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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 86 (October 15, 1963)

Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen

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# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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Published six times a year by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. The purpose of the Newsletter is to provide members of the Society with up-to-date information regarding archaeological discoveries and research bearing upon the Hebrew-Christian and Latter-day Saint scriptures, through news reports, reviews, and short articles; also with news concerning the Society and its members, and the BYU Department of Archaeology, of which the Society is an affiliate organization. All views expressed in the Newsletter are those of the author of the particular contribution in which they appear and not necessarily those of Brigham Young University or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Subscription by membership in the Society (three dollars per year; Life Membership, fifty dollars), which also includes subscription to other publications of or issued through the Society.

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86.0 PHILISTINE CITY EXCAVATED. Ashdod, one of the league of five Philistine cities of the Palestine coast which in the days of King Saul nearly annihilated Israel, has been partially excavated, according to a recent dispatch from Associated Press. It is believed to be the largest town yet excavated in the Holy Land dating from the Iron Age (12th to 6th centuries BC).

Professor David N. Freedman of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary directed the excavation. Israel Antiquities and the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh joined the Seminary in sponsoring the investigation. Up to 250 people took part, including many students from the United States and Canada (among them a former student of archaeology at BYU, Charles H. Stephens).

A great deal of evidence was brought to light, according to Prof. Freedman, bearing on the transitional period of the last Canaanite settlements of the coastal plain and the beginning of the Philistine occupation, i. e. the 13th and 12th centuries BC. There is some evidence that the last of several Canaanite cities which flourished at Ashdod in the Bronze Age was destroyed in the 13th century, by an enemy people of another religion, i. e. almost surely the invading Israelites.

Since in the Book of Joshua it is indicated that Canaanite Ashdod was not taken by the Israelites until sometime after the death of Joshua (11:22; 13:1-3; 15:47), this tends to push back the beginning of the Israelite invasion of Palestine to the early 13th or even the 14th century BC.

The excavation also revealed that Ashdod was rebuilt by a new people, the Philistines, in the 12th century BC. The remains of the Philistine levels include a fortress with brick walls about four feet thick. The tower of the fortress may have served as a lookout to guard the Via Maris, which was an ancient highway that ran along the Mediterranean coast from Egypt towards Syria and Mesopotamia (a highway of strategic importance not only to the Pharaohs and

ancient Mesopotamian kings but also to modern conquerors, such as Napoleon and the British general Allenby who took Palestine from the Turks in a march along this same route from Egypt in the First World War).

Ashdod was again destroyed in the eighth century BC, supposedly by either Uzziah, king of Judah, or Sargon II, king of Assyria, who took the fortress in 712 BC. Three fragments of a stone victory stela of Sargon were among the objects recovered from this time.

Soon afterward Ashdod was again rebuilt, and for about a century was the capital of a Philistine kingdom of "Asdudu" or Ashdod, independent of the Israelite kingdom of Judah. But then it was again destroyed, this time probably by the Chaldean king Nebuchadnezzar in one of his invasions of Palestine in the beginning of the sixth century BC.

Rebuilt once more after the Chaldean period, the city suffered its final decline and fall in the Byzantine or early Christian period.

The present town of Ashdod stands west of the old site, close by the sea. It is a seaport and the center of an industrial region of modern Israel.

(From a report in The Oregonian, Portland, August 22, with further commentary by M. Wells Jakeman.)

86.1 NEW WORK AT TEOTIHUACAN, MEXICO. Perhaps the largest project of this year in New World archaeology has been the new program of excavation and restoration at the famous ruins of San Juan Teotihuacán in the Valley of Mexico. With a grant from the Mexican government of \$1,320,000 and under the direction of Professor Jorge Acosta, 37 archaeologists and technicians are making this the most spectacular of Mexico's archaeological monuments.

The earliest occupation of this site, "Teotihuacán I," has now been rather firmly dated to the period from about 300 BC to about the time of Christ; and was a small farming settlement of the Late Preclassic

culture of central Mexico better known from the excavations at Ticomán and the round pyramid of Cuicuilco.

The second occupation, "Teotihuacán II," lasted approximately through the first four centuries of the Christian era, or the Protoclassic period in central Mexico (the time of the Nephite settlement of the northern lake country of the "land northward"--i. e. the lake country of central Mexico?--according to the Book of Mormon). In this period Teotihuacán became a ceremonial center or temple-city: the building of the great rectangular Pyramids of the Sun and Moon (stepped brick temple-towers faced with cement), and the First Temple of Quetzalcóatl, almost surely dates to this time.

The third and last occupation, "Teotihuacán III-IV," dates to the Classic period (the main period of flourishing of many temple-cities throughout Mesoamerica, and dating here from the fifth to the eighth centuries AD). In this age Teotihuacán became a great urban center—a city covering an area of at least six square miles, making it one of the largest ancient cities of the New World, with a population estimated at over 250,000. The Second Temple of Quetzalcóatl and walled precinct called the "Ciudadela," the Temple of Agriculture, and other temples as well as palaces or large priest-residences were built in this period. At this time also the so-called "Avenue of the Dead" (Sacred Way) and other streets were paved, with a hard cement painted red and polished.

The final downfall of the city, apparently in the eighth century, seems to have come suddenly--according to Prof. Acosta, the result of a civil war of religion. Evidences were found that a great fire destroyed the city at this time.

(From a report in The Interamerican, Denton, Texas, Vol. 10, No. 7, July-October, 1963, with further commentary by M. Wells Jakeman.)

86.2 NEWS OF THE DEPARTMENT. The BYU Department of Archaeology reports the following recent developments:

86.20 Aguacatal Project Continued. The long-standing project of the Department of investigating the remains of the ancient city of "Aguacatal," western Campeche, Mexico, was continued over the past summer.

Laboratory study of the pottery and other artifacts recovered by expeditions of 1948, 1958, and 1961 was carried out under the direction of Dr. Ross T. Christensen, department chairman. Assisting him as ceramists were Ray T. Matheny, Lawrence O. Anderson, and Dale L. Berge, advanced students in the Department. Victor Escobar and Eugene Coleman served as artists. Dee F. Green and Betty Marker (see 86.55, below)

also assisted for a time.

The Aguacatal investigations have been an important project of the Department since 1948. In 1958 and 1959 nearly \$1000 of UAS funds were used in this connection (Newsletter, 56.0). For the past two years the work has been financed through the BYU-New World Archaeological Foundation.

86.21 Baccalaureate Awarded. M. Harvey Taylor of Colonia Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, was awarded the AB degree in archaeology at the August 22, 1963, convocation of BYU.

Mr. Taylor served as president and honorary president of the UAS Campus Chapter in 1960-61 (Newsletter, 66.4, 69.30). He assisted with excavations at the ruins of Casas Grandes near Colonia Juárez in 1959, did archaeological reconnaissance at San Lorenzo-Tenochtitlán in southern Veracruz in 1960, and was a member of the BYU expedition to Aguacatal in 1961 (Newsletter, 62.52, 69.30, 73.0). During 1962-63, he taught history and other subjects at the Juárez Stake Academy. He is at present continuing his graduate studies in archaeology at BYU.

86.22 Teaching Assistants Appointed. Dale L. Berge and M. Harvey Taylor, graduate students in archaeology at BYU, have been appointed graduate teaching assistants for the fall semester. Each is now teaching one section of Archaeology 200, "Introduction to Archaeology."

James C. Dean of Salt Lake City, a graduate student in archaeology at BYU, is teaching a section of Archaeology 200 in the Evening School. Section 90 meets every Thursday from 7:30 to 10:15 p. m.

86.23 Excavation Resumed at Hinckley Site. Excavation has been resumed at the prehistoric Indian house-mound site on the G. Marion Hinckley property near the Provo Municipal Airport west of Provo.

The field class (Archaeology 551, "Methods of Archaeological Research: General and Field"), consisting on 11 students under the direction of Dr. Christensen, on September 26 began excavation of a low mound, designated 42Ut110, lying about 200 yards northeast of the mound excavated in 1956 and 1959 (Newsletter, 38.4, 62.2). Stratigraphic pits in a checkerboard pattern have been opened across much of the surface.

Mounds on the Hinckley property represent a Puebloid culture dating to around 1000 AD. They have been excavated intermittently by the Department since 1946. Two Master's theses have been written on these investigations: those of Dr. Christensen in 1947 and Dee F. Green in 1961 (Newsletter, 77.10; see also 51.5).

86.24 Museum Objects Donated. Antiquities

from Peru and Ecuador and art objects representing the Maya civilization of Central America have been given to the Department by four different individuals to add to its museum collections.

Mr. John M. Goddard, world-famed explorer and long-standing member of the UAS, donated ancient artifacts from Peru and Ecuador last April 12. The collection consists of four pottery vessels from the Chancay area of the coast of Peru, dating to about 1200-1400 AD, and eight figurines, including some which represent the prehistoric cultures of coastal Ecuador. A roller stamp, a necklace, and fragments of Peruvian cloth are also included. These antiquities were collected by Mr. Goddard in 1962 during a six-month exploration of the backlands of Venezuela, Surinam, Brazil, and Peru.

Mr. Douglas S. Rose of La Mesa, California, has donated specimens recovered from an ancient cemetery in the Huaura valley of the coast of Peru. Included are a human skull with hair in place, a crescent-shaped copper headpiece, two pottery vessels, quipu strings, and cloth mummy shrouds.

Mr. David J. Rust of San Leandro, California, has donated a cast of a sculptured lintel from Piedras Negras, an ancient Maya ruin in the valley of the Usumacinta River in Guatemala. It shows in detail a council scene at that city, and is one of the finest known examples of Maya art of the Classic period.

Mrs. Lu C. Fawson of Salt Lake City, Life Member of the UAS and specialist in ancient ceramic decoration, has donated two more of her beautiful white ceramic reproductions in large scale of figures appearing in ancient Maya codices (Newsletter, 80. 6). The reproductions are hand-sculptured by Mrs. Fawson and are mounted on wooden panels with gilded frames. They represent Mesoamerican deities.

These antiquities and reproductions are being added to the exhibits of the Museum of Archaeology and will be on display on the first floor of the Karl G. Maeser Memorial Building.

86.3 "SYMPOSIUM PAPERS" MAILED. Copies of a publication covering an important UAS meeting, held last April 13, were mailed to Society members in September.

Entitled Papers of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, the 94-page booklet was issued by the BYU Department of Extension Publications. It contains the full text of the papers read at the spring meeting. The editor is Forrest R. Hauck.

The Annual Symposium, this year as usual, was sponsored jointly by the UAS and the BYU Department of Archaeology. By special arrangement with Society

officers, however, the Papers were published by Extension Publications.

Sufficient copies were purchased by the Society to send one, free of cost, to each of its members as a regular membership benefit. All other copies, however, are available only by purchase. The price is \$1 per copy, plus 10¢ mailing charge. Orders should be sent to: Extension Publications, Young House, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; do NOT send orders to the UAS.

86.4 CAMPUS CHAPTER HOLDS ELECTIONS. At a meeting of the Campus Chapter held on October 2, the following Chapter officers were elected to serve during the coming autumn semester: Dale L. Berge, president; Virginia Lotzman, vice-president; and Sherryl Willes, secretary.

A variety of meetings and excursions are being planned for the semester. The first event will be a lecture by Dr. M. Wells Jakeman on Stela 5, Izapa (the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone). A miniature of the Izapa sculpture, manufactured by El Monte Charitable Enterprises of El Monte, California (Newsletter, 83. 2), will be given away as a door prize. The time and place are: October 23, 7:30 p. m., Heber J. Grant Building, Room 121. All UAS members are invited to attend.

86.5 ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS. The following UAS members have recounted their recent archaeological activities and experiences:

86.50 M. Wells Jakeman, professor of archaeology at BYU, attended the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, held at Boulder, Colorado, in May. In June he delivered lectures on archaeological subjects at Riverside and Los Angeles, California, for the BYU-Los Angeles Adult Education Center. Dr. Jakeman spent the remainder of the summer working on forthcoming publications of the Department of Archaeology and the UAS.

86.51 Ross T. Christensen, associate professor of archaeology at BYU, also attended the meeting held at Boulder in May. In June and July he delivered 99 lectures on archaeological subjects at 11 different BYU Education Weeks (formerly called "Leadership Weeks"). The circuits included Mesa, Phoenix, and Safford, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Tacoma, Moses Lake, and Spokane, Washington; Lethbridge and Calgary, Canada; and Rexburg, Idaho. Nine different lectures were delivered at each three-day Education Week under the course titles "Archaeological Discovery and the Book of Mormon," "The Story of the Lehi Stone," and "Some Archae-

ological Adventures in the Old World. "

86.52 Ray T. Matheny and Lawrence O. Anderson, who have worked for years with the Aguacatal project of the BYU Department of Archaeology (Newsletter, 75.0, 76.0, 83.3; see above 86.20), delivered a joint paper on May 2, 1963, at Boulder, Colorado, before the Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. The paper was entitled "A Pilot Study in the Application of Electronic Computers in the Analysis of Ceramic . ." Mr. Anderson presented Part 1, "Classification Code and Mechanic..." Mr. Matheny read Part 2, "Results. "

An important development of the BYU Aguacatal project over the past two years has been the work of Messrs. Matheny and Anderson in programming the ceramic collection for computer analysis. Scholars at the convention from other institutions expressed a great deal of interest in this pioneering study undertaken at BYU.

At least three BYU faculty members and five current and former students in the Department of Archaeology were in attendance at the meeting.

86.53 Charles H. Stephens, UAS Life Member and one-time vice-president of the Campus Chapter (Newsletter, 16.11, 51.4), has been in Jerusalem, Israel, since September, 1962, studying archaeology and Hebrew. He is a graduate student at the Hebrew University and hopes to complete a doctorate in biblical archaeology with specialization in the Iron II period. He has visited dozens of archaeological sites in Israel, also Petra and Qumran in Jordan and other ruins in Iraq. He participated in excavations in the Negev, southern Israel, which "resulted in the discovery of a Middle Bronze I site some 4,000 years old. " He attended the Summer Institute on Near Eastern Civilizations, conducted by the Hebrew Union College Biblical and Archaeological School at Jerusalem. For about two weeks, Mr. Stephens, as a student in the Institute, took part in excavations at Ashdod under the direction of Professor David N. Freedman (see above, 86.0).

86.54 Carl Hugh Jones, who graduated from BYU with the Master's degree in archaeology in 1961 and is a UAS general officer (Newsletter, 77.1, 82.1), last May was appointed the director of a new museum at the Utah State University, Logan, Utah. It is called the "Man and His Bread Museum" and will show the development of agricultural tools and machinery from prehistoric times to the present.

As an undergraduate and graduate student at BYU, Mr. Jones did a great deal by way of organizing the collections of the Department of Archaeology. Later, he served as curator of archaeology at the LDS Museum at Temple Square, Salt Lake City, until his appointment to the present position.

86.55 Dee F. Green, who graduated from BYU with the MA degree in archaeology in 1961 and is a UAS general officer (Newsletter, 77.1, 82.1), conducted excavations in southern Mexico during May and June. Several stratigraphic test pits were sunk at Altamira, which is a large site of Preclassic date on the coast near Izapa, also at Padre Piedra in the Grijalva Basin. Following his return to the campus late in June, Mr. Green has been processing the ceramics and other remains and preparing a field report with the assistance of Miss Betty Marker as artist. The project has been carried out by assignment from the BYU-New World Archaeological Foundation.

Mr. Green was the field supervisor of excavations at the Nauvoo Temple site during the summer of 1962, where Miss Marker also assisted him as artist (Newsletter, 84.0).

86.56 James M. Mock, a sophomore major in archaeology at BYU, spent the summer as a student archaeologist with Smithsonian excavations of earth lodge sites in central South Dakota. At La Rouché Creek his party excavated what is thought to be an early Pawnee settlement dating to about 1300 AD. At Chapelle Creek they unearthed an early Arikara village of about 1750 AD. Mr. Mock worked under the direction of Mr. William Folan, who is known for his excavations in Yucatan.

86.57 Roger A. Brown, a sophomore archaeology major at BYU last spring semester, spent the summer excavating ruins in southern Colorado under the field program of Trinity College. During the latter part of the term he served as assistant field director.

86.58 V. Garth Norman, graduate minor in archaeology at BYU, spent two days in September at the ruins of Izapa, near Tapachula, southern Mexico. Much of his effort was given to photographing Ste!a 5 in connection with his previous studies of the Tree of Life motif in both the Old World and the New (see his article, "The Tree-of-Life Symbol in Ancient Israel, " in the Papers of the Fourteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, pages 37-51). Mr. Norman also visited the ruins of Monte Albán and Teotihuacán before returning from Mexico.

86.59 James C. Dean and Larry D. Davis, archaeology majors at BYU, were members of an expedition into the Barranca de Cobre on the Urique River in Chihuahua, Mexico, September 22 to October 10. The expedition was under the direction of John L. Cross of Orem, Utah, owner of Cross Tours and explorations, Inc. Mr. Dean, a graduate student, served as staff archaeologist, with Mr. Davis, a sophomore assisting.