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Notices and Reviews

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More of Metal Plates in Stone Boxes

For the last two years F.A.R.M.S. has offered as one of its Reprints Curtis Wright's article from the *Journal of Library Science*, "Ancient Burials of Metal Documents in Stone Boxes: Implications for Library Science." Last month, an expanded version of this article was published by the University of Illinois in their Occasional Papers Series for the Graduate School of Library Science. This is high academic recognition for his work. You can order copies of this publication for \$3.00 from Occasional Papers, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Publications Office, 249 Armory Bldg., 505 E. Armory Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

1828 Webster's Dictionary Available

Gordon Thomasson has brought to our attention the availability of a reproduction of *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828 First Edition, by Noah Webster. The dictionary is two volumes bound as one with 2,000 pages. It can be ordered from the Foundation for American Christian Education, 2946 Twenty-fifth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132. The cost is \$30.00 plus \$2.15 postage. As one might expect, this resource is valuable in determining the meanings of words used by Joseph Smith and his contemporaries. This sheds light on the meanings of passages in the Latter-day scriptures and historical documents.

Bibliography Contest Deadline

As announced in the last Newsletter, F.A.R.M.S. is sponsoring a contest to see who can add the most overlooked entries to the recently released Comprehensive Bibliography of the Book of Mormon. Over 130 copies of the Bibliography have already been sent out. Your assistance can help to make this research tool even more useful for future scholarship. Prizes for those who send in the most additions will be copies of recent books about the Book of Mormon autographed by their authors. The deadline for contest entries has been extended to April 30, 1983, but your suggestions or additions are welcome at any time.

NOTICES AND REVIEWS

Australian Students Host Symposium

It seemed like a good idea—a first-of-its-kind-in-Australia Book of Mormon symposium sponsored by the LDS Student Association at the University of Sydney in Australia.

It was a good idea. On October 9, 1982, about 220 people arrived for the all-day symposium, some from almost six hundred kilometers away. Gary L. Sturgess, one of the participants, wryly commented, "For a country where the only real experience with intensive Church 'scholarship' has been loonies saving up to buy a boat to sail to the North Pole to look for the Lost Tribes, it was a good experience.

The symposium's planners decided that the papers should introduce and summarize existing work rather than break new ground, for much of the material would be new indeed to those present. Most of the topics selected drew from papers in the F.A.R.M.S. Reprint Series and Sturgess acknowledged that "our reliance on F.A.R.M.S. is apparent," adding, "it is an indication of the value your work will have for those of us isolated from primary sources and the mainstream of Gospel scholarship."

Steven Mackie presented an analysis of the eight major theories of where the Book of Mormon lands might be. His presentation also discussed Lehi's probable route from Jerusalem to the Red Sea, the probable location of the Jaredite nation, whether the "face of the land" had become unrecognizable at the time of Christ's crucifixion, and how Joseph Smith received the plates in New York.

In discussing literary aspects of the Book of Mormon, Gary Sturgess explained and gave examples of its chiasmic structure drawn from the work of John Welch and Noel Reynolds, but also examined the literary antecedents and force of such images as the tree of life as described by Bruce Jorgensen's work, and reconstructed the possible Jerusalem temple rituals as prelude to examining evidences of the same theme in the Book of Mormon.

Ronald W. G. Innis attempted to bring some order to the field of Book of Mormon studies for the student by organizing forty selected books and papers according to their intent: defending the Book of Mormon (a purpose of earlier scholars); comparing possible links between the Old World and the New (examples were the cross-cultural studies of John Sorenson and Ray Matheny's analysis of the Padilla Gold Plates); doing a textual study of subjects contained only within the Book of Mormon (as John Tvedtnes's phonemic analysis of proper names for both Nephite and Jaredite figures); and current studies which approach such recurrent attacks as the Spaulding theory with new critical tools.

A detailed list of New World-Old World cultural similarities was provided by Richard W. Fee, while Michael Otterson related some warmly inspirational anecdotes about contemporary translations of the Book of Mormon gathered from interviews with members of the Church Translation Division.

LDSSA president Spencer Tasker and his organizing committee went the second mile in publishing the symposium's proceedings in an attractive notebook. Clearly the Australian vision for Book of Mormon studies is a responsible and an expansive one.

וְרֵאשִׁית פְּרֵא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ אֲהַיְתָה תְהוֹ וְנִבְרָה יְהוָה