



# BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<http://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

---

Type: Newsletter

---

## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 29 (September 22, 1955)

Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen

Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 29

September 22, 1955

Published by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Editor: Ross T. Christensen

---

29.0 Society Members Share in Transfer of Lehi Stone. Fifteen members of the UAS have so far contributed to the fund for the transfer of the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone to Mexico City, in response to President M. Wells Jakeman's suggestion in the last Newsletter (28.7). An agreement has been reached with the Mexican government whereby the Society assumes the expense of transfer of the heavy monument to the capital for preservation in the National Museum of Archaeology. It is understood that it will be available there for student and tourist inspection.

"The response to the Society's special financial need in removing the Lehi sculpture to its new home has been gratifying," states President Jakeman. "We did not anticipate such immediate generosity. Many thanks to those who have contributed. I am sure they will be happy, over the years to come, to remember their part in the preservation of a sculpture which future generations may come to regard as the Rosetta Stone of New World archaeology."

Special gratitude should be expressed to Otto Done, director of the Mexico City Chapter of the UAS, for serving as the Society's agent in arranging the details of the transfer.

The bas-relief stela was discovered in 1941 by a Smithsonian Institution expedition at ruins near the Izapa river in the extreme south of the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and was recognized at that time as containing an unusual and early portrayal of the well-known Tree of Life motif of ancient Mesoamerican religious art. In 1951 Dr. Jakeman successfully identified it as a portrayal in stone of the great Tree of Life vision of the prophet Lehi as recorded in the Book of Mormon, I Nephi, Chapter 8. Shortly afterwards (March, 1953), the UAS published his study in its Bulletin No. 4. (Copies are still available for purchase. Price, \$1.00; single copies to UAS members, 50¢.)

Contributors to the removal of the Lehi Stone:

C. S. Bagley	F. Mary McAuliffe
Isaac B. Ball	Janice McAuliffe
José O. Dávila M.	Mrs. F. E. Roberts
Doris Feil	Mark M. Smith
Conrad E. Green	Bruce W. Warren
M. Wells Jakeman	Robert A. Waymire
Mrs. S. T. Jakeman	Mary B. Wikoff
Don Kirkham	

Contributions are still being received. The suggested amount is \$5.00 or more. Make check or money order payable to the University Archaeological Society and specify on the face that it is for the removal of the Lehi Stone to Mexico City.

- 29.1 Nominating Committee Reorganized. UAS general officer Wilfrid C. Bailey has been named a member of the Nominating Committee to replace John L. Sorenson, according to Society president M. Wells Jakeman. Mr. Sorenson, who has served in this capacity since June, 1954, has been retired from the duties of general officer in order to continue his graduate studies at UCLA (see 29.44, below).
- 29.2 Exhibit Shows Near East-Mesoamerican Similarities. "Elements of Israelite Culture in Two Promised Lands" is the name of an exhibit prepared jointly by the UAS and the BYU Department of Archaeology. Set up under the direction of departmental graduate-assistant Gareth W. Lowe, it occupies a large, built-in, fluorescent-lighted show-case in the Carl F. Eyring Science Center of the BYU Upper Campus. Scores of photographs, drawings, models, descriptive commentaries, and actual artifacts combine to give the visitor a vivid impression of the cultural tie-up between Old Testament Canaan and the lands of the Book of Mormon. The site of Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala, a ruin which was occupied in BC times (see February 10 Newsletter, 25.0), is given particular prominence. UAS members are urged to study the exhibit.
- 29.3 Archaeology Degree Awarded. A Bachelor of Science degree in archaeology was awarded by BYU to Martha Bernece Brough of Bountiful, Utah, at the June commencement. During the four years of her baccalaureate course she was constantly active in the affairs of the Campus Chapter, having served as secretary, vice-president, and president. She is at present officiating as honorary president.  
The UAS has awarded Miss Brough a three-year complimentary membership in recognition of her accomplishment (see May 31, 1954, Newsletter, 20.1).
- 29.4 Doings of Individual Members. Several members of the UAS have individually engaged in activities of archaeological interest:
- 29.40 Wilfrid C. Bailey of State College, Mississippi, was awarded the PhD in anthropology at the University of Chicago in March and accepted a research position in the Division of Sociology and Rural Life, Mississippi State College, August 15.  
Dr. Bailey's training includes considerable archaeological experience in Illinois and the Southwest (excavated Ventana Cave, Arizona). From 1947 until the present year he was a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, University of Texas. He has been a UAS general officer since November, 1952 (see January 10, 1953, Newsletter, 9.00).  
Dr. Bailey's doctoral dissertation was entitled, "The Social Organization of the Mormon Village." Next year, he hopes to begin a research project on the Choctaw Indians.  
"The UAS Newsletter," writes Dr. Bailey, "is an extremely important publication. Every Latter-day Saint should read it." Dr. Bailey has, himself, made significant contributions to its pages in the past (eg., August 10, 1953, 14.1).
- 29.41 M. Wells Jakeman, chairman of the BYU Department of Archaeology, has made a detailed revision, at the request of the Pan-American Union, of a publication distributed by them for popular reading, called The Mayas. The next edition of the booklet will incorporate Dr. Jakeman's revisions, according to a recent letter from Mrs. Lyn S. Manduley, chief of the Section

of General Publications of the Organization of American States.

29.42 John M. Goddard of Glendale, California, well-known explorer, has presented to the BYU Department of Archaeology a sherd collection from the Nankowapi, northwestern Arizona. The collection resulted from surface reconnaissance during his exploration of the Colorado River (see July 2, 1954, Newsletter, 21.6).

29.43 Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of Seventy is the author of a series of popular articles currently appearing in the Improvement Era entitled "Archaeology and the Book of Mormon." Now in its fifth installment, the study is based principally on his early 1955 tour of Bonampak and other sites in Mesoamerica (see March 31 Newsletter, 26.0).

Dr. Hunter has been a frequent lecturer on the subject of the Bonampak tour. At the Assembly Hall in Salt Lake City he lectured to a capacity audience under the auspices of the Salt Lake Chapter of the UAS and the BYU Extension Division (March 31 Newsletter, 26.1). At BYU he spoke before a Leadership Week audience and before a devotional assembly of students and faculty. Copies of the last-mentioned address may be obtained for 10¢ (15¢ by mail) from the Extension Division, BYU. Ask for, "Speeches of the Year: Touring Book of Mormon Lands."

29.44 John L. Sorenson, former general officer of the Society, lectured at Evanston, Wyoming, June 15 and 16, on the subject, "The World of the Book of Mormon." Sponsored by the High Priests quorum of Woodruff Stake, the two illustrated lectures drew a total attendance of about 600. The series was arranged through the off-campus lecture program of the BYU Extension Division and was instigated by UAS member Read H. Putnam, quorum secretary.

Mr. Sorenson's discussions were directed to members of the LDS church and drew upon archaeological and internal evidence. The aim was to depict the atmosphere or environment in which the Book of Mormon events were enacted--the physical, cultural, and ideational worlds--and to show that these events occurred in a setting which corresponds to that revealed by American archaeology. Such an attempt, if successful, offers the strongest possible confirmation of the LDS Scripture, in the opinion of the lecturer.

"The World of the Book of Mormon" was later expanded into five lectures delivered by Mr. Sorenson before sessions of the 32nd Annual Leadership Week of BYU, June 20-24. A total attendance of about 1100 was reported. Copies may be obtained from the Extension Division, BYU, for 50¢ (55¢ by mail).

Mr. Sorenson is also the author of a technical study, "A Chronological Ordering of the Mesoamerican Pre-Classical," appearing in Middle American Research Records, Vol. II, No. 3, preprinted from Publication No. 18, pp. 41-70 (Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University: New Orleans, 1955).

On September 1 Mr. Sorenson left Provo to take advantage of the predoctoral fellowship awarded him by the National Science Foundation (see March 31 Newsletter, 26.5). He will study anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles in support of his PhD program. He earned the BS in 1951 and the MA in 1952, both degrees in archaeology at BYU (see January 10, 1953, Newsletter, 9.5).

- 29.45 Otto Done, professional photographer and director of the Mexico City Chapter of the UAS, is the author of a series of seven archaeological picture stories in the Mexico City English-language newspaper, The News Weekly, running from April 30 to June 12. Bonampak, Palenque, Chichen Itzá, Uxmal, Copan, ruins near Cuernavaca, and Guatemalan ruins are illustrated in turn in each succeeding issue. The excellent photographs were taken in part during Dr. Milton R. Hunter's recent tour (see 29.43, above), for which Mr. Done was the official photographer.
- 29.5 Utah Organization Founded. The "Utah Statewide Archaeological Society" has been established with headquarters at the University of Utah. The second number of a newsletter, Utah Archaeology, came off the press in June. Inquiries should be addressed to the editor, Mr. James H. Gunnerson, Department of Anthropology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- The focus of interest of the new Utah society is the archaeological history of the state itself. In contrast, the UAS centers its attention on the origins of the ancient high civilizations of Nuclear America and the Near East.
- 29.6 Publishes on the Pearl of Great Price. James R. Clark, instructor in the BYU Division of Religion, has published The Story of the Pearl of Great Price (Bookcraft, Inc.: Salt Lake City, 1955. 253 pp. \$3.00). Although not explicitly an archaeological study, Mr. Clark's book contains portions which will be of special interest to students of archaeology. Division III (Chapters 6-11), "The Historian Looks at Joseph Smith and the Restoration of the Records of Abraham and Joseph," treats in exhaustive detail the results of his prolonged research into the finding and history of the mummies and papyrus rolls of the Michael H. Chandler story. Chapter 12, "The Pearl of Great Price and the Development of Civilization," contains Mr. Clark's view of the origins of civilization, speech, and writing. The Story of the Pearl of Great Price has been selected as a text for the MIA Special Interest course for the year 1955-56.
- 29.7 Egyptian Movie. Howard Hawks' "Land of the Pharaohs" is another magnificent Hollywood spectacle of special appeal to archaeology enthusiasts. Filmed in the Nile country itself and starring Jack Hawkins and Joan Collins, the Cinemascope Warnercolor production presents a somewhat imaginative version of the building of the tomb of the mighty Pharaoh Cheops (Khufu) of the Fourth Dynasty. The events date to c. 2700 BC, i.e. well before the time of Abraham. Construction scenes showing thousands of workmen quarrying and hauling stones of enormous weight, are breathtaking. Aside from the Great Pyramid, much of the columned architecture is in reality more appropriate to the New Kingdom, i.e. to a much later time than that of Pharaoh Khufu of the Old Kingdom; but the production as a whole is wonderfully instructive to the student of archaeology.