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

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Published approximately every six weeks by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. The purpose of the Newsletter is to disseminate knowledge of recent archaeological discoveries bearing on the Latter-day Saint scriptures; also of the archaeological activities and viewpoints of the Society and its members. Subscription by membership in the Society: three dollars per year; or Life Membership, fifty dollars. (Membership also includes subscription to other publications of the Society and of the BYU Department of Archaeology.)

50.0 EXPEDITION TO BE REPORTED AT SYMPOSIUM. "The 1958 BYU Expedition to Book-of-Mormon Lands" will be the general title of the Eleventh Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures. Co-sponsored by the UAS and the BYU Department of Archaeology, it will be held June 23-25. The Symposium will be a special feature of the 35th annual BYU Leadership Week.

50.00 Program. The Symposium is scheduled for two successive one-hour periods--from 1:30 to 2:30 and from 2:45 to 3:45 PM--each of the three days. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, department head, will be general chairman of the event.

On Monday, June 23, Dr. Ross T. Christensen, expedition field director, will lecture both periods



Expedition members Alfred L. Bush (l.) and Carl H. Jones prepare an exhibit of Aguacatal artifacts.

on "Uncovering the Ancient Walled City of Bountiful." This report will be illustrated with expedition slides.

On Tuesday, Dr. Welby W. Ricks will report on "Saving the Lehi Stone." Dr. Ricks was a member of the expedition in charge of making a latex mold of Stela 5, found at the ruins of Izapa, southern Mexico, which Dr. Jakeman has identified as a sculptured por-

trayal of Lehi's vision of the Tree of Life as recorded in 1 Nephi 8 (see UAS Bulletin No. 4, 1953). This lecture will also be illustrated with slides.

On Wednesday, "The Film of the Expedition, with Commentary," will be presented. Dr. Jakeman, who led the original BYU expedition to Aguacatal in 1948 and identified the ruins as very probably those of the city Bountiful of the Book of Mormon and the *Chronicles* (Newsletter, 22.02), will now show a motion picture of work at that site in 1958.

50.01 Exhibits. A plaster-of-Paris cast has been successfully taken from the mold of Stela 5, according to Dr. Ricks. It is expected that the cast will be on display during the Symposium.

Nearly a ton of specimens resulting from excavations at Aguacatal--largely pottery fragments--arrived at the campus on May 20. It is hoped that an exhibit of selected specimens may also be ready by the time of the Symposium.

50.02 Part of Leadership Week. Since 1953 the annual UAS Symposium has constituted a special feature of the BYU Leadership Week. This year all sessions of the Symposium will be held in the John A. Widtsoe Lecture Hall (room 230) of the Eyring Science Center on the BYU Upper Campus. The public is invited. UAS members are particularly urged to attend.

By arrangement with the UAS general secretary-treasurer, preliminary announcements of Leadership Week have been mailed to all Society members. A registration fee of \$2 is required. Inquiries should be directed to: Leadership Week, Adult Education and Extension Services, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

50.1 ARCHAEOLOGY AS A STRENGTHENER OF FAITH. By Clark S. Knowlton. A review of G. Ernest Wright, *Biblical Archaeology* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press and London: Duckworth, 1957. 288 pp. 220 illustrations. \$15. 00).

(Professor Wright's book was also reviewed by

Frank M. Cross, Jr., in The Biblical Archaeologist, Vol. 20, No. 3, September, 1957, pp. 79-80. This review is therefore available to UAS members. Although Dr. Knowlton's review was submitted before Dr. Cross's appeared, its publication was delayed due to space limitations. --Ed.)

Professor W. F. Albright recently commented that of all the sciences in existence the most startling progress was taking place in atomic physics and in biblical archaeology. This book is evidence of that great progress. Its purpose, in the words of the author, "is to summarize the archaeological discoveries which directly illumine biblical history in order that the Bible's setting in the ancient world and its relations to its environment may be more readily understood."

The book is divided into 14 chapters, each built around a specific period in Israelite or early Christian history, from the time of the Patriarchs down to the spread of Christianity in the Greek and Roman world. In each chapter the writer endeavors to present the social and cultural environment in which the story took place and the ways in which the archaeology has enriched our understanding of that period. Every chapter is well illustrated with photographs and maps.

This book is a tribute to the important role that archaeology has played in reconstructing the world of the Bible. As the author points out, before the discoveries of archaeology, documents were often either scanty or non-existent for many periods of biblical history. One illustration is the Patriarchal period of Genesis. Extra-biblical manuscripts cast no light on who the Patriarchs were, their land of origin or their culture. Archaeology has now clarified the picture for us. There are many similar gaps in our knowledge of the Bible that can only be filled by careful archaeological research.

Many people have asked why there is a need for an archaeology of the Bible or, for that matter, an archaeology of the Book of Mormon. Is it not enough for us to believe and to have faith in order to obtain salvation and exaltation? The answer is that sound belief and enlightened faith must rest on an understanding and appreciation of the history, vicissitudes, and achievements of those who left us our scriptures. If we are to take our scriptural records seriously, we must take the history of the people who wrote them seriously. To do this we must spend energy and time to accumulate all the knowledge about them that we can. The more we know about them, the more enlightened we shall become and the stronger our faith will grow. Thus the intensive study of the archaeology of the Bible and the Book of Mormon is of great concern to everyone interested in the scriptures.

Archaeology can neither prove nor disprove the theological portions of the scriptures directly. Neither

can it be a substitute for faith. But it can help us to understand the historical setting and the cultural relationships of the peoples with which faith is most concerned. Archaeology is the servant of faith and the strengthener and supporter of the faithful. Witness the interest that Joseph Smith had in archaeology (cf. Newsletter, 33.2 —Ed.).

Certainly, archaeology has caused us to appreciate more than ever before, the giant achievements of the biblical writers, who rose to peaks of religious and intellectual genius in interpreting the ways of God to man. We can now understand the nature of their achievements, since we know in what kind of world they had to live, the problems with which they were faced, and the opposition they had to overcome. Their words live for us today more vividly than they have done in the past because of our increased knowledge and understanding. And there is reason to hope that shortly the achievements of Book of Mormon archaeology will equal those of biblical archaeology.

50.2 "MAYA" DATING SYSTEM IS PRE-MAYA. By Bruce W. Warren. A review of Michael D. Coe, "Cycle 7 Monuments in Middle America: A Reconsideration," American Anthropologist, Vol. 59, No. 4 (1957), pp. 597-611.

Was the Maya time-counting system, with its Long Count and carved dated stelae, really a Maya invention?

This question and its probable solution form the core of Coe's important article. Certain "Cycle 7" monuments have been known from outside the Maya area for many years, but they have not been accepted as early by most scholars, the main reason being the lack of certain Classic-Stage stylistic features. Rather than view these monuments as being earlier than the Classic Maya inscriptions, as indicated by the dates themselves, these scholars have argued that they come from a post-Classic age. To accept these monuments as being contemporaneous Cycle 7 monuments would place them in the Pre-Classic stage (before c. 357 AD) and indicate that the Maya did not invent the Long Count nor the dated stelae but that they received these features from an earlier people of their area, or of some region outside the area where their civilization developed.

Coe maintains that recent information demands a revision of the previously held views concerning these Cycle 7 monuments. In fact, the old views must be rejected. Archaeological investigations at La Venta, Tabasco, Mexico, show that Stela C at Tres Zapotes, Veracruz, Mexico, is Pre-Classic in style and actually contains the earliest Long Count date so far known from ancient Mesoamerica. Coe gives evidence that Stela 1 at El Baúl, Escuintla,

Guatemala, is in early art style and is probably associated with Miraflores or Late Pre-Classic ceramics. Stela 2 from Colombia, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, according to the author, is also in the same early art style as Stela 1 at El Baúl and should be considered a contemporary Cycle 7 monument.

Coe sees three levels of diffusion represented by these early dated monuments: (1) a La Venta-Olmec level during the Late Pre-Classic period, (2) an Izapa level of the Late Pre-Classic and Proto-Classic periods, and (3) an Early Classic level, as represented at Cerro de las Mesas in Veracruz, Tonalá in Chiapas, and Cotzumalhuapa in Guatemala. Coe believes the La Venta-Olmec people invented the Long Count dated stelae and from them this cultural trait diffused into the Maya area, where it was perfected.

Mr. Coe has just recently discovered an Izapa-style monument at Ocos, San Marcos, Guatemala, under floors of a Miraflores or Late Pre-Classic structure, establishing beyond dispute the Pre-Classic context of such early monuments. Also, carved bones found in a tomb at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico, indicate that the Izapa art style continued up into the Proto-Classic period. In other words, the Izapa art style definitely dates from at least the time of Christ to about 350 A. D. !

These new evidences show that Stela 5 at Izapa, the now famous (within the LDS Church) Lehi Stone, belongs to the Book of Mormon time period!

Coe's view, that the La Venta-Olmec people of southern Veracruz and Tabasco, Mexico, invented the Long Count and that it diffused from this region to the Mayas, confirms the long-held views of Dr. M. Wells Jakeman. See his The Ancient Middle-American Calendar System: Its Origin and Development, p. 32 (BYU Publications in Archaeology and Early History, No. 1, 1947) and The Origins and History of the Mayas, pp. 46, 64-65 (Los Angeles, 1945).

Coe has made important contributions in this article and his subsequent archaeological investigations and deserves our hearty congratulations.

(See Newsletter, 44. 01, for a brief discussion of the Long Count and related matters. —Ed.)

50.3 TWO GRADUATE IN ARCHAEOLOGY. Carol Luana Collett and Bruce W. Warren will receive the BA degree with a major in archaeology at the June 6, 1958, commencement of BYU.

Miss Collett has been active in the affairs of the UAS Campus Chapter since her Freshman year in 1954-55 and has served in every Chapter office at one time or another. She has also served as a paid assistant to the UAS general secretary-treasurer since January,

1956. In this capacity she has worked on membership records, prepared renewal notices, and distributed publications. Miss Collett has recently announced her engagement to Richard H. Swade, a member of the Society since 1953.

Mr. Warren is a charter member of the UAS, having taken part in the original organization meeting of April 18, 1949. He has also been active in the Campus Chapter and served as secretary and president. In 1953-54 he was editor of the UAS Newsletter during the publication of Nos. 14 through 19. For a year and a half, beginning in October, 1955, Mr. Warren served the New World Archaeological Foundation of Orinda, California, as a student archaeologist during excavations in the Grijalva River valley (Newsletter, 30. 8). In July, 1956, he became a Life Member of the UAS. Following graduation he expects to continue another season with the NWAF.

According to Department records, 15 bachelor's degrees in archaeology including those of Miss Collett and Mr. Warren, and three Master's degrees, have been awarded since the founding of the Department in 1946.

50.4 "PAST PUBLICATIONS" PRIVILEGE NOT RETROACTIVE. Since the announcement in the last Newsletter (49. 1) concerning past publications available to Society members free of charge, some requests have reached the general secretary-treasurer which indicate a misunderstanding. The privilege of ordering three past publications per year of membership is not retroactive nor cumulative; that is, it applies only to the current year and to any other years of membership purchased in advance. The UAS Executive committee has granted the general secretary-treasurer no authority to distribute these free publications as benefits for years of membership held previous to the year currently in effect.

This regulation of course does not apply to publications for which a sale price is listed.

50.5 REPORTS FROM THE CHAPTERS

50.50 Columbus Chapter. Chapter director Robert K. Willardson discussed "Archaeology and the Book of Mormon" at a meeting of the Columbus (Ohio) Chapter of the UAS on February 28, according to a recent letter received from him. The subject was treated in chronological order, beginning with Joseph Smith and his contemporaries and including the first five archaeological expeditions of BYU and the establishment in 1946 of its Department of Archaeology.

The Columbus Chapter planned another meeting for May 9, when "Recent Archaeological Work in Middle America" was to be discussed.

50.51 Campus Chapter. Spring quarter activities of the (BYU) Campus Chapter got under way with an illustrated lecture by Dr. Ross T. Christensen, field director of the 5th BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America. He reported excavations carried out last winter at Aguacatal, southeastern Mexico (Newsletter, 48. 01).

New officers for the quarter were elected the same evening: N. Eric Brodin, Gothenburg, Sweden, honorary president; John P. Dunford, Portland, Oregon, president; Darryl Kristjanson, San Diego, California, vice-president; and Kristine Hansen, Corvalis, Oregon, secretary.

Some weeks later Prof. Karl E. Young of the BYU English department delivered a talk on the legends of the American Indians.

During the quarter John L. Sorenson, former instructor in archaeology at BYU and a graduate student in anthropology at the University of California at Los Angeles (Newsletter, 29. 44), spoke on "Culture Contacts Between Polynesia and the Americas in Pre-Columbian Times." This was the subject of his MA thesis, presented to the BYU Department of Archaeology in 1952 (Newsletter, 9. 5).

At a later date Dr. Charles E. Dibble, professor of anthropology at the University of Utah, expert on Aztec studies, and translator of the Spanish chronicler Sahagun, lectured before the Chapter on Aztec codices.

On May 17, Chapter members were guests of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Utah, where they were shown through the Museum of Anthropology, as well as the laboratory facilities used by the Museum and by the Utah Statewide Archaeological Survey.

Lectures presented before the Chapter during the preceding winter quarter include: "The Book of Mormon as Literature," by Dr. Robert K. Thomas of the BYU English department; "The Dead Sea Scrolls," by Dr. Lewis M. Rogers of the BYU religion faculty; and a progress report by Dr. Welby W. Ricks on the 5th BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America, from which he had returned shortly before with a mold of the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone (Newsletter, 47. 02).

50.52 Salt Lake Chapter. Winter and spring activities of the Salt Lake Chapter of the UAS began on December 19, with a lecture entitled "Other Records on Metal Plates" by Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., UAS president, former Chapter director, and a student of ancient American metallurgy, according to a report received from Chapter secretary, Gevne Findlay.

In January, Dr. O. Preston Robinson, general manager of the Deseret News Publishing Co. and a recent visitor in Palestine, spoke on the "Dead Sea Scrolls."

The February meeting was held at the Museum of Anthropology of the University of Utah. The evening's lecture was on the archaeology of Glen Canyon, southern Utah, which U of U archaeologists have recently begun to investigate on a large scale (Newsletter, 44. 4). Prof. James H. Gunnerson gave introductory remarks. A film of the Glen Canyon area was shown, with commentary by Dr. Jesse D. Jennings, field director of the expedition and chairman of the department.

On March 28, Dr. Welby W. Ricks, member of the 5th BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America in charge of making the latex mold of the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone at Izapa, southern Mexico, lectured on the "First Lap of the 1958 BYU Expedition to Mexico."

In April, Dr. Ross T. Christensen, field director of the BYU expedition, reported last winter's investigation at Aguacatal, southern Mexico, illustrated with official expedition color slides.

The closing event of the year's activities was on May 23, when Chapter director W. Ernest Young discussed the current political and economic situation in Latin America in light of Book of Mormon prophecies, and Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, chairman of the BYU archaeology department, led a discussion on BYU and UAS field research plans.

50.53 Long Beach Chapter. Dr. Jakeman's book, Discovering the Past (UAS Special Publications, No. 1, 1954) has served over the past year as a text in the monthly meetings of the Long Beach Chapter of the UAS, according to a report received from Janice N. McAuliffe, Chapter secretary. Illustrated with slides and other materials, the textbook discussions have been supplemented with talks on "The Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone" and "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Chapter director Verne S. Handy, on "Terms of Archaeology" by assistant director Robert G. Rigby, and on "The Fertile Crescent" by assistant director Harvey Thayne Johnson; also, with a reading of the "Letters from the Field" received from the BYU expedition in southern Mexico (Newsletter, 48. 03), slides on Mexico, and a discussion on the Aztec Calendar Stone.

June 21 or 22 has been tentatively scheduled for a chapter barbecue at the home of Miss McAuliffe. The group plan to continue their monthly meetings during the summer.

50.6 ORGANIZES ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB. Dr. Clark S. Knowlton, UAS general officer and associate professor of sociology at Georgia Teachers College, writes that he has recently organized an archaeology club on the campus of that institution. Sixty students attended their first meeting. After preliminary training in field techniques, the group engaged in reconnaissance in an area known to contain Archaic and Early Woodland

remains. Plans were afoot for a joint excavation with the University of Georgia, beginning June 3. The site selected is a shell mound where the group had already collected surface sherds and other artifacts ranging in time from the early Archaic period to the later Williams period.

50.7 A QUESTION FOR THE EDITOR. As a regular feature of the Newsletter, a selected question on an archaeological subject is answered either by the editor or a guest contributor. Questions should be sent to: Editor, UAS Newsletter, Department of Archaeology, BYU, Provo, Utah.

50.70 Other Explanations of the Izapa Tree-of-Life Sculpture. Sir: Dr. M. Wells Jakeman's interpretation of Stela 5, found at the ruins of Izapa, southern Mexico, as a depiction of Lehi's vision of the Tree of Life as recorded in the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 8, is highly impressive. But do other scholars agree with him? Have any alternative explanations been offered?

---FRM.

Your inquiry concerning the views of other serious scholars in the field and alternative explanations of Stela 5 which might have been put forward is an entirely proper one for the honest-minded investigator.

Despite the fact that the stone has now become well known and has been visited many times and despite the fact that UAS Bulletin No. 4 containing Dr. Jakeman's interpretations has now been in print for five years and has been widely distributed, the archaeological profession generally has remained silent with reference to it.

There are two responses that can be made by the serious scholar who reads Bulletin 4: He can either agree or disagree with its conclusions. If scholars have thus far agreed, they have not said so. But if they disagree, they should present a better explanation than Dr. Jakeman has done. No better explanation, however, has to my knowledge thus far been offered.

There do exist in print, to be sure, two alternative explanations which deserve at least a passing mention. In 1939, C. A. Culebro published Chiapas Prehistórico: Su Arqueología (Folleto No. 1). On page 56 he discusses Stela 5, which he labels, however, No. 2. Following page 52 this sculpture is illustrated with a line drawing. He calls it La Pochota (Pochotl) and interprets the portrayal as a market scene.

In 1957, Dr. Clyde E. Keeler, professor of biology at the Georgia State College for Women, made mention of Stela 5 in his article "The Cuna Indian Tree of Life" (Bulletin of the Georgia Academy of Science, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 22-34). On page 33 is a line drawing of Stela 5. The description beneath the drawing and

one paragraph in the text are all that are devoted to his view of the meaning of the sculpture. He interprets it as being a fairly complete depiction of the birth scene of the Earthmother deity.

The drawing, although based upon the same photograph as that used by Dr. Jakeman, does not contain nearly the detail of the latter's study. It is, moreover, inaccurate in some details. For example, the figure on the ground at the extreme right holding the umbrella, which Dr. Jakeman suggests may be Sam of the Book of Mormon account, on the Keeler drawing is shown as a monkey with its tail dipping into the water beneath. I have personally examined the original sculpture in the field at Izapa. This "monkey" has no tail; it is clearly another of the six human figures shown seated.

The studies of both Culebro and Keeler are excessively brief, nor is there any evidence of painstaking scholarly care that in any way compares with that of Dr. Jakeman in the meticulous recording of detail and objective and comprehensive analysis.

I believe that Stela No. 5 deserves much more careful attention on the part of the scholarly world than has apparently thus far been given it. It possesses, in fact, decisive significance in the reconstruction of New World archaeological history generally. It has indeed been called the Rosetta Stone of the New World. Although Dr. Matthew W. Stirling described it at length in his original publication of 1943 (Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 138) and although Culebro and Keeler have given brief, off-handed explanations of it, the only thorough interpretative study of which I have any knowledge, the only interpretation which deserves to be seriously considered, is Dr. Jakeman's. Other scholars have maintained a deep and abiding silence with reference to this crucial discovery for five years. If any of them objects to Dr. Jakeman's views, let him refute them. If he knows any alternative explanation, let him offer it for consideration. If he has an interpretation which he can back up with the same painstaking and exhaustive scholarship as that of Dr. Jakeman, let him present it before the profession.

--RTC.