

AMONG THE MORMONS

A Survey of Current Literature

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THE VAST MAJORITY of the books considered in the accompanying compilation are of a biographical, fictional, doctrinal or inspirational nature. While the biographies and works on local history are generally intended for a rather limited audience, the remaining works all too frequently are written because they will sell rather than for what insight they might convey.

Peter Bart's *Thy Kingdom Come*, "the first novel that has ever pierced the Zion Curtain" (in one reviewer's opinion), is by far the most provocative and dramatic of the works included: "Skeleton after skeleton is hauled out of the closet, from the status of women to polygamous cults."

Far more useful is Lawrence Foster's *Religion and Sexuality*, one of two studies on the Shakers, the Mormons and the Oneida Community published recently. Stanley B. Kimball's study of *Heber C. Kimball*, and Klaus J. Hansen's *Mormonism and the American Experience*, also have captured considerable attention.

Of greatest potential significance to Mormons is the Ehat and Cook annotated compendium of *The Words of Joseph Smith* that provides a historically rigorous alternative to much of Joseph Fielding Smith's *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*.

Linda Thatcher's bibliography of recent dissertations and theses reflects a continued willingness on the part of our institutions of higher learning to encourage scholarly inquiry, despite the reality that much of what is produced will be read by only a handful.

A Selected Bibliography of Recent Books on Mormons and Mormonism

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COMPILED BY LINDA THATCHER

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