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FOUNDATION FOR
ANCIENT RESEARCH
& MORMON STUDIES

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

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

New Nibley Volume Published

Approaching Zion, volume 9 in the Collected Works of Hugh Nibley, has been published by F.A.R.M.S. and Deseret Book Company. It contains Nibley's essays on the uses of wealth, consecration, the Zion society, spiritual gifts, and the atonement.

Many of the essays have an informal flavor, because they are carefully edited transcriptions of Nibley's rapid-fire, often extemporaneous remarks from note cards. These essays and transcripts, many published for the first time, offer a vivid impression of the man and his most deeply felt concerns.

This volume will certainly be among the most provocative of the volumes in the series. Nibley confronts the problems of succumbing to Satan's materialistic ploys and amassing the goods of this earth. He is uncompromising in his criticism of our materialistic foibles.

Brother Nibley yearns for Zion. His broad historical perspective enables him to define with precision why we have not achieved it. His sobering essays are based on ample reference to the scriptures and the best thinking of all ages. Since he also practices what he preaches, his essays are the product of both scholarship and personal application of the principles he recommends.

He does not call for a formal reinstatement of the law of consecration. But as Don Norton points out in the foreword, "Nibley sets forth lucidly the principles that enable us to live that law in the face of the feeble realities of the present. The ideal is before us, and nothing prevents us as individuals from living that law, thus enjoying its blessings and preparing ourselves for its renewal."

This book is highly recommended for all readers.

Books Selling Briskly

During the last three months, many have taken advantage of the opportunity to purchase books through F.A.R.M.S. We will mail to you any books on scriptural research published by Deseret

Book, Bookcraft, or Doubleday.

This service is available to those who have paid annual dues. They will receive the 15% or 20% discount. No special order form is needed.

Don't Disappear!

This is the last issue that will be sent regularly to *anyone* who has not paid annual F.A.R.M.S. dues. We hope that your association with the Foundation has been beneficial to you—your support has been crucial for us.

We invite you to join us in our second decade of study, faith, and service. We hope that you will continue to support the educational and research functions of the Foundation. Your dues and tax-deductible contributions will now do more than ever before to further understanding of the Book of Mormon, and nowhere else can they bring you comparable benefits.

Annual Book of Mormon Lecture Announced

Professor Richard D. Rust, Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, will deliver the Foundation's annual Book of Mormon lecture at 7:30 P.M., February 27, 1990, in 2084 JKHB on the BYU campus. His lecture is titled "The Book of Mormon, Designed for Our Day." Professor Rust has completed a book-length manuscript that examines literary features of the Book of Mormon. In this lecture he will show how an understanding of those features helps readers better appreciate how the book is designed for our times. The public is invited to attend without charge. Plan to join us.

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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Fifty Scholars to Honor Nibley

In honor of the eightieth birthday of Dr. Hugh W. Nibley, F.A.R.M.S. and Deseret Book will publish two volumes of essays, entitled *By Study and Also By Faith*. These essays include contributions from some 50 LDS and non-LDS scholars.

The topics of these papers reflect some of the very wide-ranging interests of Brother Nibley, including the ancient Near East, the Old and New Testaments, ancient Judaism, early Christianity, the Book of Mormon, the Greco-Roman world, Islam, East Asia, and LDS Church history. Many of the essays represent significant original contributions to their fields.

These volumes will be available for sale in the spring. To give you a taste of things to come, the following articles are available now on the attached order form: Richard Bushman, "The Lamanite View of Book of Mormon History," Noel Reynolds, "The Brass Plates Version of Genesis," and Todd Compton "The Handclasp and Embrace as Tokens of Recognition."

As a historian, Bushman is sensitive to the fact that all histories are written from particular points of view. He makes an intriguing attempt to understand how the Book of Mormon might have been written if its stories had been told by a Lamanite historian.

Reynolds has compared several texts in the book of Moses that are similar to passages in the Book of Mormon. Since the Nephites had a version of Genesis on the plates of brass, Reynolds asks if that version was not similar to what we now have in the Pearl of Great Price.

Compton deals with tokens of recognition in Greek drama. Two of these tokens, the handclasp and the ritual embrace, are also to be found in various religious traditions and symbolize a reuniting of the human with the divine as well as a recognition ("knowing again") of the parties involved.

CES Summer Projects

If you are a full-time Seminary or Institute teacher, you may be interested in applying for a summer Book of Mormon research leave, available under the supervision of F.A.R.M.S. In recent years, such projects have been undertaken by Les Campbell, Ken Godfrey and Robert Cloward. For further information, contact Don Parry at the F.A.R.M.S. office.

American Corn Depicted In Ancient India

A recent article in *Economic Botany* contains abundant data showing the presence of American maize on the sculptured fronts of temples in southern India several centuries before the time of Columbus. Numerous accurate representations of corn ears on three temples near Mysore are pictured and analyzed by Carl L. Johannessen and Anne Z. Parker, geographers at the University of Oregon.

Their article is now available as a F.A.R.M.S. Reprint (see the order form in this issue). A F.A.R.M.S. grant in 1988 aided Johannessen's return to India to study this art.

The authors' photographs show sculptures of ears of corn so detailed and accurate that they could not have been carved without living models of the plant being available.

The authors cite supporting evidence from plant names, pollen specimens, art, and other sources. They hypothesize that transpacific voyagers carried seed from America, where it is native, to Asia hundreds of years before the voyages by Spaniards and Portuguese in the 16th century, which are usually considered the means by which maize was introduced into the Old World. The sculptures Johannessen and Parker show date to the 12-13th centuries, but Indian scholars inform them of similar scenes dating even earlier.

Because the evidence is so concrete, this is one of the most compelling reports available to counter the claim that no one crossed the ocean before the heyday of European discovery.

Nibley on "Criticizing the Authorities"

At the Church Educational System Symposium at BYU and the Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City in August, Hugh Nibley presented a paper on "Criticizing the Authorities." His paper draws heavily on the writings of Joseph Smith since, according to Brother Nibley, "criticism of the Church and its leaders has always centered around him."

Joseph made it perfectly clear that the Saints were not only permitted, but encouraged, to enjoy the gifts of the spirit. However, leading the Church, including giving revelation for the Church, was the sole prerogative of the Brethren.

Criticism, notes Brother Nibley, often stems from jealousy or from people taking "the high position of academic advantage." We should bring our complaints and criticisms "before the only Person qualified to judge either you or your tormentors. As you bring your complaints, I'm fully aware that he knows everything already—including everything there is to know about you."

This timely piece contains much food for thought and reflection. You may obtain a copy by using the order form in this issue.

Benefits Received by Paying Dues

Regular (\$9.00 per year)

- Quarterly newsletter
- 15% discount on any book of scriptural research published by Deseret Book, Bookcraft, or Doubleday
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Regular benefits are available to low-income families and students for \$5 per year.

Perhaps the most valuable benefit is intangible—knowing that you are supporting a faithful study of ancient scripture and helping to spread the knowledge gained from that study.

Book of Mormon Seminar Continues

An informal seminar continues to meet twice a month during regular BYU semesters and has held six sessions since the last Newsletter report. Persons interested in attending or making presentations should contact Noel B. Reynolds (801-378-2391).

In May, Noel B. Reynolds reported an exhaustive analysis of how the term "gospel (or doctrine) of Christ" is used in the Book of Mormon. He explained that the phrase is introduced early by Nephi and that the meaning that Nephi introduces is followed by all later Book of Mormon prophets and by the Savior during his visit to the Nephites.

Paul Y. Hoskisson kicked off the fall series with an examination of Zenos' allegory of the olive tree in Jacob 5. His focal concern was to provide an interpretation that would match the incidents of the allegory with historical events.

The next session featured Donald W. Parry's discussion of "Climactic Forms in the Book of Mormon." Several examples of a newly recognized form of Hebrew Parallelism were reported and discussed.

John W. Welch returned the discussion to Jacob 5 with "The Allegory of the Olive Tree and Romans 11 and Jacob 5." The presentation traced out the main biblical parallels to the Zenos allegory and showed clearly how they could not be its source, but how instead the Zenos allegory can help make more sense out of a number of otherwise little-related Bible references.

Lyle Fletcher reviewed his BYU master's thesis on "Pronouns of Address in the Book of Mormon." Although the usage of pronouns like *thee*, *ye*, and *you* in the Book of Mormon does not always conform to modern English conventions, Brother Fletcher used detailed analysis of 19th century usage and the origins of these conventions to argue that there is no more variety of usage in the Book of Mormon than one should expect.

Most recently, Royal Skousen gave a report on his last year of work on the original manuscript of the Book of Mormon. Minute examination of the surviving portions of the original text reveals a number of insights about the process of translation and publication, strongly supporting the fact that the text was dictated, as Joseph Smith explained.

Looking for the Nephite Bountiful

A grant from F.A.R.M.S. will support a photographic reconnaissance trip in southern Mexico at the end of December. At the invitation of John Sorenson, Dr. David Palmer and Mexican associates will examine a small area just east of the Coatzacoalcos River near the Gulf of Mexico where one or more archaeological ruins are thought to exist (remains have been reported informally). Sorenson proposed in *An Ancient American Setting for the Book of Mormon* that the city of Bountiful where the Savior visited was possibly located about there.

The team will overfly the zone, then visit selected localities on the ground to photograph sites, landscapes, and artifact collections and record any other data that may suggest where future study by archaeologists could be profitable. Despite its strategic location in terms of the interacting of Mesoamerican cultures, this particular area has never been systematically investigated.

Commitments by a few donors are enabling this work to go forward. Further gifts to the Foundation earmarked for the project will be welcomed.

Searching Again for Old World Bountiful

Warren Aston of Australia recently completed another field trip to Oman on the south Arabian peninsula searching for clues to the original land Bountiful where Nephi and his family built their ship. A F.A.R.M.S. research grant again aided his research.

His research on the ancient incense caravan trade (which he has been invited to present at Cambridge University next summer) now leads him to suggest a specific locale for Bountiful at a point where a narrow valley leads from the desert interior through mountains to the most fertile and abundantly watered spot on the entire Omani coastline (though virtually uninhabited due to difficulty of access by land). A report is in preparation; meanwhile see the F.A.R.M.S. Paper entitled "The Search for Nahom and the End of Lehi's Trail."

Inscription Appears to Be Hebrew

In 1889 a representative of the U.S. Bureau of American Ethnology excavated a small inscribed stone from an undisturbed burial mound in eastern Tennessee. He claimed that the signs on it were from the Cherokee Indian writing system invented about 1821. It was supposed at that time that these mounds were built in the centuries since European colonists had arrived.

But in 1972, Near East scholar Cyrus Gordon claimed to read this "Bat Creek" inscription as Hebrew of around the time of Christ. In a carefully researched paper in the *Tennessee Anthropologist*, J. H. McCulloch has analyzed in detail whether the stone's marks are better considered Cherokee or Hebrew; he finds the fit with Hebrew significantly superior.

A new radiocarbon date on wood from the mound indicates a time between the 3rd and 7th centuries A.D. Analysis of "copper" bracelets found alongside the stone show them actually to be brass, otherwise unknown in North America before Columbus' time but in use in the Mediterranean area between the 1st century B.C. and the 2nd century A.D., consistent with Gordon's date for the script. McCulloch argues that it is very unlikely that the bracelets and inscription are forgeries.

Latter-day Saints cannot directly connect these inscriptions to the Book of Mormon account, but McCulloch's argument strongly supports the idea, unpopular among scientists, that Jews or related people were capable of reaching America in ancient times and leaving behind convincing remains.

The McCulloch paper can be ordered on the form in this newsletter.

New Reviews Coming

F.A.R.M.S. will publish volume 2 of *Review of Books on the Book of Mormon* in the first months of 1990. It will contain reviews of all books about the Book of Mormon published in 1989, plus reviews of a few published earlier. We welcome review copies or unsolicited reviews of any books on the Book of Mormon.

Volume 1 continues to generate discussion and correspondence. We are pleased that it has focused attention on some important books and ideas about the Book of Mormon. Copies of volume 1 may still be ordered, using the order form in this issue.

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Please charge my Visa or Mastercard \$ _____ per month for 1990. (Fill out charge section below).

I wish to contribute to support the following projects (fully tax deductible):

- Preparing Nibley's *Message of the Joseph Smith Papyri* for publication.....
- Funding a working group on ancient olive culture and Jacob 5.
- Printing a guide to Book of Mormon criticisms and published responses.
- Supporting photographic reconnaissance trip to southern Mexico.

For gifts that your employer may match, direct funds to BYU account 6-62005. Check here if you need further information.

Catalog Number	New Titles	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
N-9	Nibley, Hugh W., <i>Approaching Zion</i> , Collected Works, Vol. 9, 650 pp., retail.		\$18.95	
	with 15% discount.		\$16.11	
	with 20% discount.		\$15.16	
MCU-89	McCulloch, J. H., "The Bat Creek Inscription: Cherokee or Hebrew?" 55 pp.		\$3.50	
J&P-89	Johannessen, Karl L. and Anne Z. Parker, "Maize Ears Sculpted in 12th and 13th Century A.D. India as Indicators of Pre-Columbian Diffusion," 17 pp.		\$1.25	
N-CRI	Nibley, Hugh W., "Criticizing the Authorities," 31 pp.		\$2.00	
BUS-89	Bushman, Richard, "The Lamanite View of Book of Mormon History," 18 pp.		\$1.25	
COM-89	Compton, Todd, "The Handclasp and Embrace as Tokens of Recognition," 22 pp.		\$1.50	
REY-89	Reynolds, Noel B., "The Brass Plates Version of Genesis," 22 pp.		\$1.50	
STF-89u	"The F.A.R.M.S. Monthly Updates for 1989," 8 pp.		\$.75	
STF-89v	"The F.A.R.M.S. Updates of the 80s," 69 pp.		\$4.25	
REV-88	<i>Review of Books on the Book of Mormon</i> , Vol. 1.		\$4.00	

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Warfare Volume at the Publisher

The F.A.R.M.S. Symposium on Warfare in the Book of Mormon held in March of this year produced some excellent contributions. Editors William J. Hamblin and Stephen D. Ricks have prepared these essays for publication as *Warfare in the Book of Mormon*, to be published by F.A.R.M.S. and Deseret Book Company in the latter part of 1990. The following are samples of the contributions in this book:

The Book of Mormon provides a great deal of incidental detail on military technology. As William J. Hamblin, A. Brent Merrill, and Paul Y. Hoskisson show, descriptions of weapons and armor in the Book of Mormon are all consistent with patterns in the ancient Near East and Mesoamerica. Indeed, the Book of Mormon consistently parallels Mesoamerica and differs from the ancient Near East in precisely those features that distinguish Mesoamerica from the ancient Near East. Studies on fortifications demonstrate that the Book of Mormon patterns of military architecture and engineering are also consistent with similar patterns in Mesoamerica.

Much ancient warfare was typified by what we in modern times call guerilla war. This characteristic of warfare is also well attested in the Book of Mormon, as can be seen in Daniel C. Peterson's analysis of the nature and motives of the Gadianton robbers.

Warfare is very difficult during periods of extensive rain, heat, or cold. Because ancient societies were closely tied to the seasonal cycles of nature for crop planting and harvesting, periods of extended warfare were limited by agricultural considerations. John L. Sorenson demonstrates in his paper that the Book of Mormon accounts of warfare reflect the climatic and seasonal conditions of Mesoamerica.

Perhaps the greatest distinction between modern and ancient international affairs is the religious dimension of war in antiquity. For example, Terrence L. Szink's paper shows that ancient military oaths were taken very seriously, and the Book of Mormon emphasis on oaths of loyalty from troops and oaths of surrender from prisoners illustrates these ancient concepts very well. The Book of Mormon also presents a complex pattern of international relations, treaties, holy war, and diplomacy which is consistent with ancient Near Eastern practices.

Inscriptions Support Transoceanic Contact

John Sorenson recently joined other scholars in examining ancient inscriptions in southeastern Colorado that appear to be written in Ogam, a language known chiefly from Ireland in medieval times. While claims for the authenticity of ancient inscriptions in west European or North African writing systems allegedly found in many parts of North America have been rejected by most archaeologists because of the flawed evidence put forward to support the claims, these particular inscriptions are unusually impressive and cannot be dismissed as modern fakes.

A review of these claims will be published soon in the *Quarterly Review of Archaeology*. The author, Prof. David Kelley, has found that some of the inscriptions, like the ones examined in Colorado, are credible, and that scholars may be forced to acknowledge that contact across the oceans took place in ancient times.

We will make more information on this subject available as soon as the article is published.

Exploring Complexities

Within the next six months, the Foundation will complete a volume of essays that discuss complexities, subtleties, and intricate consistencies in the Book of Mormon. These essays, by more than 25 scholars, have been popularized to make them accessible to the general reader.

The essays not only shed light on aspects of our complex Book of Mormon that have previously received little attention, but they also support the idea that such a complex book could not have been written solely by a young man in backwoods New York in the early 19th century.

The Complete Updates of the 80s

Since 1984, F.A.R.M.S. has announced many of its most exciting discoveries in its monthly Updates. Sixty-four Updates appeared in the 1980s. As this decade closes, these concise, informative summaries are now all conveniently available as a single set (includes 1989; see the attached order form). This set is designed for busy people who want quick and easy access to some of the most intriguing ideas of the decade.

Do Something Nice for the Book of Mormon

After all the Book of Mormon has done for you, do something for it!

We invite you to send a copy on a mission. Give a copy to a friend. And send a donation to F.A.R.M.S.

Your contribution will sustain ongoing efforts to understand the Book of Mormon "by study and also by faith" and to share that information worldwide.

We need and appreciate your support.

Ten-Year Milestone Celebrated

On November 8, 1989, the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies marked the 10th anniversary of its incorporation. We are pleased to report some of the major accomplishments of your Foundation in its first decade:

- Participants on the F.A.R.M.S. Mailing List as of September 1, 1989: 18,000, in all 50 states and 30 foreign countries.
- Total copies of scholarly articles distributed to date: 153,000.
- Cash donations to date: \$576,635.
- Books published to date: 14 volumes in print, 5 more at the publisher.
- Reprints listed for public access: 235
- New scholarly papers released: 90
- Comprehensive bibliographies published: 5
- Archives created: 3
- Media productions released (tapes, videos, slide sets): 98
- Regular volunteers: 350
- Service hours reported: 40,000 (not including directors and advisors, who have all served without compensation).
- Direct research funds expended to date: \$217,930.
- Number of scholars receiving grants: 79
- Annual Book of Mormon Lectures held: 2 (commenced in 1988).

We are grateful to all who have made this decade so successful for F.A.R.M.S. The ability of the Foundation to fill needs and to be of service has far exceeded our most sincere dreams. We hope to carry this work forward into the 1990s with an increase of study and also faith.

The Updates of 1989

Now available for a nominal charge are the valuable Updates for 1989. These interesting and easily readable monthly reports track the steady flow of new research generated by the Foundation this year.

"Getting Things Strai[gh]t" tells you the difference between the "*straight* and narrow path" and the "*strait* and narrow path." Here is a straightforward answer that opens a number of possible insights to spiritual understanding.

"'Holy War' in the Book of Mormon and the Ancient Near East" explains the sacred nature of war in the ancient world. To King David, Alma, Helaman, and Mormon, war was a lot more than weapons and fortifications. Given the correct background information, the so-called "warfare chapters" in the Book of Mormon take a newly appreciated place in sacred history.

"What was a 'Mosiah'?" points out a striking set of connections between the meanings of the Hebrew word *mosia'* ("savior") and the attributes of several "Mosiahs" in the Book of Mormon.

"Exemption from Military Duty" gives a cogent explanation of the extraordinary exemption granted to the Ammonites in Alma 27. It happens to conform precisely with some technical biblical and rabbinic laws.

"The Coronation of Kings" shows how the coronation of Mosiah II consisted of many complex elements similar to those found in ancient Israel.

"Climactic Forms in the Book of Mormon" is a literary study of a speech pattern identified in biblical and other

rhetorical styles, now newly seen in the Book of Mormon.

"Secret Combinations" uncovers the broad use of this phrase in English and American law to mean "conspiracy," "monopoly," or "illegal coalition." It should not be viewed as a code word for the Masons, as some have tried to argue.

"Ancient Europeans in America?" is an arresting report of recently examined pre-Columbian inscriptions in Colorado that may be written in Ogam, a script known chiefly from Ireland in medieval times.

You will stay up-to-date with these F.A.R.M.S. Updates. Use the attached order form to obtain your set.

Study of Figurines Sheds Light on Ancient Americas

Archaeologist Terry Stocker (Ph.D., Illinois, 1983) is working under a F.A.R.M.S. research grant compiling articles that discuss and illustrate ceramic human figurines from throughout the Americas. Figurines can provide some of our most valuable information about ancient peoples and their customs and relationships.

Nothing like this project has been attempted before. With Stocker's encouragement, scores of archaeologists and anthropologists are writing up hitherto neglected materials from both excavations and studies of living peoples in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Mesoamerica, and North America.

Two volumes are now complete; up to six more are likely to result. Publishing arrangements are being negotiated.

Executive Editor Joins F.A.R.M.S. Staff

Melvin J. Thorne joins F.A.R.M.S. as Executive Editor and a member of the board of directors. He will coordinate all of the Foundation's many publishing projects.

He received his B.A. from BYU, with a double major in Philosophy and University Studies, and his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Kansas. For the last six years, he has edited for the Church. Mel hopes that his interdisciplinary academic background and his editing experience will help him contribute to the Foundation's continued growth and success.

This is a big step forward for the Foundation—having a full-time editor on board. Because of the dedicated efforts of many friends and volunteers, F.A.R.M.S. has been able to publish many items of use to its members over the last ten years, but many projects have had to wait because of a lack of time and manpower to get them finished. Now we hope to be able to provide even more publications more quickly to help spread knowledge about the Book of Mormon.

Mel's position is on the BYU staff, funded entirely by F.A.R.M.S. The Foundation appreciates the cooperation of the University in this and other matters.

New Office Coordinator

Lois Richardson has begun part-time work as our office coordinator. She is finishing a degree at BYU in Near Eastern Studies. She brings a great deal of enthusiasm and secretarial and office experience to F.A.R.M.S.



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