

glyph

notes

PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6
glyph notes is published bimonthly by the Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI), a 501(c)3 nonprofit research and education organization

PSI Celebrates 20 Years!!

By Sherrie Kline Smith

Twenty years ago Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI) published the first issue of its newsletter glyph notes. What a journey those years have been! I hope you will join me in reflecting back on these years and that you will rejoice in recognizing how the Lord has been moving

“with power and great glory” to validate The Book of Mormon as a true ancient record kept by people in the Land of Promise in the New World.



Our purpose is to share evidences from archaeology, epigraphy, and related areas in order to confirm the truth of The Book of Mormon with the hope of strengthening faith and assisting in turning that faith into knowledge.



The inaugural issue of glyph notes was published by PSI in November 1994.

time or inclination to research, analyze, and distribute these findings. But most of you *do* want to know!” Through the years PSI has worked to furnish this service by holding classes and lectures, sponsoring tours to Mesoamerica and Israel, and publishing the bi-monthly *glyph notes*.

The title of PSI’s newsletter, *glyph notes*, is a play on words based on the familiar study guide series used in academic circles called Cliffs Notes. Glyph sounds like Cliffs and is short for hieroglyph, the basic unit of the ancient Maya writing system found in Mesoamerica. We usually write *glyph notes* without capital letters because the Maya glyphs do not have capital letters. This idea is carried through in the two reoccurring columns of “glyph clips,” which provides short reports about breaking news relative to the study of ancient Mesoamerica or Israel, and “glyph quotes,” our inspirational column. The Maya glyphs on the front page, which have been a part of the publication since the first issue, are units of time or calendar

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PSI Celebrates 20 Years! (Cont. from Page 1)

glyphs that equate respectively to the 15th of the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Reflecting on these years, I realized that by reviewing some of the significant articles published in *glyph notes* we gain a greater appreciation of that “marvelous work and a wonder” brought forth in these latter days. Admittedly, it was difficult to choose only a few! But, the exercise of reviewing and selecting these articles has been especially uplifting. My faith in the truth of The Book of Mormon, with its wonderful testimony of Jesus Christ, was confirmed again in no uncertain terms. We have *no reason* to apologize for belief in this Scripture!

1994—November/December, Vol. 1, No. 1*, The Inaugural Issue

The newsletter began as a four-page publication with a double-sided insert. The main article was “Maya Glyphs Reveal Hebrew Roots.” The article “An Interview with PSI Officers” on pages two and three described PSI’s mission and goals. Some 18 years later, the editorial committee considered this article still pertinent, so we republished it in the September/October 2012 issue.

1995—May/June, Vol. 2, No. 3 and July/August, Vol. 2, No. 4

One of the exciting and perhaps profound advancements in deciphering the Maya hieroglyphs was the recognition that many of the ancient inscriptions in the Maya area of Mesoamerica were written in chiasitic style similar to many passages in The Book of Mormon. See the two articles “Poetry of the Inscriptions” and “Poetry of the Inscriptions: Part 2” in these two issues of 1995. A follow-up article appeared in the March/April 2013

*Because the first issue was published at the end of the year, we chose to designate the next issue, which came out in January 1995, as Vol. 2, No. 1. Therefore, volume one only has one issue and not six as subsequent volumes do.

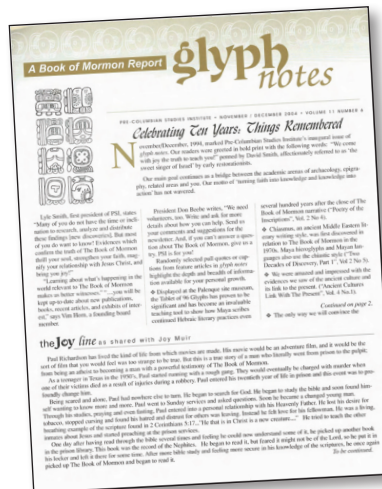
issue called “Nice Chiasmus!”

1996—September/October, Vol. 3, No. 5

Besides publishing *glyph notes*, members of PSI give lectures and hold classes around the United States. One of the most popular lectures is Glenn Scott’s “Easy Assumptions.” In his article “Do You Make Easy Assumptions?,” Glenn challenged us to re-examine ideas we had about The Book of Mormon that we “got from someone else and accepted without question, or ideas which seem too obvious to need investigation. However, the surprising fact is that many such assumptions *are not true!*”



A new design and an expansion from four pages to eight marked the first issue of 2001.



The November/December 2004 issue marked the newsletter's 10th anniversary.

1998—November/December, Vol. 5, No. 6

The landmark article “A Most Powerful ‘Proof’ of The Book of Mormon’s Authenticity” by Tim and Jennifer Raffety provided a good synopsis of the use of the Hebraic phrase “and it came to pass” that is found frequently in the Holy Scriptures, The Book of Mormon, and the Maya inscriptions. Glenn Scott’s excellent drawings illustrated the article. Over the years, Glenn’s artwork has appeared regularly in *glyph notes*.

2001—March/April, Vol. 8, No. 2

Lyle Smith, in his article “Lasting Evidence: Nakbe Ceramics Supports Events Related in The Book of Mormon,” wrote about excavations at Nakbe—most likely an early Mulekite city in northern Guatemala—that caused a major revision in Mayanists’ belief about the age of Maya civilization. Archaeologists formerly held the view that Maya advanced society began about A.D. 250 or 300, but the finds at Nakbe showed it emerged as a fully developed city between 600 and 400 B.C. This revision now matched The Book of Mormon timeline with the arrival of the Mulekites.

2002—November/December, Vol. 9, No. 4

Fay Shaw shared about the translation of glyphs on a Maya vase from the eighth century A.D. as “King Laman.” Few glyphs have been transliterated to directly match names found in The Book of Mormon, but this one was perfect! The city called

Lamanai has been known since the Conquest, but a person by the name of Laman hadn't been noted before. At present, two more names in the glyphs match two in The Book of Mormon. One is Mulek (or Muluc), the Maya name for one of their months, and the other is Yich'aak, another king name, that closely resembles the Hebrew pronunciation of Isaac which is *yits-chawk*. In the March/April 2003 issue, Glenn Scott also tells of the decipherment of "King Laman" in his book review of *Maya: Divine Kings of the Rain Forest*.

2004—January/February, Vol. 11, No. 1

During the early 2000s, the use of DNA to identify origins of ethnic groups received a lot of publicity. One study claimed no Native Americans came from the Middle East. In "Fingerprinting The Book of Mormon: Answering the DNA Critics," Don Beebe, a retired junior and senior high school science teacher, exposed the fallacy of that study and gave excellent advice on how to understand the use of DNA in regards to supporting or refuting the truth of The Book of Mormon. Cliff Herod's article "Science Versus Omniscience" in Vol. 11, No. 3 also ably addressed this question.

2004—March/April, Vol. 11, No. 2

A book of gold plates *with rings*, dating to 600 B.C., was unearthed in Bulgaria. Although numerous metal plates engraved with writing had been found by 2004, this was the first metal book of plates discovered that was held together by rings. See "Book of Gold Plates with Rings" on page one. For the first example of *scripture* written on metal, see "Tomb Treasures from the Time of Lehi" in the July/August 2012 issue.

2005—January/February, Vol. 12, No. 1

One of the most amazing archaeological discoveries during the past 20 years was the serendipitous finding of the San Bartolo murals in an unexcavated pyramid in northeast Guatemala that dated to around 100 B.C. This spectacular series of early Maya murals portrayed the most elaborate depiction of the Maya account of creation ever discovered and included some of the earliest examples of Maya writing. See "Exciting New Discoveries at San Bartolo" by Sherrie Kline Smith

and Shirley R. Heater.

2007—July/August, Vol. 14, No. 4

Lyle Smith reported on the 2007 Maya Meetings at the University of Texas-Austin in his article "Excavations Confirm Book of Mormon History in the Maya Area." New information about population changes along the Usumacinta River basin paralleled the three major population changes described in The Book of Mormon. In a somewhat similar article, "Sand of the Sea and Rising Suns" (March/April 2009), Lyle related more than 100 new sites had been discovered in the Calakmul biosphere. Accounts of further sites found in this biosphere appeared in the last two issues of *glyph notes*—"News from the Archaeological World," July/August 2014 and the "glyph clips" column, September/October 2014, page seven.

2010—May/June, Vol. 17, No. 3

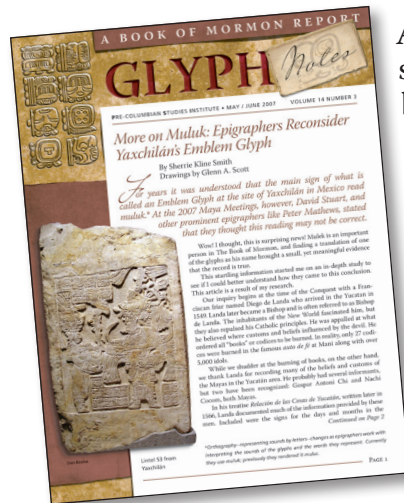
In "Discovering the Lost Worlds of The Book of Mormon: Sixty Years of Progress!," Shirley R. Heater commemorates the 180th-year anniversary of the coming forth of The Book of Mormon by assessing "the progress in evidences predicted in its [The Book of Mormon] pages since 1830."

2010—November/December, Vol. 17, No. 6

As decipherment of the Maya hieroglyphs progressed rapidly during the last 30 years, new understandings have come to light. One of these new insights was that the creation story engraved on Quiriguá Stela C, around A.D. 775, has the same basic elements of the creation account written almost 800 years later in the Quiché Maya document called the Popol Vuh. Equally important, the stela's creation account correlates more closely with the Inspired Version than the King James translation. "Maya Creation Texts Parallel the Holy Scriptures" explained these similarities. Other pertinent articles on this subject include "Maya Creation Texts" in the July/August 1998 issue, "Hansen and Crew Uncover Scenes from the Popol Vuh at El Mirador" in the November/December 2009 issue, and "Could God GI Be Christ?" beginning on page two of the May/June 2006 issue.

2011—July/August, Vol. 18, No. 4

Early in this century, a core group of LDS believers began promoting the controversial



Once more the newsletter's design changed, and glyph notes became a full-color publication with the May/June 2007 issue.

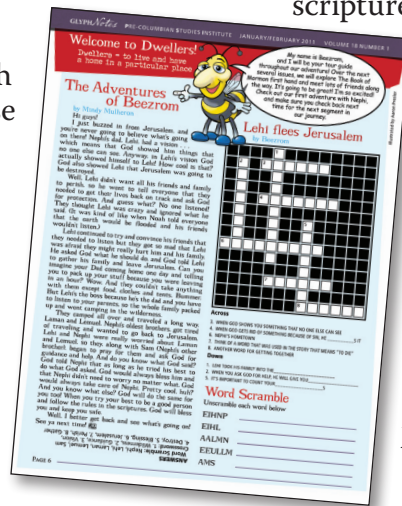
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PSI Celebrates 20 Years! (Cont. from Page 3)

Heartland (or Great Lakes) Model for the location of events in The Book of Mormon. In answer to that suggested model, several articles in *glyph notes* discussed the geography of The Book of Mormon. In her introduction to the series, Shirley R. Heater commented that the articles would “specifically provide abundant evidences that parallel The Book of Mormon through nearly 3,400 years of history in a Mesoamerican setting. Lyle Smith begins with 'And Account of those Ancient Inhabitants: Nephites.'” The two-part article, “Why Is Mesoamerica the Site of Book of Mormon Lands?” appeared in issues five and six. The first segment was written by Glenn Scott; the second one by Shirley Heater, Lyle Smith, and Sherrie Kline Smith.

2014—May/June, Vol. 21, No. 3

In his article “Does The Book of Mormon Provide Accurate Information about Israel at the Time of Lehi?,”



In January/February 2011 “The Adventures of Beezrom,” written by Mindy Mulheron and illustrated by Aaron Presler, made its debut!

Lyle Smith updated information about excavations that occurred from 1964 through 1984 at the site of Arad in Israel. He identified six cultural traits from The Book of Mormon that were corroborated by archaeological work at Arad and by two small silver amulets engraved with scripture (Numbers 6:24-26) and discovered in a Jerusalem tomb. (See the 2004, March/April information above for more about the scripture written on silver.) One of these six cultural/linguistic traits—the use of “and now”—was also discussed by Warren Bennett and Lyle Smith in two articles in the July/August 2013 issue beginning on page two.

Conclusion

In this short review of some amazing discoveries that support The Book of Mormon, it only remains to say that the Lord appears to be moving “with power and great glory” to show his words in The Book of Mormon are true (2 Nephi 15:13 and Moroni 7:37). It’s been an exciting 20 years!

What will the next 20 years bring? 

Note: For those who would like back issues, they are available on CDs from the Restoration Bookstore in Independence, Missouri. See the ad on page 6.

glyphclips
By Patricia Beebe

50,000 Artifacts Revealed under Tunnel at Teotihuacan, Mexico City


Daily Mail Online, October 29, 2014
<http://tinyurl.com/oezfjvd>

The first two feet into the entrance of a chamber at the end of the 340-foot tunnel under the Temple of the Feathered (Plumed) Serpent at the site of Teotihuacan outside Mexico City yielded a massive find of carved stone and wood, jade sculptures, obsidian blades, arrow heads, jewelry, and shells. The *Daily Mail Online* (see link noted above) published stunning photographs of some of the items, and Mexico’s National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) posted an excellent three-minute video on YouTube (youtube.com/watch?v=_Dqy57L_cME). Teotihuacan is currently dated as beginning around 100 B.C. and lasting until about A.D. 550-650 and is



one of Mexico’s most visited sites. Archaeologist Sergio Gómez Chávez, director of the Tlalocan Project: Underground Road at Teotihuacan, believes that the tunnel was the central element around which the rest of the site was built. According to Gomez, “We’ve been able to confirm all of the hypotheses we’ve made from the beginning,” adding that ongoing excavations “could yield more major

discoveries next year.” Though very little is known about Teotihuacan’s rulers to date, Gomez commented that “this was the most sacred place [and that] there is a high possibility that in this place, in the central chamber, we can find the remains [including a tomb] of those who ruled Teotihuacan.”

The 2000-year-old tunnel was discovered in 2003, but funding was not immediately available so excavation did not begin until 2009. When the entrance to the tunnel was located in August 2010, PSI reported about it in *glyph notes* on page seven of the September/October 2010 issue. 



glyph quotes

By Eric English

The voice of the Lord spake unto my father, by night, and commanded him, that on the morrow, he should take his journey into the wilderness. — 1 Nephi 5:10 [LDS 16:9]

Who among us can’t relate to what Lehi and his family were experiencing as they anticipated the beginning of an adventure into the unknown? The metaphor of a journey is one of the most common and most basic of human experiences. Every one of us has been on a journey of some sort, whether it’s simple daily journeys that we take from home to school or work, or perhaps it is our weekly journey to worship on Sunday, or maybe you’ve moved a great distance, or for many of us, we’ve had the chance to go on a vacation somewhere outside of our home town. In fact, as I’m writing this, I’m gazing at the Rocky Mountains, having just made a rather uneventful 600-mile journey to reach this destination.


Every journey has a few basic components. It has a beginning, a starting point, a place of origin. For Lehi and his family, it was Jerusalem. For us, it is most likely our home as well. Every journey also has a destination. As we consider Lehi again, it was the Land of Promise. As we consider ourselves, it can be a plethora of different locations that we have determined to travel to. Finally, there is the in-between, the places that we must travel through in order to reach our destination. This is where the real “heart” of the journey lies as we hike, drive, or fly down the paths that we travel on.

The famous philosopher George Santayana once said “what is life but a form of motion and a

journey through a foreign world.” And Os Guinness, a contemporary Christian thinker, stated “life is a journey, a voyage, a quest, a pilgrimage, a personal odyssey, and we’re all at some unknown point between the beginning and the end of it.”

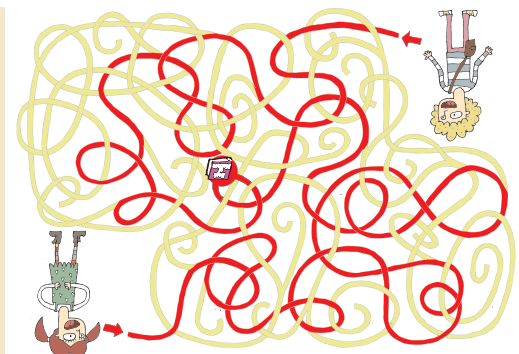
As we consider the journey of our lives, we know that our beginning was with God, for he has told us that he knew us before we were in our mother’s womb. As Christians, our destination is also clear. We long to return to our home with him for all eternity. The question to ponder is what we will do with the in-between.

We know that there will be mists of darkness to travel through. We know that there will be unknown paths calling for our attention and seeking to pull us off of the “straight and narrow.” We also know that there will be joys along the journey and that we don’t have to travel alone. Ultimately, this journey is designed to prepare us to live with God when we get there. Like the Jaredites, let us trust in God’s promise to carry us forth on this journey back to his heavenly promised land.

And who knoweth but the Lord will carry us forth into a land which is choice above all the earth. And if it so be, let us be faithful unto the Lord, that we may receive it for our inheritance (Ether 1:13-14 [LDS 1:38]). 

For the past two years, Kevin Anderson and Eric English have shared the responsibility of writing our column “glyph quotes.” We truly appreciate their willingness to contribute to glyph notes in this way. Kevin, though, has many commitments that require his attention, so Eric has agreed to assume full responsibility for the column.

We will miss Kevin’s insights into the Scriptures and his thought-provoking articles, but we wish him well in his endeavors. Thank you, Kevin, for taking the time to share with our readers selected Scriptures from The Book of Mormon!



Answer to Maze from page 7.

Dear Friends

Jesus said . . .

*I will not leave you comfortless;
I will come to you* (John 14:18).

The disciples who walked with Jesus did not fully understand what he meant by those parting words. But, Jesus meant them literally. Immediately after his crucifixion, Jesus returned to some who were weeping for him, “and it came to pass” that they were comforted. Seeing and touching the wounds inflicted upon their Savior produced for them a profound understanding of John 14:18.

The Book of Mormon, a second witness, records a beautiful testimony of Christ’s coming to a remnant whom God had led to a Land of Promise. Jesus’ words— *I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you*—also found residence within the hearts of the people who were gathered around him in this new land, “and it came to pass” that they, too, were comforted (3 Nephi 5:4-17).

It was one of the most rewarding and exciting times for Pre-Columbian Studies Institute (PSI)

to report in its inaugural issue of *glyph notes* that Maya scholar David Stuart deciphered a grouping of Maya hieroglyphs as “and it came to pass” (“Maya Glyphs Reveal Hebrew Roots,” *glyph notes*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1994). The phrase provides an important link between the Old World (where the people of The Book of Mormon originated) and the New World (to which these people were led). Another link with Israel was the identification of the use of chiasmus, a type of Hebrew poetry used



in the Bible and The Book of Mormon. (See “Poetry of the Inscriptions” in *glyph notes*, Vol. 2, Nos. 3 & 4, 1995.) Since 1994, issue after issue has provided timely and insightful correlations between Mesoamerican archaeology and The Book of Mormon.

Subscribers to *glyph notes* can look forward to reading about new and compelling archaeological discoveries that continue to provide tangible evidence of the truthfulness of The Book of Mormon. It has been our belief that truth does not exist without evidences—some are internal evidences, some are external evidences. PSI seeks to bring to light external evidences that support the truth of The Book of Mormon and its testimony that Jesus is the Christ.

Our mission is to search out and provide information to help turn faith in the truth of The Book of Mormon into knowledge. We encourage you to take one step further by turning that knowledge into action. Jesus has not left us comfortless and he will return. May we be numbered among those who will be found worthy when it is recorded, “and it came to pass” that Zion was redeemed.

Patricia J. Beebe,
Vice President

Please join with PSI in celebration of its 20th year in publishing glyph notes. PSI needs your financial support. If you have not already done so, won't you please take a moment now to update your subscription to the newsletter? A self-addressed envelope is provided in this issue for your convenience.



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Glyph Dwellers

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

The Adventures of Beezrom

By Mindy Mulheron
Illustrations by Aaron Presler

After Jesus had talked with us and missionaries had gone out to preach to the people, I got to work too. I started thinking about what I could do to help further the work of the gospel of Jesus Christ. After all, I'm just a little guy. I'm not big and strong like David or Ammon, who fought battles for Christ. And I can't travel the world telling people about Jesus, like Paul. I wanted to help so badly, but what could I really do? Then I had this thought: I can tell everyone I know about Jesus, and I can always do my best to follow his commands. That way, when they see me, they'll see his image in my countenance and wonder why I'm different. And then I'll have the chance to tell them why I'm different and give them a reason to be different too.

Do you ever feel like you have nothing to offer—like you're too small or unable to really do anything? I know how you feel. It is sometimes really hard to know what to do and how to act. That's why it's so important to read the scriptures—they're full of directions for how to live life—and, of course, to talk with Jesus personally. You can talk to him by praying, or in your mind, or even out loud. It doesn't matter how you do it. He hears you and he loves that you want to talk with him. You don't have to be Moses or Lehi for God to want to talk with you—he's just as excited to talk with you as he was to talk with them. And that's the most important thing to remember: he wants to hear from you.

You'll never be able to bring others to Christ until you've brought yourself to him. Have you done that? Really? Have you ever stopped for a moment and thought about what Jesus did for you and what that action means? You are spiritually alive only because Jesus died. For you. Because he loves you that much. So what should you do? You need to tell him thank you. You need to live your life to make him happy—to make his sacrifice valuable. How would you feel if you gave your friend one



Hi guys!
Last time I hurried off because there was so much work to do.

of your favorite toys but he never played with it? Wouldn't you be sad? Wouldn't you wish that he had understood how much it meant for you to give him that toy and to know that you wouldn't ever have it again, just so he would be happy? Jesus did that for you. He gave up much more than a toy so you could find happiness. Remember that. Remember also to live joyfully every day. Accept what Jesus has done for you and try to share your joy with others. Help them find the same thing. You don't have to be big and strong or travel the world to love people. And that is your most important calling and your most important purpose—to love others like Jesus loves you. With Jesus by your side, you too can be a Moses or Ammon or Paul. You can spread the good news of the gospel to people all around you, just by your example.

I'm so glad I got to talk to you today. Talking with you reminds me about what things are truly important because I have to stop for a minute and think. Make sure you take some time to stop and think too. Take care. See ya later! 😊

Share Jesus' Love Maze

One special way to love others like Jesus loves you is to share Jesus' story with your friend. Find a path through the maze to pick up your Book of Mormon, then find a path to share it with your friend. Hints: A path might pass under or over other paths and that's okay. Also, you may enter the maze with either the boy or the girl ... you decide!



Answer to Maze found on page 5.

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PSI Celebrates 20 Years!!

Glyph Clips

*50,000 Artifacts Revealed
under Tunnel at
Teotihuacan, Mexico City*

Glyph Quotes

Dear Friends

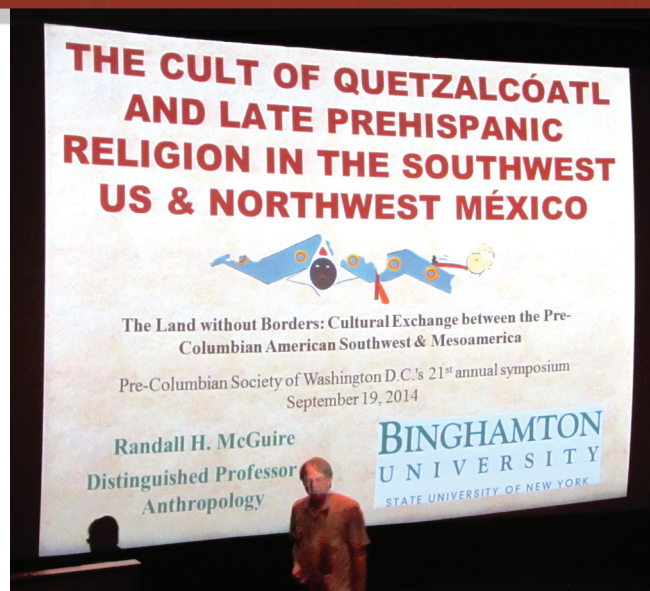
*The Adventures of Beezrom
Research*

glyphnotes PRE-COLUMBIAN STUDIES INSTITUTE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6

Research

Since the beginning of Pre-Columbian Studies Institute 20 years ago, the Lord has guided and helped us to provide information to strengthen faith in the divinity of The Book of Mormon. We do this through classes and our newsletter *glyph notes*. The backbone of these activities is research, which allows us to better understand the archaeology of Mesoamerica and Israel in order to see how it parallels with the history and cultural information provided in The Book of Mormon.

To accomplish this research, we attend conferences and seminars at major universities here in the United States and in Mexico that have expertise in Mesoamerican language, culture, and archaeology. Our research also includes acquiring



In September 2014, Lyle and Sherrie Smith and Dennis and Shirley Heater attended the conference in Washington, D.C., called Land Without Borders.

archaeological and linguistic textbooks, journals, and magazines. The present ongoing research requires an annual budget of approximately four thousand dollars a year. PSI needs your help in continuing this effort. As always, *your prayers and contributions, which make our research possible, are greatly appreciated.*

Contributions for research may be made by using the return envelope inserted in every other issue of *glyph notes*. Be sure to write "RESEARCH" in the memo line of your check. If you are unable to locate the

return envelope, any envelope addressed to PSI, P.O. Box 477, Independence, MO 64051, will work.

Together our efforts can strengthen faith in the divinity of The Book of Mormon.

Thank you,

Lyle Smith, President 