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About the Reviewers

Richard L. Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History at Columbia University, received a Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from Harvard. He has published *Joseph Smith and the Beginnings of Mormonism* in 1984 and *King and People in Provincial Massachusetts* in 1985. His most recent book is *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities* (1992). He has taught at Brigham Young University, Boston University, and the University of Delaware.

Les Campbell has an M.S. degree in geography from BYU. He served two years on the Doctrinal Resource Committee. He was the managing director of the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies for two years while on a professional development leave from the Seminaries and Institutes of Religion. He was the assistant editor of *The Book of Mormon Archaeological Digest*. He is currently in his 26th year of teaching in the LDS Church Education System.

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John Clark has two degrees in Anthropology. He has worked in Mexico for the past 17 years as an archaeologist and currently splits his time between research in Mexico and teaching at BYU.

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Irving, George F. Ruxton, Thomas Wolfe, and a variety of American and Western American authors, and extensively on Mormon literature. He was president of the Association for Mormon Letters, and published, with Neal Lambert, *A Believing People: The Literature of the Latter-day Saints*, and *22 Young Mormon Writers*, and authored numerous articles on Mormon literature, including "Literature—Mormon Novels," in the *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*. A former bishop, stake president, and mission president, he has served as chair of BYU's English Department, chair of American Studies, and as dean of the College of Humanities.

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William J. Hamblin received his Ph.D. in History at the University of Michigan following advanced studies in Arabic in Cairo. He is currently associate professor of History at Brigham Young University. He is the co-author of *World History to 1648* (1993) and coeditor of *Warfare in the Book of Mormon* (1990). He has published or presented nearly two dozen papers on medieval Near Eastern military history and over a dozen on Latter-day Saint topics. Hamblin has worked for the Department of Defense as an intelligence analyst. He has presented papers on Islamic religion and on computer use in teaching History and has published computer tutorials with HarperCollins.

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Louis Midgley, professor of Political Science at Brigham Young University, teaches the history of political philosophy. He specialized in contemporary philosophical theology at Brown University, where he received his Ph.D. His early work focused on Paul Tillich and then Karl Barth; he later turned to contemporary Catholic political theology. In addition to exploring the approach to the interpretation of texts advanced by Leo Strauss, an influential Jewish philosopher, since 1981 Midgley has published numerous essays on issues raised by competing interpretations of Mormon sacred texts and history.

George L. Mitton received an M.S. in political science from Utah State University. He has also done additional graduate work at Columbia University. He is retired from a career in education and public administration.

Fred W. Nelson received a B.S. degree in chemistry and an M.A. in archaeology from Brigham Young University and has conducted field work in Campeche, Mexico. For many years he has conducted research on prehistoric trade routes using obsidian. He compares the trace element composition of obsidian artifacts to that of geologic sources of obsidian in Mesoamerica and western North America using X-ray fluorescence spectrometry. These studies have resulted in several publications. At present he is the Safety Director at Brigham Young University.

Donald W. Parry received a Ph.D. in Hebrew jointly awarded by the University of Utah and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is an assistant professor of Hebrew language and literature at Brigham Young University.

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Matthew Roper is a senior in History at Brigham Young University and has contributed several articles to the *Review of Books on the Book of Mormon* and the *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*.

Royal Skousen received a Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Illinois and is professor of English at Brigham Young University. Skousen has published three books on linguistic theory—*Substantive Evidence in Phonology* (1975), *Analogical Modeling of Language* (1989), *Analogy and Structure* (1992)—and has served as the editor of the Book of Mormon critical text project since 1988. He serves on the editorial boards for *Computers and the Humanities* and the *Journal of Quantitative Linguistics*.

John A. Tvedtnes has an M.A. in linguistics and an M.A. in Middle East Studies and has studied extensively at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has taught at the University of Utah, at the BYU Salt Lake Center, and at the BYU Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies. He has published four books and over 100 articles, many of them on the Book of Mormon. Tvedtnes has spoken at dozens of symposia in three countries and in several states. His works were cited or referred to by several of the contributors of *New Approaches*.