

From Concept to Binding

The Book of Mormon:
1828 - 1830

The Original Manuscript
The Printer's Manuscript
The First Printed Edition

Edited by Dan Wees



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INTRODUCTION

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Since the 2017 publication of *The Handwritten Book of Mormon* (THBOM) and the *Book of Mormon Comparative* (BOMC), students have been increasingly interested in a more complete, non-coalesced version – since the *Original Manuscript* (OM) was given priority over the *Printer’s Manuscript* (PM). This meant that 28% of the PM was absent in those volumes.

All of the data from these other projects was safely archived, so I needed to decide how to format it. After a recommendation from H. Michael Marquardt, it was determined to present the OM and PM text in two columns *side-by-side*. As a bonus, a third column was added to show the first printed edition of the Book of Mormon, published in 1830.

Extreme care was taken to align all of the text in order *line-by-line*. This affords the student the option of viewing all three texts in-line, without the worry of words spilling over into the following line without their companions on either side. This technique means there is more blank space than normal, particularly given the fact that 72% of the OM text is not extant. Focus was applied to *not* crowding verses, which means the verses and chapters would begin the following page, rather than being *split* so as to simply fill-up the bottom. Since this *digital only* project (unavailable in paper) is greater than 1,550 pages in length, the empty patches are easily tolerated.

Unlike the THBOM and the BOMC, the use of color has been eliminated. Annotations have been avoided to keep the text in its most unincumbered and original format. When only partial words in a verse exist from the OM, they are dropped in-line without filling in the missing data.

No scribal revisions will be indicated herein, except for those which appear to be *immediate*, and by the original ink and quill. Most of the time this means that the handwritten manuscripts show the original intent, but the third column will reveal the corrections. This design attempts to show the OM, PM, and the first printed edition in its pure form - as close to how it appeared through 1830.

From Concept to Binding represents all of the latest data, and is more accurate than any other publication to date. 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.

NOTE: It has been more than five years since the *Joseph Smith Papers* introduced the transcription of the PM to their website. As of this writing (March 2023), the OM scans and transcriptions are absent, but forthcoming. They are available in hardback: *Revelations and Translations – Volume Five – Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon, Facsimile Edition* (Salt Lake City, UT: The Church Historian’s Press, 2021).