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mysterious. Among such hostile professors of religion, either sectarian or secular, is the dogma that angels simply do not bring books of new scripture.

Givens describes in some detail the Cold War taking place along the Wasatch Front over the historical authenticity of the Book of Mormon. He argues that the claims made by the Book of Mormon are, as Nibley has shown, open to critical inspection by scholars using whatever means they have at their disposal. The Book of Mormon does not ask to be shielded from such inspection. Of course, the faith of the Saints does not depend on the apparent results of such debate. This frustrates those who want a final proof one way or another right now. So the debate continues.

Fueled by a massive production of scholarly works, specialization in Book of Mormon studies has proceeded at such a pace that now no one trained in any one discipline seems to have leverage on the question of the historical authenticity of the Book of Mormon. As a consequence, meaningful discussion of the Book of Mormon goes on in more and more complex and subtle ways. *By the Hand of Mormon* makes a solid contribution to Book of Mormon studies because it deftly surveys the twists and turns of this debate with insight, care, and comprehensiveness. One wonders why it has taken so long for a book like this to appear. This seminal book is available from FARMS at the usual subscriber discount (see the enclosed order form).

By Louis C. Midgley

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

The Hor Book of Breathings: A Translation and Commentary, by Michael D. Rhodes, treats the fragments of the Joseph Smith Papyri associated with Facsimiles 1 and 3 of the Book of Abraham. The book features hieroglyphs that were custom designed for this project. Available in June 2002.

Susanna: Texts, Translations, and Technical Notes, edited by Mark A. Sedwick, includes the Greek, Latin, and English texts of the apocryphal book of Susanna. This publication is the third monograph in the Ancient Texts and Mormon Studies series. Available in June 2002.

Uncovering the Original Text of the Book of Mormon:
History and Findings of the Critical Text Project
publishes the proceedings of the 20 October 2001
FARMS symposium "The Original Text of the Book
of Mormon: Findings from the Critical Text Project."
This special report in lieu of Journal of Book of Mormon Studies 11/1 (2002) will be mailed to FARMS subscribers in July along with the next Insights newsletter.

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World Volume 22 | Number 5 | 2002

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Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts

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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.

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