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Two New Volumes Added to Book of Abraham Series

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INSIGHTS

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

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On-Demand Printing

The Maxwell Institute makes every effort to keep most of the books we produce and publish, either on our own or with others, in print. At the same time, we face increasing costs to do this. Many of our recent books (and all of our periodicals) are available digitally, and we are working to ensure that our past titles will be available both digitally and in print. In the future our publications, including our periodicals, will come out in both formats.

We are committed to keeping all of our books and periodicals available in print and at the lowest possible price. We can do the latter, in large part, because of the generous contributions we receive from a number of our subscribers and supporters. Still, we face increasing costs. Consequently, in the future we will continue to print a modest number of every new title and offer them for sale through the normal channels, but once our inventory of

this initial print run is depleted, we will no longer reprint titles.

Instead, we have instituted a system whereby all of our out-of-print books and periodicals will be available via print on demand. These titles will be similar to the original printed versions, but the unit price will be higher. As always, we will make every effort to keep these prices as low as possible.

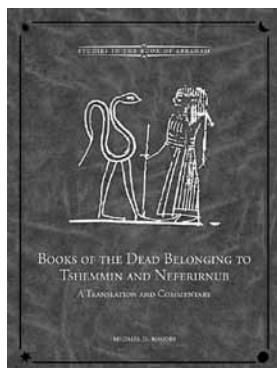
Watch for further details on this (and related developments in digital printing) in subsequent issues of *Insights* and on our website, maxwellinstitute.byu.edu.

Also, please let me take this opportunity to thank you again for your support over the years. Many of you have subscribed to one or more of our periodicals for more than 25 years, and we very much appreciate it. ♦

M. Gerald Bradford
Executive Director

Two New Volumes Added to Book of Abraham Series

Two new volumes in the Studies in the Book of Abraham series emphasize the Maxwell Institute’s continued interest in advancing research on the Book of Abraham and will offer scholars and others useful tools for their study.



Books of the Dead Belonging to Tshemmin and Neferirnub: A Translation and Commentary

Volume 4 of the series is the second of two volumes that deal with the surviving Joseph Smith Papyri fragments. The subject of the first volume was *The Hor Book of Breathings*. This second volume deals with the

remaining fragments that consist of Books of the Dead belonging to two women—Tshemmin and Neferirnub.

Books of the Dead contains a detailed description of the papyri as well as a transcription, translation, and commentary of all the surviving text. The appendixes include color plates with hieroglyphic transcriptions of the hieratic text, a glossary of gods, place-names, and a complete glossary of all Egyptian words found in the surviving text.

The editor of this volume, Michael D. Rhodes, is an associate research professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture at Brigham Young University. He is coauthor of *One Eternal Round*, the last volume in the Collected Works of Hugh Nibley series.

A Textual History of the Book of Abraham: Manuscripts and Editions

In July 1835 at Kirtland, Ohio, a traveling antiquities dealer brought four Egyptian mummies and several rolls of papyri to Joseph Smith. Upon

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inspection, the Prophet pronounced that one of the rolls contained a lost record of the patriarch Abraham. After purchasing these artifacts for \$2,400, he translated the papyrus and published five chapters entitled “The Book of Abraham” in March 1842 in the *Times and Seasons*. These chapters are now canonized scripture found in the Pearl of Great Price.



This volume includes a brief introduction to the Book of Abraham and a detailed record of textual variants from the time it first appeared in the *Times*

and *Seasons* until its latest edition (1981). In addition, it produces for the first time typographic transcriptions with facing grayscale images of the surviving handwritten manuscripts of the Book of Abraham. Several appendixes offer additional helpful resources such as contemporary accounts related to the translation of the Book of Abraham and a full set of high-resolution color images of the surviving Abraham manuscripts.

Brian M. Hauglid is editor of this volume. He is associate professor of ancient scripture at BYU and coeditor for the Studies in the Book of Abraham series.

Both volumes are available for purchase at www.byubookstore.com. ♦



Dead Sea Scrolls Is Topic of New Volume

Volume 2 (2010) of *Studies in the Bible and Antiquity* promises to be a significant contribution to the ongoing Latter-day Saint scholarly conversation on the Dead Sea Scrolls. This volume features essays from Donald W. Parry, Dana M. Pike, and Andrew C. Skinner, all of whom have served on the international team of editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls and have helped produce several of the 40 volumes in the Discoveries in the Judaean Desert series.

In “The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible: Overview and Significance,” Donald W. Parry introduces readers to the scrolls as they relate to the Hebrew Bible, nonbiblical texts, and the sectarian documents. He explores particularly the significance of the scrolls for our understanding of scribal transmission, variant readings between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible, and how the Dead Sea Scrolls sectarians understood scripture. Parry’s article provides an important discussion of these topics from an LDS scholarly perspective.

One of the challenges for Latter-day Saints curious about the Dead Sea Scrolls is finding accurate information. In “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Latter-day Saints: Where Do We Go from Here?” Dana M. Pike argues that too many Latter-day Saints rely on outdated information and flawed

methodologies. Pike gives several suggestions for countering misinformation and keeping up to date. He also proposes a framework for approaching the Dead Sea Scrolls within their proper historical, textual, and religious contexts.

Andrew C. Skinner sheds light on the connection between the Dead Sea Scrolls and first-century Christianity in “The Dead Sea Scrolls and the World of Jesus.” Skinner takes a measured and cautious approach in exploring certain parallels between the scrolls and the earliest Christian texts, such as similar terminology and phrasing, temple ideology, and messianic expectations.

Also included is a reprint of Hugh Nibley’s “From the Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS),” which first appeared in 1975 as appendix 1 to *The Message of the Joseph Smith Papyri*. Nibley’s article provides a good example of how Latter-day Saints have found the scrolls compelling for their resonances with our own religious tradition. Stephen D. Ricks supplies a new introduction to this reprint.

Finally, this volume of *Studies* contains an updated select bibliography of publications by Latter-day Saint scholars on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In conjunction with the publication of this volume, a Dead Sea Scrolls conference was held on January 12, 2011, at BYU, at which Parry, Pike, and Skinner presented their papers.

Studies in the Bible and Antiquity is available for purchase at www.byubookstore.com. ♦