

# Book of Mormon Geography Remains a “Hot” Topic

by Shirley R. Heater

*The geographical setting for The Book of Mormon continues to be a topic of interest to believers. Beginning in the 1830s theories predominantly identified Panama as the Narrow Neck, Cumorah in New York (the hill south of Palmyra), and the River Sidon as the Magdalena*

*in South America. Louis E. Hills was the first to place the setting solely in Mesoamerica, purely through his detailed study of internal requirements, and presented in his groundbreaking 1917 map.*

Over the years various theories have come and gone as evidences continued to accumulate relating to Mesoamerica (see Sorenson 1992). Recent attention by a few has returned to North America, centered once again around Cumorah in New York, but also placing all the history of The Book of Mormon in the US, rejecting resoundingly all Mesoamerican evidences.

It is our desire to respond to the words in 1 Peter 3:15 to “be ready always to give an answer with meekness....” This issue of *glyph notes* begins a series of articles to specifically provide abundant evidences that parallel The Book of Mormon through nearly 3,400 years of history in a Mesoamerican setting. Lyle Smith begins with “An Account of Those Ancient Inhabitants: Nephites.” Glenn Scott then takes up the cause with numerous archaeological correlations that can only place The Book of Mormon in Mesoamerica. In the final article I will recap these evidences and conclude by addressing some specific details of what is called “The Heartland (or Great Lakes) Model.” I might say that the evidences that will be presented in this series reflect the long-term commitment of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute to always bring a positive, uplifting report to encourage all believers in their faith in this wonderful book and turn faith into knowledge.

“Come now, and let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18).

## Reference

Sorenson, John L.

1992 *The Geography of Book of Mormon Events: A Source Book*. Foundation for Ancient Research &