



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

THELONA D. STEVENS, CHAIRMAN / 202 SOUTH PENDLETON AVE. / INDEPENDENCE, MO. 64050

NEWSLETTER No. 15

May 4, 1973

Greetings to our Members and Friends:

Brother Roy E. Weldon was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Foundation, held at the Stone Church January 21, 1973. Brother Weldon's subject was, "Projects for Book of Mormon Research," and he made a stirring appeal to the youth of the church to respond to the call to enter into such research. He also appealed to all of us to consider the urgency of the day in which we live.

The following officers were chosen to serve you for the ensuing year: Thelona Stevens was sustained as chairman; Stewart Wight, vice-chairman; Linda Baker, secretary; and Frances Davidson was sustained as treasurer.

Brother Chris B. Hartshorn felt he could no longer serve as vice-chairman. Indeed, it was under a bit of pressure on our part that he served in this capacity in 1972, as he had really wished to step down last year. We regret that he does not feel able to continue this work, but we recognize that we are extremely fortunate to have secured the services of Brother Stewart Wight, who is known to so many throughout the church. He brings much talent and experience to us, and although he is an extremely busy man, heading up Zion's Research Institute, he was willing to respond when we called upon him for his services to our Foundation.

Linda Baker, who has been typing our newsletters for some time, brings to our association youth and a fine spirit of consecration, plus much ability, taking the place of Katherine H. Wilson who was claimed by death last fall. Katherine Wilson had served as secretary for two years.

Audrey Stubbart continues as our able manuscript chairman, and our new publicity chairman is Leta Moriarty, who replaces Kenneth Raveill. She is a valuable asset to our Foundation, having had long training in the field of publicity through her work for a number of years in the Department of Public Relations at the Auditorium.

We wish to say a few words in special recognition of Brother Chris Hartshorn and the contribution which he has made to the Foundation. In large measure our organization has its being because of Brother Hartshorn. He was the first chairman (1966), and has served as vice-chairman from 1967

to 1972. Actually, the beginnings of our association were in the early '50s as the result of much correspondence by Brother Roy E. Weldon with the First Presidency, evidencing his great interest in the Book of Mormon, which resulted in the appointment of a committee composed of Herbert M. Scott, chairman, Roy E. Weldon, Wayne Updike, and Charles Neff. In 1958, Herbert Scott reported to the First Presidency that 205 individuals had enrolled to work on research on the Book of Mormon. Brother Scott's untimely death hampered the activities of this committee, but rather than to allow it all to come to naught, Chris Hartshorn picked up the loose ends and drew the committee together again. It was he who, working with the First Presidency, arranged that a meeting be called to see what could be done. In 1966, a meeting was called, and Brother Hartshorn became the first chairman of the group which organized at that time under the name of Foundation for Research on Ancient America. The following year Brother Hartshorn declined to serve as chairman, but accepted the office of vice-chairman, in which capacity he has served until now. Brother Hartshorn has been the source of strong support of your present chairman since 1968, and it is with real regret that she must accept his decision to withdraw from the duties of vice-chairman. She has felt much security in turning to him for counsel and advice, which he has given willingly and efficiently. His years of service in so many areas in the church have qualified Brother Hartshorn for the wise judgment and counsel which he has been able to give.

Brother Hartshorn will continue to assist in the work of the Foundation by serving on the Board of Directors. Other directors are: Roy E. Weldon, James A. Christenson, Glenn Scott, Kenneth Raveill, Wilmer Andes, Ed R. Browne, T. Evan Thomas, Maxine Wight, Stewart Wight and George Gross.

Attorney James A. Christenson has turned over to the Foundation our Certificate of Incorporation, granted by the State of Missouri. Our special thanks go to Brother Christenson for all the work he did in securing our incorporation, and also we thank Chris Hartshorn and Kenneth Raveill, who along with Brother Christenson, served as a special committee in drawing up our constitution and bylaws.

Our special project undertaken early in 1972 to place the Spanish edition of the Book of Mormon in major libraries in Latin America met with some disappointments. Although we recognized from the start the need for a Spanish brochure introducing the Book of Mormon, we knew that it would take a while to get such a brochure prepared. Our missionaries and national ministers have pointed out that the Mormon church is very active in placing their edition of the Book of Mormon in these areas, and the necessity for our proper introduction of the Book of Mormon and identification of the church which is sponsoring our gift copies. Hence, it seems wise to make use of visual aids which are more readily available in presenting our message at this time. Accordingly, at our annual meeting, a resolution was passed authorizing the Materials Direc-

tor of Latin America to draw on our treasury up to \$500 for projectors and slides to be used in introducing the Book of Mormon and our message in these countries. This appropriation was made possible because of the membership fees and offerings which you have made.

It is that time of year when membership should be renewed. Some have already done this. For the benefit of those who may not know about the dues, we list the categories named by the Foundation:

\$2.00 for regular membership

\$10.00 for family membership

\$50.00 for sustaining membership

At the annual meeting, a motion carried making the fiscal year for dues henceforth to end December 31.

Someone at our annual meeting requested that we send "Jo Alice of Grace-land" certain copies of the newsletter. Can someone please give us Jo Alice's last name so that we can comply with this request?

Our congratulations go to the Korean Saints for successfully translating and printing the Book of Mormon in the Korean language. Much appreciation is felt for the gift copy received just a few days ago from Phillip M. Caswell, appointee to Korea. The work is beautifully done. Brother Caswell tells us that work has already begun on a Chinese version of the Book of Mormon, which is expected to have wide use in both Taiwan and Hong Kong. They have solicited our assistance, but since our Foundation's work is primarily that of promoting research on the Book of Mormon, and since our available funds have already been largely spent on our Latin American project, as an organization we can only wish them success. However, any of our members who feel inclined to do so are encouraged to follow through by giving to this worthy project for Taiwan and other Chinese areas.

--T.D.S.

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THE STAR OF DAVID

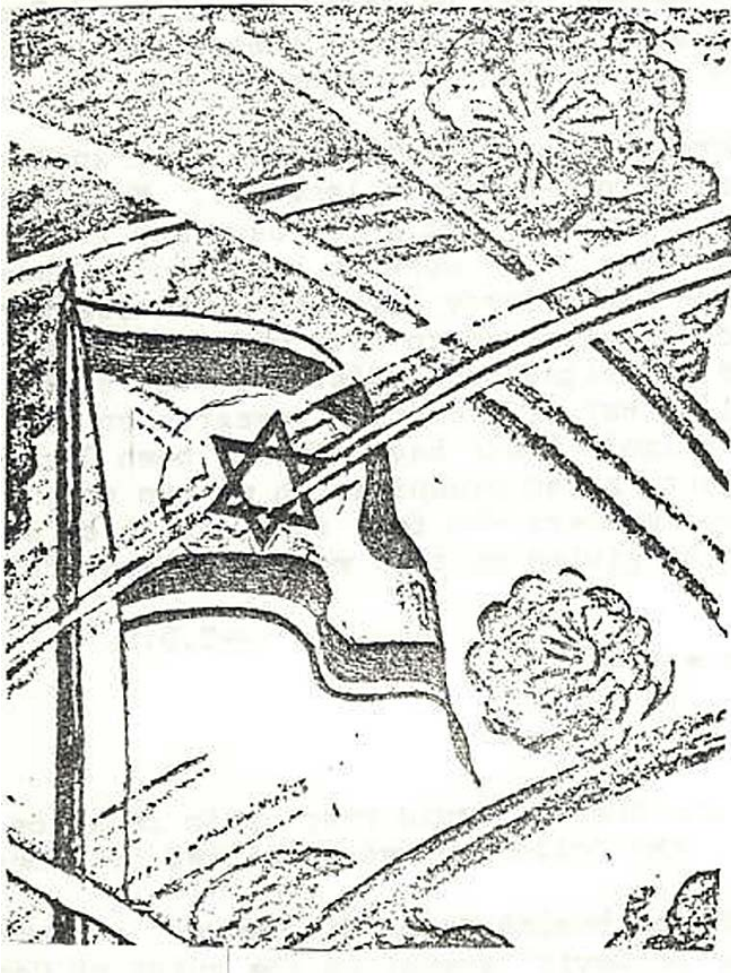
From time to time stories about the Star of David crop up in relation to discoveries in Latin America. The following was submitted by James A. Christenson:

"Members of the LaBuena Fe Foundation health team "discovered" a remarkable likeness of the Hebrew 'Star of David' symbol in the ruins of Copan in western Honduras in February, 1972. The star, made up of two triangles overlapping each other, was chisled out of two pieces of stone and is about one foot high. The stones are located in a wall of rubble recently excavated and opened to public view. It may be that the design is solely ornamental, but its similarity to the famous Jewish symbols is too striking to be merely coincidental.

"The World Book Encyclopedia states that the exact date of origin of the Star of David is unknown, but its first usage is thought to have been as

a 'holy seal in Sidon in the 600's B.C.' The star is used today as the emblem of Judaism on the flag of Israel.*

"Archaeologists estimate the Copan stone was carved and set in place in approximately 300 A.D. Copan is said to have reached its peak of activity as a religious and cultural center about 450 A.D., and then began to decline. The city was abandoned about 800 A.D. The dates of usage of the Star of David as a Jewish symbol in Palestine and the rise and fall of Copan are of great significance to Book of Mormon scholars. Members of La Buena Foundation plan to do additional research on the Copan 'Star' when visiting the R. L. D. S. mission in Honduras early in 1973."



*The flag of Israel as it appeared in St. Joseph, Missouri Press, May 14, 1948, in recognition of Israel's birth as a nation on that date. Sent by Pearl Kinnaman, of St. Joseph.

Photograph of the "Star of David" in Copan, Honduras, taken by James A. Christenson in February, 1972.



This is an enlargement of a picture of the Maya Stela at Campeche, Yucatan, showing Star of David earring encircled by rope and Egyptian-type papyrus, toxpedo-shaped hat. Drawing by Pearl Kinnaman.

Dr. Cyrus H. Gordon, a Brandeis University professor, and Professor Alexander von Wuthenau, of the University of Americas in Mexico, both support the theory that Mediterranean people discovered America some 1,000 years before Columbus.

Newspapers over the country in March 1971 (such as the Omaha World-Herald and the Wichita Falls Record News, both of March 23, 1971), carried a story about a "recently excavated stone" which "proves that Mediterraneans lived in Mexico as long ago as 700 A.D., according to Prof. von Wuthenau." This stone was uncovered in Campeche. This upright stone is carved in relief and shows a "squat, scowling man wearing a typical large Mayan earring," according to Prof. von Wuthenau. He went on to describe the earring, saying that it shows "the Star of David in the middle of a round disc," with "horizontal lines which might mean water." The ornament "is encircled by a rope, very much the sort you would expect to see on a ship." He also stated that "the figure wears a torpedo-shaped hat."

Prof. von Wuthenau, still referring to the stone, said, "In my opinion, it depicts a ship seen from above, which, surprisingly enough, has great affinity with ancient Egyptian papyrus boats," and he thinks there is a connection between the sailing ship and the Star of David, which in his opinion is consistent with a "figure on a Jewish tomb at Beir-Shearim, Israel, dating from the 2nd and 3rd century."

(For additional thoughts expressed by Prof. von Wuthenau, substantiated by Dr. Cyrus H. Gordon, review our Newsletter No. 9, p. 4.)

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on Ancient America

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