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Published approximately every six weeks by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. The purpose of the Newsletter is to disseminate knowledge of recent archaeological discoveries bearing on the Latter-day Saint scriptures; also of the archaeological activities and viewpoints 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 of the BYU Department of Archaeology.)

54.0 REPRINTS ON UTAH VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGY AVAILABLE. Reprints of a recent article by Carl Hugh Jones on an archaeological excavation in Utah Valley are available from the UAS general secretary-treasurer. The charge is 15¢ per copy (10¢ to Society members).

The article is entitled, "A Pueblid Site in Utah Valley," and appeared in Utah Archaeology, Vol. 4, No. 2 (June, 1958), pp. 7-13 (Newsletter, 51. 5). The article is a preliminary report on excavations carried out by the BYU Department of Archaeology on the G. M. Hinckley property east of Utah Lake during the autumn of 1956 (Newsletter, 38. 4).

54.1 BRITISH JOURNAL REPUBLISHES NEWSLETTER ARTICLES. A review by Bruce W. Warren appearing in the UAS Newsletter, 50. 2, under the title "Maya' Dating System is Pre-Maya," was republished in full with the source acknowledged in New World Antiquity, London, Vol. 5, No. 7 (July, 1958), pp. 91-93. Also, the article, "Studies Zapotec Units of Measure" (Newsletter, 47. 2), was summarized in the British journal, issue of June, 1958, pp. 72-73.

This is the same journal which previously published a brief article entitled "Mormon Archaeology," together with an editorial making reference to it, in Vol. 4, No. 7, pp. 105-106. (Newsletter, 46. 22).

54.2 REPORTS FROM THE CHAPTERS.

54.20 Campus Chapter. On October 13, 1958, the first meeting of the season was held on the BYU campus in the form of a panel discussion. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, chairman of the Department of Archaeology; Dr. Ross T. Christensen, faculty advisor to the chapter; John L. Sorenson, former BYU instructor in archaeology; and Carl Hugh Jones, a senior archaeology major, served as members of the panel. Discussion centered primarily on the archaeology of the scriptures.

Election of officers for the autumn quarter was held the same evening. Elected were: John P. Dunford of Portland, Oregon, president; Kristine Hansen

of Corvallis, Oregon, vice-president; Ray T. Matheny of Los Angeles, California, secretary; and N. Eric Brodin of Gothenburg, Sweden, honorary president. (Mr. Brodin is at present an LDS missionary in his native land.)

54.21 Columbus Chapter. A meeting was held at the home of Robert K. Willardson, chapter director, on May 17, 1958, during which Mr. Willardson and Lorenzo H. Snow, UAS general officers, spoke on recent archaeological work in Mesoamerica.

At a meeting held on October 11, modern methods of archaeological research were discussed. Future meetings are planned for January, March, and May.



... photo by Albert B. Reagan.

Petroglyphs near Vernal, Utah. Photographing and cataloguing of petroglyphs in southern Utah is being done by the St. George Chapter of the UAS (see below, 54. 23). (The above photo is in the negative for better reproduction.)

54.22 Salt Lake Chapter. About fifty members and friends of the Salt Lake Chapter held a field day at Brigham Young University on October 18, 1958. Led by chapter director W. Ernest Young, they spent the afternoon and evening visiting the archaeology laboratory, viewing archaeological displays, and listening to a brief report on the recent expedition to Aguacatal (Newsletters, 46. 0, 47. 0, and 48. 0). Drs. M. Wells

Jakeman and Ross T. Christensen of the archaeology department acted as guides.

A meeting of the chapter is scheduled for November 21. John W. Simmons, chapter member and missionary to Polynesia, will review Thor Heyerdahl's recent book Aku-Aku on the mystery of Easter Island.

54.23 St. George Chapter. A recent report from Frank D. Holland, director of the St. George Chapter, indicates an avid interest in archaeological studies of that area.

According to Mr. Holland, during the past four years the chapter has been holding monthly field trips and chapter meetings with an attendance of 86% and 94.5% respectively. The chapter has also photographed and catalogued over 500 petroglyph sites during their field trips (Newsletters, 36.3 and 43.6).

54.3 PUBLISHES IN MEXICAN JOURNAL. A journal of source materials on the native cultures of Mexico, Tlalocan, Vol. 3, No. 4 (1957), pp. 334-343, contains an article submitted by John L. Sorenson, former instructor in archaeology at BYU and presently social science librarian of that institution.

The article is entitled, "A Bibliography for Yucatan Medicinal Plant Studies by William E. Gates." In Mr. Sorenson's introduction he explains some of the history of the Gates Collection and in particular Mr. Gates' paper, previously unpublished, on Yucatan medicinal plant studies.

The Gates Collection of Middle American Linguistic Documents, containing, it is believed, 98% of all known early manuscripts in the native languages of Mexico and Central America, was purchased by BYU in 1946 (Newsletters, 39.0 and 39.1). Mr. Sorenson was assigned to work with this great collection as a staff member of the Department of Archaeology between 1951-55.

In the present article Mr. Sorenson has edited the Gates paper and included Gates' penciled marginal notes in the text, as well as his list of 21 manuscripts (11 in Maya and 10 in Spanish) containing information on medicinal plants. This is followed by a list of 25 "imprints" (23 in Spanish and two in English) covering similar material.

54.4 A QUESTION FOR THE EDITOR. As a regular feature of the Newsletter, a selected question on an archaeological subject is answered either by the editor or a guest contributor. Questions should be sent to: Editor, UAS Newsletter, Department of Archaeology, BYU Provo, Utah.

54.40 Interesting Others. Sir: The Brigham Young University archaeology department realizes the importance of the Book of Mormon claim as to the origin of the ancient New World civilizations. But what can we do to stimulate other archaeologists to

investigate and take into account this Book of Mormon claim?---WA.

Mistaken ideas about the Book of Mormon held by many archaeologists and anthropologists (e. g. the notion that it deals with the Lost Tribes of Israel) is perhaps the main reason for the failure of these scholars to read it and familiarize themselves with its actual claims. However, we must not overlook the fact that some Mormons have popularized equally mistaken ideas, which they have held, about the Book and have thus helped to retard the development of Book of Mormon archaeology.

For example, some popular "Mormon" books show pictures of classic Maya, Inca, and Aztec ruins and attribute them to the Nephites. Scholars are aware that these civilizations postdate Book of Mormon times. Other gross errors include the use of outdated or otherwise unreliable source materials and the tendency to make every piece of evidence fit neatly into the Book of Mormon picture, whether it belongs there or not.

Thus scholars can hardly be expected to acquire a genuine interest in a subject presented to them with error and hardly any semblance of careful and objective thinking or writing.

Healthy interest is best stimulated and awakened by presenting correct evidence to the world, by making valid claims where there is support for such claims, and by waiting for documentation on points where there still is not sufficient evidence to justify a particular theory.

Though the above is our answer to the question that has been posed, it should be added that much progress has already been made in recent years toward awakening the interest of scholars in Book of Mormon archaeology.

The UAS Newsletter, along with the other publications of the University Archaeological Society, has been placed in the hands of many scholars and in libraries of educational institutions throughout the world. Further, quoting from a previous newsletter (37.15): "Archaeology has now become an established academic subject at BYU and is widely recognized as an approach of great potentiality with which to study the scriptural foundations of the Latter-day Saint faith. The essential geographic and historical framework of the Book of Mormon has now been identified in American archaeology to the satisfaction of leading students of the subject." A number of enthusiastic university students have in the past been assisted and are now being assisted by the archaeology department of BYU to a professional career in the field. "Book of Mormon archaeology has now become a recognized and valid scholarly discipline among informed persons." ---DFG