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The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) existed from 1979 until 2006, when it was formally incorporated into the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship. Archived by permission.



The Newsletter of
the Foundation for
Ancient Research
& Mormon Studies

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

June 1997

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

New Book Explores the Connections between Beauty and Truth in the Book of Mormon

"My love of great literature and my testimony of the saving principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ converge in seeing the Book of Mormon as sacred literature. To take a literary approach enhanced by spiritual sensitivity is to engage our full capacities in understanding and feeling. It is to delight in how something is said in a way that reveals its essence. This approach is appropriate and helpful in respect to the Book of Mormon. In this work of literature, God-directed prophets speak to us in the most powerful and effective ways possible by interconnecting truth, goodness, and beauty."

Feasting on the Word: The Literary Testimony of the Book of Mormon is an exploration of this belief on the part of its author, Richard D. Rust, professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Drawing on his academic training and research, Rust examines the use of narrative, poetry, sermons, letters, and autobiography in the Book of Mormon. He looks at how Book of Mormon authors and editors use imagery, typology, epic elements, and other literary forms to convey their messages.



But throughout, his focus is on the marriage of form and content, the union of beauty and truth. His foremost task is to help his readers see that the connection between beauty (the richness of its literary elements that make it so pleasurable to read) and truth (the plain and precious doctrinal content) makes the book both spiritually and artistically fulfilling.

This book delights and inspires. Every chapter makes the reader want to go back to the Book of Mormon to explore further the forms and ideas that Rust illustrates.

Developed for several years with the help of FARMS, the book was copublished by FARMS and Deseret Book and is available using the enclosed order form.

Apostle Reflects on Christ in the Book of Mormon

Anyone who loves the Book of Mormon will find great pleasure and insight in reading Elder Jeffrey R. Holland's new book, *Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon*. Elder Holland documents why the Book of Mormon is truly another testament of Jesus Christ, since He is the principal and commanding figure throughout the book, from first chapter to last.

As Elder Holland explains, "the Book of Mormon is the sacred expression of Christ's full and final

DON'T FORGET!

**Symposium on Ancient Scripture
and the Restoration**

10:00 A.M. • 7 June • JSB Auditorium, BYU

Continued on page 3



The Foundation for
Ancient Research
& Mormon Studies

FARMS UPDATE

A Report on Research in Progress

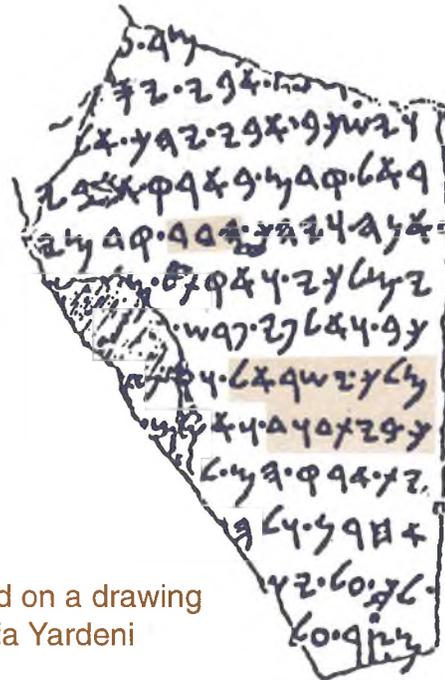
Number 112

Recent Archaeological Discoveries Support Bible

The number of archaeological excavations in Israel has increased dramatically over the last two decades. The January/February 1997 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR) lists 20 sites currently being excavated. As more sites are studied, more evidence for the historical authenticity of the Bible is uncovered. Here are some of the recent finds:

- According to Joshua 11:11, invading Israelites under Joshua destroyed and burned the city of Hazor. Recent excavations on the site have uncovered a huge Late Bronze Canaanite palace (from approximately the right time period) whose stones were blackened by the fire that destroyed the structure. Also found on the site were four clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions, which has led Hebrew University archaeologist Amnon Ben-Tor to believe they may soon discover a major Canaanite archive.
- In 1993, a stela was found at the ancient site of Dan, in the Hulah Valley. The Aramaic inscription mentions the "king of Israel" and "the house of David" (see illustration). This is the first mention of King David outside the Bible and provides strong evidence for his reign. The inscription also contains the name *Hadad*. The Bible mentions Hadad, an Edomite prince (descendant of

Hadad



Based on a drawing
by Ada Yardeni

king of Israel
house of David

Esau or Edom) who was a contemporary of King David (1 Kings 11:14–21, 25).

- Israeli archaeologist Eilat Mazar has suggested that it might be possible to locate David's palace in Jerusalem. In an article in the January/February 1997 issue of BAR, Mazar notes that a wall uncovered in the ancient city of David in the 1960s by Kathleen Kenyon may have enclosed the courtyard of David's palace mentioned in 2 Samuel 5:11 and 1 Chronicles 14:1. Mazar notes that the proto-Ionic or proto-Aeolic capitals found on the site by Kenyon are known from other Israelite royal constructions.

- Excavations at Hadar on the Golan Heights, anciently part of the Aramean kingdom of Geshur, have uncovered an eleventh-century B.C. palace that may have belonged to Talmai, king of Geshur, whose daughter Maacah married Israel's King David and became the mother of Absalom (2 Samuel 3:3).

Piece by piece, such finds fill out our picture of the ancient world of the Bible and authenticate many of the details presented in that sacred book of scripture. Watch for more details in future FARMS Updates as research continues.

Based on research by John A. Tvedtnes.

Board news

Volunteer Public Communications Director Joins FARMS Board of Trustees

Daniel Oswald has been elected a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Since 1989, he has served FARMS as a volunteer, as a member of the development committee and more recently as Director of Public Communications.

Oswald is a native of Zurich, Switzerland, where he completed his undergraduate work at the University of Zurich. He received his Juris Doctorate and his Master of Business Administration from BYU. He served a mission in England and Wales. He is married to Tamara Bischoff and they are the parents of six children.



Professionally, Oswald has worked for international strategy consulting firms in London and Zurich. He has also worked with law firms in New York and Salt Lake City.

He is cofounder and president of MultiLing International, a leading translation and localization technology and services company headquartered in Provo.

Continued from page 1

Elder Holland Testifies of Christ in the Book of Mormon

covenant with mankind. It is a new covenant, a new testament from the New World to the entire world. More than any other book it has taught me to love the Lord Jesus Christ and to consider the full wonder and grandeur, the eternally resonating power of the atoning sacrifice he made for us."

This book is marvelously effective. It takes several different approaches to achieve its aims. It discusses in detail the testimonies of several prophets recorded in the Book of Mormon. It explores several different types and shadows in the Book of Mormon, images and ideas that are intended to turn our thoughts to Christ and prepare us to receive him.

Then it gives direct expositions of doctrines taught in the Book of Mormon concerning the Savior and his mission. These are followed by a tender description of Christ's physical presence in the New World and its aftermath. Finally,

Elder Holland shares his personal testimony of the Savior and of the role the Book of Mormon has played in that testimony.

The message is universal, but the presentation is very personal.

You don't want to miss this book.

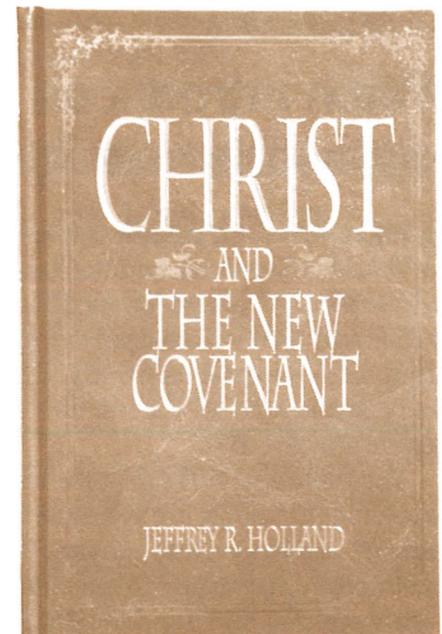
Only in the service

Volunteers Make a Difference

We wish to express sincere thanks to the many FARMS volunteers, some who travel considerable distances each week, who are donating their time to make the Masada and Dead Sea Scroll exhibits a success at BYU.

Thanks are also due to Infobases, Inc., who have donated space on their internet server for the FARMS Online service.

These and many other FARMS projects depend on the unselfishness of many volunteers. If you are in a position to donate your time, talents, or resources and would like to discuss opportunities to be a FARMS volunteer, call Brent Hall at the FARMS office.



Upcoming events

- 6 June:** John W. Welch will give a FARMS-sponsored introductory lecture on the Masada and Dead Sea Scrolls exhibits; after your tour he will answer questions and discuss the exhibits. 7:00 P.M., meet at the BYU Museum of Art. Call the FARMS office for tickets.
- 7 June:** Symposium on Ancient Scriptures in the Restoration, sponsored by FARMS and the BYU Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Church History. Free and open to the public. 10:00 A.M., JSB Auditorium, BYU. Special hotel rates available for out-of-town visitors: call the FARMS office.

Forthcoming publications

Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited: The Evidence for Authenticity. Edited by Noel B. Reynolds. These essays bring readers up to date on authorship research, surveying the latest evidence that supports the claim of the Book of Mormon to be ancient scripture. Available in July.

LDS Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Edited by Donald W. Parry and Dana M. Pike. General essays on the history and significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and essays focused on various specific aspects of the scrolls from the perspective of LDS scholarship. Available in July.

Ancient Scrolls Come to BYU. Edited by M. Gerald Bradford. This full-color booklet features photographs, descriptions, and essays on the significance and meaning of the scrolls contained in the Masada and Dead Sea Scroll exhibits at BYU. Short essays are also provided on the history of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the story of how nine original scrolls and four facsimiles were obtained for these exhibits. Available in July.

Publicly speaking

Welch Introduces FARMS Visitors to Masada and Scrolls Exhibits

On Friday, 6 June, the night before the FARMS-sponsored conference on "Ancient Scriptures and the Restoration," John W. Welch will offer an introductory lecture for the Masada and Dead Sea Scrolls exhibits at BYU and then will be available after your tour to answer questions and discuss the exhibits. Welch is the codirector of the exhibits and has been involved for the last three years in the process of bringing these artifacts to BYU.

The lecture, at 7:00 P.M. at the Museum of Art at BYU, is free and tickets to the exhibits are available for \$4 (a \$2 discount)—and must be reserved in advance through the FARMS office. The exhibits offer an exceptional opportunity to see nine original scrolls, plus four high-quality replicas, and the chance to learn more about the courageous people of Masada and Qumran.

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

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The Purpose of FARMS

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) encourages and supports research about the Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ, and other ancient scriptures.

FARMS is a nonprofit educational foundation, independent of all other organizations. Its main research interests include ancient history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to the scriptures. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of the scriptures, solid research and academic perspectives alone can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about the scriptures.

The Foundation works to make interim and final reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. As a service to teachers and students of the scriptures, research results are distributed both in scholarly and popular formats.

It is hoped that this information will help all interested people to "come unto Christ" (Jacob 1:7) and to understand and take more seriously these ancient witnesses of the atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Friend-raiser

People you know might like to receive this Newsletter. You are our best means of letting others know about the services that the Foundation can provide. It is a big help to all if you can send us the names of your friends who you think might be interested in the work of the Foundation. We will send them an introductory packet describing FARMS and extending an invitation to subscribe.

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EXP 06-30-97

DON'T MISS!

Exhibits on Masada and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Until 18 September • BYU Museum of Art

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Knowing you are supporting Book of Mormon research may be the greatest subscription benefit of all.

New Publication

Masterful Scholarly Tool Is Updated and Improved

The definitive bibliography in the field of transoceanic crossings, John L. Sorenson's and Martin H. Raish's *Pre-Columbian Contact with the Americas across the Oceans: An Annotated Bibliography*, has been revised, expanded, and made more useful for researchers. More than 40% of the 5000 entries are new in this second edition. A new detailed index of 1400 terms makes the bibliography even easier to use.

Works pro and con from a dozen languages and from such diverse fields as archaeology, anthropology, art history, ethnobotany, ethnozoology, folklore, geography, linguistics, history, and nautical history are



listed, annotated, and cross-referenced. Each two-volume set is impressively hardbound with a long-lasting sewn binding and contains over 1200 pages of information. Electronic copies are available for no additional charge with the purchase of the two-volume set.

Reference Quarterly calls this research tool an "outstanding reference work. . . . The most

complete and current bibliography available." *The Professional Geographer* agrees, calling it "the greatest boon ever to those fields of the social sciences that deal with the history of the movement of civilization before 1500."

| Catalog Number | Items featured in this issue | Qty. | Unit Price | Total Price |
|---------------------|---|------|------------------|-------------|
| RUS-97 | Richard D. Rust, <i>Feasting on the Word: The Literary Testimony of the Book of Mormon</i> hardbound, Deseret Book and FARMS, 293 pp., retail \$16.95, 20% off | | \$13.50 | |
| HOL-97 | Jeffrey R. Holland, <i>Christ and the New Covenant: The Messianic Message of the Book of Mormon</i> , hardbound, Deseret Book, 433 pp., retail \$23.95, 20% off | | \$19.00 | |
| S&R-97 | John L. Sorenson and Martin H. Raish, <i>Pre-Columbian Contact with the Americas across the Oceans</i> , hardbound, Research Press, 2 vols., 1200 pp. | | \$89.00 | |
| | Items featured in the previous issue of Insights | | | |
| REV-97a | Daniel C. Peterson, ed., <i>FARMS Review of Books</i> 9/1 | | \$8.95 | |
| KEL-97 | Roger R. Keller, <i>Book of Mormon Authors: Their Words and Messages</i> , hardbound, 225 pp., BYU Religious Studies Center, retail \$16.95 | | \$13.50 | |
| WEL-97a WEL-97aV | John W. Welch, "Masada and the World of the New Testament: A Preview Lecture," transcript video | | \$1.50 \$7.95 | |
| | Prepublication draft papers from "Pioneers of the Restoration" (March 1997) | | | |
| MAT-97 | Robert J. Matthews, "The Role of the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible in the Restoration of Doctrine," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| WEL-97 | John W. Welch, "Oliver Cowdery's Response to Alexander Campbell," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| FAU-97 | Scott Faulring, "The Return of Oliver Cowdery," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| SKO-97 | Royal Skousen, "John Gilbert's 1892 Account of the 1830 Printing of the Book of Mormon," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| HED-97 | Andrew H. Hedges, "Pleasing the Eye and Gladdening the Heart: Joseph Smith and the Fullness of the Earth," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| BLA-97 | Susan Easton Black, "The Tomb of Joseph," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| REY-97 | Noel B. Reynolds, "The Authorship Debate concerning <i>Lectures on Faith</i> : Exhumation and Reburial," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| CAN-97 | Donald Q. Cannon, "Words of Comfort: Funeral Sermons of the Prophet Joseph Smith," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| BIT-97 | Davis Bitton, "The Ram and the Lion: Lyman Wight and Brigham Young," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| COW-97 | Richard O. Cowan, "Richard L. Anderson and Worldwide Church Growth: A Tribute," draft paper | | \$1.50 | |
| | Videotapes from "Pioneers of the Restoration" (March 1997) | | | |
| PIO-V1 | Tape 1: Matthews, Welch, and Faulring | | \$7.95 | |
| PIO-V2 | Tape 2: Skousen and Hedges | | \$7.95 | |
| PIO-V3 | Tape 3: Black and Reynolds | | \$7.95 | |
| PIO-V4 | Tape 4: Cannon, Bitton, and Cowan | | \$7.95 | |
| | Audiotapes from "Pioneers of the Restoration" (March 1977) | | | |
| PIO-A1 | Tape 1: Matthews, Welch, and Faulring | | \$5.95 | |
| PIO-A2 | Tape 2: Skousen and Hedges | | \$5.95 | |
| PIO-A3 | Tape 3: Black and Reynolds | | \$5.95 | |
| PIO-A4 | Tape 4: Cannon, Bitton, and Cowan | | \$5.95 | |

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