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New BYU Booth Debuts at AAR/SBL Conference

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in the Bible (such as *resurrection* and *presence* appearing together). This exploration helps answer these questions: Who uses the word *resurrection* in the Book of Mormon? How is it used? and How is it used differently in the King James Bible?

Andrew C. Smith suggests in “Deflected Agreement in the Book of Mormon” that certain ungrammatical English constructions that occurred in the dictation of the Book of Mormon may have been precipitated by the language on the plates rather than ascribed wholesale to any non-standard English of Joseph Smith’s day. Deflected agreement is a grammatical phenomenon found in Semitic languages—it is ubiquitous in Arabic and found occasionally in biblical Hebrew. Deflected agreement is a plausible explanation for some grammatical incongruities in the original and printer’s manuscripts and printed editions of the Book of Mormon in the grammatical areas of verbal, pronominal, and demonstrative agreement. This finding gives greater credence to the plausibility of the antiquity and historicity of the Book of Mormon.

In 1892, when John Gilbert—the compositor (or typesetter) for the 1830 edition of the Book of Mormon—was 90 years old, he talked about the process of setting the type for the book at the Grandin Print Shop. Gilbert makes claims about

the number of manuscript pages, the number of copies and the price, the number of ems (a measure of type width) per printed page, a comparison of manuscript versus printed pages, a description of the font, the process of receiving the pages to be typeset, proofreading the title page, the decision not to correct grammatical errors, scribes for the printer’s manuscript, paragraphing and punctuation, capitalization in the manuscript, Gilbert’s taking work home to punctuate, and details about the signatures. Royal Skousen* explores Gilbert’s claims to see how his account matches up with the accounts of others or even with the extant physical evidence. In every aspect, Gilbert’s recollections are either precisely correct or easily explained.

In this issue of the *Journal* we are proud to present two original pieces of art by young LDS artist Annie Henrie: *Abriding the Plates* (pp. 14–15) and *Resurrection Dawn* (p. 34).

Back issues of the *Journal* can be found free of charge online at <http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu/publications/jbms>.

* The original version of Skousen’s article was published in *The Disciple as Witness: Essays on Latter-day Saint History and Doctrine in Honor of Richard Lloyd Anderson*, ed. Stephen D. Ricks, Donald W. Parry, and Andrew H. Hedges (Provo, UT: FARMS, 2000), 383–405.

New BYU Booth Debuts at AAR/SBL Conference



In November, the Maxwell Institute teamed up with BYU Studies and the Religious Studies Center to launch a new booth at the American Academy of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature annual meeting. The booth was designed by students and faculty at the BYU Adlab.