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The Newsletter of
the Foundation for
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& Mormon Studies

INSIGHTS

AN ANCIENT WINDOW

August 1997

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

New Book of Authorship Studies Published

FARMS's latest release, the long-awaited *Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited: The Evidence for Ancient Origins*, edited by FARMS president Noel B. Reynolds, is now available. This book builds on a 1982 publication, *Book of Mormon Authorship: New Light on Ancient Origins*, also edited by Reynolds and recently reprinted by FARMS, and it introduces new scholarly evidences and analyses.

For Latter-day Saints, the authorship of the Book of Mormon is not in question. They firmly believe in its authenticity as an ancient prophetic document delivered to the young farmboy Joseph Smith Jr. by the angel Moroni and translated by the gift and power of God. But critics doubt this story and work to show the book a modern creation of Joseph Smith or his contemporaries. While the authors of the articles in *Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited* are not trying to prove the truth of the Book of Mormon, their research does add to the growing body of scholarship that supports the scripture's authentic origins and that makes possible

greater appreciation of its beauty and better understanding of its messages.

Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited is divided into four sections. Part 1 deals with various accounts of how the Book of Mormon was actually produced in 1829 and 1830, emphasizing the translation process and accounts of eyewitnesses of that process and of the plates themselves. Part 2 focuses on the authorship debate, giving a history of critics' alternative theories, criticisms, and arguments, along with their scholarly refutations. Part 3 presents textual studies of the Book of Mormon that demonstrate its plausibility and authenticity as an ancient text. Part 4 looks at scholarly studies of the ancient geographical and cultural setting of the Book of Mormon in both the Old World and the New.

Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited contains contributions by Richard L. Bushman, Richard L. Anderson, Royal Skousen, Louis C. Midgley,

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Scrolls Examined from an LDS Perspective in a Long-Awaited Book

Latter-day Saints love ancient religious records. In addition to the scriptures we now have, we look forward with anticipation to receiving the "words of the lost tribes of Israel" (2 Nephi 29:13), to the unsealing of a large portion of the golden plates, and to the restoration of other ancient texts authored by Adam, Enoch, Joseph, and others.

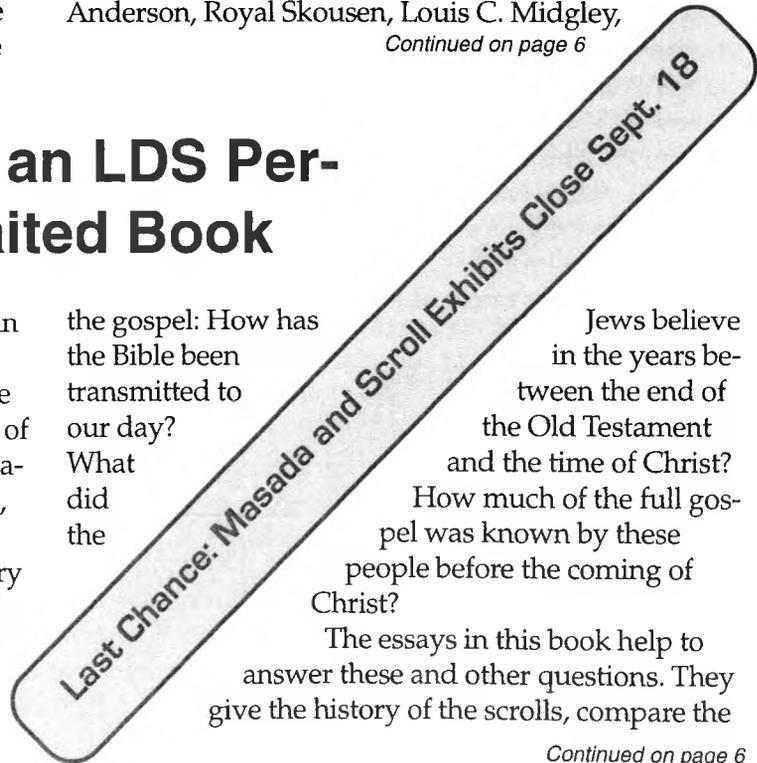
It is no wonder, then, that since the 1947 discovery of ancient scrolls hidden in caves along the shores of the Dead Sea, many Latter-day Saints have been fascinated by the Dead Sea Scrolls. Although these scrolls do not contain the records we await, they do help answer some important questions related to

the gospel: How has the Bible been transmitted to our day? What did the

Jews believe in the years between the end of the Old Testament and the time of Christ? How much of the full gospel was known by these people before the coming of Christ?

The essays in this book help to answer these and other questions. They give the history of the scrolls, compare the

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The Foundation for
Ancient Research
& Mormon Studies

FARMS UPDATE

A Report on Research in Progress

Number 113

More on Recent Archaeological Discoveries

AS WE REPORTED IN THE JUNE 1997 issue of *INSIGHTS*, recent archaeological excavations in Israel and elsewhere have uncovered more evidence for the historical authenticity of the scriptures. Here are some of the finds:

- While sifting through a two-millennia-old garbage dump at the desert fortress of Masada in the summer of 1996, archaeologists found a wine jug inscribed with the name of King Herod. It was the first time an archaeological artifact bearing the king's name had been found. Herod the Great is best known for the visit of the wise men and for the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1–16). Josephus noted that Herod had built a large fortress and palace atop the mesa known as Masada (*Wars of the Jews* 7.8.3–4). The site was first identified in 1838 and Herod's palace was discovered during the 1955–56 expedition of the Israel Exploration Society and the Israeli Department of Antiquities and Museums.
- During the summer of 1996, a stone tablet was unearthed at Tel Miqneh in Israel, which archaeologists had long suspected was the site of the biblical city Ekron, where the Philistines had taken the captured ark of the covenant (1 Samuel 5:10). An inscription on the tablet bore the name Ekron, confirming this view.
- It has long been suspected that the reason Moses led the Israelites through the Sinai wilderness rather than going by the most direct route from Egypt to the land of Canaan (Exodus 13:17) was because of the border forts that Egyptian documents say had been built along the northeastern border. During the past few years, a string of these ancient forts has been discovered, confirming the ancient Egyptian records and strengthening suggestions about the route of the Exodus.
- Nearly a decade ago, in 1988, a carved ivory pomegranate showed up in the international antiquities market and was purchased by the government of Israel for more than half a million dollars. It is believed to be a relic from the temple of Solomon because of its inscription, which reads, "Holy to the priests, belonging to the temple of the Lord." The pomegranate was one of the symbols on the high priestly clothing in ancient Israel (Exodus 28:33–4; 39:24–6) and was used as decoration in Solomon's temple (1 Kings 7:18–20, 42; 25:17; 2 Chronicles 3:16; 4:13; Jeremiah 52:22–3).
- During the latter part of 1990, a burial cave was uncovered in the Peace Forest south of Jerusalem. It contained ossuaries (bone-boxes) in which the bones of members of the Jewish high-priestly family were placed after their bodies had decomposed. One of the ossuaries bears the inscription *Yehoseph bar Qafa*, Joseph son of Caiaphas. In the New Testament, Caiaphas is the name of the high priest of Jesus' time (Matthew 26:3, 57; Luke 3:2; John 11:49; 18:13–4, 24, 28; Acts 4:6). Josephus calls him "Joseph Caiaphas" (*Antiquities of the Jews* 18.2.2).
- New discoveries in South America have caused archaeologists to question the theory that all Amerindians came to the New World across the Bering Strait. That migration has been thought to have occurred some 12,000 years ago, when there was a land bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska. According to the theory, newcomers to the American continent slowly moved southward with population expansion. An Associated Press report of 10 February 1997 describes evidence for humans living in southern Chile at Monte Verde some 12,500 years ago. The ancient settlement at Monte Verde, about 500 miles south of Santiago, is 1,300 years older than the Clovis sites of North America, which, until recently, were the oldest known settlements in the New World. The Chilean site is some 10,000 miles south of the land bridge.

Based on research by John A. Tvedtnes.

*New FARMS publications***Journal Offers Artistic, Linguistic, and Statistic Studies**

Whether you fancy yourself a Mayanist or an Egyptologist, a linguist or an artist, the latest issue of the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* has something for you. It also provides subject and citation indexes for all previous issues of the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*.

Allen J. Christenson offers a richly illustrated piece on the "Sacred Tree of the Ancient Maya," in which he discusses similarities between this emblem of the power of life to grow from the underworld realm of the dead and Lehi's tree of life, "a symbol that Nephi associated with the afterlife and the sacrifice of the Son of God." Christenson outlines some of the creation myths contained in the ancient Maya document the *Popol Vuh* and myths of other ancient peoples, depicting ancient representations of the sacred tree as he does so.

Larry G. Childs and Brian D. Stubbs both explore language

structures of the Book of Mormon compared to works prepared through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith Jr. In "Present Participle Adjuncts in the Book of Mormon" Childs finds that the Book of Mormon contains unusually long compound adjunct constructions, contrary to Joseph's usage.

The second study, "A Short Addition to Length: Some Relative Frequencies of Circumstantial Structures," builds on Stubbs's earlier *Journal* articles. Stubbs examines the frequency of circumstantial clauses (*hāl*-clauses translated from Hebrew or Egyptian) in the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* and concludes that the styles of these three works are very different from one another.

In an ongoing effort to identify valid author-attribution techniques to assist in confirming the multiple

authorship of the Book of Mormon, G. Bruce Schaalje, John L. Hilton, and John B. Archer examine the "Comparative Power of Three Author-Attribution Techniques for Differentiating Authors." They re-examine the validity of three techniques, one of which produces results that contradict the others. Their studies identify the contradictory technique as not sensitive enough, especially when applied to translated works.

This issue of the *Journal* also contains the following Notes and Communications:

- "New and Old Light on Shawabtis from Mesoamerica," by John Gee
- "Drought and Serpents," by John A. Tvedtnes
- "'The Workmanship Thereof Was Exceedingly Fine,'" by John A. Tvedtnes
- "'As a Garment in a Hot Furnace,'" by John A. Tvedtnes

*From other publishers***Directors of Masada Exhibit Offer Helpful Pocket Guide**

Marti Lu Allen, Associate Director of the BYU Museum of Peoples and Cultures and co-director of the exhibit *The Story of Masada: Discoveries from the Excavations*, currently on display in the BYU Museum of Art, has written a brief guide to the exhibit. Major sections of *The Story of Masada: A Pocket Guide to the Exhibition* cover "The Historical Backdrop," "Herod the Great," "Jews at Masada," "The Roman Conquest," and "The Moral of the Story."

The guide provides background information for the exhibit

as a whole and for many of the individual artifacts, models, reconstructions, and displays in the exhibit. It can be used to guide visitors through the exhibit (in place of the audiotape provided by the museum) and it can help visitors remember and more fully appreciate what they saw.

Allen's text is illustrated with photographs of portions of the exhibit, and it is supplemented by New Testament notes prepared by John W. Welch, codirector of the exhibit, that help visitors appreciate the value of the Masada artifacts in

visualizing the world of Jesus, Peter, Mary, and Paul. Notes cover historical matters such as the destruction of Jerusalem and the king of the Jews, as well as religious topics such as tithing and ritual immersions, and details about spear heads and sandal lachets.

As a cosponsor of the Masada exhibit, FARMS is pleased to make this booklet and other Masada items available to FARMS subscribers at special discount prices. See the order form for details.

LDS Scholars Discuss the Role of Ancient Scriptures in the Restoration of the Gospel

More than 350 FARMS supporters gathered on 7 June to learn more about "Ancient Scriptures and the Restoration." The attendees of this conference were enlightened on a variety of topics, from the prophetic language of the Doctrine and Covenants to the history of the Latter-day Saint use of the Book of Mormon in instruction.

FARMS wishes to extend its gratitude to the Smith Institute for Church History at BYU, which cosponsored the event, and to its faithful supporters who wish to further their knowledge of the gospel and help in building up the kingdom of God on earth.

Richard L. Bushman, professor of history at Columbia University, gave the first presentation, entitled "The Rhetoric of Revelation: Ancient and Modern Models." Professor Bushman's focus was on the incident recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants of William E. McClellin's attempt to immitate the revelatory language of Joseph Smith. He failed, of course, because the Spirit of the Lord was not with this proud man.

Bushman gave some observations about the nature of the Lord's revelations to mankind: first, the Lord addresses his audience; second, he gives religious teachings interspersed with mundane details, instructions, and church business; third, he does not try to make the revelation believable, convincing, or authoritative but allows man to choose. In Joseph Smith's recorded revelations, none of his personal influence can be detected; we definitely feel the Lord speaking through His Prophet. But Bushman pointed out that even knowing this pattern, man cannot successfully immitate the beauty, clarity, and power of the Lord's revelatory language.

FARMS Senior Project Manager John A. Tvedtnes gave a presentation on "The Role of the Book of Mormon in the Restoration." Tvedtnes discussed ways that the Book of Mormon was prepared to assist Joseph Smith in the restoration of the gospel. He illustrated this point by discussing doctrines and practices of the church that are outlined in the Doctrine and Covenants (particularly section 20) but are drawn from the Book of Mormon, such as names and functions of priesthood offices, the proper way to conduct meetings, the

baptismal prayer and conditions of baptism, guidelines on public and private prayers, the law of consecration, the unity of the godhead, descriptions of the New Jerusalem, religious tolerance, and so forth.

Though witnesses of the translation of the Book of Mormon have given valuable accounts about that process, sometimes those witnesses went beyond what they had actually witnessed to speculate about additional details, at which point their descriptions become unreliable and contradictory. In "Translating the Book of Mormon: Evidence from the Original Manuscript," Royal Skousen, professor of English and editor of the critical text project, offered his findings about what his painstaking comparison of the original and printer's manuscripts of the Book of Mormon tells us about the translation process. Professor Skousen gave detailed examples from the physical texts that support aspects of the translation process that the witnesses actually saw but refute some of the witnesses' speculations. As such studies continue, scholars reveal insights into that miraculous translation process and answer questions about the authorship of the Book of Mormon.

"The Articles and Covenants of the Church: Doctrine and Covenants 20 and Its Antecedents" was the title of a presentation given by Scott H. Faulring, FARMS Research Associate. In this lecture Brother Faulring first reviewed the principal events associated with Joseph Smith and the rise of the church, including some early revelations of the Prophet. Then he outlined the contents of Oliver Cowdery's "Articles of the Church of Christ" and discussed the "forerunner" relationship of Cowdery's 1929 "Articles" to Joseph Smith's 1830 "Articles and Covenants," which became Doctrine and Covenants 20. Scholars have assumed that Smith revised Cowdery's document to write the "Articles and Covenants," but Faulring's comparison of the texts does not support this supposition. While Cowdery's document is based mostly on teachings gleaned from the translation of the Book of Mormon, Smith's seems to be based mainly on direct revelation. We learn much about the early church by studying Cowdery's "Articles," which

Ancient Scriptures and the Restoration

(continued from page 4)

served as the preliminary groundwork for the church's organization.

Robert L. Millet, professor of Ancient Scripture and dean of Religious Education at BYU, spoke on "The Contributions of the Joseph Smith Translation to the Restoration." It is widely accepted among Latter-day Saints that the Old and New Testaments contain errors inserted by scribes and priests, intentionally or by mistake. Yet even the Saints are uncertain about how to react about additions and changes the Prophet made to the biblical text until his death. Brother Millet gave the chronology of the inspired "translation" and argued that this work should be accepted as scripture and not simply as biblical commentary.

"The Contributions of the Book of Abraham to the Restoration" was the subject of a presentation by John Gee, a Ph.D. Candidate in Egyptology at Yale University. Brother Gee examines the forthcoming of the Book of Abraham and its eventual canonization in 1880. He speaks of the role the book played in shedding light on the doctrine of the preexistence.

The penultimate speaker, Richard L. Anderson, gave a presentation entitled "Oliver Cowdery's Direct Contributions to the Restoration Scriptures," in which he addressed Oliver Cowdery's accounts of the restoration of the priesthood. As professor of Ancient Scripture at BYU, Brother Anderson has long been a leading figure in the study of the Book of Mormon witnesses. He expressed his feeling that the sincere, faithful, and even inspired writings of the Second Elder of the church should be shown more attention in LDS scholarly and personal studies.

In "The Use of the Book of Mormon in the Twentieth Century," FARMS President Noel B. Reynolds addressed the history of Latter-day Saint instruction using the Book of Mormon. Brother Reynolds explained that in the early days of the church, the Saints mostly quoted the Bible to support their ideas and teachings and to respond to questions about Mormonism. Not until the latter part of this century, with the popularity of scholarly studies of the Book of Mormon begun by Hugh Nibley, John L. Sorenson, and others, did Latter-day Saints begin to take that ancient book of scripture more seriously. Brother Reynolds's studies show that the Book of Mormon's use in LDS religious instruction and missionary work is on the rise, as is

partly demonstrated in the book's translation, publication, and distribution rates.

See the order form to obtain videotapes or audiotapes of these presentations.

Only in the service _____

LDS Books Donated in Croatia and Slovenia

Earlier this year, Truman and Ann Madsen traveled to the former country of Yugoslavia and placed LDS books (donated by FARMS) in university libraries there. At their first stop, in Zagreb, Croatia, the Madsens were welcomed by Dr. Josip Stipanov, the deputy director of the National Archives. In a brief ceremony attended by local Church members and the branch president, the Madsens presented a four-volume set of the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* and English and Croatian copies of the Book of Mormon.

At the university library in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Madsens were warmly greeted by Eva Kodric Dacic, the librarian. In a similar presentation, attended by members, they donated another copy of the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* and more copies of the Book of Mormon in both English and Croatian. The couple also gave a radio interview with the national Slovenian Radio Station explaining the books. FARMS also donated two other sets of the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, which the Madsens sent to the University Library of Split, Croatia, and to the National Library in Maribor, Slovenia.

A representative of the Church in that part of the world, Austria Vienna South Mission President Johann Wondra, commented that these donations in "countries where there is so much conflict and suffering . . . were highly appreciated." Brother Wondra suggested that these LDS materials could "build a bridge of friendship" between those people and members of the Church. He commented that the Madsens' visit "was truly a highlight during the '1997 Sesquicentennial Celebration.'"

In keeping with its mission, FARMS continually seeks further opportunities such as these to help spread the gospel throughout the world.

Upcoming events

- 13 August (10:00 A.M.) and 21 August (7:00 P.M.):** FARMS is sponsoring special tours of the exhibits on Masada and the Dead Sea Scrolls, especially for visitors to the CES Symposium and campus Education Week. For tickets or information, call the FARMS office, 1-800-327-6715.
- 20-21 August:** "The Garden" presented at Timpview High (Provo). Tickets available at Utah County Deseret Book stores.
- 18 September:** Last day to attend exhibits on Masada and the Dead Sea Scrolls at BYU. For tickets call 378-BYU1 or 1-800-322-BYU1.
- 18-20 September:** Book of Mormon symposium hosted by the Denver, Colorado, North Stake and supported by FARMS. Speakers include Ann and Truman Madsen, Daniel C. Peterson, and John W. Welch. Call Richard Call (303-469-8030) for details.

Forthcoming publications

- Ancient Scrolls from the Dead Sea*, edited by M. Gerald Bradford. This full-color booklet documents the scroll exhibit at BYU and provides useful background information.
- Images of Ancient America: Visualizing Book of Mormon Life*, by John L. Sorenson. Over four hundred photographs, drawings, and maps illustrate ancient Mesoamerican life and help us visualize what life was like in Book of Mormon times. This full-color book is the result of a lifetime of study by one of the Church's foremost scholars on the Book of Mormon.
- King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom,"* edited by John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks. The most substantial collection of studies ever assembled on this treasure trove of inspiration, wisdom, eloquence, and profound spiritual insight.
- Isaiah in the Book of Mormon*, edited by Donald W. Parry and John W. Welch. These studies will help all readers get through the Isaiah "barrier" in the Book of Mormon and enjoy the marvelous prophetic writings of this great servant of God.

Authorship Revisited (Continued from page 1)

Daniel C. Peterson, Melvin J. Thorne, John W. Welch, John L. Hilton, James E. Smith, Donald W. Parry, John A. Tvedtnes, Noel B. Reynolds, John L. Sorenson, and William J. Hamblin.

Learn about the latest scholarly evidences for the Book of Mormon by purchasing your copy of *Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited* today. See the enclosed order form.

LDS Perspectives (Continued from page 1)

scrolls and their writers to the Book of Mormon and its authors, and discuss what the scrolls teach about several gospel topics. The collection also includes a description of how high technology is aiding in all aspects of the translation of the scrolls. The essays are written by four BYU faculty who are members of the international team of scroll editors, plus world-renowned scroll scholar Florentino García Martínez, and other researchers at BYU and FARMS. They were presented at a FARMS conference in 1995.

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

FARMS Sponsors Tours for Campus Visitors during CES Symposium and Education Week

FARMS is once again offering special tours to the exhibits at the BYU Museum of Art on *The Story of Masada: Discoveries from the Excavations* and on *The Dead Sea Scrolls and Discoveries from Qumran*. The tours are timed to make them as convenient as possible for people visiting the BYU campus for the annual CES Symposium (on Wednesday, August 13, at 10:00 A.M.) and the campus Education Week (Thursday, August 21, at 7:00 P.M.). Participants in these tours will receive

a discount on tickets and will enjoy special introductory remarks by John W. Welch before the tour and an opportunity for asking questions during the tour.

To join either tour or to get more information, call the FARMS office at 1-800-327-6715 or 1-801-373-5111.

Catalog Number	Items featured in this issue	Qty.	Unit Price	Total Price
REY-97b	Noel B. Reynolds, ed., <i>Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited</i> , FARMS, hardbound, 576 pp., retail \$19.95		\$15.96	
P&P-97	Donald W. Parry and Dana M. Pike, eds., <i>LDS Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls</i> , FARMS, softbound, 240 pp., retail \$12.95		\$10.35	
J-97a	Stephen D. Ricks, ed., <i>Journal of Book of Mormon Studies</i> 6/1, 190 pp., includes cumulative subject and citation indexes for first five volumes		\$7.95	
ALL-97	Marti Lu Allen, <i>The Story of Masada: A Pocket Guide to the Exhibition</i> , BYU Studies, 20 pp., with New Testament notes by John W. Welch, retail \$5.00		\$3.50	
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RES-4A	Tape 4: Richard L. Anderson, "Oliver Cowdery's Contributions to the Restoration Scriptures," and Noel B. Reynolds, "The Use of the Book of Mormon in the Twentieth Century"		\$6.95	
INF-97M	Now available on the Mac! 1997 edition of the LDS Collectors Library on CD from Infobase, retail \$129.95		\$104.00	
MAS-97	<i>The Story of Masada: Discoveries from the Excavations</i> , full-color catalog of the exhibit BYU Studies and Hebrew University, 160 pp. retail \$20.95		\$15.95	
BYUS-MAS	John F. Hall and John W. Welch, eds., <i>Masada and the World of the New Testament</i> , BYU Studies, 400 pp., retail \$16.95		\$11.25	

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