

Macmillan "asked" authorities at Brigham Young University whether they would be interested in developing the *Encyclopedia*, it does not mention the fact that in order to get the project underway the Latter-day Saints contracted to purchase several thousand sets, thus insuring the publisher a profit. Some may question that publishing strategy, but it seems—with scholarly checks built into the process—to have produced a helpful reference tool that would have been beyond the reach or ambitions of a team of non-Mormon scholars.

Macmillan, the Church of Latter-day Saints, and the editors are to be congratulated for working together to produce a helpful and needed reference work.

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GEORGE R. KNIGHT

McRay, John. *Archaeology and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991. 432 pp. \$39.95.

*Archaeology and the New Testament* by John McRay is divided into four units. These units follow an introduction which outlines the role, limits, and methods of archaeology. The first division (Part 1) exposes the reader to the cultural background of New Testament times, with emphasis on Hellenistic and Roman architecture. In this section the plans and structures of civic, domestic, and religious life are described. The two chapters of part 2 examine the building activities of Herod the Great, with half of the discussion on Herodian Jerusalem and the other half on Herod's accomplishments outside of Jerusalem. Part 3 focuses on the archaeological discoveries that intersect the life of Jesus Christ. The discussion is geographically subdivided, examining the events of Jesus' life in Galilee and Judea. The final section returns to the broader scope of the ancient world by surveying the archaeological remains of the first few centuries of Christianity. This survey amounts to a tour of all major, and many minor, New Testament sites from Athens to Rome and Samothrace to Beroea. The concluding chapter of part 4 summarizes the 19th and 20th century discoveries of New Testament and related manuscripts that contribute to a better understanding of the New Testament.

*Archaeology and the New Testament* will appeal to a broad audience, including lay-readers, students, and scholars. Readers will appreciate the 157 photographs, 8 maps, and 32 drawings that complement the text, not to mention the clear, pleasant writing style of the author. Readers will also appreciate the completeness of McRay's presentations, including discussions of more popular topics such as Gordon's Calvary (206-214) and the Shroud of Turin (217-221). The author provides a fair appraisal of the evidence on each issue. Equally helpful for those who are rusty on their

Roman building terms is the "Glossary of Technical Terms" (e.g., "suspensura. A support for the raised floor of a hypocaust").

Those who want additional information on topics not fully discussed, due to the survey nature of the book, will find help in the book's copious notes (1,525 endnotes). The index turns the book into a helpful reference work.

One hesitates to criticize a book of such substance and value, but a few improvements should be considered for the second edition. Two minor printer errors were detected (the photograph of Beth Shean, p. 25, an easily visited and photographed site, is notably out of focus; and the negative of the lamps displayed on p. 31 was probably reversed by the printer, making the text date them in reverse order). A more important improvement would be a better coordination between the text and some of the "schematic" drawings. For example, Figure 18 "Schematic of Caesarea Maritima" (141) does not clearly illustrate the text. McRay's discussion of Caesarea Maritima describes the storage vaults, the aqueducts, the layout of the city streets, and the theater. The schematic drawing does not locate the storage vaults or display the layout of the city streets, but it does locate the excavation fields (A-H), which are not discussed. This lack of coordination does not benefit the reader.

Any book on New Testament archaeology will attract attention because there are too few books written for readers interested in this subject. McRay's work, however, will not only attract attention, it will also become a classic reference because he has accomplished his task with thorough research, excellent scholarship, and obvious enthusiasm. That this project has been his life-long interest is revealed in the completeness of the book. Where else will the average reader learn about Roman toilets, including two photographs of examples (85-86)? McRay's involvement in the project is also clearly demonstrated by his personal visits to the places described (virtually every photograph was taken on-site by the author).

*Archaeology and the New Testament* is highly recommended and much needed in the field of New Testament studies. No doubt it will serve as a standard text for many years to come.

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DAVID MERLING

Powell, Barry B. *Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1991. xxv + 280 pp. \$80.00.

*Homer and the Origin of the Greek Alphabet* is yet another work by a classical scholar on the adoption of the Greek alphabet. The first chapter briefly summarizes the entire field with Powell's conclusions on each point. Chapter 2 discusses in detail the writing systems of Egypt, Cyprus,