



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

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Forthcoming Publications

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University of Calgary; **David Calabro**, Hebrew Bible, Ancient Near East, University of Chicago; **Cory Daniel Crawford**, Hebrew Bible, Preexilic History, Harvard University; **Matthew J. Grey**, Archaeology, History of Antiquity, Andrews University; **Taylor Halverson**, Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity, Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible among Second Temple Groups, Indiana University; **Ronan James Head**, Assyriology, Johns Hopkins University; **Joseph Ponczoch**, Classics, Brigham Young University; **Melissa Proctor**, Ancient Judaism, Contemporary Religious Thought, Brown University; **Aaron Pace Schade**, Northwest Semitic Epigraphy, University of Toronto; **Brent James Schmidt**, Early Christianity, Patristics, New Testament, University of Colorado at Boulder; **Thomas Benjamin Spackman**, Comparative Semitics, Arabic, Hebrew Bible, University of Chicago; **Valerie Triplet-Hitoto**, Second Temple Judaism (Bible, Dead Sea Scrolls, Apocrypha), École pratique des hautes études, La Sorbonne, Paris; **Mark Alan Wright**, Mesoamerica, Maya Religion and Epigraphy, University of California, Riverside. 

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Astronomy, Papyrus, and Covenant, edited by John Gee and Brian Hauglid, is the third volume in the Book of Abraham Series. It includes papers from a FARMS-sponsored conference on the Book of Abraham and covers such topics as Abraham's vision of the heavens, commonalities between the Book of Abraham and noncanonical ancient texts, and the significance of the Abrahamic covenant. Available summer 2004.

Theodore Abu Qurrah, translated and introduced by John C. Lamoreaux of Southern Methodist University, includes first-ever English translations of most of Theodore Abu Qurrah's writings, which treat such issues as the characteristics of true religion and the nature of free will. Abu Qurrah (fl. AD 810), the bishop of Harran (in modern-day southeast Turkey), was one of the first Christians to write in Arabic and to mount a sustained theological defense of Christianity against Islam. Available fall 2004.

The FARMS Review (vol. 16, no. 1), edited by Daniel C. Peterson, features a look at the mention of secret combinations in legal materials from the early 19th century and a look at trends in Book of Mormon apologetics. Other articles review books on the Mountain Meadows Massacre, violent fundamentalism, baptism for the dead, and Thomas S. Ferguson's search for archaeological evidence supporting the Book of Mormon. Available summer 2004.

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World
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A Publication of the
**Foundation for Ancient Research
and Mormon Studies (FARMS)**

Noel B. Reynolds *Executive Director*

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FARMS is part of Brigham Young University's Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts. As such, it encourages and supports research on the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, the Bible, other ancient scripture, and related subjects. Under the FARMS imprint, the Institute publishes and distributes titles in these areas for the benefit of scholars and interested Latter-day Saint readers.

Primary research interests at FARMS 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.

FARMS makes interim and final 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. As a service to teachers and students of the scriptures, research results are distributed in both scholarly and popular formats.

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