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Recent Publications

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His Majesty and Mission
Edited by Nicholas J. Frederick and Keith J. Wilson

Christianity rises or falls based on the reality of the Resurrection. Christian religious leaders of all walks have commented on the importance of the Resurrection. Accordingly, this volume is organized to enhance our celebration of the miracle of the Resurrection. The essays published in this volume represent the talks presented at the annual Brigham Young University Easter Conferences in 2016 and 2017 by Sheri Dew, Eric D. Huntsman, Daniel K Judd, Camille Fronk Olson, Hank R. Smith, and Elder Kevin J Worthen.


Kalaupapa: The Mormon Experience in an Exiled Community
By Fred E. Woods

In the nineteenth century, leprosy (now known as Hansen’s disease) spread through the Hawaiian Islands, causing the king of Hawai’i to sanction an act that exiled all people afflicted with this disease to Kalaupapa, a peninsula on the island of Molokai. Kalaupapa was separated from the rest of the world, with sheer cliffs on one side, the ocean on the other three, and limited contact with anyone, even loved ones. In Kalaupapa, the author delves into the untold history of Kalaupapa and its inhabitants, recounting the patients’ experience on the peninsula and emphasizing the Mormon connection to it.


Mormons in the Piazza: History of the Latter-day Saints in Italy
By James A. Toronto, Eric R Dursteler, and Michael W. Homer

From the day Lorenzo Snow stepped out of a carriage onto Italian soil in 1850 to the day that Thomas S. Monson turned a shovel of Italian soil to break ground for a temple in 2010, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has made evangelization in Italy a high priority. Mormon missionary work unfolded against a backdrop of historical forces—political upheaval, world wars, social change, and internal Church dynamics—that presented both obstacles and opportunities for growth.

ISBN: 978-1-9443-9410-3; US $34.99
Joseph Smith's Seer Stones
By Michael Hubbard MacKay and Nicholas J. Frederick

When the Church released photos of the brown seer stone that was owned and used by Joseph Smith, the news ignited a firestorm of curiosity and controversy. People wanted more information and wondered why they weren't aware of the stone's existence.

This book discusses the origins of Joseph Smith's seer stones and explores how Joseph used them throughout his life in a way that goes beyond translating the Book of Mormon. It also traces the provenance of the seer stones once they leave his possession.


Foundations of the Restoration: Fulfillment of the Covenant Purposes
Edited by Craig James Ostler, Michael Hubbard MacKay, and Barbara Morgan Gardner

This book is a compilation of essays from the 45th annual Brigham Young University Sidney B. Sperry Symposium titled Foundations of the Restoration. The keynote address by Robert L. Millet highlights the restoration of plain and precious truths.


A Reason for Faith: Navigating LDS Doctrine and Church History
Edited by Laura Harris Hales

A Reason for Faith was written to do just as the title implies: provide reasons for faith by offering faithful answers to sincere questions. Before the Internet, historical and doctrinal questions not addressed in the curriculum of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were mostly found in the scholarly articles of academic journals. This is no longer the case. These topics are now widely debated and discussed online and in other forums. And when members of the LDS Church come across information that is unfamiliar, they may feel surprise, fear, betrayal, or even anger.


A Historian in Zion: The Autobiography of Andrew Jenson, Assistant Church Historian, Revised and Enhanced Edition
Edited by Reid L. Neilson and R. Mark Melville

The Autobiography of Andrew Jenson, first published in 1938, tells the personal story of a Danish Mormon convert who eventually served as Assistant Church Historian for over forty years. The author mined his voluminous personal journals and assembled church records to tell the story of the Restoration of the gospel since the 1850s when he arrived in Utah as a European immigrant. This revised and enhanced edition features a biographical essay telling the overarching sweep of Jenson's life and contextualizing his other printed works. Through his synthesized research, writing, and reflections, readers come away with deeper appreciation for the men and women whose lives constitute Mormon history.

Upcoming Events

Religious Education Student Symposium
Friday, 17 February 2017
This event will be held in the Wilkinson Student Center from 9:00 to noon. The annual student symposium provides a forum for students to research, write, and present papers about religious subjects from a faithful perspective. For more information, visit http://rsc.byu.edu/studentsymposium.

BYU Easter Conference
Friday, 15 April 2017
This Easter Conference will be held on Good Friday in the Joseph Smith Building (JSB) auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be President Kevin J Worthen, president of Brigham Young University. The other two speakers are Camille Fronk Olson, chair of the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU, and Hank Smith, assistant professor of ancient scripture. Each speaker will talk about various aspects of the Savior, his life, his mission, the Atonement, and his influence on our lives today. Plan to bring a friend or loved one and come early. For more information, visit http://rsc.byu.edu/easterconference.

These events are free of charge, and registration is not required. Some event details are subject to change. For more details, please visit us online at rsc.byu.edu/conferences or contact Brent Nordgren at 801-422-3293.

Staff Spotlights

Publication Coordinator
Joany Pinegar is the publication coordinator for the Religious Studies Center. In her duties for the RSC, Joany works closely with the publication director, executive editor, and production supervisor on all RSC publications. A graduate from BYU with a degree in elementary education, Joany also loves to travel and try new adventures, read good books, be creative, and spend time with her seven beautiful children and eleven incredibly adorable grandchildren.

Research Assistant
Rebekah Romer was raised in Lorena, Texas. She always dreamed of attending BYU and is thrilled to be living that dream. She plans to major in early childhood education, and she loves working and being with children. Music and art are a big part of her life. She plays the violin, piano, and the French horn and enjoys painting. Even though the rigor of college can be difficult at times, there is no place she would rather be. The RSC is full of devoted disciples, which makes work an enjoyable experience each day.
Submission Guidelines

The Religious Educator serves the needs and interests of those who study and teach the restored gospel of Jesus Christ on a regular basis. The distinct focuses are on teaching the gospel; publishing studies on scripture, doctrine, and Church history; and sharing outstanding devotional essays. The beliefs of the respective authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Complete author guidelines are provided at rsc.byu.edu/styleguide. All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to Joany_Pinegar@byu.edu.

Manuscripts should be double-spaced, including quotations. Authors should follow style conventions of The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition, and the Style Guide for Publications of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4th edition, available at the site listed above.

Manuscripts will be evaluated by the following questions:

1. Does the manuscript address a clear thesis? Does the argument proceed cautiously and logically? Is the writing clear? Is it engaging and interesting? If not, why?

2. To what degree is the author knowledgeable on the topic as a whole, as shown, for example, by content, phrasing, contextualizing, thorough use of the best sources, and bibliography? Does the author adequately acknowledge and deal with opposing views? If not, why?

3. Does the manuscript present significant new data or new perspectives? What is its main contribution? Will people want to read this ten years from now? Does it make a contribution without resorting to sensationalism or controversy?

4. Does the author follow the canons of responsible scholarship (uses sound and fair methodology; documents arguable facts)? If not, why?

5. Is the manuscript faith-promoting? Is the piece in harmony with the established doctrine of the Church?

If a manuscript is accepted, authors will be notified and asked to provide photocopies of all source materials cited, arranged in order, numbered to match the endnotes, and highlighted to show the quotations or paraphrases. Photocopies of source material must include title page and source page with the highlighted quotations.

Editorial Questions

For questions or comments, email us at rsc@byu.edu or write to Religious Educator, 167 HGB, Provo, UT 84602-2701.
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