



# Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

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## New Issue of Studies in the Bible and Antiquity

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## New Issue of *Studies in the Bible and Antiquity*

Articles in the latest issue of *Studies in the Bible and Antiquity* range from the study of ancient Mesopotamian art to a contemporary meditation on one of Jesus's most famous parables.

The lead article by Jeffrey M. Bradshaw and Ronan James Head examines the famous Mari Investiture Panel (c. 1800 BC), which “depicts the endowment of the king of Mari with the divine right to rule.” Their comparative study of similar ancient Near Eastern rites provides “a plausible interpretation of the panel and also a link with the religious practices of the Israelites with which Latter-day Saints are familiar and with which they feel a ritual kinship.” A second study of investiture motifs is then offered by Daniel Belnap, who finds in the Garden of Eden, the tabernacle of Exodus, and teachings

concerning Christ, clothing and investiture symbolism that informs our understanding of the story of Tabitha (Acts 9).

A third article, by Thomas A. Wayment and John Gee, is a pro/con debate concerning a contested point of New Testament scholarship: Is the apostle Paul addressing his wife in Philipians 4:3? The issue concludes with a close reading and commentary on the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) by Robert L. Millet, who finds it to be “a distillation of the Plan of Salvation, a message within the Message, the gospel within the Gospel.”

*Studies in the Bible and Antiquity* is available by subscription or free of charge online at <http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu/publications/studies>.

## Swensen Mentorships Awarded

The Russel B. Swensen Endowed Mentorship Fund was established by a generous gift from Elder Robert C. Gay to honor the BYU professor who was much beloved by Elder Gay's father, William (Bill) Gay. The Swensen mentorships give students the opportunity to work with faculty at the Maxwell Institute in a mentored research environment. This year, Aubrey Brower and Emily Bateman were awarded mentorships to work on research projects with Kristian S. Heal, PhD, director of the Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts.

Brower is working with Heal on the reception of Genesis in the Armenian tradition as part of Heal's larger project of studying Genesis in the broader context of scripture and ancient tradition. Heal and Brower are also preparing an annotated bibliography of the abundant Armenian sources on Genesis, which will be available on the project's website in spring 2013. Brower is also researching descriptions of Adam, Eve, and the Fall in Armenian sources with the goal of writing a publishable paper. Brower, who is from Maryland, is a senior majoring in Ancient

Near Eastern Studies at BYU. She served in the Armenia Yerevan Mission and plans to pursue graduate work in museum studies.

Bateman is working with Heal on the history of Birmingham University's Mingana Syriac collection—the last great Syriac manuscript collection physically assembled in Europe and North America—to prepare an annotated transcription of related correspondence. The project explores the social and intellectual networks that facilitated the growth of Syriac studies in the United Kingdom and North America in the early twentieth century. Bateman and Heal are producing a full transcription of the correspondence and a glossary with biographical, geographical, and historical information. Ultimately, Heal plans to publish a book on the history of the Mingana Syriac collection and also create a website that includes all of the relevant historical data. Hailing from Tacoma, Washington, Bateman is a senior majoring in music performance at BYU. She served in the Utah Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission and plans to attend graduate school in the near future.