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FOUNDATION FOR
ANCIENT RESEARCH &
MORMON STUDIES

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

"...by study and also by faith." D&C 88:118

IRON SWORD, SMALL SILVER SCROLL FROM LEHI'S DAY DISCOVERED

A meter-long iron sword has been discovered recently by archaeologists digging at Vered Jericho, three miles south of modern Jericho. The sword dates to the seventh century B.C., during the lifetime of Lehi. "It was in quite bad shape," reports excavator Avraham Eitan in the July/August issue of the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, p. 33. "I believe that we have the haft and even the tip. The haft is of bronze with some wood remains." This is the first complete sword of this period and of this size ever to be found. "We do know of swords this size from Assyria [pictured on wall reliefs], but nothing like this, as far as I know, has been found before," Eitan reports. Only the unique and extremely dry conditions around Jericho allowed the remains of this sword to survive. Even at that, the sword is extremely fragile and badly deteriorated. The tempered tip survived intact.

In another dig, in Jerusalem, archaeologists in 1979 uncovered a burial cave dating to the time of Lehi. The cave had collapsed long ago and thus was never looted by grave robbers. Until now, the excavators have declined to disclose the nature of the treasure trove they had uncovered. Among the pottery and jewelry amazingly found there were two extraordinary silver scroll-shaped charms. On these small metal scrolls were inscriptions of the priestly benediction found in Numbers 6:24-26. The text appears to be the earliest Biblical text extant. A museum exhibit of these artifacts has just been announced and is opening this summer in Jerusalem.

Further information about these significant finds is eagerly awaited. These archaeological discoveries, dating to the time of Lehi, may prove to have considerable relevance to the Book of Mormon. The use of tempered, carburized iron (steel) for swords (1 Ne. 4:9) has been noted before in the F.A.R.M.S. 1986-87 Catalog, p. 12; SOR-82a; HAM-85; and SOR-85, p. 286. On the ancient writing of religious texts on metal, see WRI-81; GRI-81; and CHE-84 (discussed below in this newsletter).

EPANALEPSIS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Larry Childs (Provo, Utah) has recently completed a valuable study of "epanalepsis" in the Book of Mormon. Epanalepsis is the name of a significant literary device known in antiquity. It occurs where an author repeats certain words in the course of a lengthy sentence, to pick up a previous train of thought after a parenthetical aside or other type of diversion, repeating certain words to remind the reader of the original idea of the sentence. The repeated words in the previous sentence illustrate the point. This technique was noted in antiquity by Demetrius, and it is sometimes called "resumptive repetition."

Epanalepsis is well illustrated by an occurrence of it in Alma 3:1: "And it came to pass that the Nephites who were not slain by the weapons of war, *after having buried those who had been slain*—now the number of the slain were not numbered because of the greatness of their number—*after they had finished burying their dead* they all returned to their lands and to their houses, and their wives, and their children." Childs' study details 84 such occurrences of epanalepsis in the Book of Mormon. It was apparently helpful in ancient texts to use resumptive repetition, since those texts did not have the benefit of modern punctuation or paragraphing.

The Childs study lists and analyzes the use and distribution of epanalepsis among all Book of Mormon authors. Some authors use the device more frequently than others. In particular, 49 of the 84 occurrences of epanalepsis are found in the writings of Mormon, and 7 are in the writings of Nephi. The remaining 28 are distributed among 24 other authors. Childs concludes: "The study of epanalepsis gives us some insight into the writing style of the Book of Mormon authors." Especially for an author like Mormon, who was engaged in a process of abridging other records, epanalepsis was "really the best means they had to return to their original train of thought." A copy of this paper may be ordered on the attached order form.

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies is a nonprofit research and educational organization dedicated to the study of ancient scripture. Your tax-deductible contributions enable F.A.R.M.S. to sponsor and coordinate a wide range of research projects that enhance our understanding of these sacred writings.

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ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to report how the Foundation's money has been spent this 1985-86 fiscal year. This year has seen significant growth in many areas. The number of research grants has grown to 14 this year. The number of reports and articles now available is over 300 and still growing. Over 26,250 reprints and preliminary reports, and more than 2,000 books, videos, and critical texts were distributed this year, worldwide.

All money received by F.A.R.M.S. comes from individual donors or foundations and is very much appreciated. One hundred twenty-seven people contributed \$100 or more this year. Twenty-one gave \$500 or more. Each dollar makes it possible for research to continue and for distribution services to expand.

Our objective is to make materials available on a non-profit basis. Prices are set at break-even levels. We are pleased to report that direct sales expenses (cost of goods sold, postage, and handling) and sales income were within 1% of each other for the fiscal year.

Our goal is also to keep overhead as low as possible and to use each dollar donated for service and research needs. F.A.R.M.S. expenses for the 1985-86 fiscal year were allocated as follows:

Research grants and assistantships	37.8%
Two catalogs (1985 and 1986-87)	23.4%
Newsletter printing and postage	18.0%
Office payroll and secretary	10.3%
General office, utilities, printing, postage	7.5%
Professional services, accounting	2.5%
Fund-raising direct expense	0.5%
Corporate officers and directors	0.0%
	100.0%

We take special note of certain facts that have kept our expenses low this year: the board of directors, advisory board, president and treasurer of the Foundation serve without salary; no direct promotional costs were incurred this year aside from printing a few small fund-raising information sheets.

SPECIAL BYU STUDIES ISSUE ON MORMON BEGINNINGS

The recent issue of *BYU Studies* contains five significant articles about Joseph Smith's early years. Subjects such as treasure seeking and seership are analyzed particularly in light of newly discovered documents. The contributors are Dean Jessee, Ron Walker, Marvin Hill, and Richard Anderson. Copies of this issue (volume 24, number 4) may be ordered for \$4.00 from 1102 JKHB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.

THE SACRAMENT PRAYERS STUDIED: FROM BENJAMIN TO MORONI

Latter-day Saints most commonly turn to D&C 20:76-79 to find the texts of the sacrament prayers they regularly use on Sundays. In fact, however, the words for these prayers came from the Nephites. In a new report listed on the attached order form, the textual history of the sacrament prayers is studied, from Benjamin's words in Mosiah 5, to Jesus' words in 3 Nephi 18, to the final texts in Moroni 4-5. "I find it impressive," comments John Sorenson. "What we have in these texts is exactly what one would expect from an orderly, true-to-life cultural history." Certain precise terms and ideas persist in these texts, despite being separated from each other by many years and pages of Nephite history. Furthermore, the logical development from one text to the next can be appreciated, especially as the old Nephite covenant text became "new" in light of the words of Jesus to the people gathered at the temple in Bountiful. Jewish antecedents for the Nephite sacrament, as well as parallels with early Christian eucharistic texts, are also pointed out. "What we have here," reflects Jack Welch, "is perhaps the greatest legacy we have received from the Book of Mormon—sacred prayers from the Nephite experience in the presence of the resurrected Jesus—which we use each week. After working with this material, I shall never think of the sacrament prayers quite the same again."

1947 SPERRY REPRINT OFFERED

Early in his career, Dr. Sidney B. Sperry published a book which offers many fine insights into certain literary aspects of the Book of Mormon, but which has been out of print for several decades. Selected chapters from this book, now available as a reprint (SP-OUR), give "considerable attention to the analysis of the Book of Mormon as a whole and to its constituent records," and makes pioneering efforts to study "the literary forms in this scripture." Attention is also given to relations with the Old Testament, the documentary hypothesis, the Sermon on the Mount, and other New Testament passages. The other chapters in this book, dealing, for example, with the Isaiah question and with the religious concepts of universal appeal in the Nephite records, were reprinted in Dr. Sperry's *Book of Mormon Compendium*, which is still in print. For an excellent overview of Dr. Sperry's lifetime study of the Book of Mormon, see Ellis Rasmussen's biographical essay (RAS-84) on the attached order form.

HISTORICAL REPORT ON APRIL-JUNE 1829 COMPLETED

The February 1976 issue of *Insights* gave a short report on the question of how long it took Joseph Smith to translate the Book of Mormon as we have it today. That work began in earnest on April 7, 1829, and was completed by the end of June. A lengthy report may now be ordered chronicling, day by day, a documented history of this intense period of activity. "It is quite staggering," remarks Jack Welch, "when you realize all that was going on in those few days. Besides sustaining the exhausting task of continual translating, Joseph and Oliver were also out looking for odd jobs to earn money for food and supplies, they made at least one trip to Coleville, moved from Harmony to Fayette, proselyted regularly, restored the priesthood, baptized, entertained visitors, were with the Three and Eight Witnesses, and received over a dozen other revelations, among other things." This new report, complete with copies of the relevant primary historical sources, also discusses the order in which the Book of Mormon texts were translated.

METAL PLATES VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

With the recent discovery of a large treasure trove of burial objects in Jerusalem (described in a preceding article), attention has been drawn again to the ancient practice of writing on metal. While we await further information about these artifacts, we draw renewed attention to Paul Cheesman's recent production, "So Let It Be Written" (see F.A.R.M.S. Newsletter, June 1984). This film is now available on VHS video for only \$25.00. It shows instances of writing on metal plates, particularly on golden plates or objects, from many parts of the ancient world. It is highly suitable for general audiences. A companion volume by Paul Cheesman entitled *Ancient Writing on Metal Plates* (Bountiful: Horizon Publishers and Distributors, 1985), ISBN 0-88290-303-9, 93 pp., is available through general LDS book stores and dealers.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY OF ANCIENT AMERICA

Copies of Paul Cheesman's 1978 *Book of Mormon Lands: A Photographic Essay* may now be ordered through F.A.R.M.S. This beautiful but hard-to-find 158-page book of color plates was published in collaboration with Blaine T. Hudson and won awards for its high-quality graphics. It offers 155 impressionistic scenes taken from many times and places depicting phrases and verses from the Book of Mormon. While not a technical archaeological treatment of the subject, this large book is a fine addition for the artistically sensitive collector.

RAMSES II VIDEO

A 15-minute video produced by Brigham Young University to introduce visitors to the Ramses II exhibit was narrated by director Wilfred Griggs. F.A.R.M.S. has a limited number of these videos, which are available for \$18.00 (VHS only). If you missed the Ramses II exhibit, or if you are interested in having this excellent production in your library, this video offers a great opportunity to view selected artifacts from this acclaimed exhibit. The few videos remaining will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. Please use the enclosed order form.

Also, an LDS-oriented commentary on the Ramses II artifacts was prepared by Robert F. Smith and Bruce Warren. This report gives commentary particularly on the religious aspects of many Egyptian artifacts. The details are correlated with materials in the Book of Mormon, Bible, and Pearl of Great Price. For example, the four canopic gods relate to materials in the Book of Abraham, and the name of the god Horus is very likely an element in the Nephite name Pahoran. Since the motifs covered are standard, this report will interest anyone studying Egyptian or visiting Egyptian museums anywhere—including the Ramses exhibit touring the United States and Canada for the next few years.

VOLUNTEER NETWORK

The strength of F.A.R.M.S. has always been its volunteer base. Many volunteers find their service very satisfying. During the past twelve months, under the vigorous direction of Les Campbell, the F.A.R.M.S. volunteer network has expanded and solidified. Volunteers all over the world, as well as in Provo, regularly continue to help with distribution, translation, firesides, introducing people to F.A.R.M.S., checking address lists, conducting local fund-raising activities, purchasing and placing Book of Mormon-related materials in local libraries, holding open houses, organizing reading groups or student clubs, conducting research, working with local book stores, and many other activities.

After completing each project, local volunteers submit a report of their activities. Some of the comments in these reports include the following:

"I'm personally impressed by the wonderful materials F.A.R.M.S. is producing and look forward to receiving future materials from you. More cassettes and video lectures would be helpful. I plan to be even more active in promoting F.A.R.M.S. here in my area this year and believe members will show more interest as F.A.R.M.S. becomes better known."—Danny Arnold, Orange

Park, Florida

"Response to F.A.R.M.S. has been excellent! and I must say that response from F.A.R.M.S. has been superb."—Craig Hartman, Lakewood, Colorado

"I organized and presented a showing in our stake of 'Faith of an Observer.' It was extremely well received. The Nibley video represents a choice personal opportunity for many who may never meet him in person to share in the mind-expanding insights of his deep pondering and research. I ached to realize I must miss the special F.A.R.M.S./Nibley night at the Ramses II exhibit."

—Caroline Depp, Keaau, Hawaii

"How do I go about setting up a F.A.R.M.S. club on campus?"—Ray Agostini, Unanderra, Australia

"I presented three firesides in 1985 and gave out the F.A.R.M.S. address to about 500 people in the Northwest. I didn't even know about the F.A.R.M.S. volunteer program. I just did it because I love F.A.R.M.S. and want all Latter-day Saints to know about it. I have the whole F.A.R.M.S. library. I will be glad to help you in any way I can."—Ron Shumaker, Beaverton, Oregon

"I am really excited about F.A.R.M.S. I would like a project to work on. I don't mind helping even outside my local area."

—Darrel Hird, Thornton, Colorado

Our deep appreciation goes to the

Catalog Number	Author and Title	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
CHE-V	Cheesman, Paul R., "So Let It Be Written" (30-minute VHS)		\$25.00	
CHE-78	Cheesman, Paul R., <i>Book of Mormon Lands—A Photographic Essay</i> (Salt Lake City: Blaine T. Hudson, 1978)		\$15.00	
CHI-86	Childs, Larry G., "Epanalepsis in the Book of Mormon" (11 pp.)		\$.75	
RAM-V	"Ramses II: The Pharaoh and His Time. An Introduction by Dr. Wilfred Griggs" (BYU Motion Picture Studio, 15-minute VHS) (supply limited)		\$18.00	
RAS-84	Rasmussen, Ellis T., "Sidney B. Sperry: Student of the Book of Mormon" <i>Ensign</i> (9 pp.)		\$.50	
SMI-86	Smith, Robert F., "Ramses II BYU Exhibit: Supplementary Comments on the Artifacts" (29 pp.)		\$ 1.50	
SP-OUR	Sperry, Sidney B., <i>Our Book of Mormon</i> (photocopy reprint, chs. 4-13, 15-16, originally published by Bookcraft, 1947) (138 pp.)		\$ 3.00	
W&R-86	Welch, John W., and Tim Rathbone, "The Translation of the Book of Mormon: Basic Historical Information" (55 pp.)		\$ 2.25	
WEL-86a	Welch, John W., "The Nephite Sacrament Prayers: From King Benjamin's Speech to Moroni 4-5" (30 pp.)		\$ 1.75	

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In addition, many others have rendered significant service in the Provo area. Richard Olsen took dozens of hours to design and produce the new F.A.R.M.S. 1986–87 Catalog. With the assistance of Les Campbell and Jack Welch, the 1985 Catalog was expanded to 24 pages, adding an author listing, graphics, and several new features. Richard, Greg McMurdie and Teri Bergstrom have also recently redesigned the cover sheets for the F.A.R.M.S. preliminary reports and reprints, so that the necessary information will be more visible in the racks at Deseret Book stores where many F.A.R.M.S. materials are regularly displayed and sold. Others,

including Daryl Hague, Brenda Johnson, Don Norton and John Brickey, have worked liberally as proofreaders and source checkers. Douglas Clark has edited much of Hugh Nibley's work on Abraham. Other Provo area volunteers and assistants this year have also included Richard Erickson, Lori Erickson, Jim Bell, Anna Norton, Margaret Norton, Julia Norton, Don Parry, Heide Holt, Denise Sartain, Beth Cole, Richard Steelman, Aaron Campbell, Laura Campbell, Spencer Campbell, James Welch, Jim Backman, Christy Valentine, Ben Urrutia, Kirk Magleby, Gordon Thomasson, Ara Norwood, Judd Hixson, Eric Brown, Kevin Cantera, Danny Hixson, Paul Hixson, Gary Gillum, Darlene Clark, Janet Twigg, DeeAnn Hofer, Richard Hiltbrunn, Rebecca Bishop, Joe Swick, C. Mason, Gary Keeley, Morgan Tanner, and others.

Significant research papers have also been received from Lowell Tensmeyer (Indiana), Ronald Messer (Idaho), Paul Cheesman (Utah), Charles Grosso (New Mexico), Larry Browning (Utah), Eugene England (Utah), Randall Spackman (California), Susan Easton (Utah), Deloy Pack (Utah), Larry Lewis (Texas), Allen Christenson (Washington, D.C.), John Tvedtnes (Utah), Garth Norman (Utah), Brent Merrill (Virginia), Grant Hardy (Connecticut), and many others. These papers have been added to the F.A.R.M.S. research archive and are greatly appreciated. Several of them are being prepared for distribution as preliminary reports.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer or if you have suggestions or research papers to submit, please write to Les Campbell, F.A.R.M.S., P.O. Box 7113, Provo, UT 84602. Those who actively serve as local volunteers and report on their activities receive the scholarly *Updates* each month, two free F.A.R.M.S. papers for each project completed, and the personal satisfaction of making a meaningful contribution.



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