



Type: Magazine Article

Ancient America: In the Light of Recent Findings

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Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (January 1941)

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Page(s): 1

Abstract: A series of brief comments in which the author presents archaeological findings, architectural notes, and myths and legends that deal indirectly with the Book of Mormon. Dibble discusses the wheel, ancient irrigation methods, metals, Mexican and Mayan codices, Quetzalcoatl, ancient buildings, and numerous other related items. The second part covers Mayan glyphs.

ANCIENT AMERICA

IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT FINDINGS

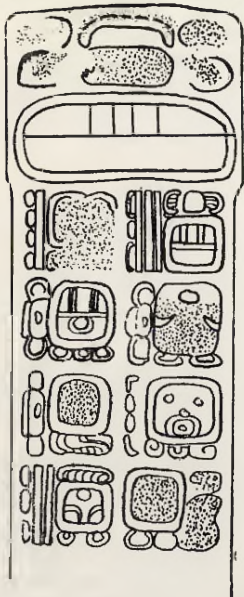
By CHARLES E. DIBBLE

DR. S. G. MORLEY (dean of Mayan scholars) in recent writings states that about one hundred fifty Mayan glyphs have been deciphered. They deal primarily with the calendar and astronomy. There remain approximately three hundred undeciphered glyphs. To quote Dr. Morley:

Whatever their significance may be, it is the same everywhere; that is to say, they must treat of matters common to all, such as generally accepted astronomy and the common religious philosophy arising therefrom, and not of purely local matters. Throughout the Maya area, the deciphered glyphs deal with an extremely limited subject matter and are essentially homogeneous.

Recent anthropological research reveals ever-increasing evidence of cultural and material exchange in Indian America. Middle American design motifs (such as death symbols, feathered serpents, etc.) appear in southeastern United States (Alabama and Mississippi); gold ornaments from Colombia appear in Chichen Itza, Yucatan; goldwork from Peru has been found in Guatemala and southern Mexico; ball courts, similar to those in Central America, appear in Arizona.

This sketch is of a Mayan inscription showing a series of deciphered glyphs. Deciphered, they recorded a date 1,411,200 days after a starting date 4



Ahau 8 Cumhu (3113 B. C.). The date recorded on this inscription is 751 A. D. (Goodman - Thompson correlation). The decipherable part of Mayan recordings consists mainly of similar or related glyphs.

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