

Chapter 1 : What Did the Golden Plates Look Like? - new-era

Theo or the New Era Paperback - January 1, by Robert Pinget (Author) Be the first to review this item. See all 2 formats and editions Hide other formats and.

E-mail A longer version of this article was originally published by the Neal A. When some people interested in the Book of Mormon ask to see the golden plates, they are disappointed to learn that Joseph returned them to Moroni. As he translated the Book of Mormon, Joseph learned that special witnesses would be called to bear testimony of the ancient record written on metal plates. He was quite relieved when he was permitted to show the plates to several witnesses. Those witnesses were then commanded to testify of their experience to others and to write their testimonies concerning the Book of Mormon. Then eight witnesses were shown the plates by Joseph Smith. Their testimonies are printed at the front of every copy of the Book of Mormon. What Do We Know? Although no single comprehensive description of the Book of Mormon plates has been preserved, the Prophet Joseph Smith and several people closely associated with him made various statements that include partial descriptions of the plates. When all of the available sources are considered, quite a detailed picture emerges of the physical characteristics of the ancient Nephite record. What Were the Plates Made Of? How Much Did the Plates Weigh? A farmer would have a good idea of what a pound bag of grain would feel like. A woman working in her kitchen would be required to lift a heavy iron kettle filled with water that may weigh up to 60 pounds. How Big Were They? If all the statements are exactly the same, it can indicate that the witnesses have compared notes to fabricate a story that is too perfect. The length of eight inches is given in all of these statements. Three give a width of seven inches. Memory of things like dimensions should be regarded as approximate and should not be assumed as exact. What is evident is that the page size was only slightly longer than it was wide. The plates which were sealed contained an account of those things shewn unto the brother of Jared. He would have used materials that were readily available to him at that time. None of the witnesses mentions metal bands around the plates. This seems to be an artistic creation of the mid-twentieth century that has no documentary basis. What Shape Were the Three Rings? Still, people tend to imagine what they are familiar with. Desktop calendars with vertical posts sharply curved at the top were commonly used in the mid-twentieth century. It was only natural for people to transfer this image to the plates. But that is not what the witnesses describe. We found that this design allows the plates to be turned along the ring smoothly and that the rings can be pivoted back to lay nearly flat against the stack of plates. The whole book exhibited many marks of antiquity in its construction and much skill in the art of engraving. After Joseph Smith completed the translation of the Book of Mormon, the Three Witnesses and the Eight Witnesses were allowed to see and handle the plates. Their signed statements are in the front of all copies of the Book of Mormon. We have the full text of what Joseph Smith was instructed to translate. It is a message to us from the past, from a people who had the truth and then lost it. It is meant to instruct us. Seeing the plates would not necessarily motivate someone to accept the restoration of the gospel and make changes in his or her life. That motivation comes from reading and accepting the teachings of the Book of Mormon. What really matters is the spiritual witness that is promised to those who humbly seek to know the truth of these things. A true testimony of the Book of Mormon comes from reading it and, as counseled by Moroni in a promise he left to us in Moroni Look up the Neal A. Maxwell Institute at www. Painting by Gary E. Smith The drawing left depicts Joseph Smith showing the plates to the Eight Witnesses, who included his two brothers Hyrum and Samuel, as well as his father, Joseph Sr. Painting by Kenneth Riley The box left , or lap desk as it was called because of its sloping hinged lid, belonged to Hyrum Smith and was lent to his brother Joseph to use for a time to hold the plates. The box has been passed down through the Hyrum Smith family. Visitors to the exhibit were given a chance to lift and turn the leaves of a replica matching the description of the golden plates. Photograph by Welden Andersen Notes 1. Orson Pratt was not an eyewitness of the plates but gathered eyewitness accounts. A Restoration Witness , Iowa State Register, Aug.

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Zhang also explicitly references Xi Jinping's notion of the "New Era," and writes: "All along, we have placed excessive emphasis on the role of technology, and we have not acknowledged that technology must be led by the socialist core value system, broadcasting positive energy, suiting the demands of the era, and respecting common.