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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 30 (November 8, 1955)

Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen, Loyce Partridge, and Roberta Hansen  
Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

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# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 30

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Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Editor: Ross T. Christensen; Assistant Editors: Loyce Partridge, Roberta Hansen

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30.0 Annual Round-Table and Business Meeting. Monday, November 21, the Society's Fall Round-Table and Annual Business Meeting will be held on the BYU Campus.

The Round-Table program, open to the public, will include a viewing of M. Wells Jakeman's actual-size facsimile drawing of the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone, found in southern Mexico and presently being transported with UAS funds to the National Museum of Archaeology, Mexico City (see last Newsletter, 29.0). Dr. Jakeman will explain the extraordinary sculpture, which appears to portray Lehi's vision as recorded in the Book of Mormon, I Nephi 8, and will also detail plans for future field research by the BYU and the UAS.

The Round-Table will also include a presentation of the John A. Widtsoe Memorial Award to Gareth W. Lowe for his paper, "The Life Work of William E. Gates." The Widtsoe Award is an annual cash gift made by the faculty of the Department of Archaeology to a BYU student

<p>The Society's Fall Round-Table will be held this year in Provo instead of Salt Lake City, as heretofore. This year the Widtsoe Memorial Award and Dr. Jakeman's actual-size drawing of the Lehi Stone will be featured. See sheet appended to the back of this Newsletter for complete program.</p>
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for an outstanding contribution in the field of archaeology (April 8, 1953, Newsletter, 11.11). Previous recipients have been Irene Briggs Woodford and John L. Sorenson. Mr. Lowe is presently in Mexico as assistant field director of an expedition of the New World Archaeological Foundation (see below, 30.8), but a condensation of his paper will be read at the Round-Table. The presentation, it is expected, will be made to a relative.

In addition, souvenir gifts will be presented to all contributors to the fund for the transfer of the Lehi Stone to Mexico City, who are present (see below, 30.2).

At the Annual Business Meeting, voting will take place on proposed amendments to the Society's constitutions, and officers for the coming year will be elected. All members of the UAS are urged to attend.

Important policy decisions will be reached, it is expected, in a meeting of the Executive Committee earlier in the evening.

Officers and members of the UAS Campus Chapter will provide refreshments and otherwise assist with arrangements. (A complete program of the evening's activities is appended to this Newsletter.)

30.1 Reports on Congress of Orientalists. Curt H. Seemann of Hamburg, Germany, as well as being a member of the UAS, recently joined the German Society for Palestinian Research, which is under the presidency of Prof. Martin Noth

of Bonn University. On Prof. Noth's invitation, Mr. Seemann attended the German Congress of Orientalists, held at Hamburg, July 27-31.

Mr. Seemann has supplemented his archaeological inquiries with an avid study of the Hebrew language in consultation with Dr. Sidney B. Sperry of BYU, a UAS Honorary Member. He has also spoken on archaeological subjects before branches of the LDS church in Germany. He pays special tribute to the UAS, particularly to Dr. Sperry, for guidance and inspiration which have opened to him the prospect of a life's work in a field of absorbing interest.

The German Congress of Orientalists normally meets every second or third year. Scholars from various countries exchange thoughts on their research in eastern studies. At this year's Congress, 15 persons, including Mr. Seemann, attended the Old Testament section. Also included were scholars from Zurich, Madrid, and all parts of Germany. Lively discussions followed each of ten lectures. In response to a request from the editor of the Newsletter Mr. Seemann has submitted a report on papers read in the Old Testament section. Abstracts of three of them follow:

- 30.10 C. WESTERMANN, Berlin University, "Traditio and Traditum." There is a difference between prophetic tradition (that handed down by the prophets) and the tradition of the fathers (that handed down from father to son), just as there is between written and oral tradition. Jeremiah 26:17-19 is an instance of the latter. Job 8:8-10 makes clear how important tradition is: "For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers. (For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow.) Shall not they teach thee, and tell thee, and utter words out of their heart?" The tradition handed down from father to son was most important. Thus, Deut. 6:20-25 reads: "And when thy son asketh thee in time to come . . . then thou shalt say unto thy son . . ." The initiative was on the part of him who received the tradition, not him who bequeathed it.

In our days we have no more such questions, as children too seldom find the ear of their parents. We may well believe that in Old Testament times such questions were asked even by children who had reached maturity. Very often the passing on of tradition involved "saying" and "doing" at the same time. It may have meant simply doing what one's elders did. Nowadays, it is left for the schools to substitute formal teaching for the previous informal handing on of tradition.

- 30.11 G. QUELL, Rostock University, "Suicide in the Old Testament." God's law is set forth in Gen. 9:6: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." The Jewish interpretation of this law is that (1) it is cowardice to want to die at a time when one should live; (2) suicide violates the design of the Creator, and it is sin to throw away the immortal soul and to run away from God; and (3) God hates this crime, therefore, the most wise law-giver Moses made it subject to punishment.

However, in the Old Testament there are instances which give cause for a contrary interpretation. Abimelech had his armor-bearer kill him, "that men say not of me, A woman slew him" (Judges 9:53-55). The same is true of Saul who said to his armor-bearer: "Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore, Saul took a sword, and fell upon it" (I Samuel 31:1-6). "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass,

and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself" (II Sam. 17:23). In these instances suicide is the last act of a catastrophe, although Samson's death (Judges 16:22-31) is reported as a victorious act of vengeance.

Now it really cannot be said that it is cowardice to "fall upon" one's own sword. Furthermore, Ahithophel and Samson as well were buried in the sepulchers of their fathers, while Saul and his sons, after burning, also received decent burial.

In Job, however, we find a different attitude. When his wife tells him to kill himself, Job answers (2:10): "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh." Job is tempted but rises above temptation, since to him suicide is sin.

In the Old Testament situation (at least among many of the common people, as distinguished from the prophets--ed.), suicide is nothing but a kind of death, like any other, subject to either negative or positive interpretation.

30.12 R. RENDTORFF, Göttingen University, "On the History of the Shelamim Offerings." There is a difference between the peace offerings (zebzah shelamim) and the burnt offerings ('oloth) of the Old Testament. The former, according to Koehler, is a sacrifice of communion. The term shelamim never occurs separately, while the term 'olah occurs by itself and also together with zebzah. When making a burnt offering, there is only one person officiating, who is acting for himself alone, while in the case of the peace offering it is always the whole congregation that is acting, with their representative officiating. The peace offering is a closing ritual of an offering festival where a number of burnt offerings have already been made. It was also suggested at the Congress that, behind the various offerings, there must have been an underlying ordinance connected with the Covenant between Jehovah and Israel.

30.2 Transfer of Lehi Stone Paid For. Sixteen additional contributions have swelled the fund for the transfer of the Lehi Stone to Mexico City (see last Newsletter, 29.0). Receipts were sufficient to pay for the transfer completely. Payment has been made to the Mexican government, and it is understood that the removal is now in progress.

The Society president M. Wells Jakeman expresses hearty appreciation to the new contributors, who are as follows (see last Newsletter for original list):

Martha Berghout	Freda Jensen	Mrs. Hazel G. Myers
Alfred L. Bush	W. Carvel Johnson	William G. Platt
Ross T. Christensen	William D. Kuhri	C. B. Russell
Thos. Stuart Ferguson	Lynn C. Layton	Esther W. Williams
J. P. Goddard	Robert L. Layton	
Judge Will L. Hoyt	Dr. Richard K. Miner	

30.3 BYU Archaeology Publications Ready. Nos. 1 and 2 of the "Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History" are now off the press and ready for distribution, according to M. Wells Jakeman, chairman of the Department of Archaeology and editor of the series.

Publication No. 1, by Dr. Jakeman, is a technical paper entitled, The Ancient Middle-American Calendar System: Its Origin and Development. The author's research into the beginnings of calendrical reckoning in Mesoamerica has thrown light upon a previously neglected aspect of early New World civilization.

Publication No. 2, by UAS member Charles V. Imeson of Martinez, California, bears the title, A Maya Calendar-Calculator. Accompanying the explanatory pamphlet is the actual calculator, which consists of three sliding discs with indicator and runner operating on a circular slide-rule principle, ". . . by means of which any named day of the calendar and its number and month-position can accurately be fixed, for any given number of years in the Maya chronological era." The circular calculators were produced some years ago at the personal expense of the author and contributed free of cost to the Department of Archaeology.

The Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History are the official scholarly series of the BYU archaeology department. No. 3, The "Historical Recollections" of Gaspar Antonio Chi, translated by M. Wells Jakeman, was issued in 1952. Nos. 1 and 2, now appearing for the first time, bear the publication dates 1947 and 1949, respectively. The delay is due to technical difficulties.

UAS members may request one copy of Publication No. 1 or No. 2, or both. These will be charged against the three past publications available free of charge per year of membership (see May 31, 1954, Newsletter, 20.1). No. 3 has already been distributed to Society members.

- 30.4 Graduate Assistant Appointed. Welby W. Ricks has been appointed a graduate assistant in the BYU Department of Archaeology for the year 1955-56. He will teach classes in introductory archaeology. With a BA degree in Hebrew (BYU, 1955) and a Doctor of Optometry degree, Dr. Ricks is now studying towards his Master's degree in archaeology. He has addressed the UAS Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures on the subject of Hebrew-like inscriptions found in North America (June 25, 1953, Newsletter, 13.02).
- 30.5 Photographs Added to Department Collection. One hundred and fifty stereoslides, 180 two-by-two-inch slides, and 90 large prints, showing archaeological views of the Book of Mormon area, have been purchased for the archaeology department from Otto Done, professional photographer and director of the Society's Mexico City Chapter. "Many are exceptional views, from the standpoints of both photography and archaeological value," according to Dr. Jakeman. "This purchase will help make the BYU collection one of the best of its field in the country."
- 30.6 Campus Chapter Meetings. Officers of the Campus Chapter (BYU) for the Fall quarter were elected at the Quarterly Business Meeting, October 3. Alfred L. Bush of Denver, Colorado, will serve as president. Loyce Partridge of North Hollywood, California, and Luana Collett of Spokane, Washington, will serve as vice-president and secretary, respectively. Robert R. Beishline, retiring president, was named honorary president. Following elections, UAS president M. Wells Jakeman discussed past and future expeditions of BYU into Mexico and Central America.
- At a program meeting, October 17, color slides of the 1955 BYU Archaeological and Cultural Tour of Mexico (see August 10 Newsletter, 28.5) were viewed. About 75 persons were in attendance.
- At the October 31 meeting, Prof. Ellis T. Rasmussen of the BYU Division of Religion and a member of the UAS told his audience of papyrus scrolls discovered at Elephantine, southernmost fortress of ancient Egypt. A colony of Jews had been located there since the beginnings of the Persian Empire in the sixth century BC, if not earlier, and had built a temple

in honor of Jehovah. While the Persian overlord was away, in 410 BC, the local Egyptians pulled down the temple. The Jews then petitioned authorities in Jerusalem for permission and help to reconstruct it. (See also The Biblical Archaeologist, September, 1952.)

Prof. Rasmussen has recently returned from a summer of study at Dropsie College, Philadelphia, a prominent Hebrew post-graduate institution.

30.7 Notes on Individual Members. Individual UAS members have engaged in a variety of recent archaeological activities:

30.70 Omer C. Stewart, anthropologist at the University of Colorado, has published reviews of several books on archaeological and related subjects in recent issues of Southwestern Lore, a publication of the Colorado Archaeological Society, of which he was formerly executive secretary. He has also authored a series of three articles in the same journal on the subject of the purposeful burning of forests by the American Indian, entitled, "Forest Fires With a Purpose" (Vol. 20, No. 3, Dec., 1954), "Why Were the Prairies Treeless?" (Vol. 20, No. 4, March, 1955), and "Forest and Grass Burning in the Mountain West" (Vol. 21, No. 1, Pt. 1, June, 1955).

30.71 Clark S. Knowlton, general officer and member of the Nominating Committee of the UAS and associate professor of sociology at Georgia Teachers College, was awarded a PhD degree in sociology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, in the June, 1955, commencement. Dr. Knowlton's dissertation was an ecological study of the Syrian and Lebanese colony of São Paulo, Brazil, where he did field research during 1950-51.

30.72 Barnard Stewart Silver of Denver, Colorado, a member since September, 1953, was recently issued a Life Membership in the Society.

30.8 BYU Students Join Expedition. Four majors in the Department of Archaeology left the BYU campus October 20 to join the 1955-56 expedition of the New World Archaeological Foundation to southern Mexico. They are Gareth W. Lowe and Bruce W. Warren of Provo, Richard D. Madison of Idaho Falls, and Lorenzo C. Allen of Rupert, Idaho. Messrs. Lowe and Warren are past editors of the UAS Newsletter and former presidents of the Campus Chapter. Mr. Madison is also a member of the UAS.

"The work will begin at Chiapa de Corzo and Acala in the State of Chiapas," according to Thomas Stuart Ferguson, president of the Foundation and a general officer of the UAS. "These have been identified by Edwin M. Shook as pre-Classic sites /i.e. dating from Book of Mormon times; see August 10 Newsletter, 28.67, and they are of major proportions. . . . We'll also explore the Grijalva river from these sites to the vicinity of the Guatemala border, by boat."

Mr. Lowe will serve as assistant field director to archaeologist Heinrich Berlin of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who will be in charge of the explorations. In addition to the BYU men, Dr. Berlin will be assisted by two to four Mexican students. About 100 laborers will also be employed under the direction of this field staff.

The BYU students, it is expected, will return to the campus in May, 1956. They are traveling in a station wagon belonging to the Foundation.

Your Invitation to the . . .

FALL ROUND-TABLE and ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the  
UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
(Campus Chapter Assisting)

Monday, November 21, 1955  
John A. Widtsoe Lecture Hall and Rooms 203 and 205  
Eyring Physical Science Center  
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

P R O G R A M

1. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 6:00 P.M., Room 203
2. ROUND-TABLE, 7:00 P.M., John A. Widtsoe Lecture Hall  
(for members of the Society and the public)

Chairman: Ross T. Christensen

Invocation

Presentation of the Annual John A. Widtsoe Memorial Award to Gareth W.

Lowe for his Paper, "The Life Work of William E. Gates." Presentation  
by M. Wells Jakeman, Chairman of the Department of Archaeology

Reading of a Condensation of Mr. Lowe's Paper, by Victor W. Purdy

Presentation of Souvenir Gifts Honoring Contributors to the Fund for the  
Transfer of the Lehi Stone to Mexico City

BYU Expeditions to Book-of-Mormon Lands, Past and Future, by M. Wells  
Jakeman

General Discussion

Viewing of Dr. Jakeman's Actual-Size Facsimile Drawing of the Lehi Tree-  
of-Life Stone. (Audience will adjourn to Room 203.)

3. BUSINESS MEETING, 8:15 P.M., Room 205  
(for members of the Society)

Chairman: M. Wells Jakeman

Annual Reports

Voting on Constitutional Amendments

Elections

Benediction

Refreshments, by the Campus Chapter

Informal Discussions

Members of the Society and the public are invited; no charge.