



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

<http://bookofmormoncentral.org/>

Type: Newsletter

U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 63 (December 16, 1959)

Editors(s): Dee F. Green

Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 63

Editor: Dee F. Green

December 16, 1959

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 archaeological activities and viewpoints 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 of the BYU Department of Archaeology.)

63.0 **SPRING SYMPOSIUM.** The Twelfth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures will be held next spring, possibly near the dates of the April Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, according to Dr. Welby W. Ricks, UAS vice-president.

Dr. Ricks has been designated by the Executive Committee to assume responsibility for the arrangements. Assisting him will be UAS general secretary-treasurer Ross T. Christensen, Carl Hugh Jones, and Dee F. Green.

Coming issues of the Newsletter will give further details, including the exact date and location. Society members should plan on attending a program which will highlight recent discoveries in the fields of Biblical and Book of Mormon archaeology.

63.1 **MORE NEW GENERAL OFFICERS.** Following are biographical notes on the remainder of the new general officers elected at the Triennial Election Meeting of September 2 (Newsletter, 61.1) and not mentioned in the last issue of the Newsletter (62.0).

63.10 **James R. Clark.** Dr. Clark is a foremost authority on the Pearl of Great Price. An assistant professor of religion at BYU, he has taught scriptural subjects for many years. A popular lecturer in his field, he is also the author of The Story of the Pearl of Great Price (Newsletter, 29.6). He is presently engaged in research on scripts of the Book of Abraham.

63.11 **Eldin Ricks.** A long-time student of the scriptures, Professor Ricks is a noted author and lecturer on the Book of Mormon. As a chaplain in the United States Army during World War II, he spent several months in Italy doing research and also presented the Pope with a copy of the Book of Mormon. He has done graduate study at Dropsy College and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is presently engaged in research on early Christian



Mr. Clark



Mr. Ricks

baptismal fonts. He will conduct a BYU tour to the Holy Land in the summer of 1961.

63.12 **Sidney B. Sperry.** Dr. Sperry is professor of Old Testament languages and literature at BYU and is a prominent author and lecturer in this field, as well as that of the Book of Mormon. He is personally acquainted with the Near East, having

spent a year at the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and visited many archaeological sites. Dr. Sperry was one of the founders of the Department of Archaeology in 1946 and has been an Honorary Member of the UAS since 1950. He has made important contributions to the Society, including articles for the Newsletter (e. g., 45.03).

63.13 **Bruce W. Warren.** A charter member of the UAS when it was founded in 1949, Mr. Warren has now become an authority on Mesoamerican ceramics.

Mr. Warren was one of eight persons present on April 18, 1949, at the original organizational meeting of the UAS. Since July 1, 1965, he has been a Life Member.

While an archaeology student at BYU from 1952-54, Mr. Warren served as assistant editor of the UAS Newsletter (Nos. 8 and 13) and as editor of Nos. 14 to 19. He has also served in various offices of the Campus Chapter, including that of president.



Mr. Sperry

In 1953 Mr. Warren was the first-prize winner of the UAS contest on the Archaeology of the Scriptures. His paper, "Nimrod and his Times," was read before the Society's Annual Fall Round Table (Newsletter, 16. 01).

In October, 1955, Mr. Warren joined the field staff of the New World Archaeological Foundation, in-



Mr. Warren

vestigating the ruins of southern Mexico until the spring of 1957 (Newsletters, 30.8, 33.6, and 42.60). In June, 1958, he graduated from BYU with a BA degree in archaeology. Following this he joined the NWAFF staff in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Mexico, where he is now engaged in preparing a report on the ceramics recovered during the extensive excavations of that organization.

Mr. Warren is the author of "New Discoveries in Chiapas, Mexico," which was published in the Summer, 1959 issue of the magazine Archaeology (Newsletter, 60.3).

63.2 LABORATORY WORK UNDERWAY ON HINCKLEY SITE MATERIAL. Washing, labeling, classifying, and cataloguing of materials removed from Hinckley Mound 11 during this fall's field archaeology class at BYU (Newsletter, 62.2) is proceeding under the direction of Dr. Ross T. Christensen, class instructor, and Carl Hugh Jones, graduate assistant.

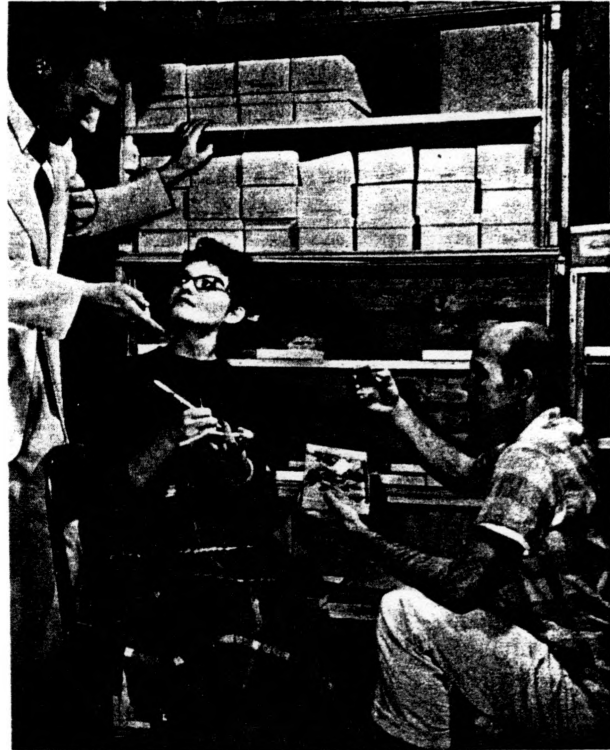
Quantities of sherds, bone, stone, adobe, and



Kristine Hansen, Ray Matheny, and Harvey Taylor prepare Hinckley Mound 11 specimens for study and display.

charcoal are being prepared for study and display. The field report will be written by members of the class after the material has been thoroughly studied.

One of the more delicate operations in this fall's dig was excavation of an infant burial found the last day of the season in Test Pit "A", Mound 3. Two members of the class were assigned to make a short



Dr. Ross T. Christensen instructs Dorothy DeWitt and Jay Woodard in proper laboratory procedures.

reconnaissance of Mound 3, since it has been recently plowed. Test Pit "B" was sunk in the top of the mound and revealed charcoal, adobe, and artifacts of bone and stone as well as several sherds. Test Pit "A" was sunk on the west side of the mound where plowing had revealed the presence of adobe. Not far below the surface, the corner of what appeared to be a floor level was uncovered, and about six inches below this the infant burial was found.

The bones were in a very fragile condition, due to the dampness of the earth. The students cut down around the grave and inserted a piece of sheet iron beneath the burial in order to remove it in its entirety. Subsequent drying of the earth and bones in the laboratory has permitted work to begin on freeing of the skeleton from its earthen matrix.

Members of the class include: Dorothy DeWitt, Dee F. Green, Kristine Hansen, Ray T. Matheny, M. Harvey Taylor, and Jay Woodard.

63.3 NEW PUBLICATION ON EARLY CHRISTIANITY. A review of The Tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, by Engelbert Kirschbaum, S. J. (New York: St. Martin's Press Inc., 1959. 242 pages, \$7.50). Reviewed by Dee F. Green.

This is the most recent publication on a subject which is exceeded in its controversial aspects only by the Dead Sea Scrolls. The author supports the hypothesis that both Peter's and Paul's tombs have been found, comments with some reservations about their actual remains, and goes to some lengths to answer the most serious objections of his critics.

He completely ignores the possibility that Peter may never have been in Rome, a point that is historically far from settled. Despite the author's gallant attempt to prove that Peter is buried beneath St. Peter's Cathedral his evidence is only very circumstantial for the first two centuries AD. Later evidence is based on traditions so varied and complex as to be highly suspect. The hypothesis is interesting; the conclusions are questionable.

The outstanding features of the book are two. First, the excellent illustrative material comprising both photographs, many of which are in color, and drawings. Second, the marginal references to both drawings and photos, without which the text would be difficult if not impossible to understand.

The style is generally good but bogs down in places, due to the complexity of the proofs that the author formulates to support his theory.

The publication is not as popular a treatment as it may appear. It is better geared to those with an intense interest in New Testament and early Christian studies.

63.4 NEW RESEARCH PATRONS. Seven new Research Patrons have been entered in the Society records since the last listing in the Newsletter (61. 6).

Miss Frank McAuliffe of Long Beach, California, is a Research Patron for the year ending June 30, 1960.

Research Patrons for the year ending December 31, 1960, are: Dr. James R. Clark and Dee F. Green of Provo; Lincoln A. Jagerson of Long Beach, California; Luana C. Swade of Princeton, New Jersey; and Joseph E. Vincent of Garden Grove, California.

A Research Patron for a ten-year period ending on June 30, 1969, is Robert G. Harding of Bountiful, Utah.

The honor of Research Patron is obtained by contributing \$10.00 or more per year--in addition to regular membership dues--to the Society's Research Fund. "Special Society honors"--often paper-back books of current interest in archaeology--are sent to Research Patrons, as decided by the Annual Business Meeting of 1955 (Newsletter, 31. 20). These "honors" bespeak the

Society's gratitude for their financial assistance of the expensive BYU-UAS research program.

63.5 WINTER QUARTER CLASSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY. Archaeology 671, Maya Hieroglyphics, is one of the interesting classes being offered during the winter quarter at BYU by the Department of Archaeology.

Welcome to ARCHAEOLOGY 360



Cartoon by Maridean Smith

Also on the schedule are four sections of Archaeology 150, Introduction to Archaeology (including an evening school section); 360, Ancient Civilizations of America; 465, Archaeology of South America; 571, Interpretative Archaeology; and 660, Studies in Comparative Stratigraphy: Mesoamerica.

63.6 CHAPTER REPORTS.

63.60 Campus Chapter. Robert Blair, author of an unpublished doctoral thesis on the Yucatec Maya language, spoke to about 30 members of Campus Chapter, Wednesday evening, December 9. Mr. Blair completed studies in American aboriginal linguistics at the University of Indiana, and then spent some months living with the Yucatec Mayas near Chichén Itzá, Yucatan. There he learned the rudiments of the modern spoken language and made a series of tape recordings of the Mayas for future study.

He presented an interesting lecture by first defining linguistic terms for the benefit of a partially lay audience. He emphasized the enormous complexity of aboriginal languages. He said this is due to immigrants who came over the Bering Straits, or other ways, to tribal splits, and to migrations within the American continents where a mingling of languages took place. He denounced early "so called" linguists who, untrained, made attempts to prove that there was a definite relationship between Hebrew and some of the Indian languages. "Some of our own LDS writers," he said, "have fallen into

the trap of using these writings to support the Book of Mormon." He commented that he personally knows of no such relationship, but also said that the case is not hopeless as he has only scratched the surface. He pointed up that there are some 200 American aboriginal languages, 72-109 language families (depending on who makes the count), and 6 language stocks to work from. The field is wide open for those who can persist in language studies.

63. 61 Salt Lake Chapter. The Salt Lake Chapter met Friday, December 4, with O. Preston Robinson as guest speaker and over 90 members and friends attending. Mr. Robinson, general manager of the Deseret News, and author of the book, The Dead Sea Scrolls and Original Christianity, spoke on the Pseudepigrapha. He gave a brief history of the Septuagint Bible, under Ptolemy II Philadelphus, and the Latin Vulgate Bible which was selected by early Catholic Fathers.

He believes that the compiler's of these bibles discarded many of the Masoretic writings, and that these writings were preserved by the Copts, some of which are now called the Pseudepigrapha. The Pseudepigrapha contain such books as the two Books of Enoch and the Book of Adam and Eve.

He also pointed out that there are several versions which differ in interpretation. Mr. Robinson said that there is additional information in these writings that are not contained in our present bibles and that study in this field may help us better understand the gospel plan and human history.

Dr. M. Wells Jakeman is scheduled as the next speaker sometime in January.

63. 7 BOOK-OF-MORMON INSTITUTE SUCCESSFUL.



Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Dee Green, Dr. Ross T. Christensen, and Dr. M. Wells Jakeman were among UAS members who recently participated in the Book of Mormon Institute.

Approximately 200 persons--members of the Society, students of BYU and of LDS Seminaries, as well as friends and visitors from as far away as Independence, Missouri--attended a "Book of Mormon Institute" held on the BYU campus, Saturday, December 5, 1959.

Lectures covering many different aspects of Book of Mormon studies were delivered by BYU faculty members (Newsletter, 62. 6). Of the 13 participants, 10 were members of the UAS, seven being general officers. The day's program was sponsored by the BYU Adult Education and Extension Services.

The entire proceedings were recorded on tape and will be published by Extension Publications if 250 orders are received. Cost of the publication will be \$1. Society members are urged to send their requests directly to "Extension Publications, BYU, Provo, Utah," since they will handle printing and distribution.