

## IN THIS ISSUE

Hugh B. Brown is in some ways an intellectual model for many *DIALOGUE* readers, and we are pleased to present here three articles on his life drawn from his personal papers. Elder Brown discussed his life in a series of oral history interviews with his grandson, Edwin B. Firmage, and our first article includes an overview of these memoirs, which will be published this year. President Brown's daughter, Mary Brown Firmage, discovered the courtship letters of her parents, and they provide an enticingly human side of the future Church leader. Finally, we include Richard Bushman's article on Hugh Brown as a mission president in Europe on the eve of World War II.

A variety of topics completes our Articles and Essays section. David Bailey's study describes the meeting of Mormon theology with science and proposes how that theology is strengthened by current scientific thought. Keith Norman's essay begins as satire and moves on to question the literalist interpretations of the Old Testament and Mormon scriptural creation stories; an informal study by Brooklyn Derr reveals the differing demands placed upon French Latter-day Saints by their culture and their church, illuminating the unique problems converts face in societies outside the United States. A comparison by David Peck of Mormonism and the Eastern mystic traditions concludes the article section.

With some self-indulgence we include here the *DIALOGUE* Twentieth Anniversary banquet remarks, given in August 1987, of Eugene England, Leonard Arrington, Lavina Fielding Anderson, and Levi Peterson. These four authors celebrate the diversity and significance of the journal with personal responses to the twenty years of independent thought.

In Notes and Comments, RLDS Church Historian Richard P. Howard provides an insightful analysis of how historians have been affected by the Hofmann forgeries, with suggestions on how the community of scholars and believers can learn from the tragedy. Garth Jones provides insight into the historical need to be first — to be born, baptized, or to settle an area — by focusing on family traditions of the first Mormon baptism in England at the River Ribble.

We announce our annual writing awards in this issue and hope that potential contributors will be encouraged to send us their best work. As Gene England points out in his banquet remarks, *DIALOGUE* has encouraged and provided a forum for a unique variety of essays and responses to our religion and culture, and we plan to continue this tradition.