A Study of Some Textual Variations in the Book of Mormon Comparing the Original and the Printer's Manuscripts and the 1830, the 1837, and the 1840 Editions

Stanley R. Larson, Brigham Young University - Provo

Abstract
This thesis is a study of textual variations in the two manuscripts and the first three editions of the Book of Mormon. Successive collations of each of these were made against the text of the first edition. From these collations some 427 specific textual variations were selected for inclusion in the thesis.

The research disclosed that some genuine corrections as well as editorial revisions were made by Joseph Smith in 1837 and 1840. However, it was also concluded that some alterations of the text arose from accidental causes.

The most significant contribution of this study was that both the Original Manuscript and the Printer's Manuscript contain valuable new manuscript readings which were unfortunately corrupted by scribal or printer's errors. These readings from the manuscripts eliminate inconsistencies, clarify meanings, correct errors, restore lost words, or otherwise present a super text. Because these genuine readings went unnoticed in 1837 and 1840, the process of restoring them to the text has not been completed.

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Language
English
printer’s manuscript and the first published edition—not the original manuscript—to prepare the text for the second edition. In addition to 1830 compositors’ marks, therefore, the manuscript contains emendations made by JS in preparation for the publication of the 1837 edition. Cowdery retained possession of the manuscript after the 1837 publication. Before Cowdery died in 1850, he passed the manuscript to his fellow Book of Mormon witness and brother-in-law, David Whitmer. 7 Jan. Jerald and Sandra Tanner of the Utah Lighthouse Ministry have identified nearly 4,000 changes when comparing the original 1830 edition to the 1964 edition. Reference: 3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon. Doctrinal Changes. A selection of doctrinal changes in the Book of Mormon. Godhead Changes were made to the Book of Mormon after Joseph Smith changed his doctrine from Monotheism to Polytheism. 1830 original edition. 1837 and subsequent editions. 1 Nephi 11:18. Christ named too soon in the Book of Mormon narrative, the name of Christ is not revealed until 2 Nephi 10:3. Wherefore, as I said unto you, it must needs be expedient that Christ—for in the last night the angel spake unto me that this should be his name. — 2 Nephi 10:3.