

# INTRODUCTION

by DAN WEES

The development of *The Handwritten Book of Mormon* began in late 2016, and is the natural by-product of the *Book of Mormon Comparative*; which was in its final stages of editing at the time.

Although the student can understand the reasoning behind the dictation and scribing, reading the *Original* and/or *Printer's Manuscripts* is made difficult with the lack of punctuation, spelling challenges, continual run-on sentences, and the absence of nominal section breaks.

A frequent reference guide is Royal Skousen's *The Book of Mormon: Earliest Text*. The use of sense-lines, and the flow of this work lends itself to being one of the most comfortable ways to read the *Book of Mormon*.

*The Handwritten Book of Mormon* utilizes Mr. Skousen's amazing format, and combines it with the coalesced text of the *Original* and/or *Printer's Manuscripts*. In this way, the integrity of the work can be read more fluidly, even without correction in its original format.

This is not to say that it is necessarily *easy* to read, but it is *easier*.

The page numbering in the *Earliest Text* has been maintained (wherever possible) in this volume, for effortless cross-referencing. [Hardback editions only]

The entire volume is designed in a way to be useful to scholar, student, critic, and skeptic alike. My greatest hope lies in this unification of the minds, and the discovery of the *Book of Mormon* from a new perspective.