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Mormon Bibliography 1983

Scott H. Duvall and Barbara S. Ballantyne

The 1983 "Mormon Bibliography" contains almost as many entries as the 1982 bibliography. It appears that articles, pamphlets, and books printed on Mormon topics continue to keep a solid pace year after year. Yet, the abiding fear every bibliographer harbors—that he is missing something—strikes close, especially when it is too late to add anything. We encourage all who write articles related in any way to Mormonism, especially those published in specialized journals, to inform us, in Special Collections of the Brigham Young University Library, of what they have published.

One realm of Mormon publishing exists that has not been placed in this "Mormon Bibliography" nor in any of the recent previous Mormon bibliographies. Newspapers devoted exclusively to Mormon audiences have flourished over the years in various cities around the western United States. Some of these are, and have been, published by private individuals. Others have been issued by groups. Some of these publications continue their publications today; others have ceased publication.

These regional Mormon newspapers include the following titles and places of publication: the California Inter-Mountain News, in Los Angeles, California; the Latter-day Sentinel, in Phoenix, Arizona; the Latter-day Sentinel, in Cerritos, California; the Beehive, in Las Vegas, Nevada; the Latter-day Trumpet, in Idaho Falls, Idaho; the Hawaii Record Bulletin, in Honolulu, Hawaii; Mormon Life, in Sacramento, California; the Seagull, in Seattle, Washington; the San Diego Seagull, in San Diego, California; the Southwest Saint, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Latter-day Spokesman, in Royal City, Washington; and the Beehive, in Denver, Colorado.

The California Inter-Mountain News has been publishing weekly since 21 March 1935. In that first issue the editors of the newspaper expressed that their effort was "born of the conviction that there is

Scott H. Duvall is assistant curator of Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University. Barbara S. Ballantyne is a senior English major at Brigham Young University.
need of a suitable vehicle of expression and social solidarity for the California Inter-Mountain group, in numbers more than forty thousand.'" Although the "Mormon colony" (as they called it then) now numbers more than three hundred thousand, the focus and purpose of this regional newspaper remain the same.

For many years subscription and distribution of the California Inter-Mountain News was through the wards and stakes in Southern California. The Church has since discontinued this practice. Hence, the newspaper must seek individually paid subscriptions. It concentrates on the Southern California area and charges $4.95 per year or $7.95 for a two-year subscription. Although in the past couple of years this newspaper has had difficulties, it has lately increased its number of subscriptions and may continue publishing for another fifty years.

Two of the more recent unofficial Mormon publications are the "Latter-day Sentinels" in Arizona and California. These are privately owned newspapers which are published biweekly. The subscription cost is $10.00 per year. Paid subscriptions now number 13,000 for the Arizona Sentinel and 10,000 for the California Sentinel. The Arizona paper has been published since 1978, the California since 1983.

In Arizona the Sentinel also publishes an LDS "Buying Guide" every year. These guides are published to help Mormons in the area know who the Mormon businessmen are. These guides are published in a "Yellow Page" format as a "Guide to Merchants Who Appreciate the Mormon Business." They also contain lists of the stake and ward officers and their phone numbers for all stakes in Arizona.

The publishing family (Malin Lewis, publisher, and Crismon Lewis, editor, are father and son) looks upon their newspaper as a service to the Mormon community. And it appears that the two "Sentinels" are received very well in Arizona and California. The papers are well done; they satisfy a need for "Mormon" news in those two areas.

The Beehive, in Las Vegas, has also been quite successful. Beginning publication in 1975, it is published monthly and distributed free of charge to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Las Vegas area. It contains local news of the LDS church, listings of weddings and anniversaries, community news, sports news, etc. In addition, the Beehive has a variety of columns devoted to such subjects as building and development or the court system. It also has classified listings and advertising from which the operating revenue is generated.

The Latter-day Trumpet, published monthly in Idaho Falls, Idaho, is also a private enterprise newspaper. It is primarily an organ
of information about LDS people in the Upper Snake River Valley. A great deal of space is devoted to advertising which obviously helps to defray the costs of publication. The *Latter-day Trumpet* is distributed free of charge to Mormons in southeastern Idaho.

Two of the regional Mormon newspapers which are currently published differ from those already reviewed. The *Hawaii Record Bulletin*, of Honolulu, and *Mormon Life*, of Sacramento, are both nonprofit newspapers published by the Public Communications Council of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The newspapers are sent free of charge to each LDS home in its respective multi-region. *Mormon Life* was published for one year (1982) as a privately owned newspaper in the same mold as the other newspapers discussed. In April 1983, however, it came under the auspices of the Church’s Sacramento Area Public Communications Council. The purpose of this move was to enable the newspaper to present more accurate information and also to improve the quality of the information disseminated about the Church in the Sacramento Valley. The two editors and the news bureau director are called to their positions. They report to the multi-regional public communications director, who, in turn, reports to the Regional Representative coordinating the efforts of *Mormon Life*.

Other regional Mormon newspapers have been published during the past ten years. The *San Diego Seagull* is still publishing. It is, however, more of a local paper than the others. The *Seagull*, in Seattle, the *Southwest Saint*, and the *Latter-day Spokesman* have ceased publication because of financial difficulties.

Those newspapers which have been successful, however, seem to be fulfilling a role in the lives of thousands of Mormons who want information concerning the Church in their own area. These regional Mormon newspapers constitute a type of Mormon publishing which will not appear in most Mormon bibliographies. Yet, every year, they publish a great deal of information on Mormonism.

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