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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.)

53.0 A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT. Archaeology holds many fascinating and important rewards for those who join in the study of ancient peoples. The successes and failures of those peoples become guides for our understanding of the problems that faced them and that now face us. Were we conscious of the great peace problems that confronted ancient peoples and were we cognizant of how they overcame or were drawn into wars, might we not effect a greater stride toward peace and understanding among modern nations?

As we look back to the days before mechanized methods of mining we can read of the use of deer-antler picks, and it takes on a personal meaning when we see a drawing of a flint miner crushed by the collapse of a tunnel. (Singer, Holmyard and Hall, A History of Technology, vol. 1.)

In reading of Solomon and his temple, who has not tried to picture what the actual appearance of that temple might have been.

In these days of mechanized food production and atom-bomb threats, who does not wonder if we could survive without electricity, petroleum products, or metals? And yet, we must be thankful that we need not live from hand to mouth and from day to day as did Indian tribes in parts of the western United States.

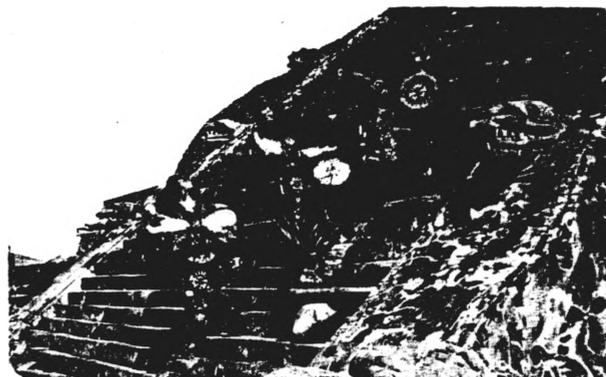
Rewards of studying archaeology? Yes, and challenges also. We have not yet mastered Etruscan, Carian, Mayan, nor the ancient writing of the Indus valley. We need new Champollions and bright young men and women who are aglow with interest and enthusiasm.

So as we increase in knowledge and enjoyment, as we seek our rewards and meet new challenges, we are happy to have the UAS as a guide to our reading and study of ancient peoples. -Franklin S. Harris Jr.

53.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the UAS was held on September 20, 1958, at the home of President Franklin S. Harris Jr. in Salt Lake City. (The Executive Committee is the central governing body of the UAS and is

under the chairmanship of the Society President.) Present were Ross T. Christensen, W. Ernest Young, and Dr. Welby Ricks. Written opinions in response to the agenda previously circulated were on hand from Otto Done and Robert K. Willardson, who were unable to attend due to the travel distance involved.

Dr. Christensen presented a financial and membership report covering the period since June 25, 1957, showing present total assets in the amount of \$2786.34 and a total membership of 557. Society funds in the amount of \$260.08 were spent in connection with the Fifth Brigham Young University Archaeological Ex-



Members of the Aztec Dance group who appeared at the Annual Gallup Festivan (see below 53.52).

pedition to Middle America, since its return, principally for transportation of specimens to the BYU campus.

Among the items of business transacted was the appointment of Dee F. Green as a member of the UAS Publications Committee. Dr. Jakeman reported that several publications were being readied for distribution in the near future. Preliminary plans were made for the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures and for the general Society elections, both of which are to be held in 1959. The Executive Committee also heard reports on the progress and status of the various chapters of the Society.

53.2 **NEW EDITOR APPOINTED.** At a meeting of the Publications Committee of the UAS held October 6, 1958, Dee F. Green was appointed editor of the UAS Newsletter to succeed Dr. Ross T. Christensen. Mr. Green is a senior archaeology major at BYU and has in the past served as assistant editor, production manager and associate editor of the Newsletter.

53.3 **NEW LIFE MEMBER AND RESEARCH PATRONS.** The general secretary-treasurer gratefully acknowledges receipt of contributions and dues from ten new and continuing Research Patrons and from one new Life Member, since the last listing in the Newsletter (51. 4).

Dr. Otto A. Koepf of Largo, Florida, is the most recent Life Member. A retired geologist, mathematician, and educator, he has followed archaeology as an avocation. He received his education in Missouri, Wisconsin, and Europe, earning his doctorate at Prague. The Society now claims 16 Life Members.

Research Patrons are as follows. For the year ending December 31, 1958: Franklin S. Harris, Jr., of Salt Lake City; Welby W. Ricks of Provo; and Richard L. Sowby of Oak Harbor, Washington. For the year ending June 30, 1959: Mrs. Morris R. Avery of Greybull, Wyoming; R. Dean Benedict of Pocatello, Idaho; Otto Done of Salt Lake City; M. Wells Jakeman of Provo; Hazel G. Myers and L. A. West of Portland, Oregon; and Robert K. Willardson of Columbus, Ohio.

The honor of Research Patron may be obtained by contributing \$10 or more per year -- in addition to regular membership dues -- to the Society's Research Fund (Newsletter, 31. 20). Life Membership is available for a fee of \$50.

53.4 **ARCHAEOLOGY INTRODUCED AT RICKS COLLEGE.** During the past summer, archaeology was introduced for the first time into the curriculum at Ricks College, an LDS Church school at Rexburg, Idaho (Newsletter, 49. 2).

Regular daytime courses were "Introduction to Archaeology," "General Near Eastern and Biblical Archaeology," "Ancient Civilizations of America" (introduction to Book of Mormon archaeology). In addition, a non-credit evening course, "Book of Mormon Archaeology Today," was included. All classes were part of the summer school which is held annually under the direction of the BYU-Ricks Adult Education Center.

The courses were taught by Dr. Ross T. Christensen, assistant professor of archaeology at BYU. Dr. Christensen reports that the classes were well attended and that twelve of the students have taken out memberships in the UAS. In addition to regular classwork, summer activities included exploration for local archaeological sites.

53.5 **SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF UAS MEMBERS.** During the summer, members of the UAS were active in several archaeological fields and projects.

53.50 Dr. Ross T. Christensen, introduced the study of archaeology at Ricks College (see above, 53. 4).

53.51 Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, prepared a large window exhibit in the Eyring Science Center at BYU, depicting some of the discoveries of the BYU-UAS expeditions to Middle America. He also continued work on manuscripts for projected publications of the UAS.

53.52 Vice-president of the UAS, Otto Done arranged for the participation of six Aztec dancers in the annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial at Gallup, New Mexico on August 14-17. This was the first time a group from south of the border has been invited. They appeared before a record crowd of over 20,000 visitors. The Indian judges awarded the Aztecs the Grand Prize for group performance. Costumes were copied from Aztec codices and are considered authentic. The dances themselves have been handed down from generations and include the Quetzalcoatl, Xochiquetzal, Tonatihu, Eagle, and Fire dances.

53.53 Carl Hugh Jones, archaeology major at BYU, spent the summer with the Missouri River Basin Project in South Dakota. He worked as a field assistant to Dr. Warren W. Caldwell of the Smithsonian Institute at Lincoln, Nebraska. They excavated the site of Black Partazon which dates to about the 17th century A. D. This is Mr. Jones' third summer with the Smithsonian in the Midwest (Newsletter, 43. 73).

53.54 Bruce W. Warren, a graduate major in the department of archaeology BYU, has, since June, been excavating with the NWAf at Chiapa de Corzo, Southern Mexico. Mr. Warren reports that he has sunk several test pits and has found a great deal of ceramic material and a burial. For members interested in writing Mr. Warren, his address is: la. Norte y Ila. Oriente, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico.

53.55 R. F. Christensen, a member of the Society from Riverside, California, participated in the first Leadership Week conducted by BYU in the Los Angeles Area. Attendance, Mr. Christensen reports, was between 100 and 150 daily. Held from August 25-29, the series of lectures was entitled, "Some Archaeological Evidences of the Book of Mormon."

53.6 **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 a guest contributor. Questions should be sent to: Editor, UAS Newsletter, Department of Archaeology, BYU, Provo, Utah.

53.60 Voyage of the Raft "Lehi IV." Sir: You have probably seen the enclosed clipping from this morning's Salt Lake Tribune (September 22, 1958) concerning the 69-day drifting voyage of the raft "Lehi IV" from California to Hawaii. Do you think this voyage means anything to the Latter-day Saint? --- ELW.

DeVere Baker and his intrepid crew are obviously attempting to elucidate the conditions under which the Book of Mormon prophet Lehi and his colony migrated to the New World about 590 B. C. Their present trip to Hawaii is merely preparatory to a much longer voyage from Arabia to Central America which they plan soon to undertake. Although I was mildly enthusiastic concerning Baker's voyages when they began in 1954, since then I have become somewhat skeptical.

In June, 1954, shortly after the first of these "Lehi" voyages had gotten underway, I pencilled a brief commentary for the Newsletter (21.9). Speaking of the eventual Arabia-Central American voyage, I wrote: ". . . Their motivating theory seems to me at the moment essentially sound. If their voyage proves successful, it will demonstrate that the original Lehi voyage could have taken place as described. It will not necessarily prove that it actually did take place, nor will it persuade us that all ancestors of the American Indian arrived in this way. Nevertheless, taken in conjunction with an impressive array of other information that has lately accumulated, the present undertaking has the potentiality of providing powerful new support to the Book of Mormon view."

I still believe that some such voyage could give support to Book of Mormon claims, but I have come to doubt that the present series will do so. In following newspaper and other accounts since 1954 it has come to appear that Mr. Baker and his supporters are inordinately publicity-conscious. He seems to have the solid backing of the Redondo, California, Chamber of Commerce, which community is probably his home city. His publicity has been carried on in such a manner as to cause me to doubt that there is much genuine scholarship behind it. For example, I have been puzzled as to why the extensive knowledge of oceanographers concerning ocean and wind currents was apparently not fully investigated by Mr. Baker before his voyages began.

The news dispatch which you enclosed was prepared by the Associated Press, and this may account for a number of glaring errors, such, for example, as Lehi's transporting to America the "lost tribes of Israel," and embarking from "the Red Sea." But responsibility for claiming that "Lehi used the drifting method" (the idea back of his whole enterprise) can be placed only on Mr. Baker's own shoulders. Actually, so far as I can see, there is no Book of Mormon support for such

a view. Nephi speaks of his father's vessel as a ship and mentions that they went "down into" it. He also states that they were "driven forth before the wind," that he "did guide the ship," and that they "sailed... towards the promised land" (1 Nephi 18: 8, 9, 22). Although Mr. Baker did have a small sail on his vessel, it was essentially a raft for drifting, rather than a sailing ship. Just where he got the notion that Lehi's vessel was a raft of this design, is mystifying to me.

Finally, his preliminary voyage to the Hawaiian Islands seems to me to have little significance, since its direction was opposite that of the Lehi voyage of the sixth century B. C. But it does possibly support the view that the later Nephite ship of Hagoth (Alma 63: 5-8) reached Polynesia from America -- a possibility already established, however, in 1946 by the Kon Tiki voyage of Thor Heyerdahl (Newsletter, 12. 1).

... Ross T. Christensen.