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Address by Matthew N. Hodgson, Director,
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The Association of American University Presses

I really should double-cross you all by having a long speech. Just over thirty years ago I was first a guest at the Hotel Utah. By chance I ensconced myself on a comfortable sofa in the lobby of this hotel to read the evening newspaper. Gradually I became aware of a certain uneasiness among the hotel employees by my presence and location. Within a few minutes I was approached by a middle-aged gentleman of splendid appearance who asked if he might share the sofa with me. At that time I was a college traveler in my early twenties, new to Utah and, indeed to the West. I was also lonely and glad of the opportunity to talk with someone about Mormonism and Salt Lake City's history and the general region. As I recall the incident, my questions were for the most part callow and simplistic. But all were answered in full with a benign courtesy that I recall to this day. Perhaps an hour later my new friend took leave of me and I asked a nearby bellman his identity. He responded that I had been conversing with President David McCay of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, and, further, that I had unwittingly and perhaps culpably preempted that sofa in the hotel lobby from which President McCay received many of his friends each afternoon. I was properly awed and a little abashed until the next afternoon, when President McCay warmly invited me to join him again and, as before, responded to my questions and observations with a gravity that they did not deserve.

Thus I early came to the conclusion that the Latter Day Saints were not only an extraordinarily resolute and self-reliant people, but among the most hospitable of any I'd known. I explain this lapse into personal reminiscence to suggest that the excellent and thoughtful arrangements made for us by Roy Olson and his associates at Brigham Young University are neither studied nor contrived, but represent the usual easy courtesy that those who dwell in these parts extend to their guests.

During the past year, members of the Association of American University Presses have eagerly awaited publication of the Report of the National Inquiry into Scholarly Communication. This document, published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, has now been circulated among us. It is logical to assume that that part of it dealing with American university presses has occupied our first attention. Reasonable persons may disagree with some of the conclusions offered by those who prepared this report. Nevertheless, all of us must accept that fact that many of the observations and suggestions incorporated in this document are likely to have great and lasting effects upon the thinking of those university administrators and foundation officers who have a special and even determined interest in scholarly publishing. Accordingly, we must take seriously this report. If we have any reservations about parts or all of it, we must be prepared to offer rebuttals that are grounded upon economic and societal facts rather than emotion.

A second report prepared by August Frugé and Jack Schulman, the directors emeriti of the University of California and Cambridge University Presses, will soon be circulated among the press directors. This report deals with the structure of appropriate activities of the central office of AAUP and its satellite, AUPS. The purpose of Messrs. Frugé and Schulman's report was to determine how best our central office can serve the Association, which has grown from a very small to a large and diverse one in the years immediately past. The already full agenda of this annual meeting would not permit the full discussion that this study deserves. However, I am confident that my able successor and his board will push forward vigorously toward the consideration, and I hope the implementation, of many of the well-reasoned and sagacious suggestions of its authors.

Finally, I wish to thank all of those who have served on the several AAUP committees during the past year as well as those individuals who through their personal enterprise have made significant contributions to the general welfare. I wish to compliment especially Edward King, the director of the University of Missouri Press, who having shared our prolonged vacillations over the matter of reviving *Scholarly Books in America*, single-handedly came up with what I consider to be an acceptable and viable substitute.

Appropriate and well-deserved tributes already have been paid to Florence Cohn and Carol Franz. It is with no disrespect to these cherished friends and colleagues that I should like to exercise a personal prerogative of the office I will soon relinquish. I would be derelict in my duty and false in my friendship not to acknowledge with heartfelt and continuing thanks the inestimable services rendered to every member press of this Association during the past three decades by the retiring director of the Yale University Press, Chester Kerr. Thank you.