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Type: Newsletter

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## Insights, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Winter 1988)

Editor(s): FARMS Staff

Published by: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies

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FOUNDATION FOR  
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# INSIGHTS

## AN ANCIENT WINDOW

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

### ENLARGED EDITION OF *LEHI IN THE DESERT* : VOLUME 5 OF THE NIBLEY COLLECTED WORKS

The new expanded edition of *Lehi in the Desert* is an essential starting place for understanding the many things Hugh Nibley has contributed over the past four decades to Book of Mormon scholarship. This classic material broke ground in previously unexplored areas, which proved enormously fruitful. This vigorous and insightful research into the cultural and spiritual roots of Lehi and the Jaredites has never been equalled or exhausted.

All students of the Book of Mormon will be richly rewarded by the republication and enhancement of this volume. It comes highly recommended from many sides. It has enjoyed wide popular distribution, being written for all to enjoy and understand. The book likewise stimulates and welcomes rigorous investigation, and has withstood thorough source checking. In 1952, Elder John A. Widtsoe gave his assessment: "The book could not have been written except with vast acquaintance with sources of historical learning. It has been written also under the inspiration of the Spirit of God."

In this new 470-page volume, Nibley relives the stories of two ancient migrations from the Near East to the Americas. He examines who those immigrants were, why they left their Near Eastern homes, and what may be now known about their culture and customs. Furthermore, he elucidates many details that are only subtly mentioned in the Book of Mormon accounts. Impressive correlations with the Book of Mormon are drawn from areas of language, literature, archaeology, history, culture and politics. Numerous details combine to help us see what Nibley calls "the big picture." Cumulatively, they convincingly show how hard it would have been for an unschooled young man in 1830 to fabricate the Book of Mormon.

This new edition contains three lengthy serials that originally appeared in the *Improvement Era*, namely "Lehi in the Desert" from 1950, "The World of the Jaredites" from 1951-52, and now for the first time in book form, "There Were Jaredites" from 1956-57. "There Were Jaredites" is an engaging comparison, in dialogue form, of the epic and heroic society of the Jaredites to the similar epic and heroic world of the Babylonians and Hittites, all from the Second Millennium B.C. The new volume includes for the first time a full scripture index, and maps and illustrations that appeared in the original magazine publications.

Orders of five or more copies will receive a special discount off our otherwise convenient price, which includes taxes, postage, and handling.

### FIRST ANNUAL BOOK OF MORMON LECTURE

On March 2, 1988, Richard L. Anderson will deliver the First Annual Book of Mormon Lecture sponsored by the Foundation. The title of his lecture is "Religious Validity: The Sacramental Covenants in 3 Nephi."

F.A.R.M.S. strives to encourage research concerning the Book of Mormon. To promote that goal, we are proud to inaugurate a new lecture series on Wednesday March 2, 1988. These lectures will be devoted exclusively to the Book of Mormon.

Dr. Richard Lloyd Anderson, Professor of Religion at Brigham Young University, will be the first Book of Mormon Lecturer. He will discuss the covenantal significance of 3 Nephi. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2084 of the Jesse Knight Humanities Building, located on the BYU campus. Dr. Anderson has published numerous books and articles on the Book of Mormon, the New Testament, the Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, and Church History. He is well respected for his thorough and careful scholarship. Over the years, he has inspired many students and rendered great service to our community. We are honored to present him as the first Book of Mormon Lecturer.

Before and after the lecture, guests are invited to enjoy F.A.R.M.S. materials that will be on display and available. We invite all to attend this lecture on Wednesday, March 2.

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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## HEBREW AND UTO-AZTECAN LANGUAGES COMPARED

Three years ago Brian Stubbs, then a doctoral candidate in linguistics at the University of Utah, received a grant from F.A.R.M.S. to find out if elements of Hebrew could be detected among native tongues of the Uto-Aztecan family of western North America. He has now prepared a technical report summarizing his extensive research.

In his paper "Elements of Hebrew in Uto-Aztecan: A Summary of the Data" Brian Stubbs compares two language families. From the Near East, he deals with Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Babylonian, and Ugaritic, all Semitic languages. From the New World, he examines Uto-Aztecan tongues, which range from Northern Piute and Shoshoni in the Great Basin, Hopi and Papago in Arizona, Tarahumara and Yaqui of northern Mexico, to Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs of central and southern Mexico.

The data include sound correspondences, vocabulary relationships, semantic patterns, fossilized verb forms and other morphologies. For example, Hebrew *yasav*, "he sat or dwelt," is very similar to Hopi *yesiva*, "to sit."

The paper presents 203 equivalences between the two language families. Material still being analyzed contains more than 200 additional Hebrew roots with apparent reflexes in the Uto-Aztecan family. This quantity of potentially significant correspondences raises the prospect of identifying some historical connections between the Near East and Mesoamerica.

Stubbs does not conclude that Uto-Aztecan descended from Hebrew alone. Rather he suggests that the Uto-Aztecan language family may have evolved by a process called creolization, the formation of a new language from the mixing of two or more active ones. Those interested in technical linguistic research will find this paper stimulating and informative.

## 1988 CONTRIBUTIONS NOW PAYABLE

In 1988, as in the past, all who donate \$10.00 or more (\$5.00 for low-income families and students) will receive the Foundation's quarterly newsletter *Insights*. If you want to keep your name on the mailing list, now is a good time to make your tax-deductible contribution. To indicate your renewal, complete the attached order form and send it with your contribution to the F.A.R.M.S. office.

## SPOTLIGHT ON JANET TWIGG

The Foundation is pleased to recognize our devoted employees and volunteers. At this time, congratulations are in order for our office manager, Janet Twigg.

Janet, a California native and a returned missionary from Quebec, has attended school and worked in Utah for several years. With a bachelor's degree in microbiology from BYU, she worked as a microbiologist for a period of time in Salt Lake City. She then studied accounting at the Utah Technical College. With her newly-obtained skills, she answered an ad for a bookkeeper posted on a bulletin board in 1981 at the J. Reuben Clark Law School. That was her first encounter with F.A.R.M.S. She became our first employee and ever since has been a great asset to the Foundation.



Janet claims that her interest in Greek was more influential in landing her the bookkeeping job with F.A.R.M.S. than were her accounting skills. After joining the staff, she began studying Greek, primarily to study the New Testament, and "fell passionately in love with it." Her interests developed into a master's degree in Greek, which she was just awarded at BYU in December, 1987. Her thesis analyzes three of Euripides' plays, *Hekabe*, *Orestes*, and the *Troades*, in the context of 5th century B.C. Athenian law and legal procedures. Janet believes our neglect of taking a historical approach to literature has limited the modern understanding of many Greek plays. For example, the *Hekabe* has been interpreted according to later concepts of justice, rather than to the ideas belonging to the time when the plays were written.

Janet is one of the few full-time employees at F.A.R.M.S. She says witnessing the growth of the program has been a rewarding experience. When she joined the staff in 1981, only a dozen articles were offered. Now there are over 300. Although the Foundation has made great strides, she believes "we still need to reach more

people—let them know we are here and what we are doing."

## PARALLELISM IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

Parallelism is a fundamental feature of biblical Hebrew composition, appearing in many different varieties and contexts. Don Parry has recently completed an impressive research effort, identifying and classifying many poetic parallel passages in the Book of Mormon.

In 1824, Philip Sarchi wrote an *Essay on Hebrew Poetry* in which he described the poetry of the Bible as "superior to all others.... As it has no model," he asserted, "so it will find no successful imitators."

In view of a major research effort now reported as a F.A.R.M.S. Working Paper, Sarchi's words boost our appreciation of literary style in the Book of Mormon. Don Parry, currently a graduate student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has finished the first stage of a project funded by the Foundation to study parallelisms in the Book of Mormon.

Hebrew poetry can be subtle and distinctive. Imitating it is not an easy task. Parry reports, however, that the Book of Mormon contains a full array of poetic parallelisms that are "in all respects equal in value and style to biblical poetic verse."

Parry utilizes the tools and classifications developed by Greek rhetoricians and by such contemporary scholars as Adele Berlin, Robert Alter, Wilfred Watson, and David Noel Freedman. He demonstrates elegant examples of *antimetabole*, simple alternates, word pairs, repeated alternates, extended alternates, simple and extended synthetic parallelisms, climactic, antithetical, and staircase structures, *synonymia*, *polyptoton*, and many other forms of repetition.

A masterful 8-part parallelism, for example, is found in Alma 34:18-25. Its strophes manifest the characteristics of *cycloides* ("regular repetition") and *prosapodos* ("detailing"). Lines 1-2 and 5-6 begin with "yea" and deal with salvation, while lines 3-4 and 7-8 begin with "cry" and pertain to flock and fields. The composition is also punctuated at the center with the phrase "both morning, mid-day, and evening."

Parry's lengthy report has been divided into three parts: a 50-page explanatory essay, an 87-page listing of parallelisms in the order they appear in the text, and an 88-page listing of the same parallelisms by classification. Each part may be ordered separately on the attached order form.

**BOOK OF MORMON STUDY EDITION OFFERED**

Dr. Eldin Ricks, former chairman of the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU, has produced a study edition of the Book of Mormon. His *Book of Mormon: Wide Margin Edition* divides the text into 29 loose-leaf bound booklets. Each booklet is portable and encourages notetaking and careful study. The text appears on the left column of each page, with a 3.5-inch blank, lined right margin for notes and references. Large type makes for easy reading. Its high grade paper is bleed-resistant. Thanks to Dr. Ricks, we can offer this 836-page tool for just \$19.95.

**VIDEO COST REDUCED**

A sharp price cut from the supplier now allows us to drop our price on two videos on one VHS cassette. Also, an annotated and footnoted transcript of one of the videos, "Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon," has just been prepared. John W. Welch's 45-minute lecture discusses the discovery and presence of chiasmus in both the Bible and the Book of Mormon and addresses questions about our understanding of this literary form that was used often, but not exclusively, by classic Hebrew prophets near Lehi's time. A transcript of the other video, "Lands of the Book of Mormon," is also available.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF APOCRYPHA AND PSEUDEPIGRAPHA RELEASED**

Robert Cloward has completed a definitive bibliography of the text editions and English translations of the Apocrypha, the Pseudepigrapha, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. This exhaustive and scholarly tool shows virtually every place each has ever been published, in any ancient language, as far as can be determined. It also identifies works that have appeared under multiple titles.

This significant research tool is among the growing number of major bibliographies produced and offered by F.A.R.M.S.

Catalog Number	New Titles	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
CHI-V	"Chiasmus in the Book of Mormon," a 45-minute lecture discussing the discovery and appearance of chiasmus in the Book of Mormon. This VHS tape also includes "The Lands of the Book of Mormon." New reduced price!		\$19.95	
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CLO-88	Cloward, Robert A., "The Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha and Dead Sea Scrolls: A Selected Bibliography of the Text Editions and English Translations," 25 pp.		\$3.25	
N-5	Nibley, Hugh W., <i>Lehi in the Desert, The World of the Jaredites, and There Were Jaredites</i> (Salt Lake City: Deseret and F.A.R.M.S., 1988), 470 pp. (volume 5 in the Collected Works of Hugh Nibley)		\$15.95	
N-5*	Five or more copies of N-5 at \$14.00 each.		\$14.00	
PAR-88a	Parry, Donald W., "Poetic Parallelisms of the Book of Mormon," 50 pp.		\$2.50	
PAR-88b	Parry, Donald W., "Parallelisms Listed in Textual Sequence," 87 pp.		\$4.50	
PAR-88c	Parry, Donald W., "Parallelisms According to Classification," 88 pp.		\$4.50	
RCK-88	Ricks, Eldin, <i>The Book of Mormon: Wide Margin Edition</i> (Provo: Ricks, 1987), 836 pages in 29 booklets with binder for study aid.		\$19.95	
STF-85*	"The Best of the F.A.R.M.S. Newsletter, 1981-85," 38 pp.		\$2.00	
STF-87	"The Best of the F.A.R.M.S. Newsletter, 1986-87," 16 pp.		\$1.00	
STU-88	Stubbs, Brian, "Elements of Hebrew in Uto-Aztecan: A Summary of the Data," 26 pp.		\$1.50	

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## CHIASMUS IN MESO-AMERICAN TEXTS

The growing literature on chiasmus generally deals with its use in the Near East and Mediterranean areas. Some Book of Mormon students have wondered if the same form might appear in the New World, but until now the labor required to even begin answering that question had not been done.

Allen J. Christenson has completed a long paper in this regard, investigating 37 native Mayan texts. After reading the manuscript, renowned expert Munro Edmonson said, "It is rare to encounter this kind of dedication and clarity in academic work."

While large numbers of hieroglyphic codices were destroyed by Spanish invaders, some Indians quickly learned Spanish characters and used them to record part of what had been in those books. The most famous of these is the Popol Vuh. Christenson displays over 50 possible chiasms in 16 of these records.

Two-, three-, and four-line chiasms are numerous in these texts, but longer, complex ones also appear to exist. For instance, he finds that the first section of the Popol Vuh, about the creation of the world, is arranged as a chiasm. Each creative phase is detailed from primordial darkness to the formation of the mountains. The final portion of the section then recapitulates the main events in reverse order. Many colonial native texts did not use chiasmus. Those that did use this form seem dependent on earlier texts.

Certainly the implications of this work remain open. Simple isolated chiasms, of course, may be found in any literature by chance or by common human traits. The longer and clearer these patterns become, the more one may justify looking for other explanations. Any assessment of such data, however, requires great care and deliberation.

While Christenson's research has been submitted to professional journals for possible publication, a working set of his findings is now available for review.

## THE BEST OF THE NEWSLETTER—SEVEN YEARS IN RETROSPECT

The most informative articles that have appeared in the F.A.R.M.S. Newsletters during the past seven years have been organized into two convenient reports. They include concise summaries of each new report, update, publication, or project sponsored by the Foundation.

The first report assembles items from the Newsletters 1986-87. Many new subscribers, who may have just recently become acquainted with F.A.R.M.S., will enjoy catching up on past developments by reading this collection of recent articles. Others who have been on the F.A.R.M.S. mailing list all along will find it a handy compilation. For those who may want to look back even further, "The Best of the Newsletter, 1981-85" is also available, now in a new and improved layout. The F.A.R.M.S. Newsletter is pleased to have served you for seven years now and welcomes your suggestions for the future.

## 1988 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IN PROCESS

Do your friends and yourself a favor! Now is a good time to send in names and addresses for the F.A.R.M.S. mailing list. We will send an "Introductory Packet" to each person you refer to us. This material explains F.A.R.M.S. to your friends and extends an invitation to receive the Newsletter. Be sure the addresses are current and include the zip code. If you are moving, be sure to send us your change of address.

You may use my name in contacting these people.

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