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U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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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.)

61.0 AMENDMENT RATIFIED. An amendment to the UAS constitution requiring election of Society officers at a triennial meeting of the Executive Committee and Research Patrons, instead of by the membership at large--as heretofore--has been ratified.

Voting by mail on the part of the general Society membership was completed on August 15 (Newsletter, 59.0, 59.1). The UAS general secretary-treasurer announces the following results:

In favor of the amendment:	109
Opposed to the amendment:	<u>15</u>
Total	124

The amendment reads as follows:

"Effective immediately, General Officers, Honorary Members, the President, and the Vice-President of the Society shall be elected by the majority vote of members of the Executive Committee and Research Patrons at a triennial election meeting presided over by the chairman of the Nominations Committee. Only those actually in attendance after due notification shall participate in this election."

61.1 TRIENNIAL MEETING ELECTS SOCIETY OFFICERS.

The president and the vice-president of the UAS for the ensuing three-year term were elected September 2 at the first of the Triennial Meetings authorized by a recent constitutional amendment (see above). Nine new general officers were elected at the same meeting for indefinite terms of office.



Mr. Done

Mr. Otto Done, UAS vice-president since 1956 (Newsletter, 37.01) was elected Society president to succeed Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., retiring president. Dr. Welby W. Ricks, a general officer since November 21,



Mr. Ricks

of Hamburg, Germany; Luana Collett Swade of Princeton, New Jersey; Major Joseph E. Vincent of Garden Grove, California; and Bruce W. Warren of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. General officers are automatically members of the Executive Committee, which is the policy-forming organ of the Society.

The Executive Committee now counts 20 general officers in its number. Previously elected or appointed to this governing body are: Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., retiring president; Otto Done, retiring vice-president and newly elected president; Dr. Welby W. Ricks, newly elected vice-president; Dr. Ross T. Christensen, general secretary-treasurer; Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, general editor; Frank D. Holland, director of the St. George Chapter; Dr. Francis W. Kirkham; Dr. Clark S. Knowlton; Lorenzo H. Snow; Robert K. Willardson, director of the Columbus Chapter; and W. Ernest Young, director of the Salt Lake Chapter. John P. Dunford, as honorary president of

1955 (Newsletter, 31.22), was elected vice-president to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Done.

At the same meeting, the following were elected general officers of the Society: Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Dr. James R. Clark, and Professor Eldin Ricks of Brigham Young University; Isaac B. Ball of Berkeley, California; Janice N. McAuliffe of Long Beach, California; Curt H. Seemann



Mr. Harris

the Campus Chapter, is also a member of the Executive Committee without, however being a general officer.

61.2 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SURVEYS PROGRESS OF PAST THREE YEARS. Following the Triennial Election Meeting of September 2 (61.1, above) Mr. Otto Done, newly elected UAS president, called a brief meeting of the Executive Committee.

Among other business, the Committee unanimously adopted a resolution expressing gratitude to the Society's retiring president, Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., and the retiring vice-president, Otto Done, and instructing the Newsletter to publish a survey of accomplishments made during their term of office since August, 1956.

During this time, substantial progress has been made by the University Archaeological Society. Twenty-four issues of the UAS Newsletter containing 123 pages have come off the press. One number (No. 18) of the Society's Miscellaneous Papers, "The American Indian and the Blood Groups," by Virgil Haws, has been published. Two major contributions by Dr. M. Wells Jakeman have been issued in the Society's Special Publications series--No. 2, Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico; a Major Archaeological Discovery of the New World (an 88-page definitive study of the Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone); and No. 3, The Tree-of-Life Carving of Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico (a large drawing reproduction on linen of the carved scene on the Lehi Stone, accompanied by an explanatory leaflet). In addition, approximately 12 issues of The Biblical Archaeologist have been distributed to Society members. Also, reprints of an article by President Harris, "Others Kept Records on Metal Plates, Too" (The Instructor, Vol. 92, No. 10, pp. 318-320 and inside of back cover, October, 1957) have been sent to all members.

During the Harris-Done administration, the 10th and 11th "Annual Symposia on the Archaeology of the Scriptures" were held on the BYU campus as features of the annual BYU Leadership Week. A number of important lectures were presented before the UAS membership and the public, including two which were made available by the BYU Audio-Visual Center as tape recordings (Newsletter, 44.0, 44.1, and 51.0).

During this administration, \$917.08 from the Society's Research Fund were spent in support of the 1958 expedition of the UAS and BYU Department of Archaeology. This amount went principally for transporting the nearly one ton of specimens from Mexico to the BYU campus and in paying for their preliminary processing.

During the 1958 expedition, a series of three "Letters From the Field" were sent to all Research Patrons and Life and Honorary Members of the Society,

recounting some of the more spectacular incidents of jungle archaeology experienced by the BYU archaeologists. These were rushed by airmail from the field, reproduced by spirit duplicator, and sent on immediately to the Society's patrons. The "Letters From the Field" were sent out in addition to copies of Archaeological Findings, by Ross T. Christensen, Realm of the Incas, by Victor W. Von Hagen, The Anvil of Civilization, by Leonard Cottrell, and Still Digging, by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, all of which were intended as "Special Society honors," as voted for Research Patrons at the annual business meeting of November 21, 1955 (Newsletter, 31.20).

Society membership has climbed during the past three years from approximately 500 to more than 700.

As the presidency of Dr. Harris comes to an end, the Society appears to be on firmer footing than ever before. Membership applications continue to reach the office of the general secretary-treasurer at a rapid rate. The finances of the Society, despite recent heavy spending for publications, are in a healthy condition. The time is evidently soon at hand when the UAS will be in a position to give its members and the public greatly expanded service in helping them fulfill their interests in the archaeology of the Scriptures.

61.3 DEADLINE ON FREE PUBLICATION DELAYED.

It was previously announced that free copies of Dr. M. Wells Jakeman's definitive study of the Lehi Tree of Life Stone (Stela 5, Izapa, etc., UAS Special Publications, No. 2) would be given free of charge to all new Society members whose applications were received by September 1 (Newsletter, 58.3 and 59.2). This deadline has now been postponed for four months.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held following the Triennial Election Meeting of September 2 (61.2, above), it was decided to extend the date to January 1, 1960. All persons whose membership applications are received in the office of the general secretary-treasurer on or before that date will be mailed a complimentary copy of Dr. Jakeman's monograph as among their membership benefits. (The original distribution of this publication to Society members was made last April.)

61.4 EGYPT DURING THE RAMESSID DYNASTY. A review of Everyday Life in Egypt in the Days of Rameses the Great, by Pierre Montet. New York: St. Martin's Press Inc., 1958. 365 pages, \$8.00. Translated by A. R. Maxwell-Hyslop and Margaret S. Dower. Reviewed by Dee F. Green.

All twelve chapters of Mr. Montet's fine publication contain a wealth of information presented in a manner that should be pleasing to both scholar and layman. The subject matter varies from furniture to

cattle-breeding, and the majority of chapters are dedicated to the common people of ancient Egypt, instead of to the pharaoh and the priesthood as is usually the case.

Arts and professions as well as the army, travel, burial rites, country life, the family, and dwelling places are presented in an interpretative style that seems to be based mostly on tomb paintings and texts, although Mr. Montet also makes occasional reference to artifactual material.

The volume is fairly well illustrated. The majority of the figures are line drawings taken from tombs and stelae although several good photographs are included.

Of special importance to Society members is the fact that the volume deals with what is most generally recognized as the Exodus period and so gives a good insight into the lives of the people who held the Children of Israel captive. Our understanding of the influence of the Egyptians upon the religion, politics, and customs of the Hebrew people should be greatly enhanced by books such as this.

Through the eyes of the common man Montet portrays the glory of Egypt. As Herodotus said:

"Concerning Egypt itself I shall extend my remarks to a great length, because there is no country that possesses so many wonders, not any that has such a number of works which defy description."

61.5 AUTUMN CLASSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY. Several interesting classes in archaeology are scheduled for the fall quarter at Brigham Young University, which begins Monday, September 28.

"Field Archaeology" will be taught by Dr. Ross T. Christensen. The class may continue digging an ancient house-mound site on the farm of G. Marion Hinckley, west of Provo. The site was partially excavated in 1956 by the BYU field class and a report printed in Utah Archaeology, Vol. 4, No. 2 (see also, Newsletter, 38.4). Reprints of the article, entitled "A Pueblid Site in Utah Valley," may be obtained by writing to the UAS general secretary-treasurer (15¢; members, 10¢). The article was written by Carl Hugh Jones, then a member of the class and recently a graduate of the Department of Archaeology (Newsletter, 59.3).

Other fall quarter archaeology classes include four sections of the introductory course, "Introduction to Archaeology," and one section each in the courses entitled "General Near Eastern and Biblical Archaeology" and "Ancient Civilizations of America" (introduction to Book of Mormon archaeology).

Museum and field studies, as well as general readings, are also being offered and can be arranged on an individual basis.

61.6 NEW RESEARCH PATRONS AND LIFE MEMBERS.

The general secretary-treasurer gratefully acknowledges receipt of contributions and dues from 20 new and continuing Research Patrons and from two new Life Members, since the last listing in Newsletter (57.4).

Dee F. Green and Joseph Grant Stevenson, both of Provo, are the two new Life Members. Mr. Green is a graduate student in archaeology at BYU and has been editor of the UAS Newsletter for nearly a year (Newsletter, 59.3). The Society now claims 20 Life Members.

A Research Patron for the year ending December 31, 1959, is Dr. Welby W. Ricks of Provo.

Research Patrons for the year ending June 30, 1960, are as follows: Mrs. Morris R. Avery of Greybull, Wyoming; Isaac B. Ball of Berkeley, California; Hester W. Devenport of Ucon, Idaho; John M. Goddard of Glendale, California; Iva Holmes of Salt Lake City; Thomas William Johnston of Evans City, Pennsylvania; Lucile McAuliffe of Long Beach, California; Harvey J. Platt of Phoenix, Arizona; Marion Poulter of Oakland, California; Lorenzo H. Snow of Grand Forks, North Dakota; Irene Thorell of Salt Lake City; L. A. West of Portland, Oregon; Mary B. Wikoff of Cream Ridge, New Jersey; Robert K. Willardson of Columbus, Ohio; Leah Woolley of Huntington Park, California; and W. Ernest Young of Salt Lake City.

Research Patrons for the period ending December 31, 1960, are: Charles S. Bagley of Alamogordo, New Mexico, and R. F. Christensen of Riverside, California.

A Research Patron for the period ending June 30, 1962, is J. Percy Goddard of Salt Lake City.

The honor of Research Patron may be obtained on contributing \$10 or more per year--in addition to regular membership dues--to the Society's Research Fund. In addition to the 20 Research Patrons listed above, a considerable number of other persons have contributed lesser amounts.

Free copies of Still Digging, a 208-page paperback autobiography by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, famous British Archaeologist, have recently been distributed to Research Patrons as among the "special Society honors" voted for that category of membership when it was created in 1955 (Newsletter, 31.20).

61.7 MORE WORK ON BLOOD TYPES. Dr. G. Albin Matson, director of the Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank and a member of the UAS, has recently been awarded the sum of \$40,000 to spend approximately two years studying "hereditary blood factors among Indians in Central and South America." The grant was received from the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences of the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Matson plans to work among the Lenca, Jicaque, and Cholulteca Indians in Honduras, the Corotega in

western Nicaragua, the Guetar in Costa Rica, and the San Blas in Panama.

A singular honor has also come to Dr. Matson in the publications field. He has been asked to write a chapter on the blood groups of Indians of Middle America for a volume on physical anthropology which is to be a part of a handbook of Middle American Indians. The volume, under the editorship of Dr. T. Dale Stewart, curator of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, is being prepared by the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University.

61.8 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.

61.80 Archaeology and the Canaanite Religion. Sir: What light does archaeology throw on the religion of the Canaanites and their relationship to the early Hebrews? --RJB.

Excavations at important Canaanite sites, such as Megiddo, Tyre, Sidon, Lachish, and Jerico, have revealed a wealth of information about Canaanite religious practices.

The pantheon of the Canaanites was composed of many gods, chief of whom was "El." He was the "father of man" and the "creator of creatures." One of his epithets was "the bull," and his wife was named Asherah. She was supposed to have born him a family of 70 gods and goddesses, chief among whom was Hadad, familiarly called Baal (Lord). Baal was the personification of rain and vegetation and the lord of heaven and earth, whose kingdom was "eternal, to all generations." Mot (Death) was Baal's enemy, and one important mythological saga explains how Baal is murdered each spring by Mot and comes to life again in the fall. (The cycle of climate in Canaan is dry rainless summers and rainy winters.)

Baal and Mot somewhat resemble in their characteristics, Yahweh or Jehovah and Satan of Hebrew-Christian theology as well as the New World deities Quetzalcóatl and Tezcatlipoca (for the last named, who resembles Satan and Mot, see Newsletter 60.50).

Anath or Astart was believed to be the wife of Baal and was the personification of love and fertility. She was also a war goddess, and her bloody adventures are described in a Canaanite poem. "Deciding on a massacre, she smote and slew from seacoast to sunrise . . ." She was known to the Hebrews as Ashtoreth and to the Greeks as Astarte.

Child sacrifice, a practice discarded long before

this in Egypt and Babylonia, was performed by the Canaanites at the time of the Hebrew conquest. They also practiced sacred prostitution and snake worship on a scale unknown among their contemporaries.

G. Ernest Wright in the Westminster Historical Atlas to the Bible, Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1956, page 36, has the following to say about the Canaanite religion: "The amazing thing about the gods, as they were conceived in Canaan, is that they had no moral character whatsoever. In fact, their conduct was on a much lower level than that of the society as a whole. . ."

He continues by pointing out that the brutality of their mythology is far worse than that of any other mythology of the ancient Near East, and concludes:

"We have thus seen that when Israel under Joshua entered Palestine during the thirteenth century B. C., Canaanite civilization was weak and decaying. It was small loss to the world when in parts of the Palestinian hill country it was virtually annihilated. The purity and righteous holiness of the God of Israel were now to be demonstrated against this background of pagan and immoral religion. The intransigence and hostility of the religious leaders of Israel toward the people and religion of Canaan is thus to be seen in its true perspective. There would be no compromise between Jehovah and Baal." --DFG.