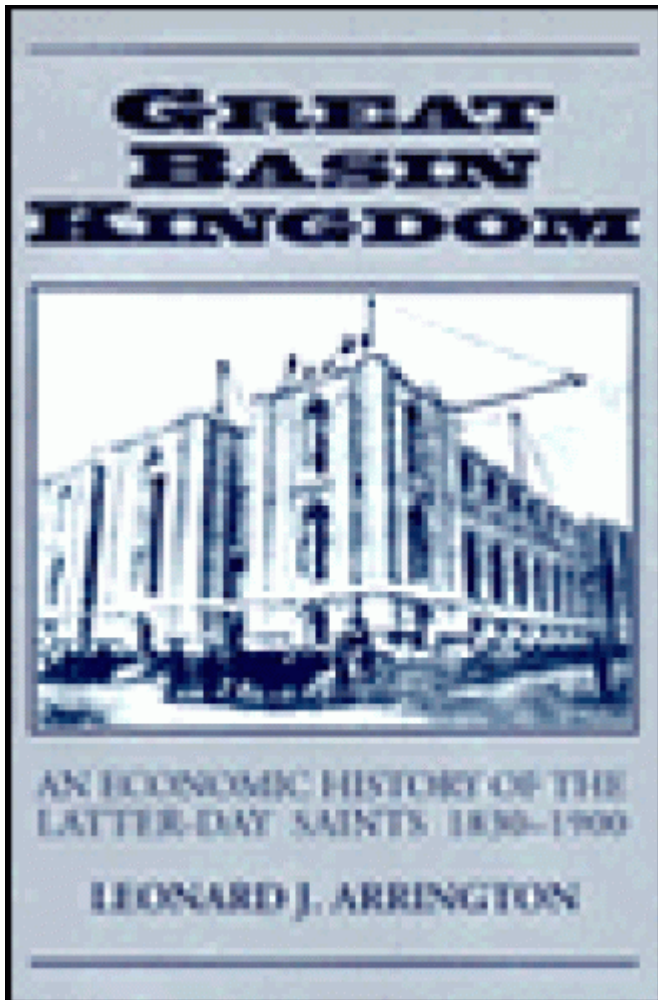


Mormonism

selected by [Richard Lyman Bushman](#) in the [August 22, 2012](#) issue

In Review



Great Basin Kingdom

by Leonard J. Arrington
University of Illinois Press

WINNER OF THE MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION
BEST BOOK AWARD

Mormonism in Transition

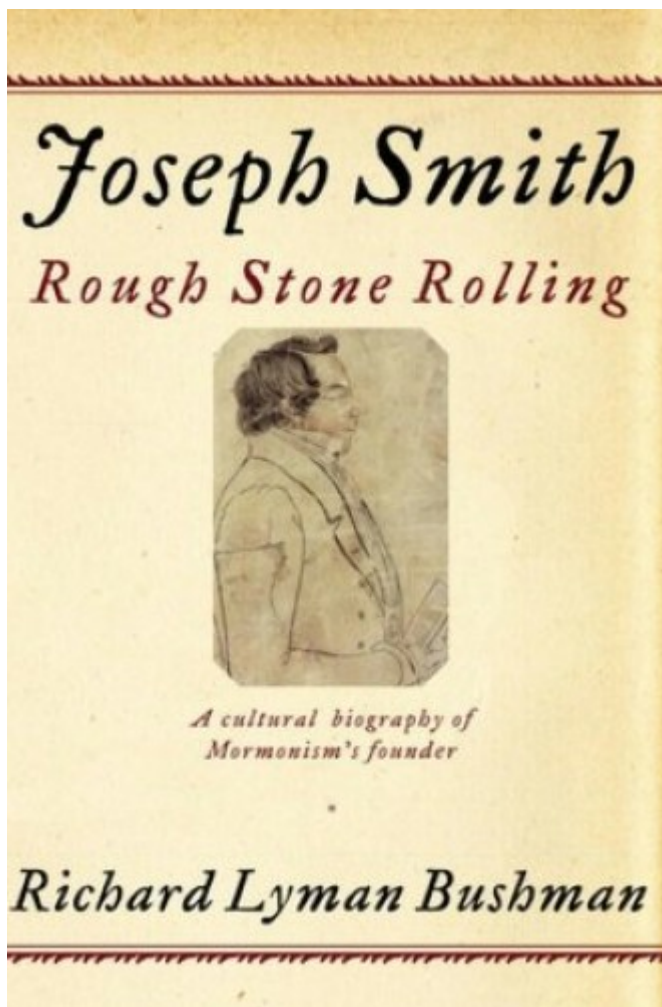


A History of the Latter-day Saints,
1890–1930

Thomas G. Alexander

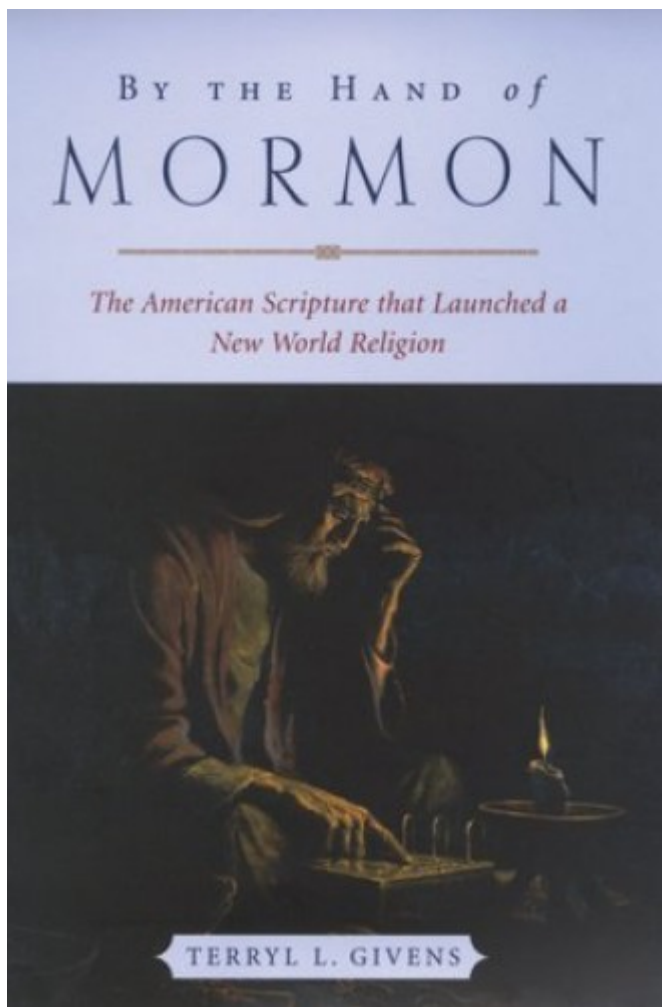
Mormonism in Transition, 1890–1930

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Joseph Smith

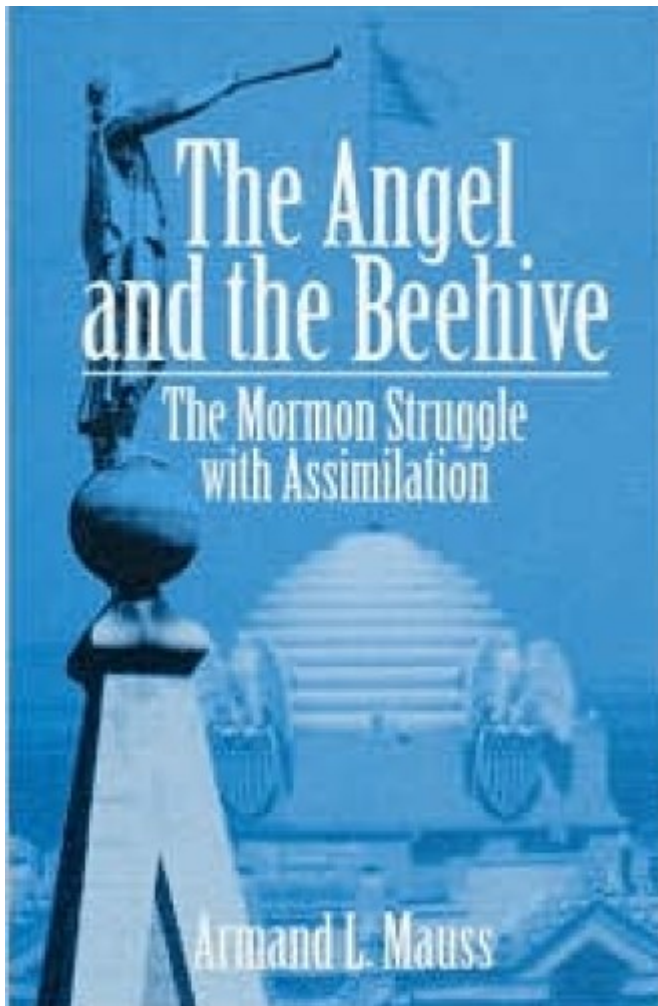
by Richard Lyman Bushman
Knopf



By the Hand of Mormon

by Terryl L. Givens

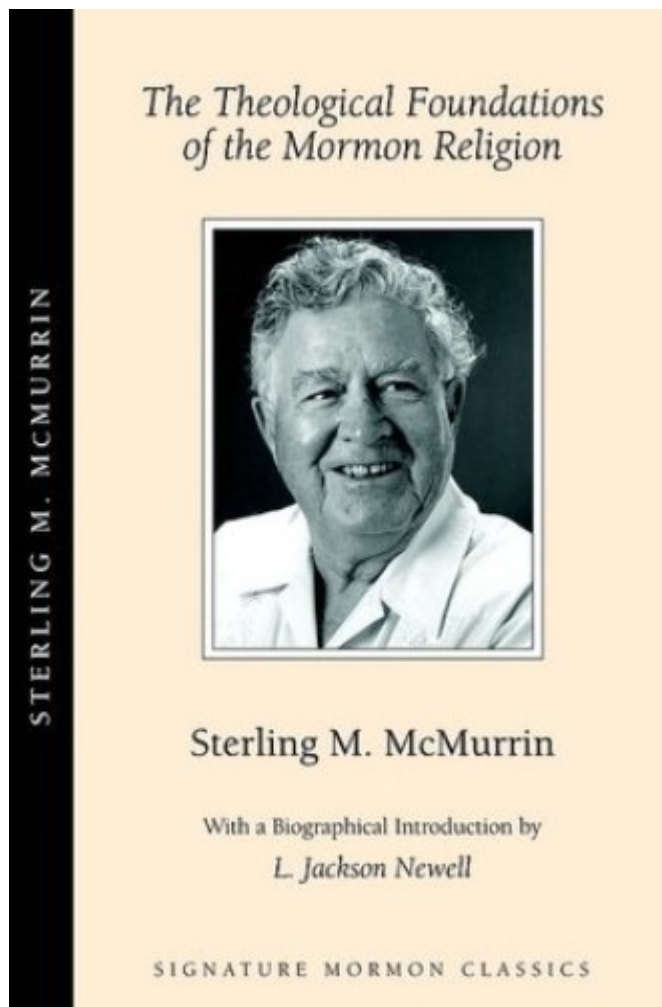
Oxford University Press



The Angel and the Beehive

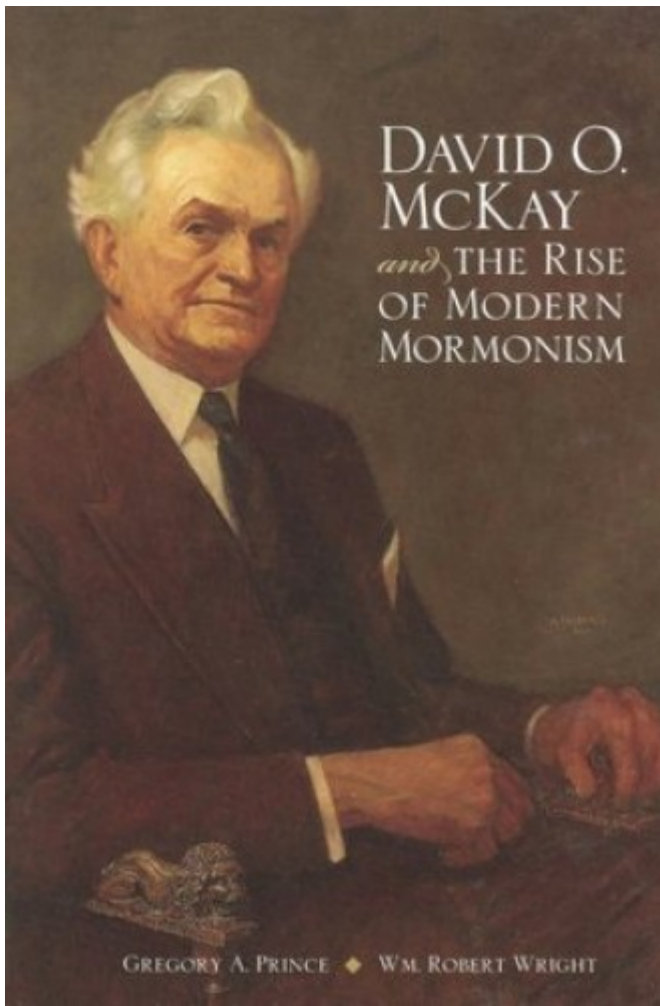
by Armand L. Mauss

University of Illinois Press



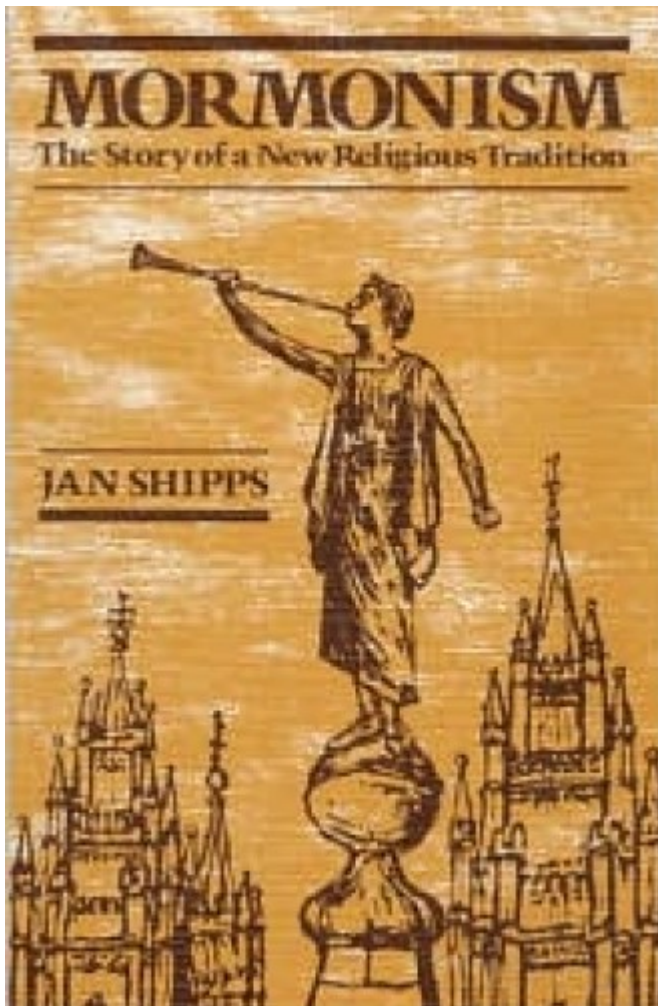
The Theological Foundations of the Mormon Religion

by Sterling M. McMurrin
University of Utah Press



David O. McKay and the Rise of Modern Mormonism

by Gregory A. Prince and William Robert Wright
University of Utah Press



Mormonism

by Jan Shipps

University of Illinois Press

Great Basin Kingdom: An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830–1900, by Leonard J. Arrington (University of Illinois Press). A masterful account of the policies and practices that enabled Mormons to settle in the hostile environment of the Great Basin. Arrington, the dean of Mormon historians for many years, shows that the Mormons achieved this feat by imposing a managed economy on a frontier society.

Mormonism in Transition, 1890–1930: A History of the Latter-day Saints, by Thomas G. Alexander (University of Illinois Press). Alexander describes how the Church of Latter-day Saints transformed itself in almost every dimension in the decades after polygamy was ended and statehood was achieved. These were the years when Mormons assimilated into American society as the church sloughed off the practices

that had long alienated them from the rest of the country.

Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling, by Richard Lyman Bushman (Knopf). A practicing Mormon attempts to understand the founding prophet of Mormonism in realistic but sympathetic terms.

By the Hand of Mormon: The American Scripture That Launched a New World Religion, by Terryl L. Givens (Oxford University Press). An account of how the Book of Mormon was received by believers and unbelievers. Givens presents the ongoing debates about the book's historical authenticity in evenhanded fashion.

The Angel and the Beehive: The Mormon Struggle with Assimilation, by Armand L. Mauss (University of Illinois Press). Mauss offers a sociological framework for understanding LDS Church policy and practices in the 20th century by tracing the oscillations between separation from American society (the angel) and assimilation (the beehive).

The Theological Foundations of the Mormon Religion, by Sterling M. McMurrin (University of Utah Press). McMurrin, a cultural Mormon and a philosopher, briefly and beautifully explains the meaning of Mormon beliefs in terms of classic philosophical categories.

David O. McKay and the Rise of Modern Mormonism, by Gregory A. Prince and William Robert Wright (University of Utah Press). Drawing on interviews and the minutes of the governing body of the LDS Church, Prince and Wright offer an inside look at the workings of the inner councils of the church during the administration of David O. McKay, one of its most important 20th-century presidents.

Mormonism: The Story of a New Religious Tradition, by Jan Shipps (University of Illinois Press). A religious studies scholar explains the meaning of Mormonism in the broad sweep of religious history.