Mormon Bibliography: 1973

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In a recent meeting, the Mormon History Association announced its plan to publish a journal. This news was received with great pleasure by most of the members of the Association. However, in a day when periodicals are having to go out of business due to the rising cost of paper, labor, and postage, some have felt it to be a poor idea. One only has to look at the Mormon-related periodicals to see the tenuous nature of these publications. This year the RLDS publication Courage and Velton Peabody’s Mormonia were discontinued due to financial difficulties, and Dialogue has frequently asked for financial help to maintain its fragile hold on life. BYU Studies and Utah Historical Quarterly have no apparent difficulty, being funded by Brigham Young University and the Utah Historical Society respectively.

There is a second reason why it seems to us to be an unfortunate decision. We feel that one more “house” type organ is not needed. There are an adequate number of places that non-technical or general articles can be published: The Ensign, Dialogue, BYU Studies, and the Utah Historical Quarterly for starters. One can argue that Dialogue and Utah Historical Quarterly don’t fall into that category, but that is quibbling. They still are published by and for a limited audience. What is needed is to have more Mormon scholars publish in national magazines and historical quarterlies such as The New England Quarterly, Ohio History, Missouri Historical Review, Arizona and the West, and New York History, to mention just a few. It would both enlarge the scope of audience, and I suspect, improve the quality of the material published. This advantage

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is two-fold. In the first place it would give our scholars national coverage. Secondly, it would provide those publications with articles that are more compassionate toward the Church than some that have appeared in recent months.

As in the past, for the compilation of the Mormon Bibliography, I have relied heavily on Mormon Americana, vol. 15, 1973.

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