



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

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## International Librarians Visit BYU, Maxwell Institute

On June 18, 2007, a group of six librarians from various international institutions visited the Maxwell Institute's Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (CPART) to learn more about the digital preservation of ancient texts at BYU. This visit was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to further the professional development of these specialists. Visitors included Ioana Damian of the IAȘI (Romania), Billy Leung Tak Hoi of the University of Macau, Larisa Kislova of the Republic Library for Youth and Children (Kyrgyzstan), Tutu Mukherjee of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (India), D. B. Vuwa Phiri of the University of Malawi, and Gulnar Tussupbayeva of the National Academic Library of Kazakhstan. Their local hosts were Susan Neff of the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy and Elder Ben B. Banks, emeritus member of the First Quorum of the Seventy.

The delegation was received at the Maxwell Institute's main offices by Institute executive director Andrew Skinner and CPART associate director Carl Griffin. Delegation members discussed their mutual interest in digital preservation and exchanged thoughts on the challenges that digital preservation projects present to information professionals and to institutions.

BYU faculty and staff then gave brief presentations on digital preservation projects to the delegation and hosts. Scott Eldredge, Harold B. Lee Library Digital Program Manager, first gave an overview of the library's digital projects and demonstrated their flagship Overland Trails online repository of pioneer diaries. Carl Griffin presented on the use of digital imaging as a manuscript preservation tool, illustrating this with several past CPART projects, including the Vatican Syriac manuscript project and the imaging of Greek biblical manuscripts at the Freer Gallery of Art (see *Insights* 24/2 and 20/5 and 11). Professor Roger Macfarlane (Classics) concluded with a presentation on the Herculanum papyri, with which CPART has done extensive multispectral imaging work. The group expressed enthusiasm for the work BYU was doing with ancient texts. Local host Susan Neff later wrote and thanked the Maxwell Institute on behalf of the delegation for "one of the highlights of their visit to Utah." ■

### New Publications

#### *The Book of Mormon Paintings of Minerva Teichert*

(BYU Studies, 2007), by John W. Welch and Doris R. Dant, is a softcover book containing the complete series of Teichert's Book of Mormon murals.

#### *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*

(Maxwell Institute, vol. 15, no. 2, 2006) provides an up-to-date discussion of the correspondence between Nephi's account and the real-world setting of the trip that he and his family took through ancient Arabia.

#### *BYU Studies*

(BYU Studies, vol. 46, no. 2, 2007) features a history of Mormon cinema from 1898 to the present and several fascinating articles that examine LDS involvement in film from cultural, economic, historical, ethical, and aesthetic angles.

## INSIGHTS

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A Publication of  
THE  
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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.

