

Previous statistical studies of the Book of Mormon may have been too technical for many lay readers, but Roger Keller's *Book of Mormon Authors* has greater appeal and should inform and inspire both casual and serious scholars. Keller admits that his work is not finished, and he encourages others to undertake similar studies, particularly studies of how Book of Mormon authors use synonyms for the terms he identifies. Such a study of synonyms would lead readers into even more nuances of meaning in their reading of this ancient text.

—Gary L. Hatch

The Rhetoric of David O. McKay,
by Richard N. Armstrong (Peter
Lang, 1993)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints experienced exceptional worldwide growth and public recognition during the presidency of David O. McKay. This book, by an assistant professor at Wichita State University, is a study of President McKay's rhetorical appeal to both members and nonmembers and a look at the role he played in creating a positive public image of the Church.

The author suggests that President McKay's timely messages, such as "no other success can compensate for failure in the home," filled the needs of many people—members and nonmembers alike. His clarion call, "every member a missionary," not only inspired the LDS community to accelerate their

missionary effort, but also motivated nonmembers to learn more about the Church. Consequently, Church membership rose dramatically during his presidency (1950–71). Because the book is written for a non-LDS academic audience, it also includes chapters explaining the importance of general conference to Church membership and how Latter-day Saints fit into the Christian community.

All readers will appreciate the positive effect President McKay's exceptional rhetorical skills had on the Church's public image and growing Church membership, but Latter-day Saints will also finish the book with the conviction that the Lord calls his leaders when their talents are most needed.

—Beth Hamilton

Voices of Old Testament Prophets: The 26th Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium, compiled by the
1997 Sidney Sperry Symposium
Committee (Deseret Book, 1997)

The 26th Annual Sperry Symposium centered on various Old Testament prophets, especially the little-known figures and obscure events in their lives. Interesting details and analyses are included, often for the first time in LDS circles—for example, on the mentoring of Jethro, the rebellion of Korah, the stability of the prophets in the Exile, the saviors referred to by Obadiah, the hopeful stories of Habakkuk and Abigail, and the blessings of the temple in the ministry of Haggai. More familiar themes