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Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen and Alfred L. Bush

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U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 37

Editor: Ross T. Christensen
Assistant Editor: Alfred L. Bush

September 5, 1956

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 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 the Department of Archaeology of BYU.)

37.0 Society Completes Balloting for General Elections. August 15 brought to a close the first general elections of the UAS to be conducted by mail. Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., and Mr. Otto Done were elected president and vice-president, respectively. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman was named an Honorary Member, and three amendments to the Society constitution were ratified.

37.00 Harris Becomes President. Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., of Salt Lake City, retiring vice-president of the Society, was elected president to succeed Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, who has headed the organization since its founding in 1949.

Dr. Harris, formerly of the University of British Columbia and presently professor of physics at the University of Utah, has long been connected with archaeological activities within the LDS Church. He was affiliated with the earliest organized effort in the field of Book of Mormon archaeology when in 1939-42 he served as vice-president of the Itzan Society and as assistant editor of the first issue of its Bulletin (see below, 37.11).

Dr. Harris is the author of The Book of Mormon Message and Evidences, co-author with Dr. John A. Widtsoe of Seven Claims of the Book of Mormon, and a contributing editor of The Improvement Era.

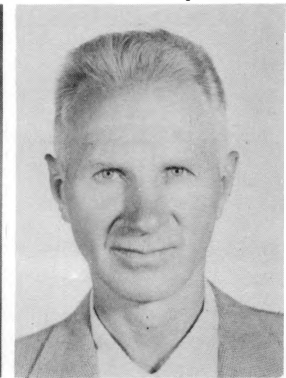
In 1950 Dr. Harris was elected a general officer of the UAS. In 1954 he was elected by acclamation to the newly-created office of vice-president of the Society (July 2, 1954, Newsletter, 21.12) and was re-elected in 1955 (December 9 Newsletter, 31.22). In 1954 he was appointed director of the newly-established Salt Lake Chapter of the UAS (October 26, 1954, Newsletter, 23.5) and has served in that capacity until the present.

Dr. Harris has read several papers on Book of Mormon subjects before the Society's annual Symposia on the Archaeology of the Scriptures and BYU Leadership Week groups.

37.01 Done Elected Vice-President. For vice-president to succeed Dr. Harris, the Society elected Otto Done of Mexico City. Mr. Done has served the Society since April, 1955, as the director of its Mexico City Chapter and a general officer (June 1, 1955, Newsletter, 27.1). A well-known professional photographer, he comes to his new office



Dr. Harris



Mr. Done

with a background of valuable experience in the photographic recording of archaeological subjects in Mexico and Central America. Mr. Done has assisted with various expeditionary activities, including that of the UAS, last winter (April 30 Newsletter, 34.00), and that of Dr. Milton R. Hunter, early in 1955 (March 31, 1955, Newsletter, 26.0).

Dr. Wilfrid C. Bailey of State College, Mississippi, and Lorenzo H. Snow of Columbus, Ohio, were also candidates for the office of vice-president.

- 37.02 Jakeman Named Honorary Member. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman was elected as Honorary Member of the UAS, the fifth person ever to receive that distinction (see below, 37.1).

Dr. Jakeman was the principal figure in the founding of the UAS and has headed the organization since then until the present election. An amendment to the constitution, adopted November 21, 1955 (December 9 Newsletter, 31.20), makes a Society president ineligible to succeed himself in office.

The present action does not affect Dr. Jakeman's other organizational positions, however. He continues as chairman of the BYU Department of Archaeology and as a general officer of the UAS and editor of its Bulletin.

- 37.03 Constitutional Amendments Ratified. Three amendments to the Society's constitution submitted by the Executive Committee (last Newsletter, 36.05) were ratified in the voting. These changes provide for a new general officer in the Society, that of "General Editor," presiding over a new "Publications Committee," to be named by the Executive Committee. They also require that the general editor and general secretary-treasurer be appointed by the Executive Committee. (The latter office has heretofore been filled by vote of the Society membership at an annual business meeting.)

- 37.1 The Pioneer Work of M. Wells Jakeman: An Editorial. After founding the University Archaeological Society and directing its affairs for more than seven years, Dr. M. Wells Jakeman has been released from his presidency and elected an Honorary Member of the Society by a grateful membership (see above, 37.02). It is now time to review his record and evaluate the extent of his contribution.



Dr. Jakeman

- 37.10 Academic Training. Dr. Jakeman's undergraduate study was done at the University of Utah, where he majored in history. At the University of Southern California, in 1931-32, he earned the Master of Arts degree in history, with specialization in ancient history and Near Eastern-biblical archaeology. He then transferred to the University of California, at Berkeley, where he did further post-graduate work in ancient history and Near Eastern archaeology, the latter in the field of cuneiform studies or Assyriology.

At this point his interest was challenged by the Book of Mormon claim that the ancient civilizations of the New World were of Near Eastern origin. He therefore decided to undertake an extensive test of this claim on the basis of his Near Eastern training. This entailed changing his field of specialization to ancient American studies, particularly the early chronicled history and archaeology of Mexico and

Central America, which is the area of the earliest high civilizations of the New World, those apparently dealt with in the Book of Mormon. This required, besides further classes in history, archaeology and anthropology, years of study in the famed Bancroft Library and travel and study in Mexico. In 1938 the University of California awarded him the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

His doctoral dissertation was written on the ancient history of the Mayas. The early Indian and Spanish chronicles, the source materials for this study, were largely documentary, hence the sort of material with which historians deal. But the subject matter, an ancient native people of the New World, was the sort of material with which archaeologists and anthropologists deal. Hence, in mastering the field of his doctoral dissertation, Dr. Jakeman was obliged to master not only historical but also archaeological-anthropological methods, and in particular the field of American archaeology and anthropology.

To our knowledge Dr. Jakeman was the first Latter-day Saint ever to earn a doctor's degree in history with specialization in the ancient American field. He also appears to have been the second to take the master's degree in the Near Eastern field (the first being Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, University of Chicago, 1926).

37. 11 Founded Itzan Society. In October, 1938, Dr. Jakeman and other students of archaeology in California founded the Itzan Society, the aim of which was to investigate "the origins, . . . history, and religion" of the "civilized pyramid-building peoples of ancient America," particularly the Mayas and Toltecs. Two issues of a Bulletin were published with Dr. Jakeman as editor. World War II dispersed its members and the Itzan Society was disbanded, but Dr. Jakeman has since then felt this early organization to have been the forerunner of the UAS.

There followed a period of additional Middle American research including field work in Mexico and Central America and studies in important libraries and museums of the eastern United States. Some of the results are contained in his scholarly book, The Origins and History of the Mayas (Los Angeles, 1945).

37. 12 Introduced Archaeology at BYU. In 1946, Dr. Jakeman was named by Pres. Howard S. McDonald of Brigham Young University-- on the recommendation of the late Dr. John A. Widtsoe and others-- to fill the newly-created chair of archaeology (March 7 Newsletter, 33-1). On December 17, a regular academic Department of Archaeology was established and Dr. Jakeman appointed chairman.

In our opinion, no better selection could have been made. Not only was Dr. Jakeman trained in the fields of Near Eastern and American archaeology and related studies (those specially involved by the great historical claims of the scriptures), but had also acquired a mastery of archaeological, anthropological, and historiographic theory and methodology. In addition to all this, he was a solidly-grounded Latter-day Saint and a deep student of the scriptures upon which his faith was built.

Since 1946, about 4,500 students have passed through classes offered by the BYU Department of Archaeology, many of them taught by Dr. Jakeman himself.

37. 13 Arranged Purchase of the Gates Collection. Coincident with the founding of its Department of Archaeology in 1946, the BYU

purchased the famous William Gates Collection of Early Middle American Literature. This famous collection is believed to contain 98% of all known early manuscripts in the native Indian languages of Mexico and Central America. Its possession gives BYU the opportunity of becoming one of the world's leading research centers in such problems as the decipherment of the Maya hieroglyphics. Dr. Jakeman evaluated the collection and served as the agent for BYU in negotiating the purchase.

37. 14 Founded UAS. On April 18, 1949, Dr. Jakeman and seven of his students met in the archaeology office at BYU and founded the University Archaeological Society (April 30 Newsletter, 34. 1). After seven years, the Society now claims a membership of some 500 archaeology enthusiasts located throughout the world, including six chapters in the United States and Mexico.

Five issues of the Bulletin of the University Archaeological Society, containing 17 separate articles, several written by Dr. Jakeman himself, have come out under his editorship. Of particular significance was his article in Bulletin 4, March, 1953, entitled, "An Unusual Tree-of-Life Sculpture From Ancient Central America." We have called this sculpture ". . . the most direct and striking evidence in support of the Book of Mormon which has yet come forth from the science of archaeology." It has been said that future generations may come to regard it as "the Rosetta Stone of New World archaeology." The sculpture was discovered by a Smithsonian expedition at Izapa, southern Mexico, but it remained for Dr. Jakeman to discover that it represented Lehi's vision of the Tree of Life (1 Nephi 8).

Thirty-seven issues of the UAS Newsletter have appeared under his watchful eye as president of the Society, with a number of its articles also written by him.

The first issue of the Society's "Special Publications," a 347-page book entitled Discovering the Past, an introductory text to the science of archaeology, was edited and published by him (April 12, 1954, Newsletter, 19. 3).

Three important publications in the Middle American field, the first three numbers of the Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History, have been issued by the Department of Archaeology under Dr. Jakeman's authorship or editorship (November 8 Newsletter, 30. 3).

It was Dr. Jakeman who founded the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures in 1947. Nine Symposia have been held to date at which numerous significant papers have been read. In addition, a considerable number of important contributions have been delivered before the Society's Spring or Fall Round-Tables, usually held in Salt Lake City, which were also instituted by him. Dr. Jakeman himself read many of these papers.

37. 15 Headed Expeditions. In 1948, 1954, and 1956, Dr. Jakeman headed BYU expeditions to Central America which have uncovered highly important evidence on the location of Book of Mormon cities, particularly Bountiful and Zarahemla (see especially his articles in Bulletin 3, August, 1952, and Newsletter 22, August 23, 1954). These investigations were undertaken in a most difficult terrain and in part at his personal expense.

Dr. Jakeman retires from the presidency of the UAS with the

Society on a more solid footing than ever before. Archaeology has now become an established academic subject at BYU and is widely recognized as an approach of great potentiality with which to study the scriptural foundations of the Latter-day Saint faith. The essential geographic and historical framework of the Book of Mormon has now been identified in American archaeology to the satisfaction of leading students of the subject. A number of enthusiastic university students are now following their leader to a professional career in the field. Book of Mormon archaeology has now become a recognized and valid scholarly discipline among informed persons. There is probably no other person who could have accomplished what Dr. M. Wells Jakeman has accomplished. It is altogether fitting, therefore, as he leaves his active leadership of the UAS, that the Society should bestow upon him its highest recognition by declaring him an Honorary Member and that he should take his place with other pioneers which the Society has so honored: Dr. John A. Widtsoe, Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Dr. Howard S. McDonald, and Asa S. Kienke.

37.2 Secretary Points Out Membership Benefits. The UAS general secretary-treasurer has called attention to certain membership benefits which may not be well understood among many of the newer members.

Free membership in the Society may be obtained upon request by any full-time missionary (May 31, 1954, Newsletter, 20.1). However, the missionary must already be a member at the time of his request, or else his request must be accompanied by the usual \$3.00 annual membership fee. Such membership is good for the duration of his mission. The applicant should state the expected date of release.

Under the Society constitution, nominations for elective offices and honors in the Society are made by a committee set up for that special purpose: the Nominations Committee. While nominations for president and vice president will not be made following the present election until the next election in 1959, additional general officers and Honorary Members may be nominated and elected at any time. Any Society member who would care to recommend a candidate is invited to do so through a member of the Nominations Committee. (Committee members were listed in the last Newsletter, 36.0; see membership directory in Bulletin 5 for mailing addresses.)

Should a Society member wish to propose a constitutional amendment or other policy change, it is proper for him to submit his ideas to a member of the Executive Committee, which is the policy-forming organ of the Society. Present Committee membership is: Franklin S. Harris, Jr. (chairman), Wilfrid C. Bailey, Robert R. Beishline, Ross T. Christensen, Otto Done, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, Frank D. Holland, M. Wells Jakeman, Francis W. Kirkham, Clark S. Knowlton, Gareth W. Lowe, Welby W. Ricks, Lorenzo H. Snow, and Robert K. Willardson (see Bulletin 5 for mailing addresses).

Whenever a member of the Society publishes an article on an archaeological or related subject in any magazine or newspaper, or engages in any other archaeological activity, he should notify the editor of the UAS Newsletter. In this way all the members can share in his achievement. Chapters of the Society are also asked to report their past activities and scheduled programs.

Members who have questions or brief comments on archaeological subjects are invited to direct them to the editor of the Newsletter, who

will publish them as space permits.

37.3 How the 1956 Expedition Was Paid For. With contributions received in July, the UAS expedition to Central America of February and March, 1956, was completely paid for. Many are aware of the exciting results of the expedition, but perhaps not everyone knows that it was made financially possible only by the loyal efforts of Society members.

The total expenditure was \$1,089.50, which was drawn from the Society's Research Fund. The amount resulted from three sources:

(1) Ticket sales from a lecture series given by Society president Dr. M. Wells Jakeman in Ogden, Utah, in February and March, 1955 (March 31, 1955, Newsletter, 26.3). L. Elmer Peterson and other loyal members and friends of the UAS in the Ogden area who were in charge of the series sent \$711.76 to the Society treasury earmarked for research purposes.

(2) Admissions to the Fiesta de Quetzalcoatl, a buffet-style supper and program featuring native dishes and dances of various Latin American countries. This affair, sponsored by the (BYU) Campus Chapter of the UAS and held June 24, 1954, in connection with the BYU Leadership Week and the Society's Eighth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, netted \$174.50 for the Society's Research Fund (July 2, 1954, Newsletter, 21.2). Special thanks are due Srta. Eglantina Moyeda of Ciudad Juárez and Socorra Franco of Cuernavaca, Mexico, and Srta. Lilia Gomez of Guatemala City, CA, who with their collaborators produced both the program and the cuisine. All were BYU students.

(3) Direct contributions to the Research Fund by "Research Patrons." Since this new membership category was created by vote of the Annual Business Meeting of November 21 (December 9 Newsletter, 31.20) to provide enthusiastic members a place to put their archaeology research dollars, 22 Research Patrons have contributed a total of \$232.00. Each of the following is listed with \$10.00 or more:

For the year ending June 30, 1956:

Avery C. Caine	M. Wells Jakeman	Lorenzo H. Snow
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For the year ending December 31, 1956:

Alfred L. Bush	Thos. Stuart Ferguson	Clark S. Knowlton
Ross T. Christensen	Franklin S. Harris, Jr.	Gareth W. Lowe
Carol Luana Collett	Frank D. Holland	Welby W. Ricks
Joseph H. Elsmore II	Francis W. Kirkham	

For the year ending June 30, 1957:

Wilfrid C. Bailey	Otto Done	Lorenzo H. Snow
Isaac B. Ball	Alvarado R. Huber	L. A. West
Martha Berghout	Fern R. Morgan	Robert K. Willardson

The UAS heartily thanks each of its Research Patrons, as well as every person who lent his support to the above fund-raising projects. Each one has had a hand in an archaeological expedition which a future generation will recognize as having great importance in the rediscovery of America's ancient high civilizations.

Future contributions to the Research Fund, it is expected, will be applied toward forthcoming expeditions, as determined by the Society's Executive Committee.

The 1956 expedition was reported in lectures given before the Society's Ninth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, June 18-22, and has been sketchily recorded in the pages of this Newsletter (January 28, 32.0; March 7, 33.0; April 30, 34.0). It is expected that a fuller statement of the results will appear in a forthcoming issue.