfilm Company. Reproductions of these early Mormon classics are invaluable to all scholars of Mormonism but only when those reproductions are faithfully and clearly reproduced.

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