



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

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## President's Message

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October, 1983

# Foundation for Ancient Research & Mormon Studies

P.O. Box 7113 Univ. Station, Provo, UT 84602

# Newsletter

The Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies is a non-profit research and educational organization dedicated to the study of ancient Scripture. Your tax deductible contributions enable FARMS to sponsor and coordinate a wide range of research projects that enhance our understanding of these sacred writings.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a big summer around the Foundation, thanks to literally thousands of hours of dedicated volunteer efforts and to a continuous flow of letters and contributions from many of you. You will see what I mean as you read this Newsletter.

And the best is yet to come! The prospects for further research and media productions already in process are irresistible. We have some exciting projects scheduled during 1984 when the general Church curriculum focuses on the Book of Mormon.

But to do it all, we need your help! Books, video productions, research internships, the Book of Mormon Encyclopedia — they all take money to get off the ground.

We can't begin to tell you how much we have appreciated your interest and support. We are proud of where we are going and just how far we have come.

But . . .

To accomplish our goals we need additional working capital. In the past we have asked you to send us a small contribution to help finance F.A.R.M.S. projects. For those few who have generously responded, we are indeed grateful.

Now . . .

We need your contribution. Anyone who enjoys the benefits of this organization, who wants to further the cause of the Book of Mormon in the world, should make a minimum annual tax-deductible donation to the Foundation. We appreciate those who are regularly giving. You are supporting a significant work.

Please read the enclosed letter from Hugh Nibley, then make your donation with the card and return envelope provided. Your contribution will help. When the income tax filing deadline comes around next April 15, you will wish you had given more to F.A.R.M.S.

We want to do all we can to help further this important work.

## COMPLEMENTARY LISTING

A special catalogue of available reprints and preliminary reports has been prepared — to complement the 1984 Book of Mormon lessons for the Gospel Doctrine Sunday School class. Your copy is enclosed in this mailing.

There are certainly a number of your friends who will appreciate also having access to these valuable materials. We will be glad to furnish additional copies to anyone who sends in a written request with a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Please spread the word about this important help for serious students of the Book of Mormon. Many people are not aware of the useful materials available through F.A.R.M.S. As the Church focuses on Book of Mormon study in the coming year, this catalogue will guide the reader towards fascinating information which will help increase one's understanding and awareness.

## FIRST SLIDE SHOW COMPLETED

"I think we've got it," reported Kirk Magleby last week. After several hundred hours of work and three trips back to the sound stage to record the polished script, "Lands of the Book of Mormon" with 113 exquisite slides and a 22 minute cassette soundtrack is now ready for distribution. Nearly 50 sets have already been purchased and delivered.

Produced for the foundation by internationally-known photographer Floyd Holdman, the show brings together outstanding scholarship and superb artistry as it addresses the question: "Where did the events of the Book of Mormon take place?" In addition to Floyd Holdman slides were donated by 15 fine photographers including LaMar C. Berrett, Paul R. Cheesman and Lynn Hilton. Lavina Fielding Anderson, Kirk A. Magleby, V. Garth Norman, Stephen D. Ricks, John L. Sorenson, Bruce W. Warren and John W. Welch collaborated on the script. Dozens of reviewers, including those attending the F.A.R.M.S. open house at the Church Education System Symposium in August, viewed preliminary versions of the show. Their suggestions helped improve the final product. A hearty thanks to the entire production team!

How can you order a set? Just return the enclosed order form with **\$32.00** — which includes postage. Obviously, there's no profit built into this price.

What do you get? 113 slides, a 22 minute professionally narrated soundtrack, an attractive case, and a list precisely identifying each photograph. Statements made in the show are documented in a footnoted, annotated version of the script that is also available to you separately as a **F.A.R.M.S. Preliminary Report**.

This slide show focuses on the lands and places of the Book of Mormon as far as they can be presently identified. It guides you on a trip from Jerusalem through the Arabian Peninsula to Mesoamerica — with stunning precision and thought-provoking correlations with the scriptural text. Future slide shows already on the drawing boards will explore archaeological artifacts and cultural aspects of the ancient Near East and of the Pre-Columbian New World as they relate to the Book of Mormon.

Comments from people who have seen "Lands of the Book of Mormon" are:

*"The Book of Mormon story took place somewhere in the Americas. This is an exciting, well photographed presentation of sites where this epic possibly took place."*

Dr. Paul R. Cheesman, Provo, UT

*"I can't tell you how much we appreciate your slides. Everyone found them very interesting. They are well done. We had occasion to show them again this weekend to a Church group."*

Mrs. Reuel Cameron, Chico, CA

*"This is certainly one of the finest media productions ever done on the Book of Mormon. It is refreshing to see good, objective scholarship presented in a professional way. I intend to use it in my classes."*

Michael D. Adair, SLG, UT

