

*Joseph Smith's*  
SEER STONES

MICHAEL HUBBARD MACKAY AND NICHOLAS J. FREDERICK

*With the assistance of Jordan Kezele*



Published by the Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah,  
in cooperation with Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City.  
Visit us at [rsc.byu.edu](http://rsc.byu.edu).

© 2016 by Brigham Young University. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

Deseret Book is a registered trademark of Deseret Book Company.  
Visit us at [DeseretBook.com](http://DeseretBook.com).

Any uses of this material beyond those allowed by the exemptions in US copyright law, such as section 107, "Fair Use," and section 108, "Library Copying," require the written permission of the publisher, Religious Studies Center, 185 HGB, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602. The views expressed herein are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of Brigham Young University or the Religious Studies Center.

ISBN: 978-1-9443-9405-9

Retail US: \$24.99

Cover design and interior layout by Madison Swapp

Front cover painting by Anthony Sweat

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: MacKay, Michael Hubbard, author.

Title: Joseph Smith's seer stones / Michael Hubbard MacKay and Nicholas J. Frederick.

Description: Provo : BYU Religious Studies Center, 2016. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016019871 | ISBN 9781944394059

Subjects: LCSH: Smith, Joseph, Jr., 1805-1844. | Occultism--Religious aspects--Mormon Church. | Visions. | Book of Mormon.

Classification: LCC BX8695.S6 M225 2016 | DDC 289.3092--dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016019871>

# CONTENTS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Abbreviations  | vii |
| Preface  | ix  |
| Foreword   | xi  |
| Introduction: Mormon Paradigm Shifts   | xv  |
| Chapter 1: The Seer Stone: “Acorn of the Mormon Oak”                               | 1   |
| Chapter 2: Money Digging and the Second Great Awakening                            | 5   |
| Chapter 3: Where Did Joseph Smith Find His Seer Stones?                            | 29  |
| Chapter 4: Seer Stones and the Translation of the Book of Mormon                   | 45  |
| Chapter 5: Tracking Down Joseph Smith’s Seer Stones Today                          | 65  |
| Chapter 6: Seer Stones of the Book of Mormon                                       | 89  |
| Chapter 7: “The Writing Is on the Wall”:<br>The Book of Mormon as Interpretive Key | 111 |
| Chapter 8: A Theology of Seer Stones   | 125 |
| Appendices   | 139 |
| Selected Annotated Bibliography of Seer Stone Sources                              | 181 |
| Image Credits  | 233 |
| Index  | 237 |