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Type: Newsletter

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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 32 (January 28, 1956)

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Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

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# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 32

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January 28, 1956

Published approximately every six weeks at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. The purpose of the Newsletter is to disseminate knowledge of recent archaeological discoveries bearing on the Latter-day Saint scriptures; also, of the Society and its members. Subscription by membership in the Society: three dollars per year; or Life Membership, fifty dollars. (Membership also includes subscription to other publications of the Society and the Department of Archaeology of BYU.)

32.0 Explorers Prepare Usumacinta Expedition. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, president of the UAS and chairman of the BYU archaeology department, is making final preparations for his archaeological expedition to Central America.

Sponsored and financed by the Society, the expedition will continue important work on the Usumacinta River initiated in March, 1954 (August 23, 1954, Newsletter, 22.03). Dr. Jakeman will be joined by José Dávila and other UAS members at Mexico City. The party will arrive in the field about February 15, it is expected.

32.00 Past Expeditions. The present UAS expedition is a continuation of previous field investigations from the BYU in Book of Mormon lands. In 1900-02, Benjamin Cluff, Jr., president of the institution at that time, led a Brigham Young Academy through Mexico and Central America, and into Colombia, South America (see below, 32.2). In 1948



M. Wells Jakeman . . . leads expedition

Dr. Jakeman headed an expedition to Aguacatal, Campeche, Mexico, which discovered important evidence bearing upon the location of the city Bountiful of the Book of Mormon (see UAS Bulletin, No. 3, 1952, and August 23, 1954, Newsletter, 22.02). In 1954, he examined the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone at Izapa, southern Mexico (September 22 Newsletter, 29.0), and discovered a large ruined city of early date on the middle Usumacinta. The main objective of the 1956 expedition will be to continue the investigation of the Usumacinta site, to which



The region of BYU and UAS expeditions to Book of Mormon lands. The 1900 expedition visited Teotihuacan, Monte Albán, Palenque, and Copan. In 1948 Dr. Jakeman excavated Aguacatal. In 1954 he visited Izapa and discovered a large ruin in the middle Usumacinta Valley. During the present season he will continue study of the Usumacinta site and revisit the vicinity of Aguacatal. (Map by UAS member Robert L. Layton.)

- Dr. Jakeman attaches key importance for Book of Mormon geography.
- 32.01 Discovery by Air. The story of the 1954 expedition to the middle Usumacinta Valley was told by Dr. Jakeman at the annual Fall Round-Table of the Society, November 21, 1955 (December 9 Newsletter, 31.12). It was undertaken in quest of an important ruined city which his many years of study of Book of Mormon geography indicated should be there. In company with expedition-member José Dávila, he traversed much of the Usumacinta River by cayuco or dugout canoe. Because of the dense forest, however, the explorers found it necessary to examine the actual locality of the expected ruins from the air. This was done in the ancient, delapidated plane which had originally flown them into the region. The gasoline supply was running low as the pilot circled his craft over the spot, close above the thick green forest, for the explorers to take photographs and search for the expected ruins. Despite the risk in view of the diminishing fuel, and attacks of air sickness, they managed a thorough air reconnaissance of the site. To their great disappointment, however, the very place where the ruins should have been was filled by a great mass of jungle-covered hills. No ruins could be seen. The expedition returned an apparent failure.
- Upon arrival in Utah, however, the photographs were developed and studied; and it was then discovered that the "hills" were in reality rows of great ruin-mounds of an ancient city, previously unknown to archaeology! Had the expedition approached the ruins from the ground or the river, this thrilling discovery never could have been made, for it is impossible to see through the thick foliage of the Central American forest for more than a few yards.
- 32.02 Present Plans. In view of this important discovery (doubly important because of the very large size of the ruined city and because it was found exactly at the spot previously determined upon from the geography of the Book of Mormon), several return expeditions, besides the present one, are planned for further exploration of the site, including a further aerial reconnaissance and mapping, test-trenching to determine its actual period of occupation, and large-scale excavations at key points.
- In the event of adverse weather at the Usumacinta site, the present season's work there will be supplemented by further studies in the Auguacatal (Bountiful) region of western Campeche.
- 32.1 Man's Early Explorations, a review by Carl Hugh Jones. Conquest by Man, by Paul Herrmann, a book on early travel adventures of man, was published by Harper and Brothers in 1954. This American edition was translated from the German by Michael Bullock. It contains 429 pages and 138 illustrations, maps, and halftone plates depicting many archaeological evidences to back the author's views.
- The book begins with the archaeology of the New Stone Age. It tells of the toolmaking industry and the early trade routes, over which passed salt, flint tools, ivory, and amber. Next in history comes metallurgy. With the widespread use of metals the Stone Age trade routes were lengthened and new ones made. Traveling salesmen came into being about this time, with the use of money.
- About 600 BC the Phoenicians circumnavigated Africa. The Suez Canal was at that time not a dream but a reality. Trade routes reached all parts of the world except the Americas and the wastes of northern Russia. There is evidence that a stray ship or two may even have reached this

continent at that early date. Mr. Herrmann also examines Greek maritime legends and Roman trade relations with all the countries of the Old World.

Now we move to the New World and evidences of pre-1492 European contact. Eighty pages tell the story of the Vikings and their travels in Greenland and North America. While the Vikings were traveling west to America, the peoples of Asia were carrying on a large volume of trade among themselves in sea-going ships of 2,000 tons. The stories of the Crusades, Prester John, and the Great Khan are told with a great deal of color. The last chapter portrays the Portuguese and their rediscovery of the all-water route to India around Africa.

The reader is led to wonder about the marvelous accomplishments of ancient man, the more so considering his poor equipment. It is strange that we should think of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Phoenicians as timid seafarers who rowed their ships along the shores of their inland sea and once in a while ventured up to England for tin. But Herrmann tells us differently, and all we can do is sit and wonder at the accomplishments of the ancients.

As in all books of this nature and length, there are some mistakes. One is the upside-down printing (p.211) of the alleged Phoenician inscription found near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; also (p.212), of an authentic Old World inscription from the ninth century BC. For the most part the book is readable and worthwhile; but such passages as those about Prester John and the Welsh and Irish in America should be taken with a grain of salt.

- 32.2 Extra Copies Available. Extra copies of the November-December Brigham Young Alumnus, which contained the story of Asa S. Kienke, last surviving member of the Brigham Young Academy expedition to South America of 1900, and the award made to him of an Honorary Membership in the Society (December 9 Newsletter, 31.3), are available free of charge. Copies of this magazine were mailed to all Society members last month, but if any member has missed receiving his copy, or desires an extra one, he may request it from the General Secretary-Treasurer, University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.
- 32.3 Campus Chapter Meets. Elections of officers of the (BYU) Campus Chapter for the winter quarter have taken place, and program meetings for the remainder of the term have been planned.
- 32.30 Elections. Elections of new officers were held at the chapter's Quarterly Business Meeting, January 11. Robert R. Beishline of Ogden, Utah, was named president. Carl Hugh Jones of Wolcott, New York, and Luana Collet of Spokane, Washington, will serve as vice-president and secretary, respectively. Alfred L. Bush of Denver, Colorado, retiring president, was named honorary president.
- 32.31 Program Meetings. The theme for the quarter's program meetings is "Recent Developments in New World Archaeology." According to chapter officers, a well-planned series has been arranged for every second Monday evening at 6:30, in Room 205 of the Eyring Science Center, BYU Upper Campus. All Society members and their friends are invited to all remaining meetings.
- January 23: "The Indians of New York State, With Some Parallels to the Book of Mormon," by Carl Hugh Jones, newly-elected chapter vice-president.
- February 6: Reviews of recent publications on Southwestern United States and Utah archaeology will be given by chapter members.

February 20: Ross T. Christensen will preview his doctoral dissertation, "An Archaeological Study of the Illescas-Jubones Coast of Northern Peru and Southern Ecuador."

March 5: Welby W. Ricks, graduate assistant in the BYU archaeology department, will recount new archaeological finds in Mexico, especially the northeastern part.

- 32.4 News From Mexico City. The featured speaker for the November meeting of the Mexico City Chapter of the UAS was Dr. Dave V. Haws, who reported on blood types found in human beings throughout the world and suggested the sources of New World populations. Slides of southern Mexico and Guatemala were shown by Mrs. Nancy Catoria, a student in anthropology at Mexico City College.

December's lecture was given by José Dávila, on the subject of "Migrations to the New World."

The chapter made a field trip to the ruins of Teotihuacan (cf. August 10 Newsletter, 28.50). Dr. Eduardo Noguera, Director of Pre-Hispanic Monuments of Mexico, conducted the tour of the ruins and lectured to the group. They were also entertained by the Xochiquetzal group of Aztec dancers.

- 32.5 Salt Lake Chapter Hears Lecturers. Dr. Milton R. Hunter was guest speaker at a meeting of the Salt Lake Chapter of the UAS, December 15. He showed a large number of slides of Mesoamerica taken on his recent trip (March 31 Newsletter, 26.0). The speaker told of recent progress in this field, some of which has important Book of Mormon implications.

On January 12, Dr. Jacob Geerling of the University of Utah spoke on the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in Palestine in 1947 (May 27, 1953, Newsletter, 12.0).

- 32.6 Publishes on New York Archaeology. Carl Hugh Jones, newly-elected vice-president of the Campus Chapter of the UAS (see above, 32.30) and a member of the Archaeological Society of Central New York, Auburn, New York, has written an article for the Bulletin of the latter organization, entitled "A Summer's Research and Surface Hunting in Wayne County, New York" (Vol. 10, No. 8, pp. 115-118, October, 1955). Previously, the same bulletin published his article, "Indians in Wayne County" (Vol. 10, No. 5, pp. 61-74, May, 1955), which is in the UAS file at BYU.

- 32.7 Ruins of Tikal to be Restored. Beginning late in 1956, the University Museum of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will explore and partially restore the magnificent Maya site of Tikal, in the Peten region of Guatemala. This is a large-scale project which includes the establishment of a world research center at the famous Maya city. It will be under the general direction of John Dimick. Edwin M. Shook of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (August 10 Newsletter, 28.6) will be field director, and Linton Satterthwaite of the University Museum will serve as chief archaeologist.

Director Dimick has listed the aims of the project in detail:

(1) To restore or partially restore a selected number of structures chosen to give the best idea of the original city whose grandeur exceeds anything in the New World.

(2) To provide an international location for the study of early American civilization.

(3) To bring to Tikal students, professors, and scientists from the entire Western World who can observe the research and restoration in progress and who can, if they wish, participate in it under the direction of the University Museum.

(4) To provide a research center of archaeology for the students of universities offering studies in that subject.

(5) To open the huge Peten jungle to other scientific studies, such as plant, animal, and bird life, soil study, and geology. Students of those sciences could use the same living facilities as the archaeologists.

(6) To complete and open to visitors from afar a monument to Western solidarity and good will that shall stand a thousand years and be the outstanding attraction of two continents.

Tikal is a city of Classic (post-Book of Mormon) date located roughly 100 miles east of the large ruined city of probable Pre-Classic or Book of Mormon date discovered by M. Wells Jakeman on the middle Usumacinta River and soon to be explored by a UAS expedition (see above, 32.0). Tikal has five great pyramid temples, one as tall as a twenty-story building, "dozens" of smaller temples, a 350-foot plaza, sculptured stelae, palaces, reservoirs long since dry, and a network of paved or graded roads. The site was abandoned before 1000 AD and rediscovered a century ago, but until the Guatemalan Air Force built a landing strip nearby it was accessible only by muleback.

32.8 Archaeological Movies, reviews by Muriel Malphurs. Two motion pictures of archaeological interest have recently appeared on the screen:

32.80 Troy and Homer. An exciting spectacle of the Homeric age is the movie "Ulysses," produced by Domo de Laurentis and Carlo Ponti in association with William W. Schorr, and directed by Mario Cameini.

The technicolor production was filmed in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas, where the legendary exploits of Ulysses took place, and stars Kirk Douglas and Silvano Mangano. It is the story of the mighty Greek hero of the Trojan war who endured years of dangerous adventures before he could be freed from the curse of Neptune and return to his faithful wife and son in Ithaca.

The architecture and costumes are roughly authentic for the age about which Homer wrote, that of the Trojan war of about 1150 BC, or Mycenaean age. The producers undoubtedly went to great pains to inform themselves on the archaeology of this brilliant prehistoric Aegean civilization.

32.81 Maya City. Another picture of archaeological interest is "Quest for the Lost City," an RKO-production by Dorothy Howell.

It is a documentary film highlighting the adventures of Dana and Ginger Lamb as they travel in search of a mysterious lost city. After struggling through the almost impenetrable jungle, they finally reach their destination, only to be thwarted in their purpose by a great storm, from which they barely escape with their lives.

This movie provides an opportunity for a short, vicarious visit to the jungles in the vicinity of the Mexico-Guatemala border, a region of great archaeological interest. It is, in fact, the general region of the large ruined city on the Usumacinta River soon to be explored by Dr. Jakeman (see above, 32.0).