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Looking Back at Ancient America

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LOOKING BACK AT *Ancient America*

By WILLIAM and DEWEY FARNSWORTH

Publishers of "Buried Empires of South America" and "Grandeurs of Ancient America."



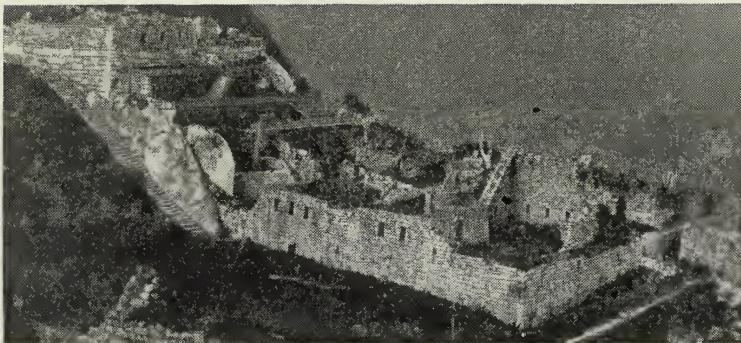
CHAN-CHAN, THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE CHIMUS

Long ago the Chimus, a people antedating the Incas, built their great capital of Chan-Chan near the site of the present-day Peruvian city of Trujillo. Although its walls have endured time's assaults for countless centuries, they are fast crumbling now, especially from the action of repeated floods on their adobe structure. From the air, one can obtain the best idea of the once vast extent of the city and trace, even indistinctly, the remains of what once were its temples, palaces, plazas, gardens, and reservoirs. The material used in the building of Chan-Chan was of a hardened substance about half adobe and half cement. Late explorers have, in uncovering and cleaning the walls, found carvings like those on the building of Metla Oaxaca, Mexico, also carvings of the feathered serpents like those of the great cement city of Teotihuacan, twenty-eight miles from Mexico City. 250,000 people lived in Chan-Chan.



THE GREAT STONE WHEELS OF THE PRE-INCANS

Evidences in Mexico, Central America, and Peru lead us to conclude that all the ancient peoples of America understood and practiced the principle of the wheel. No means of transportation known today is equal to the task of moving some of the huge stone remains which have been found. These huge stone wheels were all of one size and weight and so perfectly synchronized that they could have been used interchangeably on the same vehicle. The enormous blocks of stone used in the construction of the ancient temples of Peru were hewn from quarries four to fifteen leagues distant from the building sites, fashioned and transported across rivers and over ravines, raised to their elevated positions, and adjusted with the nicest accuracy.



THE INCA CITY-FORTRESS OF MACHU PICCHU, BOLIVIA, SOUTH AMERICA

In the towering Andes Mountains, perched nine thousand feet above sea level, on top of a ridge at the foot of the hill called Huayna Picchu and protected on all sides by precipices and on three sides by the rapids of the Urubamba River, two thousand feet below, is the mysterious and ancient Inca city-fortress. Massive blocks of granite fit together perfectly without the use of mortar or cement. Many of the houses are a story and a half in height, with gable ends which have projecting cylinders and four-ring stones to which rafters were tied. These homes contain an unusual number of windows, divided in formations of three, but the most remarkable feature of all is the great number of well-built granite stairways, there being over two hundred large and small within the walls of the city. The exquisite finish of their stone-cutting resembles that of the fortress of Sacasahuaman in the Cuzco valley.

(Editor's note: "Buried Empires of South America," as announced on the book page of the December and January "Era" is now off the press and available through Deseret Book Company and other agencies of distribution.)

LINE UPON LINE

CONVERT TESTIFIES OF
GOSPEL PRINCIPLES

By Lyman Collins
Byron, Wyoming.

ELEVEN years ago a bookbinder came to Powell to rebind the books of the Powell schools which were in need of repair. As I went by the schoolhouse one day, I saw his old car standing outside. I was a car salesman at the time, and an old car was an intriguing sight. I went in and finally broached the subject of a new car to the bookbinder. I can still remember what he said: "I'm not going to get a new car until I can pay cash for it without jeopardizing my security." And he went on to give me my first lesson in the Gospel. . . .

I was baptized and confirmed a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints more than ten years ago. Upon joining the Church I had many problems and habits to deal with. In fact, it seemed that what I had come to believe contradicted a large part of my life. Particularly regarding the Word of Wisdom did I have difficulty. It was at a conference held in Lovell that I received the most valuable advice, I believe, I have ever received. The visiting member of the General Authorities spoke on the topic of self-advancement. He recommended that, although we might not be able to live all the commandments and principles of the Gospel, we should live those within our ability. He said that our ability would grow. It is my testimony that increased power does come to the person who will observe well the principles of the Gospel which are within his ability.

There is one principle of the Gospel that has been my temporal and spiritual salvation. That principle is tithing. It is the principle which has been most easy for me to practice. Although at times I have been tempted to put off or reduce my tithing, I felt that only as long as I paid it I had a right to call upon the Lord to aid me in observing the other principles which might be difficult for me. I know that the blessings the Lord has promised those who will observe His teachings do not fail.