Editor's Preface

Brock M. Mason
EDITOR’S PREFACE

In this issue of Studia Antiqua, we have two excellent articles from scholars at Brigham Young University. The first article is from Stephen O. Smoot, a senior at BYU studying ancient Near Eastern studies and German. Stephen’s paper discusses the divine council, a Near Eastern motif, in the Hebrew Bible and the Book of Mormon. In his paper, Stephen argues that one can find a number of passages in the Book of Mormon which utilize this biblical theme, especially the visions of Lehi and Nephi. Stephen then analyzes these narratives in light of the biblical conception of the divine council. Our second paper comes from Jonathon M. Riley, a recent graduate of BYU in ancient Near Eastern studies. Jonathon’s paper addresses the textual similarities between two ancient documents—The Odyssey and The Epic of Gilgamesh. He argues that one can establish a textual dependence between the two, and that the author of The Odyssey likely used an oral version of The Epic of Gilgamesh when composing the famous Greek narrative.

As always, I am deeply grateful to the academic advisors who spur this work onward, especially the new faculty advisors Stephen D. Ricks and Cynthia Finlayson. In addition, Thomas Wayment, the new publications director for the Religious Studies Center, continually offers priceless insights and advice. His knowledge of the scholarly community and its issues is greatly needed to publish a work such as this. Also, once again, R. Devan Jensen and his crew of editors at the Religious Studies Center at Brigham Young University have been invaluable in bringing this journal to a professional level. This issue would not have been possible without the help of Terry Ball, Justin Barney, Eric D. Huntsman, and Paul Y. Hoskisson for peer reviewing the submitted articles. Their time is always precious, and I am grateful to them for their willingness to assist this publication.

The Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship has contributed generously to the publication of this journal, as have Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Classics. We are deeply grateful for their support of the journal and the authors who publish in it. We wish to especially thank the Religious Studies Center, which provides the internship that makes it possible for us to dedicate the time necessary to publish this journal. Finally, Joany O. Pinegar continues to provide invaluable support for the publication of this journal.

As a final note, all citations, formatting, and abbreviations in this journal follow the SBL Handbook of Style. For further information and a guide to the abbreviations, please consult the SBL Handbook.

Brock M. Mason
Editor, Studia Antiqua