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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 73 (February 24, 1961)

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# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Dee F. Green

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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.)

73.0 BYU EXPEDITION NOW IN THE FIELD. Under the direction of Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, the 6th BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America left recently to conduct excavations at ancient sites in the Xicalango jungle region of the Gulf Coast, State of Campeche, Mexico.



A native Mexican worker sits on the wall surrounding Aguacatal in the Xicalango jungle of Mexico.

This expedition marks the fourth season of explorations by the University at, and in the region of, an ancient walled city now called Aguacatal. Discovered in 1943 in the jungle country of southeastern Mexico, Aguacatal has been tentatively identified by Dr. Jakeman as the famous walled city Tullan mentioned in the early chronicles of Mesoamerica (Newsletter, 22.02). Other members of the staff are: Carl Hugh Jones, assistant director; Ray T. Matheny, graduate student in archaeology; and M. Harvey Taylor and Lawrence O. Anderson, undergraduate students in archaeology.

The main purposes of this expedition are to provide advanced training in archaeological field methods

for students on the staff and to continue the scientific exploration of the ruins of Aguacatal (Newsletter 48.01). The latter undertaking includes further mapping of the ancient city; test-pitting of the great encircling earthen wall discovered in 1958, to learn its date and manner of construction; stratigraphic test trenches in the plazas, to fill in the gaps in the occupational history of the site; and probes into some of the numerous temple-pyramids for the possible discovery of additional monuments or art works.

A special project at Aguacatal will be to set up pumps for the purpose of lowering the water table at certain points. This will permit the sampling of possible sherd deposits at lower levels, in an effort to carry the occupational history of the site back to its beginning. The low elevation of the region with the consequent high water table has so far prevented the record from being carried down more than a few inches below the surface.

Three previous BYU expeditions have explored ruins at Aguacatal and nearby (Newsletter, 44.03). Those of 1948 (see UAS Bulletin, No. 3) and 1958 (Newsletter, 48.0) investigated Aguacatal, while that of 1956 excavated at Cerrillos (Newsletter, 34.0).

73.1 THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED. Under the dual sponsorship of the UAS and the BYU Department of Archaeology, the Society's "Thirteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures" will be held on the BYU campus, April 1, 1961. All members of the Society will be admitted free; nonmembers will be charged \$1 to help defray costs.

The Special Courses and Conferences department of the BYU Adult Education Center is cooperating with the Society and Department in furnishing technical, liaison, and scheduling assistance.

Various researchers in the field of scriptural archaeology are being invited to present papers before the Symposium, which will convene at 9:30 a. m. in room 2320 of the Smith Family Living Center. An optional luncheon costing \$1 will be served at noon in the Joseph Smith Building.

A complete program outlining the papers to be delivered will be mailed with the next issue of the Newsletter, near the end of March.

The Society president and the chairman of the BYU Department of Archaeology have appointed Dee F. Green, a graduate teaching assistant in archaeology, to direct the Symposium. He will be assisted by an advisory committee consisting of Welby W. Ricks, Kristine Hansen, Sandra Working, and Ross T. Christensen.

73.2 REVIEW OF "IZAPA STELA 5." The following review of a recent monograph by Dr. Jakeman is reprinted from Science of Man (Vol. 1, No. 2, February, 1961, page 63) with the kind permission of the editor, Major Joseph E. Vincent:

The Complex "Tree-of-Life" Carving on Izapa Stela 5; Reanalysis and Partial Interpretation, by M. Wells Jakeman. Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History, Mesoamerican Series, No. 4, Provo, Utah, 1958. Reviewed by Charles Gallenkamp.

The subject of this monograph is a stone monument designated as Stela 5 uncovered at the site of Izapa in southern Chiapas, Mexico. Since its discovery some years ago there have been numerous efforts to interpret the particularly unique tableau etched in low relief on its surface. In the present work Dr. Jakeman offers the most detailed and reasonable analysis thus far published, and his conclusions regarding possible analogies between the Izapa stela and similar representations found in the Old World -- always a controversial though undeniably tempting area of speculation -- are presented with refreshing objectivity.

The essential features of the tableau in question depict a fruit-bearing tree attended by two priests or supernatural beings in the guise of birds. A group of six human figures in various attitudes of gesture are ceremoniously arrayed at its base. Utilizing a careful comparison of stylistic elements which relate to known factors in Mesoamerican symbology, Dr. Jakeman identifies the central motif as a "Tree of Life" flanked by attending personages of high rank -- a scene strongly reminiscent of the Tablet of the Cross at Palenque, and similar illustrations found in Aztec, Maya, and Mixtec codices.

Most prominent among the figures seated beneath the tree is a heavily bearded man accompanied by an attendant holding aloft a glyphbearing standard. The hieroglyph is that of the cipactli or "crocodile" sometimes associated with several aged couples variously believed in ancient Mexican cosmology to have engendered mankind, invented the calendar, astrology, and medicine. The Aztecs knew them as Cipactonal and Oxomoco. Their counterparts among the Quiché Maya

were Ixpiyacoc and Ixmucane who, according to the Popol Vuh, were the parents of the first warrior heroes of highland Guatemala. The identity of the lesser figures is somewhat more nebulous, but the author suggests that they may represent four sons of the ancestral couple, one of whom is attired as a priest or ruler.

If this general interpretation is correct then the Izapa sculpture recounts a fascinating mythological vignette: the sons of the legendary ancestral couple absorbing and perhaps recording -- for the ruling figure holds a stylus and tablet -- their knowledge of the munificent "Tree of Life."

In conclusion there follows a discussion of the possible significance of analogous concepts found in both the Izapa monument and certain examples of Near Eastern art, with particular emphasis upon elements such as the Tree of Life attended by hierarchical personages, similarities of headdress and costume, bearded figures, and the parallel symbolism of fish, bird, and serpent representations. For those familiar with the writings of Ekholm and Covarrubias regarding the evidence of Asiatic influence in Mesoamerica, Dr. Jakeman's paper will provide interesting conjecture in the direction of Assyria and Babylonia.

73.3 NEW APPOINTMENTS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Mr. Otto Done, UAS president, has appointed two new members to the Society's Nominations Committee: Virgil V. Peterson and Eldin Ricks, UAS general officers.

Mr. Peterson, director of the Salt Lake Chapter of the UAS, replaces Welby W. Ricks, who was appointed a member of the Nominations Committee by President Franklin S. Harris, Jr., in 1957 (Newsletter 43.5) and incidentally was elected UAS vice-president in August, 1959 (Newsletter 61.1).

Eldin Ricks, assistant professor of religion at BYU, replaces Dr. Clark S. Knowlton of New Mexico Highlands University, who has served as a member of the Nominations Committee since he was appointed by President M. Wells Jakeman in 1954.

According to the Society's constitution, the Nominations Committee consists of the general secretary-treasurer as chairman and as members, the chairman of the BYU archaeology department, the honorary president of the Campus Chapter, and two general officers appointed by the Society president. Present Committee membership is: Ross T. Christensen (chairman), M. Harvey Taylor, Mr. Peterson, and Prof. Ricks.

73.4 CHAPTER REPORTS.

73.40 Salt Lake Chapter. Recent activities of the Salt Lake Chapter included a discussion of early Egyptian Christianity by Dr. Aziz Swryal Atiya, professor of languages and culture, University of Utah. A

lecture by Dr. Jesse Dr. Jennings, of the University of Utah anthropology department, on the Glen Canyon Project was held in cooperation with the Utah State Historical Society. Robert W. Blair, of the BYU faculty was another featured speaker. His subject was linguistics. The final event of the past semester was a discussion of the construction of ancient American pyramids by Warren D. Curtis, a Salt Lake City consulting engineer.

73.41 Campus Chapter. New officers for the Spring Semester were elected at a recent meeting of the BYU Campus Chapter. M. Harvey Taylor, retiring president, was elected honorary president. Dorothy DeWitt was elected president and Sandra Working and Kristine Hansen, vice-president and secretary, respectively.

During the coming semester, meetings will be held every other Wednesday in room 205 of the Eyring Science Center. Professor Eldin Ricks is scheduled to speak on March 1.

73.5 SOCIETY MEMBERS PUBLISH IN "SCIENCE OF MAN." Mr. Otto Done, president of the UAS, has an article, "Bonampak: A Mayan Mystery," published in the February issue (Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 42-45, 57) of Science of Man. The article records a trip undertaken by the author, along with Dr. Milton R. Hunter and José Dávila, to photograph the ruins and murals of Bonampak (Newsletter, 26.0). Several fine photographs accompany the text, including pictures of the Lacandon Indians of the Chiapas jungles.

On pages 96 and 97 of the April issue (Vol. 1, No. 3) of Science of Man, Dee F. Green, a graduate student in the Department of Archaeology at BYU, has published an article entitled, "The San Blas Indians: A Study in Albinism."

Society members interested in obtaining copies of either of the above issues may write to Joseph E. Vincent, Editor, Box 808, Mentone, California. Single copies are 75¢, or a year's subscription may be purchased for \$4.00.

73.6 SUMMER 1961: TOURS PLANNED TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONES.

73.60 BYU Travel Studies. A tour of Bible lands that will emphasize biblical history from Rome to Egypt will be conducted this summer by BYU Travel Studies. The tour will be under the direction of Dr. Lynn M. Hilton, chairman of the BYU Adult Education Center in Salt Lake City, with Roy W. Doxy, assistant professor of religion at BYU, as assistant director.

Dates of the tour are July 4 to August 26. Visits will be made to London, Paris, Bern, Rome, Athens, Cairo, Damascus, and in the Holy Land: Jerusalem (both the Israeli and Jordanian sections), Tel Aviv,

Eilat, Safad, and many other interesting biblical sites. The group will return via Madrid and Lisbon.

Cost from New York to New York is \$1,695 which includes all expenses, except those of a personal nature. The transportation will be mostly by air. Up to six semester-hours of credit applicable toward graduation from BYU may be earned.

BYU Travel Studies is also sponsoring a six weeks Spanish-language residence program in Mexico City. The program is designed especially for those seeking university credit in the Spanish language, although some visits will be made to important historical and archaeological sites in and around Mexico City. Professor Dixon Anderson of the BYU modern language department will conduct the program, which will leave Provo on June 14, spend four weeks of concentrated study in Mexico City, and return on August 5. Price, \$375. For complete details, itinerary, and application on either of the above, write to BYU Travel Studies, Provo, Utah.

73.61 Socotwa. A trip to Yucatán, Mexico, is being planned by Socotwa Expeditions, a tour group in Salt Lake City, from August 14 to September 12. The tour will emphasize archaeology and will visit many sites, including Chichén Itzá, Monte Albán, Aguacatal, Teotihuacán, Palenque, Uxmal, and Cholula. Various national and local archaeological museums will also be visited.

Dee F. Green, a graduate student in the BYU archaeology department, will act as assistant tour director and will be specifically concerned with archaeological instruction.

The group is scheduled to leave by bus and will camp out in order to cut costs. It is planned, however, to include at least four overnight hotel stops in the four-week tour. Total price, including food, transportation, and hotels, is \$170. Those interested may contact Mr. Green at 697 North 600 West, Provo, Utah, for full details and itinerary.

73.62 Garden Grove Travel. Major Joseph E. Vincent, general officer of the UAS and an instructor in anthropology at San Bernardino Valley College, will conduct an archaeological tour of Mexico from July 16 to the 28. The group will leave from Tijuana and visit Tula, Teotihuacán, Tenochtitlán, (Mexico City), Tena-yuca, Copilco, Cuicuilco, Monte Albán, Teotitlán del Valle, Yagul, and Mitla and will attend the colorful celebration of the Lunes del Cerro in Oaxaca. Tour price is \$299. For full details contact the Garden Grove Travel Service, Garden Grove, California, or Major Vincent at Box 643, Mentone, California.

(Members of the Society who are interested in any of the above tours are requested to contact the persons or agencies in charge and not the UAS. --Ed.)