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## Newsletter and Proceedings of the S.E.H.A., no. 136 (October 1974)

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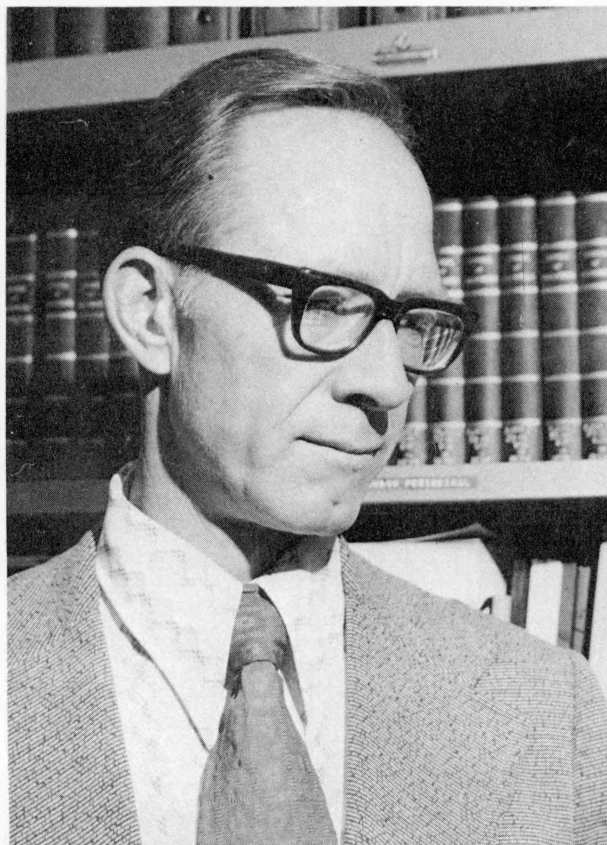
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Published several times a year by THE SOCIETY FOR EARLY HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, for the dissemination among its members of information on new discoveries in archaeology throwing light on the origins of civilization in the Old and New Worlds, on the earliest periods of recorded history in the two hemispheres, and on the important historical claims of the Hebrew-Christian and Latter-day Saint scriptures; also news of the Society and its members and of the B.Y.U. department of archaeology and anthropology, of which the Society is an affiliated organization. Included are papers read at the Society's and Department's annual symposia on the archaeology of the Scriptures. All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of the contribution in which they appear and not necessarily those of Brigham Young University or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Subscription is by membership in the Society, which also includes subscription to other publications.

136.0 NEW EVIDENCE ON "STICK OF JOSEPH" PROPHECY SLATED FOR SYMPOSIUM. By Ruth R. Christensen. New discoveries relating to Ezekiel's "stick of Joseph" prophecy, and a motion picture made in Israel entitled "The Beit Lehi Cave," will highlight the day-long program of the Twenty-fourth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures.

Archaeology and scripture enthusiasts are making plans to attend the yearly conference on Saturday, October 26, 1974, in the Madsen Recital Hall of the Harris Fine Arts Center on the Brigham Young University cam-

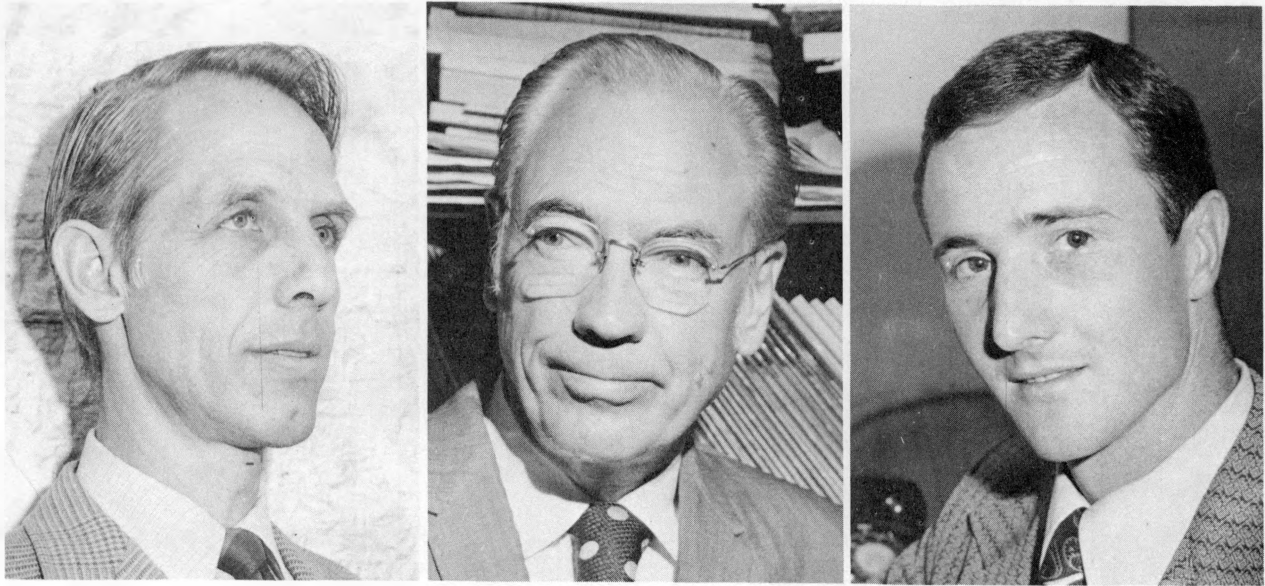
pus. Mr. A. Delbert Palmer, symposium chairman, has promised a stimulating program prepared by a variety of scholars in the fields of Biblical and Book of Mormon archaeology.



Keith H. Meservy: Guest address



A. Delbert Palmer: Symposium chairman



Three Symposium participants. Left to right: Dr. Sorenson, Nephite social structure; Dr. Jakeman, Mesoamerican underworld; and Mr. Davies, Beersheba excavations. Photographs in this issue by Paul R. Cheesman.



The Symposium Committee at work. Left to right: M. Wells Jakeman, A. Delbert Palmer (chairman), Ross T. Christensen, Ruth R. Christensen, Robert W. Bass, Fred W. Nelson, Jr., and Clark S. Knowlton. Not pictured are Paul R. Cheesman, Ellis T. Rasmussen, Bruce W. Warren, and Bruce D. Louthan.

Professor Keith H. Meservy, BYU expert in comparative Semitics, will deliver the guest address, **ARCHAEOLOGICAL LIGHT ON THE 'STICK OF JOSEPH' PROPHECY IN EZEKIEL 37**. He will present new evidence on the subject, accompanied by illustrations from his slide collection. As a result of these discoveries, Ezekiel 37:5-20, long accepted by Latter-day Saints as an important sixth-century-BC prophecy of the latter-day appearance of the Book of Mormon, can now be more accurately translated. The key word is Hebrew "etz," which should now be read "writing board" instead of "stick."

This year will be the first that a BYU scholar will have delivered the guest address. In 1973 this honor went to Dr. Michael D. Coe of Yale University, eminent authority on the ancient Olmec civilization of Middle America. In 1972 it was given to Dr. David H. Kelley of the University of Calgary, Canada, a leading scholar in the field of pre-Columbian oceanic crossings to the New World. In 1971 Joseph Ginat, deputy advisor on Arab affairs to the prime minister of Israel and archaeologist in the Holy Land, discussed discoveries at Khirbet Beit Lei ("Ruin of the House of Lehi"), located some 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem. In 1970 Dr. Cyrus H. Gordon of Brandeis University (now of New York University), well known Semiticist and archaeologist in the Near East, spoke on the Bat Creek, Tennessee, inscription and other evidences of Old World influence on the ancient American civilizations. (Newsletter, 125.0, 129.0, 131.8, 134.4)

The Honorary Chairman and a special guest at this year's event will be Joan Jensen Lee, widow of the late President Harold B. Lee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mrs. Lee is an archaeology enthusiast who first joined the SEHA in 1955.

The noon luncheon in the Ernest L. Wilkinson Center will feature a short color film and a discussion on the tomb at Khirbet Beit Lei. The film has just been produced in Israel by Mr. Ginat and others as a follow-up of his 1971 research (Newsletter, 129.0). The prophetic inscriptions found on the tomb walls are shown; also a nearby sacred tree, beneath which, according to local tradition, an ancient Israelite prophet named Lehi sat to judge and counsel his people.

The Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures has been sponsored jointly by the Society for Early Historic Archaeology and the BYU Department of Anthropology and Archaeology since 1949. This year the Committee has decided to charge no admission fee. Membership in the Society and publications may be purchased at the door.

As has been customary in recent years, registration for the symposium will take place from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Mr. Palmer urges all members to arrive early so as to

avoid delay in registering past the beginning of the morning session at 9:00 a.m. The luncheon will be from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in 347 Wilkinson Center, after which the afternoon session will continue until 4:00 p.m. Further information on the Symposium may be found below, 136.1 and 136.2. See also Newsletter 135.2.

**136.1 OTHER PAPERS CHOSEN FOR SYMPOSIUM** By Bruce D. Louthan. In addition to the guest address and the noon motion picture and discussion mentioned above, 11 other papers have been chosen for delivery at the October 26 symposium. The unusual number of significant and interesting papers submitted this year for the Symposium Committee's consideration has made the selection difficult; this is the reason for the large number to be included on the program.

LeGrande K. Davies, part-time BYU religion faculty member and graduate student at the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, will give a **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT TEL SHEVA, ISRAEL (BIBLICAL BEERSHEBA)**. The paper will center on five of the most significant archaeological finds made to date at that site, where the author has for two years served as area supervisor (see below, 136.3).

John Nelson, advanced student in archaeology at BYU, will discuss **ISRAELITE TEMPLES**. Besides presenting a survey of the characteristics of pre-Israelite and Israelite temples in Palestine, Mr. Nelson will assess the significance of a cultic structure found recently at Beersheba, where he was also a staff member during the 1974 excavations of Tel Aviv University (see below, 136.3).

Robert Chadwick, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at East Texas State University, will compare the evidence of **EZEKIEL 27 AND APPARENT TRANSATLANTIC EXPEDITIONS AROUND 500 BC**. He will draw on data from archaeology and physical anthropology to support the thesis of transoceanic contact around that date.

David A. Palmer, chemical engineer now working in the Chicago area, and Bruce W. Warren, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of Arizona and former BYU faculty member in anthropology and archaeology, will combine their efforts in analyzing **THE TAPESTRY OF JUCUTACATO: EARLY PICTURES OF A MIGRATION**. This Mexican tapestry depicts a group of people receiving a sacred ball which they then take on an overwater journey.

Paul R. Cheesman, director of the BYU Book of Mormon Institute, and Glade L. Burgon, instructor at the LDS Institute of Religion at Utah State University, will collaborate on **PURPORTED ANCIENT OLD-WORLD WRITINGS IN THE NEW WORLD**. They will analyze the interrelationships of a substantial number of examples of alleged Old World script found in the

Americas.

Ray T. Matheny, associate professor of anthropology and archaeology at BYU, will present an ANALYSIS OF THE PADILLA PLATES OF MEXICO. Studies of the method of their manufacture and the nature of the inscriptions found on them have provided new evidence bearing on the problem of the authenticity of the metallic "mini-plates" from Mexico first reported at the 1971 symposium.

V. Garth Norman, an Indian-area supervisor of the LDS Seminary System in Arizona, will offer his prognosis of future scripture-related archaeology in BOOK OF MORMON ARCHAEOLOGY: ALIVE AND WELL. His paper is a response to a recent critical article by Michael D. Coe appearing in the journal *Dialogue*, and compares the history of a Book of Mormon city with the archaeological sequence revealed by Dr. Coe's own discoveries at the ruins of San Lorenzo Tenochtitlan, southern Mexico.

John L. Sorenson, chairman of the new BYU Department of University Studies, will analyze CULT AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE AMONG THE NEPHITES IN THE LIGHT OF ARCHAEOLOGY. He will examine the Book of Mormon text in light of what is known today about ancient Mesoamerican civilization and offer new interpretations about Nephite society.

William L. Walker, Jr., graduate student in Middle East Studies at the University of Utah, in "SITTING IN THE SEAT": RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ANCIENT MESOAMERICA AND THE NEAR EAST, will consider the significance of Judgeship and Speakership in the two areas and possible representations of these offices in architecture and writing in Mesoamerica.

Robert W. Bass, BYU professor of physics and astronomy, will treat DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY OF THE MAYA "FIVE WORLD AGES" DOCTRINE AND THE ANCIENT NEAR-EASTERN EQUINOCTIAL PRECESSION DOCTRINE. Documents depicting comparable astronomical lore through mythic imagery will be exhibited from both Eurasia and Mesoamerica.

M. Wells Jakeman, professor of archaeology and anthropology at BYU, will explore THE UNDERWORLD OF THE ANCIENT MESOAMERICANS: STILL ANOTHER NEAR-EASTERN PARALLEL. Professor Jakeman offers evidence of a remarkable similarity of belief between the ancient peoples of Mesoamerica and those of the Near East as to the place of the dead in the afterlife.

**136.2 ANNUAL VOTING ALTERED.** Voting to elect the SEHA Board of Trustees to serve through the coming year will be altered in 1974.

Heretofore, the election of trustees has taken place at a brief Annual Meeting held immediately following the Symposium. This year, as decided by the Board on September 27, the Symposium itself will be considered the annual meeting. Voting will be done on ballots distributed at the entrance of the Madsen Recital Hall, where the Symposium will be held, and will be left in a ballot box.

"Voting members [of the Society for Early Historic Archaeology] shall be over twenty-one years of age, and shall be Research Patrons of the Society. Each voting member shall have one vote . . . and may vote in person or by proxy." (Article X of the SEHA Articles of Incorporation.)

A proxy for any Research Patron unable to attend may receive a ballot by presenting a signed letter at the entrance indicating his appointment.

The Society now has 23 Research Patrons. See below, 136.8, for a complete listing. All voting members are urged to attend or appoint a proxy in writing. Research Patronage may be obtained by contributing \$15 or more per year to the Society's Research Fund. This contribution may be made on October 26 at the entrance to the Madsen Recital Hall.

**136.3 BYU STUDENTS DIG IN THE HOLY LAND.** By Bruce D. Louthan. During the past two summer seasons a number of BYU students have taken part in archaeological excavations at various sites in the Holy Land. Though none of these digs was officially sponsored by the University, they were nevertheless valuable professional opportunities for students of the Scriptures.

#### 1974 SEASON

Thirty BYU students worked at Beersheba, southern Israel, for periods of time ranging from two weeks to two months, starting June 21, 1974, under the direction of Dr. Yohanan Aharoni, director of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University. Among the group were several current and former students in the BYU archaeology department, including Paula Heinla, David Mudrick, David Briones, Jill Krause, Dawn Saldutti, John Nelson, Laralee Pope, Ann Chamberlain, and Bruce Verhaaren.

The summer of 1974 was the sixth of seven planned seasons of excavation at Beersheba (or Tel Sheva, as it is called in Arabic). One of the main objectives of the excavations was to establish the earliest date of the main well, which has traditionally been attributed to Abraham (Genesis 21:30-31).

During the course of the dig another objective has emerged: to investigate a possible Israelite temple similar to the one found recently at Arad.

Excavation thus far has proceeded from the surface down through a few Islamic-period burials, then some scattered Roman remains, next a thick underlying layer of Hellenistic ruins, and finally two strata of Israelite remains (c.1000-650 BC). Excavation of the well itself has proceeded down some 150 feet, with fill of Hellenistic date (c.330-70 BC) still being removed. Excavation of a Hellenistic temple has been completed. A large number of whole vessels, some bearing inscriptions, have been recovered. Thirty-three ostraca (inscribed potsherds), and several cultic figurines and small clay altars, have also been found.

The ruins of Beersheba cover some five acres, and at one time in the summer over 1000 people were working at the site.

Two papers to be presented at the Society's Annual Symposium on October 26 will give details of the major finds, including a purported Israelite temple uncovered during the past summer (see above, Newsletter 136.1).

The work day on the tell began at 4:30 a.m. with breakfast at 9:30, after which digging continued until 2:00 p.m. Lunch, the biggest meal of the day, was followed by a short nap for most. Cookies and Kool-Aid were served as "tea" at 4:30, followed by pottery washing at 5:00. Dinner came at 7:00 with bedtime about 9:00. Weekends were free for sightseeing and relaxation.

Though all but one of the BYU group began as ordinary laborers or excavators, by the end of the season ten were in staff supervisory positions. This performance should speak well for future BYU students who may wish to work at Beersheba.

LeGrande K. Davies, part-time BYU faculty member in the Department of Ancient Scripture and graduate student at the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University in Israel, returned to Palestine last summer for his second year as area supervisor. In this position he directed the work of about 100 people and was responsible for all excavation and recording and the final report from his area. Other BYU students were made assistant area supervisors, with primary responsibility to record finds and to keep notes on the dig's progress.

Persons interested in participating in the next season of field work should contact Mr. Davies at 37 Joseph Smith Building, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602.

#### 1973 SEASON

The 1974 season was not the first in which BYU personnel excavated at ruins in the Holy Land, however. During the summer of 1973 two archaeology students and a part-time religion faculty member participated in field work at four different sites.

Deanne Gurr, who graduated from BYU in April, 1973, with the BA degree and is currently a graduate

student in archaeology, worked in prehistoric excavations at Ein Gev and 'Ubeidiya. Allen Spencer, then a sophomore in archaeology, participated in an electronic sub-surface survey at Petra, and later dug for a month at Beersheba. LeGrande K. Davies (see also above) excavated for nine months during his first season at Beersheba.

Miss Gurr made her trip as the recipient of an Exploration Fund Scholarship offered by the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, in conjunction with the Explorers Club of New York. The scholarship was one of 40 awarded from among 10,000 applicants and paid all expenses for three weeks at the two sites in northwestern Israel. Ein Gev and 'Ubeidiya date to Paleolithic times and contain some of the oldest remains in Palestine. From August 10 to 31, Miss Gurr worked under the supervision of Dr. Ofer Bar-Yosef, director of the Laboratory of Prehistory of Hebrew University in Jerusalem, while living at Tiberias, a city dating from before the time of Christ.

Mr. Spencer began his summer's activities by assisting Dr. Philip C. Hammond (cf. Newsletter, 128.0) as one of a crew of 13 to complete a 72,000 square-meter sub-surface reconnaissance of ancient Petra, the capital of the Nabataean kingdom dating to around the time of Christ. The resistivity instruments employed send a small electric current through the ground and measure the force returned. Variations are produced by the relative conductivity of such buried objects as walls, filled-in pits, and statuary. Thus before actual excavation begins, a good map of what lies under the ground can be made, which can then serve to direct digging to the most productive areas.

After three and one-half intense weeks at Petra, which is located in the Kingdom of Jordan, Mr. Spencer crossed the border into Israel and went to Beersheba on the edge of the Negev desert. There he worked as a volunteer laborer, under the general supervision of Dr. Aharoni and directly under Dr. Anson Rainey, both of Tel Aviv University.

Following the month of July spent at Beersheba, Mr. Spencer returned to the United States to spend August in Nevada digging at a prehistoric rockshelter, also under an Exploration Fund Scholarship.

LeGrande K. Davies first worked as an area supervisor at Beersheba during the 1973 season, directing over 100 workers. In his area about 50 whole vessels were recovered. Other discoveries of the season were several Israelite houses, a Hellenistic well or cistern which was cleared to a depth of 100 feet without reaching bottom, and a large six-room structure rebuilt during Hezekiah's reign (715-687 BC).

Perhaps the most impressive find of the 1973 season was a four-horned stone altar with three prongs or horns still intact. This suggested that a temple had

existed at Beersheba, as well as the one already found at nearby Arad. Though similar altars are known from neighboring countries, this is the first of its type recovered in Israel. It would seem that smaller temples scattered throughout Israel were dismantled, apparently beginning in the eighth century BC when Hezekiah removed the altars and high-places of the Lord, saying "to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem" (2 Kings 18:22). Hence, recent excavations have found only traces of these early shrines.

(Previous archaeological activities in Israel on the part of BYU students is referred to in the Newsletter, 129.3, 132.4, and 134.1. Ed.)

**136.4 ANCIENT CRYPTOGRAMS IN THE NEW WORLD.** By J. Henry Baird. The decipherment of ancient—or purportedly ancient—texts, such as the Phoenician-like Paraíba inscription found in 1872 in Brazil, has recently come into a new perspective that adds to their meaning and authenticity. The method used, that of looking for ancient cryptograms as well as merely translating the surface text, is not new but rather is being revived and brought to bear on inscriptions of sometimes-challenged authenticity found in the New World.

A recent article by Dr. Cyrus H. Gordon, entitled "Riddles of the Wise" and published in *Berytus Archaeological Studies*, Vol. 21 (1972), by the American University of Beirut, discusses this important technique of philological analysis. *Berytus*, published annually, is devoted primarily to historical and archaeological studies of Syria and Lebanon (ancient Phoenicia) from prehistoric times down to the early Islamic period. Its editor is Dr. William A. Ward, archaeologist and historian at AUB.

The article is a reminder that cryptographic analysis of ancient literature, with a few exceptions in recent years, has become a neglected art among philologists. They usually only decipher the surface or plain text without seeking what may be concealed underneath. Dr. Gordon starts with a reference to the Proverbs of Solomon (1:6). This book of the Bible was written, according to the ancient author, to help the reader "understand a proverb and clever saying, the words of the wise and their riddles" (Dr. Gordon's translation). Upon hearing of Solomon's great ability and wisdom, the queen of far away Sheba came "to test him with riddles" (1 Kings 10:1).

This suggests that, as such authors as John A. Tvedtnes and Hugh Nibley have pointed out in the past, the Joseph Smith papyri may well have contained some such cryptographic text and therefore may have a closer relationship to the Book of Abraham than the surface text seems to indicate. (Cf. Newsletter, 109.0.)

Turning from the Old Testament to the Phoenician-like Paraíba text, Dr. Gordon points out that the author was evidently Jewish, for within it he concealed the fact that he was a follower of Jehovah. The characters were deliberately and meaningfully arranged to create a cryptographic message, using the first letter of each line. The arrangement was not haphazard as many scholars have seemed to believe. (For more on the Paraíba text see Newsletter, 111.01, 118.0. Ed.)

When the Paraíba inscription was found in 1872, it was not only considered bizarre but also a definite fake by the eminent scholars of the day. But in the 1870's knowledge of Phoenician and other Northwest Semitic scripts in their archaic forms was scant. Today our increased understanding of the ancient languages involved certainly warrants a serious reconsideration of the inscription.

The phraseology used, for instance, though challenged in the 1870's, is now supported by ancient Phoenician texts found in the present century. In order to forge the Paraíba inscription in 1870 one would have had to know ancient Phoenician writing as we now know it after the discovery in the past 50 years or so of many additional examples of such writing in the Mediterranean region.

In addition, scholars like Cyrus Gordon are now able to recover, by the new method of cryptographic analysis, information concealed within such texts. This was not dreamed of in the late nineteenth century when the Paraíba inscription was found. How could such scholars as Renan and Lidzbarski, let alone the would-be forger, have been aware of the hidden elements within the wording of that inscription?

Professor Gordon also notes the application of cryptographic analysis to early inscriptions found in North America. Alf Monge, a student of Old Norse, called attention to this hidden element in the inscription on the Kensington Stone, found in Minnesota in 1898. This, too, had been declared a fake until the cryptogram was solved, thereby proving its authenticity. Pictures of the runestone appear full page in Dr. Gordon's paper (pp. 20-21), together with its translation and cryptographic analysis.

The eight lines of the Paraíba text, as copied in 1872, are also laid out in full-page style, with the transliteration of the Sidonian script in Latin letters, followed line for line by the English translation (pp. 23-24). Such a presentation eliminates any possible question about the methodology.

One remark in his article calls to the reviewer's mind the "Tarshish fleet" of 1 Kings 10:22. The letter *n*, Dr. Gordon points out, was considered holy to the ancient Israelites. *Nun*, its name in Hebrew, also stands for "fish" and was used on the pennant of the Tarshish fleet

which sailed the waters of the then-known world under the direction of kings Hiram and Solomon. Later, this emblem was scratched onto walls and stones by early Christians in order to identify their faith to other believers.

Dr. Gordon notes that, although cryptographic analysis is a relatively recent development in the field of Semitics, it was widely known among the scribes of old in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. In the Paraiba text the scribe outwardly invoked the gods of Phoenicia and Canaan while covertly revealing his own beliefs as a follower of Jehovah.

The desire to conceal one's own beliefs when in the company of others who do not share them is not unique to Old Testament times. It was accepted practice throughout the ancient Near East and continues down to this day in various parts of the world, among Jews and Gentiles alike.

A good example of the ancient Israelite attitude in such situations is that of Jonah, when he sailed incognito in a Tarshish-bound ship. While out to sea, a storm broke and threatened the ship's safety. Under pressure he admitted being a Hebrew (Jon. 1:9) and instructed the crew to cast him overboard as a sacrifice (Jon. 1:12).

Does not this incident parallel what is given in the Paraiba text? In the latter account we also have the scribe concealing his faith, and human sacrifice also being offered, thus giving authentic color to the sixth-century-BC claim of a landing on the northeast coast of Brazil.

It is understandable that the full implication of secret messages in ancient texts cannot be adequately developed in a single article such as the one under review. However, a book by Dr. Gordon covering the subject more broadly is now available: *Riddles in History* (Crown Publishers, New York City, \$7.95).

**136.5 MORE ON THE NEPHITE MONETARY SYSTEM.** By Bruce D. Louthan. Robert F. Smith of Ontario, California, has recently made available to the SEHA a copy of a paper reporting his research on the Nephite monetary system mentioned in Alma 11 of the Book of Mormon.

Mr. Smith's study, entitled "Weights and Measures *à la* Mosiah II," was completed in October, 1970, with several later addenda. Though on the same general topic as Paul Richard Jesclard's symposium paper, "A Comparison of the Nephite Monetary System with the Egyptian System of Measuring Grain," published by the Society a year ago (Newsletter 134.0), the two efforts are independent and complementary.

Mr. Smith has had training in Near Eastern languages at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Consequently his study is primarily etymological in nature, seeking to

trace the origin of the Book of Mormon terms given to the units of money in the Nephite system.

As indicated by Mr. Jesclard in his paper, the Nephite terms were likely borrowed from various ancient Near Eastern languages. Mr. Smith, following Dr. Hugh Nibley's suggestion (in *Lehi in the Desert*), discusses the possibility of Nephite borrowing of earlier Jaredite weights and measures or monetary terminology, paralleling the Nephite carry-over of Jaredite place and personal names. In addition to tracing the origin of the Nephite unit names, he also attempts to establish the precise metric weights involved.

Because of its highly technical nature, Mr. Smith's paper will not be published in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, but at the author's request will be available for study by Society members and interested students in the SEHA office, 140 Maeser Building, BYU.

**136.6 PROMINENT BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST DIES.** By Bruce D. Louthan. G. Ernest Wright, Parkman professor of divinity at Harvard University and founder of the semi-popular quarterly, *The Biblical Archaeologist*, died on August 29, 1974, at Jaffrey, New Hampshire. He played a major role in Palestinian archaeology, and published such important works as *Biblical Archaeology, Pottery of Palestine From Earliest Times to the End of the Early Bronze Age*, and *Shechem: Biography of a Biblical City*.

Dr. Wright taught at McCormick Theological Seminary and Harvard University and directed excavations at several Bible-related sites such as Shechem, Gezer, and Nablus. Active in a number of learned societies, he was curator of the Harvard Semitic Museum and past president of the Society of Biblical Literature, and was president of the American Schools of Oriental Research from 1966 until his death.

For at least 20 years, the SEHA received a bulk subscription to the journal, *The Biblical Archaeologist*, and redistributed copies to its members as a membership benefit. This practice was discontinued in 1970 (Newsletter, 120.1).

**136.7 TOURS OFFERED TO SITE OF LEHI STONE.** Eight "Mormon Tours in Mesoamerica" have been organized by commercial airlines. An optional side trip to Tapachula, near where the "Lehi Tree-of-Life Stone" (Stela 5, Izapa) may be seen, is included. By arrangement with the SEHA secretary-and-treasurer a brochure containing details is enclosed with the present mailing of the *Newsletter and Proceedings*.

"Central American Destinations" of Los Angeles has organized these tours. Western Airlines and Pan Am are the cooperating carriers. The brochures have been made available through the courtesy of Mr. Bert D.



Lynn, vice-president of Western Airlines and a long-time member of the SEHA.

(A second brochure describing another program known as "Mexico Explorer—Adventures in Archaeology," which tells of four additional tour packages, also with an optional side trip to the Izapa ruins, is available upon request from Western Airlines.)

The "Lehi Stone" is an ancient carved stone monument found in 1941 at the ruins of Izapa, in southern Mexico near the Guatemala border. It is believed to represent the Prophet Lehi's vision of the tree of life as recorded in the Book of Mormon, 1 Nephi 8. SEHA members have had a strong interest in this monument since 1954 when the Society undertook a project of having it removed to a museum in order to protect it from weathering and vandalism and to increase its accessibility to students and tourists (Newsletter 110.0, p. 3). The Society, however, did not assist in organizing the present airplane tours nor in preparing the brochure.

**136.8 RESEARCH PATRONS LISTED.** By Rebecca Christensen. The following new and renewing Research Patrons have been entered into the Society's records since the last previous listing in the *Newsletter and Proceedings* (119.8):

For the year 1970: Charles S. Bagley, Alamogordo, New Mexico; J. Henry Baird, Rancho Cordova, California; and Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada.

For the year 1971: Edward T. Aaron, Las Vegas, Nevada; Clifford E. Angel, Gretna, Virginia; J. Henry Baird, Rancho Cordova, California; Mrs. Ross Butler, Ontario, Oregon; C. I. Canfield, Magna; Paul R. Cheesman, Orem; R. F. Christensen, Riverside, California; Ross T. Christensen, Orem; Horald G. Clark, Morgan; Hester Devenport, Ucon, Idaho; Harold Eckstein, Arleta, California; Donn A. Edwards, Encino, California; Elmer A. Ellsworth, Simi Valley, California; Chester A. Georgia, Tacoma, Washington; Marvin R. Heilig, San Marino, California; M. Wells Jakeman, Provo; Clark S. Knowlton, Salt Lake City; Janice N. McAuliffe, Long Beach, California; Blair E. Nilsson, Golden, Colorado; Virgil V. Peterson, Salt Lake City; Harvey J. Platt, St. Johns, Arizona; Marion Poulter, Vista, California; Welby W. Ricks, Provo; Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada; Lorenzo H. Snow, Hayward, California; and James E. White, Scottsdale, Arizona.

For the year 1972: Richard Lloyd Anderson, Provo; Clifford E. Angel, Gretna, Virginia; Charles S. Bagley, Alamogordo, New Mexico; Mrs. Ross Butler, Ontario, Oregon; C. I. Canfield, Magna; Paul R. Cheesman, Orem; Ross T. Christensen, Orem; Hester Devenport, Ucon, Idaho; Harold Eckstein, Arleta, California; Donn A. Edwards, Encino, California; Chester A. Georgia,

Tacoma, Washington; Marvin R. Heilig, San Marino, California; Robert C. Hopkins, Los Angeles, California; M. Wells Jakeman, Provo; Paul R. Jesclard, Portland, Oregon; Clark S. Knowlton, Salt Lake City; Robert B. Merrill, Camp Verde, Arizona; Gordon E. Nielson, Provo; Virgil V. Peterson, Salt Lake City; Ed J. Pinegar, Provo; Marion Poulter, Vista, California; A. J. Redd, Monticello; Welby W. Ricks, Provo; Beryl Shaw, Cardston, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada; and Lorenzo H. Snow, Hayward, California.

For the year 1973: Edward T. Aaron, Las Vegas, Nevada; Esther P. Ainscough, Kaysville; Richard Lloyd Anderson, Provo; Clifford E. Angel, Gretna, Virginia; Charles S. Bagley, Alamogordo, New Mexico; J. Henry Baird, Rancho Cordova, California; Loyal J. Ball, Marcell, Minnesota; Robert W. Bass, Provo; Mrs. Ross Butler, Ontario, Oregon; Paul R. Cheesman, Provo; Ross T. Christensen, Orem; Horald G. Clark, Morgan; Don E. Davidson, Grimstead, Virginia; Chester A. Georgia, Tacoma, Washington; Dorothy Hall, Columbus, Georgia; Robert C. Hopkins, Los Angeles, California; M. Wells Jakeman, Provo; Cherie B. Parker, Laguna Hills, California; Julia R. Peterson, Salt Lake City; Marion Poulter, Vista, California; Ellis T. Rasmussen, Orem; Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada; Walter H. Smith, Phoenix, Arizona; and Lorenzo H. Snow, Hayward, California.

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