

'That They May Know...'

By HENRY A. SMITH

Church News Editor



Elder Gordon B. Hinckley presents new Chinese version of Book of Mormon to Pres. David O. McKay.

when I went with Brother Cannon into the Cyprus grove. We were all alone as we offered the prayer dedicating China for the reception of the Gospel."

President McKay was informed by Elder Hinckley that the Book of Mormon in Korean would be published later in the spring. The Book of Mormon has been previously published in Japanese (1909) and so soon will be available in all three languages of the Orient in which the Church is now doing missionary work. The book, Elder Hinckley said, will give a tremendous boost to missionary work being done among the Chinese people.

Work on the Chinese translation was begun several years ago under the direction of Pres. Grant Heaton and continued under the supervision of Pres. Robert S. Taylor. Under the presidency of Jay A. Quealy Jr., two men were called and set apart by Elder Hinckley, to bring the work to fruition. They were Elder Larry K. Browning who served a mission in Hong Kong and went back to Taiwan under an educational grant from the University of California and is now teaching at the Church College of Hawaii, and Pres. Hu Wei-I, counselor to the mission president in the Taiwan Zone, and who was born and educated on the mainland of China.

The major work of translation was done in Taiwan.

The Chinese Book of Mormon was printed in Hong Kong under the direction of Pres. Keith M. Garner, now presiding over the Southern Far East Mission. A total of 5,000 copies were included in the first edition.

The Book of Mormon has been previously published in 21 languages including English. The first edition was published in Palmyra, New York, in 1830 from the translation made by Joseph Smith from the Gold Plates secured from the Hill Cumorah under direction of the Angel Moroni.

The foreign languages in which the Book of Mormon has been published and the date of publication include:

Danish, 1851; German, 1852; French, 1852; Italian, 1852; Welsh, 1852; Hawaiian, 1855; Swedish, 1878; Spanish, 1886; Maori, 1889 Dutch, 1890; Samoan, 1903; Tahitian, 1904; Turkish, 1906; Japanese, 1909; Czechoslovakian, 1933; Armenian, 1937; Portuguese, 1939; Tongan, 1946; Norwegian, 1950; Finnish, 1954, and Chinese, 1966.



Black cover with gold embossing is used on Chinese translation.

The Book of Mormon has been printed in Chinese, the language of 700 million people. The first copy of the book was presented this week to President David O. McKay by Elder Gordon B. Hinckley of the Council of the Twelve and supervisor of the Oriental missions of the Church.

An inscription in the book reads:

"This copy of the first edition of the Book of Mormon in Chinese was presented to President David O. McKay, who 45 years ago, on January 9, 1921, accompanied by Elder Hugh J. Cannon, in the 'Forbidden City' of Peking dedicated and consecrated and set apart 'the Chinese realm for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as restored in this dispensation through the Prophet Joseph Smith.'

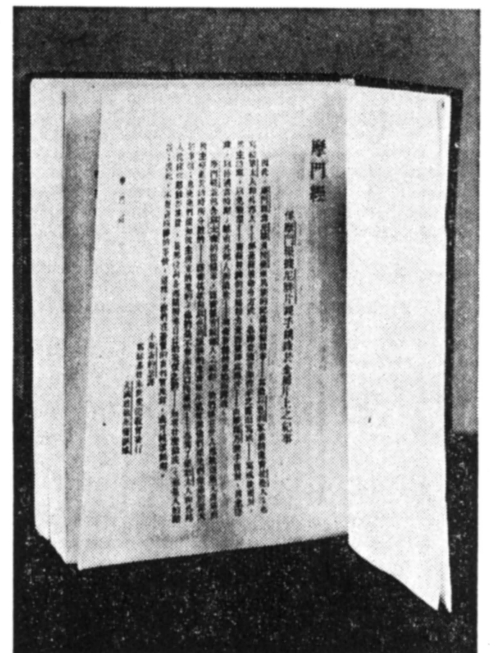
"The Book of Mormon is now available in the language which is the mother tongue of more people than any other on earth. May it go forth among them as a witness of the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

"With sincere respect and deep affection."

GORDON B. HINCKLEY

President McKay responded to the presentation and commented on the publication of the Chinese Book of Mormon by saying:

"This is a great event in the history of the Chinese people. This brings back many fond and delightful memories, and especially of a warm and most delightful day in the early morning, 45 years ago,



This is how the front page of Chinese translation looks to Oriental.