

1973, when she completed her dissertation, a number of articles and some theses have dealt with Mormon and Utah architecture. These include articles in *Dialogue*, *Sunstone* and particularly in the *Utah Historical Quarterly* issue "Towards an Architectural Tradition" (43:3 Summer 1975). The latter publication would have been helpful in the author's comments on William Folsom's designs for the Manti temple which have recently been examined by Paul Anderson.

Ms. Andrew's writing style vacillates between an academic and a popular approach.

In some cases arguments are well documented while others are too abbreviated. Her bibliography is helpful, but the lack of an introduction and an index is unfortunate. Photographs and drawings are not properly scaled to the book's format, and some are of poor quality.

Despite this, Ms. Andrew's study is a much needed interpretation of sacred buildings, a basis for further critical studies on the Church and its architecture and a welcome addition to the growing research on Mormon and Utah architectural history.

World-Wide

The Expanding Church. By Spencer J. Palmer. Salt Lake City: Deseret Books, 1978. 232 pp., \$6.95.

Reviewed by Noel B. Reynolds in the Department of Government of the Brigham Young University.

On first impression, Spencer Palmer's new book may not appear promising. One wonders silently how even a man of Palmer's talents could make a coherent whole from twenty-three such diverse chapters. Not only is there a wide variety of modes of presentation, theme and genre, but there are at least eight identifiable authors. If this is an experiment in writing, however, it is a successful one. Palmer's book joins the recent biography of President Kimball as an account that is able to deal realistically with serious problems facing the Church and its individual members without wearing the dark glasses of cynicism. Rather, he finds beauty and genuine inspiration in life as it is actually lived. Any serious reader will find this powerful, believable and valuable.

Palmer's book accomplishes many things. Of considerable interest and value is his compilation of the history of the international expansion of the Church and the statistics documenting these developments. Also of great value is his sensitive correlation of prophetic statements on the international responsibility of the Church. The central point of the book is a fireside talk in which Elder Bruce R. McConkie, with char-

acteristic clarity and vision, develops these themes. The book also offers well-informed assessments of the practical difficulties facing the Church in its world-wide mission. Essays by David M. Kennedy and Soren F. Cox detail this challenge from their respective perspectives as ambassador for the Church at large and as first mission president in a strange, new culture. Insightful comments placed throughout the book by the author himself add to this dimension. Finally, and the high point of the book, is the collection of carefully assembled autobiographical accounts of the initial experiences of three convert families and their subsequent growth in the Church over two or more generations. The convincing reality, the contagious humility and the pervasive spirituality of these accounts raise the reader to insight and spiritual empathy.

We live in a day when the inability of our youth and many adults to distinguish between genuine spiritual experience and concocted sentimentality has created a rich market for those who can grind out tear-jerking stories. In the three family stories he presents Palmer has provided us with a unique counter to these. My favorite is the autobiographical account of Pablo Choc, a poor Guatemalan Indian whose sole livelihood since his earliest memory was the produce of the small plot of land and the animals his family was able to maintain. As Brother Choc recounts his earliest political and social experiences and his subsequent exposure to the gospel, we read of a simple