Preface to the Second Edition

Although my original intent in 1992 was to publish a few copies of *The Book of Mormon Text Reformatted according to Parallelistic Patterns* for a few interested associates and friends, I was surprised to learn that this volume had impacted others in positive ways. After Elder Hugh W. Pinnock had served as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for more than fifteen years, he came to the door of my classroom where I was teaching a course on biblical Hebrew. He informed me that he had questions about biblical Hebrew poetry and Book of Mormon parallelisms. Out of deference to this great man and to his ecclesiastical position, I canceled my class and we conversed for more than two hours about Hebrew poetry. This event began a pleasant association that lasted for years, as Elder Pinnock researched and then wrote his own book, *Finding Biblical Hebrew and Other Ancient Literary Forms in the Book of Mormon*. In the preface, Elder Pinnock kindly wrote, Donald W. Parry “has been a mentor when one was needed and a source of endless input. I have drawn heavily from his *Book of Mormon Text Reformatted according to Parallelistic Patterns* as a springboard for my own research.”

Years later I was reviewing new titles in the religion section of the BYU Bookstore and came across James T. Duke’s *The Literary Masterpiece Called the Book of Mormon*. I was taken by surprise to read that Duke, a PhD and professor emeritus of sociology at Brigham Young University, had written the following in the opening words to his book: “I’ll never forget my excitement when I started reading *The Book of Mormon Text Reformatted according to Parallelistic Patterns* by Donald Parry. Suddenly I saw things with new eyes. Here was the Book of Mormon, but Brother Parry had organized it in such a way that I could see how many parallels were present, such as chiasms, alternates, and antitheticals. I was amazed at the things Parry had discovered. . . . I believe anyone who teaches classes concerning the Book of Mormon needs to read Parry’s reformatted version of the Book of Mormon. The influence of this book on my own study of the Book of Mormon has been extensive, and I will never be able to repay him for this great treasure. It has increased my understanding of the doctrines of the book and my testimony of it as well.”

This new edition, entitled *Poetic Parallelisms in the Book of Mormon: The Complete Text Reformatted*, has been enhanced, improved, and expanded since the publication of the first edition in 1992. The introduction,

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at many points, has been recast or fine-tuned; additional footnotes have been added to the introduction, or in certain instances, the footnotes have been updated to reflect recent scholarship. A number of new examples of chiasmus, parallelisms, and figures of speech have been added to the volume and reformatted within the Book of Mormon text. At various points, this volume has been revised to make it more approachable by its users. For example, this new edition features a glossary of terms, chapter and verse headings on each page, and an index that lists the various forms, parallelisms, and figures, together with their scriptural references. All of these additions and enhancements are designed to make this new edition easier for the readers to use.

John W. Welch, Robert K. Thomas Professor of Law and editor in chief of BYU Studies, has kindly written the foreword to this volume. Over the years Dr. Welch has played a vital role in Book of Mormon poetics, as the individual who discovered the existence of chiasmus in the Book of Mormon, as an author who has produced many articles on chiasmus in the Book of Mormon and related studies, and as mentor to so many of us as we continue our pursuit of knowledge in this significant field of study. I am grateful to Professor Welch for writing the foreword to this volume and for his continual support and friendship.

I express gratitude to the directors of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship for their encouragement in republishing this work. Alison Coutts, particularly, has proved to be a positive force in preparing and publishing the second edition. Jacob Rawlins, Brette Jones, Paula Hicken, Michael Newell, and Elin Jenson assisted with layout, proofreading, and indexing. My research assistants Thomas K. Sowards and Breanne White helped me with a variety of tasks in preparing the second edition, especially searching for weak points or errors in the manuscript.

Donald W. Parry
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