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Kinderhook Plates and Translator/Seer Claims Concerns

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42) *The Kinderhook Plates fooled Joseph Smith into making a false translation of a fake writing on fake plates.*

Answer: There is no evidence that Joseph attempted to translate these plates by way of revelation. Studies indicate that Joseph took an initial academic interest in the plates. Like any normal human might be, he was intrigued by them. Having already worked with several ancient documents—the golden plates and Joseph Smith Papyri—he wondered if the Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar he was working with might provide a clue to their translation.

Sending for a copy of his Egyptian alphabet notes, he suggested a possible interpretation of one of the Kinderhook characters—a character that looked very similar to what he had in his Egyptian study papers. That was it. No seer stone and no revelation. God didn't tell Joseph to acquire the Kinderhook plates and there is no evidence, beyond the one initially suggested academic reading, that Joseph made an attempt to pursue the plates any further. They apparently didn't excite him a whole lot as he had more important things on his hands—things *which actually did* come from revelatory sources.