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## NEWSLETTER AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE

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# SEHA

Number 161

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Editor: Ross T. Christensen

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SEHA Publications Committee: M. Wells Jakeman (chairman and general editor), Bruce W. Warren, Don E. Norton, Ruth R. Christensen, Ross T. Christensen.

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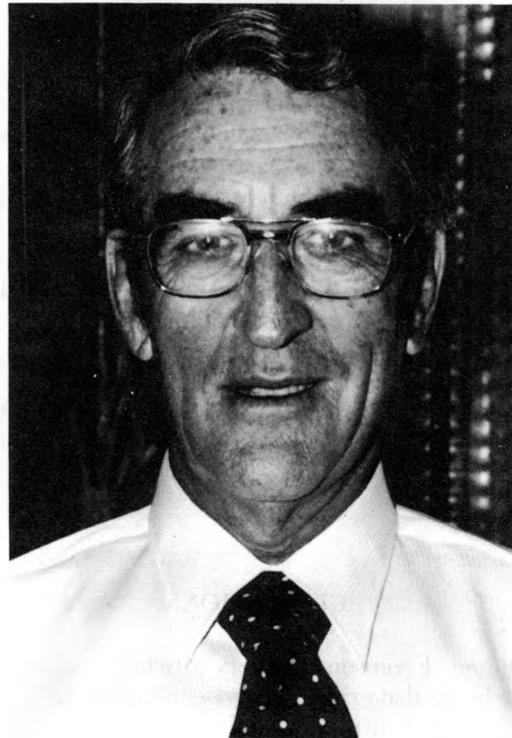
161.0 IN HONOR OF THOMAS STUART FERGUSON, 1915-1983. Memorial address by Fred W. Nelson, Jr., radiation-safety officer at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. Presented at the Thirty-second Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, held at BYU on October 21-22, 1983.

IN THIS PRESENTATION I would like to tell about some of the contributions Thomas Stuart Ferguson made to the Department of Archaeology (now Anthropology) at Brigham Young University, to the New World Archaeological Foundation, and to the field of Mesoamerican archaeology in general.

It has been a privilege for me to prepare this tribute, for it has given me an opportunity to learn more about him as an individual and to come to appreciate his great efforts and sacrifices. I believe the time will come when he will be greatly honored for his foresight, energy, drive, and enthusiasm, which led to the establishment of both the Department and the Foundation.

Thomas Stuart Ferguson was born in Pocatello, Idaho, on May 21, 1915. He married Ester Israelsen in 1940, and they had five children. He died March 16, 1983 (*News. and Proc.*, 152.8).

He received degrees from the University of California at Berkeley in both political science and law and was very successful as a lawyer. He and his wife were active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In fact, their home at Orinda, California, was used as a meetingplace until the membership of the Church in that locality increased enough to warrant other accommodations. Thomas Ferguson was very successful in whatever he did.



Thomas Stuart Ferguson

## BERKELEY DAYS

Apparently Thomas Ferguson's interest in Mesoamerican archaeology began in the 1930's during his student days at the University of California at Berkeley. At that time he and a friend, another student named M. Wells Jakeman, spent long hours discussing the archaeology of Mesoamerica and how it might relate to the Book of Mormon and to the LDS church. These discussions took place frequently and were very enthusiastic. They included, as well as archaeology, the early native writings or chronicles, especially the works of Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl. Because of their interest and enthusiasm, both friends were involved in founding the Itzan Society, an early organization centered on archaeology and the Book of Mormon. This society was active in California between 1938 and about 1944 (*Newsl. and Proc.*, 116.2, 152.8).

By nature Thomas Ferguson was an extrovert. When all his energy and enthusiasm were directed toward Mesoamerican archaeology, things had to happen. He made about twenty-five trips to Mexico, the first around February, 1946, in the company of J. Willard Marriott, and the last about a month before his death, when he went with Elder Howard W. Hunter and other members of the New World Archaeological Foundation advisory board.

Thomas Ferguson seems to have been a personal friend of several General Authorities of the LDS church—particularly Elder John A. Widtsoe of the Council of the Twelve, who was somewhat of a mentor to him and persistently encouraged him. Because of Ferguson's tremendous drive, optimism, and conviction, he would talk to anyone who might help him in any way.

I believe he made four basic contributions to archaeology in general and to Brigham Young University and the LDS church in particular: (1) the publication of three books, (2) assisting in the founding of the BYU Department of Archaeology (now Anthropology), (3) helping the university when it obtained an important part of the William E. Gates Collection of Middle American Linguistic Documents, and (4) the creating of the New World Archaeological Foundation.

## PUBLICATIONS

Thomas Ferguson was very articulate and wrote three books that explained his beliefs about archaeology and the Book of Mormon:

1. *Cumoram—Where?* Zion's Printing and Publishing Co.: Independence, Missouri, 1947.
2. *Ancient America and the Book of Mormon.* (Co-

authored with Milton R. Hunter.) Kolob Book Co.: Oakland, California, 1950.

3. *One Fold and One Shepherd.* Books of California: San Francisco, 1958.

These have sold thousands of copies and have influenced the thinking of many people, as they have read the Book of Mormon and wondered about its setting and peoples.

Also, in 1952 Thomas Ferguson presented a paper at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held at Columbus, Ohio. Entitled "Joseph Smith, Mormon Prophet, and American Archaeology," it was later published by the SEHA (Ferguson, 1953).

It would be fair to say that his books, along with the many lectures he gave throughout his life, have had a great influence on the general membership of the LDS church with regard to how they relate the Book of Mormon and archaeology.

## BYU ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

It was Thomas Ferguson who first approached President Howard S. McDonald of Brigham Young University about establishing a Department of Archaeology. Apparently, he also talked to Elder Widtsoe and others and convinced them of the benefit to the University of such a department. At this time he also recommended M. Wells Jakeman as an excellent choice as a professor of archaeology and one who would be capable of organizing an academic department. Dr. Jakeman joined the BYU faculty in March, 1946, and the Department was established the following December 17.

The first field trip sponsored by the new Department of Archaeology was to western Campeche, Mexico, in 1948 (Jakeman, 1952). M. Wells Jakeman, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, W. Glenn Harmon, and Abel Paez participated.

Since those years, many students have been trained in the Department and have gone on to higher degrees, a good number of them to work as professional archaeologists. The Department has been a very positive influence on hundreds of students over the past thirty-seven years. Thomas Ferguson's family can be proud of the success of the BYU archaeology program and the important part he had in its beginnings.

## THE GATES COLLECTION

At about the time the BYU Department of Archaeology was organized, another significant event took place in which Thomas Ferguson played a key role.

This was the procurement for the University, in 1946, of the William E. Gates Collection of Middle American Linguistic Documents.

William E. Gates (1863–1940) was an industrious collector of Maya and Middle American Indian manuscripts, in addition to being a noted Maya scholar. He also photographed innumerable manuscripts and rare “imprints.” (Glass, 1975, p. 459.)

When Gates died, his collection became available for purchase. At this time, Thomas Ferguson was working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. While on a routine assignment he was asked to interview Gates’ widow. With Ferguson’s interest in Mesoamerican archaeology, it was natural for them also to talk about archaeology.

When Thomas Ferguson became aware that the Gates Collection was for sale, he contacted officials of Brigham Young University and the LDS church and recommended that they purchase it. University and Church leaders asked M. Wells Jakeman to evaluate it—which he did, adding his recommendation that it be obtained. The decision was made to purchase a substantial part of it. It is now at BYU, housed in the archives of the Harold B. Lee Library. The Gates Collection contains many documents, manuscripts, and photographs that would not otherwise be available to scholars. It is therefore an excellent resource for Mesoamerican research.

Again, Thomas Ferguson was in the right place at the right time. With his enthusiasm and willingness to talk to the leaders of Brigham Young University and the LDS church, he was very influential in the accomplishment of yet another success which would benefit scholars and students in archaeology for many years to come.

#### NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

Thomas Ferguson felt a need to still further expand archaeological field research on the origin of civilization in Mesoamerica. To help him realize this goal, he sought the advice and help of two prominent Mesoamerican archaeologists: Alfred V. Kidder of the Carnegie Institution, and Gordon R. Willey of Harvard University. They agreed to aid him in setting up a foundation whose aim would be to support such research (Sorenson, 1975).

Thomas Ferguson’s interest was to promote research that would support the Book of Mormon, but he had the foresight to do it in such a way that the

work of the Foundation would be accepted by professionals in the field as well as by nonprofessionals.

He had the ability to organize and promote such a venture, and his great drive and enthusiasm helped him overcome many of the problems and obstacles that always accompany the birth of a new organization (Lee, 1981, p. 8). It was fortunate that he chose two men such as Dr. Kidder and Dr. Willey as his collaborators, the two outstanding Mesoamerican archaeologists of that time in the world. They did much to help start the Foundation out on a sound basis.

The story of the establishment of the New World Archaeological Foundation has been told by Thomas Ferguson himself (Ferguson, 1956, pp. 3–6):

In the summer of 1951 Dr. Alfred V. Kidder, for twenty years director of archaeological work in Central America for the Carnegie Institution, Dr. Gordon Willey, Professor of Central American archaeology at Harvard University, and the writer had a series of discussions concerning the status of archaeology in Mexico and Central America. It was agreed that it was unfortunate that so little work was being carried on in so important an area and that something should be done to increase explorations and excavations. Work done in the twenty years from 1930 through 1950, largely by the Carnegie Institution staff under the direction of Dr. Kidder, in Guatemala, Honduras, and Yucatan had provided the world with an excellent outline of the history and culture of the ancient Maya from the Classic period (beginning about 400 A.D.) down to 1500 A.D. Further, fragmentary information concerning the highly important Pre-Classic culture had come to light during the 1930’s and 1940’s. By 1950 it was known that the little-known Pre-Classic people occupied parts of central and southern Mexico from 400 A.D. backwards in time for some centuries before Christ.

In the 1951 discussions it was agreed that there were exciting archaeological and early documentary clues telling us that knowledge of great worth could be expected from extensive explorations and excavations of Pre-Classic sites. But—alas—there were no funds available for the work. None of the great financial foundations of the United States were informed or interested. Few people knew of the Pre-Classic civilizations, and fewer still realized the potential values that could come from the excavations. The necessary preliminary work had all been done—the stage was set for unfolding the story of the amazing Pre-Classic peoples. The pioneering had been accomplished by the work of the Carnegie men on the Classic Maya (which now could be distinguished from the Pre-Classic materials) and more particularly by the discovery and identification of various Pre-Classic sites and materials by Eduardo Noguera, Pina Chan, George Vaillant, Pedro Armillas, Alfonso Caso, and others near Mexico City, Pueblo and Oaxaca, Mexico; by Alfred V. Kidder, Edwin Shook, and Jesse Jennings near Guatemala City; by Matthew Stirling, Philip Drucker, and M. Wells Jakeman in Vera Cruz and Tabasco, Mexico; by Gordon F. Ekholm and Richard S. MacNeish near Tampico, Mexico; in northern Guatemala by Alfred V.

Kidder, Sylvanus G. Morley, Robert Smith, A. Ledyard Smith, Oliver Ricketson, and J. Eric Thompson. By 1950 the limited excavations made by these men had prepared the way for a major effort with respect to the things and peoples of Mexico and Central America prior to 400 A.D.

Despite the amazing discoveries made between 1930 and 1950, work on the Pre-Classic was virtually at a standstill in 1951. The result of the discussion was that we agreed to set up a new organization to be devoted to the Pre-Classic civilizations of Mexico and Central America—the earliest known high cultures of the New World. Dr. Kidder and Dr. Willey agreed to select a committee of skilled archaeological advisors and suitable field directors. The writer agreed to solicit needed funds and to assist in field explorations and in the selection of promising sites for serious excavations.

It was decided that the area drained by the Grijalva River should be explored for Pre-Classic sites. The Grijalva River, being the first major watercourse southerly from Mexico's narrow neck of land, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, could and should be rich in Pre-Classic sites. Although the Grijalva drainage area was virtually unknown archaeologically, Pre-Classic sites had been found to the south in highland Guatemala, to the east in lowland Guatemala, to the west in Oaxaca, and to the northwest along the Gulf Coast of Mexico in Vera Cruz. . . .

With a promise of needed funds in our possession, Dr. Kidder addressed a letter to the distinguished and gracious head of Mexico's archaeological program, don Ignacio Marquina, director of the National Institute of Anthropology and History, Mexico City, as follows:

"A group of persons interested in New World prehistory, of which Mr. T. S. Ferguson of Orinda, California, is President, I [Alfred Kidder] First Vice-President, and of whose Advisory Committee Drs. Gordon Willey and Gordon F. Ekholm are members, is in the process of organizing a new Institution to be incorporated under laws of California as the 'New World Archaeological Foundation.'

"The purpose of the Foundation is to carry on explorations and excavations to add to knowledge of Mesoamerican archaeology and to test the several theories as to the origin of the high civilizations of the Americas: 1) That they were autochthonous; 2) That, as set forth in the Book of Mormon, they were derived from ancient Israel; 3) That their rise was due to stimuli from some [eastern] Asiatic source.

"Mr. Ferguson is an advocate of the second of these theories; Dr. Ekholm, as you know, views with some favor the third; I feel that, although the problem is *still unsolved*, these civilizations were essentially the product of native American Indian creativeness. So all shades of opinion are represented!

"In discussing the Foundation with Mr. Ferguson, to whose interest and energy its organization has been due, he made it clear to me that he, and those of his friends who have contributed financial support, are primarily concerned with discovery of the truth and that the results of such fieldwork as may be done are to be published as purely factual reports. . . .

Most cordially yours,  
A. V. Kidder"

Mexico kindly granted the Foundation the permit to explore and excavate along the Grijalva. On October 20th, 1952, the State of California officially acknowledged the incorporated status of the New World Archaeological Foundation as a non-profit, scientific, fact-finding body. . . . The officers are: Thomas Stuart Ferguson, president; Alfred V. Kidder, first vice-president; Milton R. Hunter, vice-president; and Scott H. Dunham, secretary-treasurer. The directors are Scott H. Dunham, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, J. Poulson Hunter, Alfred V. Kidder, Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr., LeGrand Richards, and Ernest A. Strong. The late Dr. John A. Widtsoe was a director until his death. The advisory committee of archaeologists is made up of the following scholars: Alfred V. Kidder, Pedro Armillas, Gordon F. Ekholm, M. Wells Jakeman, and Gordon Willey.

In the winter of 1952 the Foundation's first expedition began work on the lower Grijalva, near the mouth of the river, close by Villahermosa in the state of Tabasco. Professor Pedro Armillas was Field Director, assisted by William Sanders (graduate student in archaeology from Harvard University); Pina Chan (skilled Mexican archaeologist); John Sorenson (graduate student in archaeology from Brigham Young University. . .); and Gareth Lowe (graduate student in archaeology from Brigham Young University). The expedition worked until June of 1953, exploring and test pitting from Villahermosa upstream to the south toward Tuxtla Gutierrez. It was determined that there were no major Pre-Classic sites along the Grijalva between the Gulf of Mexico and Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas. Our search was narrowed greatly by this exploratory work of the first season. Near the end of the 1953 field season, the writer joined the expedition. John Sorenson and the writer left the main body of the expedition and conducted a speedy reconnaissance by Jeep of the west bank of the Grijalva from Tuxtla Gutierrez southward toward Guatemala as far as La Concordia. We made it to La Concordia just as the annual rains began. Numerous Pre-Classic sites were discovered. . . .

The above is Thomas Ferguson's account of the establishment of the New World Archaeological Foundation. In the beginning it was financed by private donations, and it was his task to secure these funds. He traveled throughout California, wrote hundreds of letters, and talked at firesides, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, and wherever he could. After a tremendous amount of work he was able to raise about \$3000—enough for the first season of field work in Mexico.

However, even before the Foundation was organized, Thomas Ferguson attempted to get the LDS church to support it. He had attempted to get an appointment with the First Presidency but had not succeeded. He then asked a friend of his, J. Willard Marriott, for help, and the meeting was arranged. In April, 1951, Thomas Ferguson and Alfred V. Kidder presented to the Presidency a plan for archaeological

work in Mesoamerica. It had been submitted through Elder John A. Widtsoe after it had been discussed with a number of the General Authorities. They asked for \$150,000 to support the work for five years, but the request was declined.

On January 12, 1952, Thomas Ferguson wrote the First Presidency again and this time asked permission to organize the Foundation without Church funds or endorsement. He added, "If asked by members of the Church if we know of the attitude of the Church toward the work of the Foundation, we will state that the organization has no connection with the Church other than that some members of the Church have participated in its activities—that there is no official connection with the Church."

On January 18, the First Presidency responded, stating that they had "no objection whatever to the organization of the non-profit corporation," nor to the activities in which it would engage. They added, "[we] wish you well in your undertaking, and will await with deep interest a report on the progress of your work, and particularly on the result of your exploratory operations."

Thomas Ferguson's account of the first season of field work, from January to June, 1953, is told above. It was financed entirely from private donations raised by Ferguson himself. No field work was conducted in 1954, however, for lack of funds.

On April 9, 1953, another presentation was made to the First Presidency in which Ferguson asked for \$30,000 for 1954 and \$30,000 for each of four additional years of field work, or a total of \$150,000. This request was also declined.

However, in 1955, field work began again.

In April and May of that year Thomas Ferguson, Edwin Shook of the Carnegie Institution, and others reexamined central Chiapas and confirmed that excavation there would no doubt be highly productive for the New World Archaeological Foundation's aims. (Sorenson, 1975.)

With Shook's endorsement and Ferguson's persistence, a substantial and generous grant for five years of work had been obtained from the Church.

It is said that on one occasion, when Thomas Ferguson met with President David O. McKay of the LDS church to request funding for the New World Archaeological Foundation, the latter asked the amount he was requesting. He answered, "Only about the amount that it would take to build a chapel," to which President McKay replied with his characteristic penetrating gaze, "We have \$50,000 chapels and \$250,000 chapels. What did you have in mind?" Ferguson replied, "I'll take a \$250,000 chapel."

The second season of field work began in November, 1955, at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico. Dr. Heinrich Berlin was the field director. He was as-

sisted by Gareth Lowe. The staff also included Richard Madison, Eduardo Martinez, Bruce Warren, and Lorenzo Allen. Since that time the Foundation has continued its work every year.

By 1959 the Foundation was again running out of money. Thomas Ferguson again approached the Church about another grant. He and Frederick A. Peterson (then the field director) had encouraged many professional archaeologists to write letters to the First Presidency in support of the Foundation. These scholars had emphasized the good, professional work the Foundation was doing and the importance of having the data published.

In May, 1960, Ferguson and Peterson invited LDS church authorities and Brigham Young University officials to Mexico to inspect the Foundation's operations. In June, while the grant was being discussed, the Church sent Marion G. Romney, Mark E. Peterson, Ernest L. Wilkinson, and Joseph T. Bentley to survey the situation and recommend whether or not the Church should continue its support.

It was recommended that it do so, but that the Foundation be attached to and administered through Brigham Young University. This officially took place on January 1, 1961. Howard W. Hunter became the chairman of the Board of Directors—which position he still holds. Thomas Ferguson was made secretary of the Board—a position he held until he passed away.

The New World Archaeological Foundation has continued to conduct field work and to publish. To the present time, 45 major publications have appeared in the Foundation's series, and several more are in press or in preparation. These reports have been extremely valuable; they are a "must" for any serious student of Mesoamerican archaeology. Also, many papers and presentations have been prepared for other journals, publication series, and professional meetings.

I believe the success of the New World Archaeological Foundation can be attributed not only to Thomas Ferguson's energy and vision in setting it up in the first place, but also to the excellent staff that has continued to insist on professionalism and quality in its field work and publications. It was no accident that it was done the way it was.

As J. Alden Mason stated in the foreword to the first paper he edited for the Foundation (Mason, 1959, p. iii):

The stated purpose of this Foundation is *not* to seek corroboration of the Book of Mormon account, but to help to resolve the problem of whether civilization in Middle America developed autochthonously or as a result of diffused or migrated influence from some area of the Old World, and to shed light on the culture and way of life of the ancients during the formative period.

John L Sorenson added:

From the beginning the New World Archaeological Foundation has held to a policy of objectivity. While an underlying hope for illuminating results in relation to the Book of Mormon was clear enough, the operation rule was always, impeccably down-the-line archaeology (Sorenson, 1975).

It is because of this objectivity and because of the professional work that has been accomplished that the Foundation has been so well accepted and is looked upon as a leader in Mesoamerican archaeology. Through the Foundation, Thomas Ferguson has had a tremendous impact on Mesoamerican archaeology.

### SUMMARY

In summary, Thomas Ferguson has either directly or indirectly influenced thousands of people's thinking on archaeology. He has directly influenced many people through his books and lectures. The Ferguson family still receives letters from people who have read his books and have been impressed by them. Indirectly, he has had a great influence on professional archaeology through the Department of Archaeology at Brigham Young University and the purchase of the Gates Collection, and through the New World Archaeological Foundation.

Many of us are the benefactors of his foresight, his incredible energy, and his ability to see a need, organize a solution, and see it through to fruition. We need more who are willing to sacrifice their time, talents, and money for the benefit of projects such as these. Thomas Stuart Ferguson's accomplishments stand as a shining example to us all.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank those who helped in the preparation of this paper. I had the opportunity of talking with some who knew Thomas Stuart Ferguson during the time when many of the events detailed herein took place, and I appreciate the time they spent helping me: Bruce W. Warren, Ross T. Christensen, Larry Ferguson, and Thomas A. Lee, Jr.

I would especially like to thank Ester Israelsen Ferguson. She provided the information that helped me to better understand the time, effort, and struggle her husband invested, in order to accomplish the things he did.

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**Editor's Notes.** The author, Fred W. Nelson, Jr., is a chemist as well as an archaeologist. He is an expert in radiation analysis of stone artifacts for archaeological purposes. He received the Master of Arts degree in archaeology from Brigham Young University in 1970, his thesis being a report of his 1969–1970 excavations at Dzibilnocac, Campeche, Mexico, as a P. Kennan Hayes scholar and with the support of the New World Archaeological Foundation (*News. and Proc.*, 113.4, 127.5).

Mr. Nelson served the SEHA as an advisor to its Board of Trustees, 1972–1975, and as a trustee, 1975–1980 (*News. and Proc.*, 131.3, 138.4).

In addition to the present paper on the work of Thomas Stuart Ferguson, Mr. Nelson has read contributions at the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures in 1966, 1970, and 1980 (*News. and Proc.*, 103.60, 131.3, 133.0, 138.4).

Mr. Nelson has been called to serve as president of the Ecuador-Quito Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, effective July 1, 1987.

A brief essay on the scholarly work of William E. Gates may be found in *Progress in Archaeology: An Anthology*, pp. 131–132 (SEHA: Provo, 1963).

This same volume contains a variety of papers on the history, theory, and activities of the original archaeology program undertaken at BYU beginning in 1946. See especially pp. 139–149.

In 1961, Dr. Earl C. Crocket, academic vice-president of Brigham Young University, announced to the SEHA the visit in June, 1960, of Church and University leaders to the excavations of the New World Archaeological Foundation in Mexico and the subsequent attachment of the Foundation to BYU (*Papers of the Thirteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures*, pp. 1–4. BYU Extension Publications: Provo, 1962).

Relevant papers published in the *Newsletter and Proceedings of the SEHA* include Articles 152.8 (on the passing of Thomas Stuart Ferguson), 116.2 (on the contributions of M. Wells Jakeman and his academic training), 117.0 (on Dr. Jakeman's historic-archaeological theory of research in the field of Book of Mormon archaeology), and 144.1 (on the part played by Dr. John A. Widtsoe).

On the overall history of archaeology at Brigham Young University, see "Department of Archaeology, Brigham Young University: Courses of Instruction; Research and Publications," *The Messenger*, Vol. 23, No. 5, vii + 22 pp. (BYU: Provo, May, 1948); Ross T. Christensen, "A History of Book of Mormon Archaeology," in *Book of Mormon Institute, December 5, 1959*, pp. 9–16 (BYU Extension Publications: 1964); *id.*, "Some Views on Archaeology and Its Role at Brigham Young University," *Miscellaneous Papers*, No. 19 (SEHA: Provo, 1960); and *id.*, "Tell It Like It Was: The

True History of Archaeology at Brigham Young University," *Newsletter and Proceedings of the SEHA*, Article 121.0 (Provo, June, 1970).

Mr. Ferguson's large collection of manuscripts, publications, color slides, and documents on Mesoamerican archaeology were donated to the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU by Ester I. Ferguson in 1983.

**161.1 AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARS FEATURED AT 1986 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM.** At the Society's latest Annual Symposium, Warren P. and Michaela J. Aston of Carina Heights, Australia, reported their continuing research on the Book of Mormon prophet Lehi's route across Arabia.

The Thirty-fifth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures was held at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, on Friday and Saturday, October 17 and 18, 1986.

Giovanni Tata of Taranto, Italy, and of Provo and Salt Lake City, Utah, was the general chairman and organizer of the event. Dr. Tata was then the curator of ancient and primitive art and is now the research curator of the Museum of Fine Arts at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Other members of the Symposium Committee were Esther Phelps Parks (SEHA president), Welby W. Ricks (SEHA vice-president), Ruth R. Christensen (SEHA secretary and treasurer), Bruce W. Warren, and Ross T. Christensen.

(Incidentally, it was revealed at the Symposium that the chairman had just completed all requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in anthropology at the University of Utah and was therefore entitled to be called "Dr. Tata." Most of his university training was received at BYU; see *Newsl. and Proc.*, 160.5. Since the Symposium, he has established his own firm, Taras Publications, which engages in foreign-language translations.)

Seven papers on scriptural archaeology and related topics were presented to Society members and their friends at three separate sessions of the Symposium, held Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon. A brief question-and-answer period followed each paper.

Dr. Ricks served as chairman of the Friday evening session. Dr. Tata himself chaired the Saturday morning session and President Parks, the Saturday afternoon session.

#### FRIDAY EVENING

Warren P. and Michaela J. Aston's paper, **THE SEARCH FOR NAHOM AND FOR THE END OF LEHI'S TRAIL**, was read by Mr. Aston at the Friday evening session. In general, the Astons are in agreement with Lynn M. and Hope Hilton, who explored

Saudi Arabia, Oman, and other Near Eastern countries early in 1976 (*In Search of Lehi's Trail*; Deseret Book Co.: Salt Lake City, 1976). However, the Astons' symposium paper included the results of their extended research in the Yemen Arab Republic in November, 1984, which brought to light a considerable body of new and unpublished information. The paper came to a focus on two geographical identifications of the Book of Mormon account: (1) the locality called Nahom of 1 Nephi 16:34, i.e., the place of Ishmael's burial, which they equated with modern Nehm, about twenty-five miles north of Sana'a, capital of Yemen; and (2) "Bountiful" on the shore of the Indian Ocean, the point of Lehi's embarkation toward the "promised land."

The Hiltons had identified "Bountiful" as Salala, Oman. The Astons, however, believe that, "While Salala may indeed one day prove to be the Book of Mormon 'Bountiful,'" there are other possibilities, and "a firm conclusion is premature. . . . Further research will be required."

Mr. and Mrs. Aston own a travel agency, which sometimes enables them to visit abroad at places of scholarly interest. They are the parents of five children. Mr. Aston is a recorder in the Latter-day Saint temple at Sidney, Australia.

Lynn M. Hilton, who, with his wife Hope, wrote *In Search of Lehi's Trail*, is an advisor to the SEHA Board of Trustees (*Newsl. and Proc.*, 150.5).

#### SATURDAY MORNING

The Saturday morning session began with **INFANT SACRIFICE IN CANAANITE BAAL WORSHIP**. Ruth R. Christensen discussed the rite of infant sacrifice among the Canaanites, ancient Israel's principal competitors. The evidence had been amassed both from archaeology and from old Testament and classical authors.

**JOSEPH OF EGYPT: HIS TYPES AND SHADOWS.** Evelyn Mecham Howard examined a prophecy from the Midrash (Jewish commentaries) of a latter-day descendant of ancient Joseph who was sold into Egypt, as also the key to its fulfillment found in 2 Nephi 3.

**JESUS CHRIST AND QUETZALCOATL AS GOD OF THE MORNING STAR.** Michael J. Cook presented both Old World and New World evidence to show the relationship and identity of two seemingly distinct deities, one worshipped in the ancient Mediterranean area and the other in ancient Mesoamerica. Both were represented by the Morning Star, Venus.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The Saturday afternoon session began with CAL-ENDRICS IN EGYPT AND MESOAMERICA. Allen J. Christenson looked at parallels between the calendrical systems of ancient Egypt and ancient Mesoamerica and suggested an Egyptian-backed expedition to the New World early in the Sixth Century BC.

GEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE SPECIFIED IN THE BOOK OF MORMON. B. Keith Christensen saw the seams and cracks in rock formations of Mesoamerica as external evidence of destructions incident to the crucifixion of Jesus, as predicted in the Nephite record (Hel. 14:20–24). On the basis of this evidence, certain Book of Mormon place-names were identified.

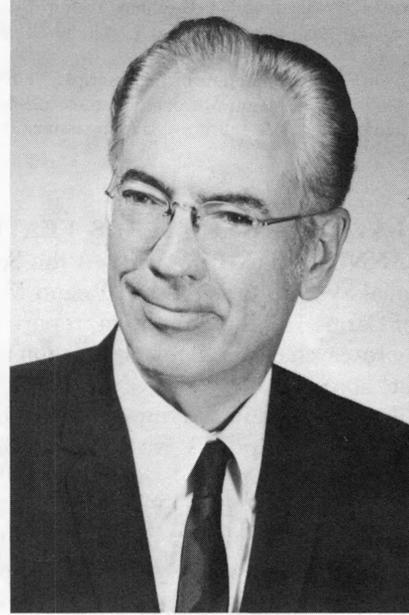
A RECENT CRITICAL EDITION OF IXTLILXOCHITL'S WRITINGS. Bruce W. Warren summarized Toltec and Chichimec history in ancient Mexico as recorded in a recent landmark publication: a re-edition of Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl's *Obras Historicas* (Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma: Mexico, DF, 1976; 2nd printing, 1985. Extensive editorial notes by Edmundo O'Gorman). Because of Dr. Warren's absence, Dr. Tata read the paper in his behalf.

**161.2 M. WELLS JAKEMAN STEPS DOWN FROM OFFICE OF GENERAL EDITOR.** After serving for more than thirty years as General Editor of the SEHA, M. Wells Jakeman has resigned in order to concentrate more fully on his own writings.

At a recent meeting, the Society's Board of Trustees appointed Clark S. Knowlton, a professor of sociology at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, to replace Dr. Jakeman in that office.

Dr. Jakeman introduced scientific archaeology at Brigham Young University in 1946 and served on its faculty from then until 1975, including the years 1946 to 1960 as chairman of its Department of Archaeology. He also served the SEHA as its founder and as president during the first seven years of its existence, i. e., from 1949 to 1956. In the latter year, Franklin S. Harris, Jr., replaced him as Society president, a Publications Committee was created, and Dr. Jakeman thereafter supervised the publication program as General Editor. (*UAS Newsletter*, 38.21.)

The *Newsletter and Proceedings* (originally called *UAS Newsletter*), first issued in 1951, has been the Society's most regular publication (161 issues to date). But the Publications Committee has also produced more substantial publications, such as the *Bulletin of the University Archaeological Society* (five issues containing 260 pp. of print, 1950–1954); *Dis-*



M. Wells Jakeman

*covering the Past* (347 pp.); *Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico* (88 pp.); *The Ancient Tree-of-Life Carving of Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico* (large wall chart with explanatory leaflet); and *Progress in Archaeology* (219 pp.).

(A more detailed statement of Dr. Jakeman's background and contributions, "The Pioneer Work of M. Wells Jakeman: An Editorial," may be read in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, Article 116.2. It includes a partial bibliography of his publications to 1969.)

Dr. Knowlton was a student in the first class that M. Wells Jakeman taught when the archaeology program got underway at BYU in 1946. Later that year he was a member of an organizing committee assigned to draft plans for the SEHA, though as it turned out the Society was not actually founded until 1949. He was elected a trustee in 1952, was appointed to the Society's first Publications Committee in 1956, was named vice-president in 1968, and served as president, 1972–1975. He was also one of the original signers when the SEHA was legally incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1970. (*UAS Newsl.*, 9.03, 38.21; *Newsl. and Proc.*, 123.2, 131.2.)

Dr. Knowlton was the author of papers read at the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures in 1961 and 1970 and served as symposium chairman in 1969, 1971, 1979, and 1983. Twelve book reviews by him were published in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, of which five were reprinted in the

volume, *Progress in Archaeology* (pp. 5–6, 8–10, 34–37, 107–108).

Professionally, Dr. Knowlton is a sociologist. His doctorate was awarded by Vanderbilt University, with his dissertation on the Lebanese minority in Brazil. For many years he served as the director of the Center for the Study of Social Problems at the University of Utah. He is a leading authority on the Spanish-speaking minority of the United States Southwest and has published numerous works on this and other sociological topics.

Dr. Knowlton is in the process of organizing a new SEHA Publications Committee. It is expected that further announcement of their plans will appear later.

**161.3 CHAIRMAN OF 1987 SYMPOSIUM APPOINTED.** Welby W. Ricks, who nearly thirty years ago brought back to Provo the original mold of the Lehi Tree of Life Stone (*UAS Newsl.*, 48.00, 50.01), has been appointed chairman of the Society's 1987 Annual Symposium.

The Thirty-sixth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26, at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, in the J. Reuben Clark Law Building, Room 205. Copies of the printed program will be mailed well in advance to all members of the SEHA. They are invited to bring their friends. Admission is free, as a token of the Society's appreciation to the BYU community.

Dr. Ricks has been a trustee of the Society since 1955. He has also served twice as its president and is now filling his second term in the office of vice-president. This year's appointment as symposium chairman is his seventh. Previous years were 1960, 1963, 1966, 1968, 1982, and 1984 (*Newsl. and Proc.*, 159.2).

It was in 1958 that, as a member of the Fifth BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America, Dr. Ricks prepared a mold of the famous "Lehi Stone," left the expedition early, and brought it back to the BYU campus in time to make a cast that could be viewed at the Eleventh Annual Symposium (*UAS Newsl.*, 50.01).

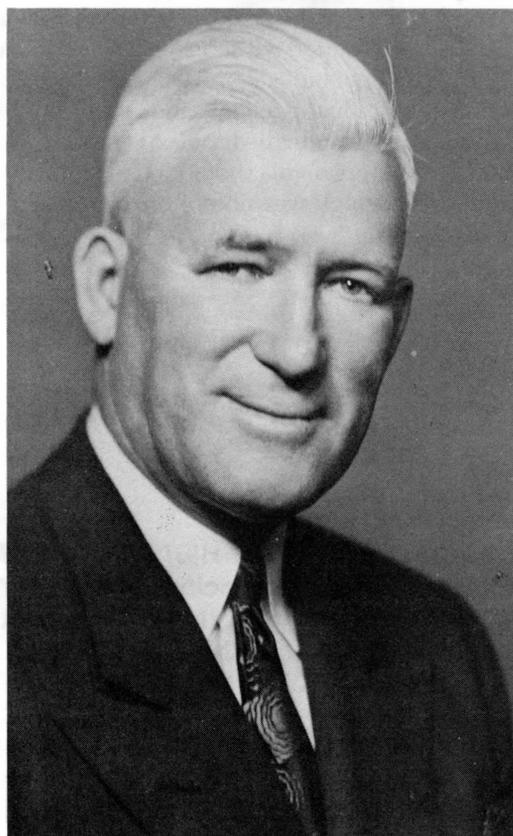
Assisting Dr. Ricks as members of the organizing committee for the 1987 symposium are Dale L. Berge, Ross T. Christensen, Ruth R. Christensen, V. Garth Norman, Esther Phelps Parks, and Bruce W. Warren.

**161.4 LEADER IN BYU ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM PASSES AWAY.** Howard S. McDonald, a key figure in initiating the scientific study of Book of Mormon archaeology at Brigham Young University,

Provo, Utah, passed away at his home in Los Alamitos, California, on October 25, 1986. He was 92 years of age.

Dr. McDonald served as president of BYU from 1945 to 1949. One of his first official acts (if not his first) was to create a chair of archaeology. During his brief tenure he also: (1) in March, 1946, brought M. Wells Jakeman to the campus to fill that chair and start classes in that field; (2) later the same year, with Dr. John A. Widtsoe of the executive committee of the BYU Board of Trustees, established an academic Department of Archaeology (now Anthropology); (3) in 1947, awarded the first academic degree in archaeology ever granted at BYU (Master of Arts, Ross T. Christensen); (4) in 1947 and 1948, was on the campus at the time of the first two meetings of the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures; and (5) in 1949, promoted the founding of the Society for Early Historic Archaeology as an adjunct to the Department (*UAS Newsl.*, 33.1; *Newsl. and Proc.*, 121.0; 144.1).

Dr. McDonald was named a Benefactor of the Department in 1948 and an Honorary Member of the Society in 1954. "There is no question in my mind," he wrote, "about the worth of the . . . Society. . . . [It]



Howard S. McDonald

was organized with my wholehearted support.” (*News. and Proc.*, 144.1, p. 4.)

In 1979 the present editor expressed an opinion concerning the contribution of Dr. McDonald to the BYU Archaeology program:

There were only one place on the face of the earth and only one time in history that such an organization as ours could have come into existence: on this campus during the presidency of Howard S. McDonald. Moreover, what has been accomplished to date could not have been done on any other campus in the world than that of BYU. . . .

It is entirely possible that at some Millennial date the question may be asked, “What is the greatest single research contribution Brigham Young University has ever made?” And it is entirely possible that the only admissible answer to that question will be, “What it has done in the archaeology of the Scriptures.” (*News. and Proc.*, 144.1, p. 8.)

However, the BYU community generally, and the world at large, may remember President McDonald’s contributions in a different light than that in which its Book of Mormon archaeology enthusiasts view it. His four-year term of office as president came just as World War II ended. Heavy demands were made upon him to meet the needs of large numbers of young people returning to the campus following their military service: living quarters to house them, faculty to teach them, and classrooms where they could meet. He is also credited with raising academic standards, lifting spiritual ideals, improving salaries, reorganizing the graduate school, and expanding the health services to include the training of nurses. With such burdens resting on his shoulders, his interest in scriptural archaeology was no doubt overlooked by many observers.

President McDonald also held many positions of leadership in the LDS church, including that of president of the Salt Lake Temple. Furthermore, he made important contributions in the field of education elsewhere in Utah and in various institutions of California.

**161.5 FLYER ON BOOK OF MORMON EVIDENCES WILL ACCOMPANY THIS ISSUE.** An impressive volume, *The Messiah in Ancient America*, by Bruce W. Warren and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, is the latest compilation of Book of Mormon evidences. By arrangement with SEHA officers, a flyer announcing the new book—with an order form—will be attached to No. 161 of the *Newsletter and Proceedings* before mailing.

*The Messiah in Ancient America* is a freely revised version of Mr. Ferguson’s volume, *One Fold and One Shepherd* (Books of California: San Francisco, 1958). The revision was undertaken by Dr. Warren at the request of the family of Thomas Stuart Ferguson, after he passed away in 1983 (*News. and Proc.*, 152.8).

Dr. Warren is a special instructor in the Department of Anthropology at Brigham Young University who has specialized in Book of Mormon archaeology for many years. He has often read papers at the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures and published articles in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*. He is a member of the SEHA Board of Trustees.

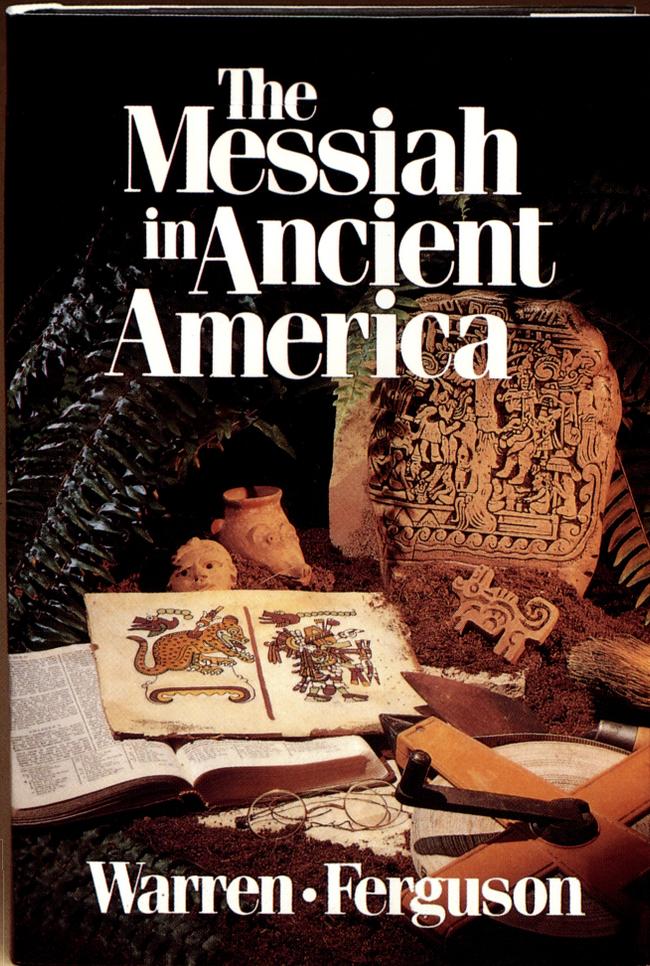
A detailed account of Mr. Ferguson’s contributions to Book of Mormon archaeology appears in Article 161.0, above.

**THE SOCIETY FOR EARLY HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY depends heavily on donations from those who are interested in the archaeology of the Scriptures, especially that of the Book of Mormon. Tax-exempt donations may be sent to the LDS Foundation, A-285 Smoot Building, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602.**

**The donor should ask the Foundation to restrict it to the use of the Society for Early Historical Archaeology (SEHA). The Foundation thereafter sends him a receipt for income-tax purposes. At the same time he may wish to write the SEHA office about how he wants his gift spent.**

**Some uses of the gift could be (1) to sponsor an issue of the *Newsletter and Proceedings* by paying the printing cost, about \$600; (2) to sponsor an Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, usually held in October, \$300 to \$600; or (3) to add to the Society’s Research Fund to help pay for important projects in the archaeology of the Scriptures, especially the Book of Mormon, including excavations in Mesoamerica.**

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Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*,  
Vol. 3, pp. 921-22, Sept. 15, 1842

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