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The Book of Mormon an Inspirer of Art

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Abstract: Sculpture, painting, stained glass windows, hymns, drama, pageants, and poems are forms of art that the Book of Mormon has inspired.

leadership, then the pride of the American people will increase in the fact that the "Mormon" religion is an American religion and that the Book of Mormon is an American book.

The Book of Mormon an Inspirer of Art

The Book of Mormon has inspired a good deal of art, already, and it is safe to say that it will be the inspiration of much more in the future. Sculpture, painting, stained glass windows, hymns, drama, pageants, poems have each in turn drawn their material from the Book of Mormon, making a contribution of real worth to the lives of Latter-day Saints and helping to develop a distinctive civilization.

At the present, sculpture appears to be in the lead in Book of Mormon art. We have on the west side of the Hawaiian temple, an elaborate frieze depicting characters and events in Book of Mormon history. At the rear of the temple is a piece of statuary representing Lehi blessing his son Joseph prior to his death. The frieze is very beautiful. It contains statues of Moroni, Columbia, (U. S.), Mormon, Hawaiians, Laborers, Hagoth, Sincere Refinement, Gadianton, Korihor, Kishkumen, Humble Believer, III Nephi, Christ, Ammon, Father and Mother of Lamoni, Samuel, Moroni, Teancum, Amalekiah, Coriantum, King Noah, Alma, Lamoni, Nephi, Joseph, Lehi. We feel sure our readers will be glad to note the very soulful piece of work representing Lehi blessing Joseph. These two pieces of work are the work of Avard Fairbanks, a son of the artist, J. B. Fairbanks, born in Provo, Utah, who is constantly attracting attention because of his work. Avard Fairbanks is the sculptor of the monument to the Three Witnesses unveiled during the April conference of the current year.

Perhaps no other piece of sculpture inspired by the Book of Mormon has stirred more souls and elicited more favorable comment than the statue of the Angel Moroni crowning the east spire of the Salt Lake Temple. This beautiful image is the work of Cyrus E. Dallin, born in Springville, Utah. It holds a very high place in American sculpture.

Many will recall pictures, paintings and stained glass windows decorating Latter-day Saint places of worship that have used Book of Mormon material. Our beautiful hymn, "An Angel from on High" has thrilled thousands. The play, "Corianton," as well as the pageants that have been put on by the auxiliary organizations of the Church are all indicative of a future of art inspired by the Book of Mormon, that cannot fail to be both great and glorious. There is a story current that Martin Harris, one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon stepping on to the Temple

Block, exclaimed, "See what the Book of Mormon hath wrought!" In a sense the Book of Mormon is responsible for the buildings on the Temple Block, Salt Lake City, and all other Latter-day Saint temples.

The Greatest of all American Books

One hundred years ago on the 22nd of September, 1827, the Angel Moroni delivered the plates containing the Book of Mormon to the Prophet Joseph Smith. We do not hesitate to call it the most important of American books. We do this because the book contains the history of people who lived on this continent from the time of the confounding of tongues at the Tower of Babel to 400 A. D. It contains the gospel in its simplicity and is a new and powerful witness for Christ. If any other American book can lay claim to such importance as the Book of Mormon, we shall retract what we have said, for this challenge is issued in all sincerity.

The Evening-Tide

By Henry F. Kirkham

How peaceful is the gentle evening-tide!
The setting sun has gone to final rest,
The cooling breezes from the canyon come,
And robin red-breast sings his parting song.

Over earth a solemn silence falls,
The evening star shines faintly in the east,
The busy cares of day are laid aside,
And calm and quiet settles over all.

Brief period, ere the shades of night descend,
And darkness takes the burden of the day,
A sudden pause, as if God said to man,
"Turn thee from things of life—and worship me."