

# SCRIPTURE CENTRAL

https://scripturecentral.org/

Type: Magazine Article

## Some Facts Concerning the Book of Mormon

Author(s): Albert L. Zobell, Jr.

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 44, No. 9 (September 1941) Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

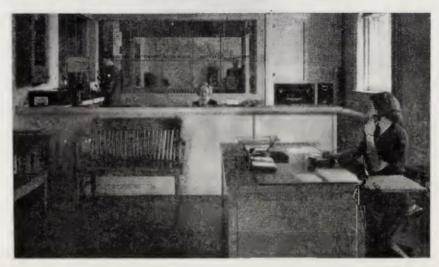
Page(s): 520

**Abstract:** This article discusses the first printing and subsequent editions of the Book of Mormon and identifies different formats the Book of Mormon has taken since its first publication.

"L. D. S. Training Pays!"

## FRIENDLY...PROGRESSIVE...EFFICIENT

Ready to train you for a successful business career



OFFICES OF THE L. D. S. BUSINESS COLLEGE

The demand for office workers has never been so great in the history of the College Now is the time to invest in a business education Register immediately for the Fall Term

### L. D. S. BUSINESS COLLEGE

Salt Lake City, Utah



No home can remain up-to-date forever and if your home needs even slight repairs to bring it to tip-top condition . . . DO IT NOW while materials are available and before cold, wet weather makes outside repairs impractical. Re-roof , . . Re-paint inside and out . . modernize kitchen or bathroom. It's surprisingly easy . . . quick and economical through our ONE-STOP BUILDING SERVICE. Repair and remodel on TERMS AS LOW as \$5.50 PER MONTH.

Your 4-Square Lumber Dealer





#### LOS ANGELES

Hotel Lankershim 7TH 1 BROADWAY
52.50 \$3.00 \$3.50
"No Bargairing—
No Worry"
LOS ANGELES
Frank Wishon, Operator

A COMPLETE
ENGRAVING SERVICE
From Missionary Portraits to the Largest
Catalogues
Mail Orders Given Prompt Attention

UTAH ENGRAVING CO.

113 Regent St. Salt Lake City, Utah

## SOME FACTS CONCERNING THE **BOOK OF MORMON**

By Albert L. Zobell, Jr.

THE Book of Mormon was originally published at Palmyra, New York, in the print shop of Egbert B. Grandin. Martin Harris, one of the three witnesses of the Book of Mormon, had mortgaged his farm to provide the publication money for this edition of five thousand copies. The five hundred and ninety page book sold for two dollars and fifty cents a copy. At Kirtland, Ohio, in 1837, an edi-

tion of five thousand copies was printed by Oliver Cowdery, also one of the three witnesses, and scribe of the Prophet Joseph Smith during the translation of the Book of Mormon. This edition contained six hundred twenty-

one pages.

Editions were printed at Nauvoo.
Illinois, during 1840 and 1842. These five hundred seventy-three page editions had been stereotyped in Cincinnati. Ohio.

Meanwhile the first European edition had been printed at Liverpool, England, in 1841. Five thousand copies had been contracted for, but only four thousand fifty were delivered. The cost of this printing was about one thousand eighty dollars.

In the Liverpool edition of 1852 Elder Franklin D. Richards numbered the verses of the various chapters. In 1879, at Liverpool, Elder Orson Pratt divided the book into chapters and verses and used footnote references for the first time.

The Book of Mormon was first issued in double-column pages, with chapter headings, chronological data. revised footnote references, pronouncing vocabulary, and index in 1920. It now contains five hundred twenty-two

pages.
This book of ancient American scripture, revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith by the hand of God a little more than a century ago, is made up of 306,118 words, 6,604 verses, two hundred thirty-nine chapters, and fifteen books. The longest book is Alma; the longest chapter is Jacob 5; the shortest book is Jarom; the shortest chapter is Moroni 5; the middle book is Mosiah: the middle chapter is Alma 25; and the middle verse is Alma 27:23. The average chapter is twenty-seven and

two-thirds verses long.
Twenty-three men dedicated themselves to the recording of the activities of their people upon ancient plates. Amos II held the plates for the longest number of years, one hundred eleven, while Shiblon was their custodian for just three years. This sacred trust of historian was usually passed from father to son, among God-fearing men.