



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Reconstructing Ruins

Author(s): Charles E. Dibble

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 45, No. 5 (May 1942)

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

Page(s): 268

---

**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 twelfth part covers ruins in Mexico.



## A Torch of Liberty that Never Grows Cold



There is a blinding glare, as if you were looking into the sun.

At the tip of the torch the temperature is 6700° Fahrenheit. The welder's expert fingers "feel" the metals melt, mingle, form an inseparable bond. The tractor roars to life again, rolls out of the Allis-Chalmers dealer's shop good for a thousand more hours' service.

Never in history has the farmer, and America, depended so greatly on the skill and resourcefulness of the implement dealer. For in these times when factory forges are beating out gun barrels instead of tractor engines, the implement dealer himself must become a "factory". He must

be able to gauge tolerances within thousandths of an inch, must be equipped to rebuild the whole motor if necessary.

Allis-Chalmers dealers have the training and equipment for this vital service. For example, Allis-Chalmers "rolling laboratories"—completely equipped giant trucks—have brought to the dealer a full factory course of instruction on the famous 2-cycle Diesel tractor. So when the Allis-

*"Torch of Liberty", too, are America's blast furnaces glowing red against the midnight sky. Feed them every scrap of old iron you can spare. Call your junk dealer or ask your Allis-Chalmers dealer how to dispose of it.*

Chalmers dealer puts the final touch on your rebuilt tractor, or sells you a used machine, you can face the hard work season ahead with confidence that all will be well.

Your **ALLIS-CHALMERS** Dealer  
TRACTOR DIVISION • MILWAUKEE • U. S. A.

INVEST IN VICTORY

BUY DEFENSE BONDS • STAMPS

## Reconstructing Ruins

By Charles E. Dibble  
Roosevelt Fellow Institute of  
International Education

How does the archeologist reconstruct the ancient ruins he discovers and uncovers?

Illustrative of how the archeologist reconstructs, is the pyramid of Xochicalco ("House of Flowers") in the state of Morelos, Mexico. The lower half of a human figure adorns the re-



THE LOWER HALF OF A HUMAN FIGURE ENGRAVED ON THE PYRAMID OF XOCHICALCO

maining portion of the second story of the ruin. By studying the dimensions and proportions of the legs and hips the entire human figure can be restored and the height of the second story can be estimated with reasonable accuracy.

Often in piecing together huge inscribed monoliths where the broken fragments weigh tons and are difficult to move about, a novel method is em-



A SEATED FIGURE AT XOCHICALCO WHICH SHOWS MAYAN INFLUENCE IN THE HEADDRESS

ployed. All of the inscribed fragments are photographed using the same scale. The photographs are then assembled much as a picture puzzle. The corresponding rock fragments are subsequently sought out and the monolith is pieced together.