


Another Gold Book Found

In October 2005, police in Tehran, the capital of Iran, recovered a number of artifacts that a farmer had found while plowing a field and then had sold to smugglers. Among the objects was a book comprising eight gold sheets inscribed in cuneiform script, which was used in much of the ancient Near East. The sheets were bound by four small rings passing through holes in the sheets, in the same fashion as an ancient Etruscan gold book found in Bulgaria in 2003 (see “Etruscan Gold Book from 600 BC Discovered,” *Insights* 23/5, 2003) and the plates of the Book of Mormon (see the description in *History of the Church*, 4:537).

The book is from the Achaemenid period, which began in the mid-sixth century BC. One of

its most prominent rulers was Cyrus the Great, who conquered the Babylonian Empire in 539 BC and allowed the Jews taken captive by the Babylonians to return home two years later. The Etruscan book has been dated to the time of Lehi, circa 600 BC. For a report on this latest find, go to <http://www.cais-soas.com/News/2005/October2005/11-10.htm> (accessed 21 February 2006). 



Similar in format and date to the Book of Mormon record, the two ancient records shown here are written on gold plates held together by rings. Above: A diminutive gold book from Bulgaria dating to 600 BC. It comprises six pages (5 x 4.5 cm each, 23.82 karat gold) and contains text written in Etruscan characters. AFP/Getty Images. Left: The gold book recovered in Tehran features cuneiform script and dates to the mid-sixth century BC. © 1998 CAIS (www.cais-soas.com).