



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

Volume 29 | Number 3

Article 4

January 2009

Preview of Forthcoming FARMS Review

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/insights>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2009) "Preview of Forthcoming FARMS Review," *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship*: Vol. 29: No. 3, Article 4.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/insights/vol29/iss3/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

themselves what [substance] they had used to assassinate so-and-so, and their stories are well known. (*On Poisons* 2.4.83–84)

Such details collapse the centuries that separate us from Maimonides and allow us a glimpse, however mean, into the lives of the common people of his time. It seems that marriage could be a fraught enterprise in the Middle Ages, too!

Maimonides: On Poisons and the Protection against Lethal Drugs is the latest title to be released in The Medical Works of Moses Maimonides, a series of primary texts and translations prepared by Gerrit Bos at the University of Cologne and published under the auspices of the Maxwell Institute's

Preview of Forthcoming FARMS Review

Readers awaiting this year's first number of the *FARMS Review* (vol. 21, no. 1) will be rewarded with a deep lineup of reviews and other essays on the Book of Mormon. Sure to heighten anticipation is a promised peek at Terryl Givens's in-press volume from Oxford University Press: *The Book of Mormon: A Very Short Introduction*. Chapter 2, "Themes," will be featured in its entirety—a substantial excerpt from the 152-page work that will fill an important gap in Oxford's popular Very Short Introduction series. *Review* readers will enjoy other Book of Mormon-related fare as well: a literary interpretation of the death of Laban; a debunking of myths about the miraculous printing of the 1830 edition; a look at the record's literary sophistication in light of a biblical hermeneutic that grants legitimacy to repetition and allusion; and reviews of the seminal works *The Legal Cases in the Book of Mormon*, by

Blossoming with Books: Syriac Manuscripts from the Egyptian Desert

The birthplace and spiritual heart of Christian monasticism is the Nitrian Desert of Egypt and the long, shallow valley of Scetis (Wadi el-Natrun). It was to here, from the fourth century onwards, that Macarius the Great and other of the sainted desert fathers retreated from the world, devoting their lives

to worship and prayer. While some monks chose to live in isolation as hermits, many others banded together to establish the first monasteries, building churches for worship and libraries for study. These monastic libraries collected many manuscripts and the dry climate of Egypt preserved them well. In fact, most of the premedieval Christian manuscripts we have today come from Egypt. While many texts were written in Greek or Egyptian (Coptic), monks of all nations flocked to Egypt and

Middle Eastern Texts Initiative. This volume also features the scholarly work of Michael R. McVaugh of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, who has edited the Latin translations of *On Poisons* that were made in the centuries after Maimonides by Europeans seeking to preserve his knowledge for their own time. Angela Barrionuevo oversaw the production editing of this volume at the Maxwell Institute. The book will carry the Brigham Young University Press imprint and will be distributed by the University of Chicago Press. ♦

By D. Morgan Davis

Associate Director, Middle Eastern Texts Initiative

John W. Welch, and the six-volume *Second Witness: Analytical and Contextual Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, by Brant A. Gardner.

In the area of biblical studies are two responses to British biblical scholar Margaret Barker's recent book *Temple Themes in Christian Worship*. Like her previous studies, this one is attracting the attention of Latter-day Saints who have found much of importance to consider in her exploration of Christian origins and her reconstruction of a "temple theology" traceable to Solomon's temple. Rounding out the *Review* are an assessment of Hugh Nibley's economic views related to the law of consecration, a refutation of one antitheist's attempted demolition of the Bible, a reprinting of eminent historian Martin E. Marty's 1989 lecture at Westminster College on the usefulness of the religious past, an editor's introduction by Daniel C. Peterson, and other assorted offerings now taking shape for publication later this summer. ♦

to worship and prayer. While some monks chose to live in isolation as hermits, many others banded together to establish the first monasteries, building churches for worship and libraries for study.

These monastic libraries collected many manuscripts and the dry climate of Egypt preserved them well. In fact, most of the premedieval Christian manuscripts we have today come from Egypt. While many texts were written in Greek or Egyptian (Coptic), monks of all nations flocked to Egypt and