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# The Association for Mormon Letters

1346 South 18th East  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
84108

Vol. 6, No. 2

Newsletter

July 1982

## MEET HORIZON !!

By Steve S. Pilkington  
Director of Literary Translations  
Deseret Book Company

## CALL FOR PAPERS

A few months ago I received a letter from Dr. Wilfried Decoo, chairman of the Education Department at the University of Antwerp and a Mormon, requesting permission to translate one of Deseret Book's publications, Charly, into Dutch. After checking with Jack Weyland, the author of Charley, I gave Dr. Decoo permission, on the condition that he send me a copy of his new magazine—Horizon: Tijdschrift over de mormoonse gemeenschap (Horizon: A Magazine about the Mormon Community)—in which the Dutch translation of Charly was to appear.

The program committee for the January 1983 symposium to be held in Salt Lake City is looking for "a few good papers." These proposals can deal with any topic related to Mormon letters.

The deadline for proposals or abstracts is 15 September 1982. Send them to Linda Hunter Adams, 204-C SFLC, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

Part of the symposium will be an evening of Mormon humor: submit parodies, comedies, spoofs, and burlesques on Mormon themes in any form—poetry, drama, essays, short stories, papers, or musical skits—for a session in a lighter vein to Linda.

Upon receiving the copy of Horizon, I took it to Margaret Jacobs, a Dutch translator, and asked her to review the translation. I was curious about the quality of translators Dr. Decoo was employing. When Margaret called me the following day and said that the translation was only "fairly good," I began to wonder if I had done the right thing in allowing Charly to be translated. However, Margaret told me that she hadn't read the original of Charly in English and would reserve final judgment until she could compare the Dutch version to the English. Two days later Margaret called back and told me that after reading the original, she felt the Dutch translation was excellent.

## NOMINATE YOUR PRIZE

Had something wonderful published in an out-of-the-way place? The Awards Committee is anxious to have a complete bibliography of items published in 1981—fiction, poetry, criticism, and "general"—for prizes to be awarded at the January 1983 meeting. Please send offprints and bibliographic citations as soon as possible to the chairman: Bruce W. Jorgensen, English Department, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

The Horizon Foundation is a non-profit Belgian organization begun by Dr. Decoo with the goal of "internationalizing the Mormon community." The

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## AML AWARDS PRIZES

At the Association symposium held at the University of Utah on January 23, 1982, four prizes were given for distinguished accomplishments during 1980.

Marilyn M. Brown's historical romance, The Earthkeepers (released 1980), was named "the best work of fiction on a Mormon theme." Ms. Brown, a Provo poet and novelist, the citation continued, had written "both an informative history of the settlement of Provo, and a full, rich novel about a sensitive and strong woman."

The poetry prize went to Emma Lou Thayne of Salt Lake City for her collection, Once in Israel. The citation noted that the book invites "the reader to travel from the daily experience of the tourist into the perceptive observations of a humanitarian and into the imagination of a poet. Always there is the movement from the present of daily concern into the past of scripture. Always there is the need to understand coupled with the pleasure of knowing and identifying with Israel and its people."

Linda Sillitoe, a Salt Lake journalist and writer, received the critical prize for "New Voices, New Songs: Contemporary Poems by Mormon Women," published in Dialogue, Winter 1980. This essay pointed out new trends: "women writing about women, seeking identification with a Heavenly Mother, and portraying marriage realistically" in "new voices of individuality and humanness."

For the first time, the Association awarded a prize in a general category. It went to Frank W. Fox for J. Reuben Clark: The Public Years, a biography that moves "beyond the adventure of the pioneer epic into the institutionalism of the twentieth century, beyond the isolation of the Great Basin into the coexistence with a nation of pluralities, beyond eulogy into candor. All this is done in clear but elegant language, creating a new classic in Mormon literature."

The awards committee consisted of Kenneth B. Hunsaker, Shirlene Mason Pope, and Douglas Alder—all faculty members at Utah State University. Funding for the prizes came from the Association, a  
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## Horizon, cont'd.

magazine is published bimonthly and is devoted to informational, scientific, and cultural exchange in the worldwide Mormon community.

Too frequently when the question of translation of Mormon literature into languages other than English has come up, I have encountered an attitude of, "Well, why don't those people just learn English?" Such provincialism reminds me of a cartoon I once saw in which an obviously well-educated man sitting at his desk says, "I didn't say I couldn't read English; I said I won't."

But while many people agree that Latter-day Saints throughout the world have a right to Mormon literature in their own language, very few people actually have done anything about it, nor is the goal of a multilingual literature easy to achieve. Even in English, non-Church LDS publications and periodicals have no guarantee of success (which—when one considers the quality of past failures—is something we can all be grateful for).

So, Horizon is an ambitious undertaking. And Dr. Decoo's ambition does not stop with his Dutch version; he hopes to follow it with French and German editions, and later to expand to other languages.

Horizon will carry features treating both Dutch and international topics. Dr. Decoo says that "most Dutch members know practically nothing about Mormon people and events in the world, about noteworthy Mormon achievements in the arts and sciences, or about Mormon history in their own country."

Horizon also will carry articles on Church history, Mormon studies, and Mormon literature. Dr. Decoo says that the underlying purpose for the literature section is to "educate non-English speaking members to enjoy better literature." He feels this can best be done by identifying and translating "easily readable short stories, not too long, relating to Mormon life; not sentimental, but still enjoyable for the general public; and not  
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## EAST COAST SYMPOSIUM HELD

AML's annual spring symposium was held in Boston, Massachusetts on June 4th and 5th and attracted over two hundred participants to its various sessions. The organizing committee, consisting of Chad C. Wright, Cindy Barlow, Susan Howe, and Diane Monson, worked closely with the editors of Exponent II in correlating the symposium activities with those of Exponent Day.

The first session was held on Friday evening, June 4th in historic Faneuil Hall in downtown Boston. It opened with original music of Mary Lou Prince that set a suitably festive tone. Steven P. Sondrup, executive secretary of the Association then chaired an eight-member panel of editors of Mormon publications. Nancy Dredge, Linda Collins, and Susan Paxman represented Exponent II; Kevin Barnhurst spoke from the vantage point of an editor of the Benson Institute Newsletter; Eugene England, Mary Bradford, and Lavina Fielding Anderson are or have been affiliated with Dialogue; and Lori Winder is associate editor of Sunstone. Questions concerning the nature and extent of honesty and censorship in Mormon publications were sensitively discussed. The evening concluded with an exchange of ideas about the most pressing problems facing publishers of distinctly Mormon material now and in the course of the next ten years.

The Saturday morning session, chaired by Diane Monson, had been scheduled for the Longfellow House garden but torrential rain necessitated its transfer to the Cambridge Ward chapel. In the course of the morning, Brian Ward (University of Virginia) discussed "The Privileged Criteria in Literary Evaluation"; Nicolas Shumway (Yale) presented a paper simply entitled "The God Within" in which he discussed the need for perplexity in spiritually mature individuals; Tony Kimball (Bentley College) offered some entertaining but insightful comments in his presentation, "The Mirror of Stupidity: Mormon Political Writing"; the session closed with Mary Bradford's "'The State of the Union': 'Dialogue' and Mormon Writing."

The final session, held at Phillips Brooks House at Harvard University, was chaired by Mary Bradford and presented six writers reading from their recent work. Bruce Young and Thomas Asplund read poetry; scenes from a play by Susan Howe were presented; Jaroldeen Edwards and Meg Munk read from narrative fiction in progress; and Eugene England illustrated his expository skill with a deeply moving personal essay.

## MORE THAN NATURE NEEDS: THE NECESSITY FOR THE ARTS

In a series of sensitive and perceptive essays, Edward L. Hart provides a rational and comprehensive affirmation of the need for the humanities in his recently published monograph, More than Nature Needs: The Necessity for the Arts (Brigham Young University, Charles E. Merrill Monograph, No. 6, 1982, 84pp.).

The ten essays present varying perspectives on the place of the arts in human life. Evident in each is the clarity and concision of thought and expression which illustrates Hart's own mastery of language. Perceptions early felt, nurtured, and affirmed through a lifetime of experience as student, poet, husband, professor, bishop, and father are shared. The experiences often echo our own. Yet the critical ability to evaluate, to see the ultimate significance in the seemingly ordinary, and to focus daily living according to that vision help us renew our own commitment to life and all that affirms it. The message of art as that affirmation and intensification of life is clear.

In the first essay, "An Insubstantial Pageant," Hart defends the study of the humanities within the context of a greater reality than that of the moment, "which," he says, "is always, in one sense a delusion. . . . The things we mistake for substance are often shadows. And the most tangible things are often the most unreal. . . . This is one reason why the humanities deserve to be studied. They have a life that, though sometimes without substance, is more real than anything tangible."

In the experience of art can be fused the temporal and the eternal. The purpose of literature at times is "to cast the integrated moment of time into a form that continues to be capable of being experienced again." The artificial boundaries of our perceived reality are taken down as "universal truths are formulated and repeated in humanistic constructs of reality. . . ." "The artist," he explains, "relates the unique of a given experience to a larger whole. Thus he holds on to its individuality and at the same time releases it from insignificance." Art is given life through the experience and imagination. This is the necessity of art, the "need to learn to apply imagination to our passing apprehensions of reality." This is the humanistic orientation needed by everyone in order to be educated: "the ability, through imagination, to relate the passing moment to a total vision of life."

The necessity of balance in a world of pressure to specialize is the subject of the second essay. Balance is the key to peace in art as well as life; that balance which produces the reconciliation of stillness and motion in art is the same balance needed among the ever-changing motions of modern life. A discussion of the needs of educational balance among and within intellect, emotion, and spirit follows as the means of achieving the unity that the term university implies.

The essays that follow, "The View from the Inside," "Compose Yourself," "By Indirections Find Directions Out," "The Need Beyond Reason," and others continue the discussion of literature, metaphor, tragedy, imagination, comedy, and the need for intense experience both actual and vicarious. Students of the humanities will find validation as well as great hope as so many of the common questions, issues, and dilemmas are faced and substantially answered.

Carol A. Hawkes

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