

*“Proving Contraries”: A Collection of Writings in Honor of Eugene England*, edited by Robert A. Rees (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2005)

This collection reflects what its editor, Robert Rees, Director of Education and Humanities at the Institute of HeartMath, calls the “broad scholarly and expressive interests that characterized Gene’s professional life.”

Eugene England (1933–2001) had wide-ranging influence as a literary critic, theologian, historian, creative writer, and educator as is evident in this collection of writings by his friends, colleagues, and former students.

The reader should not be misled by the title; it is not a series of recollections of England’s life but rather a collection of poetry, history, fiction, drama, and personal and scholarly essays that offer their own fresh insights into a variety of issues such as education, scriptural exegesis, faith, the Atonement, and the Mormon experience. The only pieces that refer directly to England are Rees’s own explanatory introduction, poem, and final essay and Margaret Blair Young’s personal tribute to England. To readers unfamiliar with England personally or who are undecided about his standing in Mormon culture, Rees’s and Young’s writings may seem overly sentimental and somewhat out of step with the spirit of the other pieces.

The collection includes stunning, crystalline poetry by Bruce Jorgensen and Dian Saderup Monson; a devastatingly powerful short story that refuses facile sentimentality by Douglas Thayer about a boy-scouting crisis in the Uinta Mountains of Utah; a fascinating reflection on democratic education by one of the past century’s greatest educators, the late Wayne Booth; a thought-provoking essay on the rise of religious emotionalism in Mormon expression by Armand Mauss; and a wonderful

personal essay by Mary Lythgoe Bradford. Excellent pieces by Levi Peterson, Tim Slover, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, and Lavina Fielding Anderson are also presented. The collection offers a fascinating, if at times uneven and somewhat thematically scattered, melange of writings that demonstrate that the intellectual passions of Eugene England are strong and fertile in the minds and hearts of these talented thinkers.

—George Handley

*The Mormon Way of Doing Business*, by Jeff Benedict (New York: Warner Business Books, 2007)

This volume highlights a number of very successful LDS businessmen who effectively juggle work, family, and time-intensive Church callings. The findings of the work are based on interviews with eight LDS executives, including David Neeleman, founder and CEO of JetBlue; Kevin Rollins, former CEO of Dell; Jim Quigly, CEO of Deloitte and Touche USA; Dave Checketts, former CEO of Madison Square Garden Corporation; Gary Crittenden, CFO at American Express; Rod Hawes, founder and former CEO of Life Re Corporation; Kim Clark, former Dean of the Harvard Business School; and Clayton Christensen, a leading Harvard Business School professor and consultant to Intel, Eli Lilly, and Kodak.

These LDS executives each have a similar set of priorities that largely dictate the way they manage their time. They have pressing demands, so they have learned to manage their time in a way that allows them to do the things that are more important and delegate the things that are less important. Generally quality time spent with their families is the most important use of their time. These leaders recognize that the stability and love of their family allows them to succeed in their careers.