



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<https://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

Type: Newsletter

Insights, Vol. 19, No. 9 (September 1999)

Editor(s): FARMS Staff

Published by: Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies



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.



The Newsletter of
the Foundation for
Ancient Research
and Mormon Studies

INSIGHTS

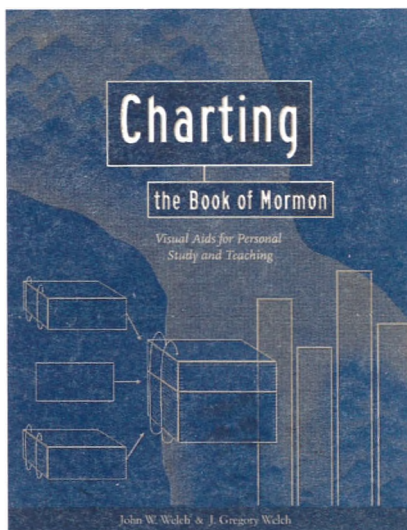
A WINDOW ON THE ANCIENT WORLD

September 1999

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

New Book of Visual Aids Facilitates Book of Mormon Study, Teaching

Students and teachers of the Book of Mormon will find a new FARMS book by John W. and J. Gregory Welch to be a valuable resource. *Charting the Book of Mormon: Visual Aids for Personal Study and Teaching* is a collection of more than 175 visual aids that promote deeper understanding and appreciation of the Book of Mormon. Designed for multiple use as study guides, handouts, and masters for creating projectable images, the charts convey a wealth of information that will



enrich personal study and teaching.

Which ancient records did Nephi's small and large plates comprise? A flowchart illustrating the evolution of the plates of Mormon provides the answer. How might we better grasp Jacob's allegory of the olive tree? A diagram clarifies the symbolism of the tame and wild olive trees and the grafted branches. What was the origin of King Mosiah's monetary system? A chart of Egyptian hieroglyphs provides a striking clue.

continued on page 5

FARMS Annual Banquet Will Celebrate 20th Anniversary

FARMS will commemorate its milestone 20th anniversary at this year's annual banquet. Truman G. Madsen, professor emeritus of philosophy, will be the featured speaker, and he will be accompanied by his wife, Ann. The banquet is scheduled for 5 November 1999 in room 3220 of the Wilkinson Student Center at Brigham Young University. A reception will begin at 6:30 P.M., followed by a dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Following Professor Madsen's remarks and some select musical numbers, FARMS will honor a number of people who have contributed to the success and development of the Foundation since its establishment 20 years ago. Since 1979 FARMS has grown remarkably with the help and generosity of

volunteers and subscribers. This banquet gives FARMS volunteers, staff, and friends the chance to meet and discuss current projects, activities of the past year, and plans for the future.

If you wish to attend the banquet, please purchase tickets in advance (use the order form or call the FARMS office) so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Free parking for the banquet is available in the lot east of the Wilkinson Student Center.

The officers and staff of the Foundation look forward to this opportunity to meet or become better acquainted with many of the people who support the work of FARMS.



The Foundation for
Ancient Research
and Mormon Studies

FARMS UPDATE

A Report on Research in Progress

Number 129

MSI Technology Reveals Provenance of Rare Brigham Young Portrait

An important research technology, whose application to ancient research FARMS has helped pioneer, has recently been applied successfully in the field of Mormon studies.

For nearly four years Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, professor of church history and doctrine at BYU, has been collecting all the known images of Brigham Young



Fig. 1. President Brigham Young ca. 1869. Photo by C. R. Savage, courtesy Lurene Gates Wilkinson.

in an effort to assemble a complete photographic record of him. In the 1840s and 1850s Brigham Young was among the first generation of Americans to have their likenesses preserved by the newly introduced daguerreotype process. As improvements in photography par-

alleled the increasing visibility of his life, he sat for numerous photographs in the 1860s and 1870s.

However, virtually all publications reproducing visual images of this Mormon leader contain errors in dating photographs and identifying the photographers. While many historians have not applied the same careful research standards to a 19th-century

photograph as they would to a diary or letter from that period, many scholars now suggest that properly documenting photographs, like other primary sources, is no longer merely a helpful service to the reader but an essential part of historical research, writing, and publication.

Before her death in 1933, Susa Young Gates, a daughter of Brigham Young, assembled an important collection of photographs of her father. Like many such collections, it was later divided up among family members and is now scattered. Gates often provided useful information

about the photographs in her notations on them. A splendid example of this follows.

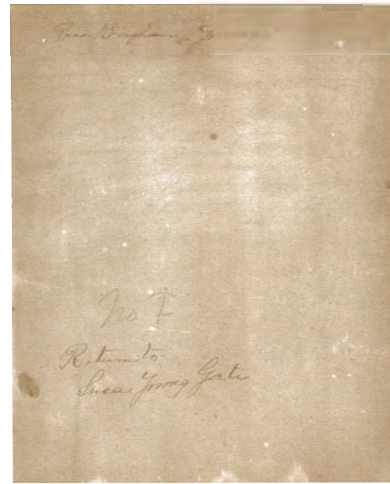


Fig. 2. Reverse side of photo before application of multispectral imaging.

One of Gates's descendants, Lurene Gates Wilkinson, owns a beautifully framed oval portrait of Brigham Young. This portrait is an unusual view of him, one quite rare and not reproduced in LDS publications (see fig. 1).

When the 8-by-10-inch portrait was removed from the frame, it was clear that it had once belonged to Gates, apparently as part of the collection she had assembled many years ago. She had written in cursive on the back of the photograph at the top "Pres. Brigham Young—" and on the bottom half "No I [No. 1] Return to Susa Young Gates." Between those two notations something else had been written in pencil, but the text had been thoroughly erased and could not be read (see fig. 2).

Attempts to recover the faded writing failed until Steven W.

continued on page 3

MSI Technology (continued from page 2)

Booras of the FARMS Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (CPART) applied multispectral imaging (MSI) to the task. Using a computer-controlled digital camera with a tunable filter, he was able to capture the otherwise invisible text (see fig. 3), which reads: "Picture of Brigham Young which hung in the old Historian Office for many years. Given to Susa Young Gates by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith & Pres. Lund when the Church Office was built in 1911, and the Historians Office was opened in that building— My favorite picture— Would like 5 or 6 copies[.]"

Now we know the provenance of the photograph and also have an assessment of its value by one of Brigham Young's daughters. Born in 1856, Susa

Young Gates was well acquainted with her father. Her statement on the back of the photograph

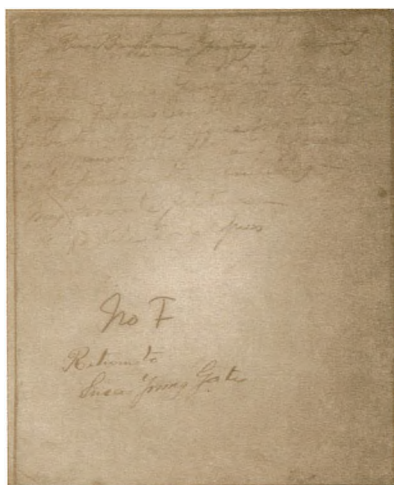


Fig. 3. Previously invisible text revealed by multispectral imaging.

indicates that of all the images of her father she collected, this one was her favorite. This kind of information is of great interest to

historians and biographers, who use such clues in their research and writing to construct a clearer window on past events and personalities.

FARMS continues to apply multispectral imaging to ancient research (e.g., the Herculaneum project that will soon be in full operation—see the February 1999 issue of *INSIGHTS*). But CPART's recent use of MSI technology to assist with Holzapfel's photographic project points toward the potential that multispectral imaging has for unlocking the doors not only to old photographs but also to other 19th-century documents, such as diaries and letters, that at this time are unreadable.

Based on research by Richard Neitzel Holzapfel

Membership notes

Is FARMS a Commercial Entity?

Just over two years ago, FARMS began publishing books on its own rather than in partnership with other publishers. In part that decision was made in order to give FARMS more editorial control over its publications. We also wanted to try to reach a broader audience by marketing our books ourselves, in the hopes that focusing solely on distributing our own books might be a more effective way to reach more people than getting lost in the larger marketing efforts of a larger company (the jury is still out on that issue).

Naturally, these publishing and marketing efforts may make FARMS seem commercial, especially as we jockey with sophisticated book sellers to attract the attention of buyers. But at heart FARMS has not changed at all. Our goals and intentions remain the same. We are still a nonprofit educational and religious foundation whose main goals are to foster faithful research on ancient scripture and to share the results of that research with the world as widely and economically as possible. Attractive book covers and color catalogs do not change

those purposes. FARMS is not a commercial publisher; it does not accept manuscripts outside its focus on the scriptures. Any revenues from the sale of our publications are used to support further research and additional publications—but in truth, few FARMS publications cover all of their costs (developmental, editorial, production, etc.) and the educational work of FARMS depends heavily on support from the donations and membership fees of faithful friends like you.

Apocryphal Evidence for the 40-Day Mission of Christ

In his book *Mormonism and Early Christianity*, Hugh W. Nibley discusses how the early apocryphal texts contain an impressive body of evidence that has direct bearing on questions concerning the historicity of the 40-day ministry of Jesus Christ (see Acts 1:3).

According to Nibley, the theme of the 40 days has always been a disturbing one. For many scholars the possibility of such an event is not even to be discussed; for others such things are tolerable only as myths, while some are frank enough to admit that they simply don't like the story. It is astonishing how many writers on the resurrection pass by the 40-day interval in studied silence, Nibley notes, and indeed churchmen since Clement and Origen have employed all the arts of rhetoric and logic to evade its crass literalism. Even those who accept the reality of the 40-day ministry are at a loss to explain it. In short, if anything like "The Great Forty Days" occurred, the enormous portent of it, which Luke puts at the very root of the Christian faith, quite escapes the commentators, who admit that in the end we do *not* know what Christ did or said during the 40 days but can only conjecture.

Is it not remarkable that *nothing* has come down to us from that wonderful time when the church is supposed to have received all its knowledge and training? Why have we only the opening words of the Lord's discourse, declaring how badly the disciples needed the instruction that followed (see Luke 24:25-27), of which nothing is preserved in the canon? Those early apocryphal writings that purport to tell the rest of the story may not be ignored by the serious student.

It is significant that the favorite theme of the early apocrypha happens to be the teachings of the Lord to the apostles after the resurrection. If we examine the actual teachings purveyed under the frank of the 40 days, it soon becomes apparent that they were never designed to be popular, but represent old and very unpopular doctrines in retreat.

The most conspicuous teaching of all in the 40-day repertoire is a picture of the future that cannot be surpassed for unrelieved pessimism and gloom. In a standard 40-day situation, the apostles, deeply worried, ask the Lord what lies ahead for them in

their work and receive an appalling reply: They are to be rejected by all men and take their violent exit from the world, corrupters and false shepherds will appear within the church, and a growing faction of the worldly minded will soon overcome and annihilate what remains of the faithful saints. The long age of darkness begins, disastrously usurping the authority of Christ.

All the 40-day teaching is described as very secret. There is the clearly stated policy that knowledge should be given always but only to those who ask for it, with the corollary that the higher and holier a teaching the more carefully it should be guarded. As "the last and highest revelation," the teaching of the 40 days was top secret and has not come down to us. Christian scholars concede that the apostles had information that we do not have, allow the existence of an unwritten apostolic tradition in the church, and grant that there was a policy of secrecy in the early church. Plainly things *have* been lost.

Nibley points out that the apocryphal teachings of the 40 days taken together constitute an imposing doctrinal edifice. It begins with the most natural question to ask anyone returning to earth after being away: Where did you go and what did you see? The Lord goes as a missionary and reports what he has done. The central theme is the Descensus, a mission to the spirits below closely resembling the Lord's earthly calling. He brings the *kerygma* to all, and those who accept it follow him out of the depths into the light, receive baptism, and hence mount up by degrees to realms of glory. What gives substance to this peculiar doctrinal structure is the imposing body of rites and ordinances that goes along with it. Ritual and doctrinal elements are inextricably interwoven in a complex in which everything is oddly literal and fits solidly together: The *kerygma*, whether above or below, is real and must have a "seal," which is baptism, though the word is also used to designate rites of washing and anointing that go with it; after such rites the initiate receives a symbolic but real and tangible garment and then sits down to a sacral meal. These rites all look to the temple and belong to the instructions of the 40 days.

40-Day Mission of Christ (continued from page 4)

In the early apocryphal writings is evidence for the reality of the post-resurrectional activity of Jesus. By uniformly supporting the clear and unequivocal language of Acts 1:3, and by making the 40-day teaching their principal concern, these writers serve notice that this subsequently despised and neglected theme had top priority among the early Christians. Their writings convey to us a consistent and closely knit body of doctrine, accompanied by an equally organic structure of rites and ordinances—not a farrago of odds and ends in the Gnostic manner. The Gnostic phenomenon itself attests the universal awareness that such a teaching

had formerly existed and been lost to the main church. The apocryphal writings themselves fully explain that loss in terms of both secrecy and apostasy, while the great impact of the 40-day image on popular Christianity is clearly reflected in popular legends and cults. The 40-day episode is indeed unique. If it never took place, what was it that produced the singular phenomena that have been attributed to it?—Adapted from Hugh Nibley, "Evangelium Quadraginta Dierum: The Forty-Day Mission of Christ—The Forgotten Heritage," in *Mormonism and Early Christianity* (1987).

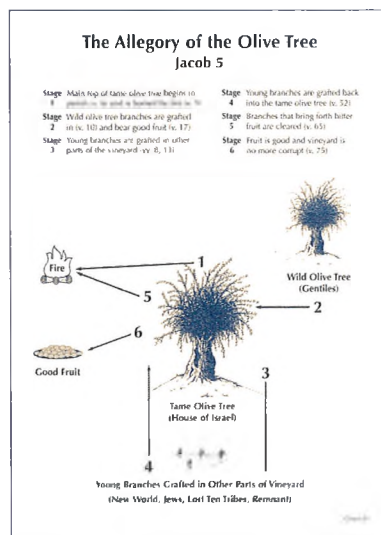
New Book of Visual Aids (continued from page 1)

Arranged in 14 sections, these charts consist of tables, diagrams, chronologies, flowcharts, bar graphs, pie charts, maps, and other effective schematics that represent Book of Mormon data in new and thought-provoking ways. General topics range from the history, doctrine, structure, and chronology of the Book of Mormon to its literary, cultural, and geographical features. Many charts highlight evidences for the authenticity of the record. Each chart is explained in a manner that will facilitate individual study as well as guide a person in what might be said in displaying the chart for group instruction or discussion.

The idea for the book was conceived a decade ago while John Welch was responsible for gathering or creating the 500 maps, charts, and photographs needed for Macmillan's *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. "Several personal experiences in working with people in collecting and selecting those graphic images and, similarly, in using such visuals in illustrating many subsequent publications and lectures have convinced me of the value of charts in communicating important gospel information," Welch writes in his preface to *Charting the Book of Mormon*.

In 1996 Welch focused his research on Book of Mormon visuals and, with the help of a student intern, Morgan A. Ashton, located as many previously circulated Book of Mormon visual aids as possible. Some of these were improved, and many new ones were created. All of these charts were later reformatted and refined on the computer by Welch's son Gregory. In 1997 FARMS distributed a preliminary packet of about half of those charts. Now that first, loose-leaf collection has been further improved and expanded into a soft-bound book of 177 charts (more than double the number of charts in the first collection). Moreover, to enhance their usefulness, a brief narrative explanation has been added to accompany each chart. These explanations quickly orient the viewer to the contents and purposes of the charts.

Charting the Book of Mormon is the most complete collection of its kind to date. It will appeal to students and teachers alike, but especially to those who wish to become more fully acquainted with the stunning complexity and consistency of Mormon's inexhaustible record. It can be purchased using the enclosed order form.



Sample chart on the allegory of the olive tree in Jacob 5.

Upcoming events

When FARMS presented the Book of Abraham lecture series in March and April of this year, we were overwhelmed at the support it received. Due to popular demand, the series will be repeated in Salt Lake City this fall. The first four lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. at the LDS institute of religion at the University of Utah (1800 E. South Campus Dr.; parking is available in the lot directly east of the institute building). The schedule is as follows:

- **29 September**, John Gee, assistant research professor at FARMS, will discuss "A History of the Joseph Smith Papyri and Book of Abraham." This lecture covers most issues about the Book of Abraham papyri raised by critics.
- **6 October**, John Tvedtnes, assistant director of research at FARMS, will discuss "Abrahamic Lore in Support of the Book of Abraham."
- **13 October**, John Gee will discuss "The Original Owners of the Joseph Smith Papyri."
- **20 October**, Michael Lyon, independent illustrator and researcher, will discuss "Appreciating Hypocephali as Works of Art and Faith."
- **28 October**, Hugh W. Nibley, "Abraham's Creation Drama." This final lecture will be held in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square at 7:00 P.M.

16 October, "The Book of Abraham: Astronomy, Papyrus, and Covenant," a scholarly conference featuring papers on astronomy in the Book of Abraham, the Abrahamic covenant, and other related topics that will appear in an upcoming publication on the Book of Abraham. The conference is sponsored by FARMS and will be held from 9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M. in room 151 of the Tanner Building on the BYU campus. Admission is free and the general public is welcome, but not all papers will cater to a general audience.

5 November, FARMS 20th Anniversary Banquet, Wilkinson Student Center, BYU. Tickets are required (see the story on page 1 for details).

6 November, "We Follow the Admonition of Paul: Paul and the Latter-day Saints," a symposium at BYU featuring lectures by James E. Faulconer and John W. Welch and four respondents yet to be determined. Faulconer, professor of philosophy and dean of general education and honors at BYU, will present material from his forthcoming book, *Romans 1: Notes and Reflections*. Welch, who is Robert K. Thomas Professor of Law at BYU and editor in chief of *BYU Studies*, will base his lecture on his new book, *An Epistle from the New Testament Apostles* (see the order form). He will also narrate a detailed slide presentation of sites visited by the apostle Paul during his various missionary journeys. Watch for details in next month's newsletter.

INSIGHTS

A WINDOW ON THE ANCIENT WORLD

Published by the
**Foundation for
 Ancient Research
 and Mormon Studies**
 P.O. Box 7113, University Station
 Provo, Utah 84602
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The Purpose of FARMS

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) encourages and supports research about the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ and other ancient scriptures. It also works to preserve ancient religious documents.

FARMS is a nonprofit educational foundation affiliated with Brigham Young University. Its main research interests include ancient history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to the scriptures. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of the scriptures, solid research and academic perspectives alone can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about the scriptures.

The Foundation works to make interim and final reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. These publications are peer reviewed to ensure scholarly standards are met. The proceeds from the sale of these publications, including most royalties, are used to support further research and publications on the scriptures. As a service to teachers and students of the scriptures, research results are distributed in both scholarly and popular formats.

It is hoped that this information will help all interested people to "come unto Christ" (Jacob 1:7) and to understand and take more seriously these ancient witnesses of the atonement of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.



FARMS Order Form

1-800-FARMS-15 (1-800-327-6715)

Insights

Items in the December Newsletter

		Qty	Unit Price	Total Price
P&R-99	Donald W. Parry and Stephen D. Ricks, eds., <i>The Temple in Time and Eternity</i> , 1999, 384 pp., hardbound. Retail \$24.95		\$20.00	
R-99b	Daniel C. Peterson, ed., <i>FARMS Review of Books</i> , 11/2, 1999, 348 pp., softbound. Retail \$8.95		\$8.95	
WEL-99a	John W. Welch, <i>An Epistle from the New Testament Apostles</i> , 1999, 223 pp., hardbound, Bookcraft. Retail \$19.95		\$16.00	
FAU-99a	James E. Faulconer, <i>Romans I: Notes and Reflections</i> , 1999, 144 pp., softbound, FARMS. Retail \$14.95		\$12.00	
Holiday Gift Books				
W&R-98	John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks, eds., <i>King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom,"</i> 1998, 679 pp., hardbound. Retail \$24.95		\$20.00	
BEN-99p	John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks, eds., <i>King Benjamin's Speech Made Simple</i> , 1999, 313 pp., softbound. Retail \$12.95		\$10.50	
W&W-99	John W. Welch and J. Gregory Welch, <i>Charting the Book of Mormon: Visual Aids for Personal Study and Teaching</i> , 1999, 403 pp., softbound. Retail \$14.95		\$12.00	
SOR-98	John L. Sorenson, <i>Images of Ancient America: Visualizing Book of Mormon Life</i> , 1998, 249 pp., hardbound, large format, fully illustrated, full color. Retail \$39.95		\$32.00	
PIN-99	Hugh W. Pinnock, <i>Finding Biblical Hebrew and Other Ancient Literary Forms in the Book of Mormon</i> , 1999, 201 pp., hardbound. Retail \$19.95		\$16.00	
W&T-99	John W. Welch and Melvin J. Thorne, eds., <i>Pressing Forward with the Book of Mormon</i> , 1999, 347 pp., softbound. Retail \$14.95		\$12.00	
P&W-98	Donald W. Parry and John W. Welch, eds., <i>Isaiah in the Book of Mormon</i> , 1998, 558 pp., hardbound. Retail \$24.95		\$20.00	
WEL-99	John W. Welch, <i>Illuminating the Sermon at the Temple and Sermon on the Mount: An Approach to 3 Nephi 11-18 and Matthew 5-7</i> , 1999, 295 pp., softbound. Retail \$12.95		\$10.50	
FAU-99	James E. Faulconer, <i>Scripture Study: Tools and Suggestions</i> , 1999, 163 pp., softbound. Retail \$9.95		\$8.00	
REY-97b	Noel B. Reynolds, ed., <i>Book of Mormon Authorship Revisited: The Evidence for Ancient Origins</i> , 1997, 576 pp., hardbound. Retail \$19.95		\$16.00	
New Audiobook Release				
F-A2	<i>Pressing Forward with the Book of Mormon</i> , John W. Welch and Melvin J. Thorne, eds., 1999, 4 tape set, 240 min., vinyl case. Retail \$14.95		\$12.00	
New Videotape Release				
PET-V1	<i>Evidences of the Book of Mormon</i> , Daniel C. Peterson, 1999, 1 videotape, 60 min., vinyl case. Retail \$7.95		\$7.95	
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