

AMONG THE MORMONS

A Survey of Current Literature

Edited by Ralph W. Hansen

After love, book collecting is the most exhilarating sport of all.

A. S. W. Rosenback
A Book Hunter's Holiday [1936]

While I was browsing in the Reference and Bibliography room of the University of California at Berkeley library, my eyes fell on *A Bibliography of Bibliographies in Religion* by John G. Barrow. As is my custom when discovering a volume that has even the remotest hint of containing material on "Mormons and Mormonism" I pulled the book off the shelf. To my gratification, Dr. Barrow had listed one reference under this subject—an 1880 dealers catalog offering for sale the Mormon collection of Charles Lowell Woodward. The title of the catalog, in the style of the day, was full and informative:

Bibliothica [*sic!*]-Scallawagiana. Catalogue of a matchless collection of books, pamphlets, autographs, pictures, &c. relating to Mormonism and the Mormons. The 10 years' gathering of Charles L. Woodward, who, enjoying superior facilities for their acquisition has never let slip an opportunity—whether at public, or private sale—of adding to their number, to be sold at vendue, Monday, January 19, 1880, at half-past three in the afternoon, by Messrs. Bangs & co., Nos 739-41 Broadway, New York. Buyers who can not be present may have their orders to purchase carefully executed by the auctioneers. [New York, 1880] 50p.

Woodward's collection consisted of 325 titles, which the Messrs. Bangs & co. carefully cataloged because "the extent of the collection will cause the catalogue to be frequently referred to, until a bibliography of Mormonism be compiled. . . ." A bibliography of Mormonism is still lacking, but there is high hope that a project long under way will soon bear fruit.

Who was Charles Lowell Woodward and what happened to the collection? The urgency of mundane class assignments prevented further inquiry into the subject. Perhaps a reader will have the answer.