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Maxwell Institute Thanks Senator Bennett

On May 8 Andrew Skinner, executive director of the Maxwell Institute, Daniel C. Peterson, editor in chief and director of its Middle Eastern Texts Initiative, and Ed Snow, Development Director, met with U.S. Senator Bob Bennett and leaders of the Library of Congress in Washington DC to thank the senator for helping to secure federal funding for METI and to present him with several volumes of METI publications. Beginning in 2005, Senator Bennett worked to obtain \$750,000 from the Library of Congress's budget to go toward METI publications, in addition to requesting \$250,000 more for 2008.

METI, founded in 1992 and now part of the Maxwell Institute, is dedicated to finding, translating, and publishing important works from the

ancient Middle East, including manuscripts from Islamic, Jewish, and early Christian authors on both intellectual and spiritual subjects. Peterson says that the project helps to express respect for these great, and often undervalued, traditions. To date, 13 volumes have been published.

Senator Bennett likewise noted the benefit of these publications, especially to U.S. relationships with the Arab world. "Officials from Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait have publicly praised and recognized BYU's effort to bring these great scientific, philosophical, and religious treasures of the Islamic world forward," Bennett remarked, "and I am happy to lend my support."¹

Note

1. As quoted in Suzanne Struglinski, "Arabic texts translated—thanks to Bennett," *Deseret Morning News*, 9 May 2007.

In Memoriam: Frank William (Bill) Gay

Frank William (Bill) Gay, in whose name two Maxwell Institute research funds were endowed, passed away May 21, 2007, in Kingwood, Texas. His wife Mary Elizabeth, five children, 17 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren survive him.

The William (Bill) Gay Research chair at the Maxwell Institute was created and endowed in his honor. John Gee is the William (Bill) Gay Associate Research Professor. This endowment supports all of the projects and publications done by Gee and others on the Book of Abraham and related studies.

As mentioned in the last issue of *Insights*, the Russel B. Swensen Endowed Mentorship Fund was created as a result of a generous gift from Robert (Bob) Gay in honor of his father William (Bill) Gay.

Gay had a 59-year affiliation with the Howard Hughes organization. He also devoted his time and concern to many not-for-profit entities, which included the Polynesian Cultural Center, Harvard Graduate School of Business, the University of Utah and Brigham Young University, and the Boy Scouts of America. He also served as a member of the general board of the Sunday School of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He received numerous recognitions and awards.

The Maxwell Institute administration and staff express condolences to the family. ■

INSIGHTS

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The Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship encourages and supports research on the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, the Bible, other ancient scripture, and related subjects. The Maxwell Institute publishes and distributes titles in these areas for the benefit of scholars and interested Latter-day Saint readers.

Primary research interests at the Maxwell Institute include the history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to ancient scripture. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of scripture, solid research and academic perspectives can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about scripture.

The Maxwell Institute makes reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. These publications are peer-reviewed to ensure that scholarly standards are met. The proceeds from the sale of these materials are used to support further research and publications.

