

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

deal with Isaiah's indictments, the Millennium, the priesthood, and the eternal nature of the gospel.

The organizers have succeeded in bringing several new scholars to publication. Some of their names will be as unfamiliar to most readers as are the names of the prophets of whom they write. Readers should enjoy getting to know them all.

—John W. Welch

Mormon Sisters: Women in Early Utah, edited by Claudia L. Bushman (Utah State University Press, 1997)

Mormon Sisters is a new edition of a book first published in 1976 by Emmeline Press Limited in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When the original work was published, it was considered to be a "pioneering" study of early Mormon history because prior to that time much of the focus of history had been on the male leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The book brought to the foreground many important issues about the lives of Mormon women in nineteenth-century Utah. Since the time of its first publication, many of the book's contributors have become prominent scholars. The book published in 1976 represents some of the earliest work by these now widely published and well-accepted historians.

The topics chosen for the essays in the book include biographical sketches as well as essays dealing with some of the political, eco-

nomic, social, and spiritual activities of women in Utah during the nineteenth century—women's spiritual gifts, their roles in education, medicine, polygamy, and in the political sphere of promoting women's suffrage and Utah's statehood. One of the book's strengths is that the chapters focus on what "average" women did and how they coped with their situations. While there is some discussion of famous Utah women leaders, I especially appreciated the examination of "typical" women's lives—their struggles and joys—that leaves us with a much greater understanding of these women and allows us to feel a closer kinship with them.

Since this is a reprint of a previous book, some comparison with the first edition is warranted. Some of the most obvious changes to this edition are an additional preface by Claudia L. Bushman and a new introduction by Anne Firor Scott. The book also provides a reading list of books related to Mormon women that have been published since the previous edition. This list, along with the reading list published in the first edition, are helpful resources to readers interested in furthering their study of women's lives and issues in Mormon culture. Other changes in this new edition include nine different historical photographs and an update on the lives and careers of the book's contributors.

The content of the essays has not been changed or updated since the first edition. Since the essays focus on women in Utah during the nineteenth century, the