

An Unlikely Confirmation: How a BYU Professor's Art Validates the CES Letter



CES LETTER'S CLAIMS & CRITICISMS

Historically, these issues were often minimized or denied by the Church, but new, officially sanctioned artwork visually confirms the narratives long presented by critics.

REWRITING CHURCH ORIGINS

The Book of Mormon Transl. A Seer Stone in a Hat



CES Letter Claim: Joseph Smith put a stone in a hat and didn't use the gold plates.

Folk Magic Roots: Divining Rods & Treasure Seeking



CES Letter Claim: The Church's origins are in folk magic. Joseph Smith was a treasure seer.

The Priesthood Ban: Not from Joseph Smith



CES Letter Claim: Joseph Smith ordained Black men to the priesthood; Brigham Young instituted the ban.

DEPICTING CONTROVERSIAL ACTIONS

Coercion and Polygamy: The Angel with a Drawn Sword



CES Letter Claim: Joseph Smith used the story of an angel with a drawn sword to coerce women into plural marriage.

Silencing Dissent: The Nauvoo Expositor's Destruction



CES Letter Claim: The destruction of the Nauvoo Expositor printing press led to Joseph Smith's death.

ANTHONY SWEAT'S ART & VALIDATION



Sweat's Art: Seer Stone Depiction



Validation: One of the first official depictions of the bat and stone method, validating the narrative.

Sweat's Art: Treasure Seer and Rod



Validation: Depicts Joseph Smith as a treasure seer with his stone and Oliver Cowdery holding a "divining rod," a detail later altered in scripture.

Sweat's Art: Q. Walker Lewis Ordination



Validation: Confirms the priesthood was held by Black members pre-Brigham Young, as depicted in the ordination of Q. Walker Lewis.

Sweat's Art: The Angel and Sword



Validation: Directly depicts the controversial "angel with a drawn sword" narrative.

Sweat's Art: The Nauvoo Bonfire



Validation: Depicts the bonfire and mob destroying the press, validating this critical and illegal event.