



Type: Magazine Article

---

## Copilco—Ancient Burying Ground

Author(s): Charles E. Dibble

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 45, No. 10 (October 1942)

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

Page(s): 613

---

**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 seventeenth part covers the ancient cemetery at Copilco.

# Copilco—

## ANCIENT BURYING GROUND

By CHARLES E. DIBBLE  
Roosevelt Fellow, Institute of  
International Education

ONE of the earliest known cemeteries on the American continent is located under a thirty-foot lava cap on one edge of the Valley of Mexico. The site is known as Copilco, and the culture of the people is referred to as the "Archaic." That the dead were actually interred at Copilco and not accidentally killed by the lava flow is evidenced by the fact that the remains are not only covered by the lava cap but also by a layer of earth baked black and red by the glowing lava.

The people who buried their dead



THE LAVA CAP AND ENTRANCES TO THE ARCHAIC BURIALS AT COPILCO, MEXICO.

at Copilco were agriculturists, for we find their grinding stones and pottery containers. An abundance of figurines suggests the worship of some divinity or divinities associated with fertility or agriculture. Indications of clothing on the figurines and numerous spindle whorls attest a knowledge of spinning and weaving. In all, the picture is one of a culturally advancing people.

Archeology dates the Copilco culture about two or three hundred years before Christ. Recent geological methods may give a more accurate dating of these early people. When the lava flow cooled, the atomic structure of the lava was orientated in accord with what was then magnetic north. By measuring the deviation between magnetic north when the lava flow cooled and present-day magnetic north, geologists hope to tell us in terms of years when the lava flow cooled and when the archaic people were forced to abandon this part of the Valley of Mexico.



*Sample Heinz Baby Foods Yourself—Notice The Fresh, Natural Flavors—The Tempting Colors And Smooth, Full-bodied Textures! No Wonder Babies Relish These High-Quality Dishes!*



When baby is ready for strained foods, give him Heinz! Choice fruits, vegetables, meats and cereals are cooked scientifically — vacuum-packed in enamel-lined containers. Vitamins and minerals your youngster needs for health and growth are retained in high degree. Tempting flavors and colors are also captured! There are 17 savory kinds for you and your baby to choose from!



Bridge the gap between strained foods and family meals with Heinz 12 Junior Foods! They're designed to furnish runabout babies with unstrained, mildly seasoned and highly nutritive foods. Prepared to special recipes and packed in protective enamel-lined containers, Heinz Junior Foods include main dishes, vegetables and desserts—every one a joy to toddlers!

THESE TWO SEALS 57 MEAN PROTECTION FOR YOUR BABY

# HEINZ BABY FOODS

BACKED BY A 73-YEAR QUALITY REPUTATION