This volume is a milestone publication. It will be a valuable addition to the library of any gospel teacher or student who wishes for a deeper understanding of the ancient Apostles, their teachings, and the world in which they lived.

—Gary P. Gillum

An Epistle from the New Testament Apostles, arranged by John W. Welch (Bookcraft, 1999)

The Epistles in the New Testament contain some of the most important doctrinal teachings and most moving personal testimonies anywhere in scripture. Indeed, many of the doctrines of the Restoration have been taught using the words of Peter, Paul, and John. As An Epistle from the New Testament Apostles points out, the thirteen Articles of Faith are surprisingly rich in references to the Epistles of Paul.

In this volume, John Welch has created a unique and ingenious presentation of the New Testament Epistles with the hope that Latter-day Saints will be able to better understand these letters. The complete text of each of the twenty-one Epistles is divided into its literary and thematic units and then rearranged by themes to read like one grand epistle—a letter from the New Testament Apostles. The complete text of the King James Version of the Epistles is presented and marked in a way that readily shows the original biblical text together with the changes made by the Joseph Smith Translation. Included in slashes are alternate readings from ancient New Testament texts as well as alternative translations for Greek words that greatly enhance the reader’s comprehension of the text.

Welch has organized his material around ten major themes with numerous subtopics. Thus a reader can pursue all of the material in the Epistles by such themes as atonement, faith and obedience, and Christian living. Of particular interest is the section containing biographical information and personal statements. Here the reader can find a rich collection of all of the personal expressions of Paul, Peter, and John to the ancient Saints. These declarations of testimony, concern, and affection for the Saints echo through the years and strike a responsive chord in Latter-day Saints.

For those who have had trouble understanding these Epistles in the past, this volume provides the easiest way ever to gain access to their contents. For those who are already conversant with the Epistles, reading them arranged by themes provides many new insights as the writings of the ancient Apostles are examined side by side.

—David R. Seely

The Testimony of John the Beloved: The 27th Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium, Brigham Young University, 1998 (Deseret Book, 1998)

The Gospel, the Epistles, and the Revelation of John the Beloved have given the Saints a unique perspective of Jesus Christ and his teachings. The preface of The Testimony of John the Beloved reminds us that this Apostle’s writings contain “some of the most profound events, specific prophecies, and significant doctrines recorded in all of ancient scripture.” This collection of twenty-one addresses from the 1998 Sidney B. Sperry symposium discusses many of these doctrinal teachings and John’s testimony of the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The diverse backgrounds of the participants of the symposium have resulted in gathering many inspired and inspiring insights and truths about this Gospel writer and his teachings. Topics discussed include John’s Revelation and the restoration of the Gospel, the themes of discipleship in John, women in the writings
of John, the new commandment of love, the lands of the Gospel of John, Jewish holy days, Revelation as a message of comfort and hope, and the celestial Jerusalem.

Throughout the collection there is solid evidence of scholarly research, sewn together with writing styles that are accessible to most readers of the scriptures. For Saints who wish to know more about the Apostle whom Jesus loved, their time would be profitably spent reading these offerings and testimonies. They will come away not only with the background of John’s writings but also with renewed spiritual understanding of both the Savior and John.

—Gary P. Gillum

*High in Utah: A Hiking Guide to the Tallest Peak in Each of the State’s Twenty-nine Counties*, by Michael R. Weibel and Dan Miller (University of Utah Press, 1999)

By at least one standard, Utah is the highest state in the United States. While other states may boast higher peaks, Utah has a unique elevation claim of its own: the average elevation of the tallest peaks in each of Utah’s twenty-nine counties is roughly 11,222 feet—the highest of any state. This book identifies each of these peaks, provides straightforward directions on how to reach the summits, and enables hikers to enjoy discovering the high-altitude outdoors.

Each hike features three easy-to-read maps: a state locator, an area map showing road access, and a topographical trail map. Accompanying the maps is valuable descriptive information on each hike, placing particular emphasis on directions to the trailhead. Hikers using the maps and the detailed instructions would have a hard time getting lost. *High in Utah* also evaluates each hike according to distance, difficulty, and elevation gain, and it includes historical background, wildlife information, safety precautions, and other tips that make for an enriched hiking experience.

This is a book for peak baggers and recreational hikers alike. Most of these mountains can be climbed in a day. In fact, some summits can be reached by car. None of them require technical climbing skills or special equipment. For that reason, *High in Utah* is a great resource for active families. Selecting a suitable yet challenging hike can be a great source of family fun. *High in Utah* reminds us that mountains have symbolic significance and that we are drawn to high places.

—Gregory Witt