

The Mormon Scholars Foundation Annual
Summer Symposium on Mormon Culture

Purpose of the Mormon Scholars Foundation

The Mormon Scholars Foundation seeks to foster the rising generation of LDS scholars, and all young scholars working in Mormon Studies.

The Foundation sponsors an annual summer seminar, conferences, and lectureships, where graduate students and young faculty join with senior LDS scholars in addressing the intellectual and spiritual problems arising from their work. We seek to form networks of friends who can edify one another as they explore new ways of understanding Mormon culture.

The ultimate aim of the program is to prepare scholars who can more effectively convey the significance of Mormonism to a broad general audience.

Our fundamental assumption is that free and open inquiry is the best approach in intellectual and spiritual matters. Our guiding principle is voiced in the scripture: “and as all have not faith, seek ye diligently and teach one another (D&C 88:118).”

THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE GOLD PLATES

Thursday, August 18, 2011
Room B037 Joseph F. Smith Building
Brigham Young University

*Hosted by the Neal A. Maxwell Institute
and generously funded by the
Mormon Scholars Foundation.*

MORNING SESSION

9:00 AM	Welcome by Richard Bushman Invocation TBA
9:15 AM	“Worlds of Discourse, Plates of Gold: Joseph Smith’s Plates as Cultural Catalysts” - <i>Stephen Taysom</i>
9:45 AM	“Guard the Gold: Didactic Fiction and the Mainstreaming of Moroni” – <i>Ben Bascom</i>
10:15 AM	“Fictionalizing Faith: Popular Polemics and the Golden Plates” – <i>Jared Halverson</i>
10:45 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM	“Artistic Depictions of the Gold Plates and the Material Cultural Inheritance” – <i>Julie Fredericks</i>
11:30 AM	“Processing the Plates: The Presence and Absence of the Gold Plates” – <i>Tyler Gardner</i>
12:00 PM	“‘Wagonloads’: The Disappearance of the Book of Mormon’s Sealed Portion” – <i>Rachael Givens</i>
12:30 PM	BREAK FOR LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION

1:45 PM	“Fantasy, Fraud and Freud: The Uncanny Gold Plates in 19 th Century Newspaper Accounts” – <i>Sarah Reed</i>
2:15 PM	“The Forbidden Gaze: The Veiling of the Gold Plates and Joseph Smith’s Redefinition of Sacred Space” - <i>Elizabeth Mott</i>
2:45 PM	“The Notion of Ancient Metal Records in Joseph Smith’s Day” – <i>Michael Reed</i>
3:15 PM	BREAK
3:30 PM	“The Metallurgical Plausibility of the Gold Plates” – <i>Caroline Sorensen</i>
4:00 PM	“Rediscovering Joseph Smith’s ‘Discovery Narrative’ in Southern Utah” – <i>Christopher Smith</i>
4:30 PM	“In Consequence of Their Wickedness: The Decline and Fall of Mormon Seership, 1838-1900” – <i>Rachel Gostenhofer</i>