



Type: Magazine Article

Facts on Teotihuacán

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Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 45, No. 8 (August 1942)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 483

Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The fifteenth part covers archaeological discoveries in Teotihuacán.

Facts on Teotihuacan

By Charles E. Dibble
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NEW archeological excavations are being initiated in Teotihuacan (*Teo-ti-hua-can*—place of the Gods, or place where the Gods were created).

The Pyramid of the Sun, as viewed by present-day visitors, is but a core of the original structure. In the process of reconstruction a cap fifteen feet thick was literally peeled from the pyramid. The pyramid was originally surfaced with stucco and decorated with frescos, red, blue-green and yellow being the predominant colors.

The base of the structure originally was square and covered an eleven and one-half acre area. Its height exceeded



ONE SIDE OF THE PYRAMID OF THE SUN SHOWING THE FIFTEEN FOOT CAP WHICH ORIGINALLY COVERED THE NOW VISIBLE PYRAMID.

two hundred fifteen feet, and the total weight was approximately three million tons. This weight, most of it in the form of adobe bricks, was all transported and placed by native workmen under great handicap.

Teotihuacan's inhabitants were accurate observers of the heavens and planned their cities in accord with the movements of the sun. The orientation of the Pyramid of the Sun, as well as other buildings of the zone, deviates seventeen degrees from true north in accordance with Mexico's north latitude position. The pyramid is not oriented to face due west, but rather it is oriented to that point in the west where the sun sets on the day it reaches the zenith in Teotihuacan. The sun reaches its zenith in Mexico on May 21. On this day the sun sets vertical to the north-south axis of the pyramid.



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