



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON ANCIENT AMERICA

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NEWSLETTER NO. 30

November 30, 1978

Greetings, Members and Friends,

Happily, we announce that the Foundation for Research on Ancient America will hold a special meeting at 3:00 P.M., December 17, on Floor A of Partridge Hall, Stone Church, when Thoric Cederstrom will address us.

Thoric returned from his studies in the Holy Land this fall, stopping briefly in Independence on his way to Mexico, where he enrolled in the Universidad de las Americas, in Puebla, Mexico. He reports: "My classes are excellent! I'm studying Advanced Anthropological Theory, Advanced Linguistics, Urban Anthropology, Archaeological Laboratory, and one very excellent class is entitled Mexican Codiés, which deals with the written records left by the people here before the Spanish burned them all. I also study Nahuatl (the language of the Aztecs) in the University of Puebla." His report further indicates that his studies in Jerusalem have stood him well for advancement in his field in Mexico, for he says, "I was hired here by the University of the Americas to teach two courses next semester, one in Cultural Anthropology and the other in Middle East Archaeology!"

Thoric has submitted to the FRAA two papers which are on file for reference. One is "The Essenes: A Revitalization Movement. A Comparison of Contemporary Sources." The other is a highly technical article called "A Note on the Manufacture, Composition and Occurrence of Brass in the Ancient Near East," which involved research conducted especially for the FRAA, and indicates more than ordinary insight into the subject. He expects to write yet more material for us, about which he will doubtlessly speak on December 17.

Thoric Cederstrom will be in Independence during the holidays, visiting his parents, Bishop and Mrs. Carl Cederstrom. He has offered to speak for us on his experiences in the Holy land. We know you will not want to miss this special meeting. Do come and bring your friends.

We count it an honor and a privilege to have had one of our own members in attendance at the conclave of anthropologists at the Tercera Mesa Redonda de Palenque (Third Round Table) conference at Palenque last June. Dr. Richard A. DeLong, vice president of FRAA, attended this conference, and below we present a report from him about it. We expect to be hearing more from Dr. DeLong along these lines in the future.

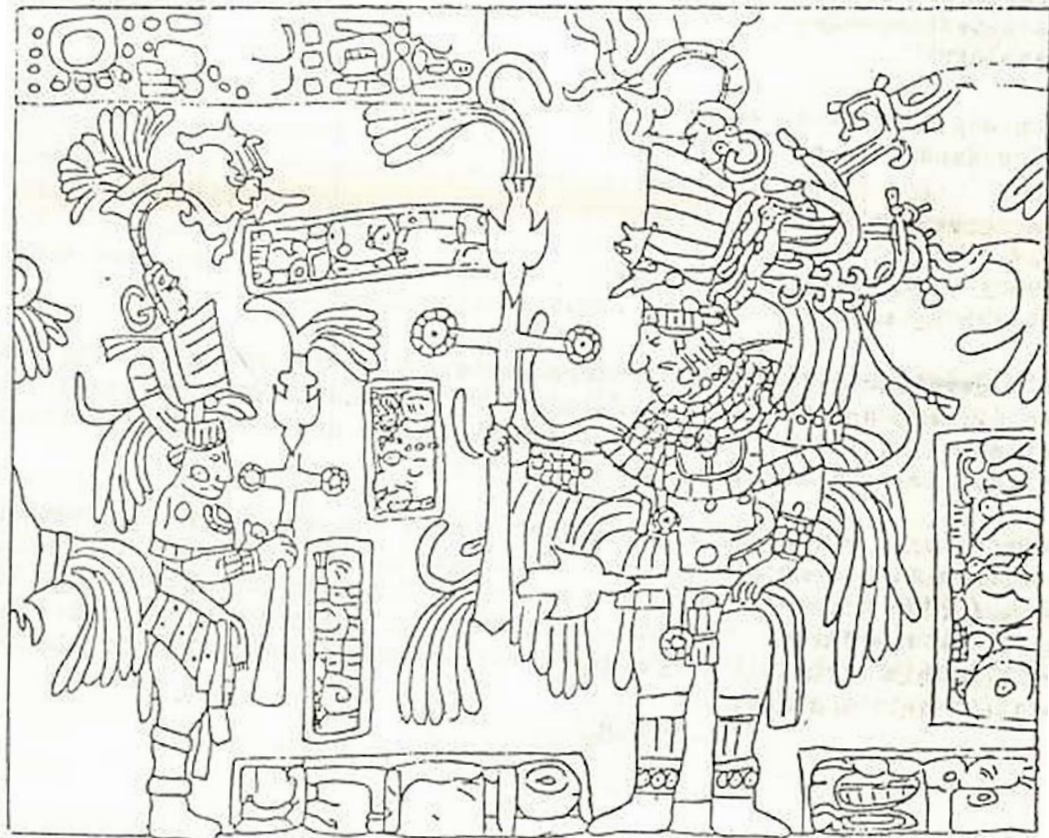
--T.D.S.

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Dr. DeLong Attends Palenque Round Table

With financial assistance from the FRAA, I attended the Tercera Mesa Redonda de Palenque (Third Round Table) during the week of June 12-17, 1978. Over one hundred scholars including many Mexican, French, German, and United States anthropologists attended.

The ruins of Palenque have been the focal point for studies on Maya art, iconography, and epigraphy. Of particular interest in recent years has been the identification of fifteen historic Palenque rulers, their birth dates, accessions to power and deaths. During the Third Round Table discussions, Linda Schele of the University of South Alabama said, "I believe that the tomb of Lord Chan Bahlum (Snake Jaguar) will be found in the pyramid of the Temple of the Cross." The body of Chan Bahlum's father, Lord Shield Pacal, and his sumptuous tomb had been discovered in the Temple of the Inscriptions by the Mexican archaeologist Alberto Ruz, in June, 1952. Further studies by Heinrich Berlin, Floyd Lounsbury, Peter Mathew and Linda Schele, have resulted in both identification of the hieroglyphic subject matter and partial decipherment of both mythological and historical texts as contained in the glyph panels of the Tablets of the Cross, Foliated Cross, and Sun. On these tablets, Shield Pacal is the smaller and Chan Bahlum the larger of the two figures. Schele believes that the three temple pyramids of the Cross, Foliated Cross, and Sun, were built at the same time and their textual hieroglyphs of later lords mirror the reigns of their earlier ancestral lords. This mirroring of earlier rulers by later rulers is termed chiasmatic, and occurs in the Old Testament's 1st and 2nd Kings, for the kings of Judah, as well as for Jaredite kings in the Book of Mormon. Schele further believes that temples still buried in jungle contain the tombs of earlier Palenque kings and queens.



Lintel Number 2, Structure 33
Yaxchilan

On June 14, bush planes were chartered to fly conferees to the ruins of Yaxchilan and Bonampak, located southeast of Palenque. Formerly inaccessible except by dugout canoe, Yaxchilan is located on a great bend in the Usumacinta River. Apostles Paul Hanson and Charles Hield visited Yaxchilan in 1947. Paul Hanson, in his book, In the Land of the Feathered Serpent, featured a photograph on page 76 of one of the famous carved lintels, Lintel No. 2, that occurs over the center door of the new restored Structure 33. In the drawing of Lintel 2 above, the larger Maya ruler, Bird-Jaguar, holds a stylized cross, or tree of life, upright in his right hand, and an identical cross in his left hand held horizontally across his lower abdomen. Quetzal birds point head downward with wings and tail occurring on the two crosses. A similar cross is held in the right hand of the figure on the left. While the significance of the crosses is not fully known, the Ceiba Tree of the Maya was sacred and was perhaps involved in the passage of the deceased's spirit from the underworld to celestial life as is indicated in the scene carved on Lord Shield Pacal's sarcophagus lid.

While at the conference I was privileged to meet Giles G. Healey, the English discoverer and photographer of the famous painted walls of Bonampak. In May, 1946, Healey had been led by a group of Lacandon Indians to a structure with stupendous paintings which covered the walls of three rooms. Healey said in my conversations with him, that he had met Paul Hanson and Charles Hield at Yaxchilan. Hanson had related to Healey his conviction that Jesus Christ appeared to the Ancient Americans somewhere in the general area near Yaxchilan. Healey told me that while exploring the area near Bonampak, he had discovered a huge ceremonial ruin site which he named in honor of a Mexican friend, Miguel Angel Fernandez. In spite of all the excavations and studies conducted at Mexican and Central American archaeological sites, it is estimated that less than five per cent of existing archaeological ruins have been excavated.

To date, no ruined city has been positively identified with those of the Book of Mormon. Various cultures ascended and declined in the years between the end of the Book of Mormon historical account and the Spanish Conquest. The question of which cultures were flourishing during the Book of Mormon account may soon be solved by the thermoluminescent dating of pottery shards. Dr. Garman Harbottle, of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, visited with me and told me he feels this technique will do much to solve the absolute dating of the various cultural levels at Teotihuacan and other Mesoamerican sites. We may look forward to more exciting years ahead as archaeologists continue to make new discoveries and revise their theories.

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Brother Roy E. Weldon, well-known author and traveler, submitted this:

One of the major customs of the Book of Mormon revolves around the Masonic issue-- a controversial issue on the American frontier in 1830 and the "Secret Order" issue in the Book of Mormon.

In perusing a voluminous recent book, Mysteries of the Mexican Pyramids, by Peter Thompkins, Harper & Row, New York, 1976, I came across this quotation:

There is no science without measure. The Maya saw their supreme deity Hanabku as sole dispenser of movement and measure, whose symbol the compassed circle and the square, was identical with that of the great architect of modern Masonry. (Preface, p. xvi.)

I highly recommend this book as a cyclopedic coverage in depth of the history of archaeological discoveries in the new world.

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Anna Belle Christy, librarian, Lebanon, Missouri, sent us an excerpt from The Money Pit, The Story of Oak Island and The World's Greatest Treasure Hunt, by D'Arcy O'Connor, Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., New York, 1928, which deals with the method used for more than 2,000 years by the Maya to manufacture their lime from raw limestone. "Briefly, a circular pile of logs was raised to a height of about four feet. On top of this were placed small pieces of limestone. Then the wood was lit through a hole in the center and allowed to burn through. The Maya have always believed that it was essential for a successful kiln to have absolutely no wind and a fire that burned evenly on all sides. To such people, needing to make a cement vault at the bottom of a pit, what would be more logical than to avoid all wind by placing it within the pit? Here may lie the mystery of the layers of ash or charcoal [found in the Money Pit]."

Mr. O'Connor suggests that similar proceedings may have produced the "strength, thoroughness and details of construction" of the "drains and buildings on the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico."

However, three men working in Phoenix, Arizona, claim that by means of ciphers, mathematics, and research they have solved the Money Pit mystery. According to their calculations, an intricate network of tunnels and chambers was built beneath Oak Island by the Mayan Indians sometime between 1520 and 1540. These men believe that they were seeking to hide, not just gold and silver, but more importantly Mayan codices relating to the history of their culture prior to the conquest under Hernan Cortez, begun in 1519.

Mr. O'Connor concludes, "Such a discovery would certainly be astounding, as the few codices that exist today relate only to the Mayan calendar, astronomy, and religious divinations. Most of the Mayan hieroglyphic manuscripts, written on reams of bark coated with plaster, were destroyed in the sixteenth century by zealous Spanish priests who regarded the codices as evil. Apart from these, many Mayan glyphs (primarily dealing with religion and astronomy) are found carved into rock in the Mayan pyramids and temples of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Similar ruins have also been uncovered in Guatemala and Honduras." - p. 231.

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Pre-Columbian Horses in Haiti
By Marian Blumenschein

There is a herd of wild horses in Haiti that may be truly indigenous. The theory that these unusual horses may have survived since pre-Columbian time was advanced by Dr. Ivan Sanderson in Living Treasures, 1941 (p. 40).

More recently U. S. Ambassador to Norway, Philip Crowe, sighted the herd on the northern end of the island. In World Wildlife the Last Stand, 1977 (pp. 52, 53), he describes them as "silvered pinkish fawn with dark chocolate ears, manes, and tails."

They are larger than Haitian horses and will attack an ordinary horse at sight. Their stand-up manes and arched necks are reminiscent of Greek horses on ancient pottery. Mr. Crowe also sees a similarity between the wild horses of Haiti and the wild Przewalski of Mongolia.

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Five Minutes with the Bible & Science, Vol. VIII, No. 2 (Supplement to Bible-Science Newsletter, Caldwell, Idaho, February 1978) offers some conclusions made by Arthur Custance in his Noah's Three Sons, Zondervan Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1975, which are of interest to Book of Mormon students. Since it is believed that the earliest Book of Mormon peoples came from Sumer, these statements are significant:

According to Custance, "Some elements of higher mathematics, which were used in Europe only lately, were already in use among the Sumerians, Egyptians and Chinese. They made use of fractions, square roots, cube roots, squares and logarithms. The Chinese used the place system and the concept of zero long before these were in use in Europe; already in about 2000 B.C. people of the Indus Valley at Mohenjo Daru used them."

Custance quotes J. R. Jochmans as saying, "Electric dry-cell batteries have been found in ancient Babylonian ruins. Aluminum was produced in China 1600 years ago. A simple computer was found in ancient Greece, made by Indo-Europeans. A highland continent in Antarctica existed before the ice age. Models of aircraft have been found in South America and in ancient Egyptian tombs. Jochmans even claims there is evidence of the detonation of an atomic bomb in India in 2400 B.C."

It is further stated by Custance that "A German archaeologist, Dr. Wilhelm Konig, while working for the State Museum in Bagdad, found a storage box containing a number of clay pots 2000 years old. Six inches in height, each pot had a cylinder of sheet copper which was five inches high and one and one-half inches in diameter. The bottom of each cylinder was capped with a copper disc and sealed with a layer of bitumen or asphalt. Another insulating layer of asphalt sealed the top of the pot and held in place an iron rod suspended into the center of the copper cylinder. The rods showed evidence of having been corroded by an acid solution. These clay pots were ancient electric dry-cell batteries. Willey Ley made a duplicate and found that by adding copper sulfate, acetic acid or citric acid, all of which were well known 2000 years ago, the battery produced between one and one-half and two volts of electricity. Europeans did not know this until 1800. These batteries, from 250 B.C. to A.D. 650, were used to plate metal objects with gold and silver through the electroplate process. But electroplated objects have been found in Babylonian ruins in Iraq which date back to 2000 B.C."

"Jochmans writes," according to Custance, "about Dr. Korium Megertchian of the Soviet Union who found a metallurgic factory at Medzamor in Russian Armenia, where 4500 years ago an unknown people worked more than 200 furnaces to produce an assortment of vases, knives, spearheads, rings and bracelets. They wore mouth filters and protective gloves. Their wares were made of copper, lead, zinc, iron, gold, tin, manganese and fourteen varieties of bronze. Tweezers were made of high-grade steel. These furnaces were situated only fifteen miles from Mount Ararat, the landing site of the survivors of the pre-Flood world."

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Richard J. Gumerman, Independence, drew to our attention an account in Science News, November 29, 1975, on excavations at the Valdivian village at Real Alto (about eighty miles west of Cuyaquil, Ecuador's largest city). "Inca, Aztec, Maya ancient peoples of Central and South America have been well publicized because of their highly developed civilizations," the article states. "The more ancient Valdivians have been largely dismissed as simple hunters, but excavations directed by Donald W. Rathrup of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign brought to light proof that the Valdivians lived in "planned, well-constructed towns at least 5,000 years ago." The Real Alto excavations reveal a village of "sturdily constructed, multifamily homes arranged around a rectangular plaza." This type of city plan was followed 2,700 years later by the Mayas in Yucatan, and by later civilizations in Peru. "The successful farming activities of the Valdivians are shown by many features, among them the grinding stones, corn kernel impressions used to decorate pottery, and the fact that the people's teeth were worn down

from eating cornmeal mixed with grit from the grinding stones. This indicates that the beginnings of truly efficient agriculture in the Americas are centuries earlier than previously considered and in sites yet to be found.

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Those living in the Detroit area may well be interested in the announcement that the fascinating exhibit of ancient Peruvian gold objects which has been on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts since October will continue there through the month of December. This display was designed by the American Museum of Natural History and has been shown at some of the great museums in the country since last April.

The exhibit covers cultures that go back to 200 B.C. and include the Chimu, Moche, Nazca and Vicus peoples, all of whom mastered the art of producing beauty from gold. "Peru's Golden Treasures," as this fascinating display is called, shows 225 of the most unusual and appealing objects--masks, beakers, figurines, jewelry and --that have ever been fashioned from the precious metal." Francisco Pizarro, who conquered Peru in 1532, wantonly destroyed the entire Inca empire and most of its exquisite gold and silver work, worth more than \$28 million at today's prices, which the Spanish invaders melted down and divided among themselves. Some of the priceless objects which escaped their destruction are being shown in this exhibition.

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Ann Locke, of Huntsville, Alabama, submitted a manuscript on the Brass Plates, and summed up her experience in study and research in this way:

FANTASTIC! I would love to know "the truth of all things." In 1957 I took Moroni's advice, "If ye shall ask with a sincere heart, and with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost." IT WORKS.

There are no words to describe it all. There is no way I will ever quit, for I've learned enough to keep me searching for the rest, and thanking God constantly for this wonderful source of truth."

Thank you, Ann Locke, for your manuscript and this testimony.

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