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Chad J. Flake

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Mormon Bibliography

1965

CHAD J. FLAKE*

The 1965 Mormon bibliography follows the pattern adopted in the previous issues of the *Brigham Young University Studies*. It consists of selected items from the 1965 (v. 6) *Mormon Americana*, a cooperative listing of books dealing with Utah and the Mormons. In this bibliography only the items concerning the Church have been considered.

In the 1964 edition of the "Mormon Bibliography," two problems were noted concerning books being published in this area: the confusion of "edition" and "printing," and the lack of care in the printing of bibliographies. Another problem facing the scholar as he works with local materials is the lack of proper indexing.

This is not a problem which is peculiar to materials printed in Utah. However, the fact that it is a general problem does not keep it from being annoying. During the past two years I have worked on a *Bibliography of Mormonism*, and one of the most trying parts of the project has been to locate sections of books dealing with Mormonism. Equally frustrating to other writers are the periodicals and newspapers which have never been properly indexed.

A great deal of work has been done to index the more prominent Church periodicals. Mr. N. I. Butt, of the B.Y.U. library, has been the principal person responsible for these indexes, having published indexes to the *Times and Seasons*, *Messenger and Advocate*, *Elder's Journal*, *Journal of Discourses*, and many more. Still others are indexes in manuscript form, such as his index to the *Juvenile Instructor* and *Contributor*. Also there is hope for more being published by other people such as the index to the *Millennial Star* by Beth Oyler. Though most helpful, most of the indexes now published have a great deal to be desired as far as completeness and availability are concerned. Also there is the problem of cumulative indexes

*Mr. Flake is Special Collections librarian at Brigham Young University.

for current publications. Since 1952, the B.Y.U. library has indexed the Church Section of the *Deseret News* and published it since 1957. There has, however, never been an accumulation so that a person must go through fourteen separate indexes. Each year the problem increases.

A problem more serious, and for which there is less excuse, is the lack of good indexes in books published locally. True, the responsibility for an index usually is the author's, but certain guidelines could be set forth by a publisher whose name is being placed on the title page of the work. An example of such an index is in Sterling W. Sill's *Leadership* (Vol. I). Ten items in the index are listed under "The" which is never properly a filing word; there are thirteen references to Joseph Smith under "Joseph" and twelve under "Smith"; the reference to Major M. Treptow is found under "Major." What is otherwise a fine book is reduced in value due to poor indexing. With so much material available, the scholars usually do not have time to read or scan a book in the hope of finding something of import. If the book does not have a good index, it is often omitted from consideration.

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