

The Golden Plates revealed!

Hieroglyphic Egyptian symbols that prophets of God etched boldly into sheets of solid gold recorded the history of the Jews onto an ancient record that the ravages of time could not diminish.

An angel of God led Joseph Smith to these ancient records, and as young Joseph hefted the lid from a carefully hewn stone box and witnessed for himself the plates of gold, a thrill of excitement shivered through his frame! For he saw and touched—for himself—the first tangible evidence that God and Christ had, in reality, appeared to him in vision; and that the appearance of deity was an unalterable reality and not simply the hopeful delusions of a prayerful boy.

Once the plates were translated through the gift and power of God, and came forth as the Book of Mormon. the true Church of Jesus Christ was again restored to the earth, just as it had been in the time of the ancient apostles. It is a wonderful story:

All this because a humble boy, at home behind a plow, had sought for God, and found him through a simple prayer that echoed from the walls of heaven, drawing forth the Father and the Son to greet him in a shaded wood, and teach him holy truths long lost to mortal man. he Book of Mormon, spawned through Jesus' love, and Joseph's sweat, bears truths that promise exaltation to the souls of men.

These things I know! *To this I testify!*

When you look closely you will notice many symbols that will heighten your appreciation for this sculpture. Let me explain:

- The base, and the stone work that forms the foundation of this sculpture signify the enduring, rock-solid foundation upon which the gospel is based—the rock of revelation and the Redeemer of the world.
- The shovel and axe are symbols of the cutting edge of faith and priesthood power that move the Church forward.
- The pry bar is symbolic of the Holy Ghost that opens the eyes and hearts of mankind to truths of God that are hidden from the world; bringing light where darkness reigns.
- The broken, rotting, log that lies beneath and behind Joseph's feet, signify the wickedness and corruption of a world that lies in darkness.
- The stones that litter the hillside symbolize the persecution and stumbling blocks that face those who are faithful.
- The sinuous root of the rotting log, that creeps down the stonework and wraps around Joseph's ankle, is symbolic of Satan and his concentrated effort to stop the work from progressing. Just as Lucifer attacked young Joseph in the sacred grove to prevent the restoration of the gospel, so he strives to prevent the discovery of the first solid, tangible evidence that the restoration was, in fact, a reality; and not the youthful fantasies of a young boy.

About the sculptor;

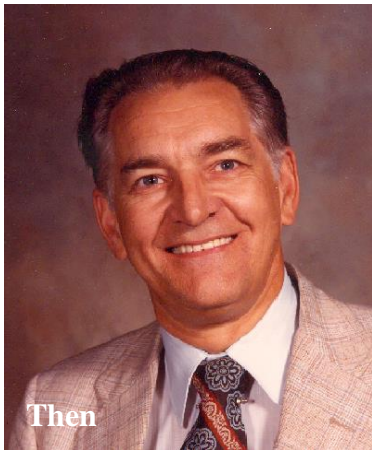
Robert Thomas Fitt was born in 1930 in Salt Lake City, Utah. He weighed twelve pounds and demanded a lot of attention when he was a firstborn. Being a heavyweight at birth—endowed with a sob and wail that awakened the neighborhood when he felt neglected—may be his greatest claim to fame. Though he had nothing to do with it at all except as helpless contributor.



As Bob grew, he explored their small farm with gusto, and later enjoyed the sports of Softball, basketball, football and even a little boxing.

In high school his writing and artistic beginnings were largely undeveloped; but his acting and singing began to stir a bit of interest during his comedic performance in *The Vagabond King*.

After enjoying the construction trades for a time, he graduated with degrees from both the University of Utah and BYU. After he had spent much of his career as an art teacher and administrator, he designed a program in which the juvenile court cooperated with school districts to significantly reduce truancy in Utah schools.

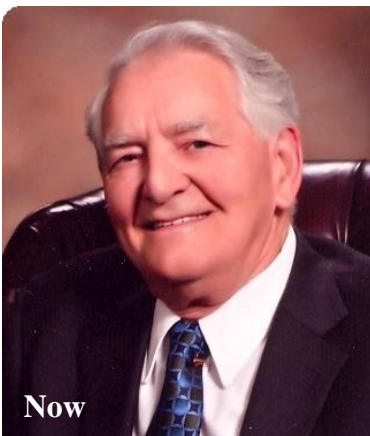


By far his greatest interest was at home with his family. Jean, his wife for 62 delightful years, was a treasure; and their four children, Patricia, Michelle, Steven and Jonathan are purely wonderful. And then, after Jean's passing, His second wife, Gaylene, brought joy into his life for a brief time before she, too, passed away.

Robert served The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints in many capacities over the years, including bishop and stake president. His greatest joy, aside from his family, came from living and teaching the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

He occasionally sketched, painted, sculpted and did some writing at home while He and Jean raised their family, but it was only after his retirement that he pursued his hobbies seriously. While in college he took a few

courses in painting and drawing from Alvin Gittins, Ed Marion and Doug Snow; but Learned most of his drawing and painting skills from Jan Denbutter, a dear friend who was trained by Hannes Van Kampen, a respected old master in the Netherlands.



His sculpting began late in life. With only a few hours of formal instruction in sculpting under his belt he found that fashioning clay came quite naturally. He was often heard to say that his clay figures seemed, somehow, to speak to his creative spirit, suggesting improvements that were needed. Another artistic outlet that he enjoyed was to draw pen and ink renderings for Christmas cards each year, and send them to hundreds of friends.

And now—through the magic of the internet—He welcomes many new friends into his life . . . join him at www.studiofitt.com