

Preface

Problems of the Book of Mormon fall roughly into two classes: (1) problems raised by Latter-day Saints relative to doctrinal matters, interpretation of the text, and sundry technical items, and (2) problems raised by unfriendly critics in their endeavors to discredit the Nephite record and the Church. No attempt is made in this book to discuss or solve all of the problems that have been raised concerning the Book of Mormon. I have simply made a selection of important problems and have attempted to discuss them as fairly and adequately as my knowledge and experience permit. It is hoped that my discussions will prove interesting and useful to members of the Church, especially to our missionaries who often find themselves confronted with difficult problems. Problems dealing with Book of Mormon geography have been treated by other writers.

Five chapters of this book have been devoted to answering Arthur Budvarson's attack on the Book of Mormon in his *The Book of Mormon—True or False?* His brochure has been the source of much of the recent criticism leveled against the Nephite record. Budvarson was cut off the Church in 1944 for apostasy and now delights in writing against the Book of Mormon.

It was my original intention to answer another attack on the Book of Mormon, as well as Budvarson's, but the book containing it has not yet appeared, in spite of the announcement that it would appear this summer (1963). If and when it comes into print, I shall determine whether it contains enough new material to make it worth answering in another edition of this book, should it be called for.

I am indebted to a number of my colleagues on the faculty of Brigham Young University who have read a number of chapters with me, in which process I have benefitted from their expert knowledge and advice. These men more particularly include Drs. M. Wells Jakeman and Ross

T. Christiansen in the field of American Archaeology and Dr. John L. Sorenson in Anthropology. They are to be commended for the very scholarly and efficient manner in which they are handling Book of Mormon problems in their respective areas of interest. Dr. David Yarn was kind enough to discuss with me the chapter dealing with the problem of the nature of man. Professor Ralph Britsch has looked over the entire manuscript, which has benefitted substantially from his criticism.

I have tried to be as accurate as possible in my discussion of the problems of the Book of Mormon, preferring to be conservative in certain disputed areas. Perhaps I have been too conservative in my discussion of the problem of the use of domestic animals among Book of Mormon peoples, but it is better to claim too little than too much in this, the most difficult area in which to find scientific substantiation for the Nephite record. In this area we shall have to wait patiently until scientists uncover the desired evidence. Here we walk by faith until knowledge comes.

A few chapters in this book have been taken, for logical reasons, from some of my other publications.

My thanks go to Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr. for permission to use some of his material published in the second edition of his little book *The Book of Mormon Message and Evidences*. (1961)

Elder A. William Lund of the Church Historian's Office kindly lent his assistance in some matters pertaining to texts. Thanks go to Marvin Wallin, manager of Bookcraft, Inc., for his unfailing help and courtesy in matters of publication.

S.B.S.

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