

GLYPH

Notes

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News from the Archaeological World

By Sherrie Kline Smith

It's been some months since we've included short news reports in our "glyph clips" column, mainly due to lack of space. So this issue we are featuring some news clips instead of a "main" article.

PAST HORIZONS
 adventures in archaeology



Archaeologist Ivan Sprajc leads an international team of experts in the discovery of Chactun. Image: INAH

EXTENSIVE MAYA CITY DISCOVERED IN CAMPECHE

A team led by archaeologist Ivan Sprajc, has announced the discovery of an ancient Maya city called Chactun, "Red Stone" or "Piedra Grande". Located in the southeast area of Campeche, it represents one of the largest sites of the Mexican Central Lowlands.

Discovered a few weeks ago, the archaeologists believe that the city was at the centre of a vast region between 600 and 900 AD. The extent of the site measures more than 22 hectares, and contains a number of monuments, with at least a dozen of them bearing inscriptions.



Stela 1 in the western complex. Image: INAH

Hidden in the jungle for centuries

Throughout the centuries, Chactun remained hidden in the jungle of the northern Biosphere Reserve of Calakmul, which is part of an area over 3,000 square kilometres, located between the Rio Bec and Chenes region. This area until now, has remained a total blank on the archaeological map of the Maya region.

"It is one of the largest sites in the Central Lowlands, comparable in extent and magnitude of its buildings with Becan, Nadzcaan and El Palmar in Campeche," said the Sprajc, who works for the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Large Maya City Discovered in Campeche

ArchaeoMaya, Summer 2013
 "Past Horizons," June 19, 2013
tinyurl.com/k35peef

After many years of exploration in Mesoamerica, it seems unlikely that any "lost cities" still exist, waiting discovery. Yet, last year a hither-to-unknown major site in the state of Campeche, Mexico, was found. The "News from the Field" column of the newsletter of the Maya Exploration Center (MEC) reported on its discovery. Called Chactun, the site covers more than 54 square miles, has three separate areas with 15 pyramids, palace structures, plazas, ball courts, and at least 19 monuments of which three stelaes have "readable" inscriptions.

Aerial photography aided archaeologist Ivan Šprajc and his team in discovering Chactun, which is in dense jungle. It is one of more than 80 ancient Maya cities they have found since 1996! Šprajc, leader of the team working with the Archaeological Survey Project in Southeastern Campeche, said, "It is one of the largest sites in the Central Lowlands, comparable in extent and magnitude of its buildings with Becan, Nadzcaan and El Palmar in Campeche." Although the city flourished after The Book of Mormon, ca. A.D. 600-900, its origin is not yet known.

Chactun is about 75 miles west of Chetumal and 10 miles north from Becan, a site known to most of PSI's tour members because of its deep moat around the city (see map on page 2).

ArchaeoMaya, MEC's newsletter, is available online at mayaexploration.org under research. See also Wikipedia's entry for Chactun and its references.

What else remains hidden in the jungle?

Cont. on Page 2

Archaeological World (Cont. from Page 1)

George Stuart Dies

“National Geographic Daily News”

June 12, 2014

tinyurl.com/k5so8q3

Staff archaeologist with National Geographic for 40 years, George Stuart died June 11, 2014.

In the course of a nearly 40-year career at the Geographic, as well as after retirement, Stuart helped shape the field of Maya studies; his contributions included work on the ruins of Coba, Dzibilchaltún, Balankanche Cave, and others. He also served as vice president for research and exploration, overseeing millions of dollars in research grants every year.

Stuart, a wonderful storyteller, could enthrall audiences with his engaging southern charm and wit. Lyle and I always looked forward to any conference where he was giving a presentation, such as the last two Maya at the Playa conferences in Florida.

With his first wife Gene, Stuart wrote *The Mysterious Maya* and *Lost Kingdoms of the Maya*.

Other books included *Ancient Mexico* and *Ancient Pioneers*, as well as articles in *National Geographic*, all which “introduced that [Maya] world to a broad audience.” Recently, Stuart co-authored with his eminent epigrapher son David Stuart the book *Palenque: Eternal City of the Maya*.

After retirement, Stuart and his wife founded the “Boundary End Archaeology Research Center (formerly the Center for Maya Research) at their home in Barnardsville, [North Carolina] which helped make studies of Maya hieroglyphic research widely available through the *Research Reports of Ancient Maya Writing* series.” In addition to the publications, the Stuarts established a library, which now houses some 12,000 volumes

and which focuses on archaeological discoveries—especially in Mesoamerica (particularly the Maya) and southeastern North America. Information about the library and the research center can be found on their website. precolumbia.org/bearc

In an Aztlan listserv post on June 13, the Stuart family wrote, “[Dad’s] passion was to publish and disseminate information about ancient America, and we have big plans to keep it all going in new and exciting ways.”



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Lyle L. Smith & Aaron Presler



Don Beebe

The Zapotec writing system, which consists of logographic and syllabic signs just like Maya, is one of the oldest writing systems in Mexico. Yet, it remains undeciphered. The two stelae in the photograph (found at Monte Alban) represent some of the earliest examples of Zapotec writing. They were engraved around 500-400 B.C.

Early (300-100 B.C.) Temple Precinct Discovered in the Valley of Oaxaca, Mexico

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
April 2013

Elsa Redmond and Charles Spencer, married archaeologists with the American Museum of Natural History in New York, have been excavating for the past 20 years at the Zapotec site of El Palenque in Mexico's Y-shaped Oaxaca Valley—not to be confused with the famous site of Palenque in the state of Chiapas. Their recent report details the discovery of a monumental temple complex consisting of three multi-room temples and other buildings in a walled enclosure. A series of calibrated radiocarbon dates indicate the complex was in use from 300-100 B.C. The area appears to have been abandoned sometime between 100 B.C. and A.D. 200. "Their destruction by fire is manifested by their burned surfaces, burned adobe wall fall, and carbonized deposits" (2013:E1713).

The temple area "exhibits characteristics similar to the temple precincts of 16th century Mesomaerican states"—like the Zapotec temple precinct at Mitla—first described by Spanish priests and conquerors in the 1500s (2013:E1707). The similarities include a walled enclosure with more

than one multiroom temple elevated on platforms, "sacrificial altars, courtyards, and residences for the priesthood.... The same distinction applied to the outer temple space, where many celebrants entered, versus the more sacred inner sanctum where the high priest ('great seer') officiated.... Only priests could enter this inner room, where they placed offerings and performed sacrifices..." (2013:1708).

El Palenque's three multiroom temples were "arranged symmetrically and faced west toward the plaza" (2013:1708). The middle temple was much larger than the two flanking ones. Inside the middle temple's largest room, abundant ritual items like "ornaments of shell, mica, and alabaster, and ceramic effigy whistles, effigy vessels, and incense braziers" littered the floor, especially around two hearths. The archaeologists also discovered obsidian blades, an obsidian lancet fragment, and three flint-like perforators that they believe suggest "officiating priests were performing autosacrificial bloodletting.... The remains of turkey, dove, and other fauna on the floor . . . reflect other sacrificial offerings" (2013:E1709). The excavators found no figurines that could be linked to idols.

El Palenque is only a few miles south from the large hilltop site of Monte Alban that saw a dramatic increase of population from 500-450 B.C. with the emergence of the Zapotec culture. (See map on page 2.)

New Documentary Film

Dance of the Maize God
Post on Aztlán by David Lebrun
February 17, 2014

Many will remember the 2008 documentary film *Breaking the Maya Code* produced by Night Fire Films. Not only was it beautifully made, the film explained the Maya calendar and the decipherment of Maya writing in a clear and concise manner. Now they have made a new film about Maya vases.

Cont. on Page 4




Courtesy of Night Fire Films

Maya vase featuring a king with a shaker. Image is K2573 from the Mayavase Database. mayavase.com

Archaeological World *(Cont. from Page 3)*

The documentary feature film *Dance of the Maize God* enters the world of the vases to explore the royal life and rich mythology of the Maya, as well as the tangled issues involved in the collection and study of Maya art. The story is told by villagers, looters, archaeologists, scholars, dealers and curators. For each, these vases have a radically different value and meaning.

Although the majority of the painted ceramics made by the Maya were done after the close of The Book of Mormon, remnants of religious beliefs held by the people of The Book of Mormon can be discerned in Maya mythology. For instance, the Maize God, portrayed on many vases, was a creator god and sustainer of all life as well as a resurrected god.


At the time of writing this clip, the DVD was not yet available, but I was able to register to be notified when it was ready. The trailer promises another beautifully made film. nightfirefilms.org/films/dance-of-the-maize-god 

Highly Recommended Symposium

“Land Without Borders: Cultural Interactions between the Pre-Hispanic Southwest”

Formerly the “pre-Columbian American Southwest has been viewed as a culture area distinct from Mesoamerica,” but recent discoveries challenge this long-held view. In the symposium, Southwest and Mesoamerican scholars “will re-examine the relationship of these two culture areas....”

Sponsored by the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C., the symposium will take place at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., on **September 20, 1914**.

Join my husband Lyle and me at what promises to be a most interesting meeting. For more information, see the Society’s web page. <http://www.pcswdc.org> 

GLYPH *Quotes* *I, even remain alone to write the sad tale....*


By Eric English

— Mormon 4:2 [LDS 8:3]

Moroni, who had just witnessed the slaughter of his father and all of his companions by the Lamanites, now had to face the realization that he was utterly alone in this world. Beginning in the fourth chapter of Mormon where Moroni took over recording from his father, we can gain a clear sense of his dread and sadness over the destruction of his people. We also see a glimpse into his feelings of loneliness where he mentions again in verse 6 [LDS 5] that he is truly alone. He continues to detail the account of the downward moral slide of the Nephites and of their destruction. His loneliness hits rock bottom as he describes that there is no one left in the land who knows the Lord, except for the disciples who tarried, but he didn’t even know whether they were still ministering “upon the face of the land” (Mormon 4:12 [LDS 8:10]).

It appears the human spirit longs to not be alone. This state of aloneness has often been listed among the greatest universal fears of men. If anyone ever had cause to feel alone, it would have been Moroni. We know from his later writing that he goes on to survive for many more years and eventually makes a very long journey north to bury the record that Joseph Smith, Jr., would ultimately be led to.

Thankfully, Moroni shares with us how he overcame those feelings of loneliness, and we can follow the same model. In the fifth chapter of Ether [LDS 12th], Moroni adds several verses of commentary i²the midst of the greatly condensed history of the Jaredite peoples where he shares about faith, hope, and charity. In verse 32 [LDS 12:32], he gives us further insight into the need to maintain a hope and eternal perspective of the future home that is waiting for us with the Lord. He then testifies that he has personally seen and encountered Jesus and talked with him face to face, and he implores us that we seek that same Jesus (verses 40-41 [LDS 39-41]). Through his testimony, we learn that if we know Jesus we never really are alone. Just like Moroni, we too can have the Holy Spirit to abide in us forever, if we have sought him and know him.

And now I would commend you to seek this Jesus of whom the prophets and apostles have written, that the grace of God the Father, and also the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record of them, may be, and abide in you for ever. Amen (Ether 5:41 [LDS 12:41]). 

Glyph Dwellers

Dwellers – to live and have a home in a particular place

The Adventures of Beezrom

By Mindy Mulheron

Illustrations by Aaron Presler

At first, it was hard to wrap my brain around Jesus actually being here, let me tell you! But when I realized what was happening, I began to listen closely. My best friend, my Savior, was standing before me giving advice. Pretty cool, huh?

Jesus confirmed what we've always known: that he is the only way to inherit the kingdom of God. Because of his sacrifice, because he was willing to do what he did, we are saved. I, Beezrom, can enter into the kingdom of God because Jesus paid the price for me. It's so hard to understand that someone could love me that much... I mean, who do you know that would do such an amazing thing? Who would give up so much for someone else?

He spoke for a long time and told us so many things. Jesus reminded us to be kind to each other and to do nice things for each other, because it pleases God when we love our friends and family. He reminded us that it's not good to be angry with others and that being angry can really hurt us. God wants us to be happy and joyful. When you feel angry, you need to pray and ask that he will help you find your joy again. He never intended for us to be sad and upset. Even if someone really hurts you, it's important to forgive them because when you forgive you will be blessed. Jesus wanted us to understand that God will never let us down when we do what he asks.

Jesus also challenged us to be generous and to not focus on the things we can get here, because the greatest gifts are in heaven with him. He didn't mean we should sit around and not work hard, but it's important to remember that we can't take things with us into the kingdom of God. God doesn't care about what toys or cool electronics we have; he's interested in how we live. Do we love him with all our heart? Do we try to do what he asks?

Then Jesus told us that when we ask, in faith believing, he will always answer us—even if he's not actually here with us. He said, "For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened." Do you know what that means?! That means that when we talk to God, he listens. Every time. All the time. When we seek him, he's waiting for us. He longs for us to talk with him—to spend time in prayer, telling him our



Hi, guys! Since I've talked with you, I've learned so much! Jesus is here! Teaching us! In person!

joys and concerns. Can you believe the creator of the universe actually wants to talk to us? That he actually waits, hoping we'll seek him? Wow! When I heard that, I felt so important and loved.

By this time, I was so full of thoughts I kind of got lost in my mind thinking about all I'd learned until—I noticed people moving around me. I looked up and saw people who were hurting make their way toward Jesus. Some were blind and some couldn't walk very well, but others were helping them as they moved toward him. And then I realized what was happening: Jesus was healing them! One touch and they were healed! These people were whole again and praising his name. I was filled with awe. How can I explain what it's like to witness someone see for the first time or stand up and walk because my Savior healed them? There aren't words to fully express the miracles I witnessed.

After Jesus healed the sick, he invited the children to come to him. They came—running and full of joy. In that moment, I longed to be a child—to be allowed to sit on the lap of my Savior. Then, when they had all come, he prayed for them. He blessed them one by one and, after the last child was blessed, he said, "Behold your little ones," and the sky was filled with angels! The angels descended from heaven and encircled all of us, all the while praising God and bearing record of his goodness and love for us.

Jesus spoke a little longer, and then they all ascended back into heaven. For a second, I felt sad—lost and alone in this world. But then I remembered all I had learned. I am here for a reason, and, although I am not able to physically see Jesus before me all the time, he's still with me. Always. And he's with you too. Don't forget: anytime you need to talk to him, he'll be there. In fact, he's waiting for you. Tell him all your troubles. Tell him all your joys. Share your life with him; let him be a part of it. Trust me, he won't let you down. He's always been there for me, and he'll be there for you too.

Alright, gotta go. There's work to do. Take care. See ya next time! ☺

Scriptural reference: 3 Nephi 5-8 [LDS 11-18] 

Make a list of all the things, good and bad, that you want to tell God, and then make sure you take time to tell him. Do this daily. Don't forget that he's waiting to hear from you!

Israel Tour—May 2-12, 2015—11 Days

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man, shall be accomplished.” ~ Luke 18:31

Make your plans now to join us!

Registration Form on Page 6.



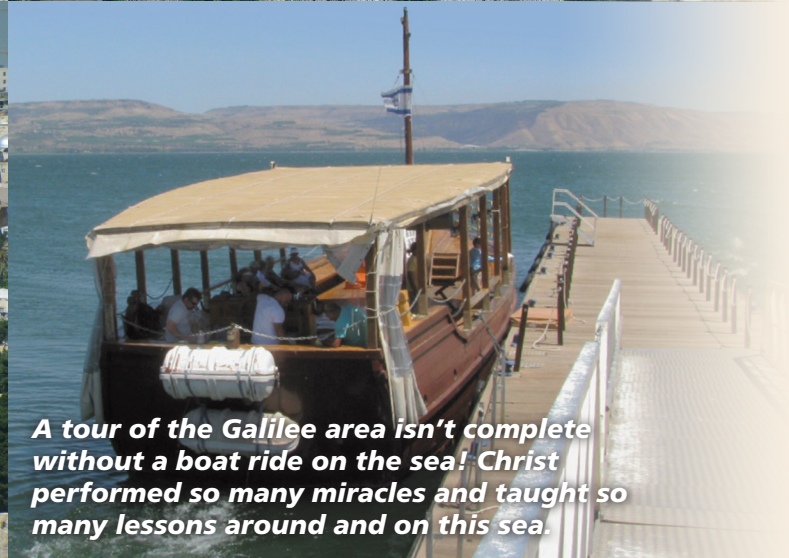
Jerusalem, both the old city (surrounded by the walls built at the time of the Crusaders) and the new—a never-to-be-forgotten sight!



The Golden Gate (“Repentance and Mercy”) in the Eastern Wall of the old city of Jerusalem is the only gate which enters directly onto the Temple Mount.



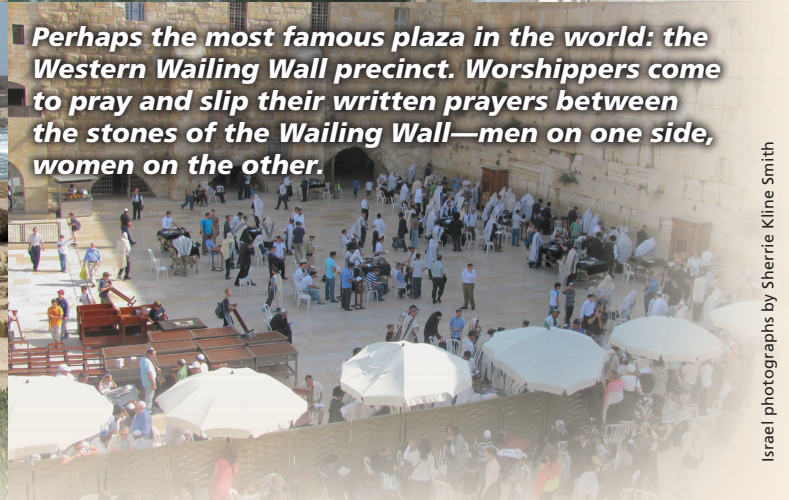
Jerusalem



A tour of the Galilee area isn’t complete without a boat ride on the sea! Christ performed so many miracles and taught so many lessons around and on this sea.



Caesarea



Perhaps the most famous plaza in the world: the Western Wailing Wall precinct. Worshippers come to pray and slip their written prayers between the stones of the Wailing Wall—men on one side, women on the other.

Israel Tour

May 2 through 12, 2015 — 11 Days

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Questions?

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REGISTRATION FORM

COSTS: Tour cost per person in double room: \$4,250 with 16 traveling (single supplement additional \$799)
(Actual tour cost remains close to the same price as the 2013 tour, but the airfare has increased.)

INCLUDES: Roundtrip airfare from Kansas City, hotels, breakfast and dinner in Israel, English-speaking tour escort, guides, entrance fees, local transportation (bus), baggage handling tips at hotels (one large bag per traveler), basic tips to driver, guides, and hotel staff

NOT INCLUDED: Things like lunches, telephone, optional travel insurance, and laundry and additional air taxes and fuel charges if they rise before we travel

LIQUOR or TOBACCO: Please refrain from using either when our group is together.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We urge you to purchase trip insurance. We will suggest ways to do so.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Deposits of \$500 per person due November 1, 2014 along with a completed registration form and a photocopy of your passport.

Final payment due February 1, 2015 after which no refunds are possible as prepayments have been made. (Deposits are refundable until February 1, 2015)

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*News from the
Archaeological World*

Glyph Quotes

The Adventures of Beezrom

Israel Tour—May 2015

*PSI's 501 (c) 3 Status
Reinstated*

GLYPH *Notes* PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE JULY/AUGUST 2014 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 4

PSI's 501 (c) 3 Status Reinstated

The governing board of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI) is pleased to announce that we have regained our status as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation exempt from federal income taxes. This means PSI can receive *tax deductible* contributions under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. The designation also makes possible receipt of tax deductible bequests, devises, gifts, and transfers. The official reinstatement notification from the Internal Revenue Service was effective April 23, 2014, but also *retroactive* to May 15, 2010.

PSI was among thousands of nonprofit corporations who lost their 501 (c) 3 designations after failure to file Form 990 in 2010. This form was not previously required for organizations with yearly contributions less than \$25,000, and it appears that written notification from the IRS of the new filing requirement and an impending change in status was not sent to many of these nonprofit organizations, including PSI. As soon as the PSI board became aware of the situation, they began working diligently to regain the exempt status.

It has been the desire of the board of PSI to make every dollar from our supporters count for both the organization and for the contributor. Tax deductible

status, therefore, becomes a win/win for all. We are grateful to those who have continued to support PSI throughout this difficult period. We look forward to sharing more truths and testimonies relating to The Book of Mormon in upcoming issues of *glyph notes* with the renewed tax break incentive for our supporters.

If you have not already done so, please take a moment now to update your subscription to *glyph notes*, PSI's newsletter. Individual donations greater than the suggested \$25 subscription help others who do not have the means to contribute. The additional donations also provide assistance for PSI representatives to attend seminars and conferences to access the latest research findings which relate to The Book of Mormon.

For your convenience, a self-addressed envelope is provided in this issue. Again, we thank each of you who have been faithful supporters of Book of Mormon research over the years. May we find 2014 the year that the promises in The Book of Mormon to a future generation come to fruition. ☺

~ Patricia J. Beebe, Vice President

