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Institute News

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Participants in the conference seem universally to have viewed it as a success, and not a few, indeed, expect that it may prove to be something of a breakthrough event. Heretofore, Mormonism's radically and richly unique point of view on central doctrinal issues has generally been overlooked by outside scholarship, with Latter-day Saints figuring in most histories of American religion or of Christianity as little more than a mildly interesting footnote to the westward expansion of the United States in the 19th century. It is reasonable to hope, however, that this might change.

BYU philosophy professor James Faulconer has signaled his intention to work with Kenneth West in gathering up at least some of the presentations and preparing them for publication in book form. —*reported by Daniel C. Peterson*

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published in London by John Jebb (1820) and Thomas Boys (1824 and 1825). Adding to his previous statements about these books, Welch surveys the reviews that evaluated them in contemporaneous British periodicals. It is also discussed how Thomas Horne's massive critical study of the Bible included a few pages about Jebb in its fourth (1825) edition, rather than in its 1836 edition, as had been previously thought. Moreover, the 1825 edition was published in London and also in Philadelphia. Interestingly, Joseph Smith owned a copy of that 1825 edition, but he obtained it in January 1834. Welch concludes that while some knowledge of chiasmus existed in America in 1829, there is still "a very low probability that Joseph Smith knew anything about chiasmus" when translating the Book of Mormon.

This latest issue of the *Review* (vol. 15, no. 1) also evaluates three books on the Book of Abraham and several other publications. It includes an index (by author, title, and reviewer) to last year's double issue. To obtain a copy of the new *Review*, use the enclosed mail-order form or visit the Bookstore section of the FARMS Web site. 

INSTITUTE NEWS

New Director to Guide Institute

Noel B. Reynolds has been appointed director of the Institute. A professor of political science and a past president of FARMS, he recently completed a five-year term as associate academic vice president for undergraduate studies at BYU. Further coverage on this change in leadership will appear in a future issue of *Insights*.

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World
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**Institute for the Study and
Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts**
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