



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

Volume 26 | Number 1

Article 1

January 2006

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Recommended Citation

(2006) "ISPART Renamed Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship," *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship*: Vol. 26: No. 1, Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/insights/vol26/iss1/1>

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Insights

A WINDOW ON THE ANCIENT WORLD VOLUME 26 | 2006

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<http://maxwellinstitute.byu.edu>

ISPART Renamed Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

Brigham Young University's Board of Trustees recently approved the renaming of BYU's Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (ISPART) to the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship.

"By renaming ISPART, BYU honors the memory and life's work of Elder Maxwell," said BYU president Cecil O. Samuelson. "This change firmly sets the future direction of the Institute, which is to promote profound scholarship supporting the restored gospel of Jesus Christ—something Elder Maxwell cared about deeply."


Elder Maxwell served The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 23 years as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "He was an articulate voice of reason and revelation—the consummate disciple-scholar who served the Church and the people of the world," said Andrew C. Skinner, executive director of the Maxwell Institute.

New Translation Launches METI's Library of the Christian East Series

One of the misconceptions that many Westerners have is that all Arabs are Muslims and that all Muslims are Arabs. In fact, many of the major Islamic countries in the world (e.g., Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, and the most populous of them all, Indonesia) are not Arab, and large minorities in some Arab countries are not Muslim. Christianity is a Near Eastern religion, not a European one, and it has been in the Near East since its origin. (An Egyptian Christian friend once complained to

"The scholars associated with the Maxwell Institute are honored to come under the umbrella of Elder Maxwell's name," Skinner added.

Cory Maxwell, son of Elder and Sister Maxwell, said his family is pleased by this development and honored that Elder Maxwell's name is being associated with that to which he devoted his life.

For more than 25 years, the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (FARMS) has been conducting research and publishing books and periodicals that have both furthered scholarship and made friends for the university and the Church of Jesus Christ. Five years ago FARMS was joined by the Center for the Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (CPART) and the Middle Eastern Texts Initiative (METI) to form ISPART. 
—BYU press release, 1 March 2006



Elder Neal A. Maxwell © IRI

me about how tired he had become of Americans and Europeans asking him whether his family had been converted by the Germans, the French, or the British. His ancestors, he pointed out, had been converted by Mark, the writer of the Second Gospel, in the first century AD. My own forebears, in Scandinavia, didn't accept Christianity until roughly a millennium later.)

Another common misconception is that Christendom can essentially be divided between Protestants and Catholics. In fact, though, Protestantism is a fairly recent religious minority in the Christian world. The much older division is that

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