Brief Notices


Like a wagon-train scout of the American West, H. Donl Peterson has gone before us and done much of the work in tracing the history of the Book of Abraham. In *The Story of the Book of Abraham*, he has provided a guidebook for those who follow. Writing for both the first-time traveler and the seasoned veteran, Peterson gives the general lay of the land as well as indicates points of departure for new territory.

With an open and candid style, he includes background information on ancient Near Eastern culture, copious notes, and precise details of his research. He also adds many of his personal insights, opinions, questions, and stories about the Book of Abraham. *The Story of the Book of Abraham* reads like a personal notebook that not only allows us to learn what the explorer has learned, but also lets us see the man behind the work. H. Donl Peterson's love of the gospel, the scriptures, and his research area can be felt throughout the book.

At times the details may be a bit overwhelming for the general reader, and the background might seem elementary to those acquainted with the field. But these elements work together to produce a book for everyone. The overall presentation is balanced and engaging. Peterson creates a work that explains past discoveries and points the way for further exploration.

—David K. Geilman

*Plain and Precious Truths Restored: The Doctrinal and Historical Significance of the Joseph Smith Translation*, edited by Robert L. Millet and Robert J. Matthews (Bookcraft, 1995)

In this collection of papers presented at the 1995 BYU Symposium, "As Translated Correctly," participants emphasize the value of the Joseph Smith Translation (JST) and its relationship to the standard works. Much of this information will be new to most readers.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks warns against the "spiritual dangers of ignoring or neglecting the prophetic teachings" in the JST and advocates its use in personal scripture study, Church teaching, and scholarship (4).

Larry E. Dahl shows that 50 percent of the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants came as a direct result of the Bible translation. This relationship is displayed in a detailed chronology.

Thomas E. Sherry contrasts the LDS and RLDS views of the JST. While the RLDS Church has moved