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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

P.O. Box 7113 Univ. Station, Provo, UT 84602

Newsletter

The Foundation for 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 FARMS to sponsor and coordinate a wide range of research projects that enhance our understanding of these sacred writings.

NOVEMBER 1981

FARMS NEWS

OUR READERS RESPOND

FARMS director Jack Welch is jubilant over the enthusiastic response of readers. There is mail in the box every day: requests for information, welcomed contributions, expressions of support and gratitude. Over five hundred copies of different items from the Reprint Series and the Preliminary Reports had already been sent out by mid-October. "I estimate that there was a 20 percent response to the July Newsletter," says Jack, "and Howard Ruff thinks he's successful if he gets between a one and two percent response."

He was especially appreciative of the names to be added to the mailing list. "Virtually everyone who ordered items also sent us the names of friends. One person asked us to put the names of fifty friends on the list for the next mailing."

He added particular thanks to those who had included voluntary contributions to the Foundation with their orders. "One of our goals is to provide reprints of significant papers at cost so that any good member of the Church anywhere can be associated with scholarly research--not just those with access to libraries. The more support the Foundation receives, the better we can meet that goal. Thanks!"

Some supportive comments from readers include:

"Your plan has an incisiveness and a vision that sets it apart. Good work!"--C. Terry Warner, Provo.

"You're continuing an excellent contribution to the kingdom."--Ted C. Hilton, LaCañada, California.

"I'm delighted that this kind of organization has come to light and I promise to help in my own humble way all that I can." -- Marlan Walker, Henderson, Nevada.

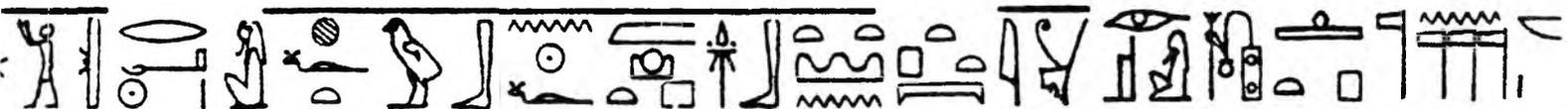
"Please count me in!"--Nancy L. Williams, Orlando, Florida.

"Keep up the good work!!!"
--Arthur DeHoyos, Provo.

"Somewhere I got this address and I would like some more information on Everything. I sure would like it."--Christopher Pinkley, Ventura, California.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEAM

Paul Y. Hoskisson and Stephen D. Ricks are two new valuable participants on the Ancient Near Eastern/Old World research committee of FARMS. Paul recently joined the BYU ancient scriptures faculty after completing his Ph.D. coursework requirements at Brandeis University and spending several further years of research at Tübingen, Germany, and Zürich, Switzerland. Paul specializes in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, including



Akkadian and Ugaritic. His dissertation is entitled, "The Cult in Mari."

Stephen, a recent member of the linguistics faculty at BYU, comes to us from Berkeley's Ph.D. program. His dissertation, "A Lexicon of Inscriptional Qatabanian," reflects his broad background in classical and biblical studies, including specialties in Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic.

Gary Gillum, whose many talents are described below, is serving as chairman of the FARMS Book of Mormon/New Testament committee and will coordinate research on such intriguing Book of Mormon questions as the variant New Testament texts in 3 Nephi or the parallels between Romans 11 and Jacob 5. In announcing the appointment, FARMS president Jack Welch pointed out, "The common Hebrew origins of the Book of Mormon and the New Testament are not always completely understood. With the acknowledged expertise that Gary can bring to this project, we look forward to great advances in fruitful, insightful work."

FARMS's badly needed mail clerk and bookkeeper is Janet Twigg, recently of Bountiful and before that from the Bay area in California. She is a first-year graduate student in classics at BYU and plans to give her classics training a religious emphasis. Her prior part-time work as a bookkeeper equip her with some much-appreciated skills. She served a mission in Montreal.

Lynn Scott of Cincinnati, has also joined the staff as correspondence secretary. Lynn is in Provo while her husband attends Law School.

Garry Pace has come aboard as FARMS's public relations director. A second-year law student with prior business experience in sales and marketing, he will be coordinating and organizing a local network of representatives and spearheading our continuing fund-raising efforts.

Many thanks are due to Annette Corbridge who typed all of the mailing list onto computer tapes for easier handling. She is leaving for Denver but plans to remain active with FARMS.

PROJECT UPDATES

ANTHON TRANSCRIPT STUDIED

As reported in the last newsletter, a group of scholars was invited to examine an extensive effort made to translate the Anthon Transcript, the recently discovered page of characters which Martin Harris took to New York City for Charles Anthon's examination in 1829. John Sorenson and Jack Welch integrated the individually-made evaluations and provided them to the translator.

Those who participated were John A. Tvedtnes, Kent Jackson, Paul Hoskisson, Robert F. Smith, Edward Ashment, John Lundquist, Dilworth Parkinson, and Jack Welch. Nearly unanimously, they agreed that "too much liberty" had been taken in assuming that a variety of signs had the same sound value or, conversely, that one symbol might represent several sounds. Different experts also pointed out that the Hebrew/Arabic lexicon used contained some "impossibilities," inconsistencies in logic, and additional faults which reduced the probable value of the proposed translation.

Since no other documents in reformed Egyptian are known to exist, the evaluators pointed out that it wasn't a simple matter of saying, "You've translated this symbol wrong," but rather of saying that "This method of translation wouldn't work on a known language because of the inconsistencies, so it probably hasn't worked on this one either."

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ אֲדָמָה הָיְתָה תְהוֹ וְכֵן הָיָה

The translator received the criticisms well and plans to consider them carefully as he continues his work. The panel also congratulated the translator on his willingness, too often lacking in the past, to present work for internal critique before presenting it to a public unprepared to evaluate such an effort accurately.

Meanwhile, another person has proposed an alternative translation and FARMS has invited the same panel to critique this second effort. The first translator saw the characters as Hebrew/Arabic; the second proposes that they are Egyptian. According to John Sorenson, "The content of the two translations could not be more different. Neither reads the material as a direct translation of wording in the present Book of Mormon, but both claim to involve ideas, names, statements, and phrases represented in the scripture." Further results of the evaluation will appear in the next newsletter.

High quality photographs of the Anthon Transcript have been sent to selected Near Eastern scholars with reliable scholarly reputations who have volunteered to see what comments they could appropriately make on possible parallels to or even readings of the characters.

NIBLEYANA ON A GRAND SCALE

What does a man do when he spends seven years studying homiletics, hermeneutics, eisegesis, and exegesis to become a Lutheran minister and then joins the Mormon Church? If he's Gary Gillum, he becomes the Ancient Studies and Philosophy Librarian at BYU, teaching New Testament and Book of Mormon part-time.

His respect and affection for Hugh Nibley came as soon as he started reading Nibley during the

conversion process. Like Brother Nibley, Gary has a fascination with languages and has proficiency or working ability in fourteen. By choice, his own scholarly method is apologetics and his perspective (Big Picture) is also harmonious with Nibley's. So when Howard Kempton and Truman Madsen suggested a subject index and list of Nibley's scholarly sources, Gary applied successfully for professional development time and money to provide this indispensable aid to the Nibley body of works.

It is now completed except for the indexing of Abraham in Egypt, Nibley's latest work, now available from Deseret Book. Here's the scope of the project:

1. Gary has collected all of Nibley's available works, published and unpublished, including tapes and manuscripts. The compiled bibliography comes to over 150 titles of books, serials, and periodical titles.

2. He has compiled a fat subject index.

3. The unbelievable bibliographic second mile has been compiling a bibliography of all of Nibley's scholarly sources--journals, books, scriptures, the apocrypha, patristics, and the classics. The scripture index cites book, chapter, and verse on every scriptural reference Brother Nibley has used. The Book of Mormon section of this index is available as a FARMS Preliminary Report (see below).

4. He has also, for considerably more than fun, compiled a "Quote Book" containing some of the "interesting, humorous, insightful, and inspiring" passages from Nibley's writings.

Gary is haunted, however, by the statistical certainty that some taped talk, some mimeographed manuscript, has eluded his vigilant eye. If anyone has little-known Nibley material, please let us know. The completed Nibley collection will

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eventually become an archival collection housed in the Harold B. Lee Library.

PAPERS RECEIVED

FARMS has received a steady flow of interesting papers from those willing to share current research. Some are short studies, some are preliminary drafts, others are near final form and will make a meaningful contribution as they are published. All were extremely welcome. Here are a few of the titles submitted:

1. Richard D. Rust (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), "Typology in the Book of Mormon."
2. John Sorenson (BYU), "A Reconsideration of Early Metal in MesoAmerica."
3. Scott Norwood (Missouri), "A Bibliographic Essay of Works Concerning the Book of Mormon."
4. John Tvedtnes (Salt Lake City), "The Isaiah Variants in the Book of Mormon."
5. Marlin Dearden (Quinnipiac College, Connecticut), "Calendric Dating in Ancient MesoAmerica: Mayan and Nephite Methods Compared."
6. Gary Gillum (BYU), "The Nag Hammadi Library."
7. Robert F. Smith (Independence, Missouri), "Nephite Temple Architecture."
8. Kirk Magleby (American Fork), "A Survey of Meso-American Bearded Figures."
9. Blake Ostler (Provo), "Abraham: An Egyptian Connection," describing similarities between judgment scenes in the Book of Abraham, the Testament of Abraham, the Apocalypse of Abraham, and Egyptian judgment scenes.
10. As this Newsletter goes to press, we have just received Prof. Carlton's report on further linguistic analysis of the names in the

Book of Mormon, so look for more on this in the next Newsletter.

We invite others with works in progress to send in their reports.

PROJECTS IN THE MILL

Several other projects are not to the paper stage yet but are well underway.

Matt Hilton (Salt Lake City) is working on martial law and war patterns in the Book of Mormon.

John Hall (Culver City, Calif.) is working on fasting in the Book of Mormon and ancient Israel.

Blake Ostler is teaming up with Kevin Barney (Provo) on word pairs in ancient Near Eastern languages and the Book of Mormon, and Kevin is pursuing an additional project: New Testament textual variants compared with the corresponding passages in the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith Translation.

Kent Jackson is researching the Hebraisms in the Book of Mormon.

James Siebach (Provo) is working on the legal and philosophical implications of opposites in Lehi's counsel to his sons in a context of pre-Socratic philosophy and ancient Near Eastern jurisprudence.

Bruce Woolley (BYU) is probing evidences of drug usage by Lamanite warriors.

Robert F. Smith (Independence, Mo.) is preparing a critical textual apparatus to show the textual differences between various editions of the Book of Mormon.

John Hilton (Walnut Creek, Calif.) is continuing his imaginative computer probing into the texts of the Book of Mormon. Several reports will be coming from his busy corner.

We have heard of other projects in the making and will pass the word along when we receive more details. FARMS is eager to help encourage these and similar research efforts.



OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

You Might Be Interested In . . .

1. Horizon. Wilfred Decoo, chairman of the Education Department at the University of Antwerp, has, after careful preparation, launched a new magazine, Horizon: A Magazine About the Mormon Community. The bi-monthly publication will appear first in Dutch in January 1982 followed by French and German, then other languages. It has two purposes: to reduce the loneliness and intellectual isolation sometimes felt by members of the Church in Europe, and to provide a high-quality publication suitable for nonmembers, many of whom still encounter negative stories about the Church.

Typically, the format will include articles on the Church in the world and in the country of publication, personality features on Latter-day Saints in the world and the country of publication, idea-sharing by local members, the history of the Church in the country of publication, and Mormon studies, humor, and literature.

Brother Decoo, the editor of two professional European journals, has extensive experience in publishing, and has organized a European editorial board and an American advisory board including Larry Brim, Todd Britsch, Thomas Brown, Eugene England, Edward Kimball, Steven Sondrup, Charles Tate, Douglas Tobler, and John Welch.

Inquiries about subscriptions can be sent to Horizon Foundation (Postbus 26, 2610 Wilrijk, Belgium). So can contributions, or--and this is important for FARMS members--through FARMS. Under U.S. tax laws, contributions sent to FARMS for Horizon will be tax deductible. (They are not if they are sent directly.) FARMS will meet its legal requirements by earmarking the funds for specific projects to benefit Horizon--such as financing

research on a particular topic of interest to Horizon or otherwise helping out. The check should be payable to FARMS. FARMS welcomes this opportunity to help internationalize the Mormon community and wishes Brother Decoo well.

2. Middle American Tours. Middle American Tours is a company based in Orem, Utah, that packages tours to Mexico and Central America. Since many of their tours attract students of the Book of Mormon, they have provided FARMS with the names of many people eager to get more information. FARMS is interested in enriching such tours and invites further inquiries.

3. Society for Early Historic Archaeology (SEHA). Three of the Reprints in our first newsletter came from the Newsletter and Proceedings of the SEHA, an organization that many FARMS members may be interested in. It is a non-profit organization based in Provo, that focuses on "new discoveries in archaeology throwing light on . . . the Hebrew Christian and Latterday Saint scriptures." It annually holds a Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, usually on an October Saturday at BYU, with which it is loosely affiliated. SEHA was founded in 1949 by M. Wells Jakeman and inquiries are welcome at P.O. Box 7488, University Station, Provo, Utah, 84602, or in person at Salmon House on the BYU campus.

The three SEHA papers offered on the FARMS Reprint Series may also be available directly from SEHA for no additional charge to its members (\$10 per year; \$150 for life). Since one of the major functions of FARMS is to coordinate and communicate the efforts of people like those involved with SEHA, FARMS welcome this cooperative relationship.

4. International Field Studies Institute Inc. has issued a call for papers, by March 1, 1982, for an Oct. 1982 Symposium in Salt Lake City on "Archaeology and the Book of Mormon." Write to 27 North Pease Rd., Woodbridge, CT. 06525.

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REPRINTS

NEW REPRINTS OFFERED

The Reprint Series consists of papers previously published (or of publishable quality) that make a significant contribution to our understanding of antiquity, the scriptures, or other concepts related to Mormonism. Authors of papers in the Reprint Series retain copyright. See last page for order blank. With this newsletter we add:

1. Richard Bushman, "The Book of Mormon and the American Revolution" (BYU Studies, 17, no. 1 [Fall, 1976], pp. 3-20.) This comparison of colonial attitudes and passages in the Book of Mormon concludes "The Book of Mormon is not a conventional American book. Too much Americana is missing."

2. Hugh Nibley, "Strange Ships and Shining Stones: A Not So-Fantastic Story" (in A Book of Mormon Treasury [Salt Lake City, UT: Bookcraft, 1959]). Nibley's twelve point analysis links the Jaredite barges with magur-boats, images of which are still extant from Sumerian and Babylonian legends of the deluge. Shining stones are associated in Talmudic literature with Noah.

3. Hugh Nibley, "The Liahona's Cousins" (Improvement Era, February 1961, pp. 87-89, 104, 106, 108-9.) Divination by arrow in the Near East is compared with the Book of Mormon's description of the Liahona.

4. Ray T. Matheny, "An Analysis of the Padilla Gold Plates" (BYU Studies, 19, no. 1 [Fall 1978], pp. 21-40.) This rigorous physical and linguistic analysis of purportedly ancient metal plates from Mexico concludes that they are probably fakes.

5. Martin Raish, "All That Glitters: Uncovering Fools Gold in Book of Mormon Archaeology" (from Sunstone, 6, no. 1 [Jan.Feb. 1981] 10-15). A kindly but unsparing

analysis of the most common problems with books on Book of Mormon archaeology.

6. John L. Sorenson, "The Significance of an Apparent Relationship between the Ancient Near East and MesoAmerica" (Carroll L. Riley, and others, eds. Man Across the Sea: Problems of Pre-Columbia Contacts [Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971], pp. 219-41.) A theoretical discussion of the problem followed by a very full listing of specific cultural parallels between the two areas.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS

THIS ISSUE'S OFFERINGS

Preliminary Reports are short notes or tentative papers, not yet ready for publication, but reflecting substantial research. They are made available to be critiqued and improved by others in the field or to facilitate further research.

1. Gary Gillum, "Scripture Index to Hugh Nibley's Works: Book of Mormon," (60 pp.). This index lists all of the Book of Mormon passages referred to in any of Hugh Nibley's publications or manuscripts.

2. Stephen Ricks, "Liturgy and Cosmogony: The Ritual Use of Creation Accounts in the Ancient Near East," (7 pp.).

3. Robert F. Smith, "Shakespeare and the Book of Mormon," (8 pp.), an extensive analysis of the ancient roots, instead of Hamlet's, of Lehi's description of death as the "silent grave from which no traveler can return."

4. John W. Welch, "The Judicial Process in the Trial of Abinadi," (36 pp.) This lawyerly look at Abinadi's trial in the context of ancient Israelite law shows it as much more complex and much less despotic than seminary classes might lead us to believe.

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BOOK NOTICES

Noel Reynolds reports that his collection of essays further analyzing authorship in the Book of Mormon will be published by the BYU Religious Studies Center.

Students of chiasmus who read Italian may be interested in the publication of Il Chiasmo Nella Bibbia by A. DiMarco by Casa Editrice Marietti, Torino. It retails for 10,500 lire, including postage and handling.

Also, Jack Welch's Chiasmus in Antiquity, described in the last newsletter, has emerged from its German printer. All of its essays are in English, and it covers chiasmic examples not only in the scriptures but in such languages as Sumerian-Akkadian, Hebrew, Aramaic, Ugaritic, and ancient Greek and Latin. Foreign exchange rates and the technical nature of this printing dictates a retail of DM 95 or about \$42. Through FARMS you may order books for \$29. Allow time for delivery. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: DECEMBER 31, 1981.

Reprints of individual chapters may become available in the future as part of the Reprint Series.

Robert Smith's bibliography and index in this volume is an unexpected boon. If, for example, you wonder if the creation story in Genesis might be chiasmic, Bob's index would provide you with a long list of articles or books on the point.

SWEET CHARITY

The broad support FARMS has received from so many good people is a promise for the future that even the Foundation's most ambitious dreams can someday be accomplished. We hope that you will want to be part of making that happen.

Please plan to include FARMS in your year-end charitable giving, and contact Jack Welch if you have any particular tax planning needs. Because FARMS deliberately keeps its overhead to the minimum, almost every dollar can go straight to end-result work.

Our current goal is to find one hundred people to give \$100 each. Be a FARMS Centurion and know that you are advancing scriptural research.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

An encouraging number of people have volunteered to become regional directors. What does a regional director do? (1) Places FARMS literature in appropriate outlets such as Seventies bookstores and Institutes; (2) sends in the names of individuals interested in scriptural research, especially the Book of Mormon, who should be on the Newsletter mailing list; and (3) contacts individuals who might contribute financially to the effort.

To date, some of them include Randy Spackman of Orange County, California; Ted Hilton, of LaCanada, California; Lew Cramer of Los Angeles; David Isom of Denver; Marlin Dearden in the Connecticut/New York area; Russell Anderson, Hillsboro, Oregon; Diane Wirth, Danville, California; James McAlpin, Rome, Georgia.

Several others have made tentative commitments. Let us know if you'd be interested in this kind of service. Get started now and we'll send you more information and details.

