Brief Notices


As California gold miner, missionary to Hawaii, Apostle, European Mission president, personal secretary to Brigham Young, editor of the *Deseret News*, Utah’s delegate to Congress, and counselor to four Church presidents, George Q. Cannon occupied an unparalleled position from which to view the historical events of nineteenth-century Mormonism. By keeping a personal journal in which he recorded his daily events from 1849 to 1901 (with only occasional lapses), Cannon produced a first-person account that, according to Richard E. Turley Jr., should be considered one of the “best extant records of Latter-day Saint history during the second half of the nineteenth century” (xiv). Long unavailable to researchers and Church members, Cannon’s journals are being published by Deseret Book in conjunction with the Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As the first volume in the series *The Journals of George Q. Cannon*, this book provides a verbatim reproduction of Cannon’s journal during his overland trip to California in 1849. Cannon traveled to California as part of a group of men who were called by Church leaders to mine for gold. Spanning from October 6 to December 9, the journal includes Cannon’s trip through central and southern Utah, an account of an ill-conceived “shortcut” that took the travelers from the main trail and proved nearly disastrous, and Cannon’s description of his travel along the Spanish Trail to California. Editor Michael N. Landon, a historian and archivist at the LDS Historical Depart-
the *Juvenile Instructor*. Lengthy excerpts from this 1869 account appear in the footnotes and provide details omitted from the original account, showing that in the intervening years Cannon had developed a new perspective on the meaning of certain events. Reading the two together provides a unique vantage point to understand the processes of memory and the construction of historical narrative.

When published in full, *The Journals of George Q. Cannon* will make a significant contribution to the study of both Mormon history and the history of the American West in the nineteenth century. This volume stands as the harbinger of wonderful things to come from the continued publication of Cannon's journals.

—Richard Ian Kimball

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*The Temple in Time and Eternity*, edited by Donald W. Parry and Stephen D. Ricks (FARMS, 1999)


Even though there is no substitute for experiencing selfless spiritual service of the highest order, receiving personal revelation, and basking in the refugent atmosphere of the House of the Lord, the scriptures and other writings about the temple can prepare our hearts and minds so that we are more able to take full advantage of this sacred work. Two recently published books will take you out of the world and into more spiritual realms and could be recommended by any temple president to his patrons.

*The Temple in Time and Eternity* follows *Temples of the Ancient World: Ritual and Symbolism* (1994). While the earlier volume contains twenty-four essays on past and present temples, this second volume comprises eleven articles in three sections: “Temples and Ritual,” “Temples in the Israelite Tradition,” and “Temples in the Non-Israelite Tradition.” The lead essay, Hugh Nibley’s “Abraham’s Temple Drama,” is based on a very popular presentation given April 6, 1999, at Brigham Young University. The final two essays, “The Great Mosque and Its Ka‘ba as an Islamic Temple Complex in Light of Lundquist’s Typology of Ancient Near Eastern Temples” (by Gaye Strathearn and Brian M. Hauglid) and “Inside a Sumerian Temple: The Ekishnugal at Ur” (by E. Jan Wilson) are two unprecedented but excellent forays into temple topics that are not usually associated with LDS temple literature.

While Matthew Brown’s 1997 book on temples, *Symbols in Stone*, looks at symbols of the Kirtland, Nauvoo, and Salt Lake Temples, as well as the plans for the temple at New Jerusalem, *The Gate of Heaven* offers insights into symbols and doctrines throughout the ages. There are eight chapters, including “The Tabernacle of Jehovah,” “The Temple on Mount Zion,” and “Early Christians and the House of the Lord,” as well as an appendix that elucidates the history of Freemasonry. Brown’s book is full of surprises, including an illustration taken “from an early Christian catacomb painting that depicts a saint being introduced into paradise by the parting of a curtain” (189).

Although *The Gate of Heaven* will probably be easier to understand for most Latter-day Saints, I would not call it any less “scholarly” than *The Temple in Time and Eternity*. Both have the power and insight to inspire, motivate, and stir the soul not only to attend the temple more often but to better appreciate its blessings and ordinances. These books encourage us to feel “set apart” from the world, enhancing our lives with a sense of the sacred and holy.

—Gary P. Gillum