



BOOK OF MORMON CENTRAL

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Type: Newsletter

U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 26 (March 31, 1955)

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Published by: University Archaeological Society, Brigham Young University

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Published by THE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Editor: Gareth W. Lowe

26.0 U.A.S. Members Complete Archaeological Tour of Book-of-Mormon Lands. By Otto Done. Three U.A.S. members, with Pres. Milton R. Hunter in charge, José Dávila (of Puebla, Mexico) as guide, and the writer as photographer, recently completed an extensive expedition for the purpose of studying and photographing selected sites in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.

A brief story of this trip follows; for a more detailed account of our findings the reader is referred to a series of illustrated articles by Dr. Hunter to appear in The Improvement Era, beginning in the month of April.

With letters of recommendation, plane reservations, photographic film and equipment purchased and tested, preparations for jungle country including hammocks, machetes, high-top boots, pills for purifying water, and malaria preventative, etc., we were ready for our new adventure.

We left Mexico City by plane, passing over the Teotihuacan ruins and the beautiful Huasteca country of El Tajín and Cempoala in eastern Mexico. ~~After~~ brief stops at Veracruz, Minatitlan, and Tuxtla Gutiérrez, we arrived in Tapachula, Chiapas, near the Guatemalan border, in the middle of the afternoon.

IZAPA AND THE TREE-OF-LIFE STONE. About seven miles from Tapachula in a rich cocoa-bean-producing region are found the abandoned ruins of Izapa. Here we saw countless mounds and many huge carved stones. At the base of one of the largest mounds is found the "Lehi" Tree-of-Life Stone, now familiar to members due to the efforts of U.A.S. President M. Wells Jakeman, in an article recently published in Bulletin 4. After making our pictures, a roof was built over the stela, with the help of the natives, to protect it from the elements. (The importance of this monument has been brought to the attention of the Director of Pre-Hispanic Monuments, and efforts are being made to remove it to the National Museum in Mexico City.)

The next day found us on our way to Guatemala City, where we were welcomed at the Mission Home and joined by Elder "Toby" Pingree who had made advance arrangements for us to visit sites in Guatemala by private plane.

KAMINALJUYU AND THE GUATEMALA MUSEUM. On the outskirts of Guatemala City we were impressed by the extent and antiquity of the ruins of Kaminaljuyu. We took many pictures here and later in the Museum. Scenes of the Quetzal bird, jewels of gold and jade, a breastplate of gold, figures of bearded men, jars bearing significant symbols, etc., all added to our growing collection. (For a scientific report on the findings made in this area see NEWSLETTER No. 25.)

COPAN, QUIRIGUA, FLORES, TAYASAL. By private plane we made a brief stop at Copan, Honduras, circled Quirigua, and landed at Bananera (United

Fruit Shipping point) for refueling. The flight going north over Lake Izabal and the tropical jungle country to Flores (the "Chicle Capital") was most fascinating.

TIKAL AND UAXACTUN. Flying again north from Flores we soon sighted five of the great "skyscraper" temple-towers of Tikal poking their heads up through the profuse jungle growth. Circling the ruins we made several aerial views and movies and then landed on the short airstrip where the pilot applied the brakes to keep from plowing into the jungle. The roaring plane frightened a flock of wild turkeys and when we walked 30 minutes to the ruins we saw wild monkeys swinging through the trees, the beautifully colored toucan bird, parrots, and other wild life. Although they were covered by dense growth, we were able to climb to the top of various 5- or 6-story-high temples. Reluctantly we left Tikal in order to get to Uaxactun before dark.

As we landed at Uaxactun we were greeted by a large group of curious village folk, most of whom work for the Wrigley Import Co. There was no hotel but we were invited to use the open-air schoolhouse for the night. We used our jungle hammocks which gave us a good night's sleep and gave us protection against malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Early the next morning found us out in the jungle searching the ruins with the help of one of the natives. Among other things we photographed the stela having the oldest known date found at ruins of a Maya city. We ate tortillas, beans, and eggs along with some of the chicle workers, and headed back to Guatemala City, stopping at Coban to refuel and at Huehuetenango to take pictures of the ruins there. We made a night landing at the airport and spent a comfortable night at the Mission Home.

YUCATAN RUINS. After riding in a jumpy single-motor plane over the jungles, mountains, and valleys of most of Guatemala for three days, we were now glad to fly in a four-motor plane to Mérida, Yucatan. From here we visited the ruins of Chichen Itza, Uxmal, and Kabah. Some photographs were made of private collections as well as in the Museum at Mérida. By car we traveled to Campeche, and an overnight ride on the train put us in Tenosique, Tabasco (on the Usumacinta River), where we immediately made arrangements for a trip to Bonampak.

BONAMPAK ('PAINTED WALL'). This was the name given to this unique group of temples by the late Dr. Sylvanus Morley. He dated it in the Old Maya Empire (about 400-900 A.D.). This region of Chiapas is inhabited by the strange and almost extinct Lacandon Indians who were encountered during World War II by chicle workers and Charles Frey, a young American and friend of the writer. Frey married one of the girls and lived among them for years. After much time and persuasion, helped by a handcranked phonograph and other gifts, the Indians revealed the location of their sacred temples. The official announcement of the discovery was made to the world in May, 1947, nearly one year after they had been shown to Frey. (A few years later Frey was drowned in the Lacanjá River while leading an expedition to Bonampak.)

To reach this isolated area we flew south-southeast for forty-five minutes in a small plane from Tenosique and landed at the abandoned chicle airstrip, El Cedro (The Cedar). After finding the nearby Lacandon camp deserted, the pilot advised us to return with him, for, he said, others who started out on their own had been lost in the jungle for weeks. We were determined to go on, so after making a date for him to meet us back at the airstrip in two days we started out in the direction of Bonampak without a guide. After an hour on the indistinct trail, it appeared that we were losing our way, but then we heard voices ahead and were soon met by three Lacandon Indians, who took us to their camp an hour and a

half farther on. There we met the rest of their group or clan, some twelve in all. Both men and women wore the hair long and were dressed alike, in a loose handmade robe. At first glance it was difficult to tell them apart, but soon we observed that all the women were pregnant. They spoke to each other in a Mayan dialect. After chatting with them in Spanish, which they had learned from previous visitors, and taking many pictures, we made arrangements for the father (Nabor) and a son (Juan) to take us to Bonampak. On the way we traveled in water above our knees, crossed the Lacanja River in a dugout canoe, and visited two more camps of the Lacandons. When darkness came, we were forced to stop and pitch our camp. We spent a cold night in our jungle hammocks, while Nabor and Juan cuddled around the campfire. The next morning, after walking a total of more than six hours (about 16 miles) from the airstrip, we reached the Maya temples of Bonampak, which we found almost concealed by the jungle on the terraced slopes of a hill. In photographing the various temples and stela we first had to cut away much of the undergrowth with our machetes. In the largest building we found three rooms of the famous murals. Although partly destroyed by time, as many as thirteen colors can be counted in the wall paintings. These depict dances, priests, scenes of battle, etc., all in perfect balance and symmetry. Light and dark people are seen in some of the scenes.

Leaving the ruins, nightfall found us back in the camp of the Lacandons where we enjoyed their hospitality and a dinner consisting mostly of tortillas, eggs, bananas, and sweet potatoes. The next day eight of the Indians and five of their twelve dogs accompanied us back to the airstrip. While waiting for the plane I photographed them with a Polaroid 60-second Camera, and for the first time they saw themselves in a picture. They all have an abundance of hair, which they allow to fall down over the face; when told that Pres. Hunter had very little hair, one of the boys had to see for himself by lifting off Pres. Hunter's hat. José Dávila suggested that a different hair dress would be more practical, but they didn't take well to the "horse's tail" he fixed on one of the women.

Finally the pilot showed up, nearly five hours late--his only excuse being that he believed we might have been lost or at least we would not be back on time. Before climbing into the plane, we gave more gifts to the Indians, including combs, matches, soap, 22-caliber cartridges, pocket knives, etc. They appreciated these things far more than money, since they never traveled to any of the settlements of civilization beyond the borders of their territory.

Although off the beaten trail, Bonampak occupies a place of honor in the world of art and archaeology. (Dr. Hunter remarked that a journey through the jungle to Bonampak was like obtaining a Ph.D., an experience you want to go through only once.)

PALENQUE AND OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONES. In a plane which had just previously been used for transporting hogs we rode to Palenque, where we visited the ruins and the newly-discovered, Egyptianlike pyramid-tomb; and then on to Villahermosa, Tabasco, from where we flew back to Mexico City in a large Mexican airlines plane.

Other sites visited but more easily accessible from Mexico City were Copilco, Cuicuilco, Tenayuca, Teotihuacan, Tula, El Tajín, Teopanzalco, Xochicalco, Malinalco, Calixtlahuaca, Cholula, Monte Alban, and Mitla.

MOVIES MADE. Over 4,000 feet of 16mm Kodachrome movies were made on this trip, in addition to 225 black and white pictures and several hundred slides, 35mm and stereo. These will be used for exhibition and lecture purposes, as well as for the illustration of articles on the expedition.

26.1 Colored Slides and a Museum Visit were features of recent Salt Lake Chapter meetings. In January Miss Verla Birrell, widely-traveled University of Utah instructor and artist, vividly described the geography of Latin America, illustrating her lecture with selections from the large slide collection obtained by her of archaeological sites, museums, and private collections in Mexico, Central and South America.

Dr. Jesse D. Jennings, head of the U. of U. Anthropology Department, was host for the February chapter meeting, showing the group through the museum and describing for them the current archaeological survey of Utah.

In place of the regular March meeting, Dr. Milton R. Hunter presented colorful slides of Mexican and Guatemalan ruins to a capacity audience in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square. Sponsored jointly by the UAS and the BYU Extension Division, Dr. Hunter gave a résumé of his recent trip to Central America, which is reported above. Although most of the sites visited by this group were of the showy "Classic" civilizations post-dating the Book of Mormon period by from one to eight hundred years, Dr. Hunter saw considerable evidence of Nephite traditions present in the art motifs.

26.2 Explorations in Southern Utah. Members of the St. George Chapter have made recent jeep trips into lesser-known parts of their fascinating area, according to Mrs. La Ree Lamoreaux, secretary. She reports a strong interest in visiting archaeological sites in these "untouched" regions.

26.3 Successful Lecture Series. The recent lectures on the archaeology of the Book of Mormon delivered by Dr. M. Wells Jakeman in the Ogden Tabernacle are reported to have been highly successful, with an average of 700 persons in attendance. Although sponsored by the BYU Extension Division, the series was originated and promoted by L. Elmer Peterson, principal of the Ogden Seminary of the LDS Church, ably assisted by other UAS members including Henry B. Squires, Leona Comdie, Edna Hardy, and Mrs. Beth Parker. Valued assistance was also given by J. Raman Drake and James R. Harris, instructors at the Ogden Seminary, and Myrtle Gaumer. Gratitude is expressed to these persons, and to the Ogden area stake presidents for use of the tabernacle, as well as to the bishops of Ogden wards who helped materially in the sale of tickets.

Principal Peterson reports that many favorable comments have been received relative to the lectures, and he suggests that similar projects be carried out in other places.

According to Dr. Jakeman, the amount received from the lectures has been added to the Society's growing fund for an archaeological expedition.

26.4 Illinois Archaeology. Melvin L. Fowler, UAS member of Springfield, Ohio, is the author of the lead article in the January, 1955, American Antiquity, entitled "Ware Groupings and Decorations of Woodland Ceramics in Illinois." Mr. Fowler is an assistant editor of American Antiquity, responsible for notes and news of the northern Mississippi valley.

The Illinois State Museum has announced its 1955 archaeological field session, to excavate a Randolph County cave site, from June 13 to August 13. Students and others interested in participating may write to Melvin L. Fowler, Curator of Anthropology, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

26.5 Scholarship awarded. John L. Sorenson, BYU instructor in archaeology, has been awarded a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for the coming year. The grant will be sufficient to permit full-time pursuit of a

graduate anthropology program at University of California at Los Angeles.

- 26.6 Secretary-Treasurer On Leave. Ross T. Christensen is in Arizona completing doctoral requirements. He reminds Society members of the May 1 deadline for the MEXICAN TOUR, which he will co-direct. Cost is \$310; tour dates, June 10 to July 1. For details, contact Dr. Max Rogers, B.Y.U. Travel-Study Tours.
- 26.7 New Society Members. The following list of UAS members who have joined the Society since September 30, 1954, brings up-to-date the Directory appearing in Bulletin No. 5:

AAMODT, L. C., 174 Eyring Science Center, Brigham Young Univ., Provo, Utah
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