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Mormons in the Pacific: A Bibliography Russell T. Clement, comp.

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Book Reviews

CLEMENT, RUSSELL T., comp. *Mormons in the Pacific: A Bibliography*. Laie, Hawaii: The institute for Polynesian Studies, 1981. 239 pp. \$12.95 hardbound. \$7.95 paperback.

Reviewed by R. Lanier Britsch, professor of history, Brigham Young University, Provo Campus.

The Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., called the first four missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the islands of the Pacific in 1843. The result of that act has been 139 years of continuous Mormon history with a peculiar Pacific or Polynesian bent. Few parts of the world have captured the imagination of contemporary Latter-day Saints more than Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, and New Zealand. But, ironically, few geographical areas have received less scholarly attention than these exotic places.

Although I doubt that great numbers of new researchers and writers will now immerse themselves in the waters of Pacific LDS history simply because Russell T. Clement has published *Mormons in the Pacific: A Bibliography*, I do believe he has made the job considerably easier for those few who do take the plunge. *Mormons in the Pacific* provides a useful research tool. Carefully researched itself, it includes 2873 entries, including books, pamphlets, periodicals, personal diaries, journals, mission histories, ephemera, and so forth. Many of the items are voluminous and merit extensive research. Scholars interested in the various island missions, schools, building projects, travels of missionaries, and the almost countless topics that exist in this area, will find that *Mormons in the Pacific* is the best place to begin.

In addition to the LDS materials, Clement lists a number of Reorganized LDS sources. Because the bibliography was compiled from three libraries and archives—the Joseph F. Smith Library at BYU–Hawaii, LDS Church Archives in Salt Lake City, and the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU in Provo—it is obvious that many sources may have been overlooked, both LDS and RLDS. Clement encourages

further compiling of sources and items that can lead to a comprehensive bibliography in the future.

Mormons in the Pacific is generally well organized and useful. However, several problems will bother some users. For example, Clement fails to list all of the "Manuscript Histories" compiled by Assistant LDS Church Historian Andrew Jensen. Item 655 instructs the user to look under name of church unit to find each "Manuscript History" by country. But a spot check reveals that the items are generally not listed elsewhere. Likewise, item 656 suggests checking names of church units to find "details regarding minutes, ledgers, and historical records." Again the records seem to be absent from the bibliography. Both of these categories of information are extremely important to Pacific historians. Perhaps because of size and production limitations the bibliography is not cross-referenced or indexed to a very specific degree.

But even with its limitations, I recommend *Mormons in the Pacific* for all research libraries and for scholars with any degree of interest in LDS Pacific history.