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Society, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

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- 7.0 Recently ^TRhomas Stuart Ferguson, a member of the Society, presented a paper entitled "Joseph Smith, Mormon Prophet, and American Archaeology," before the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology at Columbus, Ohio May 2nd of this year. He has kindly reported some impressions of the meeting for the Newsletter.
- 7.10 He writes that work was reported from Alaska to South America, but especially significant, he felt, was the fact "that nothing was reported which in any way conflicted with the claims of the Book of Mormon.
- 7.11 "Of special interest were the discussions on radiocarbon dates for various archaeological finds throughout the Americas. It was observed that no cultures on a par with the requirements of the Book of Mormon were reported outside of Middle America. Many cultures have been found dating prior to Jaredite times in various parts of the hemisphere, including Utah, New York, Ohio, and the Southwest. However, in all instances these were very primitive cultures with nothing in common with Book of Mormon traits. These early ~~pre-Book of Mormon~~ peoples were in the stone age and most of them date back to a remote period about 4,000 years before earliest Jaredite times. Such was the case with the early human remains discovered near Wendover, Utah, in 'Danger Cave,' reported on by Professor Jesse D. Jennings of the University of Utah."
- 7.12 "Numerous reports were given on the stone-age cultures of the New-York-Ohio Valley region. It was interesting to note that there is evidence that the peoples in that area before Columbus' time worked copper and silver, but they worked it cold and did not smelt the metals. No authenticated hieroglyphic inscriptions were reported found in the area." (However, no critical study of the many alleged inscriptions from this area has ever been made by a strictly impartial student.)
- 7.13 Dr. Robert Wauchope, head of the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University, displayed a chart showing "the correlations between known radiocarbon dates and the Maya-Christian calendar ties suggested by Goodman, Martinez, and Thompson on the one hand and Spinden on the other. The limited radiocarbon work done with Middle American objects presently seems to sustain the Spinden view (at this time). There is not sufficient material on the subject yet." (Newsletter 5 gives one dating applicable to this problem. As pointed out there, confirmation of the Spinden correlation would require our matching the Nephite "United Order" period with the Early Classic period of the Maya--the "Florescent Ceremonial" period of Dr. Jakeman's summary of chronology in Bulletin 2). Mr. Ferguson noted "that archaeological dating of the great high cultures in Middle America is in essential agreement with the Book of Mormon."
- 7.14 "Robert Merrill, student of the Maya Calendar, presented a graph-correlation of the Maya-Christian calendars based on data from . . . the Dresden Codex. His main point was that his research. . . shows that the Goodman-Martinez-Thompson correlation is essentially correct.
- 7.15 "My paper on the Mormon position was favorably received. It received the same amount of applause from the audience as the others. In advance of the meeting letters were received from Omer Stewart of the University of

Colorado and Edmund S. Carpenter of the University of Toronto expressing interest in the subject of my paper. Professor Carpenter apparently anticipated (that) support would be lent to his anti-Book of Mormon views. He leans heavily on the declarations of Faun Brodie in his writings.

7.16 "Of special interest was the report of Robert L. Rands regarding his recent excavations of ceramics at Palenque, Mexico. He did some deep digging at various points in this famous Maya City. However, the results all pointed to occupation of the city only in Classic Maya times and not during the (pre-classic or probable) Book of Mormon era."

7.2 Professor Wilfrid Bailey of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas, a member of the Society, reports that recent excavations at Teotihuacan, the great ceremonial center near Mexico City, has produced interesting results. The excavators have been "left gasping" by the house type uncovered. A startling similarity seems to exist between some Teotihuacan structures and those at Mohenjo-Daro, ^{INDIA} ~~INDIA~~ (between 3000 and 2000 B.C.) and the well-known connections of that culture with Mesopotamia, it is not at all imaginative to suggest that the Jaredite migration of the Book of Mormon explains the similarity now revealed by archaeology.

7.30 U.A.S. News: Your Society officers are pleased to report that over the period of B.Y.U. Leadership Week (June 16-20) Society membership increased about 40%. Our ability to serve and inform will increase with added membership. If you have friends who would support this movement, please send their names and addresses to us so we can mail sample publications to them. Or better yet, urge them personally to join the Society.

7.31 Plans are being laid for an annual Society competition for research papers (especially on the archaeology or related studies of the scriptures. Awards considered include publication of the winning papers and perhaps a financial prize. Comments on this proposal as well as suggestions or questions on any phase of the Society's activities will be appreciated. Would more of you be able to attend the Annual Symposium if it were held in conjunction with October L.D.S. Conference?

7.32 A group of faculty and students of the University of Nevada at Reno (on the inducement of L.D.S. Institute Director Kenneth D. Stephens of the Society) recently joined en masse, to become the Reno Chapter. Members in the Salt Lake City area will soon be contacted regarding organization of a chapter there also. The Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas are also good prospects for chapter organizations if membership in those areas can be increased.

7.4 U.A.S. Members: Robert Rigby is now in Mexico City, where he plans to do graduate work in anthropology at the University of Mexico. He recently completed requirements for a B.A. degree in Archaeology at B.Y.U.

Mrs. Olive Kimball Birmingham left recently with her children for a years teaching in Thailand (Siam) under a Fulbright fellowship.

Lorenzo Snow has completed his second year of work in Sociology at Northwestern University. Except for his dissertation he has essentially finished the requirements for a Ph.D. degree there.

H. Thayne Johnson received an M.S. degree in History at the Spring Commencement at B.Y.U. His graduate minor was Archaeology.