SECOND ANNUAL SUCCESS

By Neal A. Lambert,
A.M.L. President

In its second annual symposium the Association for Mormon Letters clearly demonstrated that it is alive, well, and certainly flourishing. The sessions this year were held on October 8, in the Marriott Library Auditorium on the University of Utah Campus. The sections were both well attended and well received, giving solid evidence that the individual feelings and personal impulses which first gave rise to our organization were true manifestations of a broad interest and a genuine need for the reinforcement and encouragement such an association can provide.

Richard Cummings, program chairman this year, brought together papers that covered a wide variety of topics: from particular studies of Halldór Laxness and Richard Wright to general statements about Mormon autobiography and personal essays. As a group, the papers were solid, stimulating, and interestingly presented (no small matter for any scholarly symposium).

Certainly one of the highlights of the day was the moving and eloquent luncheon address of Herbert Harker as he talked about his own experiences and the problems and potentialities that a Mormon writer confronts. For those who could not attend the symposium, and for others who may be interested, the officers of the association are now exploring the possibilities for publishing the proceedings and making copies available to the members of the AML.

As a follow-up session to the symposium, the AML sponsored a con-joint meeting with the 1977 annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 20. By previous invitation, I presented the paper for this session, "The Representation of Reality in Mormon Autobiography." Again the attendance at the session was gratifyingly large, indicating once again that the organization not only has a genuine reason for existence, but that it is well underway.
MONEY!

Members of the Association will be interested to learn of the establishment of two prizes to be awarded annually by the Association: One will recognize the best imaginative writings, the other the best scholarly writings published during the year. Details of the award will follow in subsequent editions of the Newsletter.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Amendment to the AML constitution, proposed and adopted at the business meeting, makes the immediate past president a member of the executive council of the association for the year following his or her term. It is felt that such a change will add continuity and the benefit of experience to the AML programs.

A CALL FOR PAPERS

A call for papers to be presented at the 1978 fall symposium of the Association is hereby made. Abstracts of papers should be sent to Prof. Donald K. Barton, 154-E Orson Spencer Hall, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112 no later than March 15, 1978. The authors of papers selected for presentation will be notified of the date by which papers in final form will be required no later than April 15, 1978. In addition to papers on general topics, stylistic or comparative studies of Mormon discourses, literary approaches to the scriptures, and investigations of personal writings-letters, journals, diaries, memoirs—will be especially welcome. Proposals involving the oral presentation of imaginative writing—poetry, drama, or fiction—are also particularly invited; it is suggested, however, the readings of poetry be limited to ten minutes, and those of drama and fiction to twenty minutes.

CHARTER MEMBERS

In 1976, when the viability of an Association for Mormon Letters was a gamble, forty-eight ardent souls contributed more than was asked of regular members. These, the new healthy and growing Association acknowledges as its Charter Members and honors with thanks: Linda H. Adams, Marilyn Arnold, Leonard J. Arrington, Kathryn R. Ashworth, Maureen U. Beecher, Davis Bitton, Wayne C. Booth, Mary Bradford, Juanita Brooks, William and Marilyn M. Brown, Bruce B. Clark, Marden Clark, William Conway, Richard Cracroft, Marshall Craig, Richard J. Cummings, Lavina Fielding, Mary B. Firmae, Edward Geary, John S. Harris, Linda Harris, Edward L. Hart, Jeri Lu Johnson, Bruce W. Jorgensen, Neal A. Lambert, Clinton F. Larson, Dr. and Mrs. Jon C. Lloyd, T. Edgar Lyon, Elaine S. and Barrie G. McKay, Lena Marie Pack, Jeri Parker, Levi Peterson, Dr. Candadai Seshachari, Dr. Neila Seshachari, T.E. Shoemaker, Steven P. Sondrup, Stephen L. Tanner, George S. Tate, Douglas H. Thayne, Emma Lou Thayne, Robert K. Thomas, Gwen Webster, William Wilson, Glena D. Wood.

(continued)
CHARTER MEMBERS

(continued)

Henceforth membership in the Association will be renewable annually, its year running from October to October, dating from the annual symposium and business meeting. All memberships will automatically expire at the end of each year, with the exception of new memberships received during the year. New members thus enrolled will remain in good standing until the annual meeting following the first full year of their enrollment.

MEMBERSHIP

Following is a list of the members of the Association as of October 31, 1977. Although memberships run from October to October, new members are welcome at any time.

Linda Hunter Adams
Salt Lake City, Utah

Penelope Allen
Bountiful, Utah

Lavina Fielding Anderson
Salt Lake City, Utah

Stanford Andrew
Logan, Utah

Marilyn Arnold
Provo, Utah

Leonard J. Arrington
Provo, Utah

Pat Ashby
Salt Lake City, Utah

Kathryn R. Ashworth
Provo, Utah

Susan H. Alyworth
Chico, California

James R. Bartlett
University, Miss.

Donald K. Barton
Salt Lake City, Utah

Maureen Ursenbach Beecher
Salt Lake City, Utah

Ellouise M. Bell
Provo, Utah

Francine Bennion
Provo, Utah

Sherilyn C. Bennion
Salt Lake City, Utah

Davis Bitton
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mae Blanch
Provo, Utah

Bonnie Bobet
Concord, California

Wayne C. Booth
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Bradford
Springville, Utah

Juanita Brooks
Salt Lake City, Utah

Benita Brown
Logan, Utah

William and Marilyn Brown
Provo, Utah

H. Elaine Burnham
Salt Lake City, Utah

Scott Cameron
Salt Lake City, Utah

David Canaan
Provo, Utah

Marilyn M Capell
Rexburg, Idaho

Susan Carter
Sandy, Utah

Kris Cassity
Anchorage, Alaska

Venda Castleberry
Provo, Utah

Bethany Chaffin
Salt Lake City, Utah

Julie G. Christensen
Salt Lake City, Utah

Steve Christensen
Centerville, Utah

Bruce B. Clark
Provo, Utah

Marden Clark
Provo, Utah

Aileen Clyde
Springville, Utah

William Conway
Rexburg, Idaho

Rebecca J. Cornwall
Salt Lake City, Utah

Richard Cracroft
Provo, Utah

Marshall Craig
Provo, Utah

Richard J. Cummings
Salt Lake City, Utah

Kathy O. Czerny
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sybil Lee Dabel
Afton, Wyoming

Afton J. Day
Annandale, Virginia

George F. Day
Cedar Falls, Iowa

W. Decco
Belgium

Jill M. Derr
Alpine, Utah

Leslie V. Donaldson
Salt Lake City, Utah

Richard G. Ellsworth
Provo, Utah

Eugene & Charlotte England
Provo, Utah

Ron Esplin
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mary B. Firmage
Provo, Utah

Franklin Fisher
Salt Lake City, Utah

Anne M. Forsness
Silver Springs, Maryland
MEMBERSHIP
(continued)

Edward Geary
Provo, Utah
Ila Marie Goodey
Salt Lake City, Utah
F. Charles Graves
New York, New York
Mary Jane R. Hansen
Salt Lake City, Utah
Herbert Harker
Santa Barbara, California
John B. Harris
Provo, Utah
John S. Harris
Provo, Utah
Linda Harris
Provo, Utah
Edward L. Hart
Provo, Utah
Donald G. Hill, Jr.
Knoxville, Tennessee
Mildred Hunt
Sacramento, California
Donnell Hunter
Rigby, Idaho
Elinor Hyde
Salt Lake City, Utah
Briant S. Jacobs
Provo, Utah
Heber Jacobsen
Salt Lake City, Utah
Dorla R. Jenkins
Rexburg, Idaho
Janet Jenson
Spanish Fork, Utah
Clifton Jolley
Orem, Utah
Bruce W. Jorgensen
Provo, Utah
Eileen G. Kump
St. Joseph, Missouri
Neal A. Lambert
Provo, Utah
Clinton F. Larson
Provo, Utah
Glen M. Leonard
Bountiful, Utah
Jon & Jackie Lloyd
Pittsburgh, Penn.
Arnold Logie
Provo, Utah
Karen Lynn
Provo, Utah
T. Edgar Lyon
Salt Lake City, Utah
Thomas E. Marshall
Salt Lake City, Utah
Ruth May
Salt Lake City, Utah
Steven L. Mayfield
Kaysville, Utah
Barrie & Elaine McKay
Bountiful, Utah
F. Mark McKlernan
Independence, Missouri
Marilyn R Miller
Salt Lake City, Utah
Mabel Mitchell
Midway, Utah
Beth S. Moore
Kaysville, Utah
Linda K. Newell
Salt Lake City, Utah
Max Nolan
Western Australia
Christine Norman
Salt Lake City, Utah
Susan S. Oman
Salt Lake City, Utah
Lena Marie Pack
Salt Lake City, Utah
Jeri Parker
Salt Lake City, Utah
Elinore Partridge
Salt Lake City, Utah
Jaynan Morgan Payne
Provo, Utah
Virginia H. Pearce
Salt Lake City, Utah
M. Diane Pederson
Salt Lake City, Utah
Janet F. Peterson
Sandy, Utah
Levi Peterson
Ogden, Utah
Ole Podchorny
Norway
Sharon Pugsley
Irvine, California
Lenet H. Read
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Susan E. Ream
Provo, Utah
Robert Rees
Los Angeles, Ca.
Patricia S. Roberts
Independence, Missouri
La Vell Rowley
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Patricia Russell
Seattle, Washington
Walter S. Selker
Heber City, Utah
Serial: University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah
Candadai Seshachari
Ogden, Utah
Neila Seshachari
Ogden, Utah
Elizabeth Shaw
Salt Lake City, Utah
T.B. Shoemaker
Sacramento, California
Linda Sillitoe
Salt Lake City, Utah
Erin Silva
Provo, Utah
Alice C. Smith
Logan, Utah
Dennis V. Smith
Alpine, Utah
Ervin F. Smith
Pacific Palisades, Ca.
Steven P. Sondrup
Salt Lake City, Utah
Paul & Sharon Lee Sorenson
Salt Lake City, Utah
Stephen L. Tanner
Moscow, Idaho
Charles D. Tate
Provo, Utah
George S. Tate
Provo, Utah
Lucile C. Tate
Centerville, Utah
Douglas Thayer
Provo, Utah
Emma Lou Thayne
Salt Lake City, Utah
Robert K. Thomas
Provo, Utah
MEMBERSHIP
(continued)

Lorraine Towles
Garland, Texas

Laura Wadley
Provo, Utah

Marilyn D. Whipple
Provo, Utah

Ken Tucker
Bountiful, Utah

Maurine Jensen Ward
Midvale, Utah

William Wilson
Provo, Utah

Lourel Ulrich
Durham, New Hampshire

Christine Waters
Salt Lake City, Utah

Sue Ellen G. Winmill
Pleasant Grove, Utah

Neal & Sue Van Alfen
Providence, Utah

Gwen Webster
Salt Lake City, Utah

Glenda D. Wood
Provo, Utah

Neal & Sue Van Alfen
Providence, Utah

Ruth R. Yeaman
Salt Lake City, Utah

CURRENT BOOKS
Edited by Eugene England and Clifton Holt Jolley

Herewith we begin a regular section of short reviews, notices, and information about special developments in the field of Mormon letters. Readers are cordially invited to contribute any information they may have on reviews or criticism of Mormon literature and on any new works that are published. Suggestions on how this section might be most useful to those interested in Mormon literature would also be appreciated. Information and suggestions should be sent to Professor Eugene England, English Department, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY PLANNED
By Clifton Holt Jolley

It may not be axiomatic, but it seems to be generally true that the first scholarly attention a community receives is likely to come from outside that community. Perhaps that is the way it should be; certainly it is understandable: Roman schoolboys, playing in the Piazza Navona, unaware of the fountains, find themselves too close to the phenomenon to be persuaded of its significance or too familiar with it to be convinced of their own ignorance.

And so it has been with the Mormons. Although an occasional prophet or apostle has spoken of "Miltons and Shakespeares of our own," and in spite of the roadshows and poetry competitions and personal journals and the faith-promoting stories sent to Church publications, Elder Boyd K. Packer is certainly right in suggesting we have not given our own literature the amount and quality of attention it deserves. (See "The Arts and the Spirit of the Lord," Brigham Young University Studies, Summer, 1976, p. 584.)

There has been a beginning of interest in Mormon literature, however, a beginning of which this newsletter is only one evidence. What the research and criticism will prove as to the weight and merit of this body of literature is yet to be seen, but what already has been discovered is that there is precious little by way of critical tools that can be used in assessing the literary value of Mormon literature.

(continued)
CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY PLANNED
(continued)

To satisfy the needs of the scholar-critics of Mormon literature and to challenge those not previously interested in Mormon literature, Eugene England has set about compiling a comprehensive, annotated bibliography which will include a set of critical essays intended to broaden awareness in the Mormon community of who the writers have been and are, and of the contributions their works have made and continue to make.

This column will provide progress reports on the project. The task is large and assistance is needed. Information concerning little-known Mormon authors, reviews, collections, published or unpublished bibliographies, as well as other suggestions should be sent to Eugene England, English Department, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602.

LIVING PROPHET


This first-rate, lively biography of a living prophet is a landmark in Mormon writing about Church leaders for its combination of completeness, honesty, and full appreciation. The authors have apparently had unlimited access to President Kimball’s journals and letters; thus, the sense of intimacy is strong. Anyone who loved President Kimball before will love him more after reading this book. Page after page reveals his unflagging sense of duty, the feeling that he was not accomplishing enough that spurred him into grueling labors, the will-power that enabled him to ignore many kinds of physical suffering, and his unfailing kindness in dealing with others.

MORMON WONDER WOMAN


Take a dazzlingly beautiful, astonishingly intelligent, overwhelmingly modest, outrageously wholesome young Mormon damsel. Send her from Zion (American Fork sector) into the Big Bad World (New York, of course) to recover from the shock of losing her fiancé in an accident on the eve of their wedding. Introduce her to a non-member uncle, an inactive aunt, a couple of intemperate cousins, and a handsome knight in shining armor disguised as a cynical, disillusioned, woman-hating non-Mormon. While stirring in every cliché you have ever heard, read, or dreamed about Mormon life, agitate the whole concoction into a lather of accidents, journeys, and conversations. Simmer the brew slowly in thick, sugary syrup for 200 pages and you will have Shirley Sealey’s Beyond This Moment. It may be hard to swallow, but it sells like hot cakes.

GUIDE TO AUTOBIOGRAPHIES


This most welcome volume contains excellent descriptions and historical annotations for nearly 3000 items that form a core body of Mormon literature.

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<tr>
<th>President: Neal A. Lambert</th>
<th>Council: Lavina Fielding Anderson</th>
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<td>President Elect: Richard J. Cummings</td>
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<td>Executive Secretary: Steven P. Sondrup</td>
<td>Maureen Ursenbach Beecher</td>
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READING GROUPS TO FORM

Here's the next best thing to an evening with an author: an evening with a manuscript. If you are interested in hosting a literary evening in your locale, the Association for Mormon Letters will mail you a set of manuscripts by a Mormon writer worth thirty to forty minutes of reading. We suggest reading the manuscript aloud (copying violates copyright law), followed by discussion. The Association and the author would like to know your response, so an evaluation form will be included with the manuscript.

We hope soon to have a long list of authors who are willing to share their work with groups throughout the world. As a beginning, we are offering selections by four Mormon poets and one fiction writer. If you are interested, please fill out Part I of the form below, and send it to Linda Sillitoe at the address indicated.

The first selection of authors available is geographically limited: from Salt Lake City to Payson. Obviously, the Association will not be able to reach all Mormons involved in creative work. If you are an author, or know one, willing to make manuscripts available, please let us know. To apply to have work considered for distribution, fill out Part II of the form below, and send it with two copies of thirty to forty minutes (read orally) of work to Linda Sillitoe at the address indicated. Include an author's copyright line on the manuscript.

Part I

To: Linda Sillitoe
1718 Lake Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Please send a manuscript by

___ Dennis Clark (poetry)
___ Clifton Holt Jolley (poetry)
___ Linda Sillitoe (poetry)
___ Emma Lou Thayne (poetry)
___ Béla Petsco (fiction)

Please send to:

(name)

(address)

I agree to abide by all copyright laws and pay return postage.

(Signature)

Part II

To: Linda Sillitoe
1718 Lake Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

Author ________________________________

Address ________________________________

Type of manuscript: Poems ___ Fiction ___ Play (scene[s]) ___ Essay ___ Other ___

I am willing to read from my work for groups in the following areas:
THIRD SYMPOSIUM ON MORMON LETTERS

SCHEDULED

The 1978 Symposium on Mormon Letters will be held at the Auditorium of the Marriott Library at the University of Utah on Saturday, October 7, 1978. Hopefully, the scheduling of the Symposium on Saturday rather than a weekday will once again prove convenient to the membership of the Association.

As in the last two years, papers will be presented in a morning and an afternoon session. Promised for the morning are papers dealing with major autobiographical works of Eliza R. Snow, the identity crisis in L.D.S. missionary fiction, and the writings of Claude T. Barnes, one of Utah's early naturalists. The session will be chaired by Prof. Edward Hart, Department of English, Brigham Young University. During the afternoon session, speakers will discuss the folklore in The Giant Joshua, Samuel Taylor's novel Heaven Knows Why, and a moral approach to literary criticism. The session will be chaired by Prof. George S. Tate, Department of Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University. A new feature of the 1978 Symposium will be an evening session at which a number of well-known Mormon writers will read from their work in progress.

A luncheon will be held in the Panorama Room of the Olpin Student Union Building, a room that will easily accommodate all participants in the Symposium. The luncheon speaker will be Prof. Neal Lambert, president of the Association. It is anticipated that his presentation will be in the form of a presidential address, discussing at least in part the state of the Association.

Advance registration forms as well as details of the program will be included in the next newsletter scheduled for September 1st. All members of the Association are cordially invited to register for and attend the Symposium. Guests and prospective members of the Association will be, as always, most welcome.
READING GROUP TO BE HELD

A reading group at which Levi S. Peterson will read from his own fiction will be held at the home of Lavina Fielding Anderson, 1519 Roberta (240 East) Salt Lake City on Saturday, June 24th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. All members of the Association are cordially invited.

Members of the Association who may wish to sponsor similar reading groups are reminded that a variety of manuscripts are available from Linda Sillitoe, 1718 Lake Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105. The Association suggests reading the manuscript aloud (copying violates copyright), followed by discussion. The Association and the authors would like to know your response, so an evaluation form will be included with the manuscript. Authors currently available are Dennis Clark (poetry), Clifton Holt Jolley (poetry), Linda Sillitoe (poetry), Emma Lou Thayne (poetry), and Béla Petsco (fiction).

MONEY

Members of the Association are reminded of the establishment of two prizes to be awarded annually by the Association: one will recognize the best imaginative writings, the other the best scholarly writings published during the year. Members of the Association are invited to bring works to the attention of the award committee by addressing nominations or copies of the work to: The Award Committee, Association for Mormon Letters, 1346 South 18th East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108.

NEW MEMBERS

Mikal and Ilene Lofgren
Salt Lake City, Utah
Douglas D. Alder
Logan, Utah
Larry Y. Wilson
Walnut Creek California
Robert Christmas
San Dimas, California

Dale LeCheminant
Salt Lake City, Utah
Dennis and Valeri Clark
Salt Lake City, Utah
Jay F. Bodine
Lexington, Kentucky
Colin Douglas
Provo, Utah

To:
The Association for Mormon Letters
1346 South 18th East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Name(s) (please print)

Affiliation (if applicable)

Mailing Address

Enclosed please find _____($4.00) dollars for __________ membership(s)
in The Association for Mormon Letters.

Signed

Note: This application is included for the convenience of any who may want to join the association.

President: Neal A. Lambert
President Elect: Richard J. Cummings
Vice President: Donald K. Barton
Executive Secretary: Steven P. Sondrup

Council: Lavina Fielding Anderson
George S. Tate
Linda Sillitoe
Maureen Ursenbach Beecher
THIRD SYMPOSIUM ON MORMON LETTERS SCHEDULED

The 1978 Symposium on Mormon Letters will be held at the Marriott Library Auditorium at the University of Utah on Saturday, October 7, 1978. The following schedule has been established.

9:00-10:00  Registration.

10:00-12:00  The Search for Self in Mormon Letters.  
Roxey Snow: A Study in Three Genres.  
Lavina Fielding Anderson: The Identity Crisis in L.D.S.  
Missionary Fiction.  
Davis Bitton: Utah's Thoreau: Claude T. Barnes.  
Chairman: Edward Hart.  

12:15 - 1:45  Lunch: Panorama Room, University of Utah Student Union Building.  
Chairman: Richard J. Cummings.  
Speaker: Neal A. Lambert.

2:00 - 4:00  The Mormon Novel, Folklore, and Moral Criticism.  
Richard Cracroft: Samuel Taylor's Heaven Knows Why.  
Chairman: George S. Tate.  
Commentary: Levi S. Peterson.

4:00 - 5:00  Business Meeting.  
Reports.  
New Officers.  
Other Business.

7:00 - 9:00  Poetry and Prose in Progress: Mormon Writers Read From Their Work.  
(Location: To Be Announced.)  
Chair: Elouise M. Bell.  
Participating: Linda Sillitoe.  
Dennis Clark.  
J.R. Bartlett.  
Emmalou Thayne.  
Elouise M. Bell.
Members of the Association planning to attend the Symposium are encouraged to pre-register and, if desired, to make reservations for the luncheon. A pre-registration/reservation form is included with the Newsletter for the benefit of those wishing to take advantage of this option. The registration fee is $1.00 and the price of the luncheon is $4.65. Although the registration fee may be paid at the door, luncheon tickets will, unfortunately, not be available after Wednesday, October 4, 1978. The form together with the appropriate remittance should be sent to The Association for Mormon Letters, 1346 South 18th East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. Members who have pre-registered will be able to claim their packet of registration material at the door on the morning of the Symposium.

The Auditorium in the Marriott Library is on the second floor. Those entering the Library from the west will see the Auditorium immediately in front of them. Those entering from the east, though, will need to go down one floor and through the door immediately to the left following the corridor to the main entrance of the Auditorium. University of Utah parking restrictions do not apply on Saturdays, so all of the parking area surrounding the Marriott Library will be available to Symposium participants. As can be seen from the map below, the Union Building, where the luncheon will be held, is within easy walking distance of the Library.
ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN PHOENIX

The Association for Mormon Letters is planning a special symposium session in conjunction with the annual conference of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Phoenix, Arizona in the Curtis Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 28, 1978. The session will be chaired by Maureen U. Beecher. The two presentations that have been scheduled are: Bruce Jorgensen: "Element and Glory: Reflections and Speculations on Mormon Verbal Imagination" and Steven P. Sondrup: "The Psalm of Nephi: A Lyric Reading."

All members of the Association are cordially invited to attend. Guests will be, as always, most welcome.

PROCEEDINGS PUBLISHED

The Proceedings of the Second Symposium of the Association held in October 1977 in Salt Lake City have been published in Dialogue Vol. X, No. 2 Summer 1978. In addition to the presentations given in the morning and afternoon sessions, Herbert Harker's luncheon address and Neal A. Lambert's paper delivered at the Association meeting held in conjunction with the R.M.M.I.A. Conference in Las Vegas are also included.

Subscriptions to and individual copies of Dialogue are available through Subscription Department, P.O. Box 1387, Arlington, Virginia 22210.

NEW MEMBERS

C. Ronald VanLeuven
Sandy, Utah

Mary Brewer
Tempe, Arizona

Vernon H. Jensen, Jr.
Roseburg, Oregon

Ruth Anne Lewis
Salt Lake City, Utah

PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS
OF NOTE


Jenny: Her Incredible Journey through Hell and the Three Degrees of Glory. Gaye D. Horsley and Ron Simpson. A production currently on the boards in Salt Lake and Provo which, in the words of its producers, is "not recommended for children under five years of age."

Latter-day Ruth. Doug Stewart. Although it may not be the only problem, the title has recently been changed to The Day the Rain Fell Up.

Brigham (the New Version of the film). New Crickets, old problems!
ON PRESSING ON . . .
Richard H. Cracroft

(Neal A. Maxwell. Wherefore Ye Must Press Forward. [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1977], 141 pp.)

Anxiously engaged as the Church must be in proclaiming its message to a stolid world, it is expected that much of our literature concern itself with expounding gospel doctrines and teaching techniques of living basic gospel principles, as well as with praising stalwarts who exemplify our cause. With the increase of the sheep, however, it becomes necessary to pay more attention to the needs of those already folded, those who would endure to the end but who sometimes grow weary with watching and praying and wish that the Shepherd would hasten his coming—or put it off indefinitely. Elder Neal A. Maxwell's latest (his ninth) book, Wherefore, Ye Must Press Forward, speaks to just such flocklings.

Elder Maxwell frames his book around the individual phrases of 2 Nephi 31:20: "Wherefore, ye must press forward with steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men." Assuming a desire on the reader's part to grow in committed discipleship, Elder Maxwell examines the process of "both progressing and enduring" in this discipleship and "remaining true to the decisions and covenants that have brought" the disciple this far. The book deals with the challenges of pressing forward and warns the reader that one can be "in the midst of knowledge and be insensitive to the implications, leaving it unsearched and unappreciated." Insisting that "there is nothing worldly that is really worth holding onto," Maxwell urges the disciple to eschew the world and to embrace the Church wholly, to avoid being one of those travelers who mulls "about the dockside grumbling about the fare or questioning the seaworthiness of the vessel;" he asks us to take passage with the Church, intent on lasting the entire voyage.

Elder Maxwell examines how one initiates discipleship, learns obedience, develops hope, participates purposefully in the activities of the Church, learns love for his fellows, and endures to the end. He stresses in each chapter the role of the disciple in pressing forward and lists the numbers of problems which one can encounter in the press to perfection, problems which can discourage and sidetrack the traveler. He also lists in each chapter attitudes and actions which one can cultivate and take in order to foster obedience, faith, love, and endurance.

This book, dedicated to President Spencer W. Kimball, as one who "epitomizes pressing forward," is a thoughtful and highly readable reminder for anyone in the Church who has momentarily grown weary with the precarious balancing act which we undertake in the difficult in-yet-not-of-the-world tightrope stride of the Mormon-Christian. He reminds the reader that "all the easy things the Church has had to do have been done. From now on it is high adventure." After reading this book, a thoughtful reader-disciple is moved to hang on for just a little more high adventure. What greater praise can one give a book?