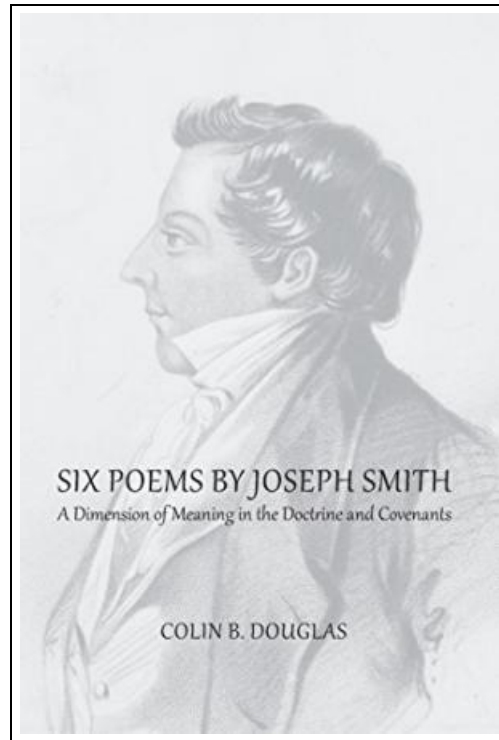


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Reviews

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SIX POEMS OF JOSEPH SMITH (PAPERBACK)



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Temple Hill Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Like the prophet Isaiah, Joseph Smith was a poet, and in *Six Poems* by Joseph Smith, author and poet Colin B. Douglas has selected and formatted six sections of the Doctrine and Covenants as poetry, for, in fact, these particular sections (93, 76, 88, 1, 133, and 121-22) are poetry. As he explains, These selections from the Doctrine and Covenants are impressive poems, and to be fully understood they must be read as such. That is, they mean presentationally as well as discursively, by how they say as well as by what they say. Though their didactic purposes cannot be ignored, I do not propose a mere appreciation of them as literature in addition to those extraliterary values. The so-called literary aspects of these works are essential aspects of the thought; they are among the means by which the works mean ; and to ignore them is to ignore a dimension of meaning, for Joseph Smith was a poet-prophet--a poet whose matter was his revelatory experiences, and a prophet who articulated--constituted--his experiences through the process of poetic creation. In him, the functions of poet and prophet are inseparable. After each poem, Douglas goes on to provide penetrating analysis, some of the most insightful commentary ever written on the revelations of Joseph Smith, including observations on meaning, structure, voice, and presentation. In summary, he writes, The poetic achievement of Joseph Smith (in its totality, not only in these few texts) is the main current of nineteenth-century American literature, indeed of world literature, from its beginning to its imminent end. Although readers outside the faith have some excuse for not taking Joseph Smith seriously as a poet, the Latter-day Saints have none.



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