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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

## AN ANCIENT WINDOW

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

### **SINCE CUMORAH: VOLUME 7 IN THE NIBLEY COLLECTED WORKS IS PUBLISHED**

"Since its first printing in 1967, *Since Cumorah* has been a classic in Book of Mormon scholarship, and its significance has not decreased with the years," says John W. Welch. "We are pleased to offer this expanded volume to a new generation of Book of Mormon students. This long popular book examines the Book of Mormon in light of the discoveries at Qumran, Nag-Hammadi, and throughout the ancient world. It's Nibley at his best, challenging many traditional scholarly assumptions and opening avenues of inquiry regarding the Book of Mormon and its present-day implications."

Drawing upon a multitude of Hebrew, Coptic, and early Christian texts, Dr. Nibley looks at both the background and the text of the Book of Mormon. He compares the Book of Mormon with the Bible, the Apocrypha, and the records of the primitive church and related groups. He examines its language and literature. Historically, he covers major events, such as the great earthquake; prophetic figures, such as Zenos; and wars, especially during the military career of Captain Moroni. Finally, he discusses the Book of Mormon as prophecy: its themes, warnings, and promises.

For this new edition of *Since Cumorah*, the text and notes have been carefully checked and reedited, helpful scriptural and textual indexes have been added, and the original illustrations have been used. The editors also restored, through extensive notes, substantial blocks of material published in the 1964-1966 magazine version of this work but not included in the previous book edition. These articles ran as a series in the *Improvement Era*.

*The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley* are expected to run to more than 20 volumes when complete. Volume 8, *The Prophetic Book of Mormon*, is scheduled for release in early 1989. That volume will include a wide variety of Nibley's talks and articles about the Book of Mormon. Other volumes on ancient studies, church history, and gospel subjects will also be released in 1989.

### **PROGRESS REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

At the beginning of 1988 we set a goal to raise the F.A.R.M.S. membership list to 20,000 this year. At that time our list stood at 9,500. We are pleased to announce that currently we are at 16,100.

Please send in the names of anyone you think might be interested. Thank you for all the names you have already sent in; we appreciate your support.

### **F.A.R.M.S. NAMES PRESIDENT**

The Foundation has named **Stephen D. Ricks** as its new president. Ricks, a professor of Asian and Near Eastern Languages at BYU, received a doctorate in Near Eastern Religions from the University of California at Berkeley. He recently came from Jerusalem, where he spent a year teaching and researching at BYU's Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies.

Ricks has been associated with F.A.R.M.S. since he came to Provo in 1981. He succeeds John W. Welch who founded F.A.R.M.S. in 1979. The Foundation has grown rapidly and accomplished a lot under his leadership. Along with Ricks, John L. Sorenson and Noel B. Reynolds, Welch will continue to write, research, edit and serve on the Board of Directors.

Ricks plans on a vigorous research and publication schedule. Top priority projects include *The Collected Works of Hugh Nibley* and a conference on warfare.

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies is a nonprofit 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.

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## NEW F.A.R.M.S. CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE

One of the main functions of F.A.R.M.S. is to make information about Book of Mormon research available to the public as economically as possible. Providing a complimentary catalog to interested individuals is the first step toward achieving this goal.

"Great effort has been made in this catalog to describe the level of technical complexity and to categorize each book or article by its depth and thoroughness of research, as well as type and usefulness," says John Welch. "In the past we have listed articles by subject; in the new catalog we have focused more on the nature of each piece. This should help people in making useful selections and in giving materials proper weight in drawing their conclusions."

The material has been classified according to several criteria. "Reprints" are pieces that have been published in books and professional journals and have therefore been thoroughly reviewed. "Papers" are substantive studies which have been reviewed by F.A.R.M.S.' own collaborating scholars and meet the criteria for professional publication. "Working Papers" show substantial research but require further review and study before final publication. They are offered in interim form to make students of the Book of Mormon aware of ongoing research as well as to generate comments and suggestions. "Study Aids" are bibliographies, talks, indexes, maps and other such items.

Many new items have been added to this year's catalog. Those appearing for the first time are highlighted in this Newsletter. To obtain a catalog or further information about F.A.R.M.S., just drop us a note.

### WHO WROTE THE TITLE PAGE?

Daniel Ludlow has taken a careful look at the title page of the Book of Mormon in his Paper "The Title Page." Examining title pages in all major editions of the Book of Mormon, he compares printing

history, wording, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. He also has studied how the original paragraphing and punctuation were added by a typesetter.

"Interestingly, changing the number of paragraphs might lead to additional insights as we ask such questions as: (1) who the author is (or who the authors are) of the various statements on the title page, and (2) when the various statements were written," Ludlow concludes.

Challenging traditional assumptions, Ludlow discusses some interesting possibilities of who wrote the title page.

### NEPHI'S VISION AND THE REVELATION OF JOHN

"The revelations of Nephi and of John have more in common . . . than merely the apocalyptic form, for Nephi's vision anticipates that of John. The two are complementary, centering in part on the same characters and themes: the Lamb and his Church, the Apostasy, the great and abominable church of the devil, and the restoration of the gospel in the latter days," asserts Stephen E. Robinson in "Early Christianity and 1 Nephi 13-14" and "Warring Against the Saints of God."

In these Reprints, Robinson compares the revelation of Nephi in the Book of Mormon and the revelation of John in the New Testament. After providing evidence and his reasons, Robinson concludes that the great and abominable church talked of in both is referring to the early apostate Christian Church, not any modern denomination today.

### LEHI'S OCEAN VOYAGE

John L. Sorenson has taken a look at the oceanic crossing of Lehi and his family in his Reprint "Transoceanic Crossings." To get as much as possible out of the brief account contained in 1 Nephi, Sorenson asks 36 pertinent questions and develops a body of information about the voyage.

Among these questions are "What vessel technology was available to the voyagers?" "What emergencies occurred, and how were they met?"

and "What effects on mortality, health, and psychological/spiritual outlook did life on board have?" Using information from other voyages and examining the account in the Book of Mormon then yields some interesting answers and further issues.

### WORDPRINT ANALYSIS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

"Since the advent of modern programmable high speed computers, a new science of computer assisted literary 'stylometry' or 'wordprinting' has been developing. By statistically analyzing the small non-contextual word patterns of a disputed document, it is now possible to test which suspected authors did not write a given work," reports John L. Hilton.

In the Paper "Some Book of Mormon 'Wordprint' Measurements Using 'Wraparound' Block Counting," Hilton has used this technique in analyzing the didactic texts of Nephi and Alma in the Book of Mormon. By comparing these wordprints with those of Joseph Smith, Oliver Cowdery, and Solomon Spaulding, Hilton has come up with results that demonstrate an extremely low probability that any of these three modern men authored the ancient writings. The results also show that the books of Alma and Nephi were written by different authors.

### DID LEHI LAND IN CHILE?

This Paper examines a statement, written by Frederick G. Williams in the early days of the church, which says that Lehi landed "on the continent of South America in Chile thirty degrees south Latitude." The author, Frederick G. Williams, is the great-great-grandson of Frederick G. Williams.

Some traditions have held that the statement was a revelation received by Joseph Smith or Frederick G. Williams. The author takes a careful look at the documentation and finds no evidence, except for tradition, attributing the statement to Joseph Smith, or for it being revelation. The Paper also supplies copies of the original documents, courtesy of the Church Historical Department.

## ORDER FORM

Catalog Number	New Titles Since the Last Newsletter	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
N-7	Nibley, Hugh W., <i>Since Cumorah</i> (SLC: Deseret and F.A.R.M.S., 1988).		\$16.95	
ENS-881	"I Have a Question: Questions Relating to the Book of Mormon, 1985-1988," ( <i>Ensign</i> ), 24 pp.		\$1.50	
HIL-88	Hilton, John L., "Some Book of Mormon 'Wordprint' Measurements using 'Wraparound' Block Counting," 11 pp.		\$.75	
LUD-88	Ludlow, Daniel H., "The Title Page," ( <i>The Book of Mormon: First Nephi, The Doctrinal Foundation</i> ), 15 pp.		\$.50	
MAD-88	Madsen, Truman G., "B. H. Roberts: The Book of Mormon and the Atonement," ( <i>The Book of Mormon: First Nephi, The Doctrinal Foundation</i> ), 18 pp.		\$.75	
MID-88	Midgley, Louis, "Hugh Winder Nibley: Bibliography and Register," 65 pp.		\$3.50	
N-GOF	Nibley, Hugh W., "Goods of First and Second Intent," 20 pp.		\$1.25	
N-LAT	Nibley, Hugh W., "Last Call: An Apocalyptic Warning from the Book of Mormon," ( <i>Sunstone</i> ), 11 pp.		\$.75	
N-BMF	Nibley, Hugh W., "The Book of Mormon: Forty Years After," 35 pp.		\$2.00	
ROB-88	Robinson, Stephen E., "Early Christianity and 1 Nephi 13-14" and "Warring Against the Saints of God," ( <i>Ensign</i> ), 20 pp.		\$.75	
SOR-88	Sorenson, John L., "Transoceanic Crossings," ( <i>The Book of Mormon: First Nephi, The Doctrinal Foundation</i> ), 20 pp.		\$.75	
WEL-88	Welch, John W., "Study and Faith in the Book of Mormon," ( <i>BYU Today</i> ), 7 pp.		\$.50	
WIL-88	Williams, Frederick G. III, "Did Lehi Land in Chile? An Assessment of the Frederick G. Williams Statement," 21 pp.		\$1.25	
<b>NEW AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS</b>				
N-T15	Nibley, Hugh W., "Beyond Politics," audio.		\$3.50	
N-T16	Nibley, Hugh W., "The Book of Mormon: Forty Years After," audio.		\$7.00	
N-T22	Nibley, Hugh W., "Four Lessons on Rank and Priesthood in the Church," audio.		\$7.00	
N-T18	Nibley, Hugh W., "How Firm a Foundation! What Makes It So," audio.		\$7.00	
N-T17	Nibley, Hugh W., "The Utopians," audio.		\$3.50	
N-TN3	Nibley, Hugh W., "Time Vindicates the Prophets," (1954 Broadcasts) audio.		\$49.95	
N-T21	Nibley, Hugh W., "Two Lessons on the Atonement," audio.		\$3.50	
N-T20	Nibley, Hugh W., "Two Lessons on the Sermon on the Mount," audio.		\$3.50	
N-T19	Nibley, Hugh W., "What is a Temple?" audio.		\$3.50	
W-V1	Welch, John W., "Study and Faith in the Book of Mormon," (BYU Devotional), video.		\$19.00	

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## STUDY AIDS ADDED

In the article "**B. H. Roberts: The Book of Mormon and the Atonement,**" Truman G. Madsen looks at B. H. Roberts' view of the atonement and the importance of the Book of Mormon in understanding it. The information comes from the last book B. H. Roberts wrote, "The Truth, the Way and the Life," which was never published.

Another new Study Aid describes differences between books printed in the first edition of the Book of Mormon. "**Variations Between Copies of the First Edition of the Book of Mormon,**" by Janet Jenson examines why printing errors occurred and why changes were made in light of the printing process used. She compares notable differences found in 70 copies of the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon.

Further answers to Book of Mormon Questions from the Ensign have been compiled in "**I Have a Question: Questions Relating to the Book of Mormon, 1985-1988.**" Some of the questions included are "Did Oliver Cowdery, one of the three special Book of Mormon witnesses, express doubt about his testimony?" "What are the best evidences to support the authenticity of the Book of Mormon?" and "Since the Book of Mormon is largely the record of a Hebrew people, is the writing characteristic of the Hebrew language?"

## MORE NIBLEY

"**Last Call: An Apocalyptic Warning from the Book of Mormon,**" is an article based on a talk given by Nibley at the 1986 Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City. It is a call to modern society to learn from examples in the Book of Mormon. He stresses the fact that the Book of Mormon was written to the people of our time and that Mormons as well as gentiles must repent.

Nibley decries modern society's inversion of values in "**Goods of First and Second Intent.**" This is a transcript of a talk given to the Retired Teacher's Association on October 9, 1987 in Salt Lake City. He points out that goods of second intent (things used to acquire other things) are more important in our society than goods of first intent (things worth having for their own sake).

In "The Book of Mormon: Forty Years After," Nibley explores 16 of his recent insights into the Book of Mormon. This paper is a transcript from the Sunstone Book of Mormon Lecture Series in 1988. Nibley concludes that the last days are very near, and the world must heed the Book of Mormon's call to repentance.

Louis Midgely has compiled an inclusive and up-to-date bibliography of Hugh Nibley's writings. "**Hugh W. Nibley: Bibliography and Register**" is a chronological listing of all of the published and unpublished writings of this great scholar.

## NEW AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

On May 10, 1988, John W. Welch gave the Devotional address at Brigham Young University. In this inspiring talk entitled "**Study, Faith, and the Book of Mormon,**" he discussed recent studies of the Book of Mormon and how they can increase our appreciation for the book. The video and the transcript of this talk are now available.

In 1954 from March 7 to October 17, Hugh Nibley gave a stunning series of KSL radio lectures titled "**Time Vindicates the Prophets.**" The tapes of the original broadcasts were thought lost until recently when they were found in the LDS Archives. These audio tapes are now available. Nibley shows consistencies between the LDS Church and the early Christian Church, and documents the process whereby early Christianity changed into an institution teaching the learning of men. Other new audio tapes of talks given by Hugh Nibley are listed on the order form.

"**Book of Mormon Class,**" the set of audio tapes of Hugh Nibley's Book of Mormon Honors Class taught Fall 1987 and Winter 1988, has been divided into three sections instead of two. Each section is \$49.95.

Please note a **correction** to the new catalog. The correct price of the "Lands of the Book of Mormon" and "Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon" video is \$19.95.



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