

Emma Smith on the Physical Characteristics of the Book of Mormon Plates

Explanation In an 1879 interview, Emma Smith described the plates of Mormon, which she had once felt beneath the linen cloth that covered them. She recalled that they were pliable like thick paper but rustled with a metallic sound when they were moved. Though Emma did not directly see the plates, she stands as yet another witness verifying the Book of Mormon's authentic origin.

Sources Joseph Smith III, "Last Testimony of Sister Emma," *Saints' Advocate* 2 (Oct. 1879): 51. For additional source information and related discussion, see John W. Welch and Tim Rathbone, "The Translation of the Book of Mormon: Basic Historical Information" (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1986), 14–15.



Q. *Are you sure that he had the plates at the time you were writing for him?*

A. The plates often lay on the table without any attempt at concealment, wrapped in a small linen table cloth, which I had given him to fold them in. I once felt of the plates, as they thus lay on the table, tracing their outline and shape. They seemed to be pliable like thick paper, and would rustle with a metallic sound when the edges were moved by the thumb.

— *Emma Smith, 1879*