

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR EARLY HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

ARTICLE I--NAME

The name of this organization shall be "the Society for Early Historic Archaeology."**

ARTICLE II--GENERAL PURPOSE AND
SPECIAL FIELD OF INTEREST

The general purpose of this organization shall be to promote knowledge of the origins and history of the earliest civilized peoples of the two hemispheres, i. e. the ancient biblical or temple-building peoples of the Near East and the pre-Columbian temple-building peoples of Middle and Andean South America; chiefly by studies of the early historical (or purported historical) accounts of those areas--especially as found in the Bible and other sacred texts--and research in the checking, clarification, and supplementation of such accounts by the findings of archaeology; also by comparative studies in the fundamental problems of the origin of civilization in the Old World and of the ancient civilizations of the New World. In other words, its general purpose shall be to promote the aims and work of the department of archaeology and anthropology of Brigham Young University--with which the Society is associated in its enterprises--in the field of archaeology, specifically in the division of historic or text-centered archaeology, with special interest in early historic archaeology, i. e. mainly the archaeology of the Scriptures; and also in general comparative archaeology."

ARTICLE III--MAIN UNDERTAKINGS

Section 1. Several series of publications shall be maintained by this organization in the field of archaeology--with subject emphasis, of course, in early historic (early text-centered) archaeology, mainly the archaeology of the Hebrew-Christian and Latter-day Saints scriptures (cf. Article II). These shall consist of the following: (a) a Newsletter and Proceedings of the S. E. H. A. (published several times a year; formerly the U. A. S. Newsletter, from which the numbering of the issues shall be continued); and (b) Special Publi-

cations (occasional publications, some of them major works, including a series of general introductory or survey works in archaeology and related fields, and series of monographs in the field of early historic archaeology).

Section 2. Another undertaking of the Society shall be an Annual Symposium of the Archaeology of the Scriptures (co-sponsored by the department of archaeology and anthropology of the Brigham Young University), which shall be scheduled, planned, and conducted by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Also among its undertakings, as funds permit, may be expeditions to the lands of the Book of Mormon (Mexico and Central America),** for field archaeological research towards the solution of problems of Book of Mormon archaeology--or else supported projects of library and museum archaeological research having this purpose. Archaeological research may eventually also be undertaken by members of the Society, with its help, in the lands of the Bible, for the solution of problems of biblical archaeology, or problems in the archaeology of the Pearl of Great Price or the Near Eastern antecedents of the Book of Mormon peoples.

ARTICLE IV--MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of this organization shall consist of "Annual Members," "Life Members," "Institutional Members," and "Complimentary Members." In addition, there shall be the special membership category of "Research Patrons."

Section 2. The Annual Members shall consist of all persons who have paid to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society the fee required for a membership of one year or a specified number of years. This shall be four dollars per year of desired membership, or as fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Life Members shall consist of (a) all persons who have paid to the Secretary-Treasurer the fee required for a lifetime membership, which shall

*For an explanatory note see after constitution, p. 3.

**See end of second paragraph and also third paragraph of explanatory note to Article II, p. 4.

be seventy-five dollars or as fixed by the Executive Committee; and (b) all persons who have rendered outstanding service to the department of archaeology and anthropology of Brigham Young University or to the Society and, in recognition thereof, have been nominated for life membership by the Nominations Committee and elected thereto by a majority vote at a Triennial Election Meeting (see Section 10 of Article VI).

Section 4. The Institutional Members shall consist of all institutions or organizations such as libraries, museums, and seminaries, which have paid to the Secretary-Treasurer the fee required for a membership of one year or a specified number of years. This shall be four dollars per year of desired membership, or as fixed by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Complimentary Members shall consist of (a) all persons who have rendered some service to, or conferred some benefit upon, the Department or the Society and, in recognition thereof, have been granted a membership by the Secretary-Treasurer, for such period (one or more years) as determined by the latter; (b) all graduates of Brigham Young University with either the bachelor's or the master's degree, who have completed the major or minor in archaeology and who have requested such membership--those majoring in archaeology receiving three years of membership and those minoring, one year; and (c) all full-time missionaries serving a religious organization, upon request and whose membership fee accompanies their request or who are already Annual Members--this complimentary membership continuing to the end of their mission.

Section 6. The Research Patrons shall consist of all members of the Society who annually contribute at least fifteen dollars to its research fund (or other amount as fixed by the Executive Committee), or service of equivalent value to the research or publications program of the Society as determined by the Secretary-Treasurer. Such members shall have the privilege of voting at triennial election meetings, and shall be eligible for nomination and election as General Officers of the Society.

ARTICLE V--BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The benefits of membership in the Society shall include the following:

1. Copies of all publications regularly issued by

or through the Society during the term of membership, namely the Newsletter and Proceedings of the S. E. H. A., issued by the Society several times a year (see also Section 1 of Article III), and--subject to availability--a popular quarterly journal, The Biblical Archaeologist, published by the American Schools of Oriental Research.

2. Copies of, or reduced prices on, certain other publications of or distributed through the Society (for other publications of the Society additional to the mentioned newsletter see again Section 1 of Article III).

3. To a maximum of five per year of membership and upon request, copies of available publications of the Society issued previous to the term of membership, or of those of the department of archaeology and anthropology of Brigham Young University or of available non-departmental publications, as listed from time to time by the Secretary-Treasurer, provided no sale price has been affixed.

4. Admission, for the member and one, to the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures (see Section 2 of Article III) and other general meetings and activities of the Society; in the case of an Institutional Member, admission for two persons representing such member.

ARTICLE VI--ORGANIZATION AND VOTING

Section 1. The organization of the Society as to general administration and activities shall consist of the following officers and standing committees:

Officers: General Officers, including a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and a General Editor.

Standing committees: Executive Committee, Nominations Committee, and Publications Committee.

Section 2. The General Officers shall be Research Patrons of the Society (see Section 6 of Article IV) who have been nominated for this office by the Nominations Committee and elected at a Triennial Election Meeting (see Sections 8 and 10 of this article). They shall give general direction to the undertakings of the Society as members of the Executive and other committees thereof. Their term of office shall be an indefinite period, or until their resignation or withdrawal from membership in the Society, or the termination of their research patronage.

Section 3. The President shall be a General Officer who has been nominated for this office by the

Nominations Committee and elected at a Triennial Election Meeting. He shall serve as chairman of the Executive Committee (see Section 7 of this article), and shall preside at all general activities of the Society at which he is present. His term of office shall be three years. No person may be elected President for two successive terms.

Section 4. The Vice-President shall be a General Officer who has been nominated for this office by the Nominations Committee and elected at a Triennial Election Meeting. He shall assist the President in the latter's duties, preside at all general activities when the President is unable to attend, and publicize the undertakings and activities of and benefits of membership in the Society. His term of office shall be three years.

Section 5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a General Officer and a faculty or other staff member of the department of archaeology and anthropology of Brigham Young University who has been appointed to this office by the Executive Committee. He shall receive and give receipt for membership fees and otherwise handle the financial affairs of the Society, and maintain the necessary records, including a directory of the officers and members; shall distribute the publications of the Society or obtained by the Society for distribution; and shall serve as the chairman of the Nominations Committee (see Section 8 of this article). His term of office shall be an indefinite period, or as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The General Editor shall be a General Officer who has been appointed to this office by the Executive Committee. He shall serve as chairman of the Publications Committee (see Section 9 of this article), and as such shall exercise general supervision over all publications which bear the Society's name. His term of office shall be an indefinite period, or as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The Executive Committee shall consist of all General Officers, with the President as chairman. It shall oversee the undertakings of the Society, and promote its growth in membership and funds. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held as called by the President. A meeting of five or more members of the Committee, including the President or Vice-President, shall constitute a quorum thereof.

Section 8. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the Secretary-Treasurer as chairman, and four other General Officers appointed thereto by the

President. It shall nominate elective Life Members (see Section 3, b, of Article IV), General Officers, the President, and the Vice-President. It shall also have the power to appoint an officer pro-tempore to complete the term of the President or Vice-President, in the case of one of these offices becoming vacant. The meetings of the Nominations Committee shall be held as called by the chairman. A meeting of three or more members of the Committee, including the chairman, shall constitute a quorum thereof.

Section 9. The Publications Committee shall consist of the General Editor as chairman, and at least two other members of the Society appointed thereto by the Executive Committee. It shall plan and supervise the publications of the Society. Meetings of the Publications Committee shall be held as called by the chairman.

Section 10. Elective Life Members, General Officers, the President, and the Vice-President shall be elected by majority vote at a Triennial Election Meeting of Research Patrons, called and conducted by the chairman of the Nominations Committee. Absentee ballots received from Research Patrons unable to attend the meeting for good reason will be counted in the vote.

Section 11. All other general business of the Society requiring the vote of its members shall be effected by means of ballots distributed to them through the mail, unless effected in a general business meeting called by the Executive Committee or the President.

ARTICLE VII--AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or revised by the Executive Committee and the approving vote of two-thirds of the members of the Society whose ballots are received through the mail or who are in attendance at a general business meeting (see Section 11 of Article VI).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Note to Article I, giving antecedents and previous names:

This organization is the successor or revival of

an organization called "the Itzan Society," founded in 1938 at Los Angeles, California, for the promotion of study in early historic archaeology, especially that of the New World. It was established or refounded in 1949 at Provo, Utah, as an affiliate of the Department of Archaeology (now Department of Anthropology and Archaeology) of Brigham Young University, under the name of "the University Archaeological Society." The new name provided for here, adopted in 1965, more fully indicates the organization's special field of interest, as seen from Article II.

Note to Article II, explaining more fully the general purpose and special field of interest of this organization, and justifying its new name:*

All archaeology is historical in its basic purpose.† Two main divisions of the science are recognized, however, one of which is more fully historical in its work than the other: (1) the archaeological investigation of the periods of man's past before the beginning of written records, i. e. "prehistoric" archaeology; and (2) the archaeological investigation of the periods of man's past (especially the ancient) for which written records are available, i. e. "historic" archaeology. The first of these two divisions is chiefly concerned with increasing our knowledge of the cultural--especially material-culture--history of man; and may, therefore, also be referred to as "culture-centered" archaeology. It is closely related to anthropology, in fact is considered by many American archaeologists to be a branch of that discipline and, like it, a social or natural science. The second division, on the other hand, is concerned with increasing our knowledge of the ethnopolitical as well as cultural history of man, by using its independent historical findings to check, clarify, and supplement the written records or source-texts of documentary history; and may, therefore, also be referred to as "text-centered" archaeology. It is closely related to documentary--especially ancient documentary--history and philology and, like those studies, is one of the humanities. Some of the fields of specialization in this division are historic Near Eastern (Mesopotamian, Egyptian, biblical, etc.), classical or Greek and Roman, early Christian, medieval European, and "North American historic-sites" archaeology.

It is in this second division, moreover--i. e. the historic or text-centered--that archaeology plays its most important role. This is its work of enlarging the corpus of written records, source-texts, or documents--the most important of all sources of historical information--available for reconstructing the past: either (a) by discovering new source-tests (viz. inscriptions or

manuscripts) in the exploration of an historic site; or (b) by archaeologically authenticating disputed accounts of early times found in already-known texts, such as the Hebrew Book of Genesis--i. e. by establishing them as actually records or contemporaneous accounts of those times or at least as narratives based upon records now lost (as, therefore, source-accounts, i. e. primary or at least secondary source-texts), by showing them to be in agreement with independent archaeological findings. (Since Genesis is an account of the origin and early history of the first civilized people of the world--according thereto the "Adamic-Noahic" people, beginning in as early as the fifth millennium B. C. and developing [at least after a great flood] initially in Mesopotamia--as well as the origin of the Hebrews and the Hebrew-Christian religion, it is of very great historical importance if true; but it is held by many scholars today to be wholly or largely fictitious. Another example of an important disputed account of early times which can be checked or tested by the findings of archaeology, and thereby possibly authenticated as an historical source-text, is that found in the famous Latter-day Saint scripture or sacred text known as the Book of Mormon--a remarkable account of the origins and history of the first civilized peoples of the New World [certain early temple-building peoples of, apparently, the central part of Middle America], purportedly translated from ancient records found in western New York in 1827.)

"Archaeology of the Scriptures," the emphasis of this organization within its special field of early historic archaeology, refers not only to the established specialty of biblical--mostly historic Near Eastern--archaeology (the study of the Hebrew-Christian scriptures, principally the Book of Genesis and other "historical books" of the Bible, in the light of modern archaeological findings); but also to the study, in the light of such findings, of the disputed historical accounts of the ancient Near East and ancient America found in the distinctive Latter-day Saint scriptures known as the Book of Mormon and Pearl of Great Price--with chief attention given, in this organization, to the remarkable account of ancient America found in the Book of Mormon. The biblical and Pearl of Great Price branches of this exciting scriptural field of text-centered archaeology are studies in early historic archaeology of the Old World; while the Book of Mormon branch is mostly a study in early historic archaeology of the New World.

*Largely taken from the textbook for the introductory course in archaeology at Brigham Young University, entitled Discovering the Past; an Introduction

to the Science of Archaeology and the Closely Related Field of Ancient History, with a Visual Survey of the Antiquities and Ancient Arts of Both Hemispheres (Society for Early Historic Archaeology, Special Publications, General Series, No. 1), by M. Wells Jakeman, 2nd ed., Provo, Utah, 1967-68.

† Archaeology may be defined as the science which investigates man's past (i. e. his history) from the evidence of his actual material remains, especially the material remains of his early cultures and civilizations. It is therefore one of the historical sciences--the companion of the discipline of "history" in the restricted sense of that term (i. e. documentary history), or the investigation of man's past exclusively from the evi-

dence of written records. "Technically archaeology is a branch of history; it is one of the historical sciences. What distinguished archaeology from the other historical sciences is the kind of material with which it is concerned" (Millar Burrows, What Mean These Stones? The Significance of Archaeology for Biblical Studies, 1941, p. 7). "All archaeology is history, that branch of knowledge that records and explains past events. [It is the discipline] that draws historical conclusions from objects--often from fragmentary objects. It is the scientific study of the material remains of man's past life and activities. Though these material remains may include written records, the archaeologist gives way to the [documentary] historian as written records grow more numerous and thorough" (Clement W. Meighan, Archaeology: An Introduction, 1966, p. 1).

B. Y. U. , May 11, 1967