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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 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.)

69.0 NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN. Dr. Ross T. Christensen has been appointed chairman of the Department of Archaeology of Brigham Young University. The appointment, effective September 1, 1960, is in keeping with the University policy of rotating department chairmanships. Dr. Christensen succeeds Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, who has been chairman of the Department since its founding in 1946.

This new arrangement will leave Dr. Jakeman free to continue several research and writing projects now under way, as well as teaching, and the planning of an important new field research project, announcement of which will be made in the near future.



Dr. Jakeman

69.1 NEW CHAIRMAN AIRS VIEWS. Dr. Ross T. Christensen, newly appointed chairman of the Department of Archaeology (see above), has prepared a statement setting forth his personal views on the future development of archaeology at Brigham Young University.

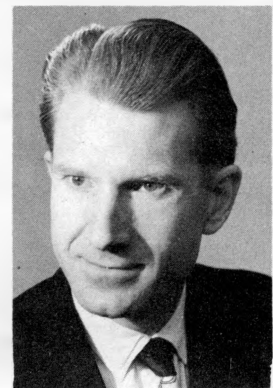
At BYU, it should be understood, basic policy decisions are made by the president of the University and the Board of Trustees. Since decisions concerning some of the points raised in Dr. Christensen's discussion have not been reached, what he states here should be regarded as strictly an expression of personal opinion, not in any degree binding upon the University.

Dr. Christensen has couched his views in the form of a series of questions and answers, as follows:

69.10 Should Archaeology Be Included in the Program of BYU? For its general educational and cultural values alone, archaeology is of great importance to BYU. But perhaps still more important, it can help Latter-day Saints in gaining a so much clearer vision of the Scriptures on which they base their faith.

69.11 What Should Be the Theoretical Basis of Our Archaeology Program? Archaeology is essentially a historical discipline. It differs from conventional history mainly in the fact that it studies ruins and artifacts instead of documents (though sometimes also documents, such as inscriptions and manuscripts found archaeologically in the field). Archaeology is also a single discipline. All branches of the subject possess a common objective and a common methodology: the objective is to construct a developmental picture of what happened in man's past, i. e. history as manifested in the material remains of human workmanship; and the means used to accomplish this aim are reconnaissance and excavation techniques and principles of interpretation which are similar throughout the world and in all branches of the science.

Thus, archaeology is as comprehensive as the total history of all ancient civilization. What BYU should do, therefore, is to incorporate within its program all the main archaeological areas of the world. The principles and methods of the science should also be emphasized. In a word, this university should devote itself to the whole science of archaeology. Once such a broad and firm foundation has been laid, BYU can then face with confidence the investigation of certain special problems, in other words, can build the superstructure of particular inquiries upon the foundation of the whole science.



Dr. Christensen

These concepts of archaeology have, in fact, been those which have guided the development of the BYU Department of Archaeology from the beginning.

69.12 Why Should We Include the "Archaeology of the Scriptures"? This term refers to the archaeological investigation of the four Standard

Works of the LDS church, especially the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Pearl of Great Price because of their extensive historical content. Latter-day Saints bear the entire burden of the last two volumes, and in an ultimate sense may come to bear the principal burden of the Bible itself. It is therefore necessary for them to prepare themselves in every way possible to bear those burdens well. The real question is not whether Latter-day Saints shall use archaeology in connection with the Scriptures, but how they can use it most effectively.

They should, for one thing, be cautious not to attempt to "prove" the Scriptures in a partisan manner. The approach must be that of testing. This approach, in fact, is the only admissible one within the tenets of science.

A further caution is that archaeology directly tests only historical claims, not doctrinal or theological ones. In the case of the Book of Mormon, for example, archaeology should be able to decide whether the historical framework of the record is correct but in general has nothing to say as to whether its religious doctrines are correct. Such conclusions can be drawn only by inference.

The thing to do, then, is first to lay the broad, firm foundation of the whole science of archaeology, and thereafter build upon it the superstructure of the Archaeology of the Scriptures, which is the special and peculiar responsibility of Latter-day Saints. Brigham Young University, in the view of LDS leaders, is the one place in the world where the learning of man can be combined with the revelations of God. Consequently, the greatest contribution this university can possibly make to the cause of enlightenment may be in the field of the Archaeology of the Scriptures.

69.13 Why "Archaeology" Rather Than "Anthropology"? The choice of the word "archaeology" in this proposed program, i. e. of a department of archaeology rather than of anthropology, is not an oversight, nor does it result from a desire to be different. Of the two main divisions of archaeology, historical and prehistoric, only the latter can be regarded as belonging to anthropology. Historical archaeology, on the other hand, which is concerned with the archaeological checking and supplementation of the written records of history, is simply not encompassed by anthropology. Yet BYU, because of its responsibility for scriptural studies, must perforce become deeply involved in biblical archaeology, which belongs to the historical branch.

This inadequacy on the part of anthropology becomes especially obvious in connection with the study of the Book of Mormon. The solution of the archaeological problems of this scripture unavoidably requires comparative studies between the ancient high

civilizations of the Near East and those of Middle America. How can such studies be consummated within the framework of anthropology, which excludes the entire field of Old World historical archaeology?

BYU cannot accomplish its objective merely by imitating what has been done elsewhere. We must aim for leadership in relation to the broader world-concept of the whole science of archaeology as developed in Europe and throughout the world, not in relation to the viewpoint which has been adopted in most North American universities and which some regard as wholly provincial. The latter arrangement--restricting the study of archaeology to departments of anthropology--excludes the branches generally considered the most important, i. e. Near Eastern and classical; while at the same time it makes the rest of that science, i. e. prehistoric archaeology, a mere subservient branch of anthropology.

These comments are not to be taken as discrediting the science of anthropology. In fact, the writer recognizes that discipline as having great worth for BYU and looks forward to the time when it can be brought into our curriculum in a more satisfactory manner. But anthropology by itself cannot solve the historical problems which face us. It can, however--when combined with archaeology--be of great help.

69.14 What Specific Activities Should Be Included in Our Archaeology Program? Archaeology at BYU should include (1) the training of students, (2) research and publication, and (3) an archaeological museum. In addition, the University Archaeological Society should continue to operate as an arm of the Department for disseminating information concerning archaeology (especially the archaeology of the Scriptures) on a somewhat popular level and stimulating interest in its study through its publication program, public meetings, etc.

69.15 Why Must Class Instruction Be Included in the Program? It is important that class instruction in archaeology be fully provided for at BYU. There are two reasons for this conviction: (1) to provide young Latter-day Saints with the opportunity of studying general archaeology in an atmosphere of religious faith and especially of studying the archaeology of the Scriptures--apparently no such opportunity exists at other universities; (2) to prepare professional personnel with which to staff the proposed expanded archaeology program in the future. In view of the scriptural emphasis at BYU, the training of scholars for this purpose evidently cannot be accomplished at other universities.

Since March of 1959, however, the following decisions of the University Administration have affected the Department of Archaeology with respect to these instructional goals: (1) to discontinue all the Department's classes in the related field of anthropology,

in deference to the new combined Department of Sociology and Anthropology (four classes were thereby struck from its curriculum); (2) to discontinue all Lower Division instruction in the Department; (3) to cease giving baccalaureate degrees in the subject, except in the case of majors who were already advanced in their class work (the undergraduate minor, however, and the graduate major will continue to be offered); and (4) to eliminate religion credit for any class outside the College of Religious Instruction (a decision affecting enrollment in the Department's two basic courses, introduction to Near Eastern and biblical archaeology and introduction to American and Book of Mormon archaeology).

During the years between the founding of the Department in 1946 and the announcement of the first of these administrative decisions in 1959, an especially strong curriculum had been worked out. So far as the writer is aware, BYU possessed the most comprehensive and well-balanced class offering in archaeology to be found anywhere in the world on the baccalaureate level. Apparently what has happened since March, 1959, is that the Department's program of instruction has been de-emphasized in anticipation of a corresponding increase of emphasis on its research program. The expected increase, however, has not materialized. At this time it seems important to restore the fine curriculum of class instruction that was worked out prior to 1959, without, of course, weakening the research and publication program.

69.16 Why Must Research and Publication Be Included? When the Department of Archaeology was created in 1946 upon the recommendation of Dr. John A. Widtsoe, then of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees (Newsletter, 58. 2), it was planned that the staff should devote approximately half its time and energies to research and publication and half to classroom instruction, for one of the Department's main purposes was to serve BYU and the Church as a center for research and dissemination of information in the field of the archaeology of the Scriptures. The present seems an excellent time for the administration to confirm the original mandate and to provide the means for its fulfillment.

Since 1946 four series of publications have been instituted by or in behalf of the Department. The first of these, Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History, paid for by University appropriations, now extends to four numbers. The three remaining series are published at the expense of the UAS. They are: UAS Newsletter, 69 numbers; Miscellaneous Papers, 18 numbers; and Special Publications, 3 numbers (see Newsletter, 68. 13). The departmental series--paid for by the University--has

avoided any reference to the Scriptures. The three series of the UAS, however, follow a publication policy determined by the Society itself, and problems of scriptural archaeology have been dealt with in numerous contributions. The best plan seems to be to continue the present arrangement.

It should be noted that the list of the Department's and Society's publications exchange agreements now extends to over forty institutions--universities, museums, and societies--active in the field of archaeology, in both this and foreign countries.

69.17 Should Field Research Be Included? There are only three places where archaeological research ordinarily takes place: the field, the library, and the museum. The value of library and museum research must not be minimized, but at the same time it should be realized that all archaeological information comes originally from the field. Joseph Smith himself seems clearly to have recognized the need for field research directed to the elucidation of the Book of Mormon. Moreover, for any great progress to be made, say, in the archaeology of the Book of Mormon, it is necessary for Latter-day Saints themselves to be actively engaged in field research; for those who know the historical and geographic requirements of that record should, of course, be the ones to determine where the digs shall be placed. Non-LDS scholars cannot be relied upon to choose sites of real significance in connection with the claims of the Book of Mormon.

69.18 Why an Archaeological Museum? The archaeological museum is not only a place to preserve precious evidence. It is also an incomparable tool for teaching the public--as well as classes from the university and public schools--concerning the ancient past. Next to a library, it appears to the writer that laboratories and a museum are the greatest assets a university can have. Since BYU is reported to have possessed a museum as early as 1892, it seems not too early now to restore this invaluable asset. Perhaps the ideal arrangement would be to erect on the campus an Archaeological Center--a separate building--to house the museum and its laboratories, together with classrooms and offices for the Department and facilities for the UAS.

69.19 How Many Staff Members are Needed? The minimal application of the above-outlined program may require a full-time staff of at least five. Steps should be taken, beginning immediately, to build the staff from the present two to that number by September 1, 1961. Eventually, the departmental faculty should be increased at least to 25 members, in order really to accomplish the great tasks at hand.

69.2 NEW PUBLICATION ON IZAPA STELA 5. A new, 47-page monograph on Stela 5 (the Lehi Tree-

of-Life Stone), found at the ruins of Izapa, southern Mexico, has recently come off the press. (This is in addition to the blue-covered Special Publication No. 2.)

Written by Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, it is entitled, The Complex "Tree-of-Life" Carving on Izapa Stela 5: A Reanalysis and Partial Interpretation; and has been issued as No. 4 of the departmental series, "Brigham Young University Publications in Archaeology and Early History." Since this is not a UAS publication--the printing cost having been paid by the University--it will not be distributed automatically to Society members. The Department has arranged, however, for a copy to be sent to any Society member upon request, as one of his annual entitlement of five free past publications (Newsletter, 66.33).

The present monograph is also being distributed to the entire Exchange and Complimentary Mailing List of the UAS, which includes scholars, universities, museums, and libraries throughout the world. According to Dr. Jakeman, the publication contains no reference to the Book of Mormon. Having been planned for presentation to the archaeological profession, it is devoted entirely to a detailed analysis of the carving and a study of the similarities it presents to ancient Near Eastern art conventions, particularly the Assyrian Tree of Life motif. (Students who are interested in the specific Book of Mormon evidences presented by Stela 5 should refer to the previous blue-covered publication, Stela 5, Izapa, Chiapas, Mexico; a Major Archaeological Discovery of the New World, which was originally distributed to Society members in April, 1959. At the present time a single copy of this previous work may be purchased by new members of the Society for \$1. The sale price to the public and to members who have already received a copy is \$2.)

69.20 Editorial Note. The following recent statement concerning the above new monograph of Dr. Jakeman on the Izapa carving is quoted from The Interamerican (a newsletter edited by Dr. Carl B. Compton, director of the Instituto Interamericano of Denton, Texas), Vol. 7, No. 7, July-October, 1960, p. 5:

"For those who have not seen this publication, and that will likely be most people, this may come as a surprise. This is Mormon Archaeology at its best, scientifically presented with little or no advocacy. Some people may be disturbed by Jakeman's parallels between certain New and Old World elements but he is very cautious and after all the parallels are there. - Recommended."

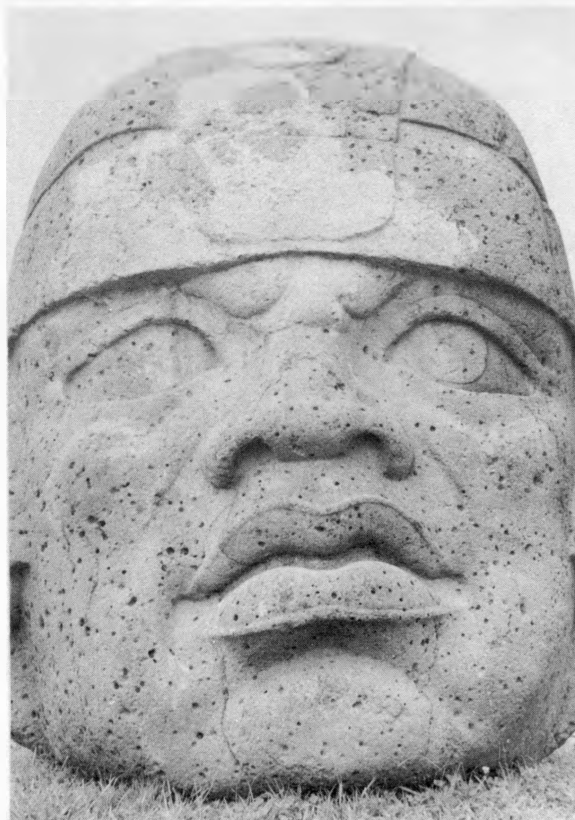
69.3 CHAPTER REPORTS

69.30 Campus Chapter Hears Reports on Mexico Trip. Election of officers for the fall semester,

and an illustrated report of an archaeological trip into Mexico, were featured during the first meeting of the school year of the BYU Campus Chapter, held October 5.

Chapter officers were elected as follows: honorary president, Ray T. Matheny of Provo; president, M. Harvey Taylor of Colonia Juárez, Chihuahua, México; vice-president, Lawrence O. Anderson of Santa Monica, California; and secretary, Dorothy Louise DeWitt of Jacksonville, Illinois. Messrs. Matheny and Taylor held the same offices during the preceding spring quarter. Miss DeWitt has also previously held office in the Chapter (Newsletter, 66.4). Following the meeting, ice cream and a variety of Mexican refreshments were served.

Dr. Ross T. Christensen reported on an archaeological tour which he and Mr. Taylor made into southern Mexico between August 26 and September 12. The pair met at the Mennell H. Taylor residence in Colonia Juárez, northern México. From there the nearby ruins of Casas Grandes were examined. At that site the Amerind Foundation of Dragoon, Arizona, is in the midst of extensive excavations, revealing an early culture (12th century A. D.) capable of building three-story adobe structures and exhibiting "Toltec" influences from Mesoamerica. (Mr. Taylor, incidentally, spent the summer of 1959 on the Casas Grandes project; see Newsletter 62.52.)



One of the giant "Olmec" stone heads, about 9 feet high. Photo by M. Harvey Taylor.

In Mexico City, Dr. Christensen presented a report of the BYU expedition of 1958 (Newsletter, 48. 0) to the Mexican Government, and discussed with Mexican officials the plans of the BYU archaeology department to place a further expedition in the field during 1961.

From Minatitlán, in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Veracruz, a river boat took the explorers up the swollen Coatzacoalcos and Chiquito rivers to the remote village of Tenochtitlán. Numerous thatched huts of the natives were seen flooded along the river's edge as a result of recent heavy rains.



Valentin González is shown with the new monument he discovered two days before the arrival of the BYU party. Photo by M. Harvey Taylor.

At Tenochtitlán, horses were hired and guides employed to lead the travelers to places of archaeological interest. The horses struggled in deep mud on a trail that led through thick jungle on top of a high ridge, which may anciently have been an earthen rampart. At length the horses were tethered beside the trail, while the machete-wielding guides conducted the explorers afoot through the green tangled growth up the steep sides of pyramids to a carving never before reported to the outside world.

One of the guides, Valentín González, had discovered it only two days before, while hunting armadillos. In the dim light of the rain-forest the archaeologists' eyes focused on a somber bas-relief carved on what was evidently a stone altar (see photograph). An aproned priest held what seemed to be a ceremonial axe-head upon his abdomen. The personage's face was typically "Olmec," presenting a down-turned mouth with an arched upper lip.

Tenochtitlán (the Aztec name of Mexico City) is the name that was given the locality by history-minded settlers in 1936. Together with San Lorenzo and Potrero Nuevo, located several miles distant, it evidently constitutes a single large urban center dating back at least to a period several centuries B. C. The area was first explored in 1945 by Dr. Matthew W. Stirling of the Smithsonian Institution. Among the remarkable discoveries made by him were five colossal stone heads carved in the full round and measuring up to nine feet high. This class of sculpture is known only from the Gulf Coast region of southern Mexico.

Since government officials had removed the giant heads, as well as other art treasures, to the museum of the Veracruz University at Jalapa, the travelers next visited that institution.

At the October 5 meeting Dr. Christensen illustrated his report with Kodachrome slides taken by him during the Mexico trip. At a second meeting held on October 19, Mr. Taylor exhibited additional slides and other photographs which he also obtained during the trip.

69. 31 Salt Lake Chapter. A trip to Mesa Verde National Park highlighted recent activities of the Salt Lake Chapter. The excursion was held August 18-20 under the direction of Virgil Peterson, chapter director, with twenty-four persons participating. Carl Hugh Jones, a graduate student in archaeology at Brigham Young University, who spent a season excavating in Mesa Verde with the National Park Service, accompanied the party and acted as guide.

The group visited the regular sites open to tourists as well as the laboratory facilities of the National Park Service on Wetherill Mesa. They also visited Arches National Monument enroute home. According to Mr. Peterson, the chapter is planning another excursion next summer, possibly to Mexico.

Dr. Francis W. Kirkham was the speaker before over 70 members and visitors of the Salt Lake Chapter on October 14. Dr. Kirkham reviewed briefly the history and reasons behind the publication of his two-volume work, A New Witness for Christ in America. He indicated that a new edition of Vol. II has recently come off the press, under the auspices of Brigham Young University, and that a third volume is presently in preparation.

Future meetings of the Chapter will be held on the first Friday of each month at 8:00 p. m. at the LDS Institute of Religion, 274 University Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

69.4 AUGUST GRADUATE. Ray T. Matheny was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree in Archaeology from Brigham Young University during the annual commencement exercises in August. His wife, Pat, also graduated, with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. Mr. Matheny minored in History and is presently an assistant in the archaeology department for the Fall Semester, teaching a section of the class in Archaeology 310, Introduction to Near Eastern and Biblical Archaeology.

69.5 ILLEGAL SALE OF PERUVIAN GOLD. A UAS member has shown us a duplicated letter from a gentleman in Florida telling of an "outstanding gold discovery" which has been offered for sale in Peru. Evidently, a number of Society members have been contacted in the same manner.

UAS officers wish to make it clear that neither the Society nor the BYU has had anything to do with the distribution of this letter and furthermore advise all Society members to avoid becoming involved in any way with the proposed illegal sale of antiquities referred to therein.

69.6 UAS PURCHASES FILM ON MEXICAN ARCHAEOLOGY. "Scenes of Ancient Mexico" is the name of a Kodachrome motion picture purchased by the UAS this month for the purpose of making it available to its chapters and members.

Produced by Otto Done, the 16mm silent film is 432 ft. long and can be shown in approximately 15 minutes. More than a dozen scenes of ancient Mexican ruins, such as Teotihuacán, Chichén Itzá, and Monte Albán, also native dances and market places are included. A one-page commentary is sent out with every rental of the film.

Mr. Done, who is a well-known tour organizer and professional photographer specializing in Mexican archaeological subjects, has served the UAS as president during the past year. He also previously served the Society as vice-president and as director of its Mexico City Chapter (Newsletter, 27.1, 37.01, and 61.1).

Any person may rent the film, which may be kept for three days before returning. The rental charge is \$2.50. Orders should be sent to: Department of Audio-Visual Communication, BYU, Provo, Utah. Since the film will be handled by that office, orders should NOT be sent to the UAS.