



Type: Magazine Article

Looking Back at Ancient America VII

Author(s): Dewey Farnsworth and William Farnsworth

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 44, No. 6 (June 1941)

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

Page(s): 340

Abstract: A presentation of photographs of ancient American ruins, accompanied by brief descriptions and comments.

LOOKING BACK AT

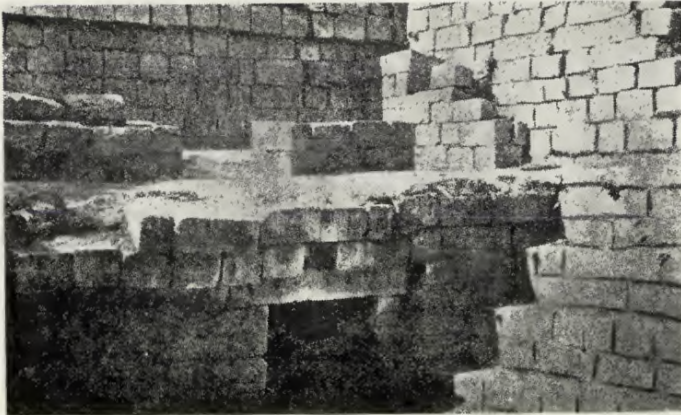
Ancient America

By WILLIAM and DEWEY FARNSWORTH



LA PIRAMIDE, COPAN, HONDURAS

Two hundred yards broad from east to west, this gigantic temple in Copan on the northern bank of the river, is almost as large as the great Egyptian pyramid of Gizeh, there being a difference of only eighteen feet. Its base appears to have been an elevated terrace, accessible from the exterior on three of its sides by stone steps. Until recent years, most of this extraordinary structure was in almost complete ruin, but as the result of reconstruction, it appears today in almost the same state of grandeur as originally.



SEPULCHRAL VAULT IN TEMPLE AT COPAN

Excavations inside the pyramid-temple at Copan disclosed a sepulchral vault, more than six feet high, ten feet long, and five and a half broad, and flanked by two niches which, as well as the floor of the vault were full of red earthenware dishes and pots, many of them filled with human bones packed in lime. The floor of the vault was constructed of solid stone, coated with lime, and was strewn with fragments of bones. Among the articles found in this chamber were several sharp-edged, pointed knives of chuya, stalactites, marine shells, and a small death's head carved in fine green stone.



PALACIO EN TAXCHILAN CHIAPA

Discovered far back in the jungle is this ancient Mayan structure showing a well-ordered architecture. The doorways of this building, which has probably stood since the first century after Christ, are in a remarkable state of preservation. The intricate carvings and architectural design of the upper part of the structure denote the artistic ability of the ancient builders. The hieroglyphics and picture writing found upon the monuments and temples of the Mayans represent their story in stone and in many instances depict events in early Biblical history.

What it Means to be A

MORMON BOY

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

By FRED W. MOELLER

IT IS in times like these, times when tomorrow may take from us all we have, that we begin to appreciate those things which yesterday we took for granted. If world strife brings anything good, it is this realization of the true values in common, everyday things.

If we would only learn to enjoy what we already have, before it is too late. We take as a matter of course the love and comfort of our mothers, the kind and generous counsel of our fathers. We dream and plan and are so intent on our dreaming that we fail to see the opportunities around us. And then one day we awake to find we have lost that comfort and guidance, and the dreams we've had. It is regrettable that it takes so great and terrible a thing as widespread calamity to bring us to our senses.

I have never desired, nor do I ever hope, to become a millionaire; yet there are many who would gladly trade their fortunes for mine.

I have a God in whom I can put my faith, and upon whom I must and do gladly rely for all blessings and gifts I receive.

I have a mother to comfort me, a father to counsel me.

I have health to enjoy, knowledge to use for the gaining of a livelihood for myself and to pass along to others.

I have youth, and the world is before me.

I have the Church and therein the Priesthood and all gifts and privileges in it.

I have been baptized for the remission of my sins, and possess the Holy Ghost to keep me constant in righteousness.

I have no fear of tomorrow if I live righteously today; in fact, I fear nothing but God, for I know that it is only when I am afraid of a thing, whether it be a man, a beast, or even death or the devil himself—it is only when I fear it, that that thing can have any power over me.

I have a country whose laws protect me, whose constitution makes me free.

I have a great deal to live for, but I have also something to die for.

Yes, all good things in the universe are mine; I am grateful to God, for I am a Mormon boy.