Mormon Bibliography 1976

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One of the most significant books on Mormonism to be published during the last year is James B. Allen and Glen M. Leonard's *The Story of the Latter-day Saints*. It marks the first time that a single book by professional historians has attempted to survey the entire breadth of Mormon history. The book is not without critics or problems. Those who are used to seeing only the divine hand in all things will object to the fact that the authors have placed Mormonism in its historical setting, demonstrating that some of its teachings are similar to doctrines and principles which were being debated in New York and Ohio. On the other hand, those wishing that all the facts should be known are disappointed with the way in which certain problems are ignored or left without interpretive analysis. Others will become lost in the maze of twentieth century organizational changes and other minutiae. The book gives rise to two questions: (1) Can a truly objective history be written which will satisfy both sides of the question? and (2) Can the complexity of Mormon history be condensed into a single volume?

A book that has just crossed my desk which must rank as one of the worst pieces of bookmaking I have seen in quite some time is the Deseret Book edition of the Book of Mormon done on newsprint. As one opens the book and eyes the gray paper, the question arises: How on earth is anyone to be impressed with the book when it is presented on such poor and ugly paper? There must be a point below which a publisher cannot go and expect a favorable reaction to a printed page, and this edition has passed it.

As in the past, *Mormon Americana, Volume 17* (1976), has been used for the compilation of the "Mormon Bibliography."

HISTORICAL


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