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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 1 (August 15, 1951)

Editors(s): John L. Sorenson

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Editor: John L. Sorenson....Business Manager: Robert G. Rigby

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**PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER:** A recent circular letter sent by the Society to all LDS stake and mission presidents stated, in part, "Now, for the first time in the history of the Church, there exists an organization with facilities for presenting accurate, fully-documented archaeological data to missionaries, teachers and students of the LDS scriptures. This organization is known as the University Archaeological Society, an adjunct of the Department of Archaeology of the BYU ... Its purpose is to act as a medium for publishing and transmitting to its members the latest results of archaeological research." To speed this sort of news to Society members this U.A.S. Newsletter was recently authorized by the Executive Council of the Society.

It is intended as a vehicle for news of members, commentaries and notes which are too important to wait or too brief for the Bulletin. Queries to be answered herein or news briefs may be addressed to the editor c/o the Department at BYU. Newsletters are to be at most two pages in length and as frequent as material allows.

1.01 **SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AND NEPHI:** The February issue of The Biblical Archaeologist showed a detailed reconstruction proposed for the temple of Solomon at Jerusalem. Aside from the interest of this article in the Biblical field it has significance in the Book of Mormon area also, since the first Nephite temple in the New World was built on the same plan. Note especially in the reconstruction the use of a rather high platform, a very possible beginning (adopted ultimately from Mesopotamia?) of the temple pyramids or platforms of America. Dr. M. Wells Jakeman discussed some of the similarities between Palestinian and Classic Maya and Mexican (post-Book of Mormon) temples at the last annual symposium of the Society in November. More details will eventually be given in a Bulletin article.

1.02 **ITZAS:** A review of The Maya Chronicles (A. Barrera Vasquez and Sylvanus G. Morley, Carnegie Inst. Contrib. to Amer. Anthr. and Hist., X, Washington, 1949) by David Kelley in American Antiquity (XVI, 269-270, Jan., 1951) concludes that the correlation of chronicles by the author has shown that the Itzas spoken of in them were actually descendants of Classic Period Mayas who remained in Yucutan during the period of Mexican dominance there. This is in striking confirmation of the views of Dr. Jakeman regarding these "holy men." A succinct statement of this problem is contained in a note by Dr. Jakeman in American Antiquity (XII, 127-130, Oct., 1946) which may be obtained in a reprint from the Department.

1.03 **THE "AMERICAN RACE":** T.D. Stewart and Marshall T. Newman, in "An Historical Resume of the Concept of Differences in Indian Types" (American Anthropologist, LIII, 19-36, Jan.-Mar., 1951), trace the growth of the idea of Indian racial unity, point out other views in contrast and end with a justification of the growing tendency to see many physical types among the aborigines.

Book of Mormon students will note that the long-inviolable theory of a single (Mongoloid) race is being superseded by a more liberal view which would not automatically rule out Near Easterners from Ancient American racial picture.

1.21 BYU LEADERSHIP WEEK: A number of Society members spoke at the six-hour-per-day Book of Mormon Institute held as a part of Leadership Week in June. Speakers and their subjects included: Ross T. Christensen, "Andean Origins in the Light of the Book Of Mormon"; Thomas S. Ferguson, "The Nephite Scriptures" and "Evidence that Christ Visited Ancient America"; Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., "A Collection of Evidences"; Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, "The Book of Mormon and American Archaeology" and "The Geography of the Book of Mormon"; Wendell O. Rich, "Chronology of the Book of Mormon"; Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, "Our Book of Mormon"; Irene Briggs Woodford, "The Tree of Life Symbol in Ancient America."

1.22 UTAH VALLEY RECONNAISSANCE: On July 9th eight members and friends of the Campus chapter made a reconnaissance of the Lincoln Beach area near Utah Lake, Ross T. Christensen supervised the work. Systematic search revealed many petroglyphs and some possible pit dwellings associated with the Provo level of Lake Bonneville, and a shell mound, probably a habitation site, near the present lake level. Notes are on file and available to those interested.

1.41 Ross T. Christensen has been in Provo through the summer studying for Autumn PhD examinations at the U. of Arizona, where he will continue studies the coming school year.

The Peruvian weekly newsmagazine, 1951, for January 8, 1951, contained a full-page article about the work of Mr. Christensen on the North Coast of Peru. Most of the text was a reprint of an article written for the newspaper at Piura by the student archaeologist. Besides telling of his receiving a Pan-American Fellowship in Peruvian archaeology, the article summarized the results of three months of digging at Chusia in the Piura Valley. A brief report of the same work was in the Notes and News section of American Antiquity (DVI, 190-191, Jan. 1951).

1.42 Einar Erickson, Bob Rigby and Gareth Lowe of the Campus chapter have made a number of trips this summer to the four-corners area of Utah to further their studies of Southwest Archaeology. Artifacts of all Basketmaker and Pueblo periods were represented at approximately 40 sites found thus far.

1.43 Dr. Harrison Val Hoyt recently returned from a 9 and one half week tour of Mediterranean and Near Eastern lands which included visits to such sites as Jerusalem, Jericho, Babylon, Ninevah, Athens, Rome, etc.

1.44 White attending Graduate School at Louisiana State U. William McIntyre has been working at shell-mound sites in the bayou region of Louisiana.

1.45 The campus chapter secretary, DeLaMar Jensen, at the end of a mission in Guatemala last Spring, attended classes for a time that were taught by DR. Heinrich Berlin of the Museo Nacional at Guatemala City.

1.91 BULLETIN NUMBER 2: The second Bulletin of the Society is awaiting final work at the printer's. Articles will include:

"Radioactive Dating of Archaeological Materials", by John L. Sorenson; "Mesoamerican Chronology" by Dr. M. Wells Jakeman; "Preliminary Report of Excavations in the Piura Valley, Peru", by Ross T. Christensen. Watch for it in the near future.