

The Annual Summer Seminar on Mormon Culture

“THE GOLD PLATES AS CULTURAL ARTIFACT - II”

Brigham Young University

June 18 – July 27, 2012

In the summer of 2012, the Neal A Maxwell Institute at Brigham Young University will sponsor a second summer seminar for graduate students and junior faculty on “The Gold Plates as Cultural Artifact.” The seminar will be held on the BYU campus in Provo, Utah, from June 18 to July 27. Admitted participants will receive a stipend of \$3000 with an accommodations subsidy if needed. The seminar continues the series of seminars on Mormon culture begun in the summer of 1997.

The seminar will be conducted by Richard Bushman, Professor of History Emeritus at Columbia University.

The seminar will consider the gold plates as a cultural object situated in various environments ranging from the Book of Mormon to modern popular culture. From the beginning the plates have fascinated disbelievers as well as believers. They have sparked ongoing research and debate and still figure in Mormon song, story, and art. The plates take their place alongside a host of sacred objects that figure in the world’s religious imagination and stand in a long tradition of recovered lost records. The seminar will ask how cultural meanings have attached themselves to the gold plates in these various environments and what the plates mean today.

Each participant will be asked to prepare a paper on some aspect of the plates’ cultural history for presentation in a public symposium in the final week. Applicants are welcomed from the fields of history, literature, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, philosophy and other humanistic and social scientific fields. Graduate students at any level of preparation are eligible. Junior faculty are also invited to apply.

Applications should be submitted by February 15, 2012. Notifications will be sent by March 15, 2012. Application materials are attached. For further information write:

Summer Seminar on Mormon Culture

Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

Brigham Young University

Provo, Utah 84602

email: sumsem@byu.edu phone: (801) 422 9229 fax: (801) 422 0040

2012 SUMMER SEMINAR APPLICATION

“THE GOLD PLATES AS CULTURAL ARTIFACT-II”

Brigham Young University

June 18 – July 27, 2012

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Standing: Graduate year _____ or Faculty rank _____

Current college or university:

Colleges or Universities attended, including degrees earned, major, and your current field of study or teaching.

College/University	Degree	Year Earned or Expected	Major	Field of Graduate Study
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Will you require housing? _____

If yes, single or family housing? _____

If family, how many children? _____

On a separate sheet, please write an essay explaining your interest in the fellowship program. Also explain your disciplinary background and how it relates to cultural history.

With this application, submit a writing sample, such as a course paper or a list of publications.

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Mail application to:

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Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah 84602

email: sumsem@byu.edu phone: (801) 422 9229 fax: (801) 422 0040