

SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATIONS

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. Instances of hyphens between lines have been omitted. The transcriptions are based on <i>The Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon</i> , 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.
⁴³ OM Header =	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 in a footnote, with the text to the right of the = sign, in blue type (purple for the Chicago Leaves).
Black type	PM items. With nearly 100% of the original PM existing, it comprises 72% of the text on the left pages. Instances of hyphens between lines have been omitted. The transcriptions and symbols are loosely based on <i>The Joseph Smith Papers – Revelations and Translations, Volume 3</i> ; 2015.
The Chicago Leaves:	Donated to the University of Chicago in the 1920s, two leaves of the OM were acquired by the church in 1984. <i>The Joseph Smith Papers – Revelations and Translations, Volume 5</i> co-editor Robin Scott Jensen advanced the inclusion of these four pages by making a convincing case for their authenticity, even though Royal Skousen was skeptical – a bias he has held since their acquisition. These unique pages address verses found in the Book of Alma – chapters three, four, and five. Their presence is indicated within these three chapters exclusively in PURPLE text.
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; <i>likely</i> 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.
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.

¹⁵Superscript

Verses found in the *current edition* are given in ^{Red}Superscript next to the ²⁵First letter of the verse.

^{Blue/Black}Superscript

Insertions, when words or letters are added as an immediate correction. Later insertions have been ignored. Typically, though not always, these words (or letters) are inserted directly above or near the error, and accompanied by a caret mark. Insertions are treated as changes, and as such, are represented in ^{Blue/Black}Superscript.