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Utah: A Guide to the State Ward J. Roylance

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ROYLANCE, WARD J. *Utah: A Guide to the State*. 2d ed. rev. and enl. Edited by Eugene E. Campbell. Salt Lake City: Utah, a Guide to the State Foundation and the Utah Arts Council, 1982. 779 pp. \$22.50 hardbound. 506 pp. paperback tour guide only. \$8.95.

Reviewed by Leonard J. Arrington, Lemuel H. Redd Professor of Western History and director of the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Church History, Brigham Young University.

In 1941 the Work Projects Administration Writer's Project put together *Utah: A Guide to the State*.¹ Because of the splendid writing of Utah historian Dale L. Morgan and others, it stood as one of the finest historical, literary, and geographical introductions to any state. More than one history professor used it as a text in university-level Utah history classes.

Ward Roylance, who served for many years with the Utah Travel Council, has spent the past several years bringing this outstanding guide up to date. He has retained the lyrical descriptive phrases of the earlier volume and, with the assistance of Eugene Campbell, emeritus professor of history at BYU, has added a brief account of Utah's history since 1941 as well as modernizing the tour guide to indicate new freeways and highways. With the help of Margaret Lester, longtime curator of photographs at the Utah State Historical Society, he has incorporated several hundred new photographs. The result is a volume that summarizes the state's history, presents practical tours with full descriptive information, and is also a display item with numerous maps and lovely photographs, thirty-two in color. It will be useful to carry in a glove compartment as one travels up and down the state. The book can be read for information or personal pleasure.

Those who expect *everything* in one book will, of course, be disappointed. It does not carry a full political history of the past forty years; for that one should turn to Richard Poll, *Utah's History*.² It is not a geographical atlas; for that purpose one should use the beautiful and informative *Atlas of Utah*.³ Nor is it, strictly speaking, a popular history and geography textbook; for such a textbook one should continue to use George Ellsworth's *Utah Heritage*.⁴ But this is an impressive volume.

¹*Utah: A Guide to the State*, comp. the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Utah (New York: Hastings House, 1941).

²Richard Poll et. al., *Utah's History* (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1978).

³*Atlas of Utah* (Provo and Ogden, Utah: Brigham Young University Press and Weber State College, 1981).

⁴George Ellsworth, *Utah's Heritage*, rev. ed. (Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, 1977).

The book is divided into two parts: "Part 1. Utah's Background" and "Part 2. Touring Utah's Highways and Sideroads." The first part, "Utah's Background," consists of 268 pages that discuss the "Natural Scene" (40 pp.), the "Historical Scene" (70 pp.), the "Economic Scene" (52 pp.), and the "Cultural Scene" (97 pp.). Perhaps because of the interests of the donors and advisors, the most complete of these is the "Cultural Scene," which is especially good on "The Arts" (69 pp.); there is even a separate index for this section.

As an example, the "Historical Scene" section contains 14 pages on Indians and archeology, 34 pages on Utah's history before statehood, and 22 pages on history after statehood. Those who think these treatments are inadequate should be reminded that there is much on Indians, archeology, and Utah's history in the cultural chapters and also in the discussions of sites and attractions in the tour guide portion.

Part 2, featuring a tour guide of Utah's highways and sideroads, begins with an introductory section (30 pp.) which discusses seasons and climate, events, travel tips, museums and exhibits, state parks, and national forests as well as providing a reading list. There is also a section of 90 pages describing each of the national parks, national monuments, national recreation areas, and national historic sites. This will be particularly helpful for both Utahans and "outside" travelers.

The guide outlines eleven tours, with an average of about 35 pages on each. The longest of these, as one would expect, describes attractions in the Salt Lake Valley—"Great Salt Lake Country—East." The tour descriptions include geographical details and sights of interest, plus some history, local folklore, and interesting facts. For example, few travelers in Utah have visited Bluff, in the extreme southeastern part of the state. There are more than three pages on the history and local color connected with this seldom-visited out-of-the-way place. Important books or articles about localities and their monuments, attractions, and personalities are often mentioned, and quotations from these are frequently included. In the case of Bluff, there are such selections from David E. Miller's *Hole-in-the-Rock* and Hoffman Birney's *Zealots of Zion*.

The selections from the 1941 *Guide* are clearly indicated, and these add both literary color and historical instruction to the volume. It is no disrespect to Ward Roylance to say that his prose is not quite

up to the standard set by Dale Morgan in the 1941 production. Roylance's style is concise, clear, and informative; and his tour guide is enlightening and instructive. But he is not Dale Morgan.

Funding for the book came from the Utah Arts Council and the Utah Travel Council and from the generous donations of Sam and Lila Weller of Zion Book Store, Zeke and Kay Dumke, George and Gene Hatch, Joseph and Evelyn Rosenblatt, Obert C. and Grace Tanner, and the Michael Foundation. The design and editorial work are primarily the result of the efforts of Keith Montague and Mary Ann Payne.

According to Edward L. Hart, member of the Utah Arts Council Board and emeritus professor of English at BYU who wrote the foreword, "Funds accruing to the Foundation from the sale of the guidebook will be managed for the sole purpose of republishing it when a new edition is needed" (p. x). In the meantime, we can be grateful to the donors and sponsors who made possible this handsome, informative, and useful revision and enlargement of the landmark original edition. Thanks to all of the participants, the impressive volume is a bargain.