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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 42 (July 20, 1957)

Editors(s): Ross T. Christensen

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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 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.)

42.0 Symposium Well Attended. The Tenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures drew to a close at 4:30 PM, Thursday, June 27, after four days of two, one-hour sessions each, which attracted a total attendance of 1068.

The Symposium was held at BYU as a "special event" of the 34th annual Leadership Week and was cosponsored by the UAS and the BYU Department of Archaeology. Drs. M. Wells Jakeman and Ross T. Christensen of the department faculty were the featured lecturers.

An exhibit of wall-size photographic enlargements hung in halls of the Eyring Science Center near the departmental office throughout the Symposium. Entitled "Panorama of the Ruined Cities of Book of Mormon Lands," it consisted of photographs taken by Otto Done, UAS vice-president and professional photographer of Mexico City.

Abstracts of Symposium lectures are planned for publication in Newsletter 43, to be issued about September 1.

42.1 Executive Committee Meets. Plans for a return archaeological expedition to the central Book of Mormon area of southern Mexico, and other important matters, were aired at a meeting of the Society's Executive Committee, held June 25 in connection with the Tenth Annual Symposium (see above). Seven members were present, with UAS president Franklin S. Harris, Jr., presiding. Absent members participated by mailing in their written opinions in advance. The following report is based on the official minutes of the meeting:

42.10 Financial and Membership Reports. Dr. Ross T. Christensen, UAS general secretary-treasurer, presented the first financial and



UAS members and Leadership Week visitors take notes and listen as lecturer discusses archaeology of the scriptures during Society's Tenth Annual Symposium, June 24-27.

membership reports to be prepared since the Society's annual business meeting of November 21, 1955 (December 9, 1955, Newsletter, 31.21):

Income and Expenditures, November 20, 1955 to June 25, 1957:

Total assets, November 20, 1955		\$1548.08
Plus income:		
Membership dues	\$2503.50	
Sale of publications	372.50	
Contributions to research fund	366.50	
Miscellaneous	30.66	
total income		<u>3273.16</u>
		4821.24
Less expenditures:		
Society publications	523.26	
Other publications	754.89	
Expedition of 1956	1089.50	
Secretarial assistance	326.90	
Miscellaneous	71.50	
total expenditures		<u>2766.05</u>
Total assets, June 25, 1957		\$2055.19

Membership by categories, June 25, 1957:

Contributing Members:		
Paid	537	
Departmental Affiliates	20	
Total Contributing Members		557
Institutional Members		10
Honorary Members		4
Life Members		11
total members		582

Membership at last Membership Report, Nov. 19, 1955 445

Percentage of increase over membership at last report 30.8

Exchange list 52

42.11 Chapter Reports. Verbal reports on chapter activities were heard from Luana Collett, honorary president of the Campus Chapter (BYU), from Stanford J. Robison, director of the Salt Lake Chapter, from Janice and Mary McAuliffe, officers of the Long Beach Chapter, and from Dr. Christensen on the St. George Chapter. All these groups are active. Tentative action was taken with regard to inactive chapters.

42.12 Publications. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, UAS general editor, reported that a handbook for Society members was being prepared and may be in press by fall. To be about 250 pages long, it is planned as an initial membership benefit, also for classroom use, for years to come. Several other important publications are being planned and prepared.

Dr. Jakeman announced that Dr. Christensen would assume the editorship of the Newsletter for the summer.

42. 13 Expedition Plans. Present plans call for putting the Fifth BYU Archaeological Expedition to Middle America into the field during the winter of 1957-58. Reconnaissance and excavation in the Xicalango jungle and the middle Usumacinta valley of southern Mexico, on the part of graduate male students, are anticipated. The spending of Society funds in support of the expedition was authorized. (See January 28, 1956, Newsletter, 32.0.)

42. 14 Changes in Committee Membership. Dr. Wilfrid C. Bailey of State College, Mississippi, resigned from his duties as a UAS general officer because distance makes it difficult for him to give what he feels is satisfactory service to the Society. The Executive Committee accepted his resignation with a vote of thanks for his efforts and services. Dr. Bailey has been a general officer since November, 1952 (January 10, 1953, Newsletter, 9.00) and has also served as a member of the Nominations Committee and the Publications Committee. In August, 1956, he was a candidate for vice-president in the Society general elections (July 13, 1956, Newsletter, 36.01). He has made significant contributions to the UAS Newsletter (e.g. August 10, 1953, Newsletter, 14.1).

Stanford J. Robison was released from the office of director of the Salt Lake Chapter because of the pressure of other duties. W. Ernest Young was appointed director to succeed him and thus becomes automatically a general officer and a member of the Society's Executive Committee. The Committee voted to commend Mr. Robison for a year of successful leadership since his appointment September 16 (November 15 Newsletter, 38.22); also, the other chapter officers, Etta Rasmussen, assistant director, and Onita Bendixen, secretary, who have both served nearly two years (December 9, 1955, Newsletter, 31.5). Monthly meetings which have drawn much favorable comment have been held during most of this time.

42. 2 Three Archaeology Majors Earn Degrees. Three graduating seniors were awarded Bachelor's degrees in archaeology at the BYU commencement, May 31. James L. Gillings of Arcadia, California, and Richard L. Money of Payson, Utah, received the BA degree. Alfred L. Bush of Denver, Colorado, earned the BS degree.

Mr. Gillings has served as president of the Campus Chapter and has made archaeological field studies in Mexico (Newsletters of April 8, 1953, 11.6, and November 15, 1956, 38.52). Mr. Bush has been a Life Member of the UAS since June, 1956 (July 13, 1956, Newsletter, 36.2), and has been president of the Campus Chapter since last January. He has also served twice as assistant editor of the Newsletter and, during the past year, as editor.

42. 3 Renewal Notices Bring Good Response. Two hundred seventy-one notices asking for renewal of membership dues by July 1 were mailed to Society members May 15. One hundred eighteen have been returned to date. Second notices are being mailed about July 15.

About two-thirds of UAS members ordinarily renew their membership after the mailing of the second notice. In the opinion of Society officers this indicates a strong loyalty to the aims of the organization on the part of its members.

Two kinds of paid membership are available: annual membership at \$3.00 per year, or Life Membership for \$50.00. If several years of annual membership are desired, these can be obtained by payment of a multiple of the \$3.00 fee.

A new membership category--that of Research Patron--was created in 1955. This distinction can be obtained by contributing \$10.00 or more per year--in addition to regular membership dues--to the Society's Research Fund. Simply inclose the extra amount when returning dues and note the purpose on the card.

The UAS is a non-profit organization engaged in a program of research and publication of vital importance to the field of scriptural archaeology. It depends in large part for its funds upon membership dues and contributions to the Research Fund. Archaeology enthusiasts have a real opportunity to participate in this fascinating field through the agency of the Society.

- 42.4 Extension Division Publishes 1956 Symposium Lectures. Two lectures delivered last year before the Society's Ninth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures (Leadership Week) are now on sale. "A Season of Excavation on the North Coast of Peru," and "Did Book-of-Mormon Peoples Reach Peru?" by Ross T. Christensen have been issued by the BYU Extension Division under a single cover with the title, Archaeological Findings. In mimeographed form, it is illustrated with a map and a page of photographs. Price, 40¢ (add 5¢ for mailing). Send to: Adult Education and Extension Services, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. (Orders should not be sent to the UAS.)

42.5 Activities of the Chapters:

- 42.50 Long Beach Chapter. Under the guidance of Director Verne S. Handy the Long Beach Chapter of the UAS has passed through nearly its first year of existence (November 15 Newsletter, 38.30). Members have customarily met at one or another of the LDS chapels of the Long Beach area following Sacrament meeting on the third Sunday of each month. About 30 persons have usually attended.

Among the highlights of the year have been an evening of colored slides taken during the 1955 BYU Archaeological and Cultural Tour of Mexico (August 10, 1955, Newsletter, 28.5) by tour members Janice and Mary McAuliffe; an illustrated lecture on Book of Mormon geography and related materials by John L. Sorenson, former BYU instructor in archaeology; excursions to the Los Angeles County Museum and to the Southwest Museum; lectures on the background of scientific archaeology and on archaeological terms and techniques by Harvey Thayne Johnson, formerly of the BYU faculty; and a lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Collaborating with Director Handy in managing the affairs of the chapter have been Harvey Thayne Johnson and Robert G. Rigby, both BYU graduates in archaeology and former presidents of the Campus Chapter, serving as assistant directors; Janice N. McAuliffe, serving as secretary; and F. Mary McAuliffe, serving as excursions director.

- 42.51 Campus Chapter. Thirteen meetings were held by the (BYU) Campus Chapter during the past school year. Outstanding among them were lectures by Dr. John R. Martinez of the BYU history department

on "Mexico, Past, Present, and Future"; by Dr. Lewis M. Roger of the Division of Religion on "Archaeology and the Old Testament"; by Dr. Francis W. Kirkham, UAS general officer and prominent LDS lecturer and writer, on the subject, "Who Wrote the Book of Mormon?"; by Dr. Milton R. Hunter of the First Council of Seventy, a well-known traveler in Middle America, on his recent tours in Book of Mormon lands, illustrated with his own Kodachrome transparencies; and by Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Director of Graduate Studies in Religion at BYU and a UAS Honorary Member, on "The Scrolls from the Dead Sea: Their Significance to the Latter-day Saint." One evening's event was entitled "Native Music of the Americas" and consisted of tribal music from the US Southwest, Mexico, and the upper Amazon country, played from selected discs from a collection of authentic recordings of various exotic peoples which was recently purchased by the Department of Archaeology.

At a meeting held January 9 the chapter reelected the same slate of officers that served during the fall quarter (November 15 Newsletter, 38.31) to continue through the winter: Luana Collett of Kaysville, Utah, president; Carl Hugh Jones of Rock Springs, Wyoming, honorary president; Helen Harley of Los Angeles, vice-president; and Rita Vance of Colonia Juarez, Mexico, secretary.

The following officers were elected at a meeting of March 27 to serve during the spring quarter: Alfred L. Bush of Denver, Colorado, president; Luana Collett, honorary president; Eric Brodin of Sweden, vice-president; and Florence Faherty of Orem, Utah, secretary.

#### 42.6 Activities of Individual Members:

42.60 Studies Nephite-Period Pottery. Bruce W. Warren of Provo, UAS Life Member and former president of the Campus Chapter and editor of the Newsletter, is currently on the BYU campus engaged in a study and analysis of approximately 50,000 potsherds (fragments of pottery) from the Grijalva Valley of southern Mexico. The sherds are sample collections resulting from the extensive excavations of the New World Archaeological Foundation, of whose field party Mr. Warren has been a member since October, 1955 (Newsletters of November 8, 1955; 30.8, and March 7, 1956, 33.6). By radiocarbon and other evidence, most of this material has been dated to the centuries immediately before and following the time of Christ.

The sherd study will continue through the summer and perhaps well into next year, according to Mr. Warren. The completed report may eventually be published by the NWAFF.

42.61 Publishes on Immigration Traditions, Mulek Prophecy. Two recent publications have come from the pen of John L. Sorenson, former BYU instructor in archaeology, UAS general secretary, and editor of the Newsletter.

"Some Mesoamerican Traditions of Immigration by Sea" appeared in El Mexico Antiguo (Vol. 8, pp. 425-439. Mexico, DF, December, 1955), a journal devoted to archaeological and related subjects published by the Sociedad Alemana Mexicanista. Written in English, the article lends support to the belief that the ancient civilized ancestors of the Indians of Middle America arrived by sea. Pre-Columbian native traditions, as recorded in the early Mexican chronicles, agree in bringing the original settlers to the New World by trans-oceanic navigation.

"Having swallowed the Bering Strait camel for so many years without visible discomfort, openminded scholars ought not now encounter serious difficulty with the gnat of immigration by sea." Through the courtesy of the author, a limited number of reprints of this paper are available to Society members from the general secretary-treasurer as one of the three past publications obtainable free of charge per year of membership.

The May issue of the Improvement Era (Vol. 60, No. 5, pp. 330 ff.) carries Mr. Sorenson's article entitled, "The Twig of the Cedar." On the basis of scriptural evidence and native traditions as recorded in early Spanish accounts, the prophecy of Ezekiel 17:22-24 is interpreted as referring to Mulek, the infant son of King Zedekiah and titular leader of the colony that settled the land northward, according to the Book of Mormon.

Mr. Sorenson has spent the past two years at the University of California at Los Angeles completing classwork for the PhD degree in anthropology under a National Science Foundation fellowship (September 22, 1955, Newsletter, 29.44).

42.62 Reads Paper Before Utah Academy. Carl Hugh Jones of Rock Springs, Wyoming, a BYU archaeology major and recent president of the Campus Chapter, read a paper before the Social Sciences section of the May 3 meeting of the Utah Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Entitled "A Prehistoric Pueblid Site in Utah Valley," it reported the autumn, 1956, excavation of an ancient Indian house-mound near the Provo Municipal Airport carried out by the "Field Archaeology" class of Dr. Ross T. Christensen (November 15 Newsletter, 38.4).

Mr. Jones has had previous field experience with the Missouri River Basin Surveys of the Smithsonian Institution (November 15 Newsletter, 38.53). During the present summer he is a member of a field party of the same organization headquartered at Chamberlain, South Dakota.

42.63 Receives Surprise Birthday Gift. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, chairman of the BYU Department of Archaeology and UAS general editor, at a surprise reception April 24 honoring a recent birthday, was presented a gift of \$100 to be used in support of his research and publication plans.

Accompanied by a card from the "whole motley crew," the gift was in the form of a US currency bill. The "crew" proved to be a number of well-wishers who had been informally approached at BYU and elsewhere, including students and former students of the Maya specialist. "This has been the best-kept secret in the history of the archaeology department," declared Dr. Jakeman at the reception, held as he left his classroom following a lecture.

Dr. Jakeman has indicated that the amount would probably be used to help publish his synoptic study of the early Mexican and Central American chronicle histories of pre-Spanish times, which he has been preparing for a number of years. It is so arranged as to show the major historical developments of Mesoamerica since the beginnings of civilization. Entitled "Mesoamerican Chronicled History: The Earlier Periods," the work contains important Book-of-Mormon parallels.