



FOUNDATION  
FOR  
RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

THELONA D. STEVENS, CHAIRMAN

NEWSLETTER

July 11, 1975

No. 21

202 SOUTH PENDLETON AVE. / INDEPENDENCE, MO. 64060

GREETINGS:

Since this is the first Newsletter since our annual meeting February 9, 1975, we shall mention some high points of that exceptionally well attended meeting. Indeed, we had the greatest attendance in our history. In addition to our immediate vicinity, many came from relatively close areas, such as Lamoni and Warrensburg, and several points in Kansas. In addition, Brother Leonard J. Mann traveled all the way from Zuni, New Mexico for the express purpose of attending that meeting. Our speaker, Dr. Richard DeLong, professor of biology at Graceland College, delivered an illustrated lecture, his subject being "Cristis at Cumorbh." Dr. DeLong had just returned from Mexico, and was filled with enthusiasm over his observations and what he believed to be important discoveries and verifications.

Stewart Wight, due to other duties, regarded it unwise to serve longer as vice-chairman. In his stead, Dr. DeLong was elected. Other elected officers remain as before.

Last year, acting by the authority of the body, your chairman appointed a special library committee, headed by T. E. Thomas, to search out information and make recommendations for acquiring books of special value to the Foundation (FRAA). Brother Thomas felt he could not continue this work, and Maxine Wight was named to fill this place, with Linda Baker continuing to serve on the committee.

Sister Wight's years of residence in Latin America, plus other special qualifications, fit her ideally for this work. She is also secretary for the Society for Archaeological Research, which fact further indicates something of her ability and interest in this particular type of work. Sister Wight expressed her conviction that we should purchase rare books pertinent to our use, and urged that they be purchased as soon as they can be located, whether in English, Spanish, or German.

She also mentioned the advisability of acquiring children's books for research purposes, and enthusiastically made suggestions for promoting this work. The association allocated \$500 for her use in this major project for the current year. Sister Wight has been at work since her appointment, and (P. 6) is her account of what is now being done.

We suggest that you watch the *Herald* for a forthcoming article regarding the Society for Archaeological Research, as it is logical that members of our association be aware as to the aims and accomplishments of that society. Some have apparently failed to recognize that there are these two associations. Although they are doing somewhat similar work, they are also doing widely different work.

Now a word of caution: Some information of spurious nature is being circulated, even mailed, among many of our church members as to some wild claims by a man who says he is an Indian with knowledge of white Indians in South America. The man is a fake and his claims are untrue. More information about this may possibly appear in the *Herald*.

T.D.S.

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GRIT News Section

June 22, 1975



### INDIAN RUINS ATTRACT INTEREST

Stone carvings of the Copan Mayan Indian ruins in Honduras may reveal the stage of development reached by ancient Indian civilizations. In this photograph, taken by Harry V. Wiant, Jr., professor of forestry at West Virginia University in Morgantown, the carvings appear to represent gears with spoked wheels and evidence of housing.

## YEARS AGO

The Book of Mormon states that the Nephites in ancient America were skilled in "fine workmanship of wood, in MACHINERY. . . . ." (Jarom 1:19).

In support of this statement, Roy Weldon has sent a clipping from GRIT News section, Williamsport, Pa.

# BOOK SERVICE

buy the best

Many have asked us what books they should buy for their own personal libraries, or for congregational libraries. It is difficult to say without knowing what the budgets allow, but the following is a sample list:

- 1- *America's First Civilization, Discovering the Olmec*, by Michael D. Coe, American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1968. \$4.98.
- 2- *The Jaguar's Children: Pre-Classic Central Mexico*, by Michael D. Coe, The Museum of Primitive Art, 15 West 54th Street, New York.
- 3- *The Olmec World*, by Ignacio Bernal, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1969. \$12.50.
- 4- *History Begins at Sumer*, by Samuel N. Dramer, Doubleday, Garden City, New York, (Anchor Book), paperback. 1959. \$2.50.
- 5- *Art of Terracotta Pottery in Pre-Columbian Central and South America*, by Van Wuthenau, Crown Publishing Co., New York. 1970. 66.95.
- 6- *Before Columbus*, by Cyrus Gordon, Crown Publishing Co., New York 1971. \$6.50.
- 7- *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, by Eric R. Wolf, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London. 1959. Paperback, \$1.95.

Maxine Wight

Mrs. Lora Puterbaugh, of Pleasant Hill, Illinois, has contributed two numbers of *Early Man*, giving details of discoveries at Koster, Illinois. This publication seems very worthwhile.

# Breakthrough

(The following is borrowed from the book in process of development by Roy E. Weldon and Eddie Butterworth:)

Professor O. F. Cook, following his Yale expedition to Peru in 1915, wrote in *National Geographic*, "Staircase Farmers of the Ancients," May 1916 (p. 493), telling of his observations:

The work that the Prehistoric builders accomplished is still beyond our comprehension. Nobody has explained how it was done or how it could be done. Indeed, the modern Indians deny that it ever was done, preferring to believe that it was the work of enchantment. Huge rocks that could be moved only with the greatest difficulty and by the combined labor of hundreds of people are nevertheless fitted together with incredible nicety. To say that there are seams too fine to insert knife edges or tissue papers leaves the story only partly told. There is no room for inserting anything, since the surfaces are actually in contact.

With some of the finest work, at Ollantaytambo, the joints are, in many places, too fine to be seen by the naked eye. A lens becomes necessary to make sure that there is really a seam and not merely a superficial groove, or false joint. Professor Bingham compares the fitting of these stones to the grinding of glass stoppers into bottles, which is the best analogy thus far suggested. But how can anybody credit the idea of grinding together with such accuracy the edges of stones that weigh tons?

Brian Fawcett adds this information regarding the fitting together of these huge stones: "I have heard it said that they fitted their stones together by means of a liquid that softened the surfaces to be joined to the consistency of clay." He said of a jar of liquid that was found in a grave, which was broken on a rock:

About ten minutes later I bent over the rock and casually examined the pool of spilled liquid. It was no longer liquid; the whole patch where it had been, and the rock under it, were as soft as wet cement! It was as though the stone had melted, like wax under the influence of heat.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Lost Trails, Lost Cities*, Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1953, pp. 272, 273; also footnote.

We are indebted to John E. Hobart, of Santa Monica, California for the following:

In the Spring 1975 issue of *Vista*, the magazine of Exxon Travel Club, Felicia A. Holton writes about 7,000 years of Prehistoric Man in Illinois. The overall site of the expedition upon which she is reporting covers the remarkably large area of 25 to 30 acres and so far Northwestern University archaeologists have uncovered fifteen layers or horizons of prehistoric villages separated by layers of sterile soil. She said that the deepest layer has been dated about 6500 B.C., predating Stonehenge and the pyramids of Egypt.

The dig is considered important and distinctive due to the excellent preservation of artifacts as well as plant and animal remains. The site is located in Greene County, Illinois, forty-five miles north of St. Louis, Missouri, about 270 miles southwest of Chicago and six miles south of the town of Eldred, Illinois. The KOSTER site, named after the current owner of the property, Theodore Koster, draws about 30,000 visitors annually. The article states this is the largest archaeological expedition in the Western Hemisphere and during the digging season (June 1 to September 1) 210 workers are on the job, including fifteen scientists.

Of Particular interest to Book of Mormon students, the author notes that people lived at Koster in 2500 B.C. They built their houses out of branches or logs, and among the house ruins was found "silver-dollar-sized bits of fire-hardened clay with crisscross impressions on them." The fired clay was the earliest evidence of such construction practices found so far. In this same horizon they found evidence that man lived in a land of milk and honey, as the author puts it, and food resources were in abundance all over the area. The archaeologists at Koster would no doubt find a reading of the Jaredite history nothing short of fascinating.

For those living near the area and interested in visiting Koster, there is no admission charge either at the site or the museum across the river in Kampsville and tour guides are on duty to explain the work of the expedition. The author of the article says that one of the best times to visit Koster is on Member's Weekend held in August each year. Whoever makes a contribution to the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology (F.I.A.), Kampsville, Ill., 62053, is eligible to be included in this group. A newsletter called *Early Man* is also available through F.I.A., which reports on the work of the expedition.

This year the Foundation for Research on Ancient America has undertaken a most important project-----that of acquiring a library of books on archaeology. The field of American archaeology is developing rapidly, particularly that of Meso-America, and many new and excellent books are being published. Most of these are in limited editions, and many of them, because of extensive art work and color reproductions are quite expensive. To have the money available to buy some of these excellent books now is a welcome contribution.

Housing of the FRAA library was first solved when Zionie Research Institute agreed to give us space in their library. However, this would have meant that Independence would have had three different church-related collections of books on archaeology, i.e. the Paul Hanson collection and other books in the RLDS Research Library in the Auditorium; the library of the Society for Archaeological Research; and the FRAA library. This problem was overcome through consultation with Richard Howard, Church Historian, and Margaret Dutton, Librarian for the RLDS Research Library for all three collections. Each book will be specially labelled as to the collection to which it belongs, so those of you who visit the library will know which books have been provided by FRAA. Donated books, of course, will show the name of the donor.

The RLDS Research Library is accepting these books on condition that we provide the cataloguing. Grace Ebeling, a qualified librarian, has very kindly agreed to do this work as a volunteer, working one evening a week until the complete cataloguing is done. Hazel Smith has volunteered to type up the cards. We are most grateful to these people who so willingly give their time for such a valuable service.

The budgets of all three libraries mentioned are limited, so we are being very careful not to duplicate the books we are acquiring. We can thus have available a more varied selection of books.

Members of FRAA can be proud and happy for the opportunity to contribute to this collection, which will be of much worth to students of archaeology. We hope to have purchased all the books which our allotment allows, and to have them duly catalogued and in place in the RLDS Research Library at the Auditorium by the end of September.

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M.W.

Frances M. Mills of Independence, Mo., has provided us with an article from *Science News Magazine*, (Vol. 103, No. 22, p. 354, June 2, 1973) entitled "Ancient City Planning on the Yucatan Peninsula". We quote portions below and give you a diagram of the general arrangement of city planning on page 8.

An overall organization plan of the Maya lowlands shows that there were four regional capitals. Around each capital existed a hexagonal lattice of secondary centers. Tertiary hexagons developed around the secondary centers, and shifting villages and hamlets grew up around the tertiary towns. Theories have suggested that such geographical organization was developed as a defense system. The outer cities, for instance, would act as buffers to protect the major or core cities.

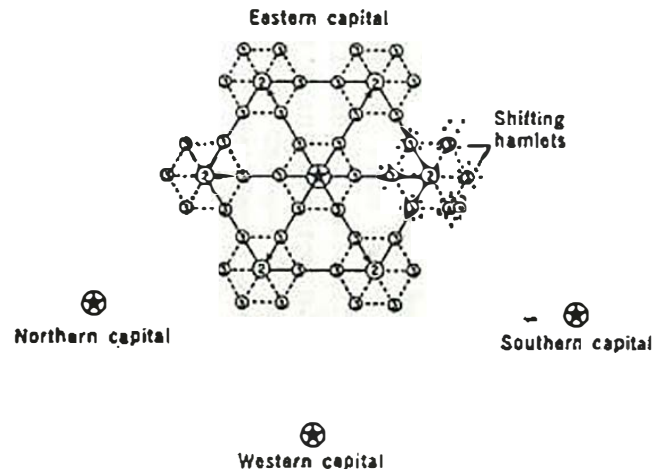
Joyce Marcus of Harvard University disagrees. She . . . concludes that the territorial organization of the Maya was based on their quadripartite view of the universe. . . .

The Maya quadripartite model of the universe says that heaven is divided into four levels or regions. Each level is associated with a cardinal direction, color and god. Hell is similarly divided and, therefore, the Mayas divided the earth or their territory into four major areas. Each area had a ceremonial, religious political and commercial capital. It is around such capitals that the hexagonal lattices developed. But they developed on a central-place theory, not a core-buffer theory, says Marcus.

According to the central-place theory, outlying cities or service centers are placed where they will ensure uniform distribution of population and purchasing power, uniform terrain and resource distribution and equal transport facility in all directions. All central places perform the same functions and serve areas of the same size. The most economical spacing of such service centers would be equidistant, resulting in hexagonal patterns. The Maya, however, did not recognize this pattern. They simply saw that a whole series of smaller centers were dependent on a primary center. In view of the geography of the area (irregular topography and seasonally flooded swamps), says Marcus, it is amazing how nearly uniform the spacing of such centers is. This suggests, she goes on, the degree to which the service functions of these centers strongly overrode such factors as good soil, water, shelter or defense. . . .

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*Idealized  
diagram of  
Maya hexagonal  
territorial  
organization  
with capitals,  
secondary and  
tertiary cities.*

(continued from p.7)

Most surveys of Maya territory have concentrated on major centers. But as more information on minor centers and hamlets becomes available, Marcus hopes to complete her analysis of the social, political and territorial organization of the lowland Maya and confirm her theory.