

Cargoes II

Brent Corcoran

Quinquereme of Nineveh from distant Ophir
Running home to haven in sunny Palestine . . .

—John Masefield, “Cargoes”

Tanker from al-Kuwayt on the Persian Gulf
Passes the Straits of Hormuz (which Americans hold),
With a cargo of “black gold”—
Gas and petroleum—
For further refinement in Galveston.

Corporate carrier commissioned in Kobe
Swims on its brimming hull across the North Pacific,
With a cargo of VCRs and stereos
And fine automobiles,
For resale in sunny Los Angeles.

Charity tramp ship chartered at London
Tugs across the Channel in an August heat,
Going to pick up crates of tin cans
And cast-off clothes,
As alms for famished Africa.

BRENT CORCORAN is author of *Park City Underfoot: Self-Guided Tours of Historic Neighborhoods* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1995) and editor of *Multiply and Replenish: Mormon Essays on Sex and Family Life* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1994). He has been employed for the past ten years as a compositor for the *Journal of Mormon History* and joins the new *DIALOGUE* editorial team as production manager.