

# SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATIONS

## OM/PM (left column)

- Blue type** OM items. About 28% of the OM is extant, and is given priority in Blue type when it occurs. When both OM and PM are identical, the text will be Blue. The transcriptions are based on *The Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon*, by Royal Skousen; 2001. The symbols used have been excluded because of their interpretive complexity. The circumstances of interpreting the use of a hyphen versus a missing stroke have been avoided, since the actual scans of the OM were not available to the public at the time of this writing.
- Underlined Blue type** A space was left blank at the top of some of the pages of the OM, to later drop in a description of what events were written on the page below it. Most of these page headings are incomplete or damaged, but are included where they occur underlined in blue ink.
- Black type** PM items. With nearly 100% of the original PM existing, it comprises 72% of the text on the left. The transcriptions and symbols are loosely based on *The Joseph Smith Papers – Revelations and Translations, Volume 3*; 2015.
- BOLD-Green type** During type-setting and while attempting to secure a Canadian copyright for their work, Oliver Cowdery exchanged the PM with the OM at the printer's office so he could travel with the PM. Consequently, the OM was utilized during the type-setting of Helaman 13:17 through Mormon 9:37. Accordingly, these passages in the printed 1830 edition reflect favorably with the OM version. Although thousands of modifications were made to the entire handwritten text by the printers of the 1830 edition, there are a few instances where certain words differ from the PM to the 1830 edition; *likely* to have been from the non-extant portions of the OM in these few chapters. Care has been taken to only exchange text that seems significant enough to identify, and differences which might have appeared due to the opinion of the type-setters have been avoided. Occasionally, a PM word will be contained in [green brackets]; an indication that it is an entry found in the PM, but not in the 1830 edition.
- Gray type** Speculative items, damaged with age. Gray items represent best guess efforts based on published texts.
- Italics** There are many instances where minor changes, differences, or assumptions, had to be made in transcribing the text from the OM/PM documents. This is considered a *best foot forward* approach, and the use of italics simplifies the identity of these items and replaces them with the *best option*, which is normally text having been overwritten as the error was recognized. There are other instances when it's unclear if the stroke was intended one way or the other. The integrity of the letter/word is maintained, even if it's in error. However, when it's *too close to call* the benefit of the doubt goes with common sense. The use of italics is only present in the OM/PM columns.
- Strikethrough** A ~~strikethrough~~ is used with words, letters, or spaces identified as being ~~incorrect~~ or in ~~error~~ in some way.

◇ An illegible character within a partially legible word is rendered with a hollow diamond. Repeated diamonds represent the approximate number of illegible characters.

**95** White numbers, reversed out of a black box, represent the approximate location of the hand-written page numbers on the PM. Most of these page numbers appear to have been added later by various scribes and are presented herein as an acceptable post-transcription addition.

**95** White numbers, reversed out of a blue box, represent the approximate location of the hand-written page numbers of the OM. No page number will be indicated when it is lacking on the manuscript.

(parenthesis) Insertions, when words or letters are added as an immediate correction. Later insertions by alternate scribes have been ignored. Typically, though not always, these words (or letters) are inserted directly above or near the error. Insertions are treated as *changes*, and as such, are represented in bold-red ink in the *Current Edition* columns. Incorrect spellings are repaired without additional annotation symbols in the 2013-2017 columns. An assumed, but not present hyphen is represented as an “()” (black ink, both sides).

Superscript There are a few instances of an “insert within an insertion.” When this happens, the extra insert is found within the parenthesis and in <sup>Standard-Superscript</sup> for identification.

### **Current Edition (right column)**

Black Ink PM items matching the *Current Edition*.

Blue Ink OM items matching the *Current Edition*. About 28% of the OM is extant, and is given priority in Blue when it occurs. When both OM and PM are identical, the text will be displayed in Blue.

**BOLD-Green type** During type-setting and while attempting to secure a Canadian copyright for their work, Oliver Cowdery exchanged the PM with the OM at the printer’s office so he could travel with the PM. Consequently, the OM was utilized during the type-setting of Helaman 13:17 through Mormon 9:37. Accordingly, these passages in the printed 1830 edition reflect favorably with the OM version. Although thousands of modifications were made to the entire handwritten text by the printers of the 1830 edition, there are a few instances where certain words differ from the PM to the 1830 edition; *likely* to have been from the non-extant portions of the OM in these few chapters. Care has been taken to only exchange text that seems significant enough to identify, and differences which might have appeared due to the opinion of the type-setters have been avoided. Occasionally, a PM word will be contained in [green brackets]; an indication that it is an entry found in the PM, but not in the 1830 edition.

Gray Ink Speculative items, damaged with age. Gray items represent best guess efforts based on published texts.

- Bold-Red Type** Text in **Bold-Red Type** represent a *change* or an *addition* to the text from the **OM/PM** columns.
- [ ] A bracketed-underscored line in **Bold-Red type** represents a deletion to a *single letter* or *space* from the **OM/PM** side. Multiple missing letters are rendered as such:  
**From** “part(ook)ake” (**OM/PM**)  
**To** “part[ \_ \_ ]ake” (*Current Edition*).
- [X] A bracketed “X” in **Bold-Red type** represents the deletion of a *full word* from the **OM/PM** columns. Multiple missing words are rendered as such:  
**From** “And also the testimony of eight witnesses” (**OM/PM**)  
**To** “[X\_X\_X] Testimony of **E**ight **W**itnesses” (*Current Edition*).
- [-] A bracketed dash in **Bold-Red type** represents a hyphen within a word from the **OM/PM** side. In many cases, the hyphens were errantly placed on the *following* line of the **OM/PM** text, and little attention was given to dividing them by syllables.
- [ ] A **Bold-Red type** empty bracket identifies an ‘open space’ on the **OM/PM** side. Normally, it is where text might have been present at one time, but no indication of writing exists any longer.
- <sup>15</sup>Superscript Verses found in the *Current Edition* are given in **Standard-Red** Superscript next to the <sup>25</sup>First letter of the verse.