

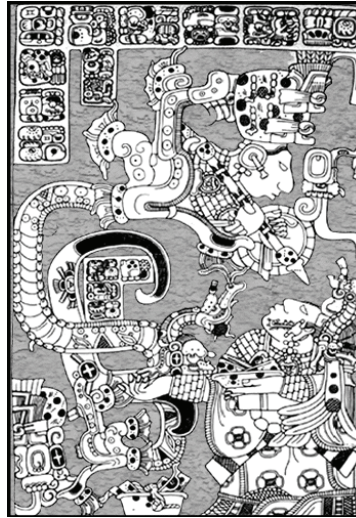
# Cumorah Messenger

## Yaxchilan: City of Zarahemla

By David B. Brown

Zarahemla—it is one of the major cities of the Book of Mormon and the location from which the heart of the ministry to the Lamanites and the “pre-manifestation” New World Christian religion originated. It is the city where the Jewish throne line continued in the New World through Mulek. It is the city of King Mosiah, King Benjamin, King Mosiah (the younger), Alma, the son of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. Here the last survivor of the Jaredite was made his way and lived among them for nine months until his death, but he lived long enough to tell his story. Here Mosiah the younger translated the twenty-four Golden Plates by use of the interpreters. It is the city where the lineage of Judah and the line-

age of Joseph were melded into one people who converted to Christ before he was born. So great was the



Lintel 25 of Building 23 at Yaxchilan. Believed to be a depiction of the vision the wife of Mosiah experienced concerning the continuation of the throne.

humble ministry of King Benjamin and the faith of his people that King Benjamin was inspired to give them a name (Mosiah 1:17-18) “*And moreover, I shall give this people a name, that thereby they may be distinguished above all the people which the Lord God hath brought out of the land of Jerusalem; and this I do, because they have been a diligent people in keeping the commandments of the Lord. And I give unto them a name, that never shall be blotted out, except it be through transgression, that they may never be blotted out of the book of life.*” Can it be possible to find this ancient city of such great spiritual importance?

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## Fulfilling the Covenant

By Tim Brown

The Book of Mormon makes twenty-three references to “fulfilling the covenant.” There are multiple statements indicating this will take place in the latter day. For example, I Nephi 4:27-29 “*And he meaneth that it shall come by way of the Gentiles, that the Lord may shew his power unto the Gentiles, for the very cause that he shall be rejected of the Jews, or of the house of Israel: Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; Which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, say-*

*ing, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*”

I must admit, I never thought much about “the covenant” as I read and studied the Book of Mormon. When I began to investigate the subject of “the covenant,” I was astounded at what I discovered. There are many covenants mentioned in the scriptures. In some places it states “I will covenant with thee;” in other places it talks about the covenant of inheritance; while in still other places the covenant of baptism and on and on. The covenant I am considering in this article is “the covenant” that was made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It is very specific and deserves further study.

I am convinced we don’t have a clue as to the importance of this covenant or even what it means, and yet I believe it is what the entire message of the restoration movement centers

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## Yaxchilan: City of Zarahemla continued

The evidence of such a city has led this search to the modern-day ruin of Yaxchilan.

Before Neil Steede was able to locate the City of Nephi in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico, he first found the City of Zarahemla by studying the King List that has been developed in Yaxchilan. Pouring over pages and pages of material, and visiting the location, Neil was able to sift through the data and find a remarkable parallel between the list of kings at Yaxchilan and the list of known rulers in the Book of Mormon City of Zarahemla. The items that first drew his attention were the rulers by the name of Shield Jaguar, whom he was later able to identify as Mosiah the elder and Mosiah the younger. The odd feature was that Mosiah was a foreigner who was made King of Zarahemla and Shield Jaguar II had that very same notoriety. Then other aspects came into play. The length of time on the throne, the name of the grandson ruler, the stela that indicated he had special ability to read languages, and that it was during his reign that a written language appeared in Yaxchilan. This very event is recorded in the Book of Mormon indicating that Mosiah could read unknown languages and that he taught the people how to read and write for their own language had become corrupt. As Neil investigated further he revealed one parallel after another that eventually led him to understand it was preposterous to think that these parallels were only coincidental.

What is remarkable is that the known history of Yaxchilan as brought to us through epigraphers reveals an even greater understanding of the Mulekite history than what the Book of Mormon provides. It is now understood that there were ten kings prior to Mosiah being made King of Zarahemla. The first king seemingly appears “out of no where” with a claim to royal pedigree. Archaeologists do not understand this part, but from the history given in the Book of Mormon we know that the claim to the royal throne comes from Mulek being a son of King Zedekiah, a sitting King of Judea, who by now was dethroned and residing in Babylon. From the archaeological history it is known that after the tenth king there was no son to carry on the kingship, so the responsibility fell on



*This map illustrates the geographic relationship of the highland city of Chinkultic (City of Nephi) and the lowland city of Yaxchilan (City of Zarahemla). The Lancantun River is a tributary to the Usumacinta River (River Sidon) that served as the main travel route between the two cities.*

the daughter. It is reasonable to assume here that this is where Mosiah came into the picture. Having been warned by God, he moved his people out of danger in the land of Lehi-Nephi and stumbled upon the City of Zarahemla, and apparently, the eligible daughter of King Zarahemla. With her marriage came the kingship and thus began a series of tenuous kingships that never quite met full approval with distant family members who held to the belief that the family line should never have gone to Mosiah—those dissidents later became known as the King’s Men, and they caused a lot of problems for Captain Moroni and crew. All of this information is traceable through the many stela, lintels, and stairway glyphs scattered throughout Yaxchilan and surrounding cities.

There are two items of pertinent interest to us today; the “sticky” situation created by Mosiah being made king caused the royal couple to be very careful as to how they conducted themselves and what they claimed to be true. Mosiah knew that he would have to “woo” the fence-sitters if

he was to keep the kingdom in tact, so he no longer continued the practice of changing the city name each time the kingship changed, as had been practiced for the previous ten kings. To honor the royal bloodline of the original kings he permanently named the city Zarahemla. This is information known by epigraphers; the city name never changed after the reign of Shield Jaguar II’s predecessor. And, the son of Mosiah and the daughter of Zarahemla bore the same name as the original founder of Zarahemla. We know that the son of Mosiah the elder was Benjamin. Therefore, the original king of the Mulekites was named Benjamin, not Mulek. As it turns out, Mulek, or M-L-K, is Hebrew for “King.” Therefore, in the Book of Mormon, we are given the title of the son of Zedekiah, not his actual name. The title of the Mulekites actual translates to “people of the King.” Mosiah also raised a temple in honor of the royal bloodline of his bride. That temple has three wonderful lintel carvings that are in excellent shape.

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## Fulfilling the Covenant continued

around. There is a series of dots that need to be tied together to complete this picture. I will attempt to scripturally connect the dots that our ancestral brothers left us and it will relate back to the article written in the first issue of the Cumorah Messenger concerning the brass plates.

There was a covenant made with Abraham as to his seed inheriting the land. The scriptures are full of references to this particular covenant; the conflict in the Middle East today centers around that specific promise. But that's not the covenant I'm going to address. I believe there is another covenant that is mentioned in the Book of Mormon that deals with knowledge—not land. Jesus speaks at length about it as do other prophets.

In I Nephi 4:28-29, Nephi is teaching his brothers the things that will transpire in the last days. Because of the knowledge that shall come by way of the Gentiles, the children of Abraham would be a blessing to the whole earth. *"Wherefore, our father hath not spoken of our seed alone, but also of all the house of Israel, pointing to the covenant which should be fulfilled in the latter days; Which covenant the Lord made to our father Abraham, saying, In thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed."* This is not about inheritance (land), it's about knowledge.

If we look in II Nephi 12:42 again the Lord is talking about knowledge, not land. *"But behold, there shall be many at that day, when I shall proceed to do a marvelous work among them, that I may remember my covenants which I have made unto the children of men, that I may set my hand again the second time to recover my people, which are the house of Israel;"* It is the knowledge of learning who God is that helps point the way back for the children of Israel.

Mormon is very plain in his explanation of the covenant that it is about the knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is (III Nephi 2:108,109) *"And as he hath covenanted with all the house of Jacob, even so shall the covenant wherewith he hath covenanted with the house of Jacob, be fulfilled in his own due time, unto the restoring all the house of Jacob unto the knowledge of the covenant that he hath*

*covenanted with them; And then shall they know their Redeemer, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and then shall they be gathered in from the four quarters of the earth, unto their own lands, from whence they have been dispersed: yea, as the Lord liveth, so shall it be. Amen."*

As Jesus was teaching the people in Central America, he was always pointing to the future and that future was the latter days. Read III Nephi 7:29-37, III Nephi 9:47-49, III Nephi 9:58-67, III Nephi 9:85-93, and III Nephi 10:1-5. Our Lord not only said things once, he said them multiple times. He wanted us to understand what He was going to accomplish through the Gentiles.

***"And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins."***

What was the covenant made to Abraham that was NOT about land or circumcision? Let's look in Genesis and see if we can find any dots to help us out. There is just one verse that gives us a clue. It's not very long and only a few words but it speaks volumes. Genesis 13:13 of the Inspired Version reads, *"And remember the covenant which I make with thee; for it shall be an everlasting covenant; and thou shalt remember the days of Enoch thy father;"* Enoch was not Abraham's father; Tara was. Enoch was his ancestor so in this case the Lord is telling Abraham to remember the covenant He (God) made with Enoch; it was an everlasting covenant. Wow, where can we find that? It's only in the Inspired Version. The Inspired Version of the Bible is critical to piecing the puzzle together. We could not do it without the additional understanding provided by its prophetic insights. We are the inheritors of that precious book. The Reorganization under Joseph Smith III is

the only church that has it as one of its official scriptures.

The everlasting covenant can be found in Genesis 7:67-70 IV. *"And the Lord said unto Enoch, As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfill the oath which I made unto you concerning the children of Noah. And the day shall come that the earth shall rest. But before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth. And great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; and righteousness will I send down out of heaven, and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men. And righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine own elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare; an holy city, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion; a New Jerusalem."*

The scriptures referenced in III Nephi mentions Zion and/or the New Jerusalem. The Lord is talking to Enoch and says that in the last days that righteousness He would send down from heaven (priesthood authority, angelic ministry?) and truth He would send forth from the earth (brass plates, sealed portion, other records?) to bear testimony of His Only Begotten and his resurrection. He states that righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood. A flood comes suddenly with little warning and is all consuming. It is this knowledge that will come as with a flood that will testify to the children of Israel who Jesus is. The testimony is in the written records of His covenant people. This will be the blessing to the whole earth.

Genesis 9:21-23 gives us further understanding that when Enoch's children finally embrace the truth and look upward then Zion will be a reality. *"And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon*

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## Fulfilling the Covenant Continued

it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant, which I made unto thy father Enoch; that, when men should keep all my commandments, Zion should again come on the earth, the city of Enoch which I have caught up unto myself. And this is mine everlasting covenant, that when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; And the general assembly of the church of the firstborn shall come down out of heaven, and possess the earth, and shall have place until the end come. And this is mine everlasting covenant, which I made with thy father Enoch.” But, the children of Enoch must first have possession of the truth. The records yet to come forth will bear testimony of that truth. “The covenant” is all about Zion and Christ’s kingdom on earth. The Nephites are a key component

in bearing witness of Jesus and his resurrection.

In conclusion, Moroni writes a revelation to us, pleading for us to believe and not reject the truth we have been given. Oh, what blessings will be unveiled if only we would believe!

*“...when thy posterity shall embrace the truth, and look upward, then shall Zion look downward, and all the heavens shall shake with gladness, and the earth shall tremble with joy; “*

Ether 1:109-112 *“Come unto me, O ye Gentiles, and I will shew unto you the greater things, the knowledge which is*

*hid up because of unbelief. Come unto me, O ye house of Israel, and it shall be made manifest unto you how great things the Father hath laid up for you, from the foundation of the world; and it hath not come unto you, because of unbelief. Behold, when ye shall rend that vail of unbelief which doth cause you to remain in your awful state of wickedness and hardness of heart, and blindness of mind, then shall the great and marvelous things which have been hid up from the foundation of the world from you; Yea, when ye shall call upon the Father in my name, with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, then shall ye know that the Father hath remembered the covenant which he made unto your fathers, O house of Israel;”*

Man says, “Show me, and I will believe.”

God says, “Believe, and I will show you.”

## The People We Love at Cerro Rabon By David B. Brown



How can one express the way that people of a different culture can touch the heart and provide meaning that is never fully conveyed through language? Yet, that feeling resides in the deepest portions of the soul and brings real joy. I think there are times that only a picture can express the sentiment.

It is the Spirit of Christ that unites us all and provides for the understanding that only hearts can enjoy when they are in the service of the Master.

We are blessed to be a part of their lives!



## Membership Now Available

If you are interested and feel so led to support our efforts through a membership then you can send the membership fee in check or money order made out to **Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc.**

The fee for membership is \$100 annually, and \$50 annually for seniors and students. This helps us to maintain our ongoing efforts to research and distribute the information.

Please send your payment to:

Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc.  
c/o David B. Brown  
311 N Lee Street  
Buckner, MO 64016

If you prefer to purchase your membership with a credit card, then you can access our website and send your funds through PayPal. Donations are always

welcome.

The success of our effort is greatly enhanced when there is sufficient funding. All of this can only happen with God’s blessing, but we feel that we must prepare ourselves to be ready when God says, “It’s time!”

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Issue 2  
2007

# Adventures In Archaeology



Hi. I'm Arty the Archaeologist.

I bet you want to know what that means.

Archaeology - ar·chae·ol·o·gy (är-kē-öl-ě-jē)

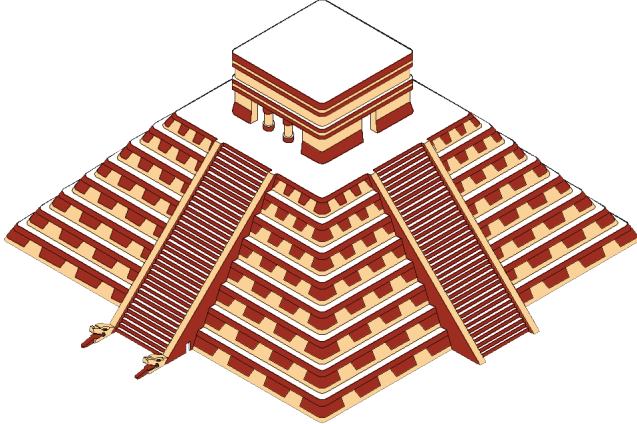
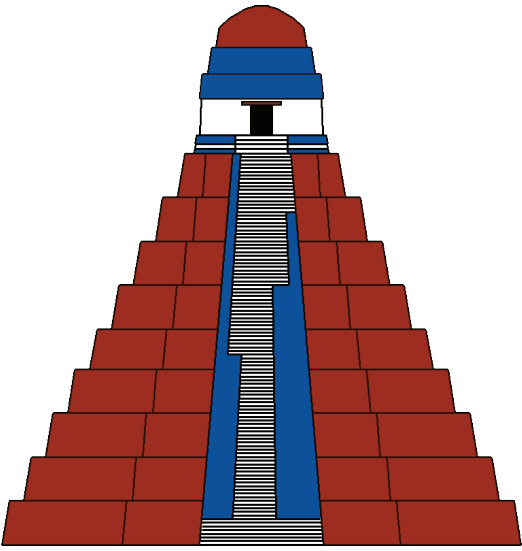
The study of ancient peoples through rediscovery, by excavating for their artifacts, inscriptions and monuments.


That really means I dig in the ground to see how really old dead people lived; what they made, what they wrote and what they built. Sometimes I make real cool discoveries.



One of my favorite places is Central America. The countries I like to explore are; Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. This part of the world is often called Mesoamerica. Central America is south of United States. Let me show you a map. Mexico is below the US and the other countries are in the lower right corner of the map.

The pyramids at Chichen Itza in Mexico and Tikal in Guatemala may have been painted something like this.



Take a look at all these pyramids.  Pyramids can be found in many places in the world. They have been found in India, China, South America, North America and Africa. The most famous are found in Egypt. They are very large and took many years to build. They were painted or decorated and some believe they were built to worship their God or gods.

Find the listed words below and look for 13 surprise things that can also be found in the new world.

- ANCIENT
- BUILD
- BURIAL CHAMBER
- DEATH MASK
- EGYPT
- HIDDEN TREASURE
- MEXICO
- PUZZLE
- PYRAMID
- TEMPLE,
- TIKAL
- TOMB
- WORSHIP GOD

Did you find Jesus while searching for the hidden words?

P	W	F	D	E	A	T	H	M	A	S	K	X	E
Y	M	H	U	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	B	R	J
R	E	W	E	S	B	E	G	Y	P	T	U	W	A
A	T	O	T	E	Z	L	O	R	B	S	R	J	D
M	A	R	I	M	L	P	X	Z	A	S	I	M	E
I	L	S	K	F	W	M	M	E	E	U	A	E	E
D	P	H	A	T	S	E	R	S	C	S	L	T	L
P	L	I	L	R	X	T	R	B	O	E	C	A	E
U	A	P	Q	I	N	O	G	O	D	J	H	L	P
Z	T	G	C	E	H	M	O	O	N	F	A	S	H
Z	E	O	D	L	P	B	U	I	L	D	M	V	A
L	S	D	K	S	U	N	X	T	L	N	B	D	N
E	I	A	N	M	B	C	A	N	C	I	E	N	T
H	I	E	R	O	G	L	Y	P	H	S	R	O	M

## 2007 Spring Expedition a Success By David B. Brown

Seven members of the Hill Cumorah Expedition Team traveled to Mexico for the 2007 Spring Expedition. This year was very different from years past as our resident archaeologist Neil Steede was not able to travel with the group this spring. But, having been provided with a very extensive briefing on what needed to be accomplished, the team set out to make the most of the adventure.

Upon arrival to Jalapa de Diaz, the team made contact with old friends and then ascended the side of the hill where base camp and cave camp were located in years past. Then the group climbed up the ledges above cave camp to once more

*This photo is of the hill that has become affectionately known as Cumorahcita, as seen from the open field next to the stela on the south side of Cerro Rabon.*



verify that there were no caves that had been missed. There were none to be found.

The next item on the agenda was the in-depth investigation of the stela mound. With tape measure and GPS in hand the group then explored and mapped the area immediately surrounding the stela mound, and they discovered that the dimensions of the mound fit the classic dimensions of Maya design. A trip through the jungle above the stela soon proved that any pathway from the stela to the southern top of Cerro Rabon was a much more difficult route than anticipated as the pathway became very steep and ran into a sheer wall. Any future efforts to make this journey will require a different angle of approach.

While coming down the slope from the stela the team members were able to capture a few good photos of the small hill in

the center of the bowl on the south side of Cerro Rabon. This hill captured the interest of the group last year and was one of the main objectives for exploration this spring. A day later the group was on this hill we have dubbed Cumorahcita (Spanish slang for “Little Cumorah”). Once the team exited the truck they were met by a shepherd who, without provocation, offered up some very interesting information about this hill. He stated that the peak to the north had many ancient “stones of the dead,” while the peaks to the south had “four noses” and many snakes. The team was intrigued and spent about forty-five minutes doing some cursory exploration, but then opted to come back another day once they had gained official permission to be on the hill.

Once permission for land access was granted the team climbed the north peak, walking past an old colonial graveyard on the way to the top. But, once on the top it was obvious that the peak of the hill had been altered by the erection of stones to create walls and an artificial promontory that would work ideally as a place to coordinate a battle. In fact, members of the team had the unmistakable experience of this being the very hill where Mormon made his lament for the thousands of

dead he surveyed on the battlefield as the enemy withdrew to their camps. From this hill, one can see twenty miles to the east—the direction from which the Lamanites likely made their approach and withdrawal as the rest of the terrain to the north, west, and south were mountainous and the slopes are very steep. Standing on top of this mountain provides a 300 degree range of view, and a hope for escape to the west if the battle doesn’t go well for the Nephites. It didn’t go well, but the size of the Lamanite army was so massive and the onslaught so effective that the Nephites had no time to retreat through the valley to the west. Viewing the typography of this valley made the reality of the battle a sobering experience. It is all too easy to understand how these army divisions must have fallen and how completely empty Mormon must have felt to observe the total annihilation of his people.



*The artificial mound on top of Cumorahcita*

The team then explored the slope of the hill located to the north of the peak and they uncovered a very long section of stone walls that appear to have the same type of construction as the wall found on the stela mound. However, to make this a firm determination will take more research. The team was able to take several measurements of the hill and make arrangements for a return trip for further exploration.

While it was not covered in this article, there was a series of testimonies of the power of the Spirit of God working with this people as we endeavored to move out in faith and minister. There is a much more in-depth report of the 2007 Spring Expedition available on the web at:

[www.hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com](http://www.hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com).



*A portion of an eighty-foot stone wall found on the north side of Cumorahcita.*

**We're on the web at  
www.hillcumorahexpeditionteam.com**

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*The Hill Cumorah Expedition Team, Inc is a Missouri not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the study, research and dissemination of information as it pertains to the Book of Mormon. Our primary focus is to research and assemble archaeological and other related information to help establish the historical feasibility of the Book of Mormon.*

## Yaxchilan: City of Zarahemla Continued

One of them illustrates that she has accepted the religion of her husband (Mosiah), and that she is made a High Priest. But, this priesthood depiction is located on the back side of a stela that is barely able to be seen because they apparently struggled with the same issues that we struggle with today.

Additionally, the ruins at Yaxchilan are set on a rising slope that runs westward from the river level on the Usumacinta River (River Sidon) up the hill, through a labyrinth, past several beautiful buildings, terraces, and temples, crowning the top with a foundation that appears to have once been the setting for a large temple constructed of wood and measuring about fifty feet by one hundred feet. Something along the line of King Solomon's Temple dimensions as the Book of Mormon indicated was built in Zarahemla. And, next to it is another foundation that appears to be perfect for the erection of a tower, similar to one that was built for King Benjamin so he could address his people as they gathered in their tents. Even more



*Lintel 24 in Building 23 at Yaxchilan. This is believed to be a depiction of the wife of Mosiah accepting the religion he is offering.*

compelling is that this hilltop overlooks a natural amphitheater terrace located to the south and east of the temple. Sound testing done indicates that it is reasonable that a person with a hefty voice can easily be heard throughout the plateau. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 people can be fit into this amphitheater.

There is an abundance of information that we are not able to place here because of space constraints, but the evidences are truly overwhelming. We are confident that time and continued investigation will reveal information that will only strengthen the parallels between the history of Yaxchilan and the City of Zarahemla.

Two important Book of Mormon sites have now been located with solid evidences that fit geographically and historically. We are sincerely thankful for the efforts made by all professionals—archaeologists, epigraphers, geologists and history buffs. All have contributed to this fascinating body of information.