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## U.A.S. Newsletter, no. 36 (July 13, 1956)

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# U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

Number 36

Editor: Ross T. Christensen  
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July 13, 1956

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 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 the Department of Archaeology of BYU.)

36.0 UAS General Elections to be Held This Month. General elections of the UAS are being conducted during the remainder of this month and the first two weeks of August, according to Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, Society President (last Newsletter, 35.2).

Candidates for two administrative offices and an Honorary Membership, as well as three revisions of the Constitution proposed by the Executive Committee, will be voted on by mail, with the results to be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The term of office for president and vice-president is three years, according to a constitutional amendment adopted at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, November 21, 1955 (see December 9 Newsletter, 31.20). The same meeting also authorized voting by mail, in place of holding elections at annual business meetings, and adopted a measure prohibiting any president of the Society from succeeding himself in office.

(Candidates for the office of general secretary-treasurer are not being submitted in this issue pending the adoption of one of the proposed amendments, which would require that position to be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee.)

Honorary Membership in the UAS is in force for life. Previously elected Honorary Members are: the late Dr. John A. Widtsoe, Dr. Sidney B. Sperry, Dr. Howard S. McDonald, and Asa S. Kienke (December 9 Newsletter, 31.22).

GENERAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY MAIL THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE OFFICIAL BALLOT IS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. SEE PAGE 2 FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND VITA OF THE CANDIDATES. AUGUST 15 WILL BE THE DEADLINE ON RECEIVING BALLOTS.

Five nominees to the three offices open for voting have been named by the Society's Nominations Committee. In addition, spaces are provided on the ballot for write-in votes. Included also are the proposed constitutional amendments. Under the constitution, the Nominations Committee consists of the general secretary-treasurer (chairman), the chairman of the BYU Department of Archaeology, two general officers appointed by the president of the Society, and the honorary president of the Campus Chapter. Present members of the Committee are: Ross T. Christensen, (chairman), M. Wells Jakeman, Wilfrid C. Bailey, Clark S. Knowlton, and Robert R. Beishline.

Attached to this Newsletter is an Official Ballot. Society Members are urged to return their votes without delay. To be considered, ballots must be received before August 15th.

The candidates named by the Nominations Committee, and the proposed amendments, are as follows:

36.00



For President: FRANKLIN S. HARRIS, JR., PhD. A contributing editor of The Improvement Era; author of The Book of Mormon: Message and Evidences; co-author of Seven Claims of the Book of Mormon: Former vice-president of the Itzan Society; General Officer of the UAS since 1950. Vice-president since 1954. Director of the Salt Lake Chapter since its founding in 1954.

36.01

For Vice-President: WILFRID C. BAILEY, PhD in anthropology. Archaeological field and laboratory experience in Illinois and Arizona, including that of field supervisor at Ventana Cave. Fellow of American Anthropological Association. Assistant Sociologist, Division of Sociology and Rural Life, Mississippi State College. General Officer of the UAS since 1952.



36.02



For Vice-President: OTTO DONE, AB. A professional photographer, with considerable experience in the photographic recording of the archaeological sites and antiquities of Mexico and Central America. Assisted in the photographic work of the UAS Central American Expedition of 1956. General Officer of the UAS and Director of the Mexico City Chapter since 1955.

36.03

For Vice-President: LORENZO H. SNOW, MA. A graduate student in sociology and an archaeology enthusiast of several years' standing. Undergraduate study in archaeology at BYU. Is at present working on his PhD dissertation at Ohio State University. An early member of the UAS and secretary-treasurer in 1949. General Officer since 1952.



36.04

For Honorary Member: M. WELLS JAKEMAN, PhD. Founder and chairman of the Department of Archaeology of Brigham Young University. Co-founder of the UAS, and president since 1952. Director of three archaeological expeditions to Central America, including the UAS expedition of this year. Editor of the Bulletin of the UAS since 1950. Author of several important contributions to the archaeology of the New World and the Book of Mormon, published and forthcoming.

36. 05

Proposed Constitutional Amendments. The following amendments to the constitution of the Society were proposed by the Executive Committee in a meeting of June 19 and are submitted for the ratifying vote of the Society membership:

1. Provision for a new general office in the Society: that of "General Editor" (as found in other organizations of like nature, and in view of the considerable publication program of the Society), who shall act as general editor of the Society's publications.
2. Provision for a new committee, that of "Publications Committee," consisting of the General Editor as chairman and other members of the Society appointed thereto by the Executive Committee, which shall plan the publications of the Society.
3. Provision for the revision of the article dealing with the election of officers, to require the election of President and Vice-president, as at present, but to provide for the appointment of General Editor and General Secretary-Treasurer (for indefinite terms) by the Executive Committee (as these posts must be filled by staff members of the Department of Archaeology at Brigham Young University, allowing for only a very limited selection which the Executive Committee can properly make much better than the membership in a general election).

36. 1

Ninth Annual Symposium Ends. An hour of questions and answers, featuring inquiries from the audience on the archaeology of the Book of Mormon responded to by Drs. Jakeman and Christensen, ended the Society's Ninth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, held June 18-22. This year's Symposium was a series of five lectures presented as a feature of the 33rd Annual Leadership Week of BYU. The archaeological activities of the week, presided over by President Jakeman, drew audiences which filled the John A. Widtsoe Lecture Hall to capacity at almost every meeting.

The most exciting feature of the week was Dr. Jakeman's report of the Society's expedition to Central America of last winter. This was presented in two lectures before crowds totaling nearly 500 Society members and Leadership Week guests.

Also featured during the week was Dr. Ross T. Christensen, who presented two lectures: one entitled "A Season of Excavation on the North Coast of Peru," giving an account of the lecturer's field research for his doctoral dissertation; the other, a discussion of the important question, "Did Book-of-Mormon Peoples Reach Peru?".

The fifth lecture was a report of "Recent Discoveries in Northeastern Mexico," by Dr. Welby W. Ricks, graduate assistant in the Department of Archaeology.

The contents of all five lectures are expected to be made available to Society members. Dr. Christensen's two presentations were recorded and are being printed in full for distribution through the Extension Division of BYU (mailing price will be announced when ready for distribution). A summary of Dr. Jakeman's report will appear, it is expected, in a forthcoming issue of the Newsletter. A résumé of Dr. Ricks' lecture follows:

**RECENT DISCOVERIES IN NORTHEASTERN MEXICO**, by Dr. Welby W. Ricks. The area of northeastern Mexico, centering at Panuco, near Tampico, on the Gulf coast, is of special interest (particularly to LDS) because of a tradition recorded by the early Spanish priest

Bernardino de Sahagún, that "the first people to settle this land came from towards Florida, coming along the coast and disembarking at the port of Panuco which they (the Aztecs) call . . . Panutla, that is to say, 'The Place Where Those Landed Who Came Across the Sea.'"

This region is also important archaeologically because it was the pathway of probable migration of peoples and diffusion of culture elements from Mesoamerica to eastern United States in ancient times.

Excavations in 1941-42, sponsored by the Institute of Andean Research, at the Pavón site near Panuco in the Huasteca or territory of the Mayan Huastec Indians, went to a depth of 6 1/2 meters, revealing 19 occupation layers comprising six main periods, as follows:

Last or	
Period VI	Occupied by the Huastecs at the time of the Spanish conquest. Dominant pottery type, of local origin, black-on-white. ca. 1350-1524 AD.
Period V.	Strong influence of an intrusive people from the south, either central Veracruz or the Valley of Mexico. Consists of a combination of traits referable to the Aztec I-Mazapan complex of central Mexico. ca. 1000-1350 AD. Also an interesting wheeled toy was found and platform pipes--some with bipod support and others with effigies.
Period IV.	Round structures, probably older in the Panuco area than elsewhere in Mesoamerica except possibly central Mexico. These were probably dedicated to the Wind-and-Life God Quetzalcoatl.
Period III.	Ceramic complexes appear to be primarily of local origin, but there are indications of a connection with the Tajin culture of northern Veracruz and with the Teotihuacan culture which centered in the Valley of Mexico. This latter connection is most apparent in the Teotihuacan-like figurine types found.
Periods I, II.	Pottery characteristics show a relationship to the "Pre-Classic" developments farther south in Mesoamerica, as at Uaxactun in northern Guatemala and in southern Mexico, apparently dating to the first centuries of the Christian Era. According to Ekholm, "it seems . . . most probable that the introduction of a Mayan language (into this region, i. e. ancestral to the Huastec) occurred at the beginning of Period II, when pottery suggesting affiliation with the early cultures in the Maya area was in vogue."

Excavations have also been conducted in this region by the University of Chicago, in an expedition of 1945-46 under the direction of Richard MacNeish. A number of sites were investigated in northeastern Tamaulipas. Some of the results of this work are given here:

1. The "Pueblito" complex, on the basis of finds at three sites, appears to be related to Huasteca III, IV, and V (see above), according to similarities in figurines.
2. The "Brownsville" complex, located on the Gulf coast, extends inland 20 miles and northward into Willacy County, Texas. Eighty-two sites examined. Five pottery vessels found by Anderson and described by Mason were Huasteca VI. MacNeish obtained 70 sherds and whole vessels which he identified as Huasteca V or VI.
3. A local "Huasteca" complex, situated north of the Soto la Marina River, along the coast and adjacent to Laguna Madre. Ten sites tested. Two contained sherds from Huasteca V and VI, and eight contained sherds from only VI. Most common projectile points were of the type of the Brownsville complex, i. e. small triangular points. One or two drills were square-based and similar to the trade drills described in connection with the Brownsville complex.

Partly on the basis of the above investigations, it now seems probable that there was a cultural diffusion into northeastern Mexico from

the main Mesoamerican centers as early as the close of the "Pre-classic" period, i. e. probably about 300 AD or possibly earlier, and continued with increasing intensity up to the time of the Spanish conquest; and that this diffusion continued northward through Texas (probably by way of the "Gilmore Corridor") into the Mississippi valley and eastern United States, where it contributed to the rise of the ancient Mound-builder cultures of that region. (For further on the problem of Mesoamerican diffusion to eastern United States in ancient times, see Ross T. Christensen, "Ancient Diffusion from Mesoamerica to the 'Mound Area' of Eastern United States; An Annotated Bibliography," Bulletin of the University Archaeological Society, No. 1, May, 1950, pp. 13-19).

- 36.2 Two New Life Members. Alfred L. Bush of Denver, Colorado, and Mrs. Elaine S. Rand of Phoenix, Arizona, were both issued Life Memberships in the Society during the Ninth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures.
- 36.3 St. George Chapter Studies Petroglyphs. During the past year, members of the St. George Chapter have been engaged in research on the Indian petroglyphs of their area. They have photographed hundreds of these "rock writings" and are compiling information concerning the geographical location and the circumstances of history surrounding the area. "We hope," reports Director Frank D. Holland, "to be able to put this information, after proper editing and arranging, into . . . book form and make it available to (those interested)."
- 36.4 Columbus Chapter Hears Lectures. One of the two recent meetings of the Columbus (Ohio) Chapter of the Society featured a lecture by Dr. Harold Capener before the Deseret Club of Ohio State University on Book of Mormon archaeology. This was followed by a panel consisting of Dr. Capener, Robert K. Willardson, and David N. Phelps, answering questions concerning the archaeology of the Book of Mormon and the purposes of the UAS.
- On April 29, members of the Columbus Chapter attended a lecture on the "Dead Sea Scrolls" given by Dr. Samuel Sandmel, professor of Bible and Hellenistic literature at Hebrew Union College.
- 36.5 Participates in South Dakota Dig. Carl Hugh Jones, president of the Campus Chapter of the UAS, is now taking part in one of the many field projects of the Missouri River Basin Surveys. Along with six other students, he is excavating in a stockaded village site in the Oahe Reservoir, north of Whitlock's Crossing, South Dakota. The excavation is under the direction of Dr. Carl F. Miller of the Smithsonian Institution.
- 36.6 Kodachrome Sets Available. Otto Done, director of the Mexico City Chapter of the UAS, has released a Mexichrome listing which makes available to Society members a collection of 190, 35 mm. Kodachrome slides of archaeological interest. These handsome photographs include views of the major monumental archaeological sites of Mexico, plus shots of cultural interest. There are enough slides for four to six illustrated talks. They should be of great use to members, not only for chapter meetings, but for gatherings such as firesides. The complete set, postpaid, is being offered to Society members for \$38. Order from Mr. Otto Done, Monte Libano 520, Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico, DF. Not only individual members but perhaps chapters collectively may wish to take advantage of his offer.