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U. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Ross T. Christensen
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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.)



Mr. Kienke

43.0 Last Member of 1900 Expedition Dies. Asa Solomon Kienke, 82, last surviving member of the Brigham Young Academy expedition to Central and South America of 1900-02 and an Honorary Member of the UAS, passed away at his Salt Lake City home, July 16, of causes incident to age.

Mr. Kienke was one of nine men who were named to continue on to South America when the original 24-man expedition was disbanded at the Mexican border. On the way south the group measured and studied important archaeological ruins. Several expedition members dropped out on the way. Some sailed from Central America to Colombia, northwestern South America. But Asa Kienke and the expedition leader, Benjamin Cluff, Jr., then president of the Academy, were the only ones to travel overland, across almost impassable terrain, all the way to Panama. At that point they took a boat to Colombia where they met other expedition members. A revolution was raging at the time. The expedition turned back at Bogotá.

Mr. Kienke's journal is one of the most valuable possible sources on the doings of that remarkable journey. Every day, whether beset with heat or rain or mosquitoes or sickness, an entry went into it. Every day was chronicled from April 17, 1900, until after his return to Provo, February 7, 1902. Both typewritten and microfilm copies of the entire eight volumes of his journal are deposited in the BYU library.

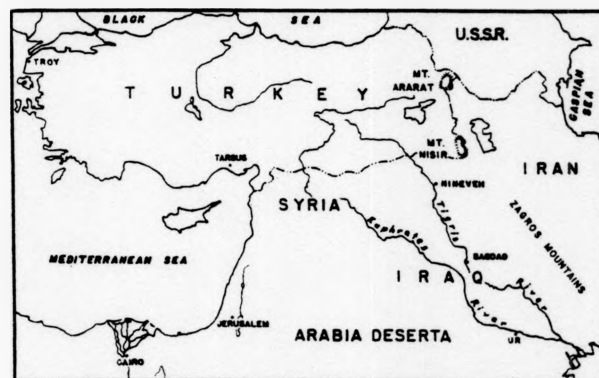
Mr. Kienke was elected an Honorary Member of the UAS at its annual business meeting of November 21, 1955 (Newsletter, 31.22). The award was made "in grateful recognition of outstanding service rendered to the LDS Church and to the science of archaeology." Honorary Membership is a lifetime distinction which is hard to come by. The Society has elected over

the years only five Honorary Members. Of these, two have now passed away. (Dr. John A. Widtsoe died in 1952; Newsletter, 9.3). The three remaining are Drs. Sidney B. Sperry, Howard S. McDonald (Newsletter, 21.4), and M. Wells Jakeman (Newsletter, 37.02), all of whom were instrumental in founding the BYU Department of Archaeology and the UAS.

(A brief account of the 1900 expedition, especially the part played by Mr. Kienke, is contained in The Brigham Young Alumnus magazine, November-December, 1955, pp. 8-11. Copies were mailed to all Society members in 1955. See Newsletter, 31.3.)

43.1 The Search for Noah's Ark, by Alfred L. Bush. A recent issue of the Manchester Guardian not only presents a concise summary of past expeditionary work in search of Noah's Ark, but also mentions tersely that plans for another expedition to Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey are being arranged in hopes of clearing up an old archaeological puzzle. Although neither the institution, nor the parties, involved in this new hunt for Noah's elusive ship are identified, the article does include mention of many of the frequent reports of a huge wooden structure embedded in ice high up on the famous mountain.

One such report came from Archbishop Nouri of the Nestorian Church of Malabar, who claimed to



have made a lone trip to an altitude of over 14,000 feet to where the vessel lay, no mean feat of endurance. Unfortunately the discovery was seized upon as a possible sideshow for the Chicago Fair of 1893, and serious scholarly attention evaporated.

Shortly before the Russian Revolution, came news of a more detailed investigation. It appears that a Russian airman, stationed near Ararat, made a high altitude flight round the mountain during which he saw the vessel clearly. He reported the discovery to his commanding officer, who passed the information up to the Tsar. A full inquiry was ordered and the site was visited by a well-equipped expedition. The report of this expedition, together with photographs taken, disappeared in the confusion of the Revolution. It is believed that Soviet anti-religious motives are behind the refusal to produce this data or to help in other research work on the mountain in recent years.

During the Second World War there were also reports of several cases of aerial observation, one of them from four American fliers. It was the persistence of these reports that brought Dr. Aaron Smith, an American historian and expert on the documentary sources on the Flood, to the ice cap of Ararat in 1951. Although he and his companions found no trace of the ark he encouraged Jean de Riquer, the French Greenland explorer, to climb the peak in 1952 for yet another attempt at discovery. He too returned without the evidence or information he had hoped to find.

One important factor which seems not to have been taken into consideration, either by the Manchester Guardian, or any of the previous expeditions, is that the account of the Noahic people in Genesis makes no mention of a "Mount Ararat". The ark of gopher wood, we are told, came to rest "in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat" (Gen. 8:4). Too often the plurality of "mountains" has been overlooked. The locale of the landing of Noah is not given as anything as specific as a single mountain, but rather as an entire range of mountains.

Overlooked too, has been any investigation into how anciently the name Ararat was applied to the mountain in Turkey which now bears this title. If its naming is of relatively modern origin, any search upon this mountain seems rather arbitrary.

The Flood story in the ancient Mesopotamian epic of Gilgamesh, which is so similar to the Biblical narrative, describes the place of landing of the Babylonian Noah as Mt. Nisir. These cuneiform texts locate this mountain with such care that it certainly deserves as much archaeological attention as the Turkish Ararat.

(The BYU archaeologist Dr. M. Wells Jakeman identifies the mountains of Ararat--the Urartu moun-

tains of the cuneiform tablets--with the Zagros mountains of Iran. --Ed.)

43.2 The Plight of the Indian, a review by Clark S. Knowlton. A book that should be read by all American citizens, especially by those interested in the history, archaeology, culture, or present situation of our fellow citizens of Indian descent, is A Pictorial History of the American Indian, by Oliver La Farge (New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1956, \$7.50).

The author is one of the more important and sympathetic contemporary interpreters of Indian life. A trained anthropologist, he has lived among many different Indian groups in the Southwest and has come to know them intimately as a friend. Through such novels as Laughing Boy and Sparks Fly Upward, written in a beautiful style, he has sympathetically portrayed the plight of the modern Indian youth caught between the old ways of life and the new uncertain world of the which man. He has also made such scientific surveys of Indian culture as The Changing Indian and the Year-Bearer's People.

Now, in this book, he has written a readable and popular, yet reliable, history of the diverse Indian tribes in the United States. He has taken each section of our country such as the Southwest and the Great Plains and treated the tribes that originally lived there. He has analyzed their history, their culture and society, and the tragic results of their contacts with the whites. His treatment of each tribe is profusely illustrated with excellent photographs. These alone are well worth the price of the book.

The writer, with a restrained sense of irony, discusses the apparent inability of the white population to respect or to accept the American Indian. He vividly portrays the hopelessness, the despair, and the utter frustration that developed among the Indians and that has lasted until the present day. He writes of their varied reactions toward the dominant white groups. Such tribes as the Sioux and Comanche fought as long as they could. Others, such as the Papago, retreated into the desert. Still others, such as the Hopi and Zuni, retreated inwardly into their own cultures like oysters into their shells, isolating themselves from contact with whites.

In the last chapters of this book La Farge draws in detail the long road of tears of the Indian, robbed, treated with contempt and intolerance, and subjected still to exploitation and misunderstanding. His relation is a sad commentary upon the forces of greed and intolerance that still exist among us. He feels that the Indians have a right to live as they please, whether on a reservation, if they so desire, or off one, if they care to move. He demands that they be given

the right to decide for themselves what they want their future to be. (Cont. on page 5.)

43.3 New Research Patrons and Life Member. A Life Membership in the UAS has been issued to Virgil V. Peterson of Salt Lake City. Mr. Peterson graduated in geology from the BYU in 1935 and later, while studying anthropology at the University of New Mexico, did archaeological reconnaissance in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. There are now twelve Life Members in the Society.

The following UAS members have become, or continue as, Research Patrons since the last published report (Newsletter, 39.4) by contributing \$10 or more to the Society's Research Fund (Newsletter, 31.20):

For the year ending December 31, 1957: Ross T. Christensen, Franklin S. Harris, Jr., Frank D. Holland, Francis W. Kirkham, Clark S. Knowlton, Gareth W. Lowe, Welby W. Ricks, and Stanford J. Robison.

For the year ending June 30, 1958: Otto Done, J. Percy Goddard, Verne S. Handy, M. Wells Jakeman, Hazel G. Myers, Lorenzo H. Snow, and Mary B. Wikoff.

43.4 Special Honors Mailed to Research Patrons, Life and Honorary Members. Complimentary copies of selected recent publications have been mailed to all Research Patrons, Life Members, and Honorary Members of the UAS.

Copies of Archaeological Findings, by Ross T. Christensen, published by the BYU Extension Division (Newsletter, 42.4), were sent to all first-year Research Patrons, also Life Members and Honorary Members. Copies of Victor W. von Hagen's Realm of the Incas, a Mentor study of the Peruvian chronicles and archaeology, were presented to members who have continued their status as Research Patrons for a second year; while copies of The Anvil of Civilization, by Leonard Cottrell, a Mentor archaeological history of the ancient Near East, were mailed to third-year Research Patrons.

An amendment of November 21, 1955, to the UAS constitution created the category of Research Patrons and required that they be given "special Society honors" (Newsletter, 31.20). Officers intend these gifts as an expression of their gratitude for the enthusiastic cooperation of the Research Patrons and the Life and Honorary Members.

43.5 New Member Named to Nominations Committee. UAS president, Dr. Franklin S. Harris, Jr., has named Dr. Welby W. Ricks a member of the Society's Nominations Committee. This appointment was necessitated by the resignation of Dr. Wilfrid C. Bailey of State College, Mississippi, from his duties as a general officer

(Newsletter, 42.14).

Under the Society's constitution, the Nominations Committee consists of the general secretary-treasurer as chairman, the head of the BYU Department of Archaeology, two general officers named by the UAS president, and the honorary president of the Campus Chapter. Present membership is Ross T. Christensen (chairman), M. Wells Jakeman, Clark S. Knowlton, Dr. Ricks, and Luana Collett.

43.6 St. George Chapter Continues Petroglyph Study. About 250 petroglyphs drawn by prehistoric Indians among the cliffs and caves of southwestern Utah have been photographed during the past two years as a field project of the St. George Chapter of the UAS (Newsletter, 36.3). Two of the chapter members possess jeeps, and nine field trips have been made during the past year, some of them into almost inaccessible areas. Some excavation on private property has also been carried out.

The chapter has met regularly in well-planned monthly meetings. On two occasions, a well-educated chief of the Shibits (Shivwits) Ute band lectured to the group. He performed many of their traditional songs and explained their meaning and purpose. These lectures are described in a recent letter from Mrs. LaRee Lamcreaux, chapter secretary, as being "most informative. . . We have sat for two hours spellbound while he related traditional events, true stories, and their beliefs to us."

Program meetings during the year also included illustrated lectures concerning the Colorado by two river runners. On another occasion Mr. Wayne McConkie and Mr. William Palmer displayed their collections of Indian artifacts. Chapter members themselves have also entertained the group with accounts of personal experiences with Indians and southwestern archaeology.

43. Archaeological Doings of Individual Members:

43.70 Establishes Research Center in Oaxaca. Joseph E. ("Gene") Vincent, a retired army officer and for the past two years a student of archaeology in Mexico, has been commissioned by Mexico City College to open a research center for archaeologists and other students at Oaxaca. To be called the Centro de Estudios Regionales, it is expected to be in full operation by the time of the Seventh Round Table of the Mexican Society of Anthropology, to be held in that city, September 1-7. His wife, Mrs. Ruth E. Vincent, is serving as his assistant.

"We plan to make our Center a 'home-away from-home' for all scholars, students, and college groups



Major and Mrs. Vincent

visiting or working in this area," writes Major Vincent in a recent letter, "... we plan to have a library... which will consist largely of archaeological and anthropological books, a study hall, a dark room, a laboratory for archaeological work, two private rooms for individual students, and two dormitories for groups of students, as well as messing facilities for those living there and for those in the field operating from there. The Center will be open to personnel of all colleges, not merely to our own... Members of the Society, whether amateurs or professionals, are welcome to use our facilities..."

Major and Mrs. Vincent went to Mexico early in 1955 following his retirement from the United States Army, after a heart attack made it impractical for him to continue his military career. Major Vincent has had extensive experience in military intelligence and war crimes investigations in connection with World War II. He has been Chief of Railway Detectives in Germany and an important figure in solving the case of the mysterious death of Hermann Goering and the Kronberg Castle jewel-theft case.

Upon arriving in Mexico, he entered the graduate school of Mexico City College with the intention of earning a Master of Arts degree in anthropology. His practical experience in archaeology includes field work at Yagul, state of Oaxaca, where the college has been practicing major excavations (Newsletter, 28. 0, 38. 1), and a seven-month project of organizing and labeling the contents of the E. R. Frissell museum of Zapotec antiquities at nearby Mitla as a field representative of the MCC anthropology department. This museum contains Mexico's largest public exhibit of Oaxaca antiquities. He also served as staff artist in publishing Meso-American Notes, No. 5 (Mexico City College, 1957) which contains important new information on the Yagul site.

In April, 1955, Major Vincent was elected assistant director of the Mexico City Chapter of the UAS (Newsletter, 27. 1). Sometime later he was designated edi-

tor of the Archaeo-O-logic, a Chapter newsletter. Seven numbers containing an abundance of information on Mesoamerican archaeology were issued before he was stationed by his college at the Mitla museum.

Mrs. Vincent, who is also a former student of anthropology at Mexico City College, catalogued artifacts resulting from the Yagul dig and served as Major Vincent's assistant at Mitla.

Both members of this husband-wife archaeology team have been active in the LDS Church. While still in Mexico City, Major Vincent served as first counselor in the American Branch of the Mexican Mission. Mrs. Vincent was then branch president of the Primary Association and is presently working in that capacity in the Oaxaca Branch.

43. 71 Presents Photo-Mural to UAS. Otto Done, director of the Mexico City Chapter and for the past year vice-president of the UAS, has presented the Society a color photo-mural of an archaeological scene from the ruins of Uxmal, Yucatan. Measuring 40 x 32 inches, it is a view of the Maya Archway, the only entrance to the Nunnery, reputed to have 80 rooms.

Mr. Done is a professional photographer, formerly of Mexico City, who has specialized in archaeological subjects in Middle America. During the Tenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, a large exhibit of his enlargements hung in the halls near the office of the Department of Archaeology (Newsletter, 41. 02). This exhibit had previously hung for



Entrance to the Nunnery, Uxmal

three weeks at the ZCMI in Salt Lake City. Mr. Done, incidentally, appeared on Gordon Owen's television program telling of his adventures while exploring ruined cities.

The April 27, 1957, edition of the Church News (a supplement to the Deseret News and Telegram) carried a colored frontispiece and a two-page spread in the center entitled "Mexico, the Egypt of America." It was illustrated with seven of Mr. Done's selected photographs.

43. 72 Studies Ruins in Peru. Dr. Milton R. Hunter, well-known student of American archaeology and member of the LDS First Council of Seventy, spent the month of July visiting important ruins in Peru and Bolivia.

Dr. Hunter traveled in company with Frederick S. Williams, former president of the Uruguay LDS Mission, and N. C. and Ralph B. Shelton, president and vice-president respectively of the TAN Airline Company of Miami, Florida. Dr. Hunter made the trip as a guest of the TAN. The group visited various ruins near Lima, Peru, including the famous temple center of Pachacamac. They also visited the Inca capital, Cuzco, which has been called the "archaeological capital of South America," and the mountain-top fortress, Machu Picchu, which was built to guard it. Tiahuanaco, with its Gateway of the Sun, and other ruins near La Paz, Bolivia, were also on their itinerary. On the north coast of Peru the party examined ruins at Supe and elsewhere.

The group also studied at a number of museums, both public and private, in Lima and La Paz. They were especially interested in ancient gold work, and examined a good many gold and silver plates or sheets which would have been suitable for engraving inscriptions. Numerous photographs of ruins and gold work were taken during the tour.

43. 73 Excavates in South Dakota. Carl Hugh Jones, president of the UAS Campus Chapter during the spring quarter of 1955-56, writes of his experiences in Great Plains archaeology during the past summer. He has been working as a member of a team under Dr. Warren W. Caldwell at a village site above Lower Brule, South Dakota. The group is one of four field parties which have been investigating sites to be flooded soon by the Big Bend Reservoir. The work is being carried out under the Missouri River Basin Archaeological Salvage Project of the Smithsonian Institution.

The party has been digging one of three fortified sites included among ruins extending for three miles along the river. They have excavated two round houses outside the fortification which produced trade material suggesting a date in the early 1700's. They have also opened up two other houses within the in-

closure, investigated the fortification ditch, and traced part of the stockade. Across the river a stratified Early Man site has been found.

Mr. Jones reports that he is serving this summer as a field assistant under Dr. Caldwell. He has had complete charge in the field about two days a week. "Lots of responsibility," he writes, "but no dishes to wash!"

Mr. Jones also spent the summer of 1956 as a member of a field party of the Missouri River Basin Surveys, excavating in South Dakota and Iowa (Newsletter, 36. 5, 38. 53).

43. 74 Ecuadorian Journal Republishes UAS Article. An article which first appeared in the October, 1954, issue of the Bulletin of the University Archaeological Society has been republished in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in Cuadernos de Historia y Arqueología (Vol. V, Nos. 13-14, August, 1955, pp. 83-92). Spanish translation and commentary were by Francisco Huerta Rendón and Olaf Holm.

The article in the original UAS publication was entitled "A Recent Excavation in Southern Coastal Ecuador." The writer was Dr. Ross T. Christensen, UAS general secretary-treasurer. The article presented archaeological information obtained during a brief trip into the southern Ecuadorian province of El Oro in June, 1950, while the writer was a Pan-American fellow studying the ruins of the northern coast of Peru (Newsletter, 35. 53). It is believed to be the first and thus far only scientific archaeological publication on coastal El Oro.

43. 8 Corrections. The following corrections have been noted in the last issue of the Newsletter: 42.13, line 5, after "part of" add "faculty members and"; 42. 2, line 11, change "January" to "March."

43. 2 The Plight of the Indian (cont. from page 3).

In the final analysis, the major hope of the American Indian lies in the sympathetic understanding of his needs and hopes by his white fellow-citizens and the development of defensive political and economic associations that can protect his interests in the modern world of pressure groups. La Farge has written one of the best popular books on the American Indians that has yet appeared.