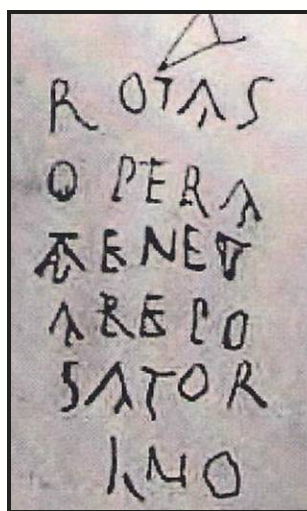


The Sator Square

By Neil Steede © 2011

The project that has absorbed most of my time as late is called The Mayan Magi Mission which asserts that the three Magi of nativity lore were from the Maya lands of Mesoamerica, and in recent months I have researched and determined that the Revelation of the Magi manuscript was also written by these men.

One of the unique features of the Magi manuscript is a very large cryptogram, the research for which has now led me to an encounter with a well-documented cryptogram known as the Sator Square. Many researchers consider this cryptogram to be very early Christian. In fact, it is so early that others have chosen to classify it as something from the Mithras religion instead of Christian. The earliest known Sator Square is found inscribed in two different locations in Pompeii just before the city succumbed to Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. This is what causes concern among scholars; if the Sator Square is truly Christian



This Sator Square is found on a doorjamb in a Christian owned bakery in Pompeii. It predates 79 AD.

then it had only about 30 years to travel around the Mediterranean Sea from Israel to the west side of Italy to reach Pompeii. For most scholars this is not enough time for the migration of this icon.

The Sator Square is composed of 25 smaller squares placed in a 5 by 5 arrangement.

Each of the 25 squares contains a letter, thus each of the five rows of five letters each render a five-letter word. Those five-letter words are SATOR, AREPO, TENET, OPERA and ROTAS. The words are fit into the larger square in such a way as to create a palindrome. True palindromes are extremely rare and it is believed that the Sator Square is the only Latin language five-letter word palindrome in existence.

By around 230 AD the Sator Square had traveled to the edges of Roman Empire expansion, even as far west as Hadrian's Wall in Manchester, England. Sator Squares have been found in several locations throughout Western Europe

Lead Plates Found in Jordan

By Terry Scott

On March 3rd 2011, a metallurgist named Robert Feather told the Jewish Chronicle he was trying to authenticate a collection of 20 metal books in the possession of an Israeli Bedouin farmer. Hassan Saeda stated his great-grandfather found them in a cave a century ago. The *Jewish Chronicle* also stated that a piece of leather from the same find had already been carbon dated to 2,000 years ago.¹ To dampen the excitement of this discovery, the IAA (Israel Antiquities Authority) doubts the authenticity of the find. They state these books contain a "mixture of incompatible periods and styles without any connection or logic. Such forged motifs can be found in their thousands in the antiquities markets of Jordan and elsewhere in the Middle East"²

This sounds like the end of the matter, they're fake right? Looking closer into the situation we find conflicting information.

On March 22nd 2011, David Elkington, an archeologist, issued a press release about

a collection of 70 ancient books found in Jordan. These books had been found in a cave five years earlier and smuggled into Israel. The Jordanian government considers these plates *their* property and want them back.³ Israel has made no effort to return the plates, claiming they are fake and have been in their country for 100 years. Jordan claims they are genuine and were taken from Jordan illegally five years ago. Many are concerned that under such pressure, the current owner may destroy them or sell them on the black market.³

The director of the Jordan's Department of Antiquities, Ziad al-Saad, states the

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Lead Plates Found in Jordon continued

books might have been made by followers of Jesus in the decades immediately following his crucifixion. "They will really match, and perhaps be more significant than, the Dead Sea Scrolls," says Mr. Saad.⁴

"The hoard consists of up to 70 ring-bound books (codices) made of lead and copper. Many of them are sealed on all sides. Scrolls, tablets and other artifacts, including an incense bowl, were also found at the same site. Some of the lead pages are written in a form of archaic Hebrew script with ancient messianic symbols. Some of the writing appears to be in a form of code."³

One of the only lines of texts to be translated from the books says "I shall walk uprightly."⁵ Several scriptures refer to walking uprightly. Genesis 17:1-IV; Psalms 15:2, 84:11-KV&IV; Proverbs 2:7, 10:9, 15:21, 21:18-KV&IV; Micah 2:7-KV&IV.

Dr Margaret Barker said: "The Book of Revelation tells of a sealed book that was opened only by the Messiah. Other texts from the period tell of sealed books of wisdom and of a secret tradition passed on by Jesus to his closest disciples."³

The team studying the plates is led by David Elkington, a British scholar of early Christianity and ancient religious history. The team includes Dr. Margaret Barker, Co-founder of the Temple Studies Group and former President of the Society for Old Testament Study, and Professor Philip Davies, Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies at Sheffield University and an authority on the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Margaret Barker states "We do know that on two occasions groups of refugees from the troubles in Jerusalem fled east, they crossed the Jordan near Jericho and then they fled east to very approximately



Close-up of the raised markings and lettering on the lead plates.

where these books were said to have been found...[Another] one of the things that is most likely pointing towards a Christian provenance, is that these are not scrolls but books. The Christians were particularly associated with writing in a book form rather than scroll form, and sealed books in particular as part of the secret tradition of early Christianity."⁴

Philip Davies says the most powerful evidence for a Christian origin lies in plates cast into a picture map of the holy city of Jerusalem. "As soon as I saw that, I was dumbstruck. That struck me as so obviously a Christian image," he says. "There is a cross in the foreground, and behind it is what has to be the tomb [of Jesus], a small building with an opening, and behind that the walls of the city. There are walls depicted on other pages of these books too and they almost certainly refer to Jerusalem." "It is a Christian crucifixion taking place outside the city walls," says Mr. Davies.⁴

Professor Davies also states: "My own scrutiny suggests to me and to several of my colleagues that the form of the



Here is an example of one of the larger volumes with many plates bound together by three large rings. A faint image of a menorah can be seen on the page to the left.

archaic Semitic script corresponds well to what was used in the era 200 BCE-100 CE. The codex format of the documents is also known to have been adopted by Christians from about the first century CE. However much of the writing appears to be in code and many of the images are unfamiliar. The possibility of a Hebrew-Christian origin is certainly suggested by the imagery and, if so, these codices are likely to bring dramatic new light to our understanding of a very significant but so far little understood period of history."³

Some additional observations by the



Above is an example of the size of the plates as well as the way they are bound together with rings. Some of them have rings all the way around the book that literally seal them shut.

team include:

- The codices show many symbols of the Feast of Tabernacles, Sukkot, which was associated with the enthronement of the ancient Davidic kings in Jerusalem, and later with the coming of the Messiah.³
 - There are clear images of the menorah (the seven branched lamp), leafy branches and etrogim, the large citrus fruits used at Tabernacles.³
 - There are also fruiting palm trees, well known from coins of the late second temple period and the time of the Bar Kochba war.³
 - There are blocks of paleo-Hebrew script, which could be from the Hasmonean period, 2nd-1st century BCE, but the experts consulted to date believe these to be in code.³
- Only preliminary tests have been made on the plates so far, but the findings are:
- The collection appears to be of mixed provenance. But initial metallurgical tests indicate that some of the books made of lead could date from the first century CE/AD, based on the form of corrosion which has taken place, which experts believe would be impossible to achieve artificially.³
 - Conducting tests on two samples of

The Sator Square continued

including Syria, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria and Hungary. In all cases it is associated with Christian sites and it has never been found at a Mithras site unless that site was later used by early Christians. Therefore, it certainly appears to be Christian.

The accepted translation of the Sator Square is problematic. Just as all of the above information can be found on Wikipedia, so can the translations of each word.

Sator—sower, planter, founder, progenitor (usually divine) originator.

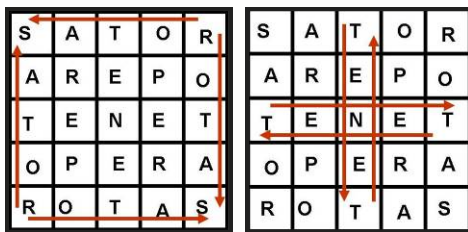
Arepo—(*arrepo*) (I) creep/move stealthily towards; also trust, or likely an invented proper name; its similarity with *arrepo*, from *ad repo*, “I creep towards” may be coincidental.

Tenet—hold, keep; comprehend; possess; master; preserve.

Opera—(a) work, care; aid, service, (an) effort/trouble.

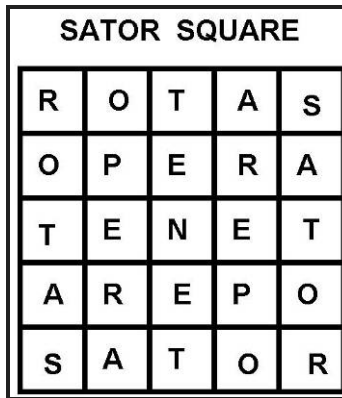
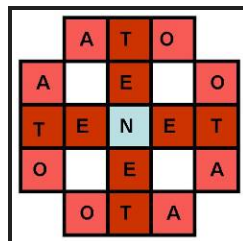
Rotas—(*rota*) wheel, rotate; (*roto*) (I) whirl around, revolve, rotate.

And from these word identifications the translation of the Sator Square reads as follows; “The farmer, Arepo, holds (and) works (his) plow.” While grammatically correct in Latin, the sentence is essentially nonsensical so why is this square related to Christian sites only? Does an alternate reading exist? Allow me to first reiterate several accepted observations.

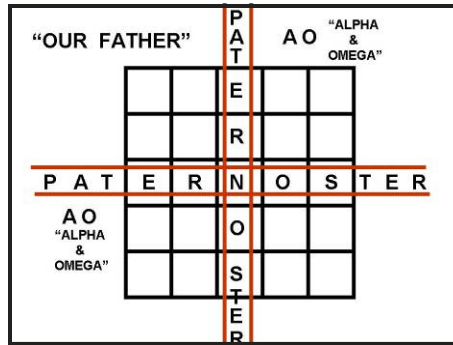


All five words may be read left to right, right to left, up to down and down to up. TENET is an anagram and its first and last letters are Ts which is a type of cross. In fact, the words TENET form a cross (plus sign) on the face of the square. Each T cross bar is flanked by an A and an O that render, “Alpha and Omega; the first and the last.” Moreover, that arrangement creates a Greek cross.

At the center of the Greek cross is an N which is Aramaic for “fish.” Man is the fish who is sought after by the Fisher of Men (Christ).



If all of the letters of the Sator Square are used it creates the crosswords of “Pater Noster” which translates as the first words of the Lord’s Prayer; “Our Father.” When creating this crossword there are two As and two Os left over; one Alpha and Omega for each “Our Father.”

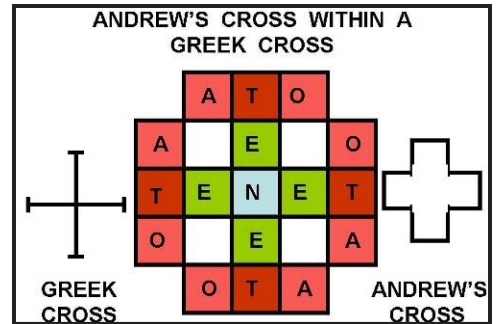


All of the above is essentially all available thru Wikipedia on the internet. However, as I viewed the Sator Square I realized that I could see what I believed to be more. It appeared as though the Sator Square was very similar to the cryptogram from the Revelation of the Magi. The following is my opinion of concepts imbedded in the Sator Square. Many of the aspects about to be discussed strongly imply that the Sator Square is cross-cultural, cross-linguistic, and possibly cross-dimensional. I will begin with

Greek aspects found in this Latin cross.

Andrew’s Cross and the Greek Cross are both Greek and the Andrew’s Cross can be found within the Greek cross. The Andrew’s Cross is usually depicted as a

hollow plus sign that contains the same Aramaic “fish” at the center as the Greek cross because it is the center of the Greek cross. What makes it stand out specifically

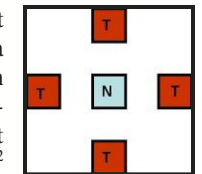
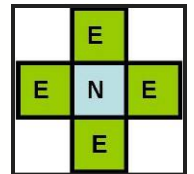


as an Andrew’s Cross is that the center five squares seem to stand out because the outer four squares all have the letter E. These aspects make the cross both cross-linguistic and cross-cultural.

The Es are most intriguing, but what could they mean by themselves? I can find no Middle Eastern language in which they carry any special significance. However, in the Maya language the sound of the letter E is used as a topic marker.¹ Could it be possible that Maya linguistic influence is embedded here? If the Magi were Mayan, then yes, it might be possible. The Es are positioned correctly to imply that man (the fish) is the center and the main topic, and

that specific expression of belief is both Gnostic Christian and Maya Christian for “man” is the topic at hand. This may seem a bit far-fetched, but the Sator Square’s appearance in the Middle East does fit chronologically with the Mayan Magi visitation to the baby Christ child. And there is more evidence still.

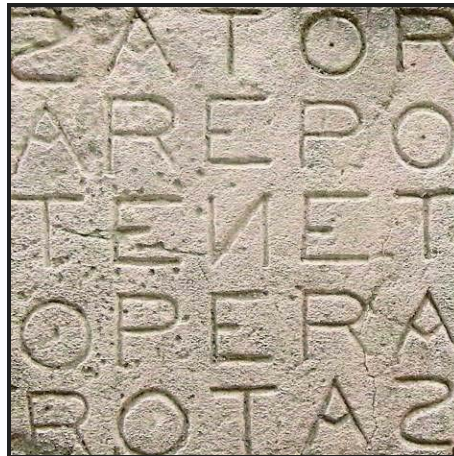
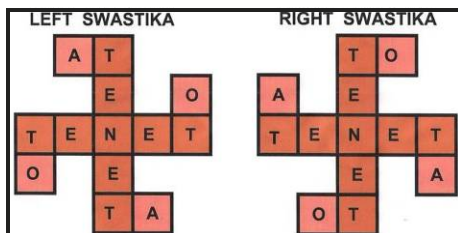
The fish and the four Ts surrounding it form what is called a quincunx. In Mayan iconography the quincunx is used to depict the Law of Center² which states that the universe was created for the perfection of man. The outer four points of the quincunx are used to denote the four cardinal directions with man in the center. While I agree that the implied Mayan concepts do not prove that the Maya were involved it may imply it. The quincunx was used



The Sator Square continued

throughout the Middle East, though as far as I know, no specific reason is given as to why the Middle East used it or of its particular origin. It also may be coincidental.

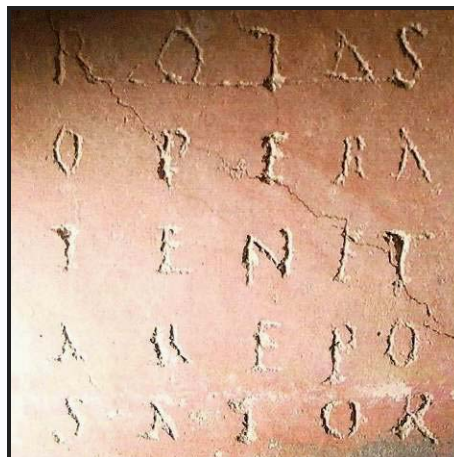
There are other cultural traits to consider that may be important, an example is the Swastika. Yes, the sign that Hitler made infamous had been a good luck charm for centuries in India. There it was used to depict the four seasons of the Ursa Major constellation (the Big Dipper). This constellation was also important to the Maya.



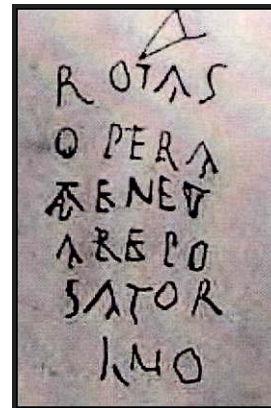
Above: This Sator Square is found in France.

Right: This version was found on a doorjamb in Pompeii, Italy.

Below: This example is found on Hadrian's Wall in Manchester, England.



TRANSLATION	
SATOR	SOWER, PLANTER, PROGENITOR (<i>USUALLY DIVINE</i>); ORIGINATOR.
AREPO	(ARREPO) (I) CREEP/MOVE STEALTHILY TOWARDS; ALSO TRUST OR LIKELY AN INVENTED PROPER NAME. IT'S SIMILARITY TO "ARREPO" MAY BE COINCIDENTAL.
TENET	TO HOLD, KEEP; COMPREHEND; POSSESS; MASTER; PRESERVE.
OPERA	(A) WORK, CARE; AID, SERVICE; (AN) EFFORT/TROUBLE.
ROTAS	(ROTO) WHEEL, ROTATE; (I) WHIRL AROUND, REVOLVE, ROTATE.



and highlighting the spiritual definitions in red, this new translation renders, "God (the Father) says, 'I move stealthily, in an effort to preserve my creations (wheels).'" One suggestion interprets the plural wheels

as a reference to spheres.³ This certainly fits with the concept of "creations" as in temporal creation and spiritual creation. This concept is consistent with Gnostic or Mayan theology, and if this square was invented by the Magi then it may have its origins with the Maya instead of the Gnostics as proposed by some scholars. But, there is still more.

Since the Sator Square is based on numerology (geometry), it seems that some form of numerological aspect could be built into the square. For that to be true the letters need to be converted to numbers, but using what format? There are several possibilities. I will attempt the conversion using several alphabets in the order given here as Latin, Greek, modern English, and Hebrew. The three ancient alphabets used letters of their alphabets to create numbers, but in the case of modern English I will assign numbers to the letters. The modern English alphabet is being used as an object lesson.

In each case a Sator Square will be displayed with the letters of the alphabet that have numeric values highlighted in red, then one or more charts will be displayed illustrating the numeric values assigned to each alphabet letter. This will be followed by a Sator Square whose

There are a few letter squares we have not yet considered such as the letters S, R and P. The S-R might be an important clue to the creators of the Sator Square; this might stand for "Shir" which is the name of the homeland given by the Magi in the Revelation of the Magi. Of course, this is based on the assumption that S-R is read from the outer edge inward just as with the other words.



There are more clues available within the Sator Square. Note the pictures of the squares from France, England and Pompeii. The last two begin with the word ROTAS with SATOR placed at the bottom. Why? In these it appears that the accepted translation about the farmer Arepo and his plow would be correct because a plow is drawn above the top line that contains ROTAS. But, why write the sentence upside down? It seems that this is an indication that one should look deeper into the sentence. That is to say, read it backwards or look at it in another way. The first example shown has good grammar, but the reversed ones do not. Further, I know of no inscription that reads from the bottom up. Yet, this reversal is commonly found in Sator Squares. Also

note that the first of the three examples, though written correctly, has the Ss reversed. Yet, it is the best rendition of the three stones. I simply do not believe that the ancients were that sloppy or lazy, yet my colleagues ignore these clues.

While the reversed Ss might be a tool employed by the artist to make sure that the observer sees the palindrome, the ROTAS squares imply there is more. Could the ROTAS squares be focusing one to look for the opposite or reversed reading? If so, what would that be? A reversal of what? Since these inscriptions are always associated with locations of spiritual meetings then that seems to be a clue. That is to say, read the spiritual meaning not the temporal meaning. I then try to read the sentence with spiritual eyes. Returning to the word translations

The Sator Square continued

letters have been replaced by their numeric values. Finally, an attempt will be made in each case to “read” any cryptic messages hidden within the Sator Square numeric code.

Latin

Of the letters depicted on the Sator Square there is only one that holds any value in Latin and even that one is debatable. However, there is no need for debate since the letter in question is O. Classical Rome did not use a zero, and there is some debate as to when the zero began to be used. As seen in our highlighted Latin letter numeric Sator Square only the Os are highlighted. Therefore, there is no hidden message within the Sator Square as far as Latin is concerned.

ROMAN NUMERIC VALUES

			0	
				0
0				
	0			

Greek

All letters in the Greek alphabet have numeric values assigned to them therefore the entire Sator Square depicting the Greek alphabet (in Latin letters) is highlighted red. Then a Sator Square is shown with those values replacing the letters within that square. When the Greek numeric values are added and then resubmitted as Greek letters one can see that all five resulting words are meaningless babble in the Greek language.

S	A	T	O	R
A	R	E	P	O
T	E	N	E	T
O	P	E	R	A
R	O	T	A	S

GREEK NUMERIC VALUES

6	1	300	70	100
1	100	8	80	70
300	8	50	8	300
70	80	8	100	1
100	70	300	1	6

6	1	300	70	100	= 477
1	100	8	80	70	= 259
300	8	50	8	300	= 666
70	80	8	100	1	= 259
100	70	300	1	6	= 477
477	259	666	259	477	

The single possible exception to that rule is the middle line TENET. The resulting sum is 666. In a curious carry over from Egyptian “666” normally results in a message reading “S-S-S,” but the Greeks had a special take on this series as they related it to the Egyptian Goddess of Isis. Therefore, in Greek the only resultant message would possibly be “Isis.” It

seems obvious that the “Isis” factor is simply coincidental. This is especially true since there is no other Greek numerology message within the Sator Square.

Before the search for secret messages is begun with the Hebrew Kabala, I want to first demonstrate that the Hebrew Kabala exercise may be meaningless. This will be demonstrated by using the modern English alphabet to show how easily coincidences can happen. It is obvious due to a separation of many centuries that the modern English alphabet was not a consideration when the Sator Square was designed for the English language did not exist. However, this exercise is done to demonstrate to the reader as to how a coincidence can “fog” the vision.

Modern English

The Sator Square letters are all found within the modern English alphabet. This is due to the fact that the modern English alphabet essentially uses the Latin alphabet as its own (I will not discuss letters such as “J” at this point). In modern English numbers are written in Arabic script, therefore the modern English alphabet has no numeric value assigned to its letters as do many ancient alphabets such as Latin, Greek and Hebrew. To correct this

ENGLISH NUMERIC VALUES

19	1	20	15	18
1	18	5	16	15
20	5	14	5	20
15	16	5	18	1
18	15	20	1	19

19	1	20	15	18	=73
1	18	5	16	15	=55
20	5	14	5	20	=64
15	16	5	18	1	=55
18	15	20	1	19	=73
=	=	=	=	=	
73	55	64	55	73	

problem I will assign numeric values to the modern English alphabet. The letter A will equal 1, B will equal 2 and so forth down to Z that will equal 26. Those numeric values will be placed in the Sator Square. When those values are added by rows and/or columns one finds three sums; 73, 55, and 64. If those values are changed back to letters the results are G-C, E-E, and F-D all of which have no apparent meaning. However, it is interesting to note those three numbers, when broken down to single digits and then added together, all equal the number 10.

I believe that this event is not mean-

ingful and that it is coincidence. Not only is there no meaning to be extracted from the series of 10, but even 30 or 50 provide no satisfactory result. Therefore, there is no secret message in English in the Sator Square. However, you can be sure that someone will try to manufacture one.

The Hebrew Kabala

Before I begin on the Hebrew Kabala it is important for the reader to understand how easily the Hebrew Kabala may be used on an item like the Sator Square. The Hebrew Kabala not only gives numeric values to all of the Hebrew letters (as they also do in Greek), but the Kabala goes a step further and assigns specific conceptual meanings to certain numbers. Those two factors make Kabala messages easy to extract. Because of the generic attachment of concepts to the numbers no grammatical rules are really needed. Moreover, all of the concepts are religious which allow them to be tied together fairly easily.

Outside of the ease with which the Kabala may be applied to an item like the Sator Square, there are other Kabala rules to understand. Only about 5% – 7% of the numbers between 1 and 1000 have concepts assigned to them. And while this may seem to be a small percentage most of these concepts are assigned to the numbers from 1 – 30. If a number does not have an assigned concept, then that number may be broken down into multiples or even single digits in order to extract a meaning; i.e. while the number 240 does not have a specific concept attached to it, it may be broken down in two ways.

$$240 = 24 \times 10$$

Or

$$240 = 2 - 4 - 0$$

This rule makes conceptual extractions terribly easy to create. With all of the above said, the Kabala extraction I am about to create will *prove* nothing. The resultant extraction will only demonstrate the possibility of that reading. It will not demonstrate the probability of that reading.

When highlighting the Sator Square with the letters that have numeric values in the Kabala I find that only the Es have no numeric value, therefore those spaces will have no value. Though, for the

S	A	T	O	R
A	R	E	P	O
T	E	N	E	T
O	P	E	R	A
R	O	T	A	S

The Sator Square continued

HEBREW NUMERIC VALUES

60	1	9	6	200
1	200	0	80	6
9	0	50	0	9
6	80	0	200	1
200	6	9	1	60

sake of clarity a zero will replace the E, even though that is not exactly true for the Es are not even zeros—they will be completely ignored when extracting the text. As stated there are two ways to utilize the Kabala on the Sator Square. One is to read each line or row and the resultant concepts or one may add the numeric values in each row and read those resultant concepts. Both methods will be attempted.

Hebrew Numeric Line Texts

These texts assign a particular concept to each number then the lines are read forward or backward, up or down, but I will only give the renderings from left to right and from top to bottom. The reader may extract the opposites if desired, but will find repetition in so doing.

Each Latin word (i.e. SATOR) expresses a series of concepts that will be strung together in a loosely formed sentence. In the illustration of this the concepts have been color coded to demonstrate their order since they do not perfectly align with the numbers. I will first

HEBREW NUMERIC LINE TEXTS				
60	1	9	6	200
THE GREAT LABOR OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT WORK IS EXPECTED				
1	200	0	80	6
GOD'S EXPECTANCY OF SUPER LABOR (COMPLETENESS)				
9	0	50	0	9
JUDGEMENT REDEMPTION JUDGEMENT				
6	80	0	200	1
SUPER LABOR IS EXPECTED BY GOD				
200	6	9	1	60
EXPECTANCY OF A LABOR IS A JUDGEMENT OF GOD'S WORK				
HEBREW SUM TEXTS				
276 = 2 7 6 THE SON'S PERFECTION IS WORK				
287 = 2 8 7 THE SON'S SUPER PERFECTION				
68 = 6 8 THE SUPER WORK				
287 = 2 8 7 THE SON'S SUPER PERFECTION				
276 = 2 7 6 THE SON'S PERFECTION IS WORK				

give the horizontal texts and then the vertical texts. I will virtually give a repetition (i.e. SATOR runs horizontally across the top and vertically down the first column).

Horizontal Texts

1. **SATOR** = the great labor of God's work of judgment is expected.
2. **AREPO** = God's expectancy of super labor (completeness).
3. **TENET** = judgment, redemption, judgment
4. **OPERA** = super labor is expected by God.
5. **ROTAS** = expectancy of a labor of judgment is God's work.

Vertical Texts

1. **SATOR** = the great labor of God's work of judgment is expected.
2. **AREPO** = God's expectancy of super labor (completeness).
3. **TENET** = judgment, redemption, judgment
4. **OPERA** = super labor is expected by God.
5. **ROTAS** = expectancy of a labor of judgment is God's work.

Hebrew Sum Texts

- There are actually only three sums. Therefore, there are only three messages.
- 276 = the Son's perfection is work.
 - 287 = the Son's super perfection.
 - 68 = the super work or labor

Cross-Cultural Concepts

Even more is possible to read into the Sator Square. When the Mexican Epigraphic Society began brainstorming this cryptogram, participants Joni Gladten, Nancy Burke, David Brown and I made the following observations when considering the backward N and the backward Ss on the Sator Square from France.

As a supportive aspect to Maya influence it might be noted that the S and the backward S denote penitence or repentance in Maya iconography.⁴ Because the Sator Square artist created the Ss backwards it draws the observer's eyes to that aspect and then one also notes the backward N in the center. If this diagonal is read cross-culturally (as occurs with the Aramaic fish and the Greek cross) then the diagonal reads in both Maya and Aramaic. The rendering results in something like, "Repent, fish, repent." This rendering is very meaningful when read this way, however this is only accomplished by skipping the Rs within the

same diagonal. The skipping of the Rs can be justified as they are not written backwards. This means that only the backward letters are being read in the diagonal and this creates several problems. As previously suggested the diagonal corners containing S-R might be referring to the creator's homeland, namely "Shir." Now, with our backward S-N-S reading, one is skipping the Rs based upon the reversed letters in a single Sator Square. That is to say, these three reversed letters are only reversed in this particular Sator Square. Most Sator Squares do not carry this letter reversal phenomenon, therefore until it can be demonstrated that more than one Sator Square has these particular letters reversed also it must be considered that the letter reversal present is accidental and not meaningful.

Continuing with possible Maya connections on the backward S-N-S diagonal, it is possible that a meaning in Maya can make sense when



readings of both S-N and N-S are considered. Taking a linguistic clue from ancient Hebrew where vowels are ignored, the S-N (sen) in Maya means "much" or "a lot."⁵ While N-S (niis) means "earth."⁶ Before a reading is made it must be clear that the only presently accepted form of reading Maya is in hieroglyphics which do take vowels into account. However, it has been presented elsewhere⁷ that there are Maya texts in Ogam that are vowelless. Therefore, there is support for the view of reading without vowels to comprehend the S-N-S diagonal in the Sator Square. So, if vowels are dropped and if coupled with the Aramaic fish (N) and the Mayan iconographic repentance (S) the result is essentially the following: "Man must repent of most earthly things." This statement is profound and fits well with other concepts in the Sator Square. The fact that it fits so well seems to be a testament that it is not coincidental. The previous Kabala reading shows TENET as translating to "judgment, repentance, judgment" which follows through on that concept. So while not provable as to being a correct rendition, it is supportive of the cross-cultural concept.

The Sator Square *continued*

Meanwhile, this diagonal does draw attention to possibly reading the two diagonal texts of the Sator Square using the Kabala. One can readily see that they are chiasmic in nature which is present throughout the Sator Square. The two diagonal lectures render S-R-N-R-S and R-P-N-P-R. Therefore, these two diagonals should be investigated via the Hebrew Kabala, and they should be read both as individual letters and as sums. First the S-R-N-R-S lecture will be read and then the R-P-N-P-R lecture will follow.

S-R-N-R-S
60-200-50-200-60

A great work (is) expected (for) redemption (is) expected (for) a great work
And the other diagonal reads:

S-R-N-R-S
60-200-50-200-60

(It is) expected (that) a super labor (is needed for) redemption (for) a super labor (is) expected
Now for the sum renditions of these same lectures.

S-R-N-R-S
60-200-50-200-60=570
R-P-N-P-R
200-80-50-80-200=610

The first diagonal sum is 570 which according to Kabala rules must be broken down to 5 and 70 (7 x 10). While the sum of the second diagonal is 610, which renders 6 and 10, thus the lectures of the diagonals state something like the following:

5 = Redemption

70 = perfection spiritual order

“Redemption is (part of) spiritual order, or Redemption to perfect spiritual order”

6 = labor

10 = perfection of divine order

“Labor (is required for) perfection of divine order”

These readings again fit the context of both the Mayan readings and the general theme of the Sator Square. And again, while not provable, they are most certainly supportive of the assumptions made above. Therefore, one must at the very least, believe that these readings are reasonable and at least one aspect that supports these readings is that the questions of the usage and meanings of the R-P corners and the implications of the S-N-S diagonals are addressed.

There is even more new information concerning these two corner to corner aspects. The reversal of the three letters S-N-S on the diagonal line brings another question to mind. Does the reversal of these three letters imply that they belong to a language that should be read in reverse? Since they create an anagram which reads the same both forward and backward then there is no point in reversing how S-N-S is read. Latin, Greek, Maya and English read from left to right; is it possible that this three letter reversal is to guide the reader to read the letters in a language that reverses and goes from right to left? Whether Hebrew or the closely related Aramaic the results are the same.

In further reviewing the diagonal we will supposing that only the S-N-S should be read because the Rs are not reversed. The Hebrew S-N-S renders the meaning “bind.”⁸ I do not believe this rendition is coincidental for though all of the other translations relate to the final judgment this Hebrew reading is extremely pertinent for the final judgment is one event to which all humanity is bound. Moreover, the diagonal position of this word serves to not only relate the meaning that binds man to eternal judgment, it also binds the square into a whole as the mechanical purpose of a cross-brace is to create uniform strength throughout; this event will not be undone. This bind also contains the word fish (N) at the center making another allusion to the Law of Center and the important role

man plays in the physical universe. So this Hebrew reading fits with complete accuracy, and it begs the question concerning the opposing diagonal of R-P-N-P-R.

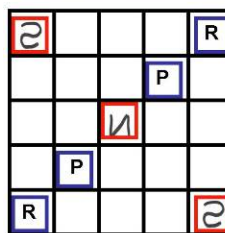
In the case of R-P-N-P-R only the middle letter is backwards and as it has already been determined the N renders an Aramaic word for fish, therefore I suspect that the reverse rule works in this case. That is to say, that the normal letters are to be read and not the ones that are reversed resulting in R-P. This double consonant renders a forced reading of R-P-A which curiously translates to “heal” or “stitch together.”⁹ Of course, the final judgment does “heal” all injustices and stitches together all that is torn or broken, while it binds both the wounds of the hurting and the souls of the men to the level of glory to which they have demonstrated in their physical life.¹⁰

Finally, this Hebrew connection also ties to Maya symbolism. Whereas the “bind” strengthens and emphasizes the square; that same square is comprised of the Latin word ROTAS meaning “wheel” which can also be read as “spheres.”¹¹ In Maya iconography this lends itself to the image of the square as the physical realm of life “crossed” with the verbal image of spheres that allude to the spiritual realm.¹² This concept was graphically depicted by the jade cube Pakal held in one hand and the jade sphere he held in the other—a sacred (green jade) binding of the two realms. This is yet one more instance of incredible coincidence.

Though these readings are comprehensible, they do not prove that the Sator Square was meant to be read with the Kabala in hand, but this exercise does show that it is possible and easily considered to be beyond coincidence. What I find far more intriguing are the aspects that appear to have Mayan influence. I fully realize that at this time there is no proof that Maya were involved in the design of the Sator Square, but I here provide a list of similarities and parallels between the cryptogram found in the Revelation of the Magi and the cryptogram of the Sator Square. This list is only valid if all of the aspects of the Sator Square touched upon in this article are true for at this time we have no proof—this is only theoretical.

Both cryptograms seem to have the following parallels:

1. Cross-cultural
2. Cross-linguistic



The Sator Square continued

3. Cross-dimensional
4. Bound by time restraints
5. Openly hidden
6. Chiastic
7. Numerological
8. Focused on Christianity
9. Found to have multi-layered symbolism
10. Neither use the name JESUS or CHRIST

And this is only to name a few. There are several advances to watch for in the future that may make the matter of proof far more accessible. One is the evolution of the Maya hieroglyph translations. Another is future findings of early Christian texts similar to and possibly

including the 70 Jordanian lead plate books. All I can say with confidence is that there is much more to the Sator Square than what is presently reported.

Footnotes

1. Hofling, Charles Andrew & Tesucun, Felix Fernando; Itzaj Maya – Spanish – English Dictionary, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT, 1997. Article on the letter “E”.
2. Sejourne, Laurette; Burning Water, Shambala Press, Berkley, 2000.
3. Wikipedia
4. vonWuthenau, Alexander, Professor Emeritus University of the Americas, private communication.

5. Steede, Neil; Mesoamerican Ogam, unpublished manuscript.
6. Opinion cited, pg 557.
7. Opinion cited, pg 472.
8. Consultation with a forensic Hebraologist, Utah State University.
9. Consultation with a forensic Hebraologist, Utah State University.
10. I Corinthians 15 where Paul discusses the glories of heaven that result from the actions and choices of man while in the flesh.
11. Wikipedia
12. Steede, Neil; Book of Mormon Archaeology: Artifact by Artifact, 2008, ESRS, PO Box 4175, Indep. MO, 64051.

Lead Plates Found in Jordon continued



Here two luminaries are displayed below the twelve branches of a tree; are these the two stars of the twelve tribes; Joseph and Judah? As well as the two planets Jupiter and Saturn that combined to form a star and announce Christ's birth?

metal from one book, Dr. Northover, a metals analyst at Oxford University, concluded that their composition was "consistent with a range of ancient lead," and that it was clear from the

surface corrosion that the book was "not a recent production".¹

• The verdict was inconclusive without more tests, but he (Peter Northover, head of the materials science-based archaeology group) said the composition was 'consistent with a range of ancient lead'.⁶

• Carbon dating on a piece of leather found with the plates, with the image of a crocodile on it, had results indicating its

about 2,000 years old.¹

Margaret Barker concludes "If the material is genuine then the books could be 'vital and unique' evidence of the earliest Christians. If they are a forgery, what

are they are forgery of? Most fakes are drawn from existing material, but there is nothing like this that I have seen."⁶

In the months ahead we can look forward to the continued unfolding story of this remarkable find. If they are indeed genuine, they may be as important as the Dead Sea Scroll find.

Footnotes

1. <http://www.thejc.com/judaism/judaism-features/46028/heavy-metal-secrets-a-mid-east-cave>
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Lead_Codices
3. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/51540533/Lead-Plates-Press-Release>
4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12888421>
5. <http://www.templestudy.com/2011/03/29/details-ancient-metal-plates-bbc/>
6. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1368252/Are-artefacts-discovered-remote-cave-secret-writings-years-Jesus.html>

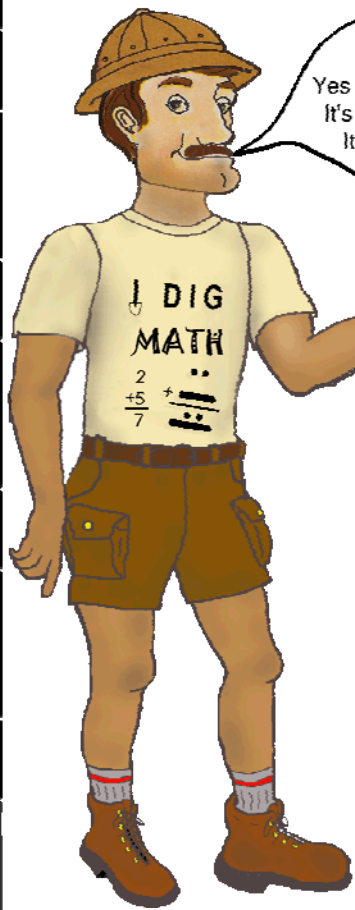
Dr. David Kelley By Neil Steede © 2011

Doctor David Kelley of the University of Calgary has passed. His indelible mark upon Mesoamerican archaeology can never be erased—he was one of the Big Three in Mayan archaeology. Dave was incredibly well-read and well-versed. Some of his contributions to Mesoamerican archaeology include great additions in the reading of Maya hieroglyphs, the understanding of the origins of the

Maya Calendar, strong evidences of Pre-Columbian transoceanic contact between the Middle East and the Maya culture, conclusive evidence of institutional attempts to destroy the Valsequillo evidence of man's antiquity in the Americas (which, incidentally, was opposed to David's own view of early man in ancient America at that time). Dave followed the evidence no matter where it led, and that

meant even in opposition to his personal views. These types of things are what made Dave great, but believe me there was more, much more.

As far as I know, there is no other "Dave" nor can there be. Dave, wherever you are, I promise to attempt to live up to your expectation and always "go where the evidence leads."



Today I want to talk about Math.
Math..... did you say **Math**? **Yuuuuck!!!**
 Yes **Math**, but not regular **Math**, **MAYAN MATH**
 It's really not bad. It has only has 3 characters.
 It has just a Dot: ● a Line: — and a Circle: ○
 And its easy to do too!

Let me show you how easy it is to learn Mayan math. When you first learned math, you counted on your fingers up to 10, then you start over, up to 20, then 30. In Mayan math you can use your fingers *and* toes. You count up to 20 and then start over and count up to 40, then 60. When you count 1, 2, 3, 4 fingers, that equals 4 dots ●●●● in Mayan. When you get to 5 in Mayan you use a bar — like a full hand of fingers. When you get to 10, you have 2 full hands or 2 bars. — (see figure 1) Now lets compare regular math to Mayan math. (see Figure 2) **2 red Owls + 3 red Owls = 5 red Owls.** In Mayan math that would be 2 dots ●● + 3 dots ●●● = 1 bar. — Look how the **3 green Fish** are added to the **4 green Fish** and how the **6 blue Jaguars** are added to the **8 blue Jaguars**. See, that was not too hard was it.

0	1	2	3	4
○	●	●●	●●●	●●●●
—	—●	—●●	—●●●	—●●●●
— —	— —●	— —●●	— —●●●	— —●●●●
— — —	— — —●	— — —●●	— — —●●●	— — —●●●●
○	●	—	—	—
○ = 0	● = 1	— = 5	—	—

Mayan Number System
FIGURE 1

Basic Math vs Maya Math

2 red Owls + 3 red Owls = 5 red Owls

●●●● + ●●●● = ●●●●●●

●●●● + ●●●● = —

3 green Fish + 4 green Fish = 7 green Fish

●●●● + ●●●● = ●●●●●●●

6 blue Jaguars + 8 blue Jaguars = 14 blue Jaguars

●●●●●● + ●●●●●●●● = ●●●●●●●●●●

— + — = —

FIGURE 2

ROW 1

ROW 2

ROW 3

ROW 4

The Maya placed their numbers at the top or at the left in each glyph. Some glyphs were made up of smaller glyphs and had more than one set of numbers. Sometime the numbers are hard to locate with in the glyph design. I shaded the numbers gray to help see them better.

Row 1 shows the numbers placed horizontal.
 Row 2 shows the numbers placed vertical.
 Row 3 shows other symbols placed in the number area.
 Row 4 shows the numbers placed both horizontal and vertical.

There are up to 16 of each picture glyph and 16 different Mayan numbers. Draw a line matching the correct amount of Mayan glyphs to the right Mayan number.

In our math system we have the 1s, the 10s, the 100s, the 1000s, etc. Each level is 10 times larger than the previous level. The Maya went up 20 times each level. There are the 1s, the 20s, the 400s, the 8000s etc.

When working with large numbers the Maya stacked their numbers. The smallest number 1-19 was on the bottom. The next row up would be for numbers 20-399. The next level up would be 400-7999. (see Figure 3)

EASY: Find the value of each Mayan number below and write your answers in the boxes.

1 2 3 4

MEDIUM: Find the value of each Mayan number below and write your answers in the boxes.

1 2 3 4

HARD: Find the value of each Mayan number below and write your answers in the boxes.

1 2 3 4

Extra Credit
For those of you that want a bit more of a challenge, do the work sheet on the left.

Extra, Extra Credit
Find the answer to the problems below. There are now 5 levels. What comes after 8000?

1 2 3

Using Math For 20-399 **EXAMPLE 1**

20s row	●	$1 \times 20 = 20$
1s row	●●●	$8 \times 1 = + 8$
28		

Using Math For 20-399 **EXAMPLE 2**

20s row	—	$5 \times 20 = 100$
1s row	○	$0 \times 1 = + 0$
100		

Using Math For 400-7999 **EXAMPLE 3**

400s row	●●	$2 \times 400 = 800$
20s row	●	$6 \times 20 = 120$
1s row	●●●●	$14 \times 1 = + 14$
934		

Using Math For 8000-159,999 **EXAMPLE 4**

8000s row	●	$1 \times 8000 = 8000$
400s row	○	$0 \times 400 = 0$
20s row	●●●	$3 \times 20 = 20$
1s row	●●	$7 \times 1 = + 7$
8027		

Figure 3

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/science/archaeology/
http://research.history.org/Archaeological_Research/KidsPage.cfm
<http://www.smm.org/sln/ma/index.html>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pyramids/>
<http://archaeology.la.asu.edu/teo/>
<http://www.digonsite.com/drdig/mesoamerica/15.html>
<http://www.precolumbianweapons.com/>
 For questions e-mail me at tscott75@sbcglobal.net

The Book of Mormon makes reference to an item called *ziff*,¹ and it is apparent from the context that *ziff* is a metal. This name is curious since the other metals given in the reference are translated to an English word that allows us to understand what type of metal is being referenced. Why are the translated words for gold, silver, copper, brass and iron provided while *ziff* is not? Was *ziff* a metal that was not yet identified when the Book of Mormon was translated so that an English word referent was not available to Joseph Smith Jr.? We believe there are two possible metals that might fit the reference, and if either of these possibilities is correct then each will require a separate explanation as to why they were not translated.

We must first look into what modern Mesoamerican archaeologists comprehend concerning the metals that were used by the natives of ancient Central America. Most present-day Mesoamerican archaeologists believe that the native Central Americans only had gold, silver, and copper. Unnoticed by most, this view has notably changed within the past decade with a find at the ancient Maya city of Lamanai in Belize. The discovery of a small terracotta flask about 1-inch in diameter and 3 inches tall was found under a hollowed out ball court marker. That flask sealed a mica lid in place with pitch and contained a small amount of mercury. So while most archaeologists would not list mercury as one of the metals possessed by the Classical Maya, evidence proves differently.

At the moment there are few theories as to how this metal would have been used by the ancient Maya though some clues are available. The most accepted theory is that the ancient Americans sniffed mercury vapors to get “high.” Of course such actions would eventually cause the sniffer to suffer mercury poisoning which would eventually result in death.

While there is the possibility that mercury was used by the ancients in other ways, the evidence for this falls outside of Mesoamerica region. During the last decade it has been discovered that the South American natives at Tiahuanaco in Peru used mercury when plating items with gold. The mercury was painted onto the item that was later dipped or otherwise had melted gold applied. The pre-

application of mercury provided a natural bonding agent for the gold laminate and fused to create an alloy called amalgam. This type of plating required much less gold and created a very durable surface. The downside of this type of plating was that when the gold was applied, the mercury vaporizes into the air and probably slowly poisoned the artisan. As of the time of this article it has not been shown that this type of plating was practiced in Central America. Moreover, if this style was widely practiced in Mesoamerica it seems reasonable that more processed (refined) mercury would have been discovered by now.² While mercury is relatively easily percolated from heated feldspar, making it possible that it was a commodity that the masses could refine and personally own, these factors in and of themselves do not prove that mercury was the allusive element called *ziff*. But, if *ziff* is mercury why couldn't Joseph Smith Jr. translate that word from the plates? Therefore, perhaps *ziff* is not mercury. In our effort to be thorough we now move to other possible elements and in doing this so it requires a brief discussion on brass.

As far as it is known, brass has not been discovered in Mesoamerica. It is a widely held professional opinion that tin was not readily available in Central America. The absence of tin which is required to blend with copper to make brass causes professionals to believe that the presence of brass in ancient Mesoamerica is ludicrous. Yet, brass is named in the scripture being considered. Since archaeologists have never reported finding brass it is automatically assumed by them that the natives of Central America did not know of its existence. We suspect that brass has been found but very often misidentified by the finder. Because brass is commonly yellowish in color and archaeologists are not metallurgists we believe that some of the gold artifacts found are actually misidentified and should fall under the category of brass. Because archaeologists know that the Native Americans did not have brass, why spend time, money, or energy to test anything? Never-the-less, brass is mentioned in the scripture, so *ziff* is not a brass product. There is one more area of discussion to consider.

Monel is a metal that was discovered under a Navy contract in which the Navy

was looking for a metal as strong as iron but as oblivious to rust and corrosion as gold. *Monel* is an alloy of copper and nickel. Unknown to most of present-day society, *monel* was discovered to have been used anciently in South America.³ There it was used to form metal “staples” that bound foundation stones together at an ancient site in Tiahuanaco, Peru. However, the nickel used in the ancient staples was tested and determined to be meteorite nickel which is unique because of the absence of phosphates. Moreover, the crater from the meteorite strike was found to be a relatively short distance from the site. But, the only known nickel available to Central American people would have been the nickel deposits in Canada, which seems to be an unlikely source due to its extensive distance. Moreover, thus far only one small scrap of metal which might possibly be *monel* has been found in Mesoamerica and it still awaits testing.⁴ All of these conditions from the lack of nickel found in ancient artifacts to the lack of its availability strongly imply that *monel* is not *ziff*. However, it is important to consider the argument that the word “*monel*” or even the word “copper-nickel,” which is a lower grade of *monel*, would not have an English-word translation when Joseph Smith Jr. was translating.

Therefore, of the two suspected metals that *ziff* could be, mercury seems to head the short list. One must remember that until the industrial age there was a lot of confusion surrounding the origin of metals and alloys.⁵ Yet, it is known and accepted that man knew of Mercury in very early times,⁶ thus it should not be a great surprise that it was found at Lamanai.⁷ But, why not translate the word *ziff* as mercury if in fact the author meant mercury?

It seems much more reasonable that *ziff* meant mercury as opposed to *monel*. One argument for not identifying mercury in the translation in 1830 might be that the claim of mercury would have only caused another reason for the outright rejection of the Book of Mormon. According to most archaeologists even the claim of iron was enough to make them totally reject the authenticity of the book, and in the 1830's the only probable use for mercury would have been considered to have been thermometers. Moreover, consider the possibility that if mer-

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Photographs provided by:
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Ziff continued

cury was named that its discovery at Lamanai might have probably been "buried" by those who do not want any evidential support for the Christian claims in the Book of Mormon. Therefore, we can see some wisdom in not translating *ziff* even if it was known word in the 1830s.

Conclusions

While both cases have good arguments for being so, neither can be proven to be *ziff*. It seems probable that *ziff* is mercury because it is an element that could have been easily obtained by any enterprising Native American. Though *monel* is a possibility for *ziff*, it is not probable that the native Mesoamericans would have commonly possessed this alloy. For the moment *ziff* could be either mercury or *monel* and only time will tell. There are other opinions as to what *ziff* might be, and we must admit at this point that *ziff* might be neither mercury nor *monel*. It could be that there is information yet to come forth that will make the identification of *ziff* an absolute and that it fits none of our proposed categories. However, from our view at this time we

lean toward mercury as the element called *ziff*.

In our closing comment we wish to mention iron. Iron and steel are two items that are listed separately but are in essence the same compound. Iron only needs a small amount of carbon to become steel.⁸ The barrier of belief that needs to be overcome for Mesoamerican archeologists to accept the fact that the Native Americans used steel has already been scaled by them.⁹ Present times are most exciting.

Footnotes:

1. Book of Mormon Mosiah 7:6 "And he laid a tax of one fifth part of all they possessed; a fifth part of their gold and of their silver; and a fifth part of their *ziff*, and of their copper, and of their brass and their iron; and a fifth part of their *fatlings*; and also, a fifth part of all their grain."
2. There is a dubious report that a large stone box containing mercury was found in the tunnel beneath the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan. See: Steede, Neil; [The Stone Slabs of Teotihuacan](#), ESRS, 2011.

3. Neil Steede in "The Mysterious Origins of Man, Parts I & II," BC Video, New York, NY.

4. This strange piece of metal was found at Teotihuacan by Dr. Sergio Gomez (private communication). Up to this time it is classified as an "unknown metal" and still waits further testing. And the strange hieroglyph found on its surface implies a South American origin as opposed to a local one.

5. <http://www.yourdictionary.com/azoth>;

- <http://valsederholm.blogspot.com/2010/07/ziff-and-palaces-of-kings-noah-and.html>;
- <http://neon.mems.cmu.edu/cramb/Processing/history.html>

6. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mercury>

7. <http://ambergriscaye.com/pages/mayan/mayasites.html>

8. Simply stirring molten iron with a green stick will cause enough carbon to enter the iron to become classified as low-grade steel.

9. Hopefully the next newsletter will have more information on how those barriers are being brought down.