



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

THELONA D. STEVENS, CHAIRMAN / 202 SOUTH PENDLETON AVE. / INDEPENDENCE, MO. 64060

NEWSLETTER No. 12

May 30, 1972

Greetings:

The Foundation for Research on Ancient America is pleased to announce the newly defined objectives as they are set forth in the enclosed brochure. So far we have met with general approval of our intention to try to place the Book of Mormon in every major university and public library in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Our plans, we are happy to say, have the unreserved approval of Apostle Earl Higdon.

With our expanding program, the Foundation recognizes the need for some expansion of organization. Accordingly, we are pleased to announce the following directors: Gilberto Aguilera, Wilmer Andes, Ed Browne, James A. Christenson, Kenneth Raveill, Glenn Scott, and Roy E. Weldon. Although Clair E. Weldon feels unable to serve as a director, he is assisting through counseling and otherwise, and will be contributing an important service by writing and translating into Spanish a leaflet suitable to introduce the Book of Mormon when it is presented in the Latin countries.

Another note of expansion is the naming of a legislative committee: James A. Christenson, Chris Hartshorn, and Kenneth Raveill, who will draw up a constitution and by-laws for our organization.

Because of the time element, Kenneth Raveill has asked to be released as publicity chairman. Replacing him will be Leta Moriarty, whose services we feel especially fortunate to secure. Because of her long experience in this field, she is especially well equipped to do this work.

We were happy to see so many of you at our recent World Conference, but we still regret that we had not been assigned larger quarters and a microphone. The interest manifested at our meeting on April 11, in the Music Room, was gratifying. On this occasion Mrs. Wayne (Verneil) Simmons spoke, and her outlines and talk seemed very well received. We are sorry indeed that some were unable to get in because of lack of space.

At this meeting, our first announcement was made of our intention of promoting the use of the Book of Mormon in Latin America through their libraries. We invited all to become members, and many responded. We recognize that this extensive (an expensive) project is going to challenge us all. Surely there will be some way that everyone interested can help. Hence, we are inviting all who have not yet accepted this challenge of assisting by becoming a member to do so now.

The enclosed brochure tells of our objectives and the different types of membership offered. We trust that you will select the type of membership which seems practical for you. This is the first time we have named formal membership dues, and we do so now because we feel that we are instituting a great program. Suggestions have been made from time to time that we set an amount for membership dues, and some have even felt reluctant to accept the newsletters free, suggesting that we place a fee on them. Some have kindly made free will offerings, which have been sincerely appreciated. Those gifts, together with the offerings contributed at our regular meetings, have been sufficient to finance the work which we have done up to the present. Your generosity has been appreciated. Now we trust that you will find membership with us. If for some reason you do not find it possible to become a formal member at this time, we still shall count you a friend and shall want to keep in touch with you.

Interest in the newsletters continues, and we shall continue to issue them as often as possible, without price. If your name is on our mailing list, you will continue to receive the newsletters as always.

--T.D.S.

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In Saturday Review Magazine, June 28, 1969, Katharine Kuh points to the Peninsula of Yucatán as a place of history "so fluid as to unravel before our very eyes," which is enriched, confused, and revised by almost daily discoveries . . . and (stretching a point) parts of Chiapas, offers a seemingly inexhaustible supply of Maya relics--some restored, others shrouded in dense jungle growth," though it is recognized that Maya civilization was not restricted to the Yucatán Peninsula, for there are also important sites in Guatemala and Honduras. "And each site excels for a different reason--Copán and Guiriguá for their magnificent carved stelae, Palenque for the refinement of its stucco work, Tikal for its monumental scale, Bonampak for its wealth of recently discovered frescoes" (p.11).

Miss Kuh mentions two sites in particular--Dzibilchaltun near Mérida, capital of the state of Yucatán; the other Izamal, forty-odd miles east of the capital. Dzibilchatun, she claims, "was settled continuously from about 2,000 B.C. until the Spanish conquest and even after," and then she declares, "Why the other cities were abandoned is anybody's guess." Dzibilchaltun, located less than 10 miles from Mérida, buried for centuries beneath a scrubby jungle, was totally unknown until 1956. "Covering an immense area and numbering hundreds of unexcavated mounds, the city . . . sprawls geometrically around spacious plazas and connecting causeways. Why this settlement was continuously inhabited during almost forty centuries and others nearby were summarily deserted is baffling." The other site she mentions in particular is Izamal, a dusty town, which "has a continuing poignancy, for the nobly proportioned, now shabby Spanish convent . . . erected over yet another pre-Cortesian structure, obliterating the latter completely" (p. 12).

Victor Segovia, according to Miss Kuh, currently restoring Izamal's pyramid, claims that this area was occupied continuously for some 3,000 years. It has turned out to be the fourth largest (in volume, not height) pre-Columbian pyramid in existence. (Only the one at Cholula and those of the Sun and the Moon exceed it.)

Olmec carvings predated the Mayas. "They flourished around 800 to 500 B.C.," the author says. "They produced an art that is nothing short of staggering. Along with Chavin of Peru, they represent the most ancient known culture in the New World." Olmec carvings go beyond symbols of emotion "to grapple with a kind of brutal reality. Nowhere in Middle America is there such "naturalism that presupposes at once an understanding of man and of the supernatural," for their "monstrous creatures were more than ordinary mortals. The bodiless heads leave much to be guessed" (p. 13).

"Of all pre-Columbian riddles, the unheralded flowering of the Olmecs is the most bewildering. Stones for their monolithic carvings, in some instances weighing more than 25 tons, were transported at least 60 miles from the nearest possible quarry" (p. 14), and the question is naturally asked, How? Then Miss Kuh also questions, "How was it possible that a highly advanced civilization never discovered the wheel, metal, transport animals ." (p. 15).

In answer to the question about wheels:

The Book of Mormon mention of chariots implies the use of wheels--Alma 12:77, 79, 82, 188.

Anna Belle Cristy, of Lebanon, Missouri, has generously sent us a number of magazines helpful in our work, and recently contributed this item from Before Columbus: Links Between the Old World and Ancient America, by Cyrus H. Gordon (1971), Crown Publishers, 224 pages, illustrated, \$6.50, from which the following is gleaned: Beginning with the bronze age, Mr. Gordon attempts to show the contacts between the two worlds, old and new. These contacts are indicated by sculptured faces found in Mesoamerica. The faces are Semitic, Negroid, Far Eastern, and Indian. The tradition of the plumed serpent is found everywhere in Mesoamerica as well as in Greece, Egypt, and Old Testament lands. The crocodile and its name are the same in Egypt and Mesoamerica. The wheel was known in pre-Columbian America but not used for practical purposes because of the lack of draught animals, according to this author.

Thomas Stuart Ferguson, author of One Fold and One Shepherd (1958), Books of California, San Francisco, p. 104, has this to say about wheels:

"Ceramic toys with wheels have been found both in ancient Bible lands and in ancient Mexico. It was supposed that the principle of the wheel was unknown in ancient America. It has been found in Middle America--where innumerable other Near-Eastern cultural elements have also been found. Art representations of full-scale wheels on chariots have not yet been found in Middle America. It does not follow that they will never be found. No one ever expected the wheeled toys to turn up either.

We waited until the 1940s for the Dead Sea scrolls from Bible lands. We have waited many decades for proof of any number of elements of Bible-land culture. . . . Little by little Middle America's great past is coming to light. . . . Perhaps it is worth noting that in our day toy trucks, cars, fire engines, tractors, etc. are patterned after the real vehicles, and not vice versa. The same was quite probably true in ancient times. The toys indicate, therefore, a knowledge of full-scale wheeled vehicles."

The text shows pictures of Bible lands animals on wheels--Mesopotamia, 2,000 B.C. (Fig. 49, p. 103), and Ancient Mexico animals on wheels before Columbus (fig. 50, p. 104).

Then there is the statement in Frank Edwards' Strange World (1964), Lyle Stuart, N. Y., p. 172:

"The Indians had no use for the wheel and no idea of how it got there, although they know of its existence, of course. White men first became interested in the design in 1902, when S. C. Simms of the Field Museum in Chicago spent considerable time trying to unravel the mystery. He could only conclude that it was a religious symbol of some race that had existed there between 15,000 B. C. and 1,000 B.C."

In answer to the question about metals:

The Book of Mormon states:

"And we multiplied exceedingly, and spread upon the face of the land, and became exceeding rich in gold, and in silver, and in precious things, and in fine workmanship of wood, in buildings, and in machinery, and also in iron, and copper, and brass, and steel, making all manner of tools of every kind to till the ground, and weapons of war" (Jarom 1:19).

"And they did work all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper" (Ether 4:71).

Roy E. Weldon, in his The Book of Mormon Evidences Joseph Smith A Prophet, Herald Publishing House (1970), p. 24, says that the Book of Mormon has been severely criticized for claiming iron, steel, and machinery were known in ancient America by such authors as Bruce Kinney, in Mormonism, The Islam of America (1912), p. 66, and John Fiske, in The Discovery of America (1872), p. 172, whereas others have admitted that the "intricate work accomplished stands as its own evidence that it was impossible to do the precision carving of 'ornamentation on twenty thousand cut stones . . . with stone, nephrite, or obsidian tools" (The Lost Empires of the Itzaes and Mayas, p. 412)."

Roy Weldon also states in his same text, p. 24, that "Theodore Willard, in examining the early Maya codices found illustrations showing workmen using metal tools," and he shows a photo (by courtesy of Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. displayed in Hall 23, Case 29) showing Mayas using metal tools. Also, on p. 25, he quotes from Carnegie Institution

of Washington, Publication No. 477, p. 72: "Forty-three grams of iron were found in a jar at Uaxatun (Guatemala), as reported by C. G. Ricetson, Jr. and E. B. Ricketon" (quoted from The Book of Mormon Message and Evidences, by Franklin S. Harris, p. 84).

Yet another quotation by Weldon (p. 25) states that A. Hyatt Verrill discovered an iron chisel in ancient ruins in Panama, according to The Pompeii of Ancient America, p. 226, and then he refers to statements made by J.D. Baldwin in Ancient America (1871), p. 225, 248, and Bancroft's Native Races, Vol. 4, p. 794.

In answer to the question about transport animals:

Enos 1:34 mentions "herds, . . . flocks, . . . cattle, goats, . . . wild goats, . . . and also many horses."

Ether says that they had "all manner of cattle, of oxen, and cows, and of sheep, and of swine, and of goats, and also many other kinds of animals which were useful for the food of man; and they also had horses, and asses, and there were elephants, and cureloms, and cumons: all of which were useful unto man, and more especially the elephants, and cureloms, and cumoms . . . And they did make all manner of tools with which they did work their beasts." - Ether 4:20, 21, 75.

Roy E. Weldon makes the observation that horses are mentioned fourteen times in the Book of Mormon. He quotes George B. Arbaugh, in Gods, Sex and Saints (1959), Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Ill., p. 22, writing of Lehi's colony of 600 B. C., as saying, "In America they rejoiced to find horses; extinct in America before the coming of man to this continent." He quotes Kirk Bryan, Harvard scientist, as saying, "Most vertebrate paleontologists now concede that now extinct vertebrates may have survived to within a very short time ago" - Science Magazine, May 30, 1941, and Franklin Folsom's Exploring American Caves, p. 45, writing concerning discoveries in Sandia cave, in New Mexico: "They have roasted camel and mammoth meat. . . since the ivory tusks of the prehistoric elephants made good tools, the hunters brought some of them into the cave."

Roy Weldon concludes, "It has taken some one hundred thirty years for time to commence to catch up with the 1830 Book of Mormon claim that horses were coexistent with ancient man in America." (All references to Roy Weldon's statements and quotations are taken from The Book of Mormon Evidences Joseph Smith A Prophet, p. 15, 16.)

Also, we refer you to information and references given in our Newsletter No. 5.

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Mr. and Mrs. Nephi C. Phillips, guides at the Kirtland Temple, while doing some special research on Fairport Harbor, came across an interesting review of the changes which have evidently taken place in the development of the Great Lakes area as it exists today. Mention is made of the Pleistocene formations of the early St. Lawrence gulphs and the lowlands about Lake Erie. Comment is made in the article about the "many strange

relics and Indian burial grounds which Fairport and vicinity have yielded to the student and curious seekers," as "this locality was a favored resort of America's primitive man, probably containing not a few of his sacred shrines," and then there follows this interesting paragraph:

"There may have been navigation of the Great Lakes before the Indians, for a people who preceeded them in the occupancy of the upper lakes region had engaged in copper mining quite extensively. The remains of copper utensils in the form of knives and chisels; of stone hammers, some very large; of wooden bowls for boiling water from the mines; and numerous other tools and utensils have been found there. There is no tradition amongst the early Indians of the lake regions by what people of what period this copper mining was done" (Hometown Sketches, 1796-1936, by Saul Olila, p. 3, Manuscript copy from Fairport Library).

The Book of Mormon contains numerous references to the use of copper (and other metals) by both the Nephites and the earlier Jaredites. I Nephi 5:217; II Nephi 4:21; Jarom 1:19; Mosiah 5:65; 7:6, 11, 13 all refer to the use of such metals by the Nephites and Ether 4:71, referring to the Jaredites, says, "And they did work in all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper."

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Smithsonian Magazine, published by Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., August 1970, carries an illustrated article by Bennett Schiff, "Some of Man's Many Faces Stare Back Through the Veil of Centuries." The pictures are said to be "dazzling".

Foundation for Research
on Ancient America

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About the Foundation for Research on Ancient America — — —

The Foundation was established in 1966 as a forum and workshop for those interested in exploring the many facets of knowledge and information suggested by the Book of Mormon, the story of its coming forth and its many detailed descriptions of ancient cultures, language, science, arts, and theology.

The Foundation has attracted several hundred original manuscripts from scholars, students and members of the Church. Excerpts and information from these manuscripts have been shared with members of the Foundation for the last seven years through the newsletter published by the Foundation. At the present time this publication is mailed to more than 550 families, most of whom are members of the Foundation.

The Foundation is supported solely by the dues and contributions of its members who receive periodic reports from its officers regarding its activities, objectives and financial condition. The last annual business meeting was held in Stone Church Education Building January 23, 1972. Officers elected for the coming year are: Chairman, Mrs. Thelona Stevens; Vice-Chairman, Chris B. Hartshorn; Secretary, Mrs. Katherine Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Frances Davidson; Manuscript Committee Chairman, Mrs. Audrey Stubbart and Publicity Chairman, Kenneth Raveill.

At this meeting, Elder Claire Weldon was the principal speaker and Wayne Stanton, a teacher in the Raytown Public School System, displayed and explained prehistoric artifacts found in Missouri.

The Foundation for Research on Ancient America is organized solely for the purpose of discovering and disseminating information of value in understanding and appreciating the Book of Mormon, its history, message and central testimony that Jesus is the Christ. All persons interested in supporting these objectives are invited to join the Foundation for Research on Ancient America and support its objectives and activities.

The Foundation for Research on Ancient America invites you to attend the World Conference meeting of the Foundation, Tuesday, April 11th at 4:30 p.m. in the Music Room of the Auditorium (just inside the south entrance).

Our biennial objectives are:

1. To place a copy of the Spanish edition of the Book of Mormon in every university and public library in Mexico, Central and South America.
2. To continue and expand the Foundations' newsletter.
3. To establish a library in the Independence area of appropriate books, manuscripts, documents for research and study relating to the Book of Mormon and Ancient America.
4. To encourage reading and organized research in various areas of interest and study as they relate to the message, the historical setting, and the internal evidences of the Book of Mormon.
5. To support field research wherever possible that contributes to an understanding of the Book of Mormon and its message.



Come and hear Mrs. Wayne (Verneil) Simmons speak on **THE PROMISE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS** at the Tuesday, April 11th meeting of the Foundation.

Mrs. Simmons has spent fourteen years in Central and South America including the Island of Aruba, and the countries of Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Mexico.

Come and be a part of the expanded outreach of the **FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA.**



The Foundation for Research on Ancient America Schedule of Dues:

Life Membership	\$500.00 or more
Sustaining Membership	\$ 50.00 Annually
Regular Family Membership	\$ 10.00 Annually
Associate Member (students and single members)	\$ 2.00 Annually

Join the Foundation for Research on Ancient America.

Fill out the form below and return it with your check or money order to:

Foundation for Research on Ancient America
Mrs. Frances Davidson, Treasurer
1214 Hardy
Independence, Missouri 64052

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

Date _____
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Dear Thelona,

Please enroll me as a member of the Foundation for Research on Ancient America as indicated below. Please send me the Foundations newsletter. I am especially interested in doing study and research in the following areas:

Check one:

- Life Membership (\$500.00 or more)
- Sustaining Membership (\$50.00 per year)
- Family Membership (\$10.00 per year)
- Associate Member (\$2.00 per year)

Check one:

I will pay my dues Annually Semi-annually Quarterly

RESEARCH NEEDED

Here are a few subject areas referred to in the Book of Mormon record which deserve further study and research. For a free copy of the complete list of 162 subjects needing research mentioned in the Book of Mormon record as compiled by Roy Weldon, send your request to Mrs. Thelona Stevens, Foundation for Research on Ancient America, 202 South Pendleton St., Independence, Mo. — 64050.

Agriculture	Land, Cursed
Apostasy	Metallurgy
Baptism, Adults and Infants	Money, Coins
Bees and Honey	Philosophy
Calendar	Ship Building
Cement	Secret Combinations
Cities	The Place of the Book of Mormon in Literature
Disease	The Lost Tribes of Israel
Doctrine	The Book of Mormon, a Second Witness
Elephants	Signs of Christ's Birth
Evolution	The Great Upheaval
Fasting	The Plates of Brass
Flood, World-Wide Gathering	Textiles
Geology	Buried Records
Hieroglyphics	
Highways	