

## Chapter 25

### One Eternal Round, 1990-Present

During the 1990s, Hugh finally began to pace himself less recklessly. He spoke less frequently in public. His correspondence, which had, since the 1970s, consisted mainly of responses to church members' questions rather than intimate letters to personal friends, tapered off radically as Hugh began to refer many requests for information to FARMS. He wrote less but, thanks to FARMS, was publishing a great deal. The *Collected Works of Hugh Nibley* had reached ten volumes by 1990, and four more had rolled off the press as of the spring of 2002.

Despite the slowing of his work schedule, Hugh's mind has remained as active and vital as ever. As he wrote to Alex in 1993, "The feeble old brain, by special request, is as clear and active as it ever was, and the memory was never more reliable."<sup>3</sup> As I've interviewed Hugh over the course of writing this book, I have been repeatedly astonished at the acuity and comprehensiveness of his memory. His preoccupation during this time has been his *magnum opus*, a book he has already titled *One Eternal Round*. It continues Hugh's work on the Book of Abraham, but focuses on the hypocephalus (Facsimile 2 in the Book of Abraham). Hugh began the project during the early 1980s and has been constantly engaged in working and reworking the book over almost two decades.<sup>4</sup> Those who have spent any time around Hugh during this period have often heard him delight in some new detail that he has discovered or

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<sup>2</sup>*Tinkling Cymbals and Sounding Brass* was published in 1991, *Temple and Cosmos* in 1992, *Brother Brigham Challenges the Saints* in 1994, and *Abraham in Egypt* in 2000.

<sup>3</sup>Hugh Nibley, Letter to Charles Alexander Nibley, 28 August 1993.

<sup>4</sup>Hypocephalus (lit. "under the head") is a class of Egyptian funerary documents in the shape of a small disk that was placed under the head of a mummy, as Hugh puts it, to "preserve a flame in the head, putting the body on hold, as it were, without hanging up, to leave a connection between the spirit above and the body in the tomb pending the day of resurrection." Hugh Nibley, "Approach to Facsimile No. 2," unpublished manuscript, 17 May 1985, 1.