New Publications

To purchase any of the following publications, please visit www.byubookstore.com and search by book title or ISBN number, or call the BYU Bookstore toll-free at 1-800-253-2578.

The Earth Shall Teach Thee:
The Lifework of an Amateur Artist
Boyd K. Packer

This book features paintings, drawings, and wood carvings representing a lifetime of work. As an avid lover of nature, President Boyd K. Packer has carefully studied the appearance and habits of birds and animals and used them as his primary subjects. Above all, his art expresses reverence for life. Through artwork he has shared the lessons of life with his family and with members of the Church in publications he has illustrated. His paintings and carvings have enhanced his home and have been given as gifts. Creating art has also provided respite from his heavy responsibilities as a Church leader and has enabled his mind to cultivate ideas. President Packer wrote, “During those hours working with my hands, I pondered on the marvels of creation, and inspiration would flow. As I carved wood, I carved out talks.”

ISBN: 978-0-8425-2806-1, Retail: $44.99
Zion’s Trumpet (1851)
Edited by Ronald D. Dennis

The epic story of the early Welsh Mormons was virtually unknown until Ron Dennis personally mastered nineteenth-century Welsh—a major challenge even for a linguist. After writing impressive books on Welsh immigration and literature, he focused for a dozen years on producing "facsimile translations," or reproductions of early Welsh missionary texts and volumes of official Welsh Mormon periodicals produced during the great harvest of converts from that land. Virtually alone, Ron continues to work to preserve the full story of how the early preaching of the restored gospel inspired both fiery debate and heroic sacrifice among the people of Wales. This volume is another important disclosure in this saga, part of Dennis’s continuing efforts to translate all early Welsh Mormon literature.


No Weapon Shall Prosper: New Light on Sensitive Issues
Edited by Robert L. Millet

From the time young Joseph Smith Jr. walked out of the grove of trees, opposition to what he had seen and experienced has been constant. To suggest that all the existing churches were wrong and that their creeds were an abomination in the sight of God was to stir up a hornet’s nest, to invite criticism and suspicion, and to open the door to persecution. We ought to be competent disciples, serious students of the gospel who are able to provide a defense of the faith. As contributors, we are fully persuaded that Mormonism is not only true and faithful but also reasonable. We are committed to our faith and way of life because the Spirit of the living God has borne witness to our souls that
what began in Palmyra and now reaches to every corner of the globe is true and is God-ordained and God-inspired. This volume does not address every sensitive issue, but it does provide answers to a reasonable cross section of hard questions.


Notes from an Amateur: A Disciple’s Life in the Academy

John S. Tanner

The word *amateur* derives from the Latin word for “love.” An amateur is at root a lover—a lover of sport, science, art, and so forth. Tanner explains, “There is much to recommend the professional ethic, including rigor, methodology, high standards of review, and so forth. . . . Yet it is hoped that we also never cease to be amateurs in our professions—that is, passionate devotees of our disciplines.” This book gathers together brief messages that were periodically sent to the faculty at Brigham Young University by former academic vice president John S. Tanner. Tanner’s words reflect his years of experience as a scholar, an administrator, and a disciple, addressing with characteristic insight and wisdom an impressive range of topics from the seemingly mundane to the inspiring. This book is enhanced by the evocative art of Brian Kershisnik.


The King James Bible and the Restoration

Edited by Kent P. Jackson

The King James translation of the Bible celebrated its four-hundredth anniversary in 2011. This historic text has had a greater impact on the world than any other book in the English language. It is still in print today, four centuries since it first came off the London presses. This book is not solely about the history of the King James Bible and its contributions to the world in general. Its primary goal is to shed light on the
The intersection of the King James translation and Mormonism—hence the title. In important ways, the King James Bible was one of the contributors to the founding of the Latter-day Saint faith, and it has continued to play a significant role in its history to the present time, even in lands where English is not the spoken language.


Salt Lake City: The Place Which God Prepared
Edited by Scott C. Esplin and Kenneth L. Alford

For more than 150 years, “Come, Come, Ye Saints,” the anthem of the pioneer journey, has praised Salt Lake City as “the place which God for us prepared.” This new book from Brigham Young University’s Religious Studies Center discusses the fulfillment of that poetic longing. The sixteenth in a series of regional studies on Latter-day Saint Church history, it contains a collection of essays by faculty members in the Department of Church History and Doctrine discussing Salt Lake’s place in our sacred story. Topics include histories of significant landmarks, stories from the city’s past, and discussions of Church organizations. The reader will see connections between the revelations of Joseph Smith and Salt Lake City as a modern city of Zion, the place, indeed, where the Saints have been blessed.

Upcoming Events

For more information about these events, please visit us online at http://rsc.byu.edu/conferences-and-symposia

The Fortieth Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium

Scheduled for October 26–27, 2012. The keynote speaker will present in the Joseph Smith Building auditorium Friday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. The Sidney B. Sperry Symposium at Brigham Young University has become one of the premier venues for Latter-day Saint religious study. Over the past four decades, both the conference and its corresponding publications have expanded in scope and outreach, extending the impact of Religious Education at BYU. Like Sperry himself, today’s Sperry Symposium influences thousands through seminars and publications. For more information, please visit http://rsc.byu.edu/symposia/sperry.

The BYU Church History Symposium

The Church History Symposium will be held in March 2013. The topic will cover Joseph Smith and the ancient world. The symposium will be cosponsored by the Church History Library and will be presented at two different venues. One session will be held in the LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City, and another session will be on the BYU campus. Selected papers from each symposium will be published in a book by the BYU Religious Studies Center. Several hundred people attend each year to be enlightened and edified. There is no charge to attend this symposium. For more information, please visit http://rsc.byu.edu/symposia/churchhistory.

The BYU Easter Conference

Scheduled for March 2013, the BYU Easter Conference is a wonderful event that helps participants better prepare for the Easter season. Presenters will speak about the Savior, his life, his mission, the Atonement, and his influence in our lives today. The conference will feature notable Church leaders, historians, scholars, educators, and authors. The conference also features special instrumental and vocal presentations. This conference is free to attend and registration is not required. For more information, please visit http://easterconference.byu.edu.
Staff Spotlight

RSC Associate Director

Richard E. Bennett is a native of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. He was head of Special Collections at the University of Manitoba from 1978 to 1987. He is a former stake president of the Winnipeg Manitoba Stake. He earned a PhD in US intellectual history at Wayne State University. He is the author of several books and articles, mainly on nineteenth-century Church history. Presently Bennett serves as the associate dean of BYU Religious Education, the associate director of the Religious Studies Center at BYU, and the Church history editor for BYU Studies. He is married to Patricia Dyer, and they are the parents of five children.

RSC Publications Director

Dana M. Pike is a professor of ancient scripture and the publications director of the Religious Studies Center at BYU. Born in Boston and raised in New Hampshire, he and his family became Latter-day Saints when he was twelve years old. Pike earned a BS degree in archaeology from BYU and a PhD in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Since coming to BYU two decades ago, he has taught two years at the BYU Jerusalem Center, has worked as one of the international editors of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and has been involved in researching and publishing about the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He is just finishing seven years of service as the coordinator of BYU’s interdepartmental Ancient Near Eastern Studies major.

Student Editor

From Colorado Springs, Colorado, Katie M. Skovran is a senior studying English language with an emphasis in editing. She began editing for the Religious Studies Center in September 2011 and hopes to pursue a career in publication when she graduates in December 2012. Katie’s interests include reading, baking, playing games, and spending time with family and friends. From a young age, she has been an avid writer and especially enjoys keeping a journal. In particular, she loves music, and she plays the piano and the flute. Katie and her husband, Steven, were married in May 2012 and live in Provo.
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/RSCStyleGuide.pdf. All manuscripts should be submitted electronically to rsc@byu.edu. Hard-copy submissions are accepted only if an electronic copy is included.

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, 3rd edition, as reflected in a recent issue of the Religious Educator.

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.

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BYU’s Religious Studies Center

In 1975, Religious Education dean Jeffrey R. Holland established the Religious Studies Center (RSC) to facilitate religious study and serve not just the university but the entire Church. Today the RSC continues to have an impact on the university and the worldwide Church.

Global Impact

A major step in reaching to a global audience was the creation of the RSC website (rsc.byu.edu). This site offers a blog of recent events, news of upcoming conferences and symposia, a list of our most recent publications, a searchable database of past books and articles, and translations of selected articles in Portuguese and Spanish. The RSC is committed to sharing its resources with an ever-growing worldwide audience.

The Future of the RSC

While serving as president of BYU, President Holland said, “With the horizons expanding at an unprecedented rate for the study of what is ancient and what is modern, it is fitting for us to look to the resources, scholarship, and leadership of the [Religious Studies] Center to assist us in our search for ‘all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and [all] that he will yet reveal . . . pertaining to the kingdom of God.’ We build on a grand tradition and hope to add an increasing amount of substantial, published research to the good work already begun.” The RSC remains committed to pursuing that ever-expanding horizon of gospel scholarship and sharing our resources with a global audience.
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