

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.

135.0 **GEORGIA SYMPOSIUM CONSIDERS TRANSATLANTIC CONTACTS.** By Ross T. and Ruth R. Christensen. Expanded from a brief extemporaneous report presented by the senior author at Brigham Young University on October 20, 1973, before the Twenty-third Annual Symposium on Archaeology of the Scriptures.

Nearly six years ago at the Eighteenth Annual Symposium of the SEHA the following statement was made: "... a new wave of scholarly thought in the field of Americanist studies has begun. A discontent among some of the younger, more flexible scholars—discontent with the traditional, orthodox interpretations of the Old Independent Invention - Bering Strait - Mongoloid Race school—has now made itself manifest. After nearly a century of scholarly disenchantment with such theories as those of Sunken Continents and British Diffusionism, a more sophisticated generation of *Neo-Diffusionists* has arisen." (Newsletter, 111.01; *Transoceanic Crossings to Ancient America*, p. 22.)

In the present report we should like to refer to that same subject again. Not only has this new wave of thought begun, by now—1974—it is well advanced. We see this as one of the outstanding trends of these times: a renewal of interest in diffusionism. Nor do we refer to the older forms that have come to be called "extreme diffusionism." Rather, the present form in many cases is highly sophisticated and supported by a sizeable body of well marshalled evidence.

We also see a parallel trend among Latter-day Saints: they themselves are becoming more sophisticated in their thinking on problems of New World origins. Among careful students of the Book of Mormon not all ruins of ancient America relate to that sacred account. Mormons have been accused of "looking for a Nephite beneath every stone." If this was ever true it is no longer so. By this time Latter-day Saints have generally begun to realize that there may have been a considerable num-

ber of Old World contacts across the high seas besides the three mentioned in the Book of Mormon, contacts which are not therefore directly connected with the historical claims of that volume.

Plans for the Twenty-third Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures held on October 20, 1973, had hardly congealed when word came of another symposium to be held just one week earlier—on October 12 and 13—at Lumpkin, Georgia. The Georgia meeting was to be entitled "Evidences of Pre-Columbian Transatlantic Contacts" and was to be the first of a proposed Cultural Heritage Series initiated by the University System of Georgia conjoined with Westville Historic Handicrafts, Inc., and the Rural Development Center.

Five persons from Brigham Young University traveled to Georgia together: Professors Paul R. Cheesman, Monte S. Nyman, and Robert E. Parsons of the Department of Ancient Scripture; together with the senior author of the present report, a faculty member, and the junior author, a graduate student, in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. The BYU delegation was probably the largest group to come from any single institution and had traveled farther than almost anyone else in attendance.

The setting was beautiful. The symposium met in a restored 1840 Baptist camp-meeting arbor or "tabernacle" in Westville Village, an outdoor living-history museum depicting Georgia life of the mid-nineteenth century. The roof was supported by wooden pillars more than 100 years old. The sides were open to the cool breeze. Long-needed pines surrounded the building,

with the bright blue of a jay and the brilliant red of a long-tailed cardinal flitting among the branches. Shavings covered the earthen floor. Eager scholars sat upon wooden benches.

It was plain to see that two men dominated the meeting: Joseph B. Mahan, the executive director of Westville Historic Handicrafts and former director of education and research at the Columbus, Georgia, Museum of Arts and Crafts, who had organized the conference; and Cyrus H. Gordon, professor of ancient languages at New York University and former chairman of the Department of Mediterranean Studies at Brandeis University. Dr. Mahan conducted the sessions the first day and Dr. Gordon the second day. Each of them spoke twice.

Dr. Mahan is a leader in the rising new diffusionism. His doctorate was earned at the University of North Carolina in history and anthropology. His dissertation included an attempt to identify the builders of the famed "temple mounds" of the southeastern United States. For the past 20 years he has conducted researches on the American Indians. These brought him into ethnographic contact with a people originally native to Georgia, the Yuchis, who he believes had affinities with the eastern Mediterranean area. It was he who first brought the Bat Creek stone and the Metcalf stone to Dr. Gordon's attention (see below).

Dr. Gordon is an expert in Semitics and Near Eastern archaeology, and since 1967 has become an Americanist as well. He is a controversial figure, not only because of his recent diffusionist contributions to studies of New World origins, but also because of his previous identification of the language of the Linear A script of ancient Crete as West Semitic. He is well versed in Semitic, classical, and Indo-Iranian languages and cultures and is a foremost authority on ancient Ugaritic. He is the author of more than 300 books and articles on ancient civilization.

Several of the more-than-20 contributions presented at the Georgia symposium are summarized below.

*New Approach.* The purpose of the symposium, Dr. Mahan announced in his introductory remarks, was to present evidences not otherwise properly recorded in written history, suggesting pre-Columbian contacts of peoples and the transfer of cultural elements across the Atlantic. Among those familiar with these materials, he added, the subject is no longer open to debate. Ancient mariners indeed crossed the Atlantic and in fact sailed over the whole world.

Dr. Mahan called for a new approach: scholars taking part in the symposium should realize that their materials constitute historical documentation that should be treated "without apology in the same manner

as any other historical evidence." They should not be constantly on the defensive; nor, on the other hand, should they be gullible beyond honest objectivity. Their interpretations should neither be restricted to conform to preconceived ideas, as is the bent of the present "Establishment," nor confined to the limits of a narrow specialty; if so, the past cannot be reconstructed truthfully. They should present what they find with "complete honesty and objectivity," whether its meaning is known or not, for a new generation of scholars with greater knowledge and understanding will hereafter undoubtedly attempt a new reconstruction of the past.

At another point in the symposium Dr. Mahan stated: "As the possibility of a hoax has been mentioned, I should like to comment on the subject of hoaxes in relation to the subjects under discussion today. I have often thought that if indeed the American artifacts that have been found which did not seem to fit into the generally accepted pattern for such artifacts were hoaxes—or indeed, if even half of them were—we have failed to recognize an important fact in American history. Assuming that these items were fraudulent, this could only mean that from the end of the eighteenth century until now—for a century and three quarters at least—there has existed an unrecorded, self-perpetuating, secret organization devoted to the perpetrating of these deceptions.

"The membership of this cult must have been persons of really astonishing scholarly abilities and with compulsive motivations that are psychologically unknown. These had to be persons with unerring clairvoyance, as they produced many things long before the knowledge to interpret them had come to the hardest working mortal scholars. Unless these people were immortal, they would have had to transmit their unusually acquired qualifications and knowledge through some sort of secret channels from one generation to another.

"I do not believe in a league of this character, with members in such numbers and so industrious, scattered throughout the country for generations, hiding their fake artifacts in the most unlikely places to be found by the most unlikely people."

Dr. Mahan's caricature of the opposition was referred to humorously by several of the authors who followed.

*Petroglyphs in Georgia.* Bowling C. Yates, professor of history at Reinhardt College, Waleska, Georgia, showed color transparencies of Scottish petroglyphs ("rock writings"), then compared them with others found in Georgia, especially one from near the Etowah River in Cherokee County which had been transported to the campus of his institution.

Professor Yates explained how the study and interpretation of the Scottish petroglyphs by Ronald W. B. Morris of Glasgow provides a tool for the interpretation of similar ones found in Georgia. Though from widely separated geographical areas, the two groups show strong similarities.

According to Mr. Morris, some of the Scottish petroglyphs date to about 2000 BC. The designs, both abstract and stick figures, seem either to have been pecked into the stone and the grooves then polished or else accomplished by rubbing—or in the case of the later ones, by incising with a metal instrument. Most numerous are cup and cup-and-ring patterns, the cups often in a straight line and linked by gutters or grooves. They are found on flat rocks or slightly sloping surfaces which are usually located at points where the sea is visible. "Anything more complex than mere cups is always within about seven miles of the sea," says Mr. Morris.

Professor Yates described Georgia petroglyphs as cups, cups and rings, and gutters, with size, designs, and general presentation strongly like those of Scotland, indicating a common cultural basis. In both areas the carvings occur near water.

Professor Yates reflected upon the overall meaning of his findings: "When one learns that such petroglyphs are [also] found in Australia, New Zealand, and Africa, logic stirs imagination. Can there have been a prehistoric culture, which even in early times flowed over much of the world? Certainly now we have strong evidence which trends in that direction."

*Metcalf Stone.* Manfred D. Metcalf, a staff artist at Fort Benning, Georgia, and former instructor at the Columbus School of Art, in 1966 accidentally discovered the inscribed stone which now bears his name. He brought the stone with him to the symposium and personally told how he came to find it.

While hunting flat stones to build a barbecue pit, Mr. Metcalf went to an old mill at Fort Benning near a hillside on which abundant fragments of interesting Indian pottery had been found. From what had been one of the corner pillars of the mill he took a piece of local sandstone about ten inches long and incorporated it into his barbecue pit without noticing that it bore an inscription.

The winter rains washed one corner clean, and then Mr. Metcalf noticed a crude picture of the sun. When he washed the entire stone, other figures appeared.

He next notified Dr. Mahan, who, noticing that these figures resembled characters in bronze-age Aegean inscriptions and suspecting that they might be an example of the pre-Greek writing known as Minoan Linear A, began a search for a qualified scholar who would not, however, be prejudiced by the typical Ameri-

canist viewpoint. Dr. Cyrus Gordon was decided upon and was sent a plaster cast of the stone with a letter asking what the inscription might be.

Meanwhile Dr. Mahan set about to determine at what date the stone had become a part of the mill (at which time it was covered with a clay mortar, which remained until the rains washed it clean in Mr. Metcalf's barbecue pit). He learned that the mill was one of the original buildings of the settlers of the 1830's or 1840's, erected long before the summer of 1899, when Sir Arthur Evans, digging in the palace of Knossos on the island of Crete first saw examples of Linear A. Dr. Mahan then concluded that the script had been brought to America in ancient times.

Dr. Gordon, who wrote a study of the Metcalf stone for the Summer, 1969, issue of the journal *Manuscripts* (see review by Dr. Cheesman in Newsletter, 118.2), now goes beyond what he said in that article. At that time he merely proposed that the script had an Aegean affinity. He now specifies that it dates to a time marking the transition from the syllabary to the alphabet in the Mediterranean area, i.e. roughly to the end of the thirteenth century BC.

*Bahama Ruins.* The reader is no doubt aware of the extraordinary ruins found in the 1960's beneath the surface of the ocean in the vicinity of the Bimini and Andros islands of the British West Indies. The symposium viewed a lengthy series of color slides during reports on these discoveries by Talbot Shaw Lindstrom, president of the Scientific Exploration and Archaeological Society, assisted by Stephen D. Proctor of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Beyond doubt, the ruins are there; but what their identity might be is open to question. Some suppose they belong to the legendary sunken continent of Atlantis. We personally cannot accept such a view, but instead look toward the Phoenicians as a possible explanation.

What most caught our attention were the clear underwater photographs of sections of fluted columns as in ancient Greece. But whereas the Greeks would have used either the Doric order with 20 flutings (shallow longitudinal grooves) around the circumference of the column or the Ionic order with 24, in this case neither number was used; there were instead just 18 flutings.

What to make of all this is not now clear, but it appears to indicate Old World contact, probably from the eastern Mediterranean area.

*Coins from the Mediterranean.* Douglas C. Braithwaite, coordinator of community and resource development, Rural Development Center, Tifton, Georgia, reported that coins, most of them minted in ancient



LEFT: A Roman coin with a Greek inscription, from the reign of the Emperor Gallienus, found near Black Mountain, North Carolina, in 1967. RIGHT: A coin from Syracuse, Sicily, dating to about 490 BC, found near Phenix City, Alabama, in 1957. Photographs courtesy Dr. Braithwaite.

Mediterranean lands, have been found in scattered places in the eastern United States since "at least as early as the 1790's" and as late as 1967.

Included are: a Syracusan coin dating to about 490 BC; four brass coins with the image of the Roman goddess Minerva; two Roman coins of copper from the reign of Claudius, AD 41-54; two coins, one of brass and one of gold, inscribed with Hebrew-like letters; several Jewish coins of the Bar Kokhba rebellion, AD 132-135;

two Roman coins of silver, one dating to AD 137 and the other to AD 191 in the reign of the Emperor Commodus; a Roman coin of silver with a Greek legend dating to the time of the Emperor Gallienus, AD 260-268; and two copper coins picturing a three-headed eagle.

It is no longer logical, Dr. Braithwaite declared, for students of ancient America to ignore references to discoveries of coins from ancient Mediterranean lands.

*Bat Creek Stone.* SEHA members will remember Dr. Gordon's announcement at the Society's Twentieth Annual Symposium in 1970, of his identification of a Canaanite-Hebrew inscription excavated 85 years earlier at Bat Creek, Tennessee.

The lead-off paper of the second day of the Georgia symposium was Dr. Gordon's latest reflections on the Bat Creek stone. Of a size small enough to fit into the palm of the hand, the stone was inscribed with a few clear letters in the archaic Hebrew alphabet of a variety used by Jewish rebels against Roman tyranny around AD 100. It translates simply "For the Province of Judah" (or it could mean "For the Jews," as the end of it, possibly containing additional letters, has been broken off). The influence is that either the stone itself, or someone able to inscribe it, was brought to Tennessee in Roman times.

The stone was found in 1885 by the eminent American archaeologist, Cyrus Thomas, in the course of a controlled excavation of an ancient burial mound and was published shortly afterwards by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington.

This is the only instance to date of a legible Old World inscription being found at a previously undisturbed New World site by a bonafide archaeologist. Since Dr. Thomas, however, was not trained in Semitic paleography, and since a fundamental assumption on his part was that the Indian tribes of eastern United States had always lived where the English-speaking colonists found them, he reported the stone as being inscribed in the Cherokee syllabary. It was not until the past decade that the script was correctly identified.

The Bat Creek inscription has now been authenticated by the most elementary criteria: neither a given language nor its script can ever be invented twice independently. It is therefore fair to say that the discovery implies Old World contact of around AD 100.

How the inscription got to the New World brings up problems of oceanic navigation. Were people making long ocean voyages that early? Much earlier, said Dr. Gordon. From classical sources, particularly Strabo, it is clear that the Minoans made "ocean voyages far bolder than the later Greeks and Romans."

The heirs of these Cretan sea lords were the Phoenicians, who later operated with the Jews in the Red Sea as well as the Mediterranean. The Persian fleet contained 300 Phoenician and Jewish triremes. In the first and second centuries BC the Maccabees had an important sea trade and became a naval power. If the Romans could eventually conquer such a formidable sea people as the Carthaginians (western Phoenicians), which in fact they did in 146 BC, they must have become by that time a strong naval power themselves.

The destruction of Carthage at that time and of

Jerusalem in the second century AD appears to have set off waves of refugees, and men and women in ships reached the Western Hemisphere. At any rate, such historic movements seem to be reflected in the New World artifacts that are now coming to light.

If there is ever to be a real world history it will be necessary to become interested in the problem of ancient and medieval transoceanic connections. To treat the two major world areas as if they were unconnected with each other, is to divide artificially the human race into two watertight compartments.

Strangely, scholars have now begun to accept the possibility of transpacific contacts but not yet transatlantic contacts, even though the Pacific is much larger and was certainly more difficult to cross in ancient times than the Atlantic.

The opposition in such matters is never actually converted or convinced; it merely dies off, and it remains for a younger generation of scholars to introduce a new spirit more attuned to the actual evidence.

The existence of the ancient burial at Bat Creek, Tennessee, indicates that there was a community of people nearby who produced the assemblage of artifacts it contained, including a Hebrew inscription of about AD 100. It is important that the ruins of this community be found and properly excavated, as they may yield remains of great significance to the study of the inscription.

*Roman Artifacts in Arizona.* A series of inscriptions have been found which tell of a colony of Jews from western Europe who came to America in the eighth century AD and left their artifacts scattered on the ground as if in battle, according to Dr. Cyclone Covey, professor of ancient history at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in a restudy of the Tucson Artifacts.

Eight lead crosses, a standard, short swords, spearheads, and fragments of swords and spears have been found underneath layers of cement-hard caliche (calcium carbonate) ranging in depth from three and one-half to six feet in a hundred-square-foot area about nine miles from Tucson. The first discovery was of two metal swords by Mexican laborers in 1884, followed by that of a 62½-pound cross recovered in 1924 by Charles E. Manier. Between 1924 and 1930 Thomas W. Bent and others excavated some 27 artifacts—several engraved in Latin, two containing Hebrew words, and some with symbolic pictures—having a total weight of 145 pounds.

The texts of the strange artifacts tell of colonists crossing the sea in AD 775 from Rome, of their city called Rhoda, of their kingdom called Calalus, and of their battles with the "Toltezus" in which over 3,000 were slain. A final date of AD 900 is recorded.

Scientists actually present at the discovery of one or more of the artifacts include Byron Cummings, dean of Southwestern archaeologists, his nephew Neil Merton Judd, distinguished archaeologist of the Smithsonian Institution, and A. E. Douglass, professor of astronomy at the University of Arizona, who developed the method of tree-ring dating.

Dr. Frank H. Fowler, University of Arizona classicist, and George Hawley, a Rochester, New York, lawyer, became convinced that some of the Latin of the artifacts was lifted from recent textbooks. Hawley found an instance in which three sentences on a cross were found within one page of each other in a volume by Harkness. He therefore believed that the artifacts were inscribed and buried some time between 1914 and 1924.

A contrary view would consider the facts: (1) that the first two of the artifacts were discovered in 1884; (2) that the thick mantle of undisturbed caliche over the artifacts, which would have taken several hundred years to form, presented no evidence of having been broken, in order to "plant" the supposed fake antiquities; and (3) that at nearly every excavation at the site trained observers were present and participating, sometimes including professional archaeologists and geologists, who were convinced at the time that the discoveries were genuine.

This is the dilemma which Dr. Covey presented to the symposium. Perhaps he pointed to its solution when he stated: "The cross inscriptions indicate that Rhoda rested atop a hill. If any remains of Rhoda survive—if Rhoda ever existed—they ought to lie encased in caliche a hundred yards or so farther up. . . . Such a city might have occupied the summits of the hills on either side as well."

(We are reminded that in 1966 an opinion was expressed in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, 97.23, concerning what should be done at the site of the Tucson Artifacts: "What is needed . . . is further carefully controlled field investigations by trained archaeologists with sufficient funds and facilities and a genuine interest in the problem.")

(Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, BYU professor of archaeology, has also offered the following suggestion: if such a colony of Jewish Christians did, indeed, exist in southern Arizona in the eighth and ninth centuries AD, it is not impossible that groups of these or similar people, before or around AD 900, also settled farther south. A "Star of David" design has been reported found at the pre-Columbian ruins of Casas Grandes in Chihuahua. Even in Central America another "Star of David" has been found at the ruins of the Maya city of Uxmal, dating to the period from approximately AD 650 to 950, and other Jewish-like cultural traits have been noted elsewhere in Yucatan. See, e.g., Dr. Jakeman's "The 'Star of David' in

Ancient America?", *Newsletter*, 130.0.)

*Runes in Oklahoma.* Gloria Stewart Farley, author and social worker from Heavener, Oklahoma, told the story of her investigations of a series of brief runic inscriptions recently found in Oklahoma and Arkansas. (Runes are letters of certain alphabets used in northern Europe in pagan times and for a short time after Christianity was adopted by the Norse.)

The story began in 1928 when as a child Mrs. Farley was taken to see the Heavener runestone. Two years later she learned that the letters carved on the stone were runes. She began her investigations in earnest in 1948, but not until 1967 was she able to discover what they meant, when they were made, and who might have made them.

When the runologists branded the Heavener inscription a hoax, Mrs. Farley could not accept their verdict. She searched for additional runestones and found a total of eleven: ten in Oklahoma and one in Arkansas.

It was Alf Monge, a Norwegian-born cryptanalyst retired from the United States Army as well as an expert on ancient calendars and the runic scripts, who finally vindicated Mrs. Farley's conviction that the Norse had actually visited Oklahoma. He called the Heavener runestone "a perfect example of the Norse medieval cryptopuzzle," deciphered its date as November 11, 1012, i.e. St. Martin's Day, and suggested that its composer may have been a Benedictine monk.

Of the eleven runic inscriptions, dates ranging from AD 1012 to 1042 are encoded in ten, according to Mr. Monge. The eleventh contains a personal name in the form of a monogram: Iesus (Jesus).

Mr. Earl K. Syversen, author and Norse historian of Sebastopol, California, presented a discussion of "Runic Inscriptions as Cryptographic Dates," as a companion paper to that of Mrs. Farley. He explained some of the reasons why she had met with such discouraging results before 1967: One is that some runes are identical to certain Indian symbols, thus leading to mistaken identifications. Another is that some of the inscriptions contain symbols which have *only* numerical significance and which may therefore baffle those who are unfamiliar with such symbols. A third reason is that some of the writings combine letters from two different runic alphabets, one of them dating to the third century AD and the other, supplanting it, some six centuries later.

Mr. Syversen couched his contribution in a broader perspective than that of the runes of Oklahoma and Arkansas. He brought in comparative material from New England, Minnesota, Greenland, and Scandinavia and told the story of how many of the inscriptions came to be recognized as encoded dates. In doing so he gave

full credit to the Norwegian cryptanalyst: "... were it not for the work of Alf Monge all of us would still be stumbling over the fruitless effort to read literal meanings into the runic inscriptions that have defied the best attempts of linguists and runologists for so many years."

*Positive Approach.* In the concluding contribution to the symposium, Dr. Gordon spoke to the title, "What We Now Know: A Summary."

The abundant data now at hand show that numerous transatlantic crossings were made at various points in time. Not only were contacts made in more ancient times, but much of the evidence also dates to the first two centuries AD, i.e. the Roman period, as well as to the Medieval and Renaissance periods. The people involved were not of a single ethnic group, but included Semites, Romans, and other Mediterraneans, as well as Scandinavians.

Not long ago crossings of the Atlantic were made in "the least likely type of vessel," the reed raft. (Reference is no doubt made to the 1969-70 voyages of the Ra' I and II under Thor Heyerdahl. Cf. Newsletter, 118.0, pp. 4-5; 132.0, pp. 6-7.) "The value of a feat of this kind was that it stopped a good bit of the opposition."

Of greater importance, however, is to investigate underwater evidence. Also important are technical studies of such matters as the extraction of bog iron and copper in pre-Columbian times.

The most exciting development of recent years has been a number of instances of rediscovery and correct reinterpretation of evidence which lay hidden in published literature, museums, and private collections, where its significance had been previously unrecognized. This sort of rediscovery must continue. Also, evidence presently known in some cases suggests further field investigation. For example, the dwelling sites in the vicinity of the spot where the Bat Creek stone was found should be located and archaeologically investigated before the bulldozers destroy the evidence forever (see also above).

Scholars in the new field treated at the Georgia symposium "should be developing a set of standards and disciplines." Though "soft evidence" may often lead to important results, what is needed more is to press "the hard evidence, ... material which logically cannot be controverted. ... Hard evidence cannot rationally be brushed aside or negated." Of particular value is the evidence of ancient scripts and languages.

Even in cases where the evidence has not been found by professional archaeologists *in situ*, rational methods to authenticate it can nevertheless be developed by human ingenuity. "We have a certain advantage in 1973." The authenticity and antiquity of the Kensington Stone of Minnesota, for example, have been vindicated,

not only by recent new knowledge of the Norse language of the plaintext inscription but also of the cryptogram it contains. The Paraíba text of Brazil is a similar example.

The practice of making cryptograms was kept alive by the clergy and transmitted from the ancient Near East via Greece and Rome to the Christians of the West and as far north as Scandinavia. By studying this chain of transmission the evidences are seen to confirm one another and their historic depth can be understood. They now "... form a coherent and historic whole."

"In other words if you wish to set up a forgery now, it would have to include people who were forging and burying cuneiform tablets of the eighth century BC, Hebrew-Phoenician inscriptions of the sixth century BC, Latin inscriptions such as the Vinland map, and numerous Nordic inscriptions. Of course the person or the gang who did this would have to be spread over a period of more than a hundred years. You would have a distribution of languages and time ... which makes such a plot quite out of the question."

"Pioneering has to go on ... dedicated pioneers ... are going to ferret out the material and bring it to light and force the professionals to sit up and take notice ..."

"... [The pioneers] have many contributions to make. I should also like to remind you at the same time, however, that the field has come of age. We have a great deal of data that has been brought to light at this congress and is ready for processing and refinement, and we need professionals in different fields to be brought into the picture ...; intelligent and young people who are not intimidated by the battle of life and survival will fill this need. These will be young scholars—professionally trained men and women—who have scholarship and methods but who are still fortunately lacking in mental arteriosclerosis.

"... We are ready for a positive approach. ... and with this positive approach we must combine the highest [and] most informed and rigid scientific standards. The meaning of this conference to me is that this time has already arrived."

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

It seemed to us that the five scholars visiting from Brigham Young University were treated with kindly consideration on all sides at the symposium. Dr. Cheesman, for instance, at the invitation of Dr. Mahan, made two extemporaneous contributions that were not listed on the printed program. First, he told the meeting briefly of

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research that was in progress under his supervision as director of the Institute of Book of Mormon Studies on inscribed metal plates reported from various places in North and South America. Then, that same evening, he presented the motion picture, "Ancient America Speaks," produced by the Institute and the BYU Motion Picture Studio with himself as narrator. We heard nothing but friendly comments in response to the participation of the BYU group. (The same movie, incidentally, was also shown one week later as the final contribution at the SEHA symposium; see 135.1, below.)

There has indeed arisen a *New Diffusionism* with regard to the study of the origins of early high civilization in the New World. We are now living in a new intellectual climate, one which is more hospitable to our peculiar Latter-day Saint point of view. Scholars of the world are now more willing and able to consider the Book of Mormon explanation than ever before. On the other hand, Latter-day Saints are now more willing and able to see the point of view of scholars of the world.

The symposium on "Evidences of Pre-Columbian Transatlantic Contacts," held in Georgia in 1973, is a landmark in Americanist studies. It may in retrospect come to be considered the outstanding development of the present decade. It is a great pioneering effort which with two exceptions is perhaps unique in this field. These exceptions are: (1) The "Symposium on Problems of Pre-Columbian New World Contacts," sponsored in Santa Fe in 1968 by the Society for American Archaeology (see Newsletter, 111.01, 116.41, 118.0, 132.0); and (2) the efforts of the SEHA from its founding in 1949 to the present date, which have produced results somewhat comparable to those of the 1968 conference of SAA and the 1973 meeting held in Georgia. The contribution of the SEHA to this field has taken the form of nearly 200 papers delivered over the years at the Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, as well as nearly 150 different publications—many of which have openly urged the cause of diffusionism.

A fundamental change has taken place in the thinking of the Americanist profession. Also, it is a change which continues at an accelerating pace. As one wag has put it, "things are moving fast in the past!"

At the close of the extemporaneous report upon which this paper is based the statement was made, "the future of the past is ours" (i.e. the Society's). If this is not literally and altogether true we at least like to think that the SEHA has played a significant role in the rise of the New Diffusionism of these times. It may even develop that students of the Book of Mormon hold the ultimate key to the solution of many problems of New World origin.

The proceedings of the Georgia symposium have been published by Westville Historic Handicrafts, Inc., of Lumpkin, Georgia. Twenty mimeographed papers, each stapled separately and not bound together into a volume, are distributed as a set. We understand that the price is \$6.20 per set, including postage.

The published proceedings include the following papers, listed in the order of their presentation at the symposium:

1. A CALL FOR A NEW APPROACH. Dr. Mahan. Summarized above.
2. EVIDENCE FROM GEORGIA PETROGLYPHS. Professor Yates. Summarized above.
3. DISCOVERY AND PROVENIENCE OF THE HEARN TABLET. Y. Lynn Holmes, Ph.D., professor of ancient history, West Georgia College, Carrollton, Georgia.
4. ANALYSIS OF CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTION ON HEARN TABLET. This paper was scheduled for delivery by Dr. Ernest R. Lacheman, Sumerologist, Brandeis University. Dr. Lacheman was not present, however. Instead Dr. Mahan commented on this subject.
5. and 6. DISCOVERY OF THE METCALF STONE. Mr. Metcalf. HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL PROVENIENCE OF THE METCALF STONE. Dr. Mahan. Both papers summarized above.
7. FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE BAHAMA RUINS. Mr. Lindstrom. Summarized above.
8. CONTINUING DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT COINS. Dr. Braithwaite. Summarized above.
9. HISTORICAL DATA ON PRE-ENGLISH MINING. C. Stephen Gurr, Ph.D., professor of history, Georgia Southwestern College, Americus, Georgia.
10. METAL ARTIFACTS FROM UNLIKELY CONTEXTS. Douglas T. Holden, Ph.D., academic dean, Andrew College, Cuthbert, Georgia.
11. ANCIENT IRONWORKING IN OHIO. William D. Conner, science writer and columnist, *Springfield Daily News* and *Sunday News-Sun*, Springfield, Ohio.
12. EXCAVATING AT DEER CREEK MOUND, OHIO. Clyde E. Keeler, Sc.D., geneticist, Research Division, Central State Hospital, Milledgeville, Georgia.
13. THE BAT CREEK STONE. Dr. Gordon. Summarized above.
14. DISCOVERIES OF SEMITIC ARTIFACTS AND INSCRIPTIONS. Dr. Holmes.
15. CALALUS 775-900 AD: A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE BENT ARTIFACTS. Dr. Covey. Summarized above.
16. AN INTERPRETATION OF THE GRAVE CREEK TABLET AND THE WILSON-BRAXTON TAB-



LET. Dr. Keeler.

17. THE OKLAHOMA RUNESTONES. Mrs. Farley. Summarized above.

18. RUNIC INSCRIPTIONS AS CRYPTOGRAPHIC DATES. Mr. Syversen. Summarized above.

19. WHAT WE NOW KNOW: A SUMMARY. Dr. Gordon. Summarized above.

20. THE PHOENICIANS DISCOVERED AMERICA. Joseph Sheban, attorney, Youngstown, Ohio. This paper was not actually read at the symposium, as it was submitted late.

Earlier brief published reports of the Georgia symposium have included: (1) "Ancient Language Puzzles in America May Prove Columbus Wasn't First," by Keith Coulbourn, in *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine*, November 25, 1973, pp. 10ff.; and (2) "Columbus Was Not the First; Symposium Held on Pre-Columbian Contacts," in *Manuscripts*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (Winter, 1974), pp. 32-36.

Dr. Gordon was the author of *Before Columbus* (1971), an outstanding example of the diffusionist approach to Americanist studies. See a review of this volume in Newsletter, 132.0, pp. 5-6. He is now the author of a second book—only recently off the press—on pre-Columbian contacts across the Atlantic, *Riddles in History*, which expands some of the points made at the Georgia symposium. In a persuasive detective-story style, the new book examines a series of cryptograms enciphered in the plaintext of runes and similar writings found all the way from Maine to Brazil.

SEHA members will remember Dr. Gordon as the guest speaker at the Twentieth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures, held at BYU in 1970. See his guest address, "America and the Ecumene of the Old Testament," first published in the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, 125.0, and later in the October, 1971, issue of *The Ensign*. It is our understanding that his reanalysis of the Bat Creek inscription was announced to the public for the first time at this 1970 symposium. See the Newsletter article, p. 7. See also his *Before Columbus*, pp. 179-187, for more on this inscription.

The original publication on the Bat Creek excavation is Cyrus Thomas' "Report on Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology," *Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, 1890-91*, pp. 17-730 (Government Printing Office: Washington, 1894). On the inscribed stone see pp. 393-394.

In connection with the petroglyphs reported by Professor Yates, it may be noted that the late William Coxon, one-time Arizona state senator, visited the BYU

campus on April 29, 1953, and spoke on "Cognate Petroglyphs and Early Migrations in Ancient America." He possessed what was believed to be the world's largest collection of photographs of petroglyphs. He had developed a theory that these skillfully wrought, geometric carvings show world-wide migration routes of some ancient enlightened and benevolent people. See Newsletter, 11.7, 12.5. Later, he detailed his researches in a 10-page article entitled "Ancient Manuscripts on American Stones," which appeared in *Arizona Highways*, September, 1964. If our memory serves us well many of the petroglyphs illustrated by Professor Yates at the Georgia symposium are similar to some of those turned up during the global researches of the Arizona senator.

In connection with the coins reported by Dr. Braithwaite, it may be pointed out that the SEHA has heretofore published several references to the finding of such artifacts on American soil. See Newsletter, 79.0 (Roman coins, Venezuela); 97.21 (medieval Italian medal, Kentucky); 125.0, pp. 6-7 (Roman coins, Tennessee, and ancient Jewish coins, Kentucky); and 134.0, p. 4 ("Nephite" coins, Colorado, Utah, and Bolivia). The first two of the above brief items are reprinted in *Transoceanic Crossings to Ancient America*, pp. 2 and 8, respectively. See also Dr. Gordon's *Before Columbus*, pp. 175-179, on the ancient coins found in Tennessee and Kentucky.

In 1964 Thomas W. Bent published a full report of the excavations undertaken near Tucson, 1924-30, as reported by Dr. Covey. See Newsletter, 97.23, for a review of Mr. Bent's 391-page volume, *The Tucson Artifacts* (review reprinted in *Transoceanic Crossings to Ancient America*, pp. 8-10).

A limited supply of each of two papers on runic inscriptions found in North America, distributed at the Georgia symposium through the courtesy of their authors, are available to SEHA members free of charge at the Society office: (1) "The Vikings Were Here," by Mrs. Farley, an eight-page tabloid-size article about the author's researches on the runestones recently found near Heavener and elsewhere in Oklahoma; 20 copies available. (2) "Norse Cryptopuzzles," a four-page leaflet prepared by Mr. Syversen to accompany his paper read at the symposium, which contains calendrical tables by means of which dates were encoded into medieval runic inscriptions, together with several examples from Oklahoma; five copies left. These two papers may be requested by SEHA members as long as the supply lasts and will be charged against the "free past publications" privilege of five per year, to which members are entitled.

According to Mrs. Farley, she and Mr. Syversen will co-author a volume, *The Norse Explored America*, slated for publication in 1974.

135.1 **SEHA SYMPOSIUM, 1973, HEARS TEN PAPERS.** By Bruce D. Louthan. The Society's Twenty-third Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures was held on the BYU campus, October 20, 1973, with Dr. Ellis T. Rasmussen, BYU professor of ancient scripture, as chairman. Approximately 175 persons were in attendance.

Dr. Michael D. Coe, associate professor of anthropology and former department chairman at Yale University, delivered the guest address. This took the form of a slide presentation on A NEW MAYA CODEX, the "Grolier Codex," which he has been studying intensively (Newsletter, 126.3). Dating from the early thirteenth century AD, the eleven extant pages of this Maya folding book are in excellent condition. They record the observed cycle of the planet Venus as well as its supposed effect on human affairs. In addition, Dr. Coe told how this astronomical text was found and its authenticity established.

Four papers preceded Dr. Coe's address on the morning program: William James Adams, Jr., former BYU instructor in Semitic languages, and Larry LaMar Adams, research analyst and consultant for the BYU Office of Institutional Research, USING ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS TO DATE BIBLICAL PASSAGES; Bruce T. Verhaaren, BYU senior majoring in archaeology, THE CONQUEST OF 'AI (in ancient Israel); Samuel E. Shepley, undergraduate student of archaeology at BYU, CROMLECHS IN THE SCRIPTURES AND ARCHAEOLOGY; and John L. Sorenson, professor of sociology at BYU, THE BOOK OF MORMON AS A CODEX.

A noon luncheon followed Dr. Coe's address, at which he responded informally to questions from those in attendance.

The afternoon session heard the following papers: Bruce W. Warren, BYU assistant professor of anthropology and archaeology, SOME PROBLEMS IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE "JAREDITE" ACCOUNT; R. A. Jairazbhoy of Northwood, Middlesex, England, author of books on ancient cultural relations between India and the Near East, EGYPT-MEXICO-PERU: THE SEARCH FOR PARADISE (read by Terrence M. Kerestes); Marilyn Malone, graduate student in archaeology and P. Kennan Hayes Scholar at BYU (see Newsletter, 133.5), MESOAMERICAN TEMPLES: SYMBOLISM AND RITUAL; Bruce D. Louthan, graduate student in archaeology and P. Kennan Hayes Scholar at BYU and associate editor of the *Newsletter and Proceedings*, AN APPROACH TO THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ANCIENT MESOAMERICAN AND NEAR-EASTERN CERAMICS; and Ross T. Christensen, BYU professor of archaeology and anthropology, GEORGIA SYMPOSIUM CONSIDERS TRANS-

ATLANTIC CONTACTS (an extemporaneous report not listed on the printed program; see above).

A final contribution to the symposium was a motion picture, "Ancient America Speaks," produced at BYU by the Institute of Book of Mormon Studies and the Motion Picture Studio, with Paul R. Cheesman as narrator.

Besides Dr. Rasmussen, other members of the symposium committee were: Sidney B. Sperry, BYU professor emeritus of Old Testament languages and literature, who served as honorary chairman; Robert W. Bass; Dr. Cheesman; Dr. Christensen; M. Wells Jakeman; Mr. Louthan; Welby W. Ricks; and Rebecca Christensen, secretary.

Following the afternoon session of the Symposium a brief Annual Business Meeting of the Society was held. The meeting elected the nine incumbent members of the Board of Trustees to serve for one more year in office. These are: Richard Lloyd Anderson, Robert W. Bass, Paul R. Cheesman, Ross T. Christensen, M. Wells Jakeman, Clark S. Knowlton, Virgil V. Peterson, Ellis T. Rasmussen, and Welby W. Ricks.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Two participants in the SEHA symposium of 1973 have recently published volumes which are related in subject matter to their symposium contributions: Michael D. Coe and R. A. Jairazbhoy.

Dr. Coe is the author of *The Maya Scribe and His World* (The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, New York 10022, 1973. 184 pp. 17" x 11". 278 black-and-white plates, 28 color plates. \$37.50 plus \$.50 for handling). The new Grolier Codex is here published for the first time and in full color. The Codex itself, incidentally, is now in Mexico City at the Museum of Anthropology, according to a recent letter from Dr. Coe.

A notice of Mr. Jairazbhoy's book, *Ancient Egyptians and Chinese in America*, which is Volume 1 of a projected two-volume work entitled *Old World Origins of American Civilization*, has been received; "This thoroughly documented and profusely illustrated book . . . demonstrates clearly that [the ancient New World] received nearly all major aspects of civilization from the Old World." Volume 1 ". . . sets forth massive evidence that America's first civilization, the Olmec, was the result of two voyages in the 2nd millennium BC, one across the Atlantic and the other across the Pacific." The two volumes together trace Old World contacts ". . . from the entry of Man to the Spanish conquest."

The address where orders may be placed is: The New Diffusionist, 37 Hillside Road, Northwood, Middlesex, England. The prepublication price is listed at \$12. We have not yet received the copy we ordered in February, however.

**135.2 PLANS LAID FOR SEHA SYMPOSIUM, 1974.** By Ruth R. Christensen. The Twenty-Fourth Annual Symposium on the Archaeology of the Scriptures has been scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 1974, on the BYU campus in the Madsen Recital Hall of the Harris Fine Arts Center. Mr. A. Delbert Palmer has been appointed to serve as general chairman of the event. The announcement comes following a recent meeting of the SEHA Board of Trustees.

#### CHAIRMAN

Mr. Palmer, who is at present a senior in Latin American Studies at BYU, assisted in establishing the Chilean Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as its first president. A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, he attended schools in that province. Before his call to the mission presidency he worked as a specialized contractor in heating systems for schools in western Canada. Archaeology enthusiasm has been a family trait; both his mother, Mrs. Asael E. (Maydell) Palmer, and his son, David, have long been active in the Society. David read his paper, "A Study of Mesoamerican Religious Symbolism," at the Sixteenth Annual Symposium in 1966 (Newsletter, 103.61; *The Tree of Life in Ancient America*, pp. 6-11).

The new chairman has appointed the following as members of the Symposium Committee; Robert W. Bass, Paul R. Cheesman, Ross T. Christensen, M. Wells Jakeman, Clark S. Knowlton, Bruce D. Louthan, Fred W. Nelson, Jr., Ellis T. Rasmussen, and Bruce W. Warren.

#### GUEST ADDRESS

Keith H. Meservy, assistant professor of ancient scripture at BYU, has been named to deliver the guest address at the Symposium. His paper will treat exciting new discoveries elucidating the "stick of Joseph" prophecy of Ezekiel 37:15-20. Ancient examples of writing boards or "sticks" dating to 705 BC, discovered at Nimrud in ancient Assyria, will be illustrated and explained.

A long-time archaeology enthusiast, Professor Meservy took classes in that subject at BYU, 1950-52. He received his Master of Arts degree in 1966 at Johns Hopkins University, where he has also partially completed requirements for the doctorate. While there he studied comparative Semitics, Near Eastern history, and Mesopotamian, Syro-Palestinian, and Egyptian archaeology under William F. Albright (cf. Newsletter, 129.2).

#### PARTICIPATION INVITED

Dr. Clark S. Knowlton, Society president, sent a letter dated June 25 to all SEHA members inviting them,

in behalf of the Symposium Committee, to prepare a paper for possible reading at the annual meeting. The paper should present the results of archaeological research bearing on the Hebrew-Christian and Latter-day Saint scriptures: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Pearl of Great Price. Reading time should not exceed 20 minutes. A one-page summary or abstract of the proposed paper is to be sent by September 14 to: Symposium Committee, 140 Maeser Building, BYU, Provo, Utah 84602.

This invitation is not limited to SEHA members. Anyone engaged in scholarly research is invited to submit an abstract for consideration.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As decided at a recent meeting of the SEHA Board of Trustees, the provision that any paper read at the Symposium may be published by the Society at the discretion of its editors will be retained. In addition, however, the author himself may publish his paper independently of the Society, upon notification of the general editor, Dr. M. Wells Jakeman, and provided the author give due credit to the Symposium where the paper was read. Also, it is hoped that, if requested, the author will assist the secretary and treasurer in arranging—at Society expense—for reprints of his paper for distribution to SEHA members.

**135.3 PUBLISHES ON ANCIENT LACHISH.** Paul Richard Jesclard is the author of an archaeological paper on a Palestinian subject published in a recent issue of a student journal in the field of history.

"A Few Finds at Tell ed-Duweir Which May be Important to Latter-day Saints," appears on pp. 1-28 of the March, 1973, issue of *The Thetean*, a publication of the Beta Iota (BYU) chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta, a national history honorary society. The paper deals with ancient trephination (skull surgery), weights and measures, and inscriptions recording the divine name and mentioning signal mirrors—each of which subjects may have significance in connection with the Book of Mormon. The finds date to the period just prior to the departure of Lehi and Mulek to the New World. Tell ed-Duweir has been identified as ancient Lachish (cf. Newsletter, 119.0, pp. 4-5), a famous fortress some 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem where the "Lachish Letters" were discovered.

Mr. Jesclard is a member of the SEHA and was a participant in its 1971 symposium. His paper, "A Comparison of the Nephite Monetary System with the Egyptian System of Measuring Grain," was published by the Society last fall (Newsletter, 134.0). He graduated with the BA degree in history in 1972 from BYU, where he has lately been a graduate student in Latin and a teaching assistant in biblical Hebrew.