



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<http://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

Type: Newsletter

U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 58 (May 6, 1959)

Editors(s): Dee F. Green

Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 58

Editor: Dee F. Green

May 6, 1959

Published approximately every six weeks by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. The purpose of the Newsletter is to disseminate knowledge of recent archaeological discoveries bearing on the Latter-day Saint scriptures; also of the archaeological activities and viewpoints of the Society and its members. Subscription by membership in the Society: three dollars per year; or Life Membership, fifty dollars. (Membership also includes subscription to other publications of the Society and of the BYU Department of Archaeology.)

58.0 "LEHI TREE-OF-LIFE STONE" REPORTED. A special meeting of the University Archaeological Society for the purpose of hearing Dr. M. Wells Jakeman report his latest research on the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone, was held April 2, 1959, on the Brigham Young University campus with a record attendance.

The meeting was under the direction of Welby W. Ricks, UAS general officer, and committee member, Carl Hugh Jones. The Campus Chapter with Kristine Hansen as president, acted as host organization.

In his illustrated lecture Dr. Jakeman gave special attention to his recent identification of two hieroglyphs in the carving as recording the names Lehi and Nepi or Nephi. He also had with him the first 112 copies of his new definitive commentary, "Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico: A Major Archaeological Discovery of the New World" (UAS Special Publications No. 2), which gives the details of this decipherment. (Copies of this publication were subsequently mailed to all UAS members.)

Attendance at this special meeting was estimated at about 250 persons, with some 30 to 40 turned away because of space limitations. At its conclusion 22 new Society memberships were purchased.

58.1 ABRAHAM AND ARCHAEOLOGY. A review by Clark S. Knowlton of Abraham: His Heritage and Ours, by Dorothy B. Hill, (Boston) Beacon Press, 1957, \$3.95.

How many of us, when reading the Book of Genesis, have not wondered about the early patriarchs of Israel? What manner of men were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who walked and talked with God and His Angels? From what society did they come, and among whom did they live? This historical period for long centuries was shrouded in darkness, except for the rays of light cast by the scriptures, until archaeologists dug up thousands of clay tablets from the ruined city mounds that dot the Middle East. As a result, many civilizations and peoples once forgotten are now restored to their rightful position in the flow of human history.

The author, utilizing material from the scriptures

and from archaeological research, has attempted to reconstruct the personality of Abraham and the historical time period in which he lived. Although one may well dispute many of the writer's ideas, the book is an interesting example of what a skilled author can do in breathing life into forgotten times and cultures.

58.2 MORE ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN. A review by Clark S. Knowlton of Indians of the Americas, by Matthew W. Stirling, (Washington, D. C.), The National Geographic Society, 1955, \$7.50.

This is another lavishly decorated, finely printed compilation of articles originally published in the National Geographic Magazine, plus some additional material. Edited by Matthew W. Stirling, director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, for the National Geographic Society, the book is written in a popular style.

The book is divided into three sections, each under the direction of an authority in the field. In the first section by Stirling, the major tribes of each of the geographical areas of the United States are covered. In the second section, there are articles by Morley, Roberts, and Means on the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas, as well as a scattering of articles on the Southwest, the prehistory of Panama, and the La Venta or Olmec culture. Within the third section, there is a collection of reports on a few random Indian groups ranging from Canada's Arctic to the Guianas in Latin America.

58.3 TWO NEW UAS PUBLICATIONS READY. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman's definitive study of the Lehi Tree-of-Life stone entitled "Stela 5 Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico: A Major Archaeological Discovery of the New World." (UAS Special Publications No. 2), is now off the press.

According to Dr. Ross T. Christensen, general secretary-treasurer of the Society, plenty of copies are still available for purchase at \$2, and until August 31, new memberships will automatically receive copies of the publication.

Also now available to members is a large (three-

fourths actual size) drawing-reproduction of the Tree-of-Life carving, on linen, with means for suspension; price to Society members, \$15; to non-members, \$20.

58.4 ARCHAEOLOGY TALKS TO BE GIVEN AT LEADERSHIP WEEK. Five one-hour lectures on archaeological subjects will be given by faculty members of the Department of Archaeology at the 36th Annual Leadership Week of BYU, according to Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, department chairman.

Tuesday, June 9, at 2:30 p. m., Dr. Jakeman will repeat his lecture on the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone (see this newsletter, 58. 0).

Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 6-10, Dr. Ross T. Christensen, assistant professor of archaeology, will deliver a series entitled "The Story of Archaeology at BYU." These lectures are entitled in order: "Joseph Smith to Benjamin Cluff, Jr.," "The Dawning of a New Day in Archaeology," "Lehi's Vision in Stone," and "Digging the Ruins of Bountiful." Dr. Christensen's discussion of the Lehi Stone will emphasize the story of its discovery and interpretation and will thus be distinct from Dr. Jakeman's presentation, which will stress the identification of the Stone's sculptured features, including the name-glyphs.

58.5 UAS MEMBERS PRESENT PAPERS. Three members of the UAS delivered papers at the 24th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology held in Salt Lake City, April 30 and May 1 and 2.

Friday evening, May 1, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, president of the New World Archaeological Foundation, gave an illustrated talk entitled, "Some Striking Symbols Common to the Ancient Middle East and Middle America." The flowing-vase motif, the horned incense-burner, and other extraordinary trait correspondences between the ancient Near East and Mesoamerica were developed by the speaker. (See Mr. Ferguson's recent book One Fold and One Shepherd for full details. See also Newsletter, 21.00 for more on the horned incense-burners--Ed.)

Saturday afternoon, two other papers by NWAFA archaeologists were read. Gareth W. Lowe discussed "The Long Sequence of Preclassic Architectural Development at Chiapa de Corzo, Chiapas." John L. Sorenson read in behalf of Bruce W. Warren who was absent in Mexico, "Monte Albán, Tres Zapotes, La Venta, Uaxactún, and Yucatán in Light of the Third Horizon at Chiapa de Corzo." (Messrs. Sorenson, Lowe, and Warren are all graduates of the BYU Department of Archaeology and former editors of the UAS Newsletter--ED.)

58.6 A QUESTION FOR THE EDITOR. As a regular feature of the Newsletter, a selected question on an archaeological subject is answered either by the editor or by a guest contributor. Questions should be sent to: Editor, UAS Newsletter, Department of Archaeology, BYU, Provo, Utah.

58.60 The UAS and the Department of Archaeology. Sir: What is the relationship between the University Archaeological Society and the BYU Department of Archaeology, and what is the difference between the publications?--CHJ.

When the UAS was organized on the BYU campus on April 18, 1949, the Department of Archaeology had already been in existence nearly two and a half years (Newsletter 56. 2). However, the Society was not set up as a part of, but rather as an affiliate or adjunct of, the Department--as an arm for popularizing the work of the Department and disseminating among its members information on recent archaeological discoveries.

Since the interests of the two are closely connected and since the UAS constitution required Department faculty members to be included among Society officers, it has been convenient to keep the UAS headquarters at the Department office on the BYU campus.

The Department of Archaeology includes within the scope of its interest the entire field of archaeology, but with special emphasis on the early high civilizations in both hemispheres and on comparative studies between the two (Newsletter, 56. 2). The Society has similar interests. However, the publications of the two organizations have a somewhat different emphasis. Those of the Department comprise technical studies in archaeology without explicit reference to the scriptures. Financed by the University itself, they are generally included in the official Department series, "Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History." Three have been issued to date (Newsletter, 30. 3).

Publications of the UAS are paid for strictly out of Society funds and often deal directly with the claims of the scriptures, including the Book of Mormon, in light of the discoveries of archaeology. Three separate series of UAS publications are: (1) the "UAS Newsletter"--58 issued to date; (2) "Miscellaneous Papers"--3 issued to date, including two important ones on the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone (see above, 58. 3).

All above publications are distributed to UAS members free of charge (or in a few cases, at reduced prices) by virtue of their membership in the Society. Even back issues may be obtained free of cost at the maximum rate of three per year while the membership is in force. See supplement to Newsletter 49 for a complete listing. --DFG.