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FOUNDATION FOR
ANCIENT RESEARCH &
MORMON STUDIES

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

EXPANDED BOOK OF MORMON BIBLIOGRAPHY READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

The "Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon (through December 1986)" has reached a sufficient stage of completion that it is now available for order. Known around F.A.R.M.S. by its computer code name of "BigBib," it lists almost 4,000 books, articles, papers, talks, and all sorts of items about the Book of Mormon. This almost doubles the size of the now superseded Book of Mormon bibliography F.A.R.M.S. has been distributing since 1982.

This bibliography can be ordered in three different formats—by author, date, or subject. The first listing organizes all entries alphabetically by author. The chronological file arranges the same material by the year when it was written. The subject listing is, by nature, quite imprecise; in some cases classifications had to be made by reading the title alone. Nevertheless, the divisions are relatively self-explanatory and are designed to be functional.

"This is a tremendous step forward for Book of Mormon research," observes Gary Gillum, Ancient Studies Librarian at the Harold B. Lee Library of the Brigham Young University, and one who has worked on this bibliography for the past six years. "We have already received significant encouragement to have this work published as a reference tool for libraries around the world."

One of the long-standing objectives of F.A.R.M.S. has been to facilitate research on the Book of Mormon. This new bibliography will be an indispensable tool for nearly all future Book of Mormon research projects. Most modern research needs to begin by consulting the work of previous scholars and writers. "We reviewed several papers last month," reports Jack Welch, "covering topics that had already been written on in great detail ten years ago. Unfortunately, the recent authors were unaware of the earlier work."

This project has been made possible by the efforts of dozens of people, but especially by timely grants in 1985 from Randy Paul (Phoenix, Arizona) and 1986 by John S. Welch (La Cañada, California), and by the devoted and valiant work of DeeAnn Hofer over the past two years. We hope this tool will continue to be improved and supplemented for years to come.

UPDATES FOR 1986— FULL OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION

Each month the Foundation prepares an *Update* describing a new item of ongoing research. These *Updates* are concise statements of interesting developments, aimed at the general reader. Like executive business reports, they are factual and documented, but straightforward and practical. They are mailed each month to active researchers, contributors, and volunteers.

Each year the monthly *Updates* are collected and can be ordered as a set. The twelve *Updates* for 1986, which can be ordered by using the attached form, offer a bonanza of information at a bargain price.

1. Old World Languages in the New World. A look at a revolutionary hypothesis and strong evidence of a close relationship between a group of Indian languages in central California and a language family in western Asia. Here is an exceptional example of significant cultural transmission over long distances and geographical barriers.

2. How Long Did It Take to Translate the Book of Mormon? A concise statement of extensive research showing that the Book of Mormon was translated within a span of 65 to 75 days. Considering the historical complexity and the theological density of the Book of Mormon, this was a very impressive feat.

3. Columbus: By Faith or Reason? Dominant historical opinion in recent years has seen Columbus being led by science, reason, restlessness, or desire for conquest, in his discovery of the New World. A recent historical reassessment of the primary evidence, however, argues persuasively that Columbus was deeply influenced by prophecy and revelation, consistent with the prophetic description foretelling this event in 1 Nephi 13.

4. Winds and Currents: A Look at Nephi's Ocean Crossing. What combination of winds, currents, times, and distances would make it feasible for a vessel to sail from the southern coast of Arabia across the Indian Ocean and then across the Pacific to Central America? A fascinating sketch of the route and natural conditions that Lehi's party may have encountered on their voyage is given in the light of recent research.

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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5. Was Helaman 7-8 an Allegorical Sermon?

It was common for early Israelite prophets to use allegories in delivering their prophetic messages. Might Nephi's sermon in Helaman 7-8 have been similarly staged as a prophetic allegory in the form of a funeral sermon? Several details viewed in this light add rich possibilities to the symbolic meaning of that text.

6. **Our Nephite Sacrament Prayers.** Few people stop to think each Sunday that the LDS sacrament prayers come from the Book of Mormon. Here is an outline of the meaningful development of the sacrament prayers in the world of Israelite and Nephite covenant-making together with the words of Jesus in 3 Nephi 18.

7. **Prophecy Among the Maya.** A variety of forms of prophecy have recently been noted in studies about the Maya Indians. Similarities between the manner of prophecy and the social function of prophets among the Maya compare visibly at a number of points with the Book of Mormon.

8. **Four Quarters.** Book of Mormon writers commonly spoke of their land and of the earth as being divided into four quarters. Good evidence exists that ancient Americans likewise divided their territorial lands into four quadrants for administrative purposes and envisioned the world and the heavens divided into quadrants. The symbolic meaning and orientation of this world view is related here to several aspects of the Book of Mormon.

9. **Lehi's Trail and Nahom Revisited.** This Update reports a trip to Yemen by F.A.R.M.S. members Warren and Michaela Aston to explore the area known as "Nehem," which may be related to the Book of Mormon "Nahom." For the first time, the two Semitic language roots possibly standing behind the Book of Mormon word "Nahom" are discussed, and recent publications regarding Arabia's frankincense trail are related to Lehi's land Bountiful, which may have been farther west than the previously suggested Salalah.

10. **Three Accounts of Alma's Conversion.** Few are aware that the Book of Mormon contains three accounts of the conversion of Alma the Younger. Interesting results come from a careful comparison of these three texts. Precise and distinctive phrases, remarkable consistency despite separation over long sections in the text, and other developments show that these three accounts bear the unmistakable imprint of a single individual.

11. **Mesoamericans in Pre-Spanish South America.** Recent analyses of the Book of Mormon demonstrate that only a limited territory in Mesoamerica is involved in the record itself. This has raised questions about how the ancient cultures of South America might connect with the book. Recent archaeological evidence affords an answer, proving long-standing cultural interactions between Mesoamerica and South America. Thus, the peoples of South America can be assumed to have incorporated genes and cultural elements from Book of Mormon peoples.

12. Parallelism, Merismus and Difrasismo.

A recent article identifying a number of Hebraic poetical devices in the Book of Mormon opens the possibility of similar comparisons with ancient American literature as well. The familiar forms of parallelism and chiasmus, as well as merismus or difrasismo (the expression of an inclusive concept by a pair of adjectives) are found both in ancient Near Eastern and pre-Columbian literatures.

If you missed the *Updates* for the previous two years, copies of the monthly *Updates* for 1984 and for 1985 are also still available through the normal catalog channels. Each year's collection costs only \$1.00.

STUDY OF HEBREW POETRY EXPANDS

Angela Crowell has published a multifaceted study of Hebrew poetry in the Book of Mormon, now available as reprint CRW-86. It originally appeared in the *Zarahemla Record*. This article gives scores of examples illustrating dozens of stylistic patterns and devices known to Bible scholars and also occurring in the Book of Mormon. This contribution not only deepens our reading and appreciation of the scripture, it also demonstrates the frequent subtlety and great complexity of the record.

WARFARE IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Matthew Hilton's lengthy study, "Preliminary Summary of Nephite Armed Conflict in the Book of Mormon," outlines and abstracts virtually every event and passage—and then some—dealing in any way with warfare. The paper is chronologically arranged and is designed strictly as a reference tool.

NIBLEY ON CHANGE, UTOPIANS, AND SACRED VESTMENTS

Three new papers are added at this time to our Nibley Archive. The first, a speech entitled "Change Out of Control," is about the inevitable and constant role of change in the history of mankind and in the progress of the individual soul. "The Gospel invites us to move toward the unknown," especially through "individual freedom to repent and go the other way." In "The Utopians," Dr. Nibley discusses twelve attributes shared by the secular and spiritual utopians. Together with "Breakthroughs I Would Like to See" (N-BRA), these talks form a provocative trilogy.

In addition, the transcribed version of Professor Nibley's 1975 address, "Sacred Vestments," has now been revised and annotated. The use and significance of garments, robes and priestly vestments, particularly as reflected in ancient texts, is discussed here in vivid detail.

WHY DID NEPHI WRITE 1 NEPHI?

Nephi's primary stated purpose for writing the book of 1 Nephi was "to persuade men to come unto God" (1 Ne. 6:4). In addition, his writings served several other unstated purposes, as Noel B. Reynolds demonstrates in "The Political Dimensions of Nephi's Small Plates." Nephi was the fourth son in his family, and, as such, he was not entitled to the rights of leadership and ownership belonging to the eldest son. Nevertheless, Nephi became the chosen leader of the righteous members of Lehi's group, predictably giving rise to a conflict with the eldest son, Laman, and his followers. The book of 1 Nephi served an important political purpose as it explained, documented and justified Nephi's ascent to leadership. Rebutting the claims that were immediately made by his brothers that he had usurped or stolen the position, Nephi's account skillfully shows that he was his father's legitimate successor, and thus his book became something of a founding constitution for the Nephite people.

FORMS OF NEPHITE LAWS CONSIDERED

Ancient Near Eastern and Biblical laws were written according to certain stylistic conventions. Two such formal aspects of ancient law have recently been used to sharpen our understanding of Nephite law as well. In "Series of Laws in the Book of Mormon," John W. Welch examines ten significantly consistent law lists from which one can reconstruct a fairly clear picture of the underlying Nephite law code and its relationship to the Code of the Covenant in Exodus 20-23.

In addition, most ancient laws were written in the form, "If a man. . . ." In his discussion of this "casuistic" law form in the Book of Mormon, Welch shows that Nephite law knew and used the casuistic mode, and that it was primarily used in legal discourse, especially as one might expect in the writings of the Chief Judge Alma.

ADVISORY BOARD

The F.A.R.M.S. Advisory Board has recently been expanded and more specifically organized. John Sorenson has become the Chairman of the Board. Three standing committees have been formed and are now operational. They are the Research Committee (Stephen Ricks, chair; with William Evenson, Noel Reynolds, Chauncey Riddle, and Robert K. Thomas); the Evaluation Committee (John Sorenson, chair; with Bill Hess, Kirk Magleby, Harold Miller, Douglas Phillips, and Jay Todd); and the Production Committee (Jack Welch, chair; with Merrill Bateman, Robert Driggs, and Charles Tate). All these people serve as volunteers. Their time, efforts, and wisdom are greatly appreciated in steering the many projects and functions of the Foundation.

ORDER FORM

Catalog Number	Author and Title	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
CRW-86	Crowell, Angela, "Hebrew Poetry in the Book of Mormon, Parts I and II," <i>Zarahemla Record</i> (16 pp.)		\$ 1.25	
HLT-87	Hilton, Matthew, "Preliminary Summary of Nephite Armed Conflict in the Book of Mormon" (45 pp.)		\$ 2.50	
N-CHA	Nibley, Hugh, "Change Out of Control" (15 pp.)		\$ 1.25	
N-SAC	Nibley, Hugh, "Sacred Vestments" (32 pp.)		\$ 1.75	
N-UTO	Nibley, Hugh, "The Utopians" (36 pp.)		\$ 2.00	
REY-87	Reynolds, Noel B., "The Political Dimension in Nephi's Small Plates" (35 pp.)		\$ 2.00	
STF-86	Staff, F.A.R.M.S., "The F.A.R.M.S. Monthly Updates for 1986" (13 pp.)		\$ 1.00	
WEL-87	Welch, John W., "Series of Laws in the Book of Mormon" (19 pp.)		\$ 1.25	
WEL-87a	Welch, John W., "'If a Man . . . ' The Casuistic Law Form in the Book of Mormon" (8 pp.)		\$.75	
WGH-87A	Welch, John W., Gary Gillum and DeeAnn Hofer, "Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon (through December 1986): Arranged Alphabetically by Author" (90 pp.)		\$ 4.25	
WGH-87C	Welch, John W., Gary Gillum and DeeAnn Hofer, "Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon (through December 1986): Arranged Chronologically" (90 pp.)		\$ 4.25	
WGH-87S	Welch, John W., Gary Gillum and DeeAnn Hofer, "Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon (through December 1986): Arranged by Subject" (90 pp.)		\$ 4.25	
M-T1	Maxwell, Neal A., "Great Answers to the Great Question" (Keynote Address, BYU Book of Mormon Symposium, October 1986; also available through BYU Audio Visual Services) (audio tape)		\$ 5.00	
N-T11	Nibley, Hugh, "Zion and Babylon Contrasted" (audio tape)		\$ 5.00	
N-T12	Nibley, Hugh, "More Brigham Young on Education," Sperry Symposium Lecture, March 1976 (for transcript see N-MOB) (audio tape)		\$ 5.00	
S-T1	Sorenson, John L., "Changing Views on the Book of Mormon" (Ricks College Forum Address, March 1985) (audio tape)		\$ 5.00	
W-T1	Welch, John W., "Recent Developments in Book of Mormon Research" (Provo, CES Annual Symposium, August 1986) (audio tape)		\$ 5.00	

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- \$10 Annual Minimum (\$5.00 for students and low-income families).
- \$50 Please send me a complimentary copy of the facsimile edition of the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon.
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HOFMANN ADMITS FORGERY

F.A.R.M.S. members outside of Utah may be unaware of new developments regarding Mark Hofmann, who has recently pleaded guilty to reduced murder and fraud charges and has been sentenced to prison. Part of the plea bargaining included Hofmann's agreement to tell all about his forging of documents purporting to be related to LDS Church and colonial U.S. history. Hofmann has admitted that the "Salamander Letter" was a hoax, and indications are that all major documents he "found" during the past nine years may prove to have been extremely clever and insidious forgeries. The sadness of this situation is inexpressible. We extend our deepest regrets to all those who have been touched in any way by this perversion.

Several F.A.R.M.S. reprints and reports worked from the premise that the Hofmann documents were authentic: e.g., BAC-80, JES-82, KIM-70 (revised), STF-85a, STF-85b, STF-85d (see Catalog for details). Some were reprints from *BYU Studies*; others were prepared by a number of people associated with F.A.R.M.S. Some carried the notation in

our 1986-87 Catalog, "Authenticity [of the documents] in question," and in the February 1986 Newsletter we noted that the authenticity issue was "very unclear." In hindsight it is clear that we, as much as other scholars misled by Hofmann, should have been even more skeptical sooner, and that we ought to have warned readers more of the suspicions of some people that forgery was afoot.

In the aftermath, much reassessment will be needed. The research insightfully produced about salamanders and short-hand Egyptian contains valid and generally interesting historical information, but the main thing we now see is how very clever and skillful these forgeries were. Like jurors who are told to disregard evidence when it is ruled irrelevant

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

Beginning in February, an informal working seminar will meet at BYU every second and fourth Wednesday, at 12:00 noon, in 919 SWKT, for lunch and to discuss Book of Mormon research in progress. Interested people are welcome to contact Noel Reynolds, 764 SWKT, BYU, (801) 378-2391, for further information.

or inadmissible, it will take conscious effort for scholars and students to weed out the phantoms left by these forgeries.

WARFARE RESEARCH GROUP ORGANIZED

A research group working on warfare in the Book of Mormon has been formed. Anyone interested in any aspect of warfare in the Bible, the ancient Near East, Mesoamerica, or Book of Mormon is invited to contact Stephen Ricks, 4076 JKHB, BYU, (801) 378-5428, or 378-3295, or Bill Hamblin, 802 Pineview Dr., Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401.

AUDIO TAPES LISTED

As a service, several audio tapes of talks have been added to the attached order form. These talks give listeners an opportunity to hear several people at work with the Book of Mormon. Their presentations offer new dimensions and perspectives on the mission, content, and study of the Book of Mormon and the gospel.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY

Please join us in this year's membership drive. We know there are many people not receiving this Newsletter who might be interested in keeping up on current Book of Mormon research.

If you have family, friends, acquaintances, or members of your ward or stake who would find the work and services of F.A.R.M.S. interesting and useful, send us their names and addresses. We will send them a free introductory packet, explaining the Foundation and giving them an opportunity to become a member. The few minutes you may take to send this are very important to us, and will probably be appreciated by the people whom you refer.

Go the extra mile! If you enroll five new people by collecting and sending us their \$10.00 annual membership fees (\$5.00 for senior citizens, students, and low-income families), we will send you free one *Facsimile Edition of the 1830 Book of Mormon* published by Deseret Book Company.

If you enroll ten new people, following the same procedure above, we will send you free a copy of Hugh Nibley's *The World and the Prophets*, Volume 3 in the Collected Works of Hugh Nibley, as soon as it is off the press this spring.

Please act soon. Help us reach our goal of adding 2,000 new members before April 30, 1987.



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