



# BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

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## Insights, Vol. 4, No. 1 (March 1984)

Editor(s): FARMS Staff

Published by: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies

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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.



FOUNDATION FOR  
ANCIENT RESEARCH &  
MORMON STUDIES

# INSIGHTS

## A N A N C I E N T W I N D O W

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Would you like to catch a glimpse of what is going on around the Foundation these days? We can hardly run fast enough to keep up with it all! Letters this week have been running between 125 and 140 per day! You can imagine the rest. But it's rewarding and gratifying to the dozens of volunteers on this end. We trust that it's also interesting and useful to you on your end.

Your organization continues to run on a completely nonprofit basis, still paying salaries only to the clerical staff and none to the officers, directors, or advisors. So all the more, we thank each of you who helped make 1983 such a success.

Much of 1983 was spent getting ready for 1984. With the Church curriculum's four year cycle now returning to the Book of Mormon, we have the opportunity to make this the best year ever for enriching our appreciation of that sacred text. But still, there's much more to do and much more to come. We are excited about these rich prospects.

John W. Welch

### First Evidence of Pre-columbian New World Barley

The December 1983 issue of *Science* 83 reports the discovery by professional archaeologists of what is apparently pre-columbian, domesticated barley among the ruins of the Hohokam civilization in Arizona.

This is a first! While we await the Carbon-14 dating and botanical reports on the grain this appears to give important support to Mosiah 9:9 (which says the Nephites grew barley) and for Alma 11:7 (which says the barley unit was a basic commercial measure in Zarahemla).

Many questions about the grain and about the Hohokam, of course, still remain. The Hohokam were possibly immigrants from Mesoamerica into Southern Arizona where they lived from about 300 B.C. to A.D. 1450.

The Hohokam were described in the May 1967 issue of *National Geographic*, pp. 670-95. Watch for more information on this intriguing discovery.

### Fireside Service Available

F.A.R.M.S. will provide (1) a videotape or slide presentation, (2) a discussion moderator, and (3) informational material for all who attend — for a fee of \$25, anywhere along the Wasatch Front. In other areas the charge will be \$25 plus travel expense.

Topics currently available are:

1. Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon
2. Lands of the Book of Mormon

To book a fireside call Shannon Magleby — (801) 756-4763.

The Foundation of Ancient Research and Mormon Studies is a non-profit research and educational organization dedicated to the study of ancient Scripture. Your tax deductible contributions enable F.A.R.M.S. to sponsor and coordinate a wide range of research projects that enhance our understanding of these sacred writings.

P.O. BOX 7113 UNIVERSITY STATION, PROVO, UTAH 84602

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## Dr. Sorenson to Accompany Tour

The Foundation is pleased to announce its first tour into the exciting Book of Mormon areas of Mexico and Guatemala, a 13-day exploration of the region that many LDS scholars identify as the heartland of the Book of Mormon.

The guest lecturer accompanying this tour will be John L. Sorenson, chairman of the Anthropology Department at BYU and probably the leading authority in the Church on the New World setting of the scriptural text.

The itinerary has been carefully chosen to give tour participants a superb travel/study experience at a reasonable price. This may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the lands of the Book of Mormon with this gifted scholar and teacher.

The tour departs Monday, June 18, 1984 from Salt Lake City and returns June 30. Travel arrangements are through Murdock Travel and the tour administrator is Dr. Joseph L. Allen. John and Kathryn Sorenson and Kirk and Shannon Magleby will represent F.A.R.M.S. on the tour.

Space is limited to fifty people so everyone in the group can visit with Dr. Sorenson and learn from his unique insights into the Book of Mormon text and its place in ancient Mesoamerica.

*This is, without a doubt, the finest Book of Mormon travel experience currently available.*

This tour is filling up fast, for further information call Shannon Magleby (801) 756-4763.

## F.A.R.M.S. Ad runs in This People Magazine

A striking double-page F.A.R.M.S. advertisement appeared in the December issue of *This People* magazine. It has produced numerous responses and is helping draw attention to the excellent Book of Mormon materials available through F.A.R.M.S. Special thanks go to Susan Roylance, Blaine Hudson, *This People*, and others who put it together.

## New Book Out

A convenient and commendable collection of articles about Book of Mormon people is now off the press. *It Begins with a Family*, published in January by Deseret Book, reprints twenty-three articles that appeared in the Ensign from 1976 to 1978. The articles, by prominent authors and scholars, discuss the lives and characters of Lehi, Nephi, Jacob, Benjamin, Alma, Ammon, Korihor, Moroni, and other significant Book of Mormon figures.

## Chiasmus in Antiquity Volume Reviewed

John W. Welch's detailed volume entitled *Chiasmus in Antiquity*, examining this ancient literary art form as it appears in various ancient Near Eastern settings, including the Book of Mormon, has been reviewed by John Kselman.

The book was published in Germany in December 1981. The review will appear in the spring issue of *Dialogue*. Kselman is the book review editor for the *Catholic Quarterly Review*. *Chiasmus in Antiquity* was a joint project of seven European and American scholars. Kselman's review concludes: "This is not a book for the general reader, although the material is presented clearly enough for comprehension; it is a book for the scholars of the literature of antiquity. A book that demands and amply repays intensive study, it is highly recommended."

## Pseudepigrapha Offer Continues

Orders may still be placed through F.A.R.M.S. for Volume 1 of Doubleday's *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* by James H. Charlesworth of Duke University. This book retails for \$35, but is available to F.A.R.M.S. participants for \$23. Use the attached order form. Shipment will come directly from Doubleday, so please allow time for delivery. Volume II should be published later this year.

## F.A.R.M.S. 1984 Lands of the Book of Mormon Tour

**Departure Date:** June 18, 1984, from Salt Lake City

**Returning Date:** June 30, 1984.

**Price:** \$1,475 per person - double occupancy  
(\$1180 for \$1000 contributors)

**Includes:** Airfare from Salt Lake City and all ground services  
First-class hotels or best available  
Two meals per day  
Guide service  
All tips, taxes and entrance fees  
Transfers, baggage handling and insurance

**TO RESERVE SPACE:** Send \$200 deposit to F.A.R.M.S.,  
P.O. Box 7113 University Station,  
Provo, Utah 84602.

**For information:** Call Shannon Magleby (801) 756-4763.

### Tour highlights:

**Guatemala City and the ruins of Kaminaljuyu**

Perhaps the capital city of Nephi

**Lake Atitlan**

Possibly the Waters of Mormon

**Izapa**

Site of the well-known Stela 5

**Oaxaca and the ruins of Monte Alban**

A probable site for the highland Jaredite land of Moron

**Tuxtla Gutierrez and San Cristobal Las Casas**

The region thought by many to be the land of Zarahemla

**Villahermosa and La Venta Park**

Likely monumental remnants of the Jaredite Civilization

**Lake Catemaco and the Tuxtla Mountains**

Thought to be the Hill Cumorah region

**Mexico City with the new LDS temple, the incomparable National Museum of Anthropology, and the famous pyramids of Teotihuacan.**



## Salalah: Nephi's Land Bountiful?

Lynn and Hope Hilton, seasoned travelers along the Saudi Arabian peninsula, have for several years explored it from the perspective of Lehi's travels. In particular, they have compiled various travelers' descriptions of the short strip of verdant coastline called Salalah that lies along the otherwise barren and forbidding coast of South Arabia. The directions given in 1 Nephi lead a traveler to precisely this region.

Nephi calls this land Bountiful, yet the place appears to have been unknown to Western eyes before 1846 when it was described as "a land of groves, well-watered, with lush vegetation" in a Bombay Geographical Society report.

Eugene England has worked with the Hiltons in comparing this land with the account in 1 Nephi 17, especially in light of the limited knowledge people had of Arabia in 1829. In his article, "Through the Arabian Desert," which appeared in *Book of Mormon Authorship*, England concludes: "For Joseph Smith to have so well succeeded in producing over twenty unique details . . . requires extraordinary, unreasonable faith in his ability to guess right in direct opposition to the prevailing knowledge of his time," or accepting his work as "a genuine ancient document." This important paper can be ordered on the enclosed form.

## Metals in Ancient Mesoamerica

Metals are mentioned frequently in the Book of Mormon. Gold, silver, iron and copper were important parts of the material culture during both Jaredite and Nephite times (Eth. 10:23, Hel. 6:9). There have been few metal artifacts, though, recovered archaeologically from Mesoamerican sites. This has led some specialists to insist that metallurgy was unknown in the region before late classic (A.D. 700 to 900) times.

In a brief essay, "Reconsideration of Early Metal in Mesoamerica," John L. Sorenson attempts "to lay out enough evidence to keep expert minds from prematurely locking shut pending further research." Dr. Sorenson lists dozens of examples of early metals known from Mesoamerica. Some have problematic origins. Others were recovered under controlled conditions and are well documented. All are provocative since they counter prevailing Mesoamerican theory and point to the presence of metals during the times required by the Book of Mormon.

## The Message of the Broken Bow

Alan Goff has turned up an interesting article in the 1978 *Jewish Quarterly Review* entitled "The Breaking of the Bow." It appears, from ancient Babylonian sources, that bows were symbols of political power. One thinks also of Odysseus bending the bow to prove himself. An overlord would break the bow of a disobedient vassal to symbolically put the rebel in his place.

Jer. 49:35 and 51:56 are examples of Biblical passages where the breaking of a bow is symbolic of destroying another's military power.

In 1 Ne. 16, Nephi's bow breaks and the others lose their springs. Although Nephi reads no specific symbolic significance into these events, as soon as he fashions a new bow — the only bow in camp — his brothers (for the first time) accuse Nephi of having political ambitions over them: he has "taken it upon him to be our ruler" and "after he has led us away, he has thought to make himself a king and a ruler over us" (1 Ne. 16:37-38).

This article, with Goff's two page introduction can be ordered on the enclosed form.

## Nibley Archive Continues to Expand

For several years F.A.R.M.S. has featured the Nibley Archive. This collection now contains over 100 Nibley articles and papers, and additional items are added regularly. If you enjoy collecting and reading Nibley, be sure to order the 1984 Nibley Archive catalog.

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This month, in addition to a dozen more reprints, we have added Gary Gillum's monumental "Hugh Nibley: An Index to His Apocryphal, Patristic, and Classical Sources." This index lists all ancient sources ever quoted by Nibley and tells you where he refers to each one. **This is an incredible research tool!**

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Secondly, we are now able to offer, through BYU Media Marketing, 10 cassette tapes of lectures given by Brother Nibley. Subjects range from "How to Write an Anti-Mormon Book" (a terrific satire) to "Jerusalem's Formula for Peace" and "True Leadership" (1983 Commencement Address). Prices are about \$4 each. The tapes are listed on the new 1984 Nibley Archive catalog.

## Old World Covenant Patterns in King Benjamin's Speech

"That the covenant ceremonies in both the Old Testament and the Book of Mosiah reflect an ancient Near Eastern pattern prescribed for such occasions may provide another control for establishing the genuineness of the Book of Mormon," says Stephen Ricks, in his recent paper entitled "The Treaty/Covenant Pattern in King Benjamin's Address."

Old Testament scholars have long studied and analyzed the manner in which treaties and covenants were made in the ancient Near East and have compared their results with the covenants made in the Bible. Now Ricks has undertaken a similar analysis of the important covenant made in Zarahemla under King Benjamin (Mos. 1-6). This adds yet another dimension to our study of these astonishing chapters.

King Benjamin's speech is profound. Ricks' paper, along with Nibley's study of this text as an ancient year rite celebration and Tvedtnes' report on its striking connections with the Israelite Feast of Tabernacles and other religious festivals, are all available in the F.A.R.M.S. Book of Mormon Study Catalog of eighty-three articles complementing the 1984 Gospel Doctrine Lessons.

## Sunday School Sets Moving Fast

The Book of Mormon Study Catalog of articles complementing the 1984 Gospel Doctrine lessons has been a stunning success. The catalog was announced in the January 1 issue of the *Church News* and response has been overwhelming. The catalog is available from the Foundation free of charge if you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

This catalog describes eighty-three articles and three slide or video productions about the Book of Mormon. This is an outstanding collection of enrichment material that complements your 1984 Gospel Doctrine course of study.

If you could use a number of study catalogs for friends or classes, drop us a note and we will be happy to send you a supply.

## Announcing The Cornerstone Club

The Cornerstone Club is our way of saying "Thank you" to those who are providing generous financial support to F.A.R.M.S. Many of the exciting new projects you are reading about would never happen without people who care enough about scriptural studies to provide the necessary funds.

We sincerely appreciate every dollar donated, but we feel that those individuals who provide substantial funding to the Foundation are entitled to special benefits.

### Those who give \$1000 or more per year (or \$100 per month) will receive:

- 20 percent off all tours sponsored by F.A.R.M.S. that year. (The regular \$1475 price for the June Lands of the Book of Mormon Tour is reduced to \$1180.)
- 10 percent off other selected tours not sponsored by the Foundation
- copies of all video or slide presentations produced by F.A.R.M.S. that year
- copies of all books published that year by the Foundation
- copies of all new Reprints and Preliminary Reports introduced that year
- a **monthly informational update** designed to keep you abreast of late-breaking research news and current F.A.R.M.S. projects

In addition by special arrangement with Doubleday Publishers any Doubleday title will be available through F.A.R.M.S. for 50 percent of list plus \$1 handling charge per book. This remarkable savings applies to such outstanding volumes as the prestigious Anchor Bible series.

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Darlene is a former seminary teacher from Southern California who is interested in Church history and Book of Mormon studies. Besides mothering a yours-and-mine family of thirteen children, she works as a Realtor. Darlene is married to Kenneth Clarke, a Provo attorney, and serves as Young Women's President in her ward. We appreciate her efficient and enthusiastic volunteer service.

## Videos Become Available

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# ORDER FORM

## REPRINTS

Eugene England, "Through the Arabian Desert to a Bountiful Land, Could Joseph Smith Have Known the Way?" (*Book of Mormon Authorship*) 8 pp. **\$.50**\_\_\_\_\_

John L. Sorenson, "A Reconsideration of Early Metal in Mesoamerica" (*Katunob*) 8 pp. **\$.50**\_\_\_\_\_

Nahum Waldman, "The Breaking of the Bow" (*Jewish Quarterly Review*) 7 pp. **\$.50**\_\_\_\_\_

## PRELIMINARY REPORTS

Gary Gillum, "Hugh Nibley: An Index to his Apocryphal, Patristic, and Classical Sources" 112 pp. **\$3.75**\_\_\_\_\_

Stephen Ricks, "Treaty/Covenant Patterns in King Benjamin's Address" 15 pp. (Ricks' article is included in the complete set of 83 papers listed below) **\$.75**\_\_\_\_\_

## BOOKS

James H. Charlesworth, ed., *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, Volume 1 (Doubleday) **\$23.00**\_\_\_\_\_

John W. Welch, ed., *Chiasmus in Antiquity* (Gerstenberg) **\$35.00**\_\_\_\_\_

## TOUR

Lands of the Book of Mormon Tour to Guatemala and Mexico with Dr. John L. Sorenson, June 18-30, 1984. Reservation Deposit (balance of tour price to be paid 45 days prior to departure) **\$200.00**\_\_\_\_\_

## CORNERSTONE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

See back page of newsletter for description of benefits available to members of Cornerstone Club.

1984 contribution or pledge of \$1000 or more (or \$100 per month)

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in \_\_\_\_\_ installments of \_\_\_\_\_.

1984 contribution or pledge of \$500 or more (or \$50 per month)

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1984 contribution or pledge of \$125 or more (or \$15 per month)

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid in \_\_\_\_\_ installments of \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you have a question or comment? Please write or call the following individuals. All correspondence should be addressed to F.A.R.M.S., P.O. Box 7113, University Station, Provo, Utah 84602.

### Items for the Newsletter

Shannon Magleby, American Fork, UT, (801) 756-4763  
Larina Fielding Anderson, Salt Lake City, UT, (801) 467-1617

### Research Proposals and Papers

Stephen Ricks, 449 CB, BYU (801) 378-5428  
John Sorenson, 940 SWKT, BYU (801) 378-6108

### Grants and contributions

Jack Welch, 522 JRCB, BYU (801) 378-3168

### Nibley Archive

Gary Gillum, 6210 HBLL, BYU (801) 378-6118

### Mailing List

Kirk Magleby, American Fork, UT (801) 328-2700

### Volunteer Service

Jan Cook, Provo, UT (801) 224-6606

### Promotion, and Salt Lake Business

Susan Roylance, Murray, UT. (801) 266-4028

## MEDIA

Lands of the Book of Mormon (113 slides, 22 minute cassette soundtrack) **\$35.00**\_\_\_\_\_

Lands of the Book of Mormon 34 minute video — VHS) **\$30.00**\_\_\_\_\_

Lands of the Book of Mormon (34 minute video — Beta) **\$30.00**\_\_\_\_\_

Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon (45 Minute video — VHS) **\$30.00**\_\_\_\_\_

Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon (45 Minute video — Beta) **\$30.00**\_\_\_\_\_

## SETS

Full set of 83 articles complementing the 1984 Gospel Doctrine Lessons 1700 pp. **\$75.00**\_\_\_\_\_

## CATALOGS

1984 Nibley Archive Catalog (lists articles and cassette tapes) **\$.25**\_\_\_\_\_

Book of Mormon Study Catalog complementing the 1984 Gospel Doctrine Lessons (free if you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope) **\$.25**\_\_\_\_\_

F.A.R.M.S. Catalog (lists other articles and prior newsletters) **\$.25**\_\_\_\_\_

**Tax-deductible donation to do my share to help this important work \$**\_\_\_\_\_

Total order from above \_\_\_\_\_

Utah Residents add 5¾% sales tax \_\_\_\_\_

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**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$**\_\_\_\_\_

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**NOTE: If this is a recent new address please include former address:**

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**COMMENTS:**

# Get Your Friends On The Mailing List

F.A.R.M.S.' membership philosophy is really quite simple. F.A.R.M.S. will mail its newsletter to anyone who maintains an active interest in scripture studies, so long as they contribute time, money or talent to the research effort.

We call our affiliates participants because the mammoth research job that awaits us will require the dedicated participation of large numbers of individuals from all walks of life. By making the request, you or anyone you designate will be added to the mailing list and automatically receive four issues of the newsletter.

We earnestly encourage voluntary contributions and urge all to share their research, questions and ideas. Whether you are a scholar, philanthropist, Sunday School teacher or whatever, we simply ask that you participate in an appropriate manner to help promote scripture-related research.

Let us hear from you!

# F.A.R.M.S.

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (F.A.R.M.S.) is a nonprofit charitable corporation organized to promote, coordinate, and finance research on Mormon scriptures, particularly the Book of Mormon. Your contributions are tax-deductible. F.A.R.M.S.' purposes are (1) to identify, sponsor, and coordinate research on Mormon scriptures by qualified scholars both in and out of the Church; (2) to make valuable materials available to researchers and the general Church membership that might not otherwise find publication in existing outlets or that may be in periodicals not readily available; (3) to eliminate duplication by communicating as widely as possible reports on research in progress and by encouraging interdisciplinary efforts; (4) to raise money to promote and finance these purposes; and (5) ultimately to use tapes, films, magazines, documentaries, and other presentations to communicate the results of careful scholarship in a way that a mass audience can understand. F.A.R.M.S. does not intend to minimize the need for faith in the Book of Mormon but wishes to increase the understanding of the Book of Mormon to help it come truly to life.

## PLEASE SEND THE FARMS NEWSLETTER TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

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