

# Small & Simple Things

*“By small and simple things are great things brought to pass”  
(Alma 37:6).*

## What Did Joseph Smith Really Look Like?

This month marks the 207th anniversary of the Prophet Joseph Smith’s birth. When he was alive, photography was a new invention, and its use was not widespread. No authenticated photograph of the Prophet is known to exist.

For centuries, people created castings of faces in order to preserve the images of their loved ones. After the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum, death masks were made of them, which accurately preserved their facial bone structure. Sculptors and artists later based their works on these masks. Included here is a small sample of those works.



GIFT OF WILFORD C. WOOD MUSEUM, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

### Death mask of Joseph Smith Jr., 1844

*This mask was created shortly after the Prophet’s martyrdom. Since the mask did not cover his entire face, his face appears more narrow than it actually was.*

### Joseph Smith Jr., by Alvin Gittins, 1959

*Gittin’s portrait was the first to consciously use the death mask as an information source.*



ALVIN GITTINS, © 1959 IRI

### Joseph Smith, by L. Gahagan, 1850

*President John Taylor (1808–87) commissioned this sculpture. He and other men who had known the Prophet met with and advised Lucius Gahagan in England. Gahagan used sketches done from life (by Sutcliffe Maudsley) and the death masks to make portrait busts of both Joseph and Hyrum. Because it was created with input from Joseph Smith’s friends, this is a very significant sculpture.*



PHOTOGRAPH BY WEIDEN C. ANDERSEN, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

### Joseph Smith, by Mahonri Young, 1908

*This statue was created to stand in an alcove near the east doors of the Salt Lake Temple. It is now on Temple Square.*

# Temple Spotlight: London England Temple

The London England Temple was dedicated by President David O. McKay (1873–1970) in September 1958. The open house was extended three days longer than previously scheduled because of the overwhelming interest in the temple. In all, there were 76,324 visitors to the open house.

The London Temple was the second temple built in Europe, and it is one of two temples in the British Isles today. It sits on 32 acres of property selected by President David O. McKay. It is located in the county of Surrey, the same county where the Magna Carta was signed in 1215.

In 1990 the London England Temple closed for an extensive interior remodeling and was rededicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) in October 1992. Fifty years after the temple was first dedicated, on December 15, 2008, the angel Moroni was added by helicopter to the 160-foot tall spire.

An excerpt from the rededicatory prayer by President Gordon B. Hinckley follows:



“Our beloved Father, wilt thou bless thy faithful people in this island nation and throughout the world. Smile upon them with favor and open the windows of heaven and shower down blessings upon them as they walk in faithfulness.”<sup>1</sup>

**NOTE**

1. Gordon B. Hinckley, in “London Temple: Temple ‘Made Even More Beautiful,’” *Church News*, Oct. 31, 1992, 4.



PINO DRAGO, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM

**Monday, 24 June 1844, 4:15 a.m.: Beyond the Events, by Pino Drago, 1987**

*This portrait is a psychological artistic study of the Prophet’s decision to face charges in Carthage, Illinois, USA.*

**Joseph Smith, by Dee Jay Bawden, 1981**

*To create an accurate likeness, Bawden used Joseph Smith’s skeletal measurements along with the death mask. This statue is displayed outside Carthage Jail in Illinois, USA.*

**Joseph Smith in Nauvoo, 1840, by Theodore Gorka, 1980**

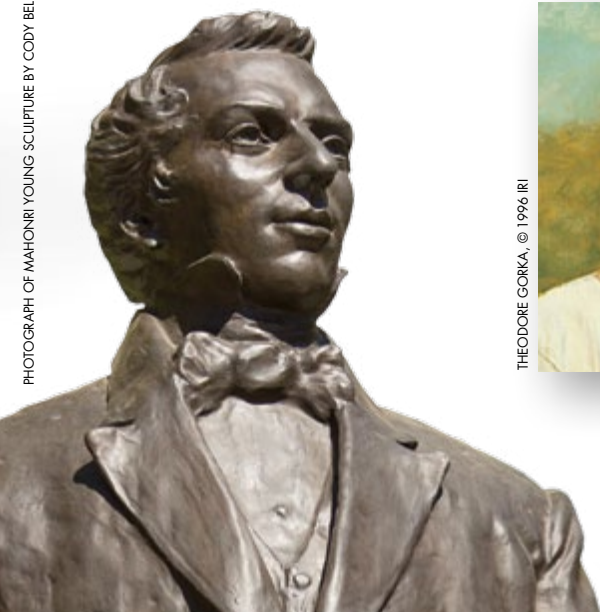
*Theodore Gorka’s conté crayon studies are an effort to represent the Prophet’s face with life and emotion that seem authentic.*



THEODORE GORKA, © 1996 IRI



PHOTOGRAPH OF MAHONRI YOUNG SCULPTURE BY CODY BELL



DEE JAY BAWDEN, COURTESY OF CHURCH HISTORY MUSEUM