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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 15 (October 8, 1953)

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Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

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15.0 Their Mouths Are Stopped With Dust. So entitled is an article by William A. Ritchie, a leading archaeologist of New York State (has explored more than forty Indian sites in New York and adjacent areas), appearing in the journal Archaeology (Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 136-144, September, 1952). It is of special interest to students of Book of Mormon archaeology, because of the finding by Joseph Smith of the plates of that ancient record in a hill in western New York, and the record's other indications of a movement of its peoples (at least the Nephites and Lamanites and possibly also the Jaredites) into or toward the New York region. The article is the latest summary of several well scattered sites that have been excavated in New York. It also gives a full and continuous cultural sequence from about 3500 BC to the European settlement.

#### CULTURE SEQUENCE IN NEW YORK STATE

(Beginning dates in right column; radiocarbon dates underlined)

- A. "Archaic" (Hunting) Period.
  - 1. Lamoka Culture. Before 3433 BC
  - 2. Laurentian Culture. About 2980 BC
- B. "Woodland" (Horticultural and Mound-building) Period
  - 1. Middlesex Culture. About 998 BC
  - 2. Hopewellian Culture. (About 300 BC?)
  - 3. Point Peninsula Culture. (About 100 AD?)
  - 4. Owasco Culture. About 500 AD
  - 5. Iroquois Culture. About 1200 AD
- C. Historic Period (Iroquois Tribes). 1609 AD

Since we thus have a rather full picture of the archaeological history of New York State, it may be well to determine just what the evidence found there reveals in comparison with the claims of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. (A word of caution: The Nephite record does not necessarily rule out the existence of non-Book of Mormon peoples in this region or elsewhere in the New World.) There is now abundant archaeological evidence that there were certain primitive hunting peoples in the Western Hemisphere before any of the Book of Mormon peoples arrived. There are also indications that many of these groups continued on parallel in time to the Book of Mormon peoples. Furthermore, evidence is accumulating to indicate several cultural influences from the Old World in addition to those of the Book of Mormon, but arriving during or after the time covered in that record. It becomes necessary, therefore, in

light of this evidence to attempt to discover which of the peoples, languages, cultures, geographical areas, and time periods of New World archaeological history were those of the Book of Mormon account.

It will be noted that the earliest culture found in New York dates to about 3500 BC, according to radiocarbon (Carbon 14) analysis. This is clearly too early to have any connection with the Book of Mormon civilizations (the Jaredite civilization can hardly be dated earlier than 2500 or at the earliest 3000 BC). Moreover, the "Woodland" cultures of the region, which appear to have arrived there in the Book of Mormon period, even as late as the Owasco, consisted only of camp sites rather than established villages, and of small groups of people having an economy based on gathering-horticulture, hunting, and fishing. All this is in marked contrast to the urban civilizations of the Book of Mormon. Still another difficulty: The pottery of the Owasco group is of cord-marked type and is ultimately of East Asiatic origin via the Bering Strait (see August 10 Newsletter, 14.0).

In fact, no direct Mesoamerican cultural influence has ever been found this far north. It occurs, however, in the Ohio-Mississippi and adjacent regions of Southeastern United States, appearing about 400 AD (!) and becoming strong only as late as 1000 AD in this region.

All this evidence has an important bearing on the interpretation of the Book of Mormon, as to the indicated movements of its peoples into eastern United States.

15.1 Baptism of the Pharaohs. The Book of Abraham speaks of the first pharaoh of Egypt, the eldest son of Egyptus, the daughter of Ham, in this manner:

Pharaoh, being a righteous man, . . . seeking earnestly to imitate that order established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood . . . notwithstanding the Pharaohs would fain claim it from Noah, through Ham . . . .--Abraham 1:26, 27.

One of the ordinances which is believed to have been administered by the Priesthood from the earliest times and which Pharaoh, son of Egyptus, may have instituted in Egypt despite his cursing as to the Priesthood is that of baptism. Support for this, and for the great antiquity of the ordinance of baptism, is found in a brief notice listed in the American Journal of Archaeology (Vol. 55, No. 4, p. 390, October, 1951) of a recent article by Sir Alan Gardiner, "The Baptism of Pharaoh" (Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, Vol. 36, pp. 3-12, 1950). The article contains a collection of early examples of the pharaoh being baptized with water by the deities of the four quarters of the earth!

15.2 Abraham's Camels. For years scholars have maintained that camels were not known in Palestine and Egypt until many centuries after the time of Abraham. This has proved perplexing to biblical students, due to the statement in Genesis 12:16 which credits Abraham with camels; Jacob also possessed camels, according to Genesis 30:43. Two new studies have been published which confirm the scriptural passages in question. One concerns evidence of camels being used in Egypt from prehistoric times to the present and the other places the camel in urban settings in Palestine back to the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC) and possibly even earlier. (See J. P. Free, "Abraham's Camels," Journal of Near Eastern Studies,

Vol. 3, pp. 187 ff., 1944; and B. S. J. Isserlin, "On Some Possible Early Occurrences of the Camel in Palestine," Palestine Exploration Quarterly, pp. 50-53, January-April, 1950.)

15.3 A Possibility for Ceramic Study. In the July, 1952, Newsletter, 7.2, there appeared an item on the recent excavations at San Juan Teotihuacan in the Valley of Mexico and the startling similarity of a house-type uncovered there to houses excavated at Mohenjo-Daro, India (ca. 3000-2000 BC). It was pointed out in this particular news item that the Mohenjo-Daro culture had close cultural ties with Mesopotamia, the homeland of the Jaredites. Now Claude Lévi-Strauss ("Sur certain objets en poterie d'usage douteux provenant de la Syrie et de l'Inde," Syria, Vol. 27, pp. 1-4, 1950) states that small bowls or jars found at Mohenjo-Daro and at Jemdet Nasr in Mesopotamia and occasionally elsewhere, with an omphalus-like projection in the center, may be compared with modern Mexican pottery molds, although the central stems are longer in the Mexican type. It might be worth while for some archaeology student to make a study of the ceramics of ancient Mexico to determine if this pottery type was known. If such proves to be the case, it would constitute an additional bit of evidence of Old World (Jaredite?) influence in ancient Mexico.

15.4 New Book. Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., general officer of the UAS and professor of physics at the University of Utah, is the author of a new book, The Book of Mormon Message and Evidences (Deseret News Press: Salt Lake City, 1953), published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dr. Harris has done an impressive job of summarizing significant published material up to the present time. Included are the efforts of Mormon and non-Mormon writers in many fields of research that authenticate and elucidate the sacred record.

In discussing the message of the Book of Mormon the author considers such teachings as: God's universal love for mankind; progress based on obedience to law; the superior person in the eyes of the Lord; freedom necessary in religion, conscience, and beliefs; the experimental approach needed in gaining religious knowledge; Christ personally ministered to some of the ancient inhabitants of America; and the Gospel for the benefit of all mankind.

The internal problems of literary style, types of literary technique, and the English styles used in the text are examined.

The traditions of certain Indian tribes, the existence of certain animals and iron-working in ancient America, racial strains, effects of a new environment on colonists, such as those of the Book of Mormon, and material remains, form subject matter of an external nature. The Book of Mormon explanation of New World origins is compared with past and current scientific theories along with the sensational explanations set forth by some.

An excellent bibliography contains much new material of unusual value for serious students.

This book must be considered a significant contribution to the study of the Book of Mormon and a new testimony of the prophetic mission of Joseph Smith.

15.5 Prize Paper Contest. Members are reminded of the November 1 deadline for entries in the recently announced contest on the archaeology of the

Scriptures. Fifty dollars in cash and other awards are contemplated for the winning papers. Ross T. Christensen, general secretary-treasurer, points out that there is still plenty of opportunity for prospective winners to receive favorable consideration.

- 15.6 Defective Bulletins. Our attention has been called to a few copies of Bulletin No. 4 (March, 1953) which were put together defectively. That is, certain pages are missing, while others are included twice. Any member having such a copy is requested to return it to the general secretary-treasurer, who will replace it with an inspected copy.
- 15.7 Supply of Bulletins. Incidentally, a considerable stock of Bulletin No. 4 is still on hand. Any publicity which members may spread among their friends concerning this publication, with its account of such startling new discoveries in the field of American archaeology, will be much appreciated. The price remains \$1.00 per copy, or it can be obtained by membership in the UAS (\$3.00 per year).
- 15.8 Elect Chapter Officers. Eight members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the UAS gave the program at a meeting of the Special Interest groups of Long Beach Stake, August 11, at the Long Beach First Ward chapel. Thora D. Shaver was elected assistant director, while Fern C. Ingram was chosen secretary. Director Joseph H. Elsmore II (see April 8 Newsletter, 11.10) lectured on Thomas Stuart Ferguson's paper in Bulletin No. 4, "Joseph Smith and American Archaeology." A lively interest among the 250 persons assembled was reported.
- 15.9 UAS President Speaks. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, UAS president, was guest speaker before a full house at a Sacrament meeting of the Long Beach Fourth Ward, Sunday evening, September 13. The archaeology of the Book of Mormon and the Tree of Life symbolism were among the topics treated. Afterwards, Dr. Jakeman was the guest of honor at a meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of the UAS at the home of Assistant Director Thora D. Shaver.