



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

Volume 27 | Number 6

Article 7

January 2007

Joseph Smith, Responses to Early Missionaries Topics in BYU Studies

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



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

Recommended Citation

(2007) "Joseph Smith, Responses to Early Missionaries Topics in BYU Studies," *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship*: Vol. 27: No. 6, Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/insights/vol27/iss6/7>

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.

Joseph Smith, Responses to Early Missionaries Topics in *BYU Studies*

Following closely on the heels of a recent double-sized issue on Mormons and film, the latest issue of *BYU Studies* contains a landmark study by historian Max H Parkin entitled “Joseph Smith and the United Firm: The Growth and Decline of the Church’s First Master Plan of Business and Finance, Ohio and Missouri, 1832–1834.” Never before have the historical documents been so thoroughly and masterfully marshaled to give readers a heightened appreciation for the importance of the “United Firm” in the early Church. Along with all else that Joseph Smith was revealing and directing during these years, the consecrated legacy of how he organized, operated, and motivated this multifaceted operation deserves to be recognized in its own right.

Another lengthy article in this issue presents a first-ever translation into English of a pamphlet written in 1855 by Peter Kierkegaard (Søren Kierkegaard’s brother) entitled “About and Against Mormonism.” Introduced and analyzed by Professors David Paulsen and Julie K. Allen, this historical document gives readers an inside look at the preaching of early Mormon missionaries in Denmark and at the somewhat sophisticated rebuttals that were tossed back at them. This Protestant response to Mormonism, together with the very different 1860 Catholic response by Cardinal Reisach (translated from the Italian and published in *BYU Studies* last year with an introduction by Mark Noll), are key documents in the intellectual history of the Church in Europe in its first decade on the continent.

On the lighter side, this issue also contains a survey on dating and marriage at BYU, two award-winning personal essays, and eight book reviews addressing a variety of contemporary academic issues.

To obtain a copy of this issue, visit the BYU Studies Web site (byustudies.byu.edu).

From Other Publishers

Temple Worship: 20 Truths That Will Bless Your Life by Andrew C. Skinner (Deseret Book, 2007) eloquently describes the joys and blessings of temple worship and how we can get the most out of our temple experience. In this inspiring, practical book, Andrew Skinner shows how the temple represents the “ultimate” in our worship, how temple ordinances are tied to the atonement, how temple blessings apply to all—especially to those who walk life’s road alone—and how the temple prepares us for exaltation. Skinner weaves in personal experiences and statements from modern prophets as he bears witness that the sealing ordinances are a source of great comfort and security, that temples are places of personal revelation, and that unseen beings attend us there. This book will permanently change your feelings about the temple.

INSIGHTS

Paula W. Hicken, *Managing Editor*
Jacob D. Rawlins, *Production Coordinator*
Brette Jones, *Editorial Intern*

A Publication of
THE
NEAL A. MAXWELL INSTITUTE
FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew C. Skinner *Executive Director*
M. Gerald Bradford *Associate Executive Director*
Alison V. P. Coutts *Assistant Executive Director*
S. Kent Brown *Director, FARMS, Willes Center*
Daniel C. Peterson *Director, METI*
Kristian Heal *Director, CPART*
John W. Welch *Editor in Chief, BYU Studies*
Monte F. Shelley *Director, RTG (WordCruncher)*

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.

