

unalterable sound, and every word is spelt with a reference to given sounds. By this means, strangers can not only acquire a knowledge of our language much more readily, but a practised reporter can also report a strange tongue, so that the strange language when spoken can be legible [sic] by one conversant with the tongue.

On March 30, 1854, the First Presidency, or ruling body of the Church, issued the "Eleventh General Epistle of the Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to the Saints" in which they stated that:

The Regency have formed a new Alphabet, which it is expected will prove highly beneficial in acquiring [sic] the English language to foreigners, as well as the youth of our country. We recommend it to the favourable consideration of the people, and desire that all of our teachers and instructors will introduce it in their schools and to their classes. The orthography of the English language needs reforming—a word to the wise is sufficient (Clark, 1965, p. 130).

In his address to the Territorial Legislature delivered December 11, 1854, Governor Young said that it was "an opportune time to introduce the New Alphabet, in forming which, the Regency have performed a difficult and laborious task. I recommend that it be thoroughly and extensively taught in all the schools, combining, as it eminently does, a basis of instruction for the attainment of the English language, far surpassing in simplicity and ease any known to exist" ("Message of His Excellency Governor Brigham Young," April 28, 1855, p. 262). A few weeks before this, on November 30, 1854, Governor Young met with the Regents, who agreed to lecture in different parts of the Territory to promote the Deseret Alphabet (Powell, 1968).

It was the intent of the regents and Governor Young that all

colonists in the Great Basin should acquire skill in the use of the new alphabet. As soon as December 4, 1854, B.B. Messenger was teaching the Deseret Alphabet at an evening school in Farmington, Utah (Journal History of the Church, December 12, 1854. Hereinafter cited as JHC). Messenger later taught the Alphabet to the clerks of the Church Historian's Office, and records were kept using this method of writing (JHC, February 7, 1855; MS, April 28, 1855). Richard F. Burton (1862) recorded that "One of my favorite places of visiting was the Historian's and Recorder's Office...It contained a small collection of volumes, together with papers, official and private, plans, designs, and other requisites, many of them written in the Deseret alphabet" (p. 509).

On February 5, 1855, Lorenzo Snow advertised in the Deseret News that the Deseret Alphabet was one of the subjects to be taught in the evening classes at his Polysophical Institute, along with "Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammer [sic], Composition, Declamation, Languages, Chemistry, natural Philosophy, and other such branches as are usually taught in High Schools." The following month, George A. Smith, a Mormon Apostle recorded that "John B. Milner taught the Deseret Alphabet to 150 scholars at Provo, 60 at Lehi, 28 at American Fork, 25 at Mountainville, 28 at Pleasant Grove, and 22 in the Provo 1st Ward" (JHC, March 11, 1855). We have, however, no idea of the ages of these "scholars."

On December 7, 1854, the Deseret News reported that the Chancellor

of the Board of Regents desired to make "it an indispensable requisite in teachers to forthwith qualify themselves to teach the Deseret Alphabet in their respective schools." The report went on: "it is expected that the Regents and the Twelve Apostles who may visit the various towns and settlements in the Territory, together with such agent or agents as may be sent by the Board, will teach and enforce these principles."

George Watt was active in teaching and promoting the Alphabet, and we know of numerous occasions when he lectured on the subject, at one time giving "illustrations on the blackboard" (JHC, June 6, 1855). Albert A. Carrington, editor of the Deseret News, also lectured on the Alphabet, and these men's lectures were "well attended" (Smith, 1854, p. 584). Classes on the Deseret Alphabet were established in many communities of the territory, and it was expected that this innovation "would become part of the regular culture of the settlers" (Moffitt, 1946, pp. 55-56).

The Deseret Typographical Association approved of the Alphabet and unanimously passed the following resolution concerning it on August 2, 1855:

Whereas, the Regency of the University of Deseret, assisted by the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, have invented a new Alphabet:--and,

Whereas, the present system of English orthography is very imperfect, and inadequate to the end it is designed to serve:--and,

Whereas the Deseret Alphabet supplies a simple character

to most of the simple sounds of the human voice, substantially correcting the absurdities of English spelling,—rendering more definite the pronunciation of words, and more easy the acquisition of other languages, and lessening to a very great extent, for the rising generation, the labor of learning to read:—therefore,

Resolved, that this Association hail the Deseret Alphabet as a forerunner in that series of developments in philology which shall prepare mankind for the reception of a pure language.

Resolved, that justice to ourselves, and to our posterity, demands our serious attentions and endeavors be directed toward rendering universal in our midst the practical adoption of this New Alphabet: - and that we may be more capable of fulfilling this resolution,

Resolved, that Elder Geo. D. Watt be solicited to instruct this Association in the principles of the Deseret Alphabet (DN, August 15, 1855).

Watt instructed the Association at several of their subsequent meetings (Monson, 1947). The Deseret News of October 12, 1855 wrote that Robert L. Campbell, a Regent of the University of Deseret and later Territorial Superintendent of Schools, displayed to the Association a "letter from an elder on a mission, written in the new Alphabet, the writer being unable to write in the common style, and having received but six lessons in the new."

In December, 1855, Brigham Young wrote a letter to Franklin D. Richards, President of the European Mission of the Mormon Church:

We contemplate having a set of school books printed at the Liverpool [Mormon printing] office, in the new alphabet; we would like to have you inform us in relation to getting up a font of type, and whether we will have to send any person to Liverpool for that purpose, or to oversee the printing of books, the manuscript of course being furnished from this territory.

It is our intention to introduce this system in the schools throughout the territory....The Legislative Assembly will probably take this matter in hand and make an appropriation to further this object ("Foreign Correspondence," May 24, 1856, p. 331).

Until this time, there had been nothing printed using the Deseret characters, with the exception of cards and circulars which demonstrated the sounds of the Alphabet (See Figure 31). Jules Remy, who visited Utah in September of 1855, mentioned that "up to this day nothing has been published, as far as we know, with those singular types. We have known them used in private correspondence, and seen them on shop signs" (Remy, 1861, p. 184). James Henry Martineau kept the records of the Parowan Stake in Deseret characters, and a number of people used the Alphabet in their diaries (Grover & Cranney, 1982). Monson (1947) reports that "in Cedar City the tombstone of John Morris, who died February 20, 1855, was carved entirely in Deseret characters, with the exception of his Welsh birthplace, Lanfair Talhairn" (p. 13).

Efforts were being made to procure type for the new alphabet, and on February 15, 1855, the Deseret News reported that "Punches, matrices, and moulds are being prepared by Mr. Sabins, for casting type of the new Alphabet; and we are in the hopes of seeing ere long, a font of handsome letter case, and primary books in the new style, printed for use in our schools." Monson (1947) writes, however, that this type was never completed or used. Later, "two enterprising young lads" working at the Deseret News cut large letters of the Deseret Alphabet in type and an illustrative card made with these characters was offered

Figure 31. The Deseret Alphabet, 1854.

THE DESERET ALPHABET.			
VOCAL SOUNDS.		Q .. Cia	<p>The sounds of the letters <i>q, j, v, f, 7</i> are heard in the words <i>fit, net, fat, cut, nut, feet.</i> <i>q, c, l, n, p,</i> are heard in the words <i>cheese, goats, path, the, wash.</i> <i>q</i> is like <i>r</i> in <i>stir</i>; <i>are</i> is made by the combination of <i>q</i> & <i>i</i>: <i>ll</i> is heard in <i>length</i>. Learn this Alphabet and appreciate its advantages.</p>
Long.	Double.	P .. F	
ə .. E	ʌ .. l	8 .. V	
3 .. A	θ .. Ox	L .. Eth	
0 .. Ah	W .. Win	θ .. The	
0 .. Aw	ʏ .. Ye	8 .. S	
0 .. O	ʔ .. H Aspirate.	6 .. Z	
0 .. O.	Articulate Bounds ʔ .. P	D .. E-h	
Short.		8 .. Zine	
<p>This column of letters are the short sounds of the above.</p>	ʔ .. B	4 .. Cr	
	ʔ .. T	U .. l.	
	θ .. D	ʔ .. M	
	c .. Che	ʔ .. N	
	q .. G	H .. Fng	
Q .. K			

for sale at the post office (DN, August 15, 1855).

On December 28, 1855, "An act appropriating money for educational purposes..." was passed by the Utah Territorial Legislature. Twenty-five hundred dollars was appropriated "to procure fonts of Deseret Alphabet type, in paying for printing books in said type, and for other purposes" (JHC, December 12, 1855). By February, a committee composed of Watt, Wilford Woodruff, and Orson Pratt was meeting with Brigham Young "by candlelight" to prepare "a course of spelling books" in the Deseret Alphabet. "They commenced to write upon such subjects as the pioneers, Mormon Battalion, Salt Lake Valley and Utah Territory, Grisley [sic] bears and buffalo bullfights, etc." (JHC, February 4 & 26, 1856; DN, February 6, 1856).

Apparently there was some disagreement about the pronunciation and transliteration of a number of words, so Governor Young appointed Daniel H. Wells, Albert Carrington, and W. Willes to serve as a committee of revision (JHC, February 6, 1856). This committee even struggled with the question of indicating accent (Beesley, 1975). The Deseret News of February 27, 1856 contained this report:

Elder Woodruff, chairman of the committee for preparing matter for school books in the Deseret Alphabet, reported quite an amount in readiness for revision preparatory to being copied. The committee on revision had been so much occupied with other public duties that they had not been able to pass upon but a small portion of the manuscript presented. On this account, Messrs. E. Smith, O. Pratt, and P.P. Pratt were added to the committee on revision, and it is presumable that the work will progress with greater rapidity.

An order for casting of type was filled by a St. Louis foundry a

year later. Samples of the Deseret type were printed in St. Louis papers, and they elicited comment from the New York Daily Times on August 26, 1857, that the Deseret News "will probably hereafter be a profound mystery, at least in part, to all but the initiated" (cited in McGavin, 1940, p. 3). Sometime during 1857 the Deseret Alphabet type was delivered in Salt Lake City and stored in the Salt Lake Council House until the type was first used in November, 1858.

Progress on the textbooks was halted in 1857, due to the so-called "Utah War." The President of the United States, James Buchanan, had appointed a non-Mormon as governor of the Territory of Utah to replace Brigham Young. The Latter-day Saints, after their experience with "gentile" politics in Ohio, Missouri, and Illinois, prepared to prevent the new governor from taking office. An army, under Albert Sydney Johnston, was sent from the states to install the new governor. This incident was viewed by the Latter-day Saints as another incident of religious persecution (Birkinshaw, 1981). All missionaries were called home, outlying settlements were abandoned, and even Salt Lake City itself was evacuated and prepared for the torch. The Deseret News press and supplies, as well as all Church and Territorial records, were moved south to Fillmore in Central Utah, with instructions to move them 100 miles further to the south, to Parowan, if the need arose. The misunderstanding with the government was amicably resolved by 1858, but during this time spelling reform was understandably neglected. On November 20, 1858,

Wilford Woodruff called upon President Young and conversed with him in regard to the Deseret Alphabet. The works that we formerly compiled are all lost. The president wished Wilford Woodruff to take hold with George D. Watt and get up some more (JHC).

"The Board [of Regents] made arrangements for the printing of the Deseret Alphabet primers" on November 25, 1858, and on that same day "agreed on the arrangement of the alphabet." Two days later "the historian was presented with a card for his office, being the first printing done with the Deseret type." By this, of course, was meant the St. Louis type, as there had been previous printings of Deseret characters on cards and broadsides. On the evening of November 30, the lessons in the proposed Deseret Primer were examined, and this led to "a spirited debate on the pronunciation of the word 'rule.'" Two nights later, George Watt lectured to the regents on the Deseret Alphabet, and "several lessons for the first school book were read and referred to the committee on pronunciation for revision," which committee met the next evening (JHC).

At a meeting of the Apostles with the Presidency of the Church it was estimated that it would cost a million dollars to furnish books in the Deseret characters for the people living in the Utah Territory. Although the Roman alphabet was inferior, it appeared that it would be necessary to continue to use the old system. Brigham Young countered that a gradual adoption of the Alphabet would be feasible, with the primers sufficing for the time being. He again stressed the advantages of having an easy way of teaching English to foreigners (JHC, January 31, 1859).

The next few weeks were spent preparing portions of Christ's Sermon on the Mount for publication in the Deseret News in the Deseret characters, as well as preparing a dictionary in the Alphabet (JHC, February 1, 3, 8, 11, 1859). On February 16, 1859 the Deseret News printed a cut of the Deseret characters with their Roman equivalents and the Sermon on the Mount in Deseret, being the first text of any kind published in the Deseret characters (Monson, 1947). The spelling, however, was crude, and syllables were hyphenated in an attempt to simplify reading. As a forward to this and later selections, a Deseret News writer said:

We present to the people the Deseret Alphabet, but have not adopted any rules to bind the taste, judgment or preference of any. Such as it is you have it, and we are sanguine that the more it is practised and the more intimately the people become acquainted with it, the more useful and beneficial it will appear.

The characters are designed to represent the sounds for which they stand, and are so used. Where one stands alone, the name of the character or letter is the word, it being the only sound heard. We make no classification into vowels, consonants, &c., considering that to be of little or nor consequence; the student is therefore at liberty to deem all the characters vowels, or consonants, or starters, or stoppers, or whatever else he pleases.

In the same edition, an editorial on the Alphabet appeared:

The characters will appear crude and impracticable at first sight. We deemed them so when we were first shown them. But it was not long before we saw our error. We do not say that they are perfect. In fact we believe we can ourself see where improvements might be made. But we have so far scrutinized them as they are now presented, that we can say unhesitatingly that they are not only a great improvement, but easy of adoption. We look for improvements,

and earnestly commend the subject to the further careful study and unremitting attention of the Chancellor and Regents...We are fully confident that they will do honor to their important trust. At the same time we urge upon our fellow citizens to encourage and support them in their labors. A few men can do but little in such a business. It requires, nay, to be effectual, must have the popular support...It is the floodtide of improvement, and we strip off our traditions and make the plunge. Surely it does not require long arguments to prove the superiority of a system which gives in a common tuition perfection of orthography to a child, over one around whose labyrinths the maturity of college-bred manhood can scarcely wind itself.

Scriptural texts appeared in the Deseret News nearly every week for the next sixteen months, although there was a general dislike of the crudely made type. The words in the first few articles were hyphenated into syllables to facilitate reading, but the practice was not long-lived. On September 7, 1859, a mark resembling an apostrophe, called a "suspending of the voice" sign, appeared. Designed to serve somewhat as a schwa, it was never again used.

During this time Orson Pratt and George D. Watt began copying all of the words in Webster's Dictionary to be used as "a speller and pronouncer in the Deseret characters." On March 21, Pratt announced that he would no longer work on the dictionary because of financial hardship, eyestrain, and the disagreeability of the work. Indeed, "all the gold in California could not hire him to engage in copying and arranging Webster's Unabridged into the Deseret Alphabet..." Robert L. Campbell considered the dictionary "a Herculean task for which we were unprepared..." and which was also "uncalled for and unsaleable." Campbell went on to urge the publication of Juvenile Readers and a

concise speller, with larger works coming later, as the need arose (JHC, March 14 and 21, 1859).

Brigham Young responded that clerks should be hired to do the work of transliteration under the supervision of Pratt and Watt. These clerks were hired the first part of April, but Young soon dismissed them, saying that this work "was business for women and that the Regency had no funds to pay for their labor" (JHC, April 14, 1859).

Shortly before the discontinuance of the Deseret transliterations in the Deseret News, this letter from "A.B." appeared on March 14, 1860 which indicates that the new alphabet was not without its critics:

The circumstances attending the introduction of the Deseret Alphabet are similar in their character to the reception which usually attends innovations upon an established system, whether scientific, theological, or philosophical. The originators of every new system have always encountered the prejudices which flow as consequence out of the existing ignorance of the newly discovered system or invention--

I really know that the adoption of the Deseret Alphabet will be a boon to all who use it, and the learner as he advances in his studies realizes this truth. It is a set of characters expressing the sounds used in language, and those characters are easily formed. The adoption of this system must greatly facilitate the student in his pursuit of literature and science.

A young Mormon Elder, Marion J. Shelton, was called to labor with the Hopi Indians with a special obligation to teach them the Deseret Alphabet. Laboring in the years 1859-1860, after some three weeks' work among the Hopis, Shelton reported that "those to whom I have given lessons have taken right hold to the alphabet and several of them know

the first six characters, and we can hear them hollowing [sic] the sounds throughout the village." While Shelton's skills in the alphabet increased, the initial popularity soon waned. It is even reported that "Shelton finally seems to have been compelled to bribe his one remaining student to keep him working at it." Shelton later wrote that he had "tryed in vain to learn the Indians the misteries of the Deseret Alphabet" (cited in Peterson, 1971, p. 189; New, 1984).

In 1860, the Deseret Assay Office minted a five dollar gold coin. On one side there is an eagle volant with a beehive on its breast. An olive branch and arrows are in its talons. On the reverse side is a lion couchant with three mountains in the background and the date, 1860. Surrounding the lion in the exergue are the words HOLINESS TO THE LORD in Deseret characters ("Coins and Medals," February 14, 1874; Arrington, 1952. See Figure 32 for a rubbing of this coin). When Alfred Cumming became the second governor of Utah Territory, all minting of Utah coinage was discontinued and the coins were withdrawn from circulation, superseded by United States currency. The pure gold Deseret coins were eventually sold as bullion (Foster, 1933; Carter, 1939).

Two years following the minting of this coin, in 1862, Robert L. Campbell presented the manuscript of an elementary reader to Brigham Young. Young rejected it emphatically, for "he would not consent to have his type, ink, or paper used to print such trash (which he considers such works to be, seeing they are in English characters). He

Figure 32. Deseret Gold Coin, minted 1860, bearing the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord," in Deseret characters.



wishes the Deseret characters to be patronized" (JHC, May 22, 1862).

By March of 1864, however, Young was wondering if Pitman's "system of phonography" might not be a better system and discussed the matter with the Board of Regents (JHC, March 28, 1864). But from May until August of 1864, and again in November and December, scriptural passages in the Deseret characters appeared in the Deseret News. Between the period of 1864-1867, there is no recorded activity of the Alphabet, although one historian postulates that during this time some further transcribing was done, albeit with no printing and little learning on the part of the populace (Powell, 1968). As Franklin D. Richards later wrote, "Other matters demanding attention, the Deseret Alphabet went out of use by a kind of tacit neglect, or by general distaste for it" (Richards, n.d. For the full text of the Franklin D. Richards letter, see Appendix B).

In 1866, the adoption of Pitman's shorthand was again discussed, as was a system designed by Marion J. Shelton, who had taught the Deseret Alphabet to a village of Hopi Indians some years earlier. In Shelton's orthography, complete words were written in a cursive script, antedating the similar Gregg shorthand system by twenty years (Monson, 1947).

Although it appears that interest in the Deseret Alphabet waned during the early 1860s, interest in phonetic writing remained. On April 24, 1867, a meeting for all persons interested in organizing a phonographic society was announced in the Deseret News. This,

according to Nash (1957), prompted the friends of the Deseret Alphabet, including Brigham Young, to reactivate. The Deseret News of December 19, 1867, stated that

The question of reform in spelling had rested with great weight upon the mind of President Young, and his interest in it has never flagged. Under his direction, years ago, characters were adopted, notices for them were imported and a quantity of type was cast. But, whether from ignorance or design, the matrices were very rudely made, and did the characters great injustice.

In the October, 1867, General Conference of the Church, Brigham Young again tried to induce the Saints to accept the Alphabet, saying, "The Deseret Alphabet should be studied, that our young might advance more rapidly in the knowledge of every science" (DN, October 9, 1867). George A. Smith, who became President Young's First Counselor following the death of Heber C. Kimball, remarked:

We are composed of persons from various nationalities. We speak a number of languages. The languages and dialects of the British empire, the Scandinavian, the French, Dutch, German, Swiss, and Italian are all represented here...It is very desirable that all our brethren who are not acquainted with the English language should learn it. We do not wish to blot out the original languages that may have been spoken, but we want them all--men and women, old and young--to learn the English language so perfectly that they will thoroughly be able to understand for themselves the teachings and instructions and the published works of the Church, as well as the laws of the country...

In speaking of the education of our children, I wish to draw the attention of the Saints particularly to the system of phonetics, or the Deseret alphabet, which has been referred to by President Young and some of the brethren. This is calculated to considerably abridge the labor of our foreign brethren in learning to read English. I think that in all our schools phonetics should form one branch of study, and as fast as works...can be obtained they should be introduced, for there is no doubt that a general reformation

will be effected in our English orthography. It is said that the Lord will restore to the people a pure language...

I wish our brethren to give this subject their serious and candid consideration, and do their best to introduce into our schools a system that will greatly abridge the time required to gain the various branches of a good education. No greater or more blessed mission can be given to an Elder in Israel than to teach the true principles of education to the rising generation of this Territory. I would advise our brethren, aside from the ordinary schools, to get up evening reading classes in all our settlements for the instruction of those who cannot attend at other times (Smith, 1867, pp. 138-141).

The Deseret News reported that at a meeting of the Regents on February 3, 1868,

A full Board of Regents met in President Young's office, and discussed the best form of characters to be used for a phonetic alphabet. A reconsideration of the Pitman Alphabet drew forth a universal expression in favor of our characters, known as the Deseret Alphabet, as being better adapted; and a motion was made to take the necessary measures to introduce it in printed works.

Samuel W. Richards wrote of this same meeting:

[The Board] agreed to petition the Legislature for ten thousand dollars, and then send a practical printer to the East, and have the type made for the Deseret Alphabet, and publish and import this season, spelling books, primers, readers, &c., to be introduced immediately among our children, and so continue from year to year, until we have published in the alphabet the cream of all knowledge relating to theology, science, history, geography, and all necessary educational works. Brother O. Pratt will probably be employed in compiling matter for these books (Richards, 1868, p. 157).

Ten thousand dollars were provided in the Territorial Appropriation Bill of February 21, 1868, to "the University of the State of Deseret, to be drawn by the Chancellor and expended under the direction and control of the Chancellor and Board of Regents in

procuring books for Common Schools in the territory" (Campbell, 1868b, p. 31; Whitney, 1893).

Why this sudden revival of interest in the Deseret Alphabet and orthographic reform? For one thing, according to William Powell (1968), Indian troubles, lack of paper and other printing materials, crude printing machinery, and many other difficulties which had been deterrents to the Deseret Alphabet, were by this time largely resolved. Even more important, the end of the Civil War, to which Utah was largely a bystander, brought a return to normal business and political activities. With the capitulation of the South came the end of one of the "twin relics of barbarism" —slavery. Now the Republican government turned its attention to elimination of the other—Mormon polygamy. Furthermore, the transcontinental railroad was nearing Utah. Nash (1957) states that "undoubtedly the Mormon leaders wanted to protect their flocks from the ideas brought by the 'gentiles' who were sure to come with the railroad" (p. 13).

This renewed effort to promote the Deseret Alphabet began to have its desired effects, as the following article from the Deseret News of January 27, 1868, evidences:

It is satisfactory to learn of the progress made in the dissemination of this valuable art in the cities and settlements throughout the Territory. We learn that Br. John B. Milner is teaching a couple of classes, numbering about forty pupils, in Provo. Classes have been taught by Br. George Burgon in Farmington, Kaysville, Ogden, North Ogden, Plain City, and Willard. In Cache Valley a number of classes are being taught, in Logan and other places, and more are being formed in various places north. In this city it is being taught by several phonographers, and is a branch

communicated in the Merchantile Department of the Deseret University, where Br. George D. Watt is the teacher.

On April 18, 1868, Orson Pratt began the transcription of the readers in the Historian's Office, and work on the Deseret First Book and the Deseret Second Book was completed by June 25, when the manuscripts were sent to David O. Calder in New York City. Calder had been sent by the Board of Regents to New York to make arrangements with the firm of Russell Brothers for the publication of the Readers, as well as to have new type designed and cast.

On August 13, the Deseret News announced the arrival of the 36-page First Book and editorialized about the Deseret Alphabet, stating that:

[Orson Pratt] has sent out a specimen copy of the primer he has got out. It contains thirty-six pages printed in the new alphabet. The characters, to a person unaccustomed to them, may look strange, but to the eye with which they are familiar, they are beautiful. Their chief beauty is their simplicity.

This system can be made universal among us with but little trouble...it will probably be advantageous to children to have some knowledge imparted to them of the present system, even after the Deseret Alphabet is generally adopted; but with us this should be a matter of second consideration...

The greatest evils which now flourish, and under which Christendom groans, are directly traceable to the licentiousness of the press. It sends forth a prurient and dangerous literature, which corrupts and distorts the minds and judgments of men. It is our aim to check its demoralizing tendencies, and in no way can we better do this, than by making the knowledge of the Deseret Alphabet general and training the children in its use.

In the October General Conference of the Church, Brigham Young

again encouraged the use of

the Deseret Alphabet. We now have many thousands of small books, called the first and second readers, adapted to school purposes, on the way to this city. As soon as they arrive we shall distribute them throughout the Territory. We wish to introduce this alphabet into our schools, consequently we give this public notice. We have been contemplating this for years. The advantages of this alphabet will soon be realized, especially by foreigners...It will also be very advantageous to our children. It will be the means of introducing uniformity in our orthography, and the years that are now required to learn to read and spell can now be devoted to other studies (Young, 1868, p. 297).

Patterned after the popular readers of the period, the Deseret First Book, measuring 5 by 7 1/2 inches, contained 36 pages of graded sentences, elementary mathematic tables, and was adorned with many pictures (See Figures 33 and 34 for the Title Page and sample lesson from the First Reader). The Deseret Second Book, similar in size and layout to the First Book, contained 72 pages (See Figure 35 for the Title Page). The frontispiece of each book was an illustration showing the characters and sounds of the Alphabet. A statement at the end of the Second Book acknowledges that the pictures selected for both the first and second readers were culled from the Willson Readers, which were "so justly popular and so universally used in the Territory" (p. 72). The Second Book contained multiplication tables, a table of Arabic and Roman numerals with their names spelled out in Deseret characters, along with articles on religion (including the entire Sermon on the Mount, the Lord's Prayer, and excerpts from the Book of Proverbs), morals (such as charity, honesty, and the avoidance of tobacco, as well as those "who use the filthy weed"), science,

Figure 35. Title page of the Deseret Second Book, 1868.



literature, and some poetry. Other lessons included how to dig a well, riding horses, how to grow rhubarb, how to weave a hat, and the proper use of guns ("A gun is good to keep off the dogs and bad men at night"). Errors were noted in both primers, and an errata sheet was printed (DN, October 31, 1868). The errata sheet for the First Book contained forty corrected errors, while the Second Book errata sheet corrected sixty-five (Powell, 1968. See Figure 36). These errata sheets were pasted in every book that was sold. Apparently, however, relatively few of the primers were ever sold (Cumming, 1965; Nash, 1957; Frisby and Lee, 1947). In 1958, the Deseret News advertised that it had found boxes of unsold Deseret Readers, which it offered for sale to its readers at 50 cents each, or \$1.00 for the set (DN, December 20, 1958).

The Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools, Robert L. Campbell, in his annual report to the legislature stressed at great length the need for orthographic reform, as well as the value of the Deseret Alphabet:

The Superintendent takes great pleasure in seconding the efforts of President Brigham Young and the Board of Regents of the University of Deseret in the introduction of the Deseret Alphabet. That English orthography needs reform is patent to all who have given the matter the slightest consideration...

It may be looked on as herculean effort to attempt the reform of English orthography; but it is a reform so much in keeping with the progress of the age in which we are privileged to live, and which portends so much advantage and blessing to our children, that we should be recreant to ourselves and to the cause of truth did we not unitedly take hold of the subject (Campbell, 1868a, pp. 170-171).

Figure 36. The Errata Sheets from the Deseret First Book and the Deseret Second Book, showing one side of each.

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-- 4	14	LA	PO4	Y718	428	Y708.
-- 7	114	"	"	024	"	024.
-- 7	124	"	"	470	"	470.
-- 14	114	"	"	744	"	744.
-- 14	148	"	"	877	"	827.
-- 14	14	"	"	74-87	"	71-87.
-- 14	14	"	"	"	"	"
-- 14	14	"	"	0484	"	0480.
-- 14	14	"	"	"	"	"
-- 14	14	"	"	Y718	"	Y708.
-- 21	148	"	"	8240	"	8040
-- 21	148	"	"	74	"	70.
-- 21	14	"	"	024774 428	"	004774.
-- 21	114	"	"	71-87	"	71-87.
-- 24	124	"	"	71-87	"	71-87.
-- 24	148	"	"	917	"	877.
-- 24	14	"	"	7 7474 6 840748	"	7474 6 840748
-- 24	14	"	"	4-2474.	"	4-2474.
-- 27	144	"	"	104 7474 428	"	7474.
-- 27	144	"	"	8	"	8.
-- 27	144	"	"	7474 428	"	7474 428.
-- 27	144	"	"	8	"	8.
-- 27	144	"	"	024	"	024.
-- 27	144	"	"	7474	"	7474.
-- 27	144	"	"	04	"	04.
-- 27	144	"	"	Y718	"	Y718.
-- 27	144	"	"	7474 704718 428	"	7474 704718
-- 27	144	"	"	70 7474 704718	"	70 7474 704718
-- 27	144	"	"	704718 704718	"	704718 704718

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-- 7	114	"	"	024	"	024.
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-- 14	148	"	"	877	"	827.
-- 14	14	"	"	74-87	"	71-87.
-- 14	14	"	"	"	"	"
-- 14	14	"	"	0484	"	0480.
-- 14	14	"	"	"	"	"
-- 14	14	"	"	Y718	"	Y708.
-- 21	148	"	"	8240	"	8040
-- 21	148	"	"	74	"	70.
-- 21	14	"	"	024774 428	"	004774.
-- 21	114	"	"	71-87	"	71-87.
-- 24	124	"	"	71-87	"	71-87.
-- 24	148	"	"	917	"	877.
-- 24	14	"	"	7 7474 6 840748	"	7474 6 840748
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-- 27	144	"	"	8	"	8.
-- 27	144	"	"	024	"	024.
-- 27	144	"	"	7474	"	7474.
-- 27	144	"	"	04	"	04.
-- 27	144	"	"	Y718	"	Y718.
-- 27	144	"	"	7474 704718 428	"	7474 704718
-- 27	144	"	"	70 7474 704718	"	70 7474 704718
-- 27	144	"	"	704718 704718	"	704718 704718

In his annual report of 1868, Superintendent Campbell again included a lengthy section on English orthography and the desirability of the Deseret Alphabet. He concludes his report with these words:

To discuss further this matter in an annual report would be inappropriate, but as the subject of orthography meets us at every step in the school-room, and as laudable efforts are being put forth to introduce this important and indispensable reform, the Superintendent could do no less than endorse a movement which augurs so much good to the cause of education. Could sufficient reasons be assigned for following in the footsteps of the fathers in this false system of orthography, we might forbear an innovation which completely upsets the present system, but to hold onto the same, and weave the web of inconsistency and falsehood around the feet of the present and future generations, which tradition and learned bigotry have woven around the past, would be to allow our children to turn around and have it truthfully to say of us as we can say of our ancestors.

"Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there was no profit" (Campbell, 1869, p. 5).

On December 10, the Deseret News was "pleased" to note the return of Robert Campbell and Edward Stevenson, a "home missionary," from their tour of the counties of central Utah.

The introduction of the Deseret Alphabet was a leading topic in their preaching, the incongruities and inconsistencies of the present system of orthography forming the subject of many a laughable joke, while illustrating the advantages of the Deseret system of reading and writing. The Scandinavians hail the new system with much pleasure. The prevailing method of English orthography, on account of its many silent letters, they find difficult to master, and look upon it as inferior to their own; but by means of the Deseret Alphabet they see a means of greatly facilitating their acquisition of the English language.

Upon returning from this tour, Campbell renewed his efforts to get the primers into the Salt Lake City schools. Teachers and trustees of

the Salt Lake schools discussed and agreed to adopt the system during a meeting on January 25, 1869 (Nash, 1957). The Deseret News of March 11, 1869, reported that three day schools and a number of night schools in Ephraim featured the Deseret Alphabet, and that "About 140 copies of the First and Second Deseret Readers have been sold, and in about a month the scholars will be prepared for something more advanced."

Superintendent Campbell discussed his visits among the schools of the Territory and his work in promoting the Alphabet in his annual report for the Year 1869:

The Superintendent, in his recent school visits, has advocated the introduction and adoption of the Deseret characters and system of orthography in our common schools, and takes pleasure in stating that many teachers feel alive to the importance of the subject, and that the school authorities, in every district visited, have given it their hearty endorsement. The work of the reformation of English orthography and the introduction of a new character, in which to write and print our language, is a stupendous task, requiring time, means, patience, and unyielding perseverance; but the ease with which it is attained and the facility imparted by the system to the acquisition of English orthography, enables us to hope that when sufficient means are available to carry on the printing in that method, that but a few years will pass until the News, the Instructor, the Ogden Junction, and a host of other intellectual lights, will spring up, clothed in the unique, novel, and simple dress of the Deseret character. If the Legislative Assembly, in their economical and judicious distribution of the public money, would appropriate two thousand dollars to be expended in getting up a spelling book or elementary dictionary, another step could be taken which is very necessary and important in the further prosecution of this important reform (Campbell, 1869, pp. 1-2).

These were Campbell's last recorded words on the subject, however, for no further mention of the Deseret Alphabet is made in any of his later reports (Brooks, 1944). Indeed, in November, 1870,

Superintendent Campbell wrote to the Deseret News to explain why the National Series of school books was chosen over the McGuffey or Independent Readers. He never referred to the Deseret Readers (Ivins, 1947).

Orson Pratt reported to the Regents that he had finished his transliteration of the Book of Mormon on March 1, 1869. Pratt and Campbell then spent the month in proofreading the manuscript (JHC, March 1 and 15, 1869). On April 13,

Elder Orson Pratt was authorized to proceed to New York as the representative of the Board, and superintend the publishing of the Book of Mormon in the Deseret Alphabet. It is intended to publish the Book in one volume for family use, and also to publish it in three parts for the use of the schools in the Territory, the whole forming too cumbrous a volume for class use (DN, April 14, 1869).

Leaving for New York on the morning of April 20, Pratt completed his work and returned to Salt Lake City on September 26 (DN, April 20 and September 27, 1869). Only 500 copies of the complete Deseret edition of the Book of Mormon, measuring 5 7/8 by 8 7/8 inches, and containing 443 pages, were printed (See Figure 37). Eight thousand copies of the first part of the book (through the Words of Mormon) were published, the only portion printed separately (Neff, 1940). This advanced reader measured 6 by 9 inches. On December 16, 1869, the Deseret News advertised: "Deseret Books of Mormon - \$2.00. For Part First, (containing 116 pages) designed for a Third Reader - 75 cents. Heavy discount to Wholesale Purchasers." While neither of these books

contained an errata sheet, Powell (1968) stated that many errors of transcription undoubtedly crept in.

Concerning the publication of the Book of Mormon in Deseret characters, the Deseret News predicted that the

First and second readers, and now the Book of Mormon on this principle...will do more toward spreading a correct style of speaking English among the polyglotian people of this Territory than anything else ever attempted (DN, September 28, 1869).

On November 6, 1869, George Q. Cannon, an Apostle, editorialized in The Juvenile Instructor, the official Church magazine for children and youth:

There are two Readers and the Book of Mormon now printed in the Deseret Alphabet. Every child should learn to read them. They are easily learned. We got some Readers for our little boys, and they learned to read them very quickly and now they want to get the Book of Mormon to read. When these readers and Books of Mormon are sold, then the Board of Regents will have money to print the Old and New Testaments, the Book of Covenants, a Dictionary and other Books. They will be of great advantage to every man, woman, and child in the Church and to the world; for a correct system will be established....We should have the true system of reading and writing our language. This, the Deseret Alphabet furnishes, and each one should do all in his power to make it universal. We hope that every Sunday School Superintendent will introduce these books into his school, so that all the children may become familiar with the system (Cannon, 1869, p. 180).

The Deseret News of January 17, 1870, contained this letter:

Nephi, Juab County
January 10, 1870

Editor Deseret News:—Dear Sir,

In order to encourage those teachers throughout the

Territory, who, already having onerous duties to perform in teaching their numerous classes, think they cannot spare time to teach the Deseret Alphabet, I take the liberty, through the columns of the DESERET NEWS, to state that I have a day-school, composed of eighty children of all ages, in which I have introduced the Deseret Alphabet with success.

Many, no doubt, think, as I have heard it expressed, that they have no time; that, besides, it is difficult for children to learn, and that it interferes with the common English alphabet and orthography. I can say, that for my part I have found it altogether to the contrary, and experience proves to me that all that is necessary, is to put the First and Second Readers into the children's hands and they will learn to read in them without teaching. I have my classes read in them once every week, and I find they can do so as easily and quickly as they can in the First and Second Readers of Willson's series, in which they have read for years.

I would say to my brethren, the teachers, try it. There is not any of you but what can devote at least an hour of every week to this branch of education, and as Latter-day Saints it is a duty binding upon you, being the direct counsel of our wise and far-seeing President.

I would also say to every father and mother in Israel, buy these books for your children; they can be had for a trifle. Encourage your offspring in learning to read! Do not throw cold water upon the efforts of our leaders in this respect by being dilatory in providing books or in making light of the subject in any way, and we will soon have a good and distinct orthography as well as a good and distinct religion.

Hoping these few remarks may not prove detrimental to the end in view,

I am, respectfully,
W.R. May

Two days later, the Deseret News carried an editorial entitled "The People of Utah - Why Peculiar" in which they mentioned, among other things, the Deseret Alphabet:

The want of a system of phonetic spelling has long been felt by philologists; isolated attempts have also been made to supply this want, but the effect has been very limited. Recognizing the importance of this subject the Regents of the University of Deseret took it into consideration, and formed and adopted a phonetic alphabet, which is known as the Deseret Alphabet. Books have been printed in these characters, and the prospect is that at no distant date it will universally be used by the people of this Territory. In the adoption of such a system as this the people have shown their willingness to discard an inconsistent, barbarous style of orthography, which is unsuited to the progress of the age, and in this respect they are peculiar.

During this time, acting under the request of the Board of Regents, Orson Pratt transliterated the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants into the Deseret characters. A Deseret Phonetic Speller was prepared and John Jaques' Catechism for Children was transliterated into the Alphabet, although we know not by whom (Zobell, 1967). None of these works, however, nor any others, were ever printed again in the Deseret Alphabet. The last reference to the Deseret Alphabet in the Journal History of the Church is Pratt's petition to the Territorial Legislature for \$6,537.87 as payment for 3,996 foolscap pages "in manuscript for educational purposes" (JHC, January 16, 1872).

The last recorded effort to promote the Deseret Alphabet which this writer has been able to find are the comments of George Q. Cannon, made in 1872. Desiring to develop a uniform procedure in the Mormon Sunday Schools, as General Superintendent of the Sunday Schools, he

suggested the wisdom of forming classes to read the Book of Mormon in the Deseret Alphabet, as it was the wish of President Young that a knowledge of these characters should be extended among the saints (Maiben, 1872, p. 144).

In 1875, an election advertisement for the "People's Ticket" for the Salt Lake Municipal Election, as well as ballots for this election, were the last printing done using Deseret characters (Monson, 1954; Monson, 1947; See Figure 38). The final reference of that period to the Deseret Alphabet is found in The Juvenile Instructor of October 2, 1875:

The Book of Mormon has been printed in the characters of the Deseret Alphabet, but President Young has decided that they are not so well adapted for the purpose designed as it was hoped they would be. There being no shanks to the letters, all being very even, they are trying to the eye, because of their uniformity. Another objection some have urged against them has been that they are entirely new, and we should have characters as far as possible with which we are familiar; and they have felt that we should use them as far as they go and adopt new characters only for the sound which our present letters do not represent (Cannon, 1875, p. 234).

The editorial went on to urge the use of the Pitman phonotypic characters, and indicated that "the Bible, a dictionary and a number of other works, school books, etc., have been printed in these new characters..." Then, in words reminiscent of the promotion of the Deseret Alphabet, it intoned:

We certainly hope to see this new system introduced and be generally adopted in all our settlements. There is no people on the earth who have so great an interest in this reform as have the Latter-day Saints, and we know of no people who are in so good a position to accomplish it as we are. What is needed is union of effort and determination to carry this system into practice, and like everything upon which we are united, it can easily be accomplished (Cannon, 1875, p. 234).

Thus, even though lack of public support caused the virtual abandonment of the Deseret Alphabet, orthographic reform was still a matter of interest. In 1877, upon completion of his transliteration of the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants into the Pitman characters, Orson Pratt was sent to Liverpool to arrange for their printing. According to Joseph F. Smith (1877, p. 187), Pratt "was diligently engaged in prosecuting this work at the time the sad news of the death of the President [Brigham Young] reached us. Arrangements had been so far completed that the type was mostly obtained and delivered at our [printing] office, and preparations were nearly made for the commencement of this work." Pratt was recalled to Salt Lake, however, and work on the project was never revived.

According to Franklin D. Richards (n.d.),

Some efforts were made to teach and use the characters in various schools of the Territory. But it was an uphill task. It was found that the tailless characters, however economical in the wear and tear of type, were inimical to the eye, the monotonous evenness of the lines making it more difficult for the eye to follow and distinguish the words than when set in the ordinary type. It is also difficult to insure uniform pronunciation and consequently uniform orthography with the Deseret character. As is the case in other communities, the people generally did not take kindly to the new characters, so that in a short time the Deseret Alphabet fell into desuetude, from which it has never been resurrected, and no desire for its use now seems to exist. Besides, busier times came on, and railroads, mining, and other business interests pressed upon the attention and absorbed much of it, so that the Deseret Alphabet was soon found to have been practically and virtually discarded, lost sight of, and almost forgotten (See Appendix B for the full text of this letter).

Reasons for Abandonment

The Alphabet had cost the citizens of Utah Territory a considerable sum of money. In 1855, \$2,500.00 was appropriated by the Utah Legislature "to procure fonts of Deseret Alphabet type, in paying for printing books in said type, and for other purposes" (JHC, December 12, 1855). The total cost of preparing and printing the Deseret First Book, the Deseret Second Book, the Book of Mormon, and the first part of the Book of Mormon, school edition, was \$12,453.86. The legislature appropriated \$10,000, the Church donated \$2,000, and the remaining \$453.86 was to have been made up through sales of the books. Additionally, Orson Pratt petitioned the legislature for \$6,537.87 for services in transliterating the Bible and the Doctrine and Covenants. He was eventually awarded \$6,000 (Nash, 1957; Monson, 1947). These figures represent what Neff (1940, p. 854) called "an educational fortune for that day," more so when one considers the straitened resources of the people and the scarcity of currency in the newly pioneered and inaccessible Utah.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah, in 1869, brought an end to Utah's physical isolation and allowed for a flood of books, inexpensively published in the East, to satisfy Utahns' demands for reading material (Simmonds, 1969). Referring to this, Powell (1968) has written:

By 1869, the Continental Railroad had been completed, bringing about an influx of outsiders into the territory, as well as a flood of printed material, both from the east and west, and thus the "isolation" of Utah came to an end. The old "Overland Monthly," a staid publication from San

Francisco, devoted to the development of the West, edited by Bret Harte, Charles Warren Stoddard, and Ina Coolbrith, soon found its way into the valley of the saints. From the East the Harpers Weekly, a sophisticated periodical boasting of dignity and pictorial interest, found a welcome spot on the shelves of Salt Lake City bookstores (p. 10).

Until this time, books were somewhat scarce in the Territory. This was due, not to lack of demand or desirability, but rather to the sheer physical difficulty of bringing books to Utah. Prior to the advent of the railroad, the ox-cart and the handcart were the chief means of transportation. Frisby and Lee (1947) have noted that with the coming of the railroads came a flood of low-cost, yet high quality school books--overwhelming competition for the unpopular Deseret readers. Schools that would have previously fostered the Alphabet because of the dearth of regular English textbooks available in the Territory, now refused to buy the Readers or teach the Alphabet (Asay, 1978). Thus, the ready availability of a wide range of affordable reading materials coupled with the tremendous cost in money and effort to produce even a limited selection of books in Deseret, sealed the fate of the Deseret Alphabet (Simmonds, 1969; Jenson, 1941).

Additionally, although initial enthusiasm was high and efforts were made to use the primers in the schools and the Sunday Schools, most eventually became indifferent to the use of this strange new system. Teachers were reluctant to relearn how to read and spell in the new system, and most exhibited very little interest (Wintersteen, 1970). Of great importance is the fact that teaching of the Alphabet could not be enforced due to the fact that Utah schools of the period were not tax supported (Ivins, 1954). Thus, the University Regency or

the Legislature had no real authority or control over the teachers or the curriculum or the schools, which were, in effect, private schools (Ivins, 1947). Schoolteachers in pioneer Utah were not professionals, and the meager pay they received came from the tuition which they charged their students. Few considered teaching a full-time job; most were farmers who taught during the winter or else were mothers who wanted to bring in some extra cash for the family. This assured a constant turnover of teachers, few of whom were willing to make the effort to learn and then teach the Deseret Alphabet (Peterson, 1980). Most students attended school only a few months out of the year, effectively limiting the time they were exposed to the Deseret Alphabet, if indeed they had any exposure at all. Mrs. Jacob Daimé wrote of one teacher who did try to introduce the Deseret Alphabet into her school:

My mother taught school in Tooele, Utah, and tried many a time to get the folk to use the alphabet more. She would practice after supper. Mother loved the President [Brigham Young] and would do almost anything he wanted or liked. Seems like her interest in the alphabet just faded away--of course father didn't help much (cited in Wintersteen, 1970, p. 44).

The Alphabet, so totally foreign to the familiar Roman system used by English speakers and Europeans, was not well accepted. Most of the early Utah settlers had English as their native tongue, and were literate to some degree. There was little motivation for these people to learn an entirely new system and relearn how to read and write, although it would be fine for "foreigners."

As an aside, we know that the Deseret Alphabet was publicized extensively in The Millennial Star, official organ of the L.D.S. Church

in Great Britain. It is also highly probable that a number of Latter-day Saints from Utah serving in the British Isles as missionaries could read and write using the Deseret Alphabet. While we have no definite record one way or another, there remains the possibility that a number of Britons learned and used the Deseret Alphabet, thus making it a modestly international effort at orthographic reform.

We know that the Deseret Alphabet was taught in a number of schools: day-schools for children and youth, in the Sunday Schools, in the Relief Society (the Woman's auxiliary organization of the Mormon Church), and in some private schools and "improvement societies." Additionally, although Ivins (1947) and Wintersteen (1970) state that there is no evidence to indicate that the Deseret Alphabet was taught at the University of Deseret, this writer found a reference in the Deseret News of January 27, 1868 which stated the Alphabet was being "communicated in the Merchantile Department of the Deseret University, where Br. George D. Watt is teacher."

Unfortunately, we have no record of exactly how the Deseret Alphabet was taught. Before any printing was done in the Alphabet, the blackboard served as the means of modeling the characters. With the various printings of broadsides, transliterations in the Deseret News, and finally the Deseret Readers, materials became available for student use. As paper was still a relatively scarce item in the Territory, more often than not students used lap slates and chalk, or just a wooden board and some charcoal, to practice copying the Deseret characters.

Birkinshaw (1981) has written that because teachers of the period were untrained, they just taught what they knew best by whatever means worked. He informs us that singing and chanting as a group was a popular method of instruction, and this was probably used in teaching the Deseret Alphabet. The recitation method was also widely used at the time, as was the system of 'round robin-reading.'

A number of young people were first taught to read using the Deseret system, but most received instruction in the standard alphabet as well. This, of course, was the cause of great confusion and difficulty for the young reader. Learning to read and spell using the standard orthography was trying enough, as the Latter-day Saints fully realized, but trying to read using two such totally different systems was simply too much. Along this line, Jennie Larsen related the following:

My grandfather Josiah Leigh Wood learned to read with the Deseret alphabet. I can remember him telling me he learned to read when he was a boy, but he could not read the books I had in school. It didn't make sense to me at the time and I thought he must be quite stupid but now I can understand. He learned to read in the Deseret alphabet books, and it was a totally foreign language to learn English even though he was speaking it all the time. It must have been very confusing for children then (cited in Grover & Cranney, 1982, p. 52).

The pioneers knew that they could not simply abandon the common English orthography with its wealth of available literature. Nor could they isolate themselves socially, economically, and politically by being unable to read or write using the standard alphabet or spelling norms. Millions of books have been published in the standard English

orthography. To have access to these books while using the Deseret Alphabet left one with two alternatives: spend the money required to transliterate English books into Deseret, or learn the two orthographic systems simultaneously. Thus, the advantages of retaining the traditional system, coupled with the undesirability of teaching two opposing systems simultaneously, ensured the abandonment of the Deseret Alphabet.

Remy (1861, p. 185) predicted that the Deseret Alphabet would "have no success, and will be abandoned by its own authors, on account of the difficulty that must be experienced in its application, not to speak of the inconveniences to which it would give rise, such as the effacement of etymologies, and the disconnection of roots from their derivatives." As is the case with all attempts to create a phonemic alphabet, uniformity of pronunciation and orthography was not achieved using the Deseret Alphabet (Beesley, 1976). This is evidenced by the need for revision committees due to disagreement on pronunciation of many words, as well as the need for lengthy errata sheets for the readers. This difficulty in pronunciation can be demonstrated in the following examples. The word when is pronounced "h-woo-en;" yes comes out "ye-e-s;" will is "woo-i-l;" the article a is phonetically "ah;" and the article the is always "th" as in thy. University is pronounced "ye-i-oo-n-i-v-ur-s-i-t-i." Consonants, too, are difficult to remember (Frisby & Lee, 1947). Birkinshaw (1981) has pointed out the fact that foreigners who attempt to spell English phonetically will not produce standard English spelling, because of their nonstandard English accent. As he succinctly put it, "Vil dis solve the problem? I dunt tink zo" (p. 39).

In addition to the violation of ingrained habits of reading and writing, many complained that the strange characters of the new alphabet were a strain on the eye to read. According to Nash (1957), when the Deseret characters are evaluated in terms of good book type, they are "primitive" (p. 18). Pottinger (1941) has chosen a number of criteria by which to evaluate type, including clearness, legibility, usefulness, unobtrusiveness, proper usage of the type face, necessary decoration, proper proportion of letters, evenness of texture and color, and overall appearance.

One glance at a page printed in the Deseret characters reveals that they are not clear; Wallace Stegner (1942, p. 100) referred to them as "eye-tangling chicken tracks." Often a second look is required to ascertain which character was being reproduced. Some characters are unnecessarily complex, and others are very similar, differing only in slight detail. "Lack of clearness, the unnecessary complexity, and the extreme similarity of many characters made the alphabet monotonous and obtrusive to the eye" (Nash, 1957, p. 18). Nash went on:

In good type individual letters must have individual grace but when in combination-forming words, they must still please the eye. The letters of some types are beautiful to see alone; pleasant to the eye in word combinations; but intolerable when making up an entire page. The Deseret characters alone lacked grace...When together forming words they are displeasing to the eye...and an entire page in Deseret print not only tires the eyes, but is very unpleasant to look at. It simply violates this principle of good book type.

Perhaps one of the reasons for the obtrusiveness of the Deseret characters was that they lacked serifs. Types displaying no serifs can be used effectively for chapter headings as the type is often agreeably sharp, vivid, and legible; but used for entire pages and books it becomes monotonous, tiresome to the eyes, and almost illegible. Here

again the Deseret designers failed. Serifs were deliberately left off the characters; those tiny essential additions might have made reading more easy. With them material in the alphabet would have been more legible; without them Deseret type must be classed as poor type for the purpose to which it was put.

Still another characteristic of good type is the proper proportioning of letters. Undue height as compared to narrowness and inversely undue narrowness as compared to height makes poor type. The proportion of the characters must be right; they must please the eye and be consistent throughout the type. The proportions of Deseret type are bad...Most types have ascenders and descenders; in good type they can neither be too long nor too short in relation to the type body; but they must exist. They relieve the monotony of a line of type and make reading considerably easier. Deseret type has no ascenders or descenders...

The monotonous, tailless, uneven characters of the Deseret Alphabet violates the principles of good book type. Consequently, they tire the reader's eyes, are difficult to read, and generally do not appeal to the reader. It is small wonder that the inhabitants of early Utah were reluctant to accept them in place of the traditional Roman characters. The Mormons had no one trained in the art of designing type; consequently, the results obtained by eager but unknowing individuals were not the most desirable (pp. 18-21).

Not only are the letters monotonous and the words difficult to distinguish, but the lessons contained in the Deseret readers were "not exactly thrilling" (Frisby & Lee, 1947, p. 241), if indeed not downright puerile. "One can scarcely imagine a frontier youngster held spellbound by such exciting lessons as these: 'I see a fly. May I get the fly? Yes, you may get it, but it will fly off. It bit an ox. The ox can run. Can the fly run? Yes, the fly can run up on the high wall'" (p. 241).

The final blows to any hope of reviving the Deseret Alphabet came with the demise of its creators and proponents. Parley P. Pratt, a member of the committee which devised the Alphabet, was assassinated on May 13, 1857 (Stanley, 1937). Robert Lang Campbell, University Regent,

Territorial Superintendent of Common Schools, and vociferous supporter of the Alphabet, died April 11, 1872 (Jensen, 1901). W.W. Phelps, a member of the original committee which devised the Deseret Alphabet, died March 7, 1872 (Grover & Cranney, 1982). George Darling Watt, who stimulated interest in spelling reform among the Mormons and created the Alphabet, was excommunicated from the Mormon Church on May 3, 1874, whereupon he virtually dropped from sight until his death in 1881 (R. Watt, 1977). The death knell of the Deseret Alphabet came on August 29, 1877 with the demise of Brigham Young (Smith, 1973). He had been the driving force behind the Alphabet, and although the active promotion of it had ceased some years earlier, Young's death assured its abandonment (Christensen, 1955; Monson, 1954; Monson, 1953).

Writing some years later, on February 24, 1885, Thomas W. Ellerbeck, secretary to Brigham Young, offered this:

I do not think it was officially discarded but was found in practice that the economical idea for the benefit for enduring qualities of the type did not answer well for the eyes—the monotony of the lines of type without tops or tails made it more difficult for the eyes to follow than the old style. —Busier times coming on, the characters of the Deseret Alphabet gradually disappeared (cited in Carter, 1939, p. 4).

According to Walker (1974), the Deseret Alphabet is responsible for many of the pronunciations and colloquialisms typical of Utah. Older Utahns, especially, pronounce horse, corner, and Mormon as harse, carner, and Marman.

Aside from archival and museum objects, this accent is really the only tangible remnant of Brigham Young's quarter century of persistence with his phonetic alphabet (p. 57).

CHAPTER VI
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter examines the arguments which are posited for the retention of the traditional orthography, the reasons for the non-acceptance of English spelling reform, and the future of orthographic simplification. Finally, suggestions of future directions for research and further examination are given.

This study has shown that proposals for spelling reform of the English language have been made for centuries, with several new proposals presented each year (Ives, 1979). Many people have supported these efforts and the arguments in favor of reform have had strong appeal. Pei (1952) has appraised the need for spelling reform in these words:

English spelling is the world's most awesome mess. The Chinese system of ideographs is quite logical, once you accept the premise that writing is to be divorced from sound and made to coincide with thought-concepts. The other languages of the West have, in varying degrees, coincidence between spoken sounds and written symbols. But the spelling of English reminds one of the crazy-quilt of ancient, narrow, winding streets in some of the world's major cities, through which modern automobile traffic must nevertheless in some way circulate (p. 280).

To remedy this state of affairs, numerous proposals to reform English spelling have been devised, the alleged advantages and benefits of which have included:

1. Education would become more efficient
2. English would be easier to learn
3. Foreigners would be Americanized more easily
4. English would gain appeal as a world language
5. Spoken English would improve in quality
6. The proper pronunciation of words would be made sure
7. Logical thinking would be encouraged
8. Students would learn to read more quickly
9. Dyslexia and other reading disorders would diminish
10. Savings in time, space, and materials would be realized
11. World communication, understanding, and peace might be promoted (Barnard, 1977; Yule, 1976; Tauber, 1958).

Refutation has counterbalanced the claims of the spelling reformers, and despite numerous and enthusiastic campaigns to effect orthographic change, the resistance has been formidable. The arguments in opposition to change in spelling have apparently been compelling, for little in English orthography has changed.

Arguments Against Spelling Reform

Orthographic Change Would Be Prohibitively Expensive

A serious objection to changing spelling is the costliness of such a venture, especially if that change required the introduction of new characters or symbols. Any amendment of spelling that would make older books and written records inaccessible or would necessitate the reprinting of previous literature would be enormously expensive, as the Mormon proponents of the Deseret Alphabet came to realize. In 1859, in a meeting of Mormon officials, it was estimated that it would cost \$1,000,000 to furnish even a meager library of books in Deseret

characters for the small populace of the Utah Territory (JHC, January 31, 1859).

Additionally, students would have to be taught to read in the traditional, as well as the old orthography, and adults would need to be retaught the new spelling. The cost in money, time, and effort could hardly make the effort worthwhile.

Orthographic reform is relatively simple where the majority of the population is illiterate, as was the case in Kemal's Turkey [where a successful spelling reform had taken place]. It becomes a terrific problem where the majority is literate, as in...Britain or America. The older generations must learn all over again, while the younger cannot be separated at one blow from the previous tradition, save by the well-nigh impossible expedient of burning all past records and creating them anew (Pei, 1952, p. 287).

Even slight modifications in current spelling that would slow up current printing or typing processes would raise the cost of printing and publishing appreciably. Dr. William A. Craigie, an editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, who was later knighted for his distinguished services, argued that the cost of retraining proofreaders, printers, and linotypists would be prohibitive (Craigie, 1944). If new letters or characters were added to the present alphabet, or if a non-romanic script was adopted, all existing typewriters, computers, and printing cases would need to be remodeled, readjusted, or replaced, all at considerable expense.

Confusion Would Result

If spelling reform was not introduced at the same time and to the same extent in all English-speaking countries, "the resulting confusion

would be worse than the present irregularities" (Craigie, 1944, p. 48). The universal acceptance of any reform scheme could not be attained without its imposition by some pan-national authority, and the numerous English-speaking democracies would probably challenge any attempt to usurp their autonomy.

It is difficult to see by what machinery this universal consent could be secured, or by what authority the result could be imposed on the printer, the publisher, and the reading public, in the event of these disapproving the change. It may be argued that the way could be prepared by efficient presentation of the necessity and advantages of the change, but this implies a considerable waiting time for even the most energetic propaganda to take effect, and past experience is not encouraging in this respect (Craigie, 1944, pp. 48-49).

Scragg (1974) has pointed out that successful spelling reform would remove the international character of many written words, especially those with cognates in the Romance languages. In addition, homophones would become indistinguishable homographs in print, confounding the confusion (Tauber, 1958). Of this problem, Craigie (1944) wrote:

The question of the possibility or advantage of change becomes more difficult when the normalized spelling would reduce to a common form those homophones which at present are differentiated and on that account are immediately recognizable. If the postal mail were respelled as male, the meaning of male carriers might well be in doubt in certain contexts, and if sew became sow it would not only eliminate a useful distinction but would add a third homograph to the noun sow. This problem, of course, applies to all homophones with distinctive spellings, whether these have etymological justification or not. They form indeed one of the features of the English vocabulary which have to be taken seriously into account before it can be decided whether the present orthography can be usefully modified or replaced by one on a more phonetic basis (cited in Mencken, 1948, p. 312).

An accepted reform would also necessitate the revision of all existing dictionaries not just from the point of view of spelling, but in the organization of the related words and derivatives. Dictionaries of English and a foreign language would also require a revision, as would other aids to learning English, thus creating confusion and expense for foreign as well as native interests.

Spelling Would Lose Stability

It is contended that pronunciation as the basis for phonetic spelling is an imperfect and impractical criterion. First, reformers would need to determine which particular form of pronunciation would be adopted as the standard. If the American, British, or Australian dialects were chosen (much to the chagrin of other nationals), which regional pronunciation would be accepted as standard? In the United States, for example, would Brooklynese, a Southern drawl, or a Midwest twang be accepted as the basis for spelling? Some opponents claim that if phonetic spelling reform was adopted, Britons, Americans, and Australians would be compelled to use glossaries to read phonetic transcriptions of each other's spoken tongue (Pei, 1952; Mencken, 1948).

Additionally, changes in pronunciation go on, as history has shown. If writing were to change periodically to conform to the spoken language, printed records would lose their permanence (Lindgren, 1969).

Etymological Values Would Be Lost

If spelling conformed exclusively to phonetic values, etymologic

clues would be lost, making the sources of English words indecipherable (Lindgren, 1969). Also, Gibson and Levin point out that "current English spelling preserves the morphological similarity of words: telegraph, telegrapher. Reformed spelling does away with this more abstract representation of words" (Gibson & Levin, 1975, p. 187). As Craigie stated, "No language can free itself from its history" (1944, p. 50).

Present Spelling Has Aesthetic Superiority

Aesthetic objections have been raised to any modification of English spelling on the grounds that reformed spelling appears "uncouth and even ridiculous" (Mencken, 1945, p. 402). The monotonous, repetitious pattern would rob the language of its freshness, originality, and surprises. Partridge and Clark (1951) stated that "The English speaking peoples, particularly Americans, take a perverted pride in the intricate and mysterious anomalies of the spelling of their language; it makes them feel superior to foreigners" (cited in Pei, 1952, p. 286).

Simplified Spelling Would Not Promote World Use of English

English has spread throughout the world in spite of its orthography, opponents to change point out (Craigie, 1944). Others argue that an international language is a hopeless and fantastic dream. To change English orthography on the premise of making the language more universally acceptable is, at best, an uncertain risk (Tauber,

1958). Of this subject, Pei (1952) wrote:

For some incomprehensible reason, [spelling reformers] choose to link their activities with the two largely unrelated problems of the adoption of English as an international language and the preservation of world peace. "Simplify English spelling," many of them say, "and you will abolish the major obstacle to the adoption of English as a world tongue; then, when we have an international language, and this language is English, there will be no more quarrels among the nations, and no more wars."

One might say that this logical sequence is so illogical that one should take no notice of it. Yet it is widespread. The three desiderata (phonetization of English, adoption of a universal tongue, and world peace) are each of them such worthy causes that it is a pity to see them thrown together in a stew-pot of confusion (p. 285).

Spelling Reform Is Not Necessary

Many critics have argued that even if spelling reform were possible, phonetic spelling is not at all necessary or desirable. There is no proof that phonetic consistency would aid or speed up reading. In fact, tampering with the present orthography would inevitably lower the reading competency of over ninety percent of the population already accustomed to the present system.

Defenders of the orthographic status quo see no real significance in the unphonetic character of English spelling. They point to the generations who used the language before, learned to read and write it, and thrived. The survival of spelling in its present form is eloquent proof of its serviceability. Why tamper with our orthographic heritage which has served so well for hundreds of years? Craigie (1944) argued that "the failure of so many attempts...is a clear indication that there is no general desire for change" (p. 47).

H.L. Mencken (1948) has expressed doubt about the extravagant claims for spelling reform:

The argument that phonetic spelling would be easier to learn than the present spelling is not supported by the known facts. In some cases it no doubt would be, but in plenty of other cases it would certainly not. Moreover, the number of "hard" words in English is always greatly over-estimated (p. 306).

Mencken also ridiculed the economic arguments for spelling reform:

Some of the favorite arguments of the reformers are so feeble as to be silly - for example, the argument that the new spelling would greatly reduce the labor of writing and the cost of paper and printing (1948, p. 305).

Henry Bradley, in a paper entitled "On the Relations between Spoken and Written Language, with special reference to English" (cited in Scragg, 1974, pp. 114-115) stated:

Many of the advocates of spelling reform are in the habit of asserting, as if it were an axiom admitting of no dispute, that the sole function of writing is to represent sounds. It appears to me that this is one of those spurious truisms that are not intelligently believed by any one, but which continue to be repeated because nobody takes the trouble to consider what they really mean.

Bradley went on to argue that writing's capacity for conveying meaning does not depend on its accuracy as a reflection of speech, and that such accuracy may even be a disadvantage in the case of homonyms. Features of written English, such as capitalization and punctuation, are phonetically useless, and do not form part of the spoken language, but serve as indispensable aids to the reader. Written English is partly ideographic, to the advantage of "the educated adult" (Scragg, 1974, p. 115). Chomsky and Halle (also cited in Scragg, 1974), consider

"that English orthography, despite its often cited inconsistencies, comes remarkably close to being an optimal orthographic system for English" (p. 117). In essence, the non-phonemic writing system of English has the power to express important linguistic relations that are missing from a more directly phonemic spelling, thus permitting intelligent reading and writing (Smith, 1980; Gibson & Levin, 1975). An example of this concept can be seen in words containing the Greek root psych, meaning mind, as in the words psychology or psychiatry. A competent reader, the argument goes, recognizes and utilizes the clue (in this case, psych) to infer the derivation and meaning of the written word, thus improving the reader's comprehension of the printed page.

Reasons for Non-acceptance of Spelling Reform

The real reasons for the rejection of spelling reform should be considered. As with any social phenomenon, basic motives, involving emotional and cultural factors, operate independently of the stated reasons, which are often rationalizations. The arguments just cited in opposition were expressed by the outstanding defenders of the orthographic status quo. As Lounsbury (1909) pointed out, from an insight into the psychological and sociological forces that operate, we come to understand that powerful compulsions not necessarily articulated exert additional pressures.

Social Inertia Exerts a Powerful Influence

The chief obstacle to spelling reform is inertia. According to Craigie (1944), adults accustomed to reading and writing in conventional orthography are distressed by any strange or new arrangement of letters or symbols on a page. Pei (1952) wrote, "We think that is beautiful which is familiar" (p. 287). Lounsbury (1909), in the same vein, wrote, "We are governed by the cheap but all powerful sentiment of association. We like the present orthography because we are used to it....We simply like the spelling to which we are accustomed; we dislike the spelling to which we are not accustomed" (pp. 10-11). As Theodore Roosevelt discovered, people stubbornly defend their old usages against what they think is an encroachment of the untried new - even when it is really a restoration of the tried old. We are unwilling, without the most compelling reasons, to undertake any change so basic to our lives and cultural pattern. Only the most pressing needs could outweigh these feelings.

Our Orthography Becomes a Precious Tradition

The whole machinery of education is constantly at work to sustain and strengthen our adherence to orthodox spelling, adding another powerful deterrent to change. Any attempted reform of English spelling which completely or extensively alters the appearance of the written and printed language has little chance of being adopted by common consent, because we have been conditioned against it (Yule, 1976).

This basic consideration explains the reluctance to accept even minimal changes. The traditional spelling of the language is given an aura of almost religious sanctity (Lounsbury, 1909).

Conventional Orthography
Bears the Stamp of Authority

Another factor that has militated against spelling reform stems from our attitude towards authority. Custom and convention play important roles in our lives, including our language activities. An illustration of this fact can be seen in our reliance upon "the dictionary." After the appearance of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary in 1755, the cure for spelling ills could be placed firmly in the dictionary. A manual of correct letter-writing, The London Universal Letter-Writer, published in 1800, maintained that spelling "was of the highest importance" and stated:

Ignorance in this particular is always considered a mark of ill-breeding, defective education, or natural stupidity. To attain [correct spelling] it is necessary to observe the method followed by the best writers of the present day, and to consult some good modern Dictionary (cited in Scragg, 1974, p. 91).

The average person relies upon dictionary authority as a guide to proper spelling. For this reason, any change must have an authority at least as formidable.

Only Children or Beginning
Learners Require Reform

Most of the problems of spelling are encountered by children or those who have not succeeded in "the system." Successful adults are not often impressed by the difficulties encountered by children or

foreigners learning to read. Usually, only the educator is preoccupied with the problem. Adults are not affected so much by what simplifying spelling would do for the education of children, or foreigners, or illiterate adults, as by the confusion, irritation, and annoyance it would cause them (Tauber, 1958).

The Reputation of Reformers is Poor

The widespread belief that spelling reform is supported by cranks, eccentrics, visionaries, or crackpots has served to impede the likelihood of a spelling reform gaining momentum. Reformers have a reputation as impractical people, and spelling reformers are no exception. H.L. Mencken described spelling reformers as

advocates of other and even more dubious reforms. It is, indeed, rare to find a reformer who is content with but one sure-cure for the ills of humanity. Henry Holt, the publisher, one of the stout pillars of the Simplified Spelling Board, was also a spiritualist, and at no pains to conceal it. Sir George Hunter was a Scotch wouser who also whooped up Prohibition. George Bernard Shaw supported a dozen other arcana, ranging from parlor Socialism to vegetarianism. H.G. Wells toyed with Socialism, technocracy and basic English; And so on down the line. As long ago as 1892 the old Spelling Reform Association was constrained to issue a warning that some of its members had "zeal without knowledge." "One of the favorite fallacies of the human mind," it said sadly, "is that whoever means well or engages in a good work is therefore entitled, no matter how incompetent, to the sympathy and aid of all good men" (1948, p. 305).

Spelling reformers are often given to hyperbole in overstating their claims, often contributing to a lack of confidence in their allegations. This propensity for exaggeration can be seen in the titles given to spelling reform works, such as Our Accursed Spelling

(Vaile, 1901), English Spelling: Roadblock to Reading (Dewey, 1971) and "English Orthography: A Case of Psychological Child Abuse" (Citron, 1978). One reformer has even gone so far as to ask, "Where is the Messiah to lead us out of the spelling wilderness?" (Bowyer, 1970, p. 12).

Spelling reformers have not always shown that they have considered the practical difficulties which must be reckoned with, and which need to be overcome, or at least sufficiently alleviated, before any change could be effected. Reformers often minimize or ignore these difficulties, considering them to be temporary inconveniences, well worth the end in view. The oft-quoted letter of Benjamin Franklin on spelling reform, found in Chapter III, is an example of this minimization of difficulties.

Reformers Do Not Agree Among Themselves

While reformers have been prolix in developing individual schemes, they rarely unify to support one scheme or another. Not only are they not supportive of one another's proposals, but often reformers are vitriolic in their scorn of opposing schemes. For example, Godfrey Dewey went to great lengths to lampoon current spelling and to praise his World English Spelling plan. He did not stop there, however, but went on to demonstrate what he considered the manifest superiority of WES over i.t.a. and New Spelling (Dewey, 1971). Numerous reformers engage in similar mudslinging. This behavior does not impress the public with their good sense or dependability (Tauber, 1958).

In addition to the above reasons for the non-acceptance of

spelling reform, Reed (1972) cites the lack of positive publicity and even misrepresentation on the part of the press and others, the vested interests of businessmen, and an unfavorable attitude of the government toward orthographic change as further obstacles to reform. For all these reasons, the centuries old effort to reform English spelling has failed to make headway. H.L. Mencken has expressed unconcealed contempt in his ridicule of spelling reform:

The spelling reform movement in both the United States and England, in its early days, had the support of many of the most eminent philologists then in practice in the two countries, and also of many distinguished literati, but it has never made any progress, and there is little evidence that it will do better in the foreseeable future....The advantages of spelling reform have always been greatly exaggerated by its exponents, many of whom have been notably over-earnest and under-humorous men (1948, p. 287).

The Future of Orthographic Reform

There is absolutely no consensus on the part of educationists, linguists, other scholars, and the public in general on the future of spelling reform. Critics, such as Mencken, just cited, and Craigie (1944) argue that if spelling reform was truly desired or desirable, it would have been accomplished years ago. They paint a bleak, if not entirely black, picture of the future for spelling reform. To those of their bent, orthographic reform "is a treason against our language and country, and not merely an offence against taste" (cited in Lounsbury, 1909, pp. 18-19).

On the other hand, many spelling reformers, especially contributors to the current reform periodical, Spelling Progress Bulletin, are sanguine, and even often giddy, in their prospects for spelling reform. With missionary zeal, they seek to convince the English-speaking world of their bondage to orthographic darkness, anarchy, and tyranny (Evans, 1978); thralls of a "fallen-away" Latin orthography. As soon as people comprehend their miserable situation, they will clamor to bask in the warmth and splendor of regularized, rationalized, reformed, simplified, augmented, or phoneticized (take your pick) spelling Light (Citron, 1978; Stevenson, 1971).

Despite the polemics and boosterism, Hildreth (1975) posited that the English spelling reform movement appeared to be settling down to a choice between an Initial or Transition Spelling System for beginning readers (such as the i.t.a. or Leigh's Pronouncing Print), and a system of regularized or simplified spelling (such as Wijk's Regularized English, or Lindgren's SR1). Experience, however, has shown that while Initial Teaching Media are accepted and hailed as panaceas for a brief period of time, initial enthusiasm soon wanes, and they are relegated to the "educational junk-heap" (Auckerman, 1984). Regularized English, World English Spelling, and other reforms of this nature, while in many ways logical and desirable, are just too much, too soon (Tauber, 1958).

If English spelling is to be reformed, it must be done slowly, carefully, and with great thought. Such a scheme must be well publicized, have the support of recognized authority, as well as the

reading public, and will require considerable financial support. If possible, it should have legislative support on an international scale. It must not greatly offend the sensibilities of the literate, nor must it be expensive, either in terms of making current works outdated, nor in terms of time to learn the new system. Little, if any, relearning, is a requisite. It should be a simple system, requiring no new characters for the alphabet and no new letters for individual words. Some proponents of spelling reform state that it now appears that of current spelling reform proposals, Harry Lindgren's Spelling Reform One probably has the best chance for success (Tauber, 1977; Yule, 1976).

In the light of the long history of failure on the part of authors, statesmen, educators, and other scholars to bring about English spelling reform, it is only natural to wonder whether such a monumental task can ever be accomplished. As Edmund Burke Huey (1910) has written: "Thus far the work of the reformers has succeeded only in multiplying the number of proposals for reform" (p. 358).

Recommendations for Future Research

Several areas for future research suggested by this study are:

1. Investigation of the social and educational advantages, if any, which have resulted from successful spelling reforms in such countries as Turkey, China, or the Soviet Union, as well as how these reforms came about.

2. An intensive investigation of the relation between spelling and reading (encoding and decoding) should result in a better understanding of both. This relevant and practical information on the most efficacious methods and materials for teaching spelling and reading should be shared with pre-service and in-service teachers at all levels.

3. Sampling should be undertaken to determine if successful readers would approve of spelling reform, what type of reform, and to what extent the reform should be implemented. This should be undertaken in all English-speaking countries.

4. Investigate the practical questions and difficulties of spelling reform, as well as identify some possible solutions.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Appendix A

Dissertations Dealing with the Initial Teaching Alphabet

Completed Before August, 1984

- Beauchamp, J.M. (1967). The relationship between selected factors associated with reading readiness and the first grade reading achievement of students instructed in the initial teaching alphabet. (Doctoral dissertation, Syracuse University,) Dissertation Abstracts International, 28, 1200.
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Appendix B

Appendix B

The Letter of Franklin D. Richards, L.D.S. Church Historian,
to Hubert Howe Bancroft

The preparation and use of the Deseret Alphabet was a favorite project of Brigham Young. It was started at his suggestion and afterwards was adopted by the Regency of the University of Deseret. It was designed with the view of enabling young people to learn more easily to read and spell.

This alphabet was designed and arranged principally by George D. Watt, a phonographic reporter in the employ of Brigham Young. The forms of some of the letters were originated by Mr. Watt, those of others were selected by him from some of the ancient alphabets found in the front part of Webster's unabridged dictionary as published about thirty years ago.

With a view to make the type wear well, neither top nor tail extensions were incorporated in the forms of the letters.

The alphabet was used phonetically, modified somewhat after Pitman's style and arrangement of pronunciation.

In June 1859, this alphabet was commenced to be used in keeping Brigham Young's ledger, by Thomas W. Ellerbeck and was continued in such uses by him about one year.

This alphabet was also used to some extent in the Historian's

Office in this (Salt Lake) City, in journalizing, and in compiling history, during a similar period in 1859 and 1860.

The alphabet and brief articles in the character were published in the Deseret News, sometimes weekly, and at others occasionally, during a similar period in 1859 and 1860.

Then, other matters demanding attention, the Deseret Alphabet went out of use by a kind of tacit neglect, or by general distaste for it.

The subject, however, was subsequently revived, though many persons favored Pitman's phonotype, as being but slightly varied from the common alphabet, and therefore easier for most persons to learn, and affording a readier transition to and from the ordinary Roman character, than was the case with the Deseret Alphabet. The Regency of the University of Deseret actually voted to adopt Pitman's characters. But on the 2nd of Feb'y, 1868, the Regency rescinded that vote, and voted to adopt the Deseret Alphabet, and to ask the Legislature for an appropriation of \$10,000 to print school books in that character.

April 18, 1868, Orson Pratt commenced to prepare school books in the Deseret character.

In November of the same year the Regency employed Orson Pratt to transcribe the Book of Mormon into the Deseret character.

In that year also the Deseret Primer, 38 pages, illustrated, was published by the Deseret University in the Deseret character.

In 1869, the Book of Mormon, Part 1, 116 pages, was published in New York, in the Deseret character. The same year the Book of Mormon entire was published in that character in the same city. Both these publications were under the auspices of the Deseret University, to be used for educational purposes.

Some efforts were made to teach and use the character in various schools in the Territory. But it was an uphill task. It was found that the tailless characters, however economical in the wear and tear of type; were inimical to the eye, the monotonous evenness of the lines making it more difficult for the eye to follow and distinguish the words than when set in the ordinary type. It was also difficult to insure uniform pronounciaton and consequently uniform orthography with the Deseret character. As is the case in other communities, the people generally did not take kindly to the new characters, so that in a short time the Deseret alphabet fell into desuetude, from which it has never been resurrected, and no desire for its use appears now to exist. Besides busier times came on, and railroads, mining, and other business interests pressed upon the attention and absorbed much of it, so that the Deseret Alphabet was soon found to have been practically and virtually discarded, lost sight of, and almost forgotten.

However, an effort was made subsequently to have the Book of Mormon printed in Pitman's phonotype, and with that view Orson Pratt left Salt Lake City for England in July, 1877, and when there began to make arrangements to accomplish that work. But the death of Brigham

Young in August of that year necessitated the return of Mr. Pratt to Salt Lake City, and the project of publishing the Book of Mormon in Pitman's phonotype was abandoned. Since that time, there has been no effort at authorized publication of books in the English language in any other than the common type, in or for Utah.

The type used by the Deseret News in 1859 and 1860 in printing articles in the Deseret character was made in this city by John H. Humell. That used in printing the Book of Mormon in New York in 1869 was procured by him while in that City.

Dr. J.R. Park, principal of the University of Deseret, might be able to inform you of the number of the editions of books which have been published in the Deseret character, unless he has already done so in the communication forwarded to you sometime since by me.

Appendix C

Appendix C

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