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— Kerry Hull, co-editor, *A Hundredth Part: Exploring the History and Teachings of the Book of Mormon*.



## Plates of Mormon, A Book of Mormon Study Edition

*Based on Textual and Narrative Structures in the English Translation*

Edited By Brant A. Gardner

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### Description:

For nearly two centuries, Latter-day Saints have been reading the Book of Mormon through multiple changes in its punctuation, formatting, and versification. *The Plates of Mormon: A Book of Mormon Study Edition Based on Textual and Narrative Structures in the English Translation* offers a new perspective on this book of scripture by seeking to align its English translation with the inaccessible golden plates from which that translation was made. Originally punctuated and formatted by the 1830 first edition's compositor, John H. Gilbert, who had to add punctuation and paragraphs to the text to make it more reader-friendly, this study edition meticulously returns to this issue by reexamining punctuation and paragraphs to enhance readability while maintaining faithfulness to the source material. Utilizing insights explored in his companion volume, *Engraven Upon Plates, Printed Upon Paper: Textual and Narrative Structures of the Book of Mormon*, editor Brant A. Gardner also addresses issues of spelling, grammar, alterations, deletions, and paratextual information, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the Book of Mormon's composition and the principles guiding this edition's editorial decisions.

Additionally, this edition examines narrative and literary structures in its translation to best represent how Mormon's ancient writings were recorded on his golden plates. It does so not only by removing modern summaries and versification formatting, but also by returning the text to its original chapters and relocating the small plates section outside of Mormon's intended record. It also highlights the logic behind punctuation, paragraphing, chapters, and headers, helping readers gain a more profound appreciation for the text's nuances. If you're interested in the Book of Mormon's origins, textual structure, and the thoughtful decisions made in presenting it, this edition provides valuable insights and a fresh perspective on this sacred text. It is a must-read for those seeking to explore the Book of Mormon anew.

**Subjects: Latter-day Saint scripture, Literary Analysis, Commentary**

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## **Plates of Mormon, A Book of Mormon Study Edition**

*Plates of Mormon, A Book of Mormon Study Edition* takes us through the original formatting of the Book of Mormon and adds additional edits to the text to expand our knowledge as we study.

### **Praise from early reviewers**

- "This volume is a welcome addition to other recent study editions of the Book of Mormon. Relying upon the Printer's Manuscript, Gardner succeeds in making the text more intelligible and accessible to readers through a careful restructuring of punctuation, sentences, paragraphs, and narrative blocks, as well as by beginning with the large plates followed by the small. Readers will engage anew with the text of the Book of Mormon in this logically and creatively reformatted presentation, supported by highly insightful footnotes. There is much to be gained from this innovative contribution to Book of Mormon studies." — Kerry Hull, co-editor, *A Hundredth Part: Exploring the History and Teachings of the Book of Mormon*

## About the Author

**Brant A. Gardner** earned his M.S. in anthropology (specializing in Mesoamerican ethnohistory) from the State University of New York at Albany. He has presented papers at the Foundation for Apologetic Information and Research (FAIR), the Book of Mormon Archaeological Symposium, and Sunstone. His other published works include chapters in *Estudios de Cultura Nahuatl and Symbol and Meaning beyond the Closed Community: Essays in Mesoamerican Ideas*, and articles in the *FARMS Review*, *Sunstone*, and *Meridian Magazine*. Brant and his wife, Valerie, have four children and eleven grandchildren.

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