

side appointees, who became progressively more hostile to the meetings of the General Assembly and complained about this “ghost government,” as they called it. In 1872 a constitutional convention drew up a new constitution and dropped the name Deseret from the petition. This petition also failed, and hope for the state of Deseret came to an end.

[See also *History of the Church, 1844–1877; Utah Statehood.*]

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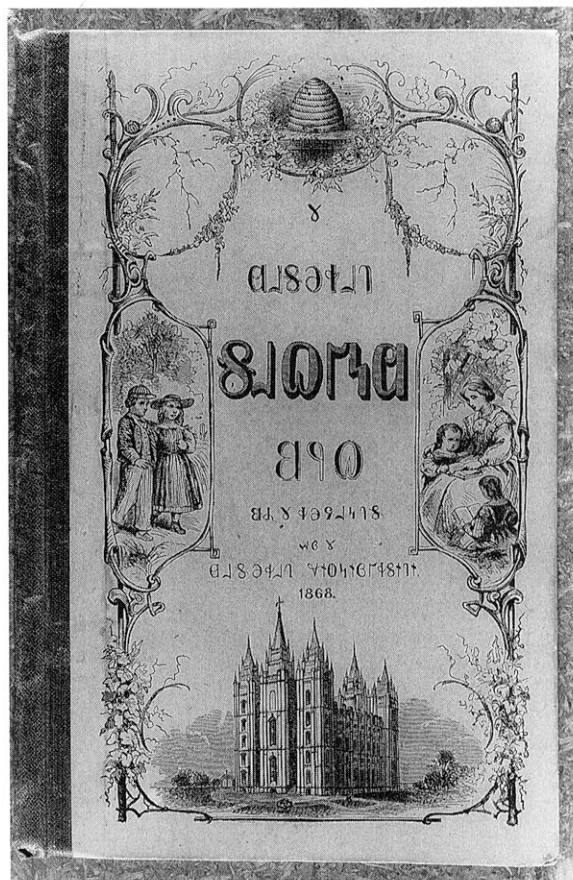
DESERET ALPHABET

On April 8, 1852, Brigham YOUNG announced that the Board of Regents of the UNIVERSITY OF DESERET was preparing a new method of writing English. The idea was to develop a sort of universal system, especially so that foreign-language-speaking converts could learn to read English more easily.

The final version of the Deseret Alphabet utilized thirty-eight characters corresponding to sounds of English. Like Noah Webster and other early Americans who studied language, Brigham Young objected to sounding the letter *a* differently in the spellings of mate, father, fall, man, and many. In this, he was apparently influenced by studying shorthand with his secretary George D. Watt, who had studied systems of shorthand and spelling reform based on phonemes, the significant sounds of English, under Isaac Pitman.

The Regents discussed letter forms and sounds to be represented. The forms finally adopted were unfamiliar and unadaptable to cursive writing. The range of basic English sounds was close to present-day analyses, but the schwa (the unaccented, reduced vowel in ideA, tradEd, ratIfy, biolOgy, Upon) was omitted, leading to respellings based upon traditional spelling.

Learning the Deseret phonetic system was easy. A previously illiterate missionary wrote letters home after only six lessons. Hosea Stout, Thales Haskell, and others kept diaries in Deseret.



This reader was published in 1868 in the Deseret alphabet. Its title reads “The Deseret Second Book by the Regents of the Deseret University.” Development of the Deseret Alphabet was begun in October 1853, and a few books, including the Book of Mormon, were published in this phonetic script before 1870. Courtesy Rare Books and Manuscripts, Brigham Young University.

However, since pronunciation, which varies, determined spelling, many words might appear more than one way in the same individual’s usage, resulting in some confusion.

Scriptural passages written in the Deseret Alphabet appeared in the *Deseret News* in 1859. Orson Pratt transcribed further materials that were published in New York City, printed with type designed and cast there, at a total cost of \$18,500. These included first and second school readers in 1868 and the Book of Mormon and a third reader of excerpts from it in 1869. Although few of these books were sold, some SUNDAY SCHOOLS as well as territorial schools used them.

In 1873 Pratt estimated the cost of printing a meager library of 1,000 titles at \$5 million—

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Long Sounds.		Letter.	Name.	Sound.
Letter.	Name.			
ð	e...as in...eat.	7p	
ɛ	a " ate.	8b	
ə	ah " art.	9t	
o	aw " aught.	0	.....d	
o	o " oat.	C	.....che...as in...cheese.	
o	oo " ooze.	9	.....g	
		0	.....k	
		0	.....ga...as in...gate.	
Short Sounds of the above.				
†	.....as in.....it.	p	.....f	
↓	" et.	ç	.....v	
↓	" at.	L	.....eth...as in...thigh.	
↓	" ot.	Y	.....the " thy.	
↓	" ut.	S	.....s	
q	" book.	ç	.....z	
ð	i...as in...ice.	D	.....esh...as in...flesh.	
ə	ow " owl.	S	.....zhe " vision.	
w	woo	ψ	.....ur " burn.	
ψ	ye	l	.....l	
ψ	h	9	.....m	
		h	.....n	
		H	.....eng.as in...length.	

The thirty-eight symbols used in the Deseret Alphabet and their phonetic values. The top line reads "The Deseret Alphabet."

prohibitively expensive for a sparse population in a subsistence economy. Those already literate had little incentive to learn the Deseret Alphabet, while illiterates would have had very little to read. The death of President Young in 1877 marked the end of efforts on its behalf.

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SAMUEL C. MONSON

DESERET BOOK COMPANY

The Deseret Book Company had its beginnings in George Q. Cannon and Sons, a retail bookstore and publishing company established in Salt Lake

City in 1866. Cannon was an apostle and a counselor in the FIRST PRESIDENCY of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After his death in 1901, the company was purchased by the Church's *Deseret News* and renamed the Deseret News Bookstore. Meanwhile, the Church SUNDAY SCHOOL organization began publishing its own lesson manuals and supplementary instructional materials in the early 1870s and later included book publishing and a retail bookstore. The two companies were merged in 1919 and subsequently named the Deseret Book Company.

A subsidiary of the Church's Deseret Management Corporation, the Deseret Book Company has three divisions: retail, publishing, and wholesale. The retail division operates stores in several states in the western United States: Mormon Handicraft, which is a Salt Lake City consignment shop for handmade goods; a book club; an audio- and videotape club; and a mail- and telephone-order shopping service. The publishing division produces books related to family life, history, biography, LDS doctrine and theology, fiction, and inspiration for both children and adults. It also produces audio- and videotapes and compact discs. The wholesale division distributes Deseret Book titles and books from other publishers to retailers throughout the world.

ELEANOR KNOWLES

DESERET HOSPITAL

With increasing evidence that home care of the sick and injured was no longer adequate, the women of the RELIEF SOCIETY, with the support of the First Presidency, opened Deseret Hospital in Salt Lake City on July 17, 1882. Though Roman Catholics and Episcopalians already sponsored hospitals in Utah, this was the first official endorsement of allopathic medicine by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (see MEDICAL PRACTICES). A desire to have a place where spiritual ministrations could accompany medical treatment (see SICK, BLESSING THE) was among the motivations for the institution, and staff members were blessed and SET APART by Church leaders for their tasks. The hospital also specialized in obstetrics, both in providing care and in training midwives and others.

Deseret Hospital was originally located in downtown Salt Lake City in a building vacated when the Catholics moved their hospital to larger