



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

Volume 23 | Number 1

Article 4

January 2003

Call for Papers

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(2003) "Call for Papers," *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship*: Vol. 23: No. 1, Article 4.

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It is expected that BYU's established presence at the AAR/SBL meetings will continue to encourage the university's religious scholars and related specialists to publish research that will further strengthen the academic footing of Mormon studies while contributing in important ways to religious scholarship in general. 

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the angel Moroni's 1823 visit to Joseph Smith in terms of form criticism, a literary approach that Thomas believes effectively counters charges that Joseph invented the story. Thomas noted that prophets speak in language familiar to them and that literary forms influence the way they think and write. He said that Joseph's accounts of the angel's visit reflect a kind of revival experience consistent with the dramatic conversions seen at camp meetings with their focus on guilt, a state of conviction, and forgiveness. Joseph's various tellings of the visitation have a common core, fit a real-world setting, and contain hidden authenticating details—all of which deflect the charges of detractors and place the burden of proof on them, Thomas concluded. 

INSTITUTE NEWS

Call for Papers

As announced in the last issue of *Insights*, the Institute invites interested persons to submit papers for possible presentation at an upcoming conference on Latter-day Saint views on the sacrifice of Isaac. The conference will be held at BYU on 11 October 2003.

Papers should deal with some aspect of the sacrifice of Isaac as recorded in Genesis 22 and should reflect close readings of scriptural texts and appropriate use of relevant outside material. Examples of broad topics include but are not limited to typology of the sacrifice of Isaac, literary devices in the account, historical background of the sacrifice, and Latter-day Saint use of the account.

Detailed outlines of proposed presentations were due on 31 January 2003. Further deadlines are as follows:

15 March 2003: Participants whose submissions are provisionally accepted will be notified.

31 August 2003: PowerPoint presentations are due.

31 December 2003: Final drafts for publication are due.

Please send correspondence to Book of Abraham Conference, c/o Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts, WAIH, Provo, UT 84602. Electronic submissions should be sent to bookofabraham@byu.edu.

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World
Volume 23 | Number 1 | 2003

A Publication of the
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and Mormon Studies (FARMS)**

**Institute for the Study and
Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts**
Brigham Young University

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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.

It is hoped that this information will help all interested people to "come unto Christ" (Jacob 1:7) and to understand and appreciate more fully the scriptural witnesses of the divine mission of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

For more information or to order publications, contact us at
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