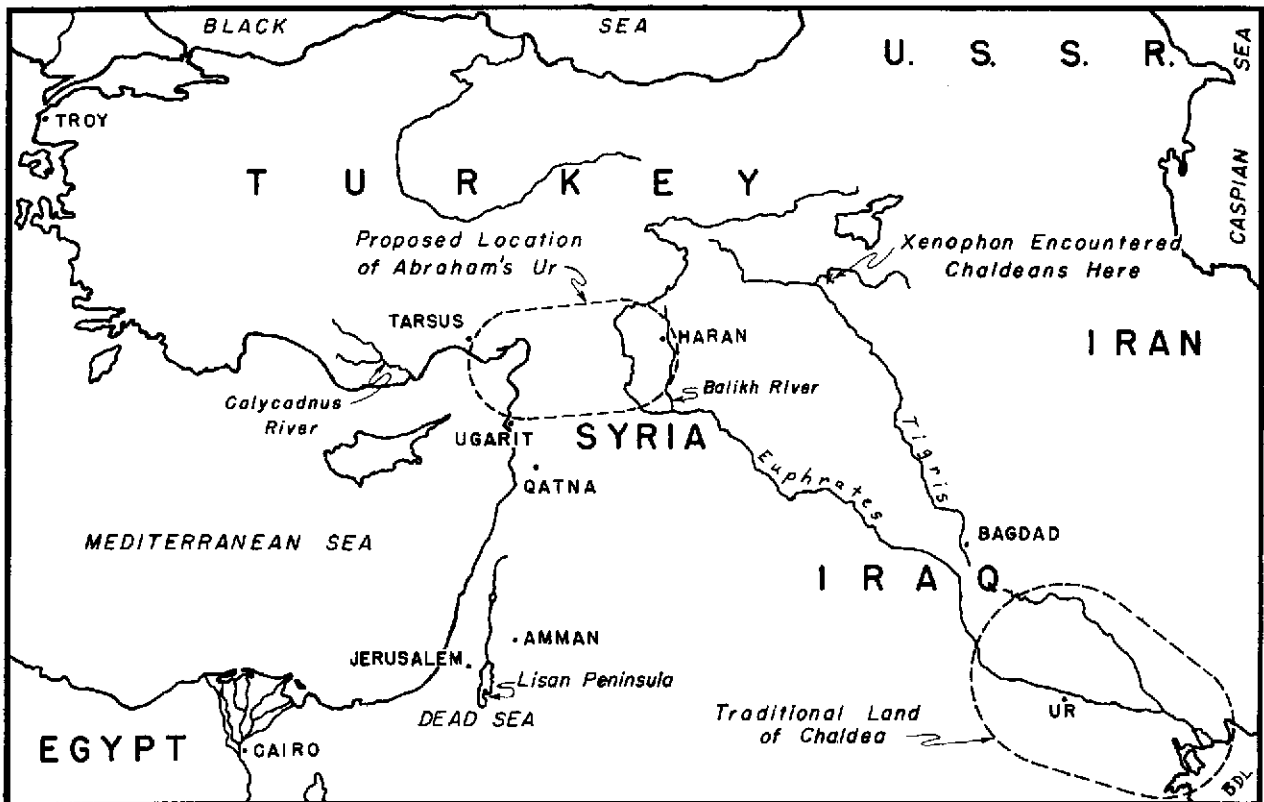


Published several times a year by THE SOCIETY FOR EARLY HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, for the dissemination among its members of information on new discoveries in archaeology throwing light on the origins of civilization in the Old and New Worlds, on the earliest periods of recorded history in the two hemispheres, and on the important historical claims of the Hebrew-Christian and Latter-day Saint scriptures; also news of the Society and its members and of the B.Y.U. department of archaeology and anthropology, of which the Society is an affiliated organization. Included are papers read at the Society's and Department's annual symposia on the archaeology of the Scriptures. All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of the contribution in which they appear and not necessarily those of Brigham Young University or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Subscription is by membership in the Society, which also includes subscription to other publications.

106.0 WHERE WAS "UR OF THE CHALDEES"? An extempore discussion presented at the Sixteenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, held at Brigham Young University on October 22, 1966 (Newsletter, 100.0). The present version has been prepared from an outline, from which the topic was delivered a second time, on June 7, 1967, at the Forty-fourth Annual BYU Campus Education Week.

INTRODUCTION

Abraham, "father of the faithful," regarded by many as the first Hebrew, stood at the head of a lineage of four patriarchs, some of whose posterity became the ancient nation of Israel. Biblical archaeologists generally regard him as an actual historical person, even though he has never been identified in an archaeological context nor can we say precisely the



Possible locations of "Ur of the Chaldees," the homeland of Abraham. The Ur in the southern circle is Tel al Muqayyar, excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley. The circle in the center of the map indicates the alternative location proposed in this article. Map by Bruce D. Louthan.

century in which he lived nor the place in which he was born.

It is clear that the Prophet Joseph Smith also regarded Abraham as an historical person and even presented to his followers and the world a translation of an actual writing of the Hebrew patriarch upon papyrus which has "fallen into our hands from the catacombs of Egypt." The Book of Abraham, probably incomplete as we now have it, contains only five chapters. With its 15 pages, including three illustrations or "facsimiles," it is a small but fascinating portion of the Pearl of Great Price. The latter in its turn is the smallest and yet the most heterogeneous of the four "Standard Works," revered by Latter-day Saints as scriptures.

LOCATING UR

Abraham and his family are indicated by the Scriptures as having come from "Ur of the Chaldees" (Genesis 11:31). The name of Ur may be related to Hebrew 'ir (city). The Chaldees or Chaldaeans were an ancient people of Semitic origin dwelling around the head of the Persian Gulf (see map). But as we shall see presently, this was not the only place where they lived; in fact it was probably not even their original homeland. Exactly who the Chaldaeans were is an enigma, although it seems likely they had some intimate connection with the Arameans and the Amorites of northwestern Mesopotamia.

The royal family of Babylon of the sixth century BC, of which Nebuchadnezzar was a member, was Chaldean; hence the term Chaldean Empire, by which the Neo-Babylonian Empire is sometimes known.

The traditional location of Ur has long been Tel al Muqayyar, a large ruin-mound in southern Mesopotamia. The original excavator was J. E. Taylor, who in 1854 discovered inscriptions clearly labeling the site as Ur of the Chaldees. The British archaeologist, Sir Leonard Woolley, undertook large-scale excavations here in 1922 which continued until 1934. He was convinced that this ancient metropolis had been "the biblical home of Abraham" (Woolley, p. 115; see bibliography at end of article).

But a careful examination of the Scriptures, particularly the Book of Abraham, leaves one in doubt that the patriarch was a native of that city or, for that matter, any city at all. His background was not urban, nor even rural. It was one of pastoral nomadism; his people were "keepers of flocks." Moreover, the Pearl of Great Price introduces the astonishing information that Abraham's land of Ur--wherever it might have been located--was a place of important Egyptian connections (see below).

Sir Leonard Woolley's Ur (Tel al Muqayyar) was

a great Sumerian metropolis, capital, and commercial center, as well as a center for the pagan worship of the moon god Nanna or Sin--none of which is alluded to in the Scriptures. Moreover, field reports of excavations at this site reveal no Egyptian influence.

It is worthy of note that Cyrus H. Gordon and others have in late years come to question the traditional identification of Tel al Muqayyar in southern Mesopotamia as the home city of Abraham (Gordon, p. 30). Recent evidence has made it seem likely that there is some other place named Ur from which the patriarch may have originated.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Now in order for a place to be called Ur of the Chaldees, it seems to me it must be a locality--perhaps a city--named Ur, in which Chaldaeans are the dominant ethnic element. That there may have been another land where Chaldaeans lived, in addition to the area around the head of the Persian Gulf, appears in the *Anabasis* of Xenophon, a Greek writer of the late fifth century BC. Xenophon was leading an army of 10,000 Greeks northward from Babylonia to the Black Sea. Blocking the way into Armenia was a contingent of Chaldean mercenaries who "were said to be free men and strong; they were armed with long wickerwork shields and lances" (Rouse, p. 76; cf. p. 102).

But a more important documentary source on the location of Ur is Genesis in the Bible. We are familiar of course with the Masoretic Hebrew text, which was that used in preparing the King James translation.

Another version is the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures produced in Egypt in the third century BC. It is useful to compare the slight variations between these two texts. The Septuagint, for example, in certain places speaks of the "land of the Chaldees" where the Masoretic text says "Ur of the Chaldees" (Genesis 11:28, 31; 15:7; Nehemiah 9:7)

These texts both speak of Ur, the land of Ur, Ur of the Chaldees, etc., but in no case so far as I have observed do they indicate that Ur was a city or in an urban area.

Further useful comparisons can sometimes be made with the "Inspired Version," a retranslation of the Bible begun by the Prophet Joseph Smith, though apparently never completed. The Book of Moses in the Pearl of Great Price consists of selections from this version (cf. Matthews, p. 37). So far as I have yet discovered, however, the Inspired Version contains no significant change from the Masoretic text that would affect our present problem.

Of all the ancient documentary sources bearing on the location of Abraham's Ur, the Book of Abraham

itself is the most important and decisive. A glance at the three "facsimiles" suggests that there is a strong Egyptian element in the background out of which it came. Chapter 1 contains several additional allusions which place the Egyptian connection beyond doubt. In v. 6, for example, we find that Abraham's idolatrous ancestors had turned to the worship of "the god of Pharaoh, king of Egypt," while v. 7 informs us that they even threatened the patriarch's life "by the hand of . . . the priest of Pharaoh." In v. 20 we learn that when the priest himself was killed, "there was great mourning in Chaldea, and also in the court of Pharaoh."

The place from which the patriarch came is referred to in the Book of Abraham as Ur, Ur of the Chaldees, or the land of Ur of the Chaldees (1:20; 2:1, 4, 15; 3:1). This record, like Genesis, never mentions any city of Ur or implies in any way that Abraham came from an urban background. It thus becomes clear that Abraham came from a non-urban place called Ur which was part of a land called Chaldea. Also, this place was located not too far away from Haran and somewhere within a zone of strong Egyptian influence, perhaps within the boundaries of the Egyptian Empire itself.

EVIDENCE OF FOLK HISTORY

By the term "folk history" I mean information about the past as recorded in the traditions of a local people. (It is not that we are required to accept all these traditions at face value, but their existence is certainly a factor that should be taken into account.)

In the vicinity of Haran, for example, where Abraham and his followers lived for a time after departing Ur and prior to their entry into Canaan (Abraham 2:4), a number of legends centering around him still survive. The natives of Ain el-Khalil declare themselves to be his direct descendants. Those of nearby Urfa (Edessa in early Christian times; cf. Newsletter, 72.05) believe that in their city Nimrod cast glowing charcoal at Abraham, which however did not harm him but fell to the ground and became a lake, the bits of charcoal turning into fish. The fish are now sacred and may not be eaten. (Finegan, p. 68.) The Moslems in fact have traditionally believed that Urfa was Abraham's Ur, and this corresponds with classical tradition. At one of these communities the citizens actually point out a cave where they claim Abraham was born.

(Incidentally, I wonder what the etymology of

the place-name Urfa might be. Could it be related to, or even derived from, the name Ur? Urfa is located about 20 miles northwest of Haran.)

FINDINGS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Haran is located in the valley of the Balikh River, a northern tributary of the Euphrates, just inside the boundary of modern Turkey. It is referred to numerous times in ancient cuneiform sources, including those found at the excavations of Mari. It was an important and prosperous city around the time of Abraham, who must have lived c. 1800 BC. There are also a number of medieval references to the place. In fact there seems no reason to doubt that the modern village of that name occupies the site of the ancient city of the same name. (Segal, 1963.)

A test excavation at Haran, moreover, has indicated that it was occupied during the Middle Bronze Age (c. 2000-1500 BC), which is in fact the time of the Hebrew patriarchs.

An astonishing fact which has been brought out by modern archaeological research is that at least five ancient cities in or near the Balikh River valley bore the same names as members of Abraham's family or his ancestors. These include his brother Haran (cf. the city of the same name), another brother Nahor (cf. Nakhur), his father Terah (cf. Til-Turakhi), his great-grandfather Serug (cf. Sarugi), and another ancestor, Peleg (cf. Phaliga). There can be no reasonable doubt that the family from which Abraham was descended had an intimate connection with the Balikh River valley. (Wright, pp. 22-23.)

It is my own feeling that Abraham's Ur of the Chaldees was situated somewhere nearby, perhaps to the west or northwest, not 600 miles to the southeast where Sir Leonard Woolley excavated Tel al-Muqayyar.

Moreover, at least two Ur's in the ancient Near East other than Tel al-Muqayyar of southern Mesopotamia are known to archaeology. One of them is located in Turkey near the southern shore of the Black Sea. The other is a seaport on the northeastern shore of the Mediterranean. The latter is referred to in the tablets of ancient Ugarit (Ras Shamra) in such a manner as to suggest that it lies somewhere to the north, perhaps as far north as the shores of Cilicia in southern Turkey. It is the latter Ur which interests us for, located in this position, its hinterland--assuming it to have been the capital of a kingdom of that name--might have reached eastward as far as the environs of the Balikh River valley.

The study of the shifting boundaries of the Egyptian Empire during the Middle Kingdom and the Second

Intermediate Period which followed, i. e. about the time of the Middle Bronze Age, is an involved and complex one. It is clear that they once included Qatna (see map). At times the Empire apparently extended as far as the Euphrates River and perhaps even beyond. The Book of Abraham, it would seem, contains evidence that the land of Ur of the Chaldees, wherever we might wish to locate it, was included somewhere within the Egyptian Empire during the time of Abraham.

PROPOSED LOCATION

I should like to propose the existence of an early Chaldean kingdom of Ur with its capital of the same name located somewhere on the Gulf of Alexandretta, that is, either on the shore of Cilicia in southern Turkey or on the adjacent shore of northern Syria; that its territory at the time of Abraham extended eastward to a point near the Balikh River valley in northern Mesopotamia; and that during this same time the whole of it was a part of the Egyptian Empire. This may well have been in the early Hyksos period (Second Intermediate Period), during which these "rulers of foreign lands" included both Egypt and Canaan under their suzerainty, or even before.

This city of Ur of the Chaldees has not as yet been discovered archaeologically; that is, its exact site has not been identified and excavated. I predict that in the course of time, however, it will be found in the area indicated and that further evidence of Abraham and his family will be found in the lands ranging eastward therefrom in the direction of the Balikh River valley.

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106.1 MORE ON THE LOCATION OF UR. By Bruce D. Louthan. Since the above article was prepared further information has come to light which bears on the problem of locating Abraham's Ur. Dr. A. F. Rainey of Tel Aviv University, Israel, mentions a Hittite vassal city on the Cilician coast (southeast Turkey; see map) named Ura (Rainey, p. 111). Apparently that city was suffering a severe famine, and the Hittite king requested the immediate help of Ugarit in getting to it a shipment of grain. (Ugarit was another subject kingdom and the site where the urgent message was found still preserved on a clay tablet.)

Though there is some disagreement on the exact location of his newly discovered city of Ura (cf. Gordon, p. 30), both the translator of the tablet, Jean Nougayrol, and William F. Albright confirm its maritime nature and locate it on the Calycadnus River at or near Selefke (Seleucia) (Albright, p. 400; Nougayrol, p. 65). Previously deciphered tablets described Hittite regulation of trading activity by Ura merchants in Ugarit, and it is clear that their commercial ventures were devoted largely to foreign trade (as were Abraham's).

Since Ura would become Ur in Hebrew and since the location of Selefke invites communication and culture exchange with Egypt, this site is a likely candidate for the capital of a kingdom of Ur which included Abraham's homeland.

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106.2 POSSIBLE IDENTITY OF A PHARAOH. Onitah is mentioned in Abraham 1:11 as "one of the royal descent." Also, a small handwritten document in the LDS Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City, perhaps written by Joseph Smith, mentions a pharaoh of Egypt by the name of Onitas, according to Dr. James R. Clark, BYU professor of religious education.

William F. Albright notes that the first of a series of four obscure rulers who reigned over Egypt during one of the dynasties of the Second Intermediate Period (c. 1780-1570 BC) was named 'Anat-har or 'Anata (Albright, p. 448; see bibliography).

Could the 'Anata-'Anat-har of Dr. Albright be the same as the Onitah-Onitas of Joseph Smith?

The Second Intermediate Period of Egyptian history is particularly obscure, but it is known that several dynasties of Hyksos or "rulers of foreign lands" reigned. The place of origin of the Hyksos was undoubtedly Canaan.

It is not clear from the above-mentioned document where Onitas belongs on the time scale, although Onitah of Abraham 1:11 was presumably a contemporary of Abraham. Also, the author of the manuscript has not been positively identified, but since it has been kept in the Historian's Office together with the Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar, a manuscript known to have been compiled by Joseph Smith, it seems fair to assume that the smaller document also resulted from the Prophet's studies of the Egyptian materials in his possession.

The possible identity of Onitas is discussed at length in Clark, pp. 123-141.

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106.3 DIVING FOR THE CITIES OF LOT. A review of Search for Sodom and Gomorrah, by Ralph E. Baney (CAM Press: Kansas City, Missouri, 1963. Available for \$2, postage included, from CAM Press, 2000 Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri). Review by Bruce D. Louthan.

From the first lines of his "Reverie," which serves as a preface, it is clear that the author has written more an adventure story than a straightforward account of archaeological investigation. However, Dr. Baney's "dig" was a very unusual one: he initiated and directed the first archaeological reconnaissance ever made of the Dead Sea, which is believed to cover the ruins of Sodom, the adopted city of Abraham's nephew, Lot (Genesis 14:12, 19:1), and of its companion city, Gomorrah. In view of the pioneering nature of his efforts, therefore, perhaps his style is justified.

Using Sonar and then Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA for short), the Dead Sea Expedition during February, March, and April, 1960, was able to penetrate waters thought impossible for investigation. Despite the very real difficulties encountered, some surprising results were achieved, including the finding of several apparent tells (ruin-mounds) just offshore of the Qumran cave area, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found (see Newsletter 45; Progress in Archaeology, pp. 34-54); several submerged roadways; and possibly even a wall of one of those two sin-cities of Abraham's day, Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13, 18, 19).

An avid diver from his youth, Dr. Baney gained much experience with SCUBA equipment in his native Missouri before formulating his idea of an exploratory survey of the Dead Sea's floor. He had also spent a year studying the archaeology of Palestine in 1935 as a postdoctoral fellow at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, before commencing a career in the ministry. Thus Dr. Baney was one of the few men qualified to attempt underwater archaeology in the Dead Sea. Even with such preparation, the physical environment and chemical composition of the sea posed some staggering problems.

Because of its 27 per cent salinity (as compared with seven to nine per cent for ordinary sea water), that of the Dead Sea increases the natural buoyancy of a diver so that often more than 100 pounds of weights must be carried to achieve neutral buoyancy. To lessen the burden required, Dr. Baney and his senior diver (a master diver and instructor), Dean Ryther, left off the rubber "wet" suits SCUBA divers generally wear. On a demonstration dive with the "wet" suit Baney had to wear 200 pounds of weight to achieve a stationary position in the water. With that kind of load, just getting in and out of the water becomes a real labor!

But that was only one of the problems. Extreme care had to be taken by the divers because of the darkness and toxic nature of the water. A momentary loosening of the mouthpiece or panic in the blackness could have spelled disaster. The high chemical content of the ancient "Asphalt Lake" makes it opaque: no light penetrates below about 15 feet. This seriously limited diver communication, which was necessarily by feel or touch below this depth, not to speak of the psychological effects. This murkiness also rendered photography useless. Though in test dives in the Red Sea successful photos had been taken to depths of 200 feet using underwater lights, the dense water of the Dead Sea prevented photography at any depth with any amount of light.

In at least one respect, then, Dr. Baney remained "in the dark" about what lay at the bottom of the Dead Sea. But denied a photographic record, he still collected three important kinds of data. First he made a Sonar record of the contours and depth variations of much of the Dead Sea floor, from near the shore out to a depth of 300 feet or a distance of three miles (at 100-foot intervals), whichever was reached first. This was then used to make maps locating promising underwater conformations. These were then recharted and finally investigated by diving. At points of suspected archaeological remains, coring samples were made with a pipe apparatus especially designed by Dr. Baney. Cores as many as 200 cm. long of bottom sediments were taken, and the results (including no artifacts, unfortunately) are included in the supplement.

Limited by the nationality of his borrowed boat crew and his permits, Dr. Baney was unable to probe the sea floor near the then Israeli-held southwest corner. The enthusiasm of professional archaeologists nevertheless encouraged him to broaden the original scope of his survey. From his own long-dreamed-of "search for Sodom and Gomorrah" in the shallow south end, the expedition's area was expanded in its final planning stages to include substantial portions, if not all, of the Jordanian-held shore from Wadi el-Qumran in the northwest sector clear around the east side to the south end.

Briefly, the more important finds were these:

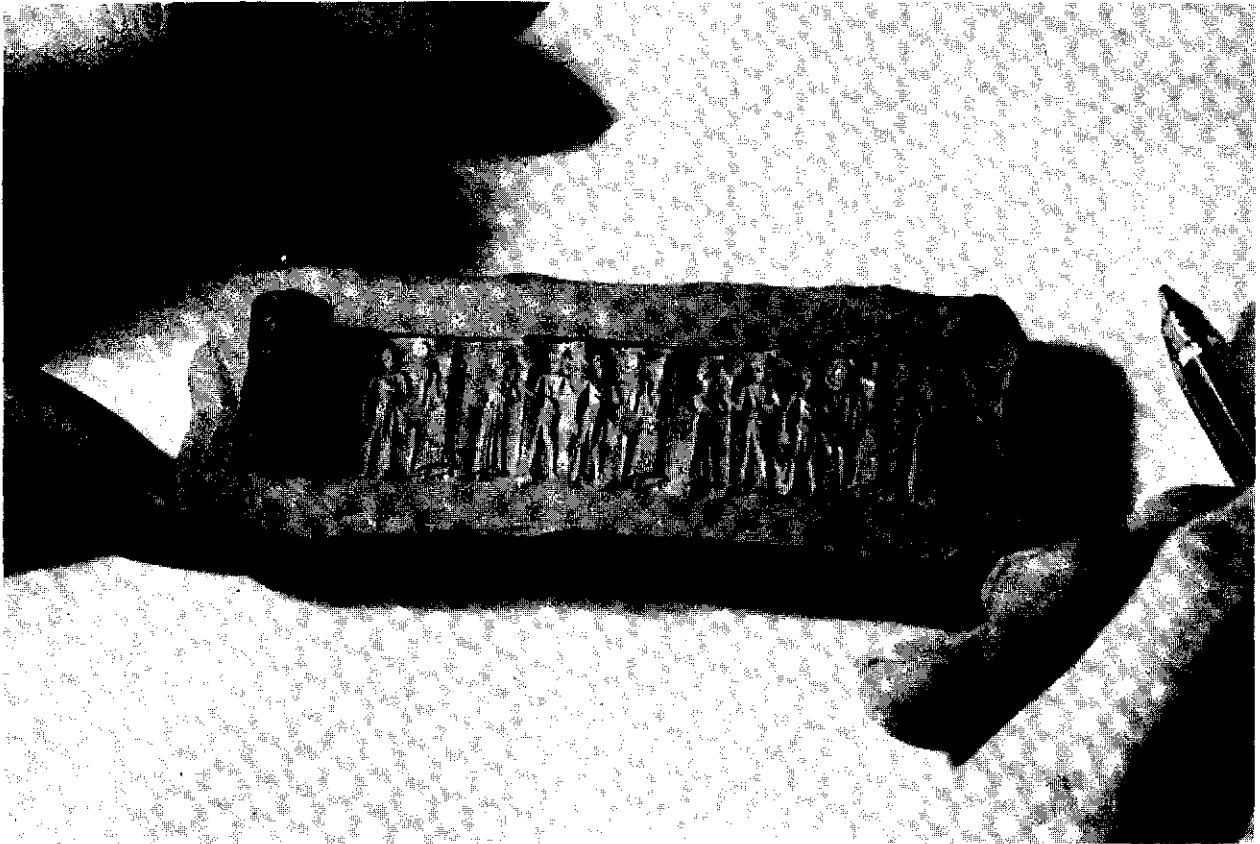
(1) large "groves" of palm trees and nine suspected ruin-mounds just off Wadi el-Qumran. The "tells" yielded no artifacts, though hand search and efforts with pick and shovel were repeatedly attempted. Silt foiled these efforts but, strangely, coring also yielded "negative" archaeological evidence (perhaps because of the small diameter of the pipe used). (2) A now-submerged roadway from the northwest shore to the only island in the Dead Sea. Evidence of ancient structures was found on the island itself, which is now

deserted and lies only five and one-half feet out of the water. (3) Small trees and apparently a masonry-lined cistern with a narrow neck about 70 feet long belling out into a cave at the bottom, off the mouth of the Arnon River about halfway down the east shore. (4) A second dike-roadway (possibly in that historical order) running at least halfway across the Dead Sea, extending from the Lisan Peninsula towards the west shore (the demarcation line between Israel and Jordan prevented complete checking). (5) Last but not most interesting, in the shallow bay south of the Lisan Peninsula, what appeared on Sonar charts and to the divers' hand inspection as a wall, again accompanied by large numbers of small trees still rooted. Since this last indicates actual masonry construction and lies in the geographic area where most scholars feel Sodom and Gomorrah were located, it certainly encourages further investigation. Dr. Baney concludes that a strong possibility exists that the expedition discovered the first remains of those ancient cities to be found since they were destroyed four millenia ago according to the Biblical account (Genesis 19:24-25).

Though no actual artifacts were recovered, the presence of many small trees in growth position and Dr. Baney's own underwater investigations lend strong support to the theory that man once occupied extensive areas of the Dead Sea floor now under water, but once well above the water level. As he notes, it remains for "dry" archaeology, perhaps employing caissons, to eliminate water problems and establish the true nature and historical affinities of these remarkable finds. It stands as a personal tribute that he could assemble the personnel, equipment (much of it donated by the manufacturers), and financial support necessary to accomplish the fine piece of pioneering work which he did.

To be sure, Dr. Baney hopes to return to the Dead Sea, and it was for the purpose of obtaining funds to continue excavation that this handsomely illustrated paperback ("125 authentic photos") was written. But mercifully he does not extend his plea from cover to cover. He tastefully limits his soliciting to a few pages near the end. He also projects in some detail the methods to be used in the future in excavating the Dead Sea floor. Finally, the supplement by K. O. Emery of the University of Southern California discusses the depth readings (Sonar) and floor levels of the Dead Sea, as well as the chemical contents of the core samples, thus ending the book on a scientific note.

Related as it is to scriptural archaeology, Search for Sodom and Gomorrah should make exciting reading for SEHA members. It is worthy of note as the record of a non-LDS investigation based upon an assumption



The 4,000 year-old cylinder seal presented to the BYU museum by Tanya Parker of Bethesda, Maryland. A Daily Universe photograph by Stan Macbean.

of the literal historicity of the Holy Bible.

106.4 ANCIENT SEAL GIVEN TO BYU. By Marla Allen, Universe feature writer. Reprinted from the BYU Daily Universe.

Possibly as many as 4,000 years ago, some person of rank living near what is now Baghdad used the small cylinder seal pictured to affix his signature to important documents written on clay tablets.

The seal was presented to the BYU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, November 10, by Mr. and Mrs. Orin D. Parker in the name of their daughter Tanya, who found it on a "tell" or ruin-mound near Baghdad, Iraq, while the family was living there from 1960 to 1965, according to Dr. Ross T. Christensen of the archaeology department, who received the gift.

The delicate carving on the seal, which measures only seven-eighths inch in height by three-eighths in diameter, is a fine example of the craftsmanship of the day, said Dr. Christensen. A longitudinal perforation allowed the owner to wear his seal on a cord strung about his neck. Keeping it thus safely on his person prevented the possibility of forgery.

Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, curator of the Museum, places the seal in the Neo-Sumerian period, which extended from c.2200 to c.1900 BC. Carved from a fine-grained black stone, probably diorite, it bears four standing figures--two gods and two kings--in ceremonial robes participating in a religious rite.

Orin D. and Rita Clement Parker graduated from BYU in 1948. Mr. Parker is currently the executive vice-president of the American Friends of the Middle East. The family lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

(They Wrote on Clay, by Edward Chiera, is an excellent popular discussion of writing in ancient Babylonia. Chapter 15 tells about cylinder and stamp seals, which were customarily used for signing documents. No two of them were ever made exactly alike. Ed.)

106.5 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE COMPLETED. SEHA president Virgil V. Peterson has announced his appointment of two new members of the Society's Nominations Committee. These are Vice-President Richard L. Anderson and former president Welby W. Ricks (Newsletter, 96.01, 96.1).

The Nominations Committee has for sometime

consisted of only three members: Dr. Ross T. Christensen (chairman), President Peterson, and Dr. M. Wells Jakeman. The two new appointments bring the committee membership to five, as required by the newly-adopted constitution, Article VI, Section 8.

The next Triennial Election Meeting of the Society, an event for which the Nominations Committee will soon prepare, is due to be held this year. Any Society member wishing to make recommendations as to nominations to be presented at this meeting should contact the chairman or any member of the Committee.

The Society's constitution (Article VI, Section 10) requires an election meeting ever three years, at which a president and a vice-president are chosen and Elective Life Members and General Officers may also be chosen. All Research Patrons of the Society (see below, 106.6) are eligible to vote at this meeting. The last such meeting was held in 1965 (Newsletter, 96.0).

106.6 RESEARCH PATRONS. The following new and renewing Research Patrons have been entered into the Society's records since the last previous listing in the Newsletter (99.5):

For the year 1967: Richard L. Anderson, Provo; Clifford E. Angel, Gretna, Virginia; Plet J. Avery, Greybull, Wyoming; Niis-Eric Brodin, San Francisco, California; Mrs. Ross Butler, Ontario, Oregon; R. F. Christensen, Riverside, California; Ross T. Christensen, Orem; Horald G. Clark, Morgan; Hester Devenport, Ucon, Idaho; Frank W. Goetz, Phoenix, Arizona; Frank S. Harris III, Fairfax, Virginia; M. Wells Jakeman, Provo; Francis W. Kirkham, Salt Lake City; Janice N. McAuliffe, Long Beach, California; Marion Poulter, Camp Pendleton, California; Welby W. Ricks, Provo; Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada; Lorenzo H. Snow, Hayward, California; and Sidney B. Sperry, Provo.

For the year 1968: Clifford E. Angel, Gretna, Virginia; C. I. Canfield, Magna; Ross T. Christensen, Orem; Hester Devenport, Ucon, Idaho; Robert C. Hopkins, Los Angeles, California; M. Wells Jakeman, Provo; Carl Hugh Jones, Grand Island, Nebraska; Francis W. Kirkham, Salt Lake City; Janice N. McAuliffe, Long Beach, California; DeMar Perkins, Monticello; Welby W. Ricks, Provo; Mrs. Basil L. Smith, Las Vegas, Nevada; Lorenzo H. Snow, Hayward, California; and Sidney B. Sperry, Provo.

The distinction of being a Research Patron may be had by contributing \$15 or more per year to the Society's Research Fund. (This is in addition to the membership fee.) This money is set aside for use under the direction of the Executive Committee in

research and publication in the field of scriptural archaeology.

Under the Society's constitution (Article IV, Section 6) Research Patrons are eligible to vote at the Triennial Election Meeting and are also eligible for election as General Officers. The next such meeting will probably be held during the coming summer (see above, 106.5).

106.7 LIFE MEMBERS. The following persons have become Life Members of the Society since the last previous listing in the Newsletter (99.5): Paul R. Cheesman, Provo; Ronald D. Coleman, Monrovia, California; Gertrude R. Garff, Salt Lake City; Welby W. Ricks, Provo; and Myrtle M. Short, Saugus, California.

Life Membership in the SEHA may be obtained for a fee of \$75. The Society now claims 50 of this category.

106.8 SUMMER TALKS ON ARCHAEOLOGY. Eighty-two, one-hour lectures on archaeological subjects are scheduled for the coming summer under the BYU Education Week program. They will be presented in 13 different cities in the Southwest.

The talks will be delivered in two separate circuits: one during the month of June in Nevada, Arizona, and Texas; and the other during July in California. The lecturer will be Dr. Ross T. Christensen, BYU professor of archaeology and anthropology.

At each location of the June circuit Dr. Christensen will present three, three-day courses. The courses and individual lecture titles are as follows:

1. Archaeology and the Book of Abraham. (Some of the mummies and papyri connected with the Book of Abraham, and probably even the "catacomb" in which they were found--lost for 120 years following the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith--have lately come to light again. In view of the Egyptian indications contained in this ancient work the location of Abraham's homeland must be reconsidered.)

First day: The Lebolo-Chandler Collection of Egyptian Antiquities.

Second day: Catacomb, Mummies, and Papyri Rediscovered.

Third day: Where Was "Ur of the Chaldees"?

2. New Dimensions in American Indian Origin Theories. (Many strange and contrasting views as to origin of the American Indians have been debated since Columbus' landfall in 1492. Subtle changes of attitude on the part of archaeologists of the past 30 years are making room for the Book of Mormon point of view. This ancient record on close examination proves to

contain some astonishing indications, little noticed until recently.)

First day: Range of Theories from Sound to Silly.

Second day: The Dawning of a New Day.

Third day: The Phoenician Theory Reconsidered.

3. The "Tree of Life" in Ancient America. (An analysis of the Tree of Life as a motif in the religious art of the ancient New World and comparisons with a similar motif of the Old World -- together with some implications of this art for the Book of Mormon. A portrayal in stone of Lehi's vision of the Tree of Life as recounted in 1 Nephi 8 and the story of how this discovery was made and investigated.)

First day: The Tree of Life from Eden to Izapa.

Second day: Lehi's Vision in Stone.

Third day: The Story Behind the Lehi Stone.

Dr. Christensen's schedule for June is as follows: Las Vegas, June 1-4; Mesa, June 6-8; Scottsdale, June 10-12; Phoenix, June 13-15; El Paso, June 17-19; and Snowflake, June 22-25.

The California Education Weeks are only two days long, instead of three. Only the first and second lectures of the first series, above, together with the first and second of the second series and the second and third of the third series, will be given.

The schedule for the California circuit is as follows: San Diego, July 8, 9; Riverside, July 12, 13; Rialto, July 15, 16; Santa Barbara, July 17, 18; Santa Maria, July 22, 23; Fresno, July 26, 27; and Modesto, July 29, 30.

"Education Weeks" are presented annually by the BYU Division of Continuing Education as a part of its extension program. They have been held for many years on the BYU campus but in most outlying areas, only during the past eight years or less.

Most Education Weeks are three-day "festivals of learning" to which the adult public is invited. They are not directly sponsored by the SEHA or the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, and a wide range of subjects is covered in the lectures besides archaeology. A registration fee is charged for each "Week." Inquiries may be directed either to the BYU Division of Continuing Education or to the respective local LDS church leaders.

106.9 NEWS OF INDIVIDUALS. By Bruce D. Louthan. Recent archaeological activities of faculty members, students, and alumni of the BYU Department of Anthropology and Archaeology will be of interest.

106.90 Ray T. Matheny, assistant professor

of anthropology and archaeology, has received approval of his dissertation, "The Ceramics of Aguacatal: A Study in Method," and, it is expected, will be awarded the PhD degree in anthropology from the University of Oregon at the June commencement.

Other research activities include general direction of excavations at Spotten Cave, near Genola, southern Utah County, between 1964 and 1967 (Newsletter, 101.7).

Continuing work in the area of his master's thesis research (Newsletter, 98.60), Professor Matheny is currently doing reconnaissance and excavation at Picket Fork in San Juan County, Utah, at a site dating to the Pueblo I and II periods. He and his collaborator, Dee F. Green (currently of Weber State College in Ogden, Utah), have prepared a paper to be read at Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the May meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.

In February of this year, Professor Matheny became a board member of the BYU-New World Archaeological Foundation. During April he undertook in behalf of the Foundation a three-week reconnaissance in the State of Campeche on the west coast of Yucatan, concentrating on the area around the capital city, Campeche. His assistants were Donald Forsyth and Larry Davis, both advanced archaeology majors at BYU.

106.91 Dale L. Berge, currently replacing Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, who is on a sabbatical leave of absence from the campus this semester (Newsletter, 102.5), is also expected to receive the PhD degree in anthropology this June, but from the University of Arizona. After completing the MA degree in archaeology at BYU in 1964 (Newsletter, 91.10), Mr. Berge focused his graduate studies on "historical" or "historic-sites" archaeology and on Meso-america. His dissertation topic is "Historical Archaeology in the American Southwest." He recently passed the oral examination his dissertation.

Mr. Berge has had one article on excavations at "Gila Bend Stage Station" accepted for publication in the April issue of Kiva, a journal of the Arizona State Museum, while another entitled "Historic Papago Houses" is in preparation. Excavations at these sites were carried out while he was a research associate of the Museum and in residence at the University completing work on his dissertation.

In addition to this regular teaching duties at BYU since February Mr. Berge has been appointed curator of the department's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

He has also undertaken a project of locating the original site of Fort Utah on property west of Provo traditionally believed to have included it. In cooperation with the City of Provo and the Utah Lake Lions

Club, and with volunteer help from students, several test trenches have been cut. So far results have been negative, causing Mr. Berge second thoughts on the traditional location. He is confident, however, that more field research will eventually yield the exact location, dimensions, and features of this pioneer site. The Fort Utah project has been undertaken with the collaboration of Professor Matheny.

Mr. Berge plans to spend the coming summer as assistant field director of the archaeological project of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. (Newsletter, 97. 1).

106.92 Lyle R. Campbell, a 1966 graduate with the BA degree in archaeology (Newsletter, 99. 30), returned to the campus last fall as a special instructor in the Linguistics Program. The appointment, which is for one year, provides for half-time teaching and half-time research. In addition to teaching introductory linguistics classes, he has just completed helping translate the Book of Mormon into Cakchiquel, a Maya dialect of Middle America.

Mr. Campbell has only the final touches to go on his master's thesis in linguistics from University of Washington, Seattle. He will thereafter specialize in the linguistics of native America, especially Mesoamerica and the Andean region.

Judging by his paper delivered at the Society's Seventeenth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures (Newsletter, 104.0), Mr. Campbell's future work in linguistics, centering in these areas of high civilization in the New World, may be of real significance as an auxiliary to Book of Mormon historical-archaeological reconstruction.

106.93 Bruce W. Warren, a 1958 graduate with the BA degree in archaeology and an SEHA general officer (Newsletter, 50. 3, 63. 13), has recently received recognition. Last fall, he was one of ten students out of 140 candidates who were awarded annual fellowships in the Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, under the National Defense Education Act. These each include a large basic stipend and additional funds for dependents. He is presently pursuing graduate study toward a doctorate at the UA.

106.94 Evan I. DeBlois, who received an MA degree in archaeology from BYU a year ago (Newsletter, 102. 60), is now doing graduate work toward a PhD degree in anthropology at the University of Washington in Seattle. Since January 1 the former associate editor of this newsletter has also had a research assistantship in archaeology, writing up field notes of previous department excavations for publication.

106.95 James L. Frederick, a junior in archaeology, has been using his free time in archae-

ological reconnaissance in northern Utah County. Finds include two previously unreported cave sites, one north of American Fork and the other in Fort Canyon, near Alpine. In the latter area, several surface sites were also discovered.

106.96 Judith Connor, another junior in archaeology, has also engaged in recent excavations. After assisting Leland Gilson (then a graduate student in the Department) excavate a unique structure in Goshen Valley of southern Utah County (Newsletter, 100.43), Judy spent eight weeks at the University of Arizona summer field school. Located at the Grasshopper Ruin in central Arizona, the school provided excavation experience, nightly lectures, and weekend trips to sites of prehistoric and present-day Indian occupation, with tuition, travel, and other expenses paid by National Science Foundation scholarship grants.

106.97 Richard L. Hansen, a senior in archaeology, spent the summer of 1967 in Mexico City in the BYU Summer Residence Program. Besides observing Mexican customs and practicing his Spanish, Richard had a fine opportunity to visit archaeological sites in the Valley of Mexico and the surrounding area. He presently plans to specialize in Mesoamerican archaeology.

106.98 Bruce D. Louthan, another senior in archaeology, last summer began an archaeological reconnaissance of his home county, Kankakee, in Illinois, which he hopes to pursue during future vacations. The area lies in an archaeologically little-known northeastern part of the state.

Mr. Louthan also visited the excavations then in progress at Nauvoo and at the Dickson and Cahokia mounds, two important sites of the Mississippian period in Illinois. During the current year he has served as an assistant to the editor of the Newsletter and Proceedings. Recently, he was invited to join Phi Alpha Theta, a national honorary society in history, reflecting his principal interest in ancient Near Eastern historic archaeology.