Historical Background to the Pearl of Great Price

The Church in 1837:
A. Spirit of Speculation and Apostasy
   1. Saints move to Clay County - Far West
   2. Economic Depression of 1835-38
   3. Kirtland Safety Society Collapse
   4. Latter months of 1837 - half of Kirtland membership left the Church
   5. Joseph Fled Kirtland Jan. 12, 1838 (Brigham Young Dec. 22, 1837)
B. Growth of the Kingdom
   1. *HC* 2:487-489
   2. Heber C. Kimball set apart as first mission president to England June 1837

England 1837-1850
A. Industry and Life changes
   1. Industrial Revolution
   2. High Birthrate
   3. Factories replaced farms - children in the work force 8 yrs and up

Church Challenges 1847-1851
A. Church move to Great Salt Lake Valley
   1. Settlements through out the area
   2. 1850 - 11,000 saints in valley, 15,000 saints in settlements
   3. 1850 - 31,000 saints in Great Britain
   4. Communication challenges
   5. Paper limitation in valley

Elder Franklin D. Richards
A. Mission President to Great Britain - Jan, 1851 to May 1852
   1. Replaced Elder Orson Pratt [Aug. 1848 to Jan. 1851]
   2. Lack of Church literature - most saints did not own a copy of Book of Mormon
   3. Early writings and revelation of Joseph Smith not available
B. New Pamphlet Proposed
   1. FDR wrote uncle serving in Swansea England - new pamphlet coming Feb.1, 1851
   2. *Letter to Uncle Levi* (Peterson, p.11-12)
C. Publication Notice
   1. June 15, 1851 in Millennial Star
      Pearl of Great Price, is the title of a new work which will soon be ready for sale, containing 64 pages on beautiful paper of superior quality, and on new type of a larger size than any heretofore issued from this office. It contains: (Peterson, p. 12-13)
2. Pearl of Great Price published July 11, 1851 at 15 Wilton St. Liverpool, England
3. Pearl of Great Price - Preface (1851 Pearl)
4. Preface Examination
   **Paragraph One**
   a. Purpose and origin - Paragraph one
   b. Most revelation from previous publications
   c. Increase Testimony and Defend the Faith
   **Paragraph Two**
   a. Not a missionary tract
   b. Increase knowledge of the Scriptures (bible)
   c. Ordinances of Salvation same as for Adam
   **Paragraph Three**
   a. Testimony of Joseph Smith
   b. Founder of the Dispensation of Fullness of Times
5. Contents of 1851 Pearl of Great Price (handout)
   a. Content Analysis
6. Material Selected to Strengthen Missionaries and Saints
   a. Duties of Church members
   b. Administering of Sacrament
   c. Duties of Elders, Priests, Teachers, and Deacons
   d. Calling of 12 and Seventy
   e. Key to Revelation of John (D&C 77)

**First American Edition**

A. 1878 Edition
   a. Utah saints through returning missionaries - very popular
   b. Under Acting President John Taylor
   c. Elder Orson Pratt - American edition of British Tract
   d. *Differences* (see handout)
   e. Moses addition from "Inspired Version" by Reorganized Church

B. Canonized
   a. October 12, 1880 conference
   b. Second Session (2:00 PM)
      President John Taylor sustained as President of Church
      Pearl of Great Price canonized
      "Presented" President George Q. Cannon
      "Moved" President Joseph F. Smith
      (See Peterson, p. 23)

**1902 Edition**

A. Dr. James E. Talmage
   a. Professor at University of Utah
   b. Called by First Presidency to revise P of Great Price - 1900
   c. Sustained 1902 October General Conference.

B. Edition Changes
   a. Divided into chapters, verses, and added cross-references
   b. Deleted extracts from D&C
   c. Deleted poem "Truth"
1921 Edition
A. Elder James E. Talmage
   a. Sustained to the Quorum of the Twelve 1911
   b. Called to head scripture committee
   c. Book of Mormon in double-column, chapter headings, chronological data,
      pronouncing vocabulary, index, revised footnote references
   d. D & C, double-column, chapter headings, index, footnotes references
B. Edition Changes
   a. Double column
   b. Index added

1976 Edition
A. New Revelations
   a. Vision of the Celestial Kingdom
   b. Joseph F. Smith's vision of Redemption of the Dead
   c. June of 1979 two revelations moved to the D & C. (137, 138)

1981 Edition
A. New Scripture Publications
   a. King James Bible with additions
   b. Book of Mormon with corrections and additions
   c. Doctrine and Covenants corrections and additions
B. Pearl of Great Price
   a. Preface Added (not had since 1851 edition)
   b. Name Changes of Books
      Book of Moses = Selections from the Book of Moses
      Writings of Joseph Smith 1 = Joseph Smith--Matthew
      Writings of Joseph Smith 2 = Joseph Smith--History
   c. New chapter headings
   d. Fac-similes redone by photo reprinting as appeared in the Times and Seasons 1842
      Joseph Smith editor of Times and Seasons at that time