



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

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NEWSLETTER NO. 19

November 12, 1974

Greetings to our Members and Friends:

We are working on our Foundation library development, as announced earlier. Any books or periodicals which you may wish to contribute will be most acceptable. Ours would be an excellent depository for precious books which have been collected by individuals who, because of age or other reasons, no longer can use them but want to place them where they will be well cared for and used by appreciative students and those engaged in research. Please be alert to opportunities to pass on to us anything appropriate for reference reading on the Book of Mormon. The range is wide, of course, almost unlimited--writings of early or recent date, new or used copies. We shall accept gratefully whatever you wish to contribute. If you wish, we shall gladly cover the transportation cost.

Lest you forget, our fiscal year is drawing to a close, which means that your 1974 membership will expire December 31. Hence, we invite you to renew your memberships in order to continue to support our efforts to promote interest in Book of Mormon research. For those who may not know, we mention that memberships may be: regular, \$2.00; family, \$10.00; or sustaining, \$50.00. Please remember that the Foundation is now incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri. Hence, contributions to our organization are tax exempt.

Member or not, you are welcome to receive our newsletters free. We are always glad to add names of friends to whom you wish to have the newsletters sent. All it takes is the name and address, including the zip code.

We always appreciate your keeping us informed as to address changes. Missent newsletters cause our mailing costs to mount, since we are required to pay a fee for each returned newsletter (because of bulk mailing). When the post office furnishes us with the new address, we are able to send a replacement copy, bringing up the cost to about 25¢ for each such handling. Unfortunately, even the post office often is not given the new address, but returns newsletters marked "Insufficient address," or "Moved. Left no forwarding address." We have no choice but to drop such names from our mailing list.

Do keep reading. Watch your public libraries and bookstores for new releases which may contain items of interest to our Foundation.

---T.D.S.

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Norma Anne Holik, Th.D., in response to a request by the Foundation, is the major contributor to this newsletter. Sister Holik is presently employed in Kansas City, Missouri by the Department of Labor as Evaluator for the Manpower Services System, Human Resources Corporation. As she prayerfully considered what she might write about, a lead came from an unexpected source. Mr. John Dillard, head of the

Central Records Unit of the same corporation with whom Norma Anne is identified furnished the source. The following is Norma Anne's account of the experience.

About two days after prayer for direction for materials for this article, Mr. John Dillard opened conversation with me by saying that he knew of my interest in archaeology and that he himself in the summer of 1963 had participated in a dig while a student of Kansas University. Soon we were deep in the interview which produced the following information.

In 1963 plans were in progress for the construction of the John Redmon Reservoir, about fifteen miles from Emporia, Kansas. The Kansas State Historical Society was funded by the National Parks and the Smithsonian Institution to make a salvage dig on several sites in that area. Mr. Dillard, at that time a graduate student in anthropology, hired on as a member of the field crew and was lucky enough to work directly in the grid where the most valuable finds were to be made. He was working under the direction of Thomas Witty, Head Archaeologist of the Kansas State Historical Society, and with Don Lacy, a "bone specialist" in archaeology.

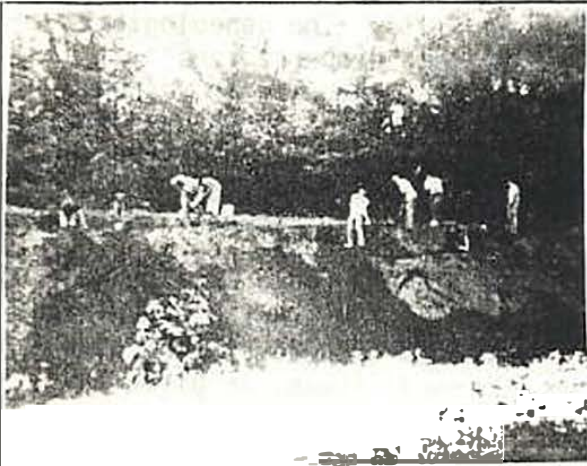
This particular site was on the edge of a creek. Usually archaeological grids are set up for approximately 3-4' in size, but in this case the grid was 10' x 10' and Mr. Dillard worked two of these, making his dig 10' x 20' and eventually 7' in depth (when he arrived at completely "steril" soil). This area had been what is called a "refuse" area, which is in actuality just that. Early peoples did not have tools to dig in hard ground to any depth, so often made burials of anything they wanted to dispose of in sites where refuse had been placed. The site definitely had been a "habitation" site and probably the Indians had lived there in the 1400's, since there were three or more distinct layers of cultural debris above the one in which the important find was made.

The digging is done with special spades, used slantwise for a distance of approximately six inches and only one-half inch in depth. If the spade hits any resistance, the digger stops and investigates. Dillard, after going down approximately six feet, felt the telltale resistance and uncovered bones. This was not too unusual for they had found a number of skeletal remains of dogs. At first this set of bones did not seem important, but after carefully sorting on the spot, it was discovered that he had hit the knee bones of a human skeleton. It was a female of approximately 5'5" in height who had been buried with flexed body, upright, with hands crossed against the chest, but earth movement had partly moved the body forward. There were no evidences of any wrappings (such as I have seen in similar burials in Peru). The bones were in excellent condition except for digital ends which were in powder and could not be preserved. This was an adult, for the teeth showed usage.

Approximately twenty feet away was found another skeleton, that of a man, height 5'7", also flexed, but having been buried on his back. Again, no wrappings were evident.

These bones were studied by Dr. William Boss, Physical Anthropologist at Kansas University, and were then sent to Japan for carbon dating. The Japanese dating was used since it took only about three months and cost \$100 for it to be done there, whereas in the United States it might take as long as a year for it to be done. The carbon-14 dating located these two skeletal remains as DATING BACK TO 3,400 B.C. (plus or minus 200 years)!

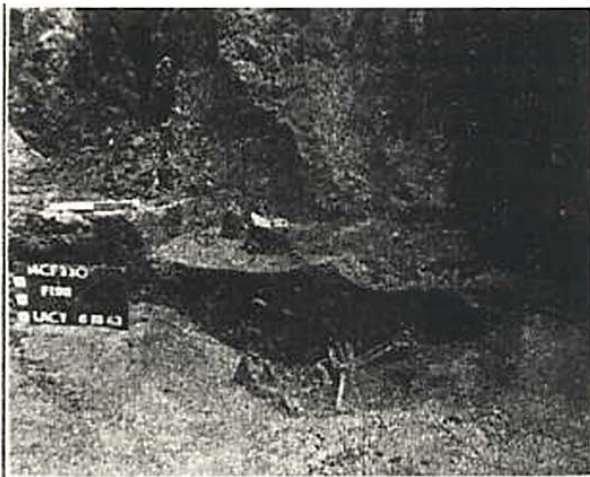
ADAM'S GENERATION COMES TO LIGHT



The dig begins on the creek bank
.....laying out the grids.



John Dollard with the man (above)
and woman (below) who lived 3400
years ago.



The dig ends seven feet down,
through three distinct eras.

This won't mean a thing to you unless you think back to Genesis 6:11, Inspired Version, and remember that Adam lived to be 930 years old. The geneological study of the Old Testament (and likewise a study of the "dispensations"--a complete study in itself) tells us that Adam was created approximately 4000 years before Christ. Remember also that Adam lived before the earth was divided into continents, which occurred during the life of Peleg, and at that time the land now known as Missouri (and Kansas) was rather close (without the oceans to interfere) with the land of the Israelites. It is most often accepted that the Garden of Eden was in the Mesopotamian delta of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers because of the description of the rivers. However, a study could well be made on this subject for before the division into continents, the great Missouri and Mississippi were already flowing, and can be fitted into the description also. In addition, we refer to the account of Adam at Adam-ondi-Ahman, as given in Doctrine and Covenants 104:28.

Be that as it may, what I'm pointing out is that this discovery by Mr. Dillard in 1963 is of two skeletons of two individuals who lived in what is known as the Archaic culture of the plains, but could well have been among those of the posterity of Adam mentioned in our text. This also points up the fact that, although the Book of Mormon tells of three major migrations to the American Continents (after the separation of the continents), the people of these migrations were not the first human life here. We have no records as to what happened to the first civilizations but this discovery may be one of the keys to "more truth and light yet to come forth."

These skeletal remains are in the museum at Kansas University and are labeled to be the oldest skeletal remains to have ever been found in the plains area. No real publicity has been given to this find, either by newspaper releases or scientific journals that we can find. It may well be that this bulletin will be the first printing of this find to take the information around the world. And add another "coincidence"--Mr. Dillard is being transferred immediately to another location in our system and if we had not had our talk when we did, it would never have had the opportunity to learn of these finds. God works in mysterious ways to bring us light.

In order for me to know that the information was factúal, I contacted the Kansas State Historical Society headquarters in Topeka, the Anthropology Department at Kansas University, and the Smithsonian Institute. From these I received complete verification of everything Mr. Dillard told me. It is through his kindness that we are able to reproduce the photos accompanying this article.

I appreciate particularly the cooperation of Dr. H. R. Van-Smythe, Archivist of the Smithsonian Institute, for during our 4 WATS line conversations, totaling about forty-five minutes in length, he also verified and furnished further information on another North American excavation of intense interest, but I'll hold that story for another time.

The executive committee of the Foundation wishes to say that the above interesting article suggests several areas of which little is known which await research and exploration. As time marches on, we may expect further discoveries which will displace speculation with developing scientific evidence.

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Margaret Dutton, in the research library at the Auditorium, brought to our attention an article in the Smithsonian, a publication of Smithsonian Associates, Vol. 1, Number 7, October 1970, in which appears an article by Clemency Coggins, "The Maya Scandal: How Thieves Strip Sites of Past Cultures," pp. 8-16.

This article tells of how law enforcement men captured a group of peasants who had stolen a valuable chunk of Maya Indian sculpture from its wilderness site, and were carrying it away on the back of an old mule. Such thieves are making a living by plundering ancient artifacts. In Latin America they are called huaqueros, or "grave robbers." The theft of artifacts throughout the vast region extend as far as Peru, with the most serious plundering taking place in Mexico and Guatemala. Mr. Coggins charges, "By aircraft, helicopter, boat and truck the native stone remnants of the Maya civilization are taken from their natural habitats and eventually sold, often as not, to museums in the United States.

This thievery is responsible for the destruction of a great portion of the "cultural heritage of the western hemisphere," because the thieves "invariably deface, mutilate or shatter major architectural monuments, sculptures and frescoes in the process of hacking them down to size for removal and shipment abroad." Mr. Coggins declares that "This plunder has been financed by the international art market, by collectors and by most museums," and he goes on to say, "The haphazard removal of these art objects from their native lands by ignorant thieves has severely hampered scholars." Archaeologists have developed ingenious techniques for interpreting the history of man through excavation of his buried past. It is now possible to date a tomb or a building, and thus an entire civilization from "the most ephemeral imprint of a vanished textile, the location of bone and pottery fragments and even the traces of a fire that burned centuries before. But without scientific techniques, digging becomes looting. An art object which has been excavated by huaqueros can rarely be traced to its place of origin even by experts. With no clear historical significance, therefore, the object can only be, forevermore, beautiful but dumb."

An art object which has been taken by huaqueros is not taken by scientific means, and can rarely be traced to its place of origin, thus losing forever its historical significance.

During the last fifteen years, Mr. Coggins declares that numerous archaeological sites around the world have been systematically pillaged and destroyed at an ever-increasing rate, due to increased interest in art objects in the industrialized western nations, which acquire most of these archaeological works of art, and he states that today there is a market for the artifacts of just about any past civilization, no matter how primitive. "For the collector, the art object symbolizes his wealth and material success. For the native who digs up and sells a small portion of his national heritage, the object generally represents money with which to buy food."

Mr. Coggins explains that as the traffic in Latin American antiquities swells in volume, it becomes more organized. For instance, an art dealer in Miami may employ hundreds of huaqueros in the wilds of Yucatán, whereupon a Manhattan dealer, hearing that a lovely pyramid has been discovered in a remote jungle, "sends an adviser to help cut the monuments into pieces so they can be smuggled out. Knowing little about treasures, the adviser may cause the treasures to be ruined through crude measures used in their removal. Today there are only two or three complete Maya frescoes in existence."

Mr. Coggins states further, "Gangs of huaqueros have devastated sites in Campeche (Mexico), dismantling intricate cut-stone facades of temples, and leaving religious ceremonial sites pockmarked with pits. . . . Few Maya sites have escaped the thieves whose methods, in most cases, are crude. Most often they cut up stelae, lintels, and wall panels with power saws. Stela may weigh several tons, so its back and sides are often sliced off in order to lighten it. The robbers generally cut these figural parts into squares, making them easier to transport, thus sacrificing most of the inscriptions carved on the sides of the stelae. "Some robbers drill holes; others heat the stone and then crack it open with cold water. Still others simply apply sledge hammers. The cruder methods do have the advantage of leaving natural-looking breaks."

Mr. Coggins then explains at some length why American museums become involved in acquiring stolen, mutilated objects. Some justify their purchases by saying that if they do not buy them, someone else will. Some reason that they have saved the object from "rotting in the jungle where no one was appreciating it." Others offer similar reasoning in attempting to justify their buying these stolen treasures. Mr. Coggins mentions some of the measures which have been taken since 1969, and proposals for legislative action on the part of countries buying the art treasures and by countries losing their treasures, plus other suggestions for policies which might well be established by museums for proper distribution of duplicates. He makes a plea for action to "control the plunder and smuggling of our global artistic and archaeological heritage."

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