



Type: Magazine Article

It Happened in Mexico

Author(s): James P. Sharp

Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (January 1940)

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

Page(s): 22, 37

Abstract: In response to the accusations of three traveling Methodist preachers, the author attempts to prove through archaeology the existence in pre-Columbian Central America of horses, cement, and jewelry—things mentioned in the Book of Mormon.



TEMPLE OF QUETZALCOATL IN THE FOREGROUND; TEMPLE OF THE SUN IN CENTER DISTANCE; TEMPLE OF THE MOON AT THE LEFT. SAN JUAN TEOTIHUACAN.

IT HAPPENED IN MEXICO

*A tale that "ties" with
the Book of Mormon*

By JAMES P. SHARP

MEXICO, to readers of the Book of Mormon, should be a land of wonder and inspiration. A study of the legends, traditions, and ruins of that great country will offer much food for thought.

In the year 1888, there came to the town where the writer lived three preachers, called "Sheep Wagon Methodists" from the fact that they traveled in a sheep wagon. They obtained permission to speak in the ward house and the people turned out almost to the last person to hear what they had to say, for few strangers visited that part of the Territory to preach, except the Home Missionaries.

Two things those men could do. One was sing. The other—preach. After a few songs one of the men arose and preached a very good Christian sermon. After another song the second preacher began to speak, by saying he should like to be a Mormon, and no doubt he would be if it were not for one thing, which was the Book of Mormon. That kept him from joining because of the crude way that Joseph Smith had written it and the many statements in that book that were not true, which statements he proposed to bring out, statements that could not be proved.

The first statement was where the "horse" was mentioned, which animal was unknown upon this continent until the advent of Cortez; another—roads and highways were mentioned. Where were those, or evidence that they had been made? He commented upon the fact that "cement" was mentioned and went on to explain that cement was like rock, and almost as lasting, for few of those present really knew much about cement; iron and steel were used to make machinery and weapons of war. Surely some of those machines or weapons were still to be found, if the Book of Mormon were to be accepted. Pearls, jewels,

and many objects that were precious, those people were supposed to have. Just answer a few of these questions and he would be willing to accept the book.

The third man arose and said the previous speaker had proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the Book of Mormon was not true, and if it were not, then Joseph Smith was not a true prophet of God. Long and loud did he bemoan the fact that the Mormon people had been led blindly. He called upon those present to repent and join the church that he represented and thereby place themselves in a position to be saved.

They made no converts, but did instill into the mind of one of those listeners a desire to prove or disprove some of the statements made at that meeting.

There is no need to make much comment regarding the horse. Scientists now generally accept the fact that America is, and was, the home of that animal.

The writer has read of many roads, has seen but one—a cement road 132 feet wide and said to extend for a distance of seven miles. This road appears to have been made with cuts and fills and grading much as we make roads at this time.

I have visited an ancient city, in which the buildings, made of cement, cover an area of three by four miles. One house has partly been dug out. There were four rooms when last it was visited by the writer. The floor is about twelve feet below the present level of the land; the walls about eleven feet high, as an estimate. In one of those rooms was a well, said to be forty feet deep, which contained clear, cool water. Another room had a sort of built-in shower bath, or the guide said it was, for it was a niche in the wall that fit, in a way, the outlines of one's body. Above this was a hole in the wall through which water was supposed

to have been forced. The floors had a slight slope, in each room, to a common point, then a hole in the wall through which the water ran. So far no one seems to know where this drain emptied. The walls were of cement of such fine texture that when the writer was blindfolded and his watch placed upon the wall, and his finger placed upon the crystal, or upon the cement, he could not detect one from the other.

Just what does the Book of Mormon say about this subject? Read Helaman 3-7:

And there being but little timber upon the face of the land, nevertheless the people who went forth became exceeding expert in the working of cement; therefore they did build houses of cement in the which they did dwell.

THE writer studied the collection of jewels in the National Museum, at Mexico City, that came from Tomb No. 7 at Monte Alban, Oaxaca. He visited the tomb, over three hundred miles southeast from Mexico City, and then made a more detailed study of those jewels.

There were pearls in great number, some as large as pigeon eggs; gold bracelets, large and small; a gold belt buckle almost four inches square and two thick; a gold-headed ornament with an imitation feather of gold; necklaces in great number—one was made of gold, pearls, turquoise, and concho with thirty-four small gold bells; a vase of crystal that it was said we today with all of our modern methods and machinery could not duplicate. A gold mask about six by four inches, made in honor of the ruler of the night, was a work of art. We wished to know how much those Mexican officials really knew about this group of jewels and precious things, so we asked:

"How old are these jewels taken from Tomb No. 7?"

"Four hundred years."

"Do you mean to say those jewels

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Homing

THE COOK'S CORNER

By Barbara Badger Burnett

Filled Baked Potatoes

Bake medium-sliced potatoes. Cut slice from top, scoop out potato, mash and season with salt, Clover Leaf Butter, and Clover Leaf Milk. Fill potato shells half full of Deviled Crab. Pile potato mixture on top and brown in a hot oven.

Deviled Crab

- 1 cup Three Diamonds Brand Crabmeat
- 1/4 cup mushrooms, chopped fine
- 2 tablespoons Clover Leaf Butter
- 2 tablespoons Globe A1 Flour
- 1 cup Clover Leaf Milk
- 2 Milk White egg yolks
- salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped parsley

Make a sauce of the butter, flour, and milk. Add the beaten egg yolks, seasoning, crabmeat, and mushrooms. Cook three minutes and add the parsley. Put in potato shells or ramkins, and bake in a hot oven for ten minutes.

Noodle Delight

- 1 package Globe A1 Noodles
- 1 pound round steak ground
- 1/2 pound pork steak ground
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 can corn
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- American cheese

Brown the onion in a frying pan, add meat, and fry until brown. Add corn and tomato sauce and simmer for two minutes. Cook noodles in boiling salted water until tender, drain. Put alternate layers of noodles and meat in a casserole, sprinkle each layer with cheese, saving some for top. Bake in a moderate oven for thirty minutes.

Tomato Jelly Ring

- 2 cups tomato juice
- 1 small bay leaf
- 3 or 4 cloves
- 2 slices onion
- salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 package Royal Lemon Gelatin
- 1 cup finely cut celery
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- salad dressing

Simmer tomato juice, bay leaf, cloves, and onion for fifteen minutes. Strain, add seasoning and lemon juice. Measure liquid and add enough hot tomato juice to make 1 cup. Pour over gelatin and stir until dissolved. Chill until partially set. Add celery and turn into a 7-inch ring mold. Chill until firm. Turn onto a service plate. Fill the center with shredded cabbage and garnish with lettuce and stuffed olives. Serve with Nalley's Tang Dressing.

Caramello

- 1 package Carmel Kre-Mel
- 1/2 cup cold Clover Leaf Milk
- 1 1/2 cups hot Clover Leaf Milk
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup Clover Leaf Whipping Cream.

Dissolve the Kre-Mel in cold milk, add hot milk, and stir until it comes to a boil. Add brown sugar. When cold, add whipped cream and mix well. Pour into glasses and chill. Serve with whipped cream and chopped nuts.

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- 1 cake Fleischmann's Yeast
 - 1/2 cup luke warm water
 - 1/2 cup Clover Leaf Butter
 - 1 cup Utah Beet Sugar
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup hot mashed potatoes
 - 1/2 cup potato water
 - 1/2 cup Clover Leaf Milk
 - 4 Milk White Eggs
 - Globe A1 Flour to make a stiff dough
- Dissolve the yeast in lukewarm water.

Combine the butter, sugar, salt, potatoes, potato water, and milk. When cool, add yeast and beaten eggs. Stir in enough flour to make a stiff dough. Knead thoroughly. Cover and place in refrigerator until ready to use. Let dough rise for 1 hour before using. Roll 1/4 inch thick. Brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with sugar, cinnamon and raisins. Roll up and slice in inch thick slices. Let rise until double in bulk and bake in a moderate oven. Frost while warm.

It Happened In Mexico

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were placed in that tomb after Cortez came?"

"No. Many, many years before."

"Perhaps one thousand years?"

"Possibly."

"For all you know they might have been there two thousand years, or even longer?"

"Yes. No one seems to know nor care. You are the first man that ever doubted the first statement I made. Why do you ask?"

That question will not be answered here. However, a study of the Book of Mormon might make the story of these things read like an open book.

Evidences and Reconciliations

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It should be noted also that the Prophet does not enter into any argument to prove the necessity of the use of the Urim and Thummim. His simple mention of them argues strongly for his veracity. An impostor would probably have attempted an explanation of the "seer stones."

The Urim and Thummim were aids to Joseph's spiritual senses. How they operated is not known. For that matter, the methods of operation of most of the aids of man's physical senses are not understood. Joseph's claim to the need of such aids becomes an evidence for the truth of his life's labor.

—J. A. W.