



NEWSLETTER

· RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER ·

Issue 1

Brigham Young University

September, 1986

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FROM PRESIDENT HOLLAND

When the Religious Studies Center was established at Brigham Young University in 1975, it was intended to facilitate not only the University's commitment to religious studies but was also to serve those same interests among the general membership of the LDS Church. Now, after ten years of growth and productivity, the Center stands in an ever-stronger position to assist many who are pursuing serious gospel scholarship underscoring the fundamental truths of the restoration. 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 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."

With the publication of this first issue of the *Newsletter*, I wish to thank so many who have labored for so long to give us this base of scholarly and spiritual strength at Brigham Young University. The list of names is too long to mention here, but suffice it to say we build on a grand tradition and hope to add an increasing amount of substantial, published research to the good work already begun. It is our intention to keep each of you informed on a regular basis about various projects, papers and symposia which are being sponsored by or coordinated through the Center. Even as we inform you of such work, we also invite you to contribute to the strong religious studies research being pursued on the Brigham Young University campus.

—Jeffrey R. Holland

WHAT IS THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER?

With the advent of an informative periodical from the Religious Studies Center, it is fitting to explain just what the Center does and who is associated with it.

The primary function of the Center is to bring researchers with common interests in religious studies together where they can stimulate and cooperate with each other in their work, multiplying the effectiveness of independent researchers. The culmination of these projects is publication.

One basic objective of encouraging researchers and their work, of course, is both to improve the teaching effectiveness of participants and to support the classroom presentation of the message of the restored gospel.

The Center's Executive Council is comprised of William E. Evenson, Associate Academic Vice President; Robert J. Matthews, General Director of the Center and Dean of Religious Education; Donald Q. Cannon, Associate General Director and Associate Dean; and S. Kent Brown, Assistant General Director for Publications.

Dr. Matthews administers the major budgetary and policy matters. Dr. Cannon coordinates research among area directors, and reviews and evaluates research in preparation for public presentation and publication. Dr. Brown administers editing and publication arrangements for the Center.

An advisory committee comprised of three deans from the BYU campus has been organized for the Center. The members are Robert J. Matthews of Religious Education who serves as chairman, Stan L. Albrecht of Family, Home and Social Sciences and Todd A. Britsch of Humanities.

The Area Directors are responsible for proposing and conducting research projects, coordinating affiliated projects (projects for which some other unit takes primary responsibility, but to which the Center gives some support), bringing together competent researchers and submitting work themselves.

The newly established area of Special Projects is responsible for research suggested by Church leaders through the University President and the General Director of the Religious Studies Center, for mapping out long-range research goals, and for proposing appropriate avenues of pursuing that research.

Anyone wishing to submit a proposal for consideration is cordially invited to do so. The opportunity is available, upon approval, for supporting assistance in many forms. If interested, an individual need only send a written request to the Area Director associated with one's specific area of study.

—D. Gonzalez

RECENTLY APPOINTED AREA DIRECTORS

Larry Evans Dahl has been appointed Director for the recently established area of Doctrine and Covenants. He is a native of Raymond, Alberta, Canada where he grew up working the family farm and then completed a mission in South Africa (56–58) where he was editor of the "Cumorah Messenger." He returned to Canada to complete his Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta in 1961, and received his Masters of Religious Education and Doctor of Education at BYU in 1968 and 1971, respectively.

Dr. Dahl's work experience is varied. He has taught seminary, sold men's clothing at the Hudson Bay Company Store and taught Junior High for Lethbridge School District. While working for the Church Educational System, Dr. Dahl has served as curriculum writer, District Coordinator, Institute Director, Division Coordinator (Hawaii and Western Canada) and as a part time instructor at BYU. Working in the Church Office Building in Salt Lake City in Instructional Development, he was supervisor of Adult Curriculum and Manager of Curriculum Development for the Church.

In September 1978, Dr. Dahl joined BYU as an Associate Professor of Church History and Doctrine. Probably his best known written work is *The King Follett Discourse: Joseph Smith's Greatest Sermon in Historical Perspective*, co-authored with Dr. Donald Q. Cannon. Dr. Dahl is presently living in Provo with his wife Roberta and four of their nine children who are still at home.

Donald Q. Cannon has been appointed as Associate General Director. He was born in Washington, D. C., grew up in Salt Lake City, and served a mission in North Germany. He has also served as a Captain in Army Intelligence at the Pentagon (65–67) and had occasion to brief the Chief of Staff during the Six-Day War in 1967.

Educationally, Dr. Cannon received his Bachelor of Arts (with honors) and his Master of Arts in History at the University of Utah in 1961 and 62, respectively. He received his Doctorate in History at Clark University in 1967.

Before joining the faculty at BYU, Dr. Cannon was an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham. At BYU, he has been the Doctrine and Covenants Coordinator and a member of both the University Research Committee and the Faculty General Education Council. He is also affiliated with the Utah Historical Society and the Institute of Early American History and Culture.

Dr. Cannon's publications are many including: *Far West Record: Minutes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830–1844*; *Supporting Saints: Life Stories of Nineteenth Century Mormons*; and *The King Follett Discourse: Joseph Smith's Greatest Sermon in Historical Perspective*, co-authored with Dr. Larry E. Dahl.

Dr. Cannon and his wife, Jo Ann live in Orem with three of their six children who remain at home.

Monte S. Nyman has been appointed as the new Area Director of the Book of Mormon, succeeding Dr. Paul R. Cheesman. He is a native of North Logan, Utah and served a mission in the North Central States. In the armed forces, Dr. Nyman has had the distinction of serving both in the U. S. Navy and as a First Lt. in the Army Reserve.

He received his B.S. and M.S. in Physical Education at Utah State University in 1952 and 1958, respectively, and completed his Ed.D. in Educational Administration in 1965 at BYU.

Prior to joining the BYU faculty, Dr. Nyman was a coach-teacher for Price Utah School District and the Gem Valley School District in Grace, Idaho. He has also been a teacher in the LDS Seminaries and Institutes. In October of 1985, he was the recipient of the Continuing Education Outstanding Teacher Award.

Among his publications are *Great are the Words of Isaiah* and *The Words of Jeremiah*. He presently lives in Provo with his wife Mary Ann and four of their eight children who still live at home.

John W. Welch has been appointed Area Director of Special Projects. He was born in Massachusetts, but at two and one-half years moved to California. He served a mission in South Germany.

Dr. Welch attended BYU from 1964 to 1970, including a semester abroad in 1966 at the Universität Salzburg and Mozarteum, and in 1970 received both his B.A. in History and M.A. in Greek from BYU (the same day). From 1970–72, he attended Oxford University and in 1975 received his J. D. from Duke University Law School.

He worked for the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers in Los Angeles (1975–80) where he specialized in tax matters. Since joining BYU's faculty in 1980, he has served as Chairman of the Law School's Task Force on Religion, Morality and Professionalism; coordinated professional seminars, served as a member of the Faculty Advisory Council and on the Law School Curriculum Committee. He also worked with the Associate Academic Vice President's Committee for Recognition of Hugh Nibley, and was an executive in the production of a documentary film on Professor Nibley's career. He is also Director and President of the Foundation for Ancient Research and Mormon Studies (F.A.R.M.S.).

Publications include over twenty titles, among which are "Shareholder Individual and Derivative Actions: Underlying Rationales and the Closely Held Corporation;" "Private Pension Litigation;" *Chiasmus in Antiquity*; and *The Doctrine and Covenants by Themes*, the latter co-authored with his wife Jeannie with whom he lives in Provo with their four children.

—D. Gonzalez

THE WORK OF THE DIRECTORS

Richard L. Anderson

Professor Anderson's manuscript *Dear Joseph, Dear Emma* will be sent to the publisher at the end of this year. The result of a dozen years of research, the book is a "biography of the marriage of Joseph and Emma" recounted through their letters. Dr. Anderson has gathered data from repositories usually inaccessible, including the LDS and RLDS Archives, the Chicago Historical Society, the Huntington Library, and Yale.

Another book, edited and including two articles by Dr. Anderson, will contain papers on "The Gospels: Text, Translations, Testimony," a symposium emphasizing the Greek text of the New Testament Gospels which was held February 22–23, 1985. The volume of essays, bearing the title of the symposium, will also go to press at the end of 1986.

S. Kent Brown

Dr. Brown was appointed one year ago to be Assistant Director for Publications of the Religious Studies Center. As such, he serves in an editorial capacity for manuscripts on religious topics from departmental and non-departmental faculty alike.

In addition, he has been engaged, for the last six years, in negotiations with officials of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt to microfilm Coptic and Arabic manuscripts; this project is to provide BYU with more than 7,000 filmed manuscripts. An important acquisition for the Harold B. Lee Library and an invaluable resource for scholars researching early Christianity, these primarily medieval documents reflect the doctrinal and ecclesiastical modifications that occurred in the early Christian Church. In the collection are copies of the Old Testament in Coptic taken from the Septuagint, New Testament books and liturgical texts. Like the Isaiah scroll from Qumran, these copies of scriptural texts are valuable in revealing theological development and in bringing new textual readings to light.

Donald Q. Cannon

Recently in Washington D.C., Prof. Cannon has been conducting research on the "emissaries, beginning with Joseph Smith, who have gone to Washington to represent the Church." He will concentrate on the emissaries themselves, their missions, the reactions at presidential and congressional levels to such and the results of each mission.

Another planned research project of major proportions and long-range duration involves extensive investigation of Joseph Smith's doctrines. A proposed multi-volumed work, the projected duration of the study will be at least five years. Professors Cannon, Dahl and Welch will direct the research.

Larry E. Dahl

Formerly only a part of the teaching curriculum of the Department of Church History and Doctrine, Doctrine and Covenants has now been designated a separate research area of the Center. This decision took effect in July when Larry E. Dahl was appointed director. Professor Dahl hopes that this decision will provide "a catalyst for new research" in the subject. He plans to "invite input from many sources about what should be done in Doctrine and Covenants research" and wants to involve as many participants as possible in developing a research format.

C. Wilfred Griggs

Largely responsible for the coming of the Ramses II Exhibit to BYU, Dr. Griggs acquired on a recent trip to Egypt some "one thousand publications relating to Egyptology, including materials from the Cairo Egyptian Museum" for the BYU Library.

Of his own work, his manuscript, *Early Egyptian Christianity*, is in its final stages before being published by E.J. Brill in Leiden. From the book's more comprehensive body of ideas, two may be extracted: one proposes a first-century rise of Christianity in Egypt, a date earlier by almost 100 years than that currently accepted; another premise depicts a Christianity substantially different from what is usually supposed.

Monte S. Nyman

Dr. Nyman was recently appointed Director of the Book of Mormon area and serves as chairman of the coming Book of Mormon symposium scheduled for October 10–11 which bears the title "First Nephi: the Doctrinal Foundation."

In continuing Book of Mormon research, he is presently writing a manuscript whose title is "The Book of Mormon: the Most Correct Book", addressing the "content and purposes of the Book of Mormon as outlined in Doctrine and Covenants 20." He has just completed another manuscript—"The Book of Mormon: An Ensign to the Nations"—treating the book's message to various nations, including the "Gentiles," and the Lamanite and the Jewish cultures.

H. Donl Peterson

Nearing completion, a manuscript on the Book of Abraham by Professor Peterson should be ready for a publisher by January 1987. This work, the culmination of many years' research, will cover the entire history of the Abrahamic manuscript, including its composition by Abraham and Joseph in Egypt, its burial with the mummies, its disinterment centuries later, the Lebolo-Chandler tie ("if there is one"), its purchase by Joseph Smith and his statements concerning this treasure, and developments after Joseph's death to the present time, including the collection of eleven fragments rediscovered by the University of Utah's Dr. Aziz S. Atiya and given to the Church by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1967.

Dr. Peterson is also editing a collection of essays which grew out of lectures delivered during the Center's most recent symposium which focused on the Pearl of Great Price (March 21-22, 1986). The planned volume should appear late in 1987.

Larry C. Porter

Professor Larry C. Porter is continuing research for a work on the Mormon Battalion which will contain biographies of all 549 members of the Battalion, plus their wives and children, as well as non-members, both military and civilian. At least four volumes are planned, including one for the history of the battalion itself. In this effort, Dr. Porter is cooperating with Ben Bloxham of the History department, and with Susan Easton Black and Clark V. Johnson of the Department of Church History and Doctrine. The projected publication date is 1988.

In addition, Dr. Porter is writing a chapter for a book, *Truth Will Prevail*, to be published in 1987 for the sesquicentennial of the Church in England. His will be an introductory chapter treating the segment of the history of the restoration of the Gospel in America before the first American and Canadian elders, under the leadership of Heber C. Kimball, were sent to England in 1837.

John W. Welch

As Director of Special Projects for the Religious Studies Center, Professor Welch coordinates interdisciplinary research and encourages the preparation and submission of manuscripts not only from BYU faculty in general, but from researchers not affiliated with Brigham Young University.

His current projects include a recently announced study of New Testament words and phrases, an effort which will seek to pool the skills of many researchers. It is designed to "create a reference file of basic research information" for LDS students of the New Testament by singling out Greek words, phrases, and concepts that shed light on the teachings of the earliest Christian Church and hence on LDS doctrine.

—C. Mason

REVIEW - SUPPORTING SAINTS: LIFE STORIES OF 19TH CENTURY MORMONS

edited by Donald Q. Cannon
and David J. Whittaker

Supporting Saints is a compilation of biographical essays which testify of the rich heritage that Latter-day Saints have received in the diverse and insightful lives of their forebears.

In the first essay, coeditor David J. Whittaker provides an

introduction to the subject of biography, giving particular attention to the historical context of Mormon biography.

Ronald Walker's essay on the mother of Heber J. Grant narrates the notable, even tragic, life of Rachel Ivins Grant. Her life demonstrates that many nineteenth century women indeed bore a difficult lot. Her courage and dignity in the face of hardship are worthy of our admiration and emulation.

William Howells, the first LDS missionary to France, is the subject of the essay by Ronald D. Dennis whose skill in Howells's native Welsh language has enabled him to interpret the feelings and experiences of this man. In this review, the trials and problems of early missionary work are graphically portrayed.

Another essay treats Andrew Jenson. Keith W. Perkins writes about the dedicated historical career of this Scandinavian immigrant. Not being drawn to farming, Andrew Jenson turned to collecting sources on and writing about church history. At first, his work was done entirely on his own, but eventually the Church became involved in his enterprise when he became Assistant Church Historian.

Lavina Fielding Anderson explains the life and times of Martha Cragun Cox. The piece tells not only of the character of her polygamous marriage but also of her remarkable sixty-year career as a school teacher in Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico.

Paul Anderson, an architect, examines the fascinating saga of the conversion, church career, personal life, and architectural work of Truman Angell, the architect for the Salt Lake Temple.

In his other contribution, David Whittaker deals with an obscure but significant aspect of the life of Richard Ballantyne. Many will recognize Brother Ballantyne as the founder of the Church's Sunday School, but few are familiar with his work as a missionary in India.

Thomas E. Lyon presents a portrait of John Lyon, a Scottish convert and prolific poet, illustrating how intimately John Lyon's poetry related to his immigrant, pioneer experiences. He has the distinction of having published the first book of poetry, *The Harp of Zion*, in Utah.

Chad J. Flake describes the frontier life of his ancestor Lucy Hannah White Flake. Hers is the story of a woman who experienced heartache and problems as she lived the life of a polygamous wife struggling to colonize the Arizona frontier.

The essay by D. Gene Pace studies the life of Elijah Sheets, the man distinguished as having served the longest tenure of any bishop in the history of the Church. Remarkably, he was bishop of Salt Lake Eighth Ward for almost fifty years.

William G. Hartley's essay features Edward Hunter. Besides telling of his life, the piece deals with the then relatively new office of Presiding Bishop.

Carol C. Madsen describes the challenging life of Emmeline B. Wells, one of the Church's most distinguished writers and founder and editor of *The Women's Exponent* who involved herself in many of the women's issues of her time. The essay also details her experiences as General President of the Relief Society.

James R. Christianson's essay treats Jacob Spori who was a convert to the Church in Switzerland. After Church service in Europe, he immigrated to Utah, subsequently returning to Switzerland and serving a mission in Constantinople. Later he and his family moved to Idaho where he was influential in church education.

The final essay was written by Donald Q. Cannon, co-editor of the volume. In it, he focuses on Angus M. Cannon's Church career, especially his role as stake president of the Salt Lake Stake for twenty-eight years (1876-1904).

—D. Gonzalez

REVIEW - APOCRYPHAL WRITINGS AND THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS

edited by C. Wilfred Griggs

Recently published by the Religious Studies Center, this volume is probably the most significant LDS work on the subject to date: it attempts to provide a few guideposts for Latter-day Saints who are curious about apocryphal writings. Reflecting on the Lord's statement about the worth of the Old Testament Apocrypha (D&C 91), the fifteen articles of this publication, given in a symposium at Brigham Young University in 1983, seek to suggest to readers the weaknesses and strengths of this type of literature.

C. Wilfred Griggs explains that one of Jesus' objectives in teaching through parables may have been to underscore the importance of testimony being revealed by God and not by man; similarly, apocryphal writings are a type of tradition which, by its own account, can only be understood through revelation, just as "one cannot unravel the secrets...of heaven except through revelation." Stephen E. Robinson makes a strong statement about the texts' historical importance, coupled with a firm warning—Latter-day Saints should avoid seeking in the apocryphal works, first, material to "prove" LDS theology and, second, "the plain and precious truths" deleted from scripture. He adds that we do not always seek the "plain and precious" in them, anyway, but the "mysterious and complex."

Robert J. Matthews points out that while apocryphal works are not flawless, they may in some cases be remnants of earlier, more accurate documents and can help members look forward to the time the "lost books" will be restored. He also distinguishes between canon and text: a text can be inspired and yet not be binding as scripture because what is "canon" is determined by the vote of the people, who in some cases, such as in times of apostasy, reject truth and accept falsehood. S. Kent Brown too advises against seeing "something akin to scripture" in apocryphal works but affirms their worth by presenting teachings from the Nag Hammadi corpus which correspond to LDS doctrine as well as some which do not; he recommends discernment in distinguishing between the two.

Gerald E. Jones reviews the dual response to apocryphal writings in Church history—membership interest yet caution from some Church leaders; and he notes the recent upswing in the use of the apocrypha. Steven Walker, in good humor, chides members for thinking, "A Bible, a Bible, we have got a Bible" and a Book of Mormon" and a D&C etc. and so to think apocryphal writings are not necessary. To persuade members otherwise, he highlights the literary merit and the moral principles in the apocryphal Book of Susannah. Gary Gillum's spirit of adventure and excitement are infectious as he traces his own discovery of apocryphal writings. He includes a useful bibliography.

In a cautionary vein, Edward J. Brandt traces the origin and various editions and versions of the apocryphal Book of Jasher and warns readers not to expect it to be *the* Book of Jasher referred to in Joshua 10 and 2 Samuel 1. Richard L. Anderson's essay is directed not toward the traditional apocrypha but against the superficial, fictional "modern" apocrypha produced in the last two centuries. He distinguishes Third Nephi from these: it has depth, authenticity and presents Christ's full personality, "not the glorified stage prop of modern apocrypha." The intriguing figure of Melchizedek forms the basis for Ann Madsen's comparative study of Dead Sea and Nag Hammadi

material, but she reminds the reader these present information about Melchizedek not confirmed by revealed scripture.

Joseph F. McConkie traces in apocryphal literature themes of heavenly councils and heavenly ascent, foreordination and pre-existence. Virginia K. Peterson Rigby explores the scriptural and apocryphal literature concerning Simon Magus who, in some traditions, founded gnosticism. And Robert L. Millet explains the reasons why the orally transmitted gospel of Christ was committed to writing, noting that the New Testament Gospels were not intended to convey "the esoteric teachings of the Master."

Two authors employ textual analysis to examine actual manuscripts. Thomas W. Mackay argues against the Pauline authorship of the epistles of 3 Corinthians and Laodiceans. Philip Schaelling, comparing the Alexandrian and Bezae manuscripts of the Book of Acts, concludes that the textual variants in the latter reveal doctrinal tendencies inclining away from the doctrines of the earliest church.

This volume, as a whole, is an affirmation for the study of apocryphal writings and can influence Latter-day Saints to use discriminating judgment in that endeavor. Many of the apocryphal works can be found in the two volumes edited by J. H. Charlesworth and entitled *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* as well as in the Biblical Apocrypha.

—C. Mason

RETIREMENT

When he was moving to St. George, Utah after his August retirement, Dr. Paul R. Cheesman was laying plans to develop an Indian Cultural Center there, modelled after the Polynesian Cultural Center in Hawaii. It is to house a museum which will feature artifacts from North, Central and South America.

Another large scale project is a television series on the Book of Mormon. Dr. Cheesman will be involved in fund raising, manuscript writing, and screening professional actors. The series is to be filmed near St. George; the sets used in the filming will then be installed permanently in the Cultural Center.

In addition, Dr. Cheesman will continue work on his *Handbook of External Evidences of the Book of Mormon*, with alphabetized references to numerous features of the Book of Mormon, including agriculture, astronomy, architecture, animals, customs, and weaponry. It will be the culmination of thirty years research in Book of Mormon cultural parallels between the Old and New Worlds. He will also finish a book concerning the destiny of the Lamanites which will be a monument to his lifelong love and dedicated service for these, his friends. And he foresees a up-dated reprint of his *Keystone of Mormonism*. Dr. Cheesman will be missed for both his towering stature and his spiritual vision. He inspires confidence and has a commanding presence which communicated itself to audiences in the film "Ancient America Speaks" which he produced and narrated.

He has taught for twenty-three years in the Department of Ancient Scripture. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State, he taught for five years in the California school system and attended both UCLA and the University of Miami for graduate studies. In 1941, he was called to a mission in the Southern States; returning, he married Millie Ruby Foster.

—C. Mason

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2nd Annual Book of Mormon Symposium, "First Nephi: The Doctrinal Foundation," will be held at Brigham Young University on October 10 and 11. The speakers will include Elder Neal A. Maxwell, President Jeffrey R. Holland, Dean Robert J. Matthews, Truman G. Madsen, John W. Welch, Gerald Lund, and Stephen E. Robinson.

Religious Education and the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences along with the Departments of History and Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University announce a symposium celebrating the sesquicentennial of the opening of the British Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Symposium will be held January 16 and 17, 1987 at the Harman Conference Center on the Brigham Young University campus.

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