MORMON HANDBOOK

~ on ~

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM
### Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Rosetta Stone discovered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Joseph Smith begins translating Egyptian papyri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Book of Abraham published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Papyri sold after Joseph’s death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>English translation of Rosetta Stone complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Egyptologists identify Book of Abraham facsimiles as common funerary documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Original translation papers (KEP) leaked from LDS church vault and published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>LDS church reacquires papyri from the Met, New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

In 1835 a traveling exhibit of Egyptian mummies visited Joseph Smith's town. Inside the coffins in connection with two mummies were two rolls and fragments of papyri.

On opening the coffins, he [Michael H. Chandler] discovered that in connection with two of the bodies, was something rolled up with the same kind of linen, saturated with the same bitumen, which, when examined, proved to be two rolls of papyrus, previously mentioned. Two or three other small pieces of papyrus, with astronomical calculations, epitaphs, &c., were found with others of the mummies.

Since Joseph claimed to have translated "Reformed Egyptian" to produce the Book of Mormon (Mormon 9:32), and claimed to be a seer (D&C 124:125)—one who can "translate all records that are of ancient date" (Mosiah 8:13), he was approached to translate the characters on the papyri.

On the 3rd of July, Michael H. Chandler came to Kirtland to exhibit some Egyptian mummies. There were four human figures, together with some two or more rolls of papyrus covered with hieroglyphic figures and devices. As Mr. Chandler had been told I could translate them, he brought me some of the characters, and I gave him the interpretation.
The church purchased the papyri and Joseph claimed to identify its origins.

 Soon after this, some of the Saints at Kirtland purchased the mummies and papyrus, a description of which will appear hereafter, and with W.W. Phelps and Oliver Cowdery as scribes, I commenced the translation of some of the characters or hieroglyphics, and much to our joy found that one of the rolls contained the writings of Abraham, another writings of Joseph of Egypt, etc.—a more full account of which will appear in its place, as I proceed to examine or unfold them. Truly we can say, the Lord is beginning to reveal the abundance of peace and truth.

Joseph Smith
~ Mormonism founder
History of the Church 2:236

Joseph’s translation of the "Abraham roll" is published as the Book of Abraham, part of the LDS canon Pearl of Great Price.

Mormons believe that this roll was written by Abraham himself.

Joseph the Seer has presented us some of the Book of Abraham which was written by his own hand but hid from the knowledge of man for the last four thousand years but has now come to light through the mercy of God.

Wilford Woodruff
~ Mormon Prophet
Diary, February 19, 1842

Mormon Handbook ~ The Book of Abraham
Joseph told visitors that the characters were "the handwriting of Abraham".

These receptacles Smith opened, and disclosed four human bodies, shrunken and black with age. "These are mummies," said the exhibitor. "I want you to look at that little runt of a fellow over there. He was a great man in his day. Why, that was Pharaoh Necho, King of Egypt!" Some parchments inscribed with hieroglyphics were then offered us. They were preserved under glass and handled with great respect. "That is the handwriting of Abraham, the Father of the Faithful," said the prophet. "This is the autograph of Moses, and these lines were written by his brother Aaron. Here we have the earliest account of the creation, from which Moses composed the first book of Genesis.

The introduction in the Book of Abraham also claims that Abraham himself penned the papyrus.

THE BOOK OF ABRAHAM
TRANSLATED FROM THE PAPYRUS,
BY JOSEPH SMITH

A Translation of some ancient Records, that have fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt.—The writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, called the Book of Abraham, written by his own hand, upon papyrus.
Since Abraham lived before Moses, who authored the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), it would make the papyrus older than the book of Genesis!

It is evident that the writings of Abraham while he was in Egypt, of which our printed Book of Abraham is a copy, must of necessity be older than the original text of Genesis.

Sidney B. Sperry
~ Mormon scholar

Ancient Records
Testify in Papyrus and Stone, p.83
VERIFYING JOSEPH'S TRANSLATION

- If Joseph's translation of the papyri is accurate, it would confirm his claim that he possessed a supernatural gift.

- However, if his translation is inaccurate, then he is a false prophet who perpetuated a fraud. This would also raise doubts about his other "translation"—the Book of Mormon.

- Keep in mind, when Joseph began translating the papyrus in 1835, no one at that time could verify its accuracy. The discovery of the Rosetta Stone unlocked our ability to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics. The first English translation of the stone was completed in 1858 by the Philomathean Society of Pennsylvania.

We can examine the source materials Joseph used to produce his Book of Abraham translation.
FACSIMILES

Published in the Book of Abraham are three facsimiles copied from the papyrus along with Joseph's interpretations of them.

Facsimile 1  Facsimile 2  Facsimile 3
FACSIMILE 1

Facsimile 1 is a common Egyptian funerary scene.

- It’s important to note that the original papyrus was damaged so Joseph filled in those areas. Egyptologists agree that his restorations are inaccurate (noted below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source papyrus</th>
<th>As published in the Book of Abraham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Source papyrus image]</td>
<td>![As published in the Book of Abraham image]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparing Joseph’s Translation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Joseph’s translation</th>
<th>Egyptology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | The Angel of the Lord

Note: the head of Isis should be human, however the papyrus was torn off here, so Joseph penciled in a bird’s head |

Isis, the sister-wife of Osiris

<p>| 2      | Abraham fastened on an altar                                                        | Osiris, on an embalming table wrapped in clothes for mummification       |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ![Anubis](image1.png) | **3** The idolatrous priest of Elkenah attempting to offer up Abraham as a sacrifice  
Note: the head of Anubis is a jackal, however the papyrus was torn off here, so Joseph penciled in a human head |
| ![Anubis](image2.png) | ![Anubis](image3.png) | Anubis, the Egyptian funeral god |
| ![Altar](image4.png) | **4** The altar for sacrifice by the idolatrous priests, standing before the gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash, and Pharaoh |
| ![Altar](image5.png) | ![Altar](image6.png) | An embalming table (“lion’s couch”) |
| ![Canopic Jars](image7.png) | **5** The idolatrous god of Elkenah  
Note: there is no known Egyptian god Elkenah  
These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Qebehseneuf, who receives the intestines. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image8.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image9.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image10.png) | These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Duamutef, who receives the stomach. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image11.png) | **6** The idolatrous god of Libnah  
Note: there is no known Egyptian god Libnah  
These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Duamutef, who receives the stomach. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image12.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image13.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image14.png) | These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Duamutef, who receives the stomach. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image15.png) | **7** The idolatrous god of Mahmackrah  
Note: there is no known Egyptian god Mahmackrah  
These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Hapy, who receives the lungs. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image16.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image17.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image18.png) | These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Imsety, who receives the liver. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image19.png) | **8** The idolatrous god of Korash  
Note: there is no known Egyptian god Korash  
These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Imsety, who receives the liver. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image20.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image21.png) | ![Canopic Jars](image22.png) | These are canopic jars that contain the deceased organs, and are representative of the sons of the god Hor. This one is of Imsety, who receives the liver. |
| ![Canopic Jars](image23.png) | **9** The idolatrous god of Pharaoh  
Note: the word pharaoh is an anachronism, as it was not used as a title until Thutmose III (ca. 1479-1425 BC) long after Abraham’s death in (1637 BC or 1801 BC) |
<p>| <img src="image24.png" alt="Canopic Jars" /> | <img src="image25.png" alt="Canopic Jars" /> | The Egyptian god Horus or Sobek, who’s head is a crocodile |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>Abraham in Egypt</th>
<th>Funeral offerings covered with lotus flowers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Designed to represent the pillars of heaven, as understood by the Egyptians</td>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Serekh representing a gated facade of a palace, thus signifying that the ceremony took place behind the wall inside the palace." /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Raukeeyang, signifying expanse, or the firmament over our heads; but in this case, in relation to this subject, the Egyptians meant it to signify Shaumau, to be high, or the heavens, answering to the Hebrew word, Shaumahyeem</td>
<td>Water the crocodile swims in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** *Raukeeyang and Shaumau are not known Egyptian words*
Facsimile 2 is a common Egyptian hypocephalus.

The original hypocephalus is now lost. An early rendering of it reveals damage, and Egyptologists agree that Facsimile 2 is a poor and inaccurate restoration.
Comparing Joseph's Translation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Joseph's translation</th>
<th>Egyptology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kolob, signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or the residence of God. First in government, the last pertaining to the measurement of time. The measurement according to celestial time, which celestial time signifies one day to a cubit. One day in Kolob is equal to a thousand years according to the measurement of this earth, which is called by the Egyptians Jah-oh-eh.</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Khnumu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> <em>Kolob and Jah-oh-eh are not known Egyptian words.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stands next to Kolob, called by the Egyptians Oliblish, which is the next grand governing creation near to the celestial or the place where God resides; holding the key of power also, pertaining to other planets; as revealed from God to Abraham, as he offered sacrifice upon an altar, which he had built unto the Lord.</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Amen-Re</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> <em>Oliblish is not a known Egyptian word.</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mormon Handbook – The Book of Abraham
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Horus-Re in a boat</td>
<td>![Image of Horus-Re in a boat]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Sokar</td>
<td>![Image of Sokar]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The cow of Hathor and behind it a goddess holding a tree</td>
<td>![Image of cow of Hathor]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The four sons of Horus: Imsety, Hapy, Duamutef, and Qebehsenuf</td>
<td>![Image of four sons of Horus]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Min (sitting) and Atum (a snake)</td>
<td>![Image of Min and Atum]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Raukeeyang and Oliblish are not known Egyptian words.

Note: Enish-go-on-dosh, Floese, Kli-flos-is-es, Hah-ko-kau-beam, Kae-e-vanrash are not known Egyptian words.

Note: the church removed the original phallus (erect penis) in past editions, and restored it in the 1981 Triple Combo.
FACSIMILE 3

Facsimile 3 is a scene from the Egyptian Book of the Dead.

Comparing Joseph's Translation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Joseph's translation</th>
<th>Egyptology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above scene</td>
<td>Abraham sitting upon Pharaoh’s throne, by the politeness of the king, with a crown upon his head, representing the Priesthood, as emblematical of the grand Presidency in Heaven; with the scepter of justice and judgment in his hand.</td>
<td>The stars represent the souls of the dead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Egyptian god Osiris</td>
<td>The writing above Osiris: “Recitation by Osiris foremost of the westerners lord of Abydos(?) the great god forever and ever(?)”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mormon Handbook ~ The Book of Abraham
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>King Pharaoh, whose name is given in the characters above his head.</td>
<td>The Egyptian goddess Isis, the wife of Osiris. Note: the word <em>pharaoh</em> is an anachronism, as it was not used as a title until Thutmose III (ca. 1479-1425 BC) long after Abraham's death in (1637 BC or 1801 BC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: the word <em>pharaoh</em> is an anachronism, as it was not used as a title until Thutmose III (ca. 1479-1425 BC) long after Abraham's death in (1637 BC or 1801 BC)</td>
<td>The writing above Isis: “Isis the great the gods mother”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Signifies Abraham in Egypt as given also in Figure 10 of Facsimile No. 1.</td>
<td>A libation stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prince of Pharaoh, King of Egypt, as written above the hand.</td>
<td>The Egyptian goddess Maat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Olimlah is not a known Egyptian name.</td>
<td>The writing above Maat: “Maat mistress of the gods”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shulem, one of the king’s principal waiters, as represented by the characters above his hand.</td>
<td>The deceased, Osiris Hor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Olimlah is not a known Egyptian name.</td>
<td>The writing above Osiris Hor: “The Osiris Hor justified forever”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Olimlah, a slave belonging to the prince</td>
<td>The Egyptian God Anubis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Olimlah is not a known Egyptian name.</td>
<td>Note: The rendering is poor as the head should be that of a jackal—notice the pointed ear on top of the head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The writing above Anubis: &quot;Recitation by Anubis who makes protection(?) foremost of the embalming booth&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Olimlah is not a known Egyptian name.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom scene</td>
<td></td>
<td>The writing at the bottom: &quot;O gods of the necropolis gods of the caverns gods of the south north west and east grant salvation to the Osiris Hor the justified born by Taikhibit&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Additional comment on scene: Abraham is reasoning upon the principles of Astronomy, in the king’s court.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSLATION MANUSCRIPTS
("Kirtland Egyptian Papers")

The Kirtland Egyptian Papers (KEP) are working documents of Joseph's translation of the papyrus, of which is a source for his Book of Abraham.

The manuscripts were written by Joseph Smith and his scribes:

- William W. Phelps
- Warren Parrish
- Oliver Cowdery
- Frederick G. Williams
- Willard Richards

The LDS church has never published the KEP, and it remains vaulted in its archives. A microfilm copy was leaked, of which Utah Lighthouse Ministry is the only source of these papers today.

The manuscripts are typically divided into three categories:

- **Grammar & Alphabet of Egyptian Language**
  Four manuscripts that contain Egyptian and invented characters with Joseph’s English names and definitions. Many of the words and definitions from these documents are used throughout the Book of Abraham and its facsimile definitions.

  The remainder of the month, I was continually engaged in translating an alphabet to the Book of Abraham, and arranging a grammar of the Egyptian language as practiced by the ancients.

  
  Joseph Smith
  - Mormonism founder
  History of the Church
  2:238

Morman Handbook - The Book of Abraham
• **Egyptian Counting**
  A manuscript with invented numbers, their names, and Joseph's English counterparts.

• **Translation Manuscripts**
  Three manuscripts that contain characters copied from the Abraham roll along with Joseph's translations. These comprise the text of Abraham 1:1-2:18.

These manuscripts copy characters from the papyrus section highlighted below (and invented characters where damaged or missing) along with Joseph's translation of them, which in this example comprise the text of Abraham 1:1-2:18.
In this example below, papyrus characters are copied to the left margin and Joseph’s interpretation to the right. Page 3 is Abraham, chapter 1, verses 11 to 19.

### Comparing translations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Papyrus</th>
<th>Manuscript</th>
<th>Joseph’s translation</th>
<th>Egyptology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Papyrus Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Manuscript Image" /></td>
<td>(1:11) manner of the Egyptians. (1:12) And it came to pass that the priests laid violence upon me, that they might slay me also, as they did those virgins upon this altar; and that you may have a knowledge of this altar, I will refer you to the representation at the commencement of this record.</td>
<td>&quot;pool&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Papyrus Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Manuscript Image" /></td>
<td>(1:13) It was made after the form of a bedstead, such as was had among the Chaldeans, and it stood before the gods of Elkenah, Libnah, Mahmackrah, Korash, and also a god like unto that of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. (1:14) That you may have an understanding of these gods, I have given you the fashion of them in the figures at the beginning, which manner of the figures is called by the Chaldeans Rahleenos, which signifies hieroglyphics.</td>
<td>&quot;water&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Image</td>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="108x220" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>(1:15) And as they lifted up their hands upon me, that they might offer me up and take away my life, behold, I lifted up my voice unto my God, and the Lord hearkened and heard, and he filled me with the vision of the Almighty, and the angel of his presence stood by me, and immediately unloosed my bands;</td>
<td>&quot;great&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="149x677" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>(1:16) And his voice was unto me: Abraham, Abraham behold, my name is Jehovah, and I have heard thee, and have come down to deliver thee, and to take thee away from thy father's house, and from all the kinsfolk, into a strange land (page 4) which thou knowest not of; (1:17) And this because they have turned their hearts away from me, to worship the god of Elkenah, and the god of Libnah, and the god of Mahmackrah, and the god of Korash, and the god of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; therefore I have come down to destroy him who hath lifted up his hand against thee, Abraham, my son, to take away thy life. (1:18) Behold, I will lead thee by my hand, and I will take thee, to put upon thee my name, even the Priesthood of thy father, and my power shall be over thee. (1:19) And it was with Noah so shall it be with thee; but through thy ministry my name shall be known in the earth forever, for I am thy God.</td>
<td>&quot;Khonsu&quot; (Egyptian moon god)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Egyptologist I. E. S. Edward's summary of the translation manuscripts:

"The whole work [KEP] was, "largely a piece of imagination and lacking in any kind of scientific a value.”

I. E. S. Edwards  
Department of Egyptian Antiquities, British Museum

By His Own Hand  
Upon Papyrus, p. 43

Mormon Handbook ~ The Book of Abraham
CONCLUSION

Over a dozen LDS and non-LDS Egyptologists have examined the source materials. Their conclusion is unanimous: Joseph Smith was ignorant of the Egyptian script. The papyri are common funerary documents (hence why they were found in coffins) and date about 1,500 years after Abraham lived.

"... I have examined the illustrations given in the 'Pearl of Great Price.' In the first place, they are copies (very badly done) of well known Egyptian subjects of which I have dozens of examples. Secondly, they are all many centuries later than Abraham... the attempts to guess a meaning for them, in the professed explanations, are too absurd to be noticed. It may be safely said that there is not one single word that is true in these explanations... None but the ignorant could possibly be imposed on by such ludicrous blunders ..."

Dr. W. M. Flinders Petrie,
London University

"... these three fac-similes of Egyptian documents in the 'Pearl of Great Price' depict the most common objects in the mortuary religion of Egypt. Joseph Smith's interpretation of them as part of a unique revelation through Abraham, therefore, very clearly demonstrates that he was totally unacquainted with the significance of these documents and absolutely ignorant of the simplest facts of Egyptian writing and civilization... We orientalists could publish scores of these 'fac-similes from the Book of Abraham' taken from other sources ..."

James H. Breasted, Ph.D.,
Haskell Oriental Museum,
University of Chicago

Mormon Handbook – The Book of Abraham
"... the author knew neither the Egyptian language nor the meaning of the most commonplace Egyptian figures... it may be remarked that his explanations from a scientific and scholarly standpoint are absurd... the explanatory notes to his fac-similes cannot be taken seriously by any scholar, as they seem to be undoubtedly the work of pure imagination ..."

Rev. Prof. C. A. B. Mercer, Ph. D.,
Western Theological Seminary,
Custodian Hibbard Collection,
Egyptian Reproductions

"... What he calls the 'Book of Abraham' is a funeral Egyptian text, probably not older than the Greek ages... Jos. Smith certainly never got a Divine revelation in the meaning of the ancient Egyptian Script, and that he never deciphered hieroglyphic texts at all ..."

Dr. Friedrich von Bissing,
Professor of Egyptology,
University of Munich

"... The plates contained in the 'Pearl of Great Price' are rather comical and a very poor imitation of Egyptian originals... The text of this chapter, as also the interpretation of the plates, displays an amusing ignorance. Chaldeans and Egyptians are hopelessly mixed together, although as dissimilar and remote in language, religion and locality as are today American and Chinese. In addition to which the writer knows nothing of either of them ..."

Dr. John Peters,
University of Pennsylvania

Mormon Handbook – The Book of Abraham
"... It is difficult to deal seriously with Joseph Smith's impudent fraud... I need scarce say that Kolob, etc., are unknown to the Egyptian language... Smith has turned the Goddess into a king and Osiris into Abraham ..."

Dr. A. H. Sayce,
Oxford, England

"... The 'Book of Abraham,' it is hardly necessary to say, is a pure fabrication. Cuts 1 and 3 are inaccurate copies of well known scenes on funeral papyri, and cut 2 is a copy of one of the magical discs... Joseph Smith's interpretation of these cuts is a farrago of nonsense from beginning to end. Egyptian characters can now be read almost as easily as Greek, and five minutes' study in an Egyptian gallery of any museum should be enough to convince any educated man of the clumsiness of the imposture ..."

Dr. Arthur C. Mace,
Assistant Curator,
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York,
Department of Egyptian Art

"... The Egyptian papyrus which Smith declared to be the 'Book of Abraham,' and 'translated' or explained in his fantastical way, and of which three specimens are published in the 'Pearl of Great Price,' are parts of the well known 'Book of the Dead' ...

Dr. Edward Meyer,
University of Berlin

Mormon Handbook ~ The Book of Abraham
"... From the standpoint of the Egyptologist the explanations given with these illustrations are incorrect. The Egyptian language on such documents is decipherable and has appeared in translation in various books ...
"

John A. Wilson,
Professor of Egyptology,
University of Chicago

"... The explanations are completely wrong insofar as any interpretation of the Egyptian original is concerned ...
"

Richard Parker,
Department of Egyptology,
Brown University

Other analysis

• The Book of Abraham
  ~ M. Theodule Deveria, Egyptologist, Louvre Museum, Paris

• A Translation of the Apparent Source of the Book of Abraham
  ~ Klaus Bear, Prof. of Egyptology, Oriental Institute, University of Chicago

• The Joseph Smith Egyptian Papyri: Translations and Interpretations
  ~ John A. Wilson, Professor of Egyptology, University of Chicago

• Translation of the Hor Book of Breathings
  ~ Michael D. Rhodes, Ass. Research Prof., Dept. of Ancient Scripture, BYU
• The "Breathing Permit of Hor" among the Joseph Smith Papyri &
The "Breathing Permit of Hor" Thirty-Four Years Later
~ Robert K. Ritner, Prof. of Egyptology, Oriental Institute, U. of Chicago

• "Museum Walls Proclaim Fraud of Mormon Prophet"
~ New York Times article, December 29, 1912

© 2014 ~ All Rights Reserved
Compiled by Robert Holden

This e-book may be freely distributed provided the work is fully credited and is
not used for any monetary purposes. The entire work may not be reproduced in
any electronic format accessible to the internet.


Mormon Handbook ~ The Book of Abraham