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13.0 Archaeology Symposium. The Society's Seventh Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures was presented to its members and the public June 16, 17, and 18 as a feature of the 30th Annual Leadership Week of BYU. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, UAS president, was chairman of the first two sessions; while Ross T. Christensen, general secretary-treasurer, conducted the third meeting. Lectures were given by John L. Sorenson and Gareth W. Lowe, recently returned from the New World Archaeological Foundation expedition to southern Mexico (May 27 Newsletter, 12.7); Dr. Welby W. Ricks, a BYU-trained student of Hebrew; Dr. Jakeman; and Prof. Christensen. Abstracts of lectures follow (13.00-13.03):

13.00 EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTHERN MEXICO; REPORT OF FIELD WORK, NWAFF EXPEDITION OF 1953, by John L. Sorenson and Gareth W. Lowe. An understanding of the work accomplished by the 1953 expedition of the New World Archaeological Foundation depends on a knowledge of why the Foundation was organized. Mesoamerican culture history, as generally accepted by specialists, may be outlined by the following succession of periods, commencing with the earliest: Hunting, Beginning Agriculture, Formative (when the later high civilizations were developing their full form), Classic (the "Old Empire" Maya, etc.), and Militaristic. The last of these was interrupted by the Spanish conquest. However, there is actually no good evidence that the "Beginning Agriculture" period ever existed. No sites are known which surely link the hunting peoples to the later highly developed civilizations. It is becoming more likely all the time that the only satisfactory explanation of the origin of the high cultures is that civilizational traits were introduced from Old World centers (although few specialists yet accept this view).

The book Ancient America and the Book of Mormon by Hunter and Ferguson attracted sufficient interest among professional archaeologists to enable Mr. Ferguson to bring eminent non-Mormon archaeologists into active cooperation with Mormons for the first time. As a result the New World Archaeological Foundation was organized to conduct a scientific program in southern Mexico (November 25 Newsletter, 8.4), to be financed by contributions from private (and generally) LDS sources. It has no official connection, however, with any other private, institutional, church, or government group. Its purpose is to seek information bearing on the problem of origins of the high civilizations.

The first area chosen for investigation was the west side of the Rio Grijalva in the states of Tabasco and Chiapas, southern Mexico. Here it was felt that the greatest contributions could be made both to archae-

ological and Book of Mormon historical reconstruction. (Cooperating non-LDS scientists do not accept the Book of Mormon, but are willing to let it enter into consideration as a possibility for planning purposes.) Work was initiated by conducting reconnaissance in the vicinity of Huimanguillo, Tabasco, where several dozen sites were located.

In February and March two sites were excavated near Huimanguillo, named Sigero and Tierra Nueva (April 8 Newsletter, 11.01). The former proved to be a small shallow site with several ceremonial mounds, dating to the Militaristic period (soon after 1000 AD). The latter was the largest in the vicinity; it contained a considerable number of ceremonial mounds and the remains of a fairly heavy occupation over many acres. Excavational tests showed that it dated to a time from the later Classic period into the Militaristic (600? to 1100? AD). This area showed cultural influences from the Maya region to the east.

In May extensive tests were made in the area from Huimanguillo north-westward to San Miguel (east of La Venta), revealing much cultural material in the Olmec style. Meanwhile other reconnaissance and minor excavation continued upstream (southward) from Huimanguillo. This work was interesting from a technical point of view but no large centers were located. A short reconnaissance by NWAFF President Thomas Stuart Ferguson and Mr. Sorenson in May covered a large area south and east of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. Many sites were found, a considerable number of which presented materials belonging to the Formative (Book of Mormon) period. Plans were laid for extensive work in the future in this area.

13.01 SUGGESTIONS TO LDS STUDENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY, by Ross T. Christensen. These remarks were directed particularly toward Latter-day Saint youth of pre-college age who desire to prepare themselves for useful archaeological activity; others may adapt them to their respective circumstances.

To become a professional archaeologist it is advisable to progress at least to the level of the Master's degree and if possible to the doctoral level. However, amateurs may also make important contributions, nor is there anything to prevent a non-university student from training himself toward this end.

One should become adept in self-expression and rapid reading, not only in his own tongue, but also in those languages which relate to the archaeological area in which he is interested. If one desires to specialize in the great civilizations of the New World, Spanish is highly desirable. For the Near Eastern field, French and German are important. Also, a knowledge of local languages is worthwhile where readily obtainable.

Mechanical skills, such as illustrating, drafting, cartography (map making), surveying, and photography are recommended as very useful.

Certain academic subjects, such as ancient history, geography, geology, and anthropology, have special value to the prospective archaeologist.

Since most archaeological interest among Latter-day Saints is scripture-centered, no time spent studying the Scriptures themselves is wasted.

The student should begin his archaeological reading as soon as possible. A good start can perhaps be made with C. W. Ceram's Gods, Graves, and Scholars or Anne Terry White's Lost Worlds, which can be obtained at libraries or ordered through bookshops. (The UAS contemplates publishing a graded bibliography of archaeological readings in the near future.)

Membership in the University Archaeological Society is particularly recommended for the LDS archaeology enthusiast who is not able to attend BYU and avail himself of its choice offerings in that field.

13.02 DISCOVERIES OF EARLY HEBREW WRITING IN NORTH AMERICA, by Welby W. Ricks. The Book of Mormon informs us that one of its peoples had a knowledge of Hebrew script, which by the close of the record had been somewhat modified. It naturally follows that evidence of Hebrew-like writing should be found in ancient America.

It has been 123 years since the Book of Mormon was published, yet rather few finds of supposed Hebrew writings have been reported. This situation may be due, in part, to Lamanite hatred for the Nephites. The Lamanites may have confiscated and destroyed many valuable Nephite records. Or, perhaps only the priests and a small educated class kept records.

There is an old saying, "Truth comes only to the prepared mind." Up to the present hardly anyone with the proper training in Hebrew has looked for the evidence. In the past investigators of reported finds of Hebrew-like inscriptions have usually been accused of fraud or dubbed as "crack-pots." Few with the proper training could be tempted to pursue the quest.

The discovery of the Newark Holy Stones is a case in point. Found near Newark, Ohio, in 1860, they were covered with Hebrew-like characters, while one of them contained a likeness of the Prophet Moses. At the time much criticism was leveled against accepting their authenticity. Yet, careful examination of this criticism reveals no sound reason for discrediting the circumstances of the finds, as reported.

Certainly, all reported finds of Hebrew-like writing should be thoroughly investigated and the verifiable material separated from the speculative. If, as a result, a small but useful body of information remains, the product will be well worth the effort. Future possibilities are encouraging and should be pursued by the "prepared mind."

13.03 LEHI'S VISION OF THE TREE OF LIFE IN STONE, by M. Wells Jakeman. This lecture was based on the speaker's article, "An Unusual Tree-of-Life Sculpture from Ancient Central America," in No. 4 of the Bulletin of the University Archaeological Society, now in the hands of all UAS members. For this reason no summary is here presented of this discussion, which was given in response to popular demand before a capacity audience, most of whom were non-members of the Society.

13.1 New Chapter Authorized. A new chapter of the UAS at Columbus, Ohio, was authorized June 16 at a meeting of the Executive Committee. Robert K. Willardson, 3086 Gerbert Rd., will preside as director and automatically becomes a general officer of the Society. It is anticipated that Dr. Murray C. Udy and Harold E. Shoemaker will serve as assistant director and secretary, respectively.

13.2 Annual Business Meeting. The Society's annual business meeting was held June 17 in connection with the Symposium (above). A summary of minutes follows (13.20-13.22):

13.20 Official Reports. An annual report was read by President M. Wells Jakeman. Five Newsletters and one Bulletin have been published since the last annual business meeting, November 6. Chapters of the UAS, in addition to the Campus Chapter, have been organized at St. George, Los Angeles, and Columbus, Ohio (April 8 Newsletter, 11.10; above, 13.1). A contest involving cash prizes for winning papers by UAS members in the field of the archaeology of the Scriptures, has been authorized (April 8 Newsletter, 11.11). (Full announcement of the rules is anticipated for the near future.)

Statements on finance and membership were read by General Secretary-Treasurer Ross T. Christensen. Society records showed a cash balance of \$662.98. Membership stood at 280, which constituted a 133.3% increase over the membership reported at the last annual business meeting, a little over seven months previous.

- 13.21 Elections. Dr. Jakeman was re-elected by acclamation to the office of president of the Society and chairman of the Executive Committee. Prof. Christensen was re-elected general secretary-treasurer. Both elections are effective until the next annual business meeting.
- 13.22 Constitutional Amendments. Two amendments to the Society's constitution were ratified: (1) That the president of the Campus Chapter no longer be included as a member of the Executive Committee. (2) That, in order to organize a new chapter of the UAS, there be required ten paid members living in the same locality, with a quorum of five of them present at the organization meeting.
- 13.3 Receives Master's Degree. Kenneth D. Stephens, one-time director of the Reno Chapter of the UAS (November 25 Newsletter, 8.13), was awarded the Master of Arts degree in anthropology at the June commencement of the University of Oregon.
- 13.4 Restore Petroglyphs. A project of the Department of Archaeology on Y Day (annual BYU clean-up) was the restoration to their rightful place on the slope above the 2nd East St. ramp on the south edge of the Upper Campus of a number of stones bearing petroglyphs. Brought to the campus in 1929 by Dr. George H. Hansen from Lincoln Beach, southern Utah Lake, the 19 carvings were believed by Dr. Albert B. Reagan, Special Professor of Anthropology, BYU, 1934-36, to give a narrative account of Utah Lake dwellers of around 1000 BC. Senator William Coxon (May 27 Newsletter, 12.5) considers the collection to include petroglyphs of unusual importance. Participating were UAS members R. Sears Hintze, Garry C. Kitchens, Ross T. Christensen, Charles H. Stephens, and John Wittorf.
- 13.5 Return from Holy Land. The BYU Holy Land tour under the leadership of UAS member Dr. Sidney B. Sperry and Mr. Eldin Ricks (April 8 Newsletter, 11.8) has returned to the United States after a 61-day circuit of European and Near Eastern countries. The party of 21 persons enjoyed many sights of archaeological interest in Italy, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Spain, and Britain.