



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<https://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

Type: Newsletter

Insights, Vol. 21, No. 11 (November 2001)

Editor(s): FARMS Staff

Published by: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies



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.



Insights

A WINDOW ON THE ANCIENT WORLD VOLUME 21 | 2001

Number 11

<http://farms.byu.edu>

BYU and Institute Scholars, Specialists Participate at Scholarly Conference

Several Brigham Young University and Institute scholars and specialists delivered papers at last month's meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver, Colorado. The joint annual meetings of these two learned societies were also a prime opportunity for the Institute and four other BYU entities specializing in religious scholarship—Ancient Studies, BYU Studies, the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History, and the Religious Studies Center—to join together in displaying and promoting their recent publications while developing professional contacts and learning of the latest developments in the field.

Conference Presentations

James S. Rosenvall, manager of the Institute's research technology group, and Irena Abramian, electronic projects manager at the Institute, demonstrated the features of the new Windows 2000/XP version of WordCruncher. This software differs from its previous versions in the mix of languages it can support and its analytical tools.

In a separate presentation, BYU Hebrew scholar and Institute board member Donald W. Parry showed how he and Abramian used WordCruncher's powerful search engine to match Dead Sea Scrolls fragments to biblical texts. In some cases they quickly found matches that have stymied scholars for decades. Hundreds of scroll fragments remain unidentified, Parry said, and many have been published as such in *Discoveries in the Judaean Desert (DJD)*, the official publication series of the scrolls. One of the editors of *DJD XVII*, Parry used the scrolls database to do collocation analysis and sophisticated Hebrew verbal root searches involving, for example, constructions in which

one or more root letters are missing or arranged in a different order. He identified more than 90 of the approximately 200 unidentified fragments belonging to the Dead Sea Scrolls books of Samuel, the results of which will be published in *DJD XVII*.

Douglas M. Chabries, dean of BYU's College of Engineering and Technology and chair of the Institute Board, and Steven W. Booras, manager of technical operations at the Institute, reported on a BYU team's multispectral imaging of the Herculaneum papyri. Generally, the papyrus scrolls (burned when Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79 and destroyed Herculaneum) are carbonized to a black sheen, making the black ink difficult if not impossible to read. Using a special infrared filter system developed at BYU, the team captured high-contrast digital images that greatly improve legibility or even reveal new text. In a related presentation, Roger T. Macfarlane, chair of the Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature Department at BYU and principal investigator on the Institute's Herculaneum project, spoke of how scholars are using these images to read and decipher the scrolls.

Also at the Denver meeting, the Biblical Law Section sponsored a tribute to David Daube (d. 1999), a leading light in the field of biblical law in the 20th century. BYU law professor and Institute board member John W. Welch, who organized and presided over the session, presented a comprehensive bibliography of Daube's works. This publication is available online at biblicallaw.org for those interested in surveying Daube's numerous titles in Jewish, biblical, Roman, and New Testament law. Readers of Daube and Hugh Nibley will readily recognize how similar they are in intellectual capacity and insight. Also on the program were Douglas Parker (BYU), Calum Carmichael (Cornell), Raymond Westbrook (Johns Hopkins), and Bernard Jackson (Manchester, England).

continued on page 3

BYU Scholars Share Research

The Joseph Smith Translation

On 19 September 2001 Kent P. Jackson of the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU reported on his research on the original Joseph Smith Translation manuscripts in a presentation titled “When Was the Joseph Smith Translation Completed?” He discussed the evidence for dating the Prophet’s work on his “New Translation” of the Bible. Some dates were written by scribes on the original manuscripts, but other dates must be reconstructed on the basis of external evidence. The Prophet dictated the text to scribes and then went through parts of it later to make additional corrections. Most of those subsequent corrections are in the hand of scribe Sidney Rigdon, and some are in the hand of Frederick G. Williams. Only 10 small corrections were written by Joseph Smith himself. The evidence suggests strongly that aside from later capitalization, punctuation insertions, and verse-number insertions, all of the Prophet’s work on the New Translation was completed by the summer or fall of 1833.

St. Catherine’s Monastery

On 3 October 2001 John W. Welch, a BYU law professor and member of the Institute board, narrated a slide presentation of his visit to St. Catherine’s Monastery, a 1400-year-old Greek Orthodox sanctum located in the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula. Welch noted the profound silence and austere geography of the remote wilderness area, the history and layout of the monastery, and the work of Father Justin (one of 15 monks there), who is digitally imaging early Christian manuscripts from the monastery’s library, which contains over 7,000 handwritten texts. Welch also noted the monastery’s vibrant, centuries-old iconography, which has been well preserved by the arid climate. He found to be especially striking an early image of Christ’s baptism by immersion and a sixth-century painting portraying the Master in an intimate, realistic fashion (atypical of later Eastern iconography). Other icons there emphasize biblical motifs that are not emphasized in Western tradition but are nevertheless in harmony with LDS intuition aided by the clarifying lens of the Restoration, Welch said. 📖

Evangelicals, Latter-day Saints Discuss Divergent Views

In conjunction with the AAR/SBL meetings, the Evangelical Philosophical Society hosted a nearly four-hour formal discussion between Latter-day Saints and Evangelicals revolving around the nature of God and the doctrine of creation *ex nihilo* (“out of nothing”). Richard J. Mouw, president of California’s Fuller Theological Seminary, moderated the discussion. Evangelical presenters included Francis J. Beckwith (Trinity Graduate School), Paul Copan (Trinity International University), William Lane Craig (Talbot School of Theology), Carl Mosser (a doctoral student at St. Mary’s College of

the University of St. Andrews in Scotland), and Paul Owen (Montreat College). The Latter-day Saint respondents included BYU professors David L. Paulsen (philosophy), who led off the discussion, Daniel C. Peterson (Arabic and Islamic studies), and Stephen D. Ricks (Hebrew and Semitic languages), followed by Hollis R. Johnson (a retired astrophysicist from Indiana University) and Blake T. Ostler (an attorney and philosopher from Salt Lake City). The discussion was substantive but civil, and its academic tone and content (as well as its venue) represent a significant milestone in the often difficult relationship between Latter-day Saints and conservative Protestants. 📖



The Institute's associate executive directors, M. Gerald Bradford and Daniel C. Peterson, speak with Patrick Durusau (right), director of research for the Society of Biblical Literature.

The exhibit was designed and built under the direction of Brent Hall, director of operations at the Institute, with help from Shane Heath, manager of outreach, and James Hughes, distribution manager. Staffed by various people from different BYU departments, it soon became a gathering point for friends of the university and the church.

BYU's established presence at the AAR/SBL meetings will continue to encourage the university's religious scholars and related specialists to publish research that will not only help strengthen the academic footing of Mormon studies but also contribute in important ways to religious scholarship in general. The Institute and its fellow BYU participants look forward to continued participation at these prestigious scholarly gatherings. ☐

UPCOMING EVENT

26 January 2002 "Traditions about the Early Life of Abraham," a FARMS Book of Abraham Symposium at BYU's Tanner Building, room 151, 9:00 A.M.–12:00 noon (book signing afterward). Admission is free. Watch for details on the FARMS Web site.

NEW PUBLICATION

Decisive Treatise and Epistle Dedicatory, by Averroës, translated with an introduction and notes by Charles E. Butterworth and part of the Islamic Translation Series, is an argument that Islamic law not only permits but mandates the study of philosophy and syllogistic, or logical, reasoning.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

FARMS Review of Books (vol. 13, no. 2), edited by Daniel C. Peterson, includes reviews of books on the Book of Mormon, the Joseph Smith Papyri, temples, the nature of God, the ark of the covenant, and Catholic issues. Available in January 2002.

Occasional Papers 2 presents "Paradigms Regained: A Survey of Margaret Barker's Scholarship and Its Significance for Mormon Studies," by Kevin Christensen. Available in January 2002.

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World
Volume 21 | Number 11 | 2001

A Publication of the
**Foundation for Ancient Research
and Mormon Studies (FARMS)**

**Institute for the Study and
Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts**
Brigham Young University

Institute Board

| | |
|--|---|
| Douglas M. Chabries <i>Chair</i> | John E. Clark John F. Hall Gary R. Hooper Donald W. Parry |
| David R. Seely <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Daniel C. Peterson Noel B. Reynolds Michael D. Rhodes Stephen D. Ricks |
| Daniel Oswald <i>Executive Director and CEO</i> | Andrew C. Skinner John W. Welch |

Insights Staff

Don L. Brugger, Managing Editor
Jacob D. Rawlins, Assistant Editor
Carmen Cole, Design Consultant
Matthew McOmber, Editorial Intern

FARMS is a research arm of Brigham Young University's Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts. As such, it encourages and supports research on the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, the Bible, other ancient scripture, and related subjects. Under the FARMS imprint, the Institute publishes and distributes titles in these areas for the benefit of scholars and interested Latter-day Saint readers.

Primary research interests at FARMS include the history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to ancient scripture. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of scripture, solid research and academic perspectives can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about scripture.

FARMS makes interim and final reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. These publications are peer reviewed to ensure that scholarly standards are met. The proceeds from the sale of these materials are used to support further research and publications. As a service to teachers and students of the scriptures, research results are distributed in both 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 appreciate more fully the scriptural witnesses of the divine mission of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

For more information or to order publications, contact us at
P.O. Box 7113, University Station, Provo, UT 84602
1-800-327-6715 (or 801-373-5111)
Web site: farms.byu.edu

FARMS Order Form

Four Easy Ways to Order

- Phone: 1-800-FARMS-15 (1-800-327-6715)
- Fax: (801) 373-5342
- Internet: farms.byu.edu
- Mail: P.O. Box 7113, University Station, Provo, UT 84602

| Catalog No. | Books Related to the Old Testament and the Pearl of Great Price | Quantity | Unit Price | Total Price |
|-------------|---|----------|------------|-------------|
| SP-01 | <i>Covenants, Prophecies, and Hymns of the Old Testament: The 30th Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium</i> , 2001, 325 pp., hardbound. Retail \$24.95 | | \$19.95 | |
| PAR-01A | <i>Visualizing Isaiah</i> , Donald W. Parry, 2001, 160 pp., hardbound. Retail \$39.95 | | \$31.95 | |
| THG-01 | <i>Traditions about the Early Life of Abraham</i> , John A. Tvedtnes, Brian M. Hauglid, and John Gee, eds., 2001, 608 pp., hardbound. Retail \$49.95 | | \$39.95 | |
| HOS-01 | <i>Historicity and the Latter-day Saint Scriptures</i> , Paul Y. Hoskisson, 2001, 248 pp., hardbound. Retail \$29.95 | | \$23.95 | |
| JMW-01 | <i>Covenant and Chosenness in Judaism and Mormonism</i> , Raphael Jospe, Truman G. Madsen, and Seth Ward, eds., 2001, 225 pp., hardbound. Retail \$39.95 | | \$29.95 | |
| PAR-01 | <i>Harmonizing Isaiah: Combining Ancient Sources</i> , Donald W. Parry, 2001, 296 pp., softbound. Retail \$9.95 | | \$7.95 | |
| FAL-01 | <i>Hebrew Law in Biblical Times</i> , Ze'ev W. Falk, auth., John W. Welch, ed., 2001, 264 pp., hardbound. Retail \$29.95 | | \$19.95 | |
| N-01 | <i>Old Testament and Related Studies</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 1986, 304 pp., hardbound. Retail \$27.95 | | \$19.95 | |
| N-02 | <i>Enoch the Prophet</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 1986, 318 pp., hardbound. Retail \$25.95 | | \$19.95 | |
| N-14 | <i>Abraham in Egypt</i> , 2nd ed., Hugh W. Nibley, 2000, 739 pp., hardbound. Retail \$34.95 | | \$24.95 | |
| N-PGP | <i>Teachings of the Pearl of Great Price</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 1986, 354 pp., softbound. Retail \$14.95 | | \$9.95 | |

Papers and Reprints Related to the Old Testament and the Pearl of Great Price

| | | | | |
|----------|---|--|--------|--|
| BRO-91 | <i>The Exodus Pattern in the Book of Mormon</i> , S. Kent Brown, 16 pp. | | \$1.00 | |
| ENS-97A | <i>Ensign Reprints—Old Testament Background</i> , 66 pp. | | \$3.95 | |
| ENS-97B | <i>Ensign Reprints—Genesis to Deuteronomy</i> , 78 pp. | | \$3.95 | |
| ENS-97C | <i>Ensign Reprints—Articles on the Prophets</i> , 44 pp. | | \$3.95 | |
| MAD-90 | <i>"Putting on the Names": A Jewish Christian Legacy</i> , Truman G. Madsen, 24 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-ATO | <i>The Meaning of the Atonement</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 61 pp. | | \$3.00 | |
| N-BEF | <i>Before Adam</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 37 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-DEU | <i>How to Get Rich: An LDS Approach to Deuteronomy</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 23 pp. | | \$3.00 | |
| N-FIG | <i>Figure 6 of Facsimile 2</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 33 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-GRE | <i>Great are the Words of Isaiah</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 23 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-MEA | <i>The Meaning of the Temple</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 42 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-NEP-10 | <i>The Sacrifice of Isaac</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 20 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-TMP | <i>What is a Temple?</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 36 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| N-THE | <i>The Three Facsimiles from the Book of Abraham</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, transcript, 92 pp. | | \$7.50 | |
| PAR-90 | <i>Sinai as Sanctuary and Mountain of God</i> , Donald W. Parry, transcript, 19 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| REY-90 | <i>The Brass Plates Version of Genesis</i> , Noel B. Reynolds, transcript, 38 pp. | | \$2.00 | |
| WEL-90C | <i>The Melchizedek Material in Alma 13:13–19</i> , John W. Welch, transcript, 18 pp. | | \$2.00 | |

Audio/Visual Publications Related to the Old Testament and the Pearl of Great Price

| | | | | |
|-------|---|--|---------|--|
| N-V3 | <i>Ancient Documents and the Pearl of Great Price</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, 26 video lectures with transcript, 1986. Retail \$100.00 | | \$79.95 | |
| N-MA3 | <i>Beginnings: Creation to Abraham</i> (vol. 1), Hugh W. Nibley, 4 audiotapes, 210 min. Retail \$14.95 | | \$11.95 | |

If you would like additional information on FARMS research, special pricing on publications, and more, please submit your e-mail address in the space provided on this order form. You may also submit your e-mail address via e-mail to farms@byu.edu or by calling 1-800-327-6715.

| Catalog No. | Audio/Visual Publications, continued | Quantity | Unit Price | Total Price |
|-------------|---|----------|------------|-------------|
| N-MA4 | <i>Beginnings: Adam to Moses</i> (vol. 2), Hugh W. Nibley, 4 audiotapes, 230 min. Retail \$14.95 | | \$11.95 | |
| N-MA5 | <i>On the Sacred and the Symbolic</i> , Hugh W. Nibley, read by Lloyd D. Newell, 2001, 2 audiotapes, 150 min. Retail \$12.45 | | \$9.95 | |
| TVE-V2 | <i>Elijah and the Priests of Baal</i> , John A. Tvedtnes, 2001, videotape, 60 min. Retail \$9.95 | | \$7.95 | |

Specials Related to the Old Testament and the Pearl of Great Price

| | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|---------|--|
| SPEC-BIB | <i>Elijah and the Priests of Baal</i> and <i>Hebrew Law in Biblical Times</i> . Retail \$39.90 | | \$20.00 | |
| SPEC-IM | <i>The Temple in Time and Eternity</i> , Donald W. Parry and Stephen D. Ricks, eds., 1999, 384 pp., hardbound, and <i>On the Sacred and the Symbolic</i> . Retail \$37.40 | | \$20.00 | |
| SPEC-IS | <i>Isaiah in the Book of Mormon</i> , Donald W. Parry and John W. Welch, eds., 1998, 558 pp., hardbound, and <i>Harmonizing Isaiah</i> . Retail \$34.90 | | \$20.00 | |
| SPEC-NMA2 | <i>Beginnings</i> , vols. 1 and 2 (<i>Creation to Abraham</i> and <i>Adam to Moses</i>). Retail \$29.90 | | \$20.00 | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Total Purchase | |
| Postage & Handling | |
| Membership | |
| Donations | |
| Total Enclosed (U.S. Funds) | |

Name _____ Please use address on enclosed check.
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Nation _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Day phone number _____ Payment by check number _____
 Payment by Visa MasterCard Discover Card
 Card number _____ Expiration date _____
 Signature _____
 My e-mail address _____

Please submit your e-mail address to receive additional information on FARMS research, special pricing on publications, and much more.

| Postage & Handling | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Amount of Purchase | U.S. Only | | Foreign Rate |
| | Surface | Air | |
| \$0 to \$25 | \$3.00 | \$13.00 | \$33.00 |
| \$25.01 to \$65 | \$6.00 | \$16.00 | \$36.00 |
| \$65.01 to \$125 | \$9.00 | \$19.00 | \$39.00 |

| FARMS Membership | |
|---------------------|---|
| Print | \$35 per year, \$90 for 3 years |
| Online | \$25 per year (\$12.50 for CES), \$60 for 3 years |
| Combined | \$50 per year, \$120 for 3 years |
| Silver/Gold/Liahona | \$120/\$500/\$1000 |

Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies



FARMS

Brigham Young University • Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts