
MIGHTY SUMMONS

A quarterly report to Helaman's Two Thousand

Vol. 5 No. 2 Foundation For Research On Ancient America April 1992



Renovation Continues

Many people have helped to make FRAA's headquarters an attractive place in which to promote The Book of Mormon. Andy Gross added columns on the outside to enhance the appearance. Hugh Caldwell donated his labor to seal and wax the floors. Tom Deal contributed his artistic talent for the signs on the building. Elton Ahlberg's carpentry skills provided FRAA with two conference/library tables.

Many thanks to these people, as well as numerous other volunteers who give so much of their time to help the Foundation achieve its goal of promoting The Book of Mormon.

In the months of January, February, and March, over 300 people came to see our new home and use the information center/library.

Hours for the Information Center

The office hours of the information center/library at present are 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Book of Mormon Internships for Students to Begin Summer of 1992

The Executive Committee of FRAA plans summer internships for young persons to work and study with The Book of Mormon. For students between the ages of 16 and 23, this will be an opportunity to not only learn about The Book of Mormon through research and interaction in the activities and conferences of FRAA, but a chance to earn summer income for the school year in a meaningful and productive way.

Students will be expected to work on Book of Mormon projects for 20 hours a week for a period of six weeks. Possible projects are processing (cleaning and remounting) Charles Hield's slide collection; research on specific topics; and work with special collections in the information center/library.

Why not sponsor a student for a Book of Mormon internship and help them become tomorrow's leaders? Your sponsorship contribution can be for either half (\$300) or a full scholarship (\$600).

We invite you to share with us as we seek to further the Lord's work in this way. Contact FRAA for further information (816 461-FRAA).



Current Projects Made Possible by Helaman's Two Thousand

The quality, scope, and number of programs FRAA can perform depends solely on the amount of contributions it receives. The generous support from members of Helaman's Two Thousand the past several years has provided a good solid base for building and expanding efforts to promote The Book of Mormon.

Here are a few highlights of the activities of FRAA.

Sunday Mornings With The Book of Mormon

A new format for sharing about The Book of Mormon replaces the former all-day Saturday conference sponsored by FRAA. It consists of visiting branches and congregations that invite FRAA to take the entire Sunday

morning, both the Sunday school hour and worship service, to share drama, music, testimonies, and insights regarding The Book of Mormon.

Internships

This summer will begin a new program we hope to continue each year—that of summer internships for young persons. Read about it elsewhere in this issue.

Six-week Lecture Series

The archaeology committee sponsors three times a year a six-week lecture series on current happenings in archaeology as they relate to The Book of Mormon. They are held at FRAA's headquarters. The next series begins Monday night June 1.

Information Center/Library

From a jumble of boxes of books, slides and manuscripts, the information center/library

has grown to a three-room complex. Preliminary lists have been made of the thousands of items and beginning preservation steps have been taken on fragile materials. Funds are needed to computerize the materials for a thorough access to the information. The library regularly receives requests for all types of information.

The Witness

The major effort of the Foundation continues to be the publication of *The Witness*. Published four times a year and sent to approximately 18,000 homes, it brings testimonies and insights about The Book of Mormon and news about the Foundation. FRAA does not charge a subscription fee for *The Witness*. It depends on donations from those who desire to get out the word about The Book of Mormon.



Survey

In an effort to better plan for the information center/library, the library staff prepared and sent out a questionnaire. Approximately 270 members of Helaman's Two Thousand were randomly selected. If you received a copy of the survey and have not returned it, please do so. We would like to hear from you even if the deadline has past.



If any of you who did not receive a copy of the questionnaire would like to fill one out, please contact Sherrie Smith at FRAA, 210 West White Oak, Independence, MO 64050, 816 461-FRAA.

We will publish the results in a future issue of either *The Witness* or *MIGHTY SUMMONS*. We appreciate your help in this important matter.



Where

As of March 31, 1992:

Enlisted in Helaman's Two Thousand

Income for 1991 from Helaman's Two Thousand
(This is 90 percent of total income)

Income from HTT January–March

Without your support in prayers and contributions we cannot accomplish its numerous programs. We need you together to let others know about the work being done and found in The Book of Mormon.

Archaeology News

Lyle L. Smith

Archaeological theories continually change due to new discoveries. The Bering Strait theory, though, has been defended despite extensive evidence to the contrary.

The overriding opinion for the last seventy years has been that man only came to the New World between twelve and twenty thousand years ago across the Bering Strait between what is now Alaska and Russia. Pre-Columbian oceanic contact between the Old and New Worlds has been consistently derided by leading archaeologists. But now, even this long-held opinion is finally beginning to crumble.

The topic of the annual Maya Meeting at the University of Texas-Austin in March this year was "Origins." Michael Coe, archaeology professor at Yale University, a presenter at the meetings and a former staunch defender of no contact between the two worlds, made some startling statements.

While talking about studies showing similarities between Mesoamerican and Asian cultures, he said,

So one starts wondering about this. Is this genetic? Does this go back to a common origin, some of these ideas, or do they go back to more recent diffusion? It may be impossible ever to really pull these things apart. I think independent invention is really stretching things a little bit too much here.

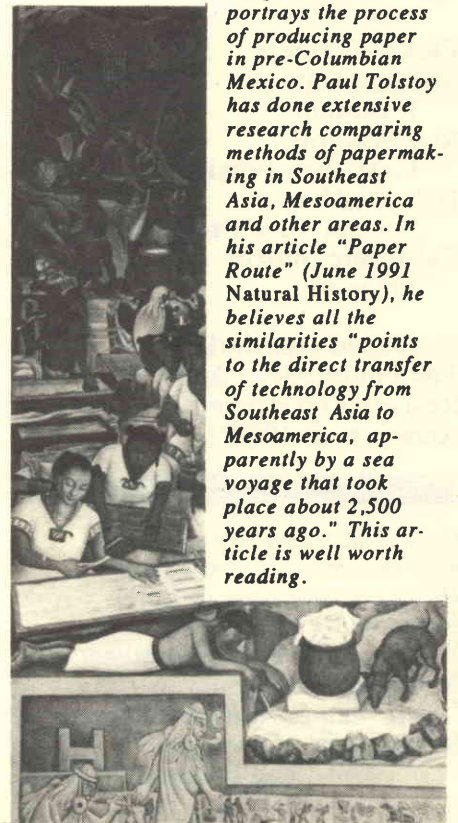
(Independent invention means that similar cultural traits found in both the New and Old Worlds developed independently, not by contact between the two.)

One example that comes to mind is the discovery of carvings from India depicting ears of corn, carved in the 12 or 13 centuries A.D. (Johannessen and Parker). If corn, which is believed to be a New World crop domesticated about 3,000 to 2,500 B.C., has been found in India before Columbus, how did it get there without oceanic contact between the two worlds?

The Book of Mormon as translated in 1829 tells the stories of three transoceanic migrations after the flood from the Old World to the Promised Land. It also speaks of groups of people leaving Book of Mormon lands, migrating to other areas of the New World, and conceivably back to the Old World (Helaman 2:3-11).

Since returning from the conference in Texas, I have been reading *The New World Figurine Project*. In the conclusion, the editor remarks,

This mural in the National Palace in Mexico City by Diego Rivera portrays the process of producing paper in pre-Columbian Mexico. Paul Tolstoy has done extensive research comparing methods of papermaking in Southeast Asia, Mesoamerica and other areas. In his article "Paper Route" (June 1991 Natural History), he believes all the similarities "points to the direct transfer of technology from Southeast Asia to Mesoamerica, apparently by a sea voyage that took place about 2,500 years ago." This article is well worth reading.



The thinking regarding relationships between the Old and New Worlds is in an accelerated state of change. Diffusion is now being accepted as a viable means of explaining culture process.

1991:160

Breaking the barrier of the Bering Strait theory of the peopling of the Americas is a milestone for believers in The Book of Mormon.

References:

- Johannessen, Carl L. and Anne Z. Parker.
1989 Maize Ears Sculptured in 12th and 13th Century A.D. India as Indicators of Pre-Columbian Diffusion. *Economic Botany* 43:164-180.
- Stocker, Terry, ed.
1991 *The New World Figurine Project*, Vol. 1. Provo, Utah: Research Press.



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and contributions, FRAA could not May God bless us all as we strive testimony of Jesus Christ as

Edited by the
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Published Quarterly by
The Foundation for
Research on Ancient
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*God is marshaling his army
For the rescue of his truth;
He is calling now to battle
Both the aged and the youth.
You can hear his mighty summons
In the thunder of his word;
Let us then be valiant soldiers
In the army of the Lord!*
The Hymnal #321

Coming Up

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| April 26 | Congregational Book of Mormon Day 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. at 6 North Fulton, Butler, Missouri |
| May 3 | FRAA Board of Directors Meeting 2:30 P.M. |
| May 17 | Congregational Book of Mormon Day Wichita, Kansas |
| June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 & July 6 | Book of Mormon/Archaeology Lectures 210 W. White Oak, Independence, Missouri |
| December 26 – January 3, 1993 | Annual FRAA Archaeology Tour The Yucatan and Belize |



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