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Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen and Dee Green

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Editor: Ross T. Christensen

Assistant Editor: Dee Green

21.0 Archaeology Symposium. The Society's Eighth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures was presented to its members and the public June 21 - 24, as a feature of the Thirty-first Annual Leadership Week of BYU.

Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, Society president, was chairman. Lectures were given by Dr. Jakeman, John L. Sorenson, and Ross T. Christensen, all general officers of the UAS and members of the archaeology faculty of BYU. Abstracts of Mr. Sorenson's and Mr. Christensen's lectures follow:

21.00 NEW EVIDENCE OF MIGRATION OF BIBLICAL PEOPLES TO THE NEW WORLD, by John L. Sorenson. Among many evidences of early contacts between Mesoamerica and the Near East which are coming to light through current research, some of the most striking concern the use of incense. In the Near East, incense was used ceremonially in ancient times probably to a greater extent than anywhere else in the world except Mesoamerica. The importance of incense-burning in Hebrew ritual is clear in the Old Testament. Examination of the ideas and practices of these two widely-separated areas, the Near East and Mesoamerica, shows many parallels. Some of these are: use in periodic temple rites, incensing holy objects and officiants, in divinations, in New Year renewal ceremonies, accompanying sacrifices, etc. In both areas the ascending smoke symbolized prayer rising to heaven. Other details of concept and practice are equally striking.

Confirming these parallels is a remarkable likeness in the incense-burners themselves. Numerous specific details link those found in early highland Guatemalan sites with a type quite common in the Near East about 3000 years ago. Significant is the fact that the likeness is strongest in the earliest examples yet found in Guatemala, dating to perhaps 500 BC, while the same general type had already had a long history in the Near East by then and passed out of fashion soon after.

The complex parallels in ideas, practices, and paraphernalia involving incense in religious practices of both the Near East and Guatemala seems explainable only on the basis of a movement of people from the former area to the latter.

Additional evidence of such a connection is seen in the use of oracle or "seer" stones by peoples of ancient and even modern Mesoamerica, especially Yucatan and Guatemala. The Urim and Thummim of the Israelites was only one example of widespread use of such stones in the Old World for predicting the future. A certain traditional account from ancient Mexico strongly suggests that one colonizing group arrived there by sea in the distant past, divinely guided by means of a sacred stone.

21.01 THE DAWNING OF A NEW DAY IN ARCHAEOLOGY, by Ross T. Christensen. Events of the past sixteen years, and scholarly opinions expressed, demonstrate a subtle but highly significant change in attitude among archaeologists which makes room for the Book of Mormon viewpoint. During the same time the LDS people, especially through the agency of their Church university, have been preparing themselves to take advantage of such a situation.

In 1938 M. Wells Jakeman became the first LDS ever to earn a doctorate in the field of archaeology. In 1940 wheeled toy vehicles of baked clay were discovered at Tres Zapotes, southern Mexico, demonstrating for the first time a knowledge of the wheel in pre-Columbian America, as claimed by the Book of Mormon. In 1946 the Department of Archaeology was established at BYU and the William Gates Collection of Middle American Linguistic Documents was purchased, thus giving BYU the opportunity of becoming one of the world's great research centers in such subjects as the decipherment of Maya hieroglyphics. In 1947 Thor Heyerdahl led his Kon Tiki expedition from Peru to the islands of the South Pacific, thus demonstrating the possibility of contact and migration from the Old World by means of native seacraft.

In 1948, what is perhaps the greatest discovery of biblical manuscripts in modern times was made in a cave near the Dead Sea in Palestine, a library abandoned by the Essenes of the New Testament. In 1949 the University Archaeological Society, specializing in the archaeology of the scriptures, was founded at BYU. In 1952 a copper (or "brass") scroll about eight feet long with a Hebrew inscription engraved or hammered onto its surface (compare the plates of the Book of Mormon!) was discovered in the Dead Sea region of Palestine. That same year Hugh Nibley demonstrated with his Lehi in the Desert the essential "Egypticity" and "Arabicity" of the Nephite record. Also, Thomas Stuart Ferguson read a paper before the Society for American Archaeology entitled, "Joseph Smith, Mormon Prophet, and American Archaeology;" and later organized the New World Archaeological Foundation, interested in the origins of the early high civilizations of Mesoamerica and drawing eminent non-LDS archaeologists into a program of active cooperation with Latter-day Saints for the first time. In 1953 the UAS published an account of a newly-discovered Tree-of-Life sculpture at Izapa, southern Mexico, which M. Wells Jakeman identified as a portrayal in stone of Lehi's vision as recorded in the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 8. That same year the Society for American Archaeology published Asia and North America; Transpacific Contacts, in which the possibility of culture contact via the Pacific ocean was presented as definitely worthy of consideration by the archaeological profession. In 1954 Dr. Jakeman conducted the Third BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America and discovered an ancient city, whose location and early dating give it great significance in connection with the geographic claims of the Book of Mormon.

With the change in attitude that is now affecting the field of New World origins, LDS scholars will likely soon be in a position to make still further contributions of great importance for both archaeology and the scriptures.

21.02 Jakeman Abstracts Postponed. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman's discussions on explorations in Book of Mormon lands and related topics will be abstracted in No. 22 of the UAS Newsletter, to be published in mid-August.

- 21.1 Annual Business Meeting. Election of next year's officers and important amendments to the Society's constitution were effected at the Annual Business Meeting, held June 23 in connection with the Symposium. Pres. M. Wells Jakeman acted as chairman. A summary of minutes follows (21.10-21.14):
- 21.10 Official Reports. Annual membership and financial reports were made by General Secretary-Treasurer Ross T. Christensen. Total membership of all categories stood at 347, which represents a 24% increase over the total at the last Annual Business Meeting. Included were 16 Departmental Affiliates, five Institutional Members, and two Honorary Members.
- Society records showed a cash balance of \$156.86. Bulletin No. 4 containing the Tree-of-Life material was completely paid for since the last Annual Business Meeting, June 17, 1953. Four thousand copies had been printed at a cost of \$1,365.85. Approximately 1700 copies remain. Of the Society's income over the past year, \$911.35 was received in the form of membership dues, while \$669.18 was netted from the sale of Bulletin No. 4 to non-members.
- 21.11 Constitutional Amendments. Six amendments to the Society's constitution proposed by the Executive Committee were ratified and became effective immediately (or as indicated):
- (1) That the category of Life Member be created and that the fee for such membership be set at \$50.00.
 - (2) That the office of Vice-President of the Society be created.
 - (3) That the Nominating Committee henceforth be augmented by the following members, thus totalling five: the chairman of the Department of Archaeology of BYU, and one additional general officer of the Society appointed by the president; and that three members of said committee henceforth constitute a quorum.
 - (4) That (beginning with the 1955 election) no president of the Society may succeed himself more than twice.
 - (5) That the clause in Article V, Section 8, which requires officers of the Campus Chapter to be majors or minors in archaeology be deleted.
 - (6) That Benefactors of the Department of Archaeology of BYU must henceforth be proposed by the Nominating Committee and elected at an Annual Business Meeting of the Society in order to be designated as Honorary Members.
- 21.12 Elections. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman was re-elected by acclamation to the office of President of the Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee. Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., of the University of Utah was elected by acclamation to the newly-created office of Vice-President (see above, 21.11, No. 2). Ross T. Christensen was re-elected General Secretary-Treasurer. All these elections are effective until the next Annual Business Meeting.
- 21.13 Decision on Complimentary Memberships. The meeting voted unanimously to limit complimentary memberships which are awarded to missionaries (see May 31 Newsletter, 20.1) to persons who are already members of the Society at the time of application.
- 21.14 Widtsøe Award. The faculty of the BYU Department of Archaeology presented the annual John A. Widtsøe Memorial Award to their colleague,

John L. Sorenson, for his paper entitled "Evidences of Culture Contacts Between Polynesia and the Americas in Pre-Columbian Times." The manuscript had been previously accepted by the Department in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree, which Mr. Sorenson received in 1952. Instituted last year, the award consists of a cash prize donated by the departmental faculty (see April 8, 1953, Newsletter, 11.11). Mrs. Irene Briggs Woodford won the award in 1953 with her Tree-of-Life study, as published in the Society's Bulletin No. 4 (see May 27, 1953, Newsletter, 12.8).

- 21.2 Fiesta de Quetzalcoatl. A Latin American buffet-style supper and program, which highlighted the archaeology symposium and Leadership Week, netted a profit of \$174.50 after expenses, according to Dee Green, president of the Campus Chapter of the UAS. Produced by the BYU student archaeology organization June 24, the "Fiesta de Quetzalcoatl" drew a crowd of approximately 200. The profit has been turned over to the general secretary-treasurer of the UAS as the beginning of a special fund to promote archaeological research in Mesoamerica.

Eglantina Moyeda and Socorro Franco of Mexico and Lilia Gómez of Guatemala were a special committee in charge of the Latin American cuisine, songs, and dances. Also participating were Alberto and Arturo de Hoyos, Aaron Vázquez, Fortunato Casavantes, and Alberto Bernal of Mexico; Rafael and Jorge Castillo and Miguel Rosales of Guatemala; Kathryn Groesbeck and Wilma Moseman of Utah; and Clifford A. Dean, Jr., of Arizona, students at BYU. Colorful and authentic numbers represented Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, recently returned from explorations in Central America, added to the evening with an account of archaeological adventure in jungle country. Ross T. Christensen and Arturo de Hoyos shared honors as toastmasters. John L. Sorenson coordinated the program as faculty advisor to the Campus Chapter.

- 21.3 Special Interest Texts. No less than three of the six texts recommended by the MIA general boards as study guides for Special Interest groups during the coming year were written by members of the UAS. The Book of Mormon Message and Evidences was authored by Vice-President-Elect Franklin S. Harris, Jr. (see 21.12, above). A brief review appears in the October 8, 1953, Newsletter, 15.4. Honorary Member Sidney B. Sperry, director of graduate studies in religion at BYU, has written The Voice of Israel's Prophets. The Doctrine and Covenants and the Future comes from the pen of Roy W. Doxey, UAS member, assistant professor of religion at BYU, and director of the Special Interest program on the YMMIA general board.
- 21.4 Named Honorary Member. Howard S. McDonald, president of BYU, 1945-50, during whose administration both the Department of Archaeology and the UAS were founded, and now president of the Los Angeles State College of Applied Arts and Sciences, has been named a Benefactor of the Department and an Honorary Member of the Society. Another Honorary Member is Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, as was also the late Dr. John A. Widtsoe before his death in 1952 (see January 10, 1953, Newsletter, 9.3).
- 21.5 Graduates in Archaeology. R. Sears Hintze received a BS degree in archaeology at the June 7 Commencement of BYU. His minor subjects were geology

and geography. He also has over 40 hours of credit in religion. Mr. Hintze is from Salt Lake City where he attended East and West High Schools. He is married to Virginia Lund, Manti, Utah, and they have three children. At present Mr. Hintze is working with the BYU housing department. His future plans include excavational work in Central America.

- 21.6 Studies Colorado River Archaeology. John M. Goddard, UAS member and explorer of international reputation ("Kayaks Down the Nile"), has recently been engaged in an archaeological-botanical survey of the entire Colorado river. He examined every ruin possible along the way and recorded petroglyphs. Outstanding were a number of Pueblo-type sites in southeastern Utah.

A week was spent among the Havasupai ("People of the Sky-Blue Water"), who live in the bottom of the Grand Canyon. There he assisted David Schwartz, graduate student in anthropology at Yale University, in making a reconnaissance of 74 prehistoric sites indicating a continuous occupation from c. 600 to c. 1200 AD, with an apparent abandonment from the latter date to 1776, when Father García visited there. Mr. Schwartz carried on this field work in support of his doctoral thesis, now in preparation.

- 21.7 Archaeological Movie. "The Golden Mask," a recent motion picture starring actor Van Heflén, is recommended for the enjoyment of archaeology enthusiasts. Set in a North African location, it features the adventures of an archaeologist in the discovery and opening an ancient Roman treasure tomb.

- 21.8 Corrections for Directory. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, editor of the Society's Bulletin, requests members to make any necessary correction of their names and addresses in the near future, since he plans to include a new directory of members in Bulletin No. 5, now in preparation. Please check the name and address as they appear on this Newsletter and advise the general secretary-treasurer of any change desired.

- 21.9 A Question for the Editor. "What do you feel is the significance, from the viewpoint of Book of Mormon archaeology, of an ocean voyage now in progress to investigate a theory that some ancestors of the American Indian may have originated in Palestine?"--RRC.

- 21.90 Theory Essentially Sound. Press releases at my disposal indicate that the whole undertaking is under the leadership of De Vere Baker, a shipbuilder and LDS bishop in Sausalito, California. It is clearly the Book of Mormon claim as to the means used by Lehi to cross the ocean that is being tested. The vessel is dubbed the "Lehi" and is described as an "ocean-going raft." What is now in progress is actually merely a "shake-down cruise" from California to Hawaii to learn, I presume, whether both the vessel and the crew are seaworthy. Thereafter, the very long ocean journey from Arabia to Guatemala is contemplated, if I understand their plans correctly. From the wording of the news releases I judge that the vessel is powered by nothing other than winds and ocean currents.

No food or water were taken aboard, since it is planned to derive these from the sea: water through a condensation process, and food from fish, plankton, and algae. I believe I see here an attempt to duplicate conditions of ocean travel which Lehi must have faced. He, also, may have

lived in part upon food and water from the sea, while his vessel was powered by wind (1 Nephi 18:8, 9) and undoubtedly marine currents.

The "Lehi" voyage of 1954 was in all probability suggested by the "Kon Tiki" expedition of 1947 (see May 27, 1953, Newsletter, 12.1). Thor Heyerdahl and his fearless Norwegians demonstrated that the Polynesian islands could have been populated from the American mainland, and a great wave of new thinking in this field resulted. What will result from the "Lehi" voyage?

Whatever practical difficulties may beset this intrepid crew, such as for example the task of transporting their vessel to the Arabian "Bountiful" to begin their voyage, or of finding the same currents that must have propelled Lehi, their motivating theory seems to me at the moment essentially sound. If their voyage proves successful, it will demonstrate that the original Lehi voyage could have taken place as described. It will not necessarily prove that it actually did take place, nor will it persuade us that all ancestors of the American Indian arrived in this way. Nevertheless, taken in conjunction with an impressive array of other information that has lately accumulated, the present undertaking has the potentiality of providing powerful new support to the Book of Mormon view.
--Editor.