

December 14, 2003

Observations

By K. Duane Erickson, *student*

BMS Foundation, Inc. (*All are invited to join the Independent Truth Seekers on a quest of discovery back through time to learn of our first parents using the Book of Mormon as the foundation for our research.* Web site: <www.bmsf.net>

(We do not want to offend anyone, please contact us to be removed from our email list. Otherwise you are welcome to pass this information on to any whom you think would like it or could help us in our search for truth or you could forward us their email address. Thank you.) Hang in there non-Book of Mormon readers or believers, as we will give you exclusive, undeniable evidences of its truthfulness which may change your understanding of the purpose of life.

#38 Being lulled away in carnal security

Nephi speaking of our day says: “*2 Nephi 28:21 And others will he pacify, and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.*”

This has reference to a watered down explanation as to the disposal of the Soper Savage collection of ancient artifacts below by those who supposedly communicate with God on a regular basis in the LDS Church. Yes, something is truly FAKE here, but it is not the artifacts.

The Salt Lake Tribune, Monday, October 27, 2003 also I understand is controlled by the LDS Church.

Copied word for word with added comments, and supporting information in rebuttal to this Fake lulling away information in Italicized print. Offered by the Book of Mormon Students Foundation, PO Box 2345, Evanston, WY 82931 <www.bmsf.net>

LDS Church gives collection of fake artifacts to museum

Michigan Relics:

Despite Clues that the objects were fake, many were duped

The Associated Press

Some of the now-debunked Michigan Relics --- once considered by some influential LDS church members as evidence of the church's connection to a Near Eastern culture in ancient America --- have a new home.

The LDS Church for decades kept a large collection of the artifacts in its Salt Lake museum, but never formally claimed them to be genuine.

This past summer, after scholars examined the relics and declared them fakes, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated the 797 objects to the Michigan Historical Museum in Grand Rapids, which plans to exhibit them beginning next month.

Once hailed as the greatest archaeological discoveries since Pompeii, Michigan State Archaeologist John Halsey told **The Grand Rapids Press** there are many clues they are really fakes.

Among them are engravings on a slate tablets, including a scene depicting the crucifixion of Christ. The problem is, all the engravings tell stories of the Old Testament.

“It is arguably the largest archaeological fraud ever in this country, and the longest running,” Halsey said.

James Scotford claimed he found the first relic – a large clay casket – while digging a post hole on a Michigan farm in October 1890.

Over the next 30 years, thousands more artifacts – tiny caskets, amulets, tools, were found. The items were made of clay, copper and slate, and most bore the mark “IH/.” Which some interpreted as a tribal signature of a mystic symbol. Some thought it was a variation on HIS, the ancient Hebrew symbol of Jehovah.

Oddly, nearly all were found when Scotford, a former magician and sleight-of-hand expert, was present.

Almost from the beginning, skeptics cast doubt on the finds, among them University of Michigan Latin Professor Francis Kelsey who in 1892 called them forgeries.

But the relics had their vocal promoters, chief among them Daniel Soper, a former Michigan secretary of state, forced to resign because of corruption.

In the early 1900’s, Soper teamed with Scotford to sell the objects. They enlisted the support of the Rev. James Savage, priest at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Detroit.

Historians and archaeologists today believe Savage, who became the most avid

collector, was duped to give the finds credibility.

Halsey and other modern archaeologists believe Scotford and his sons were making the relics, and Soper was marketing them.

In 1911, Scotford’s stepdaughter signed an affidavit saying she saw her stepfather making the relics.

Savage died still believing the Michigan Relics were genuine, He bequeathed his large collection to Notre Dame University. In 1960, a pair of Mormon missionaries found the collection there, and Notre Dame donated it to the church.

In 1977, the church asked Richard Stamps, a Mormon and Oakland University archaeology professor, to examine the relics.

Stamps concurred with the conclusion of earlier scholars the relics were fakes. The copper relics, he said, were made from ordinary commercial copper stock, not hammered copper ore. The copper had been treated with chemicals to produce the green patina of aged copper, Stamps said.

The slate tablets appeared to have been cut using the English measuring system and were too smooth and

uniform to have been fashioned by an ancient civilization, he said.

In 1998-99, Stamps again studied the relics and again

pronounced them fakes in an article published in 2001 in BYU Studies.

Though Stamps, the LDS Church decided to donate its collection to

the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

To address this I will refer to the very foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Book of Mormon, as all followers swear in the truthfulness of this holy word as the foundation of their belief, and I quote: Mosiah 8:13-18 (Here Ammon is teaching King Limhi of the power and gifts of God given to a prophet, seer and revelator's of God.) 13 Now Ammon said unto him; I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; (These records, the twenty-four plates of gold were found by King Limhi's men while searching for the land and city of Zarahemla) for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters, and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer. 14 And behold, the king of the people who are in the land of Zarahemla is the man that is commanded to do these things, and who has this high gift from God. 15 And the king said that a seer is greater than a prophet. 16 and Ammon said that a seer is a revelator and a prophet also; and a gift which is greater can no man have except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God. 17 But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known. 18 Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.

Thus by using information from the very foundation of the church, the mystery is settled. Yes! Something here is FAKE, but it most certainly is not the artifacts.

The reader however, using also the information contained within the very foundation of the church can know not only the truth of this mystery, but the truth of all things, and I quote: (Here the reader, with a sincere heart and desire to know the truth of the holy words given in this day to man, can personally have the truth manifested unto him. In addition, the same process can be used to attain the truth of all things. What more does a person need?)

Moroni 9:4-5 And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. 5 And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

It appears today truth is a thing of the past. Rarely can men of flesh be trusted, as within this case. Which goes completely along with what Christ has given us when it is said “Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man,” So to discern the truth of what we offer hereafter, we suggest using the above directions from Christ.

First of all, the fellow beings who trust and follow those in the church who allow themselves to be referred to as Apostles, Prophets, Seers and Revelators need not worry, as if true, they must have the gifts given by God where by they can read ancient writings. Furthermore, they can look into the future and know of things which are to come.

Thus, from the beginning, more than twenty years ago, a prophet would have known in advance that they were phony for the benefit of his fellow beings. Thus there would have been no need to hire professors, and learned men to tell the prophets if the artifacts were true or fake, and also the need of housing them for this twenty some years of time.

But on the contrary, general authorities of the past, over the pulpit stated that they were phony and of no value many years ago. Thus, men who communicate with God, and are instructed by God, cannot error. This would necessitate the need to maintain the same decision as them being phony. Even though today, over thirty other collections of almost identical artifacts has been unearthed. When I say identical I mean in content, the same written languages, the same stories with little or no variations. And the original people mentioned as being involved, and even making them in their home, is truly false information or FAKE, had nothing to do with these other collections. Thus, those offering this fake information to the public by and through the church and those they have associated themselves are indeed phony themselves. There is no other explanation.

While this is the position we stand on, we would further like to offer information which will verify our position: Plus, will we ever be adults enough to make our own decision as to what we should look at?

- *Some of the now-debunked Michigan Relics --- once considered by some influential LDS church members as evidence of the church’s connection to a Near Eastern culture in ancient America --- have a new home.*

For more than twenty years Milton R. Hunter studied everything he could about those artifacts. He then wrote a book on his research. The prophet of the church at the time refused to allow him to publish his book. From excerpts of the un-published book says nicely: “Anyone saying that these artifacts are phony does not have proper justification.” I have personally spoken to Mrs. Milton R. Hunter who claims the artifacts belong to her family, and were never the property of the LDS Church. She, prior to her death, told me that she had given charge of the collection to her daughter Linda Hunter Adams, at BYU. I then spoke and met with Mrs. Adams at BYU and gave her a video copy of her artifacts being held against her will by the church. She said that they belong to her family and that she would get them. The church never had the authority of disposing of these artifacts, as I was told by church officials was to be done.

- The LDS Church for decades kept a large collection of the artifacts in its Salt Lake museum, but never formally claimed them to be genuine.

These artifacts, of which I personally handled and have a video and DVD of were never kept in the church museum. They were withheld and hidden from the public for over twenty years in a warehouse north and west of West High School, under heavy security and security guards.

- This past summer, after scholars examined the relics and declared them fakes, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated the 797 objects to the Michigan Historical Museum in Grand Rapids, which plans to exhibit them beginning next month.

The credibility of these so called scholars, which includes, which the failed to say, was BYU professors among with was John Walsh, are in real suspect. Not only are they suspect, but in most cases their church leaders. It appears that they are all in collusion to protect those who let the wrong cat out of the bag many years ago and have proceeded to keep them hidden from the public and members.

You see it is common knowledge that there are tens of thousands of ruins of an earlier people scattered all over the eastern part of the United States from just west of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean. That artifacts have been found by hundreds and possibly thousands of farmers all over this area. That these artifacts have had several different ancient languages, all of which are comparable with others found throughout the area.

If you have questions regarding this information you can check it out through the National Geographic Society, the Ancient American Magazine www.anchantamerican.com and the little at our website www.bmsf.net plus there are many, many more sources for this information.

Having had one of the curators at the warehouse tell me that the church plans to dispose of these artifacts as soon as Sister Hunter passes away, so I then contacted her just prior of her parting. Well they did not waste much time, they are gone.

I understand that when the collection was first loaned to Milton R. Hunter and Paul Cheesman and placed in the church warehouse that there were thousands of them and all in reasonably good shape. My pictures show the poor care given these priceless artifacts with many of them broken into pieces. I wondered just how they were going to pick up the broken plates, with all the tiny fragments and keep them in contact in transit to another location.

I have learned from Wayne May of the Ancient American Magazine that around eight boxes of artifacts had been sent to the state of Michigan. I really wonder in what condition these artifacts arrived.

I really believe many were thrown away, some I told had been actually placed in the temple, by the curator, and I know of some which ended up in other cities in Utah. Most likely some are in private collections. I have photographs of many of the artifacts.

In addition to the massive research of Milton R. Hunter, there is a massive twenty plus year research of another person, Herriette Mertz, "The Mystic Symbol" available through the www.ancientamerican.com. Mrs. Mertz determined there authenticity. Incidentally, I believe the "Mystic Symbol" names may have originated with Mrs. Mertz, as referred to by the experts in this newspaper article.

- Once hailed as the greatest archaeological discoveries since Pompeii, Michigan State Archaeologist John Halsey told **The Grand Rapids Press** there are many clues they are really fakes.

Among them are engravings on a slate tablets, including a scene depicting the crucifixion of Christ. The problem is, all the engravings tell stories of the Old Testament.

Again, another so called scholar and archaeologists is under suspicion. Yes, this collection is only a small part of thirty collections which have already surfaced, with most likely many more to come forth in the future.

And why would they not have history of the creation, Adam and Eve, the birth and crucifixion, we have them. They are part of our religious history, and Christ did not even mingle with us like he did those of old on this land.

Of course there would be Old Testament stories, why even the Book of Mormon, which came from the same earth in this Promised Land has Old Testament stories.

The only difference is, the ones on rock, slate, clay and brass plates within the Soper/Savage collection most likely tell a more accurate story of those happenings.

As a matter of fact, one of two stones in the collection, almost four feet tall and about ten inches wide and one and a half inches in thickness has the entire creation on the front side with more on the back side and on the other two sides of the other stone. It even depicts the creation in spirit form, then materially. It shows Adam and Eve with two children. I believe if you could read the written material we most likely would learn more than what has been passed down to us in the Bible.

Furthermore, I have two men who can read the PHONY writings, one in Utah the other in Burma. Now the records are gone. But I am still attempting to get the information left by these ancient people for us from the photographs. Then what?

- "It is arguably the largest archaeological fraud ever in this country, and the longest running," Halsey said.

This is really something, a person referred to as an authority who is unable to reproduce an artifact like what he is judging, wasn't there when it was unearthed, and most likely is unable to read the pictures much less the written languages, says they are phony.

Now I have signed affidavits from some of the people standing at the burial sites before a shovel was placed into the ground which testify in writing what was unearthed even with photos of the objects. Now who would you believe, and just how far back does this ignorance go, even in the church.

- James Scotford claimed he found the first relic – a large clay casket – while digging a post hole on a Michigan farm in October 1890.

Over the next 30 years, thousands more artifacts – tiny caskets, amulets, tools, were found. The items were made of clay, copper and slate, and most bore the mark “IH/.” Which some interpreted as a tribal signature of a mystic symbol. Some thought it was a variation on HIS, the ancient Hebrew symbol of Jehovah.

Here is where the experts use the terms adopted from Herriette Mertz. Yes artifacts were being found from the time the first French in the sixteen hundreds set foot on this land.

I spoke to a lady who said as a small child in New Jersey, she played on the burial mounds behind her home. That her parents told her not to dig in them as there was most likely bodies in them.

Your missing most of the story and information if you are not looking at what the Ancient American has collected, www.ancientamerican.com

- Oddly, nearly all were found when Scotford, a former magician and sleight-of-hand expert, was present.

Almost from the beginning, skeptics cast doubt on the finds, among them University of Michigan Latin Professor Francis Kelsey who in 1892 called them forgeries.

But the relics had their vocal promoters, chief among them Daniel Soper, a former Michigan secretary of state, forced to resign because of corruption.

In the early 1900’s, Soper teamed with Scotford to sell the objects. They enlisted the support of the Rev. James Savage, priest at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Detroit.

Historians and archaeologists today believe Savage, who became the most avid collector, was duped to give the finds credibility.

Halsey and other modern archaeologists believe Scotford and his sons were making the relics, and Soper was marketing them.

In 1911, Scotford’s stepdaughter signed an affidavit saying she saw her stepfather making the relics.

Sounds to me like they are running a political campaign here, attempting to discredit others in order to boost their own credibility.

Personally, I have never heard of any of these people except Soper and Savage of which I have written verification of their activities in regard to these artifacts. But the whole story can be had in the Ancient American magazines.

What a joke! Did they also produce the seven to eight foot human remains found in the mounds with the tablets? Get real.

Regarding copper, and artifacts. There are homes in northern Michigan today of which the foundations were constructed using hardened copper ax heads instead of rock, as they were most likely more available. Again, info from the Ancient American, not from the prophet, LDS Church or BYU.

If the stepdaughters statement was true, sure I guess if I could locate some slate or brass I might attempt to duplicate some of that earlier work, just to see how hard it

was. But the work I have witnessed was not by an amateur. It is perfectly done, I can't even find one slip of the tool, they are beautiful. I know when intelligent people have the opportunity as I have had to hold and study these artifacts they will know without a doubt they are offerings of a great people to us.

- Savage died still believing the Michigan Relics were genuine, He bequeathed his large collection to Notre Dame University. In 1960, a pair of Mormon missionaries found the collection there, and Notre Dame donated it to the church.

Never happened! They were placed on loan to Milton R. Hunter and Paul Cheesman and sent to the church warehouse. From that time forward there was battles between BYU professors and Milton R. Hunter. He even stated in his will in regards to the artifacts, because of his feud with those BYU professors, that the artifacts could never go into Utah County. That if they wished to study them, they needed to come to Salt Lake County.

These artifacts have been hidden from the membership along with the secret goings on. You can learn about Secrets and those who use them in the Book of Mormon, check the index. I have the feeling that they will be part of their questionable discovery.

- In 1977, the church asked Richard Stamps, a Mormon and Oakland University archaeology professor, to examine the relics.

Stamps concurred with the conclusion of earlier scholars the relics were fakes. The copper relics, he said, were made from ordinary commercial copper stock, not hammered copper ore. The copper had been treated with chemicals to produce the green patina of aged copper, Stamps said.

The slate tablets appeared to have been cut using the English measuring system and were too smooth and uniform to have been fashioned by an ancient civilization, he said. *(Information most likely form John Welsh of BYU)*

In 1998-99, Stamps again studied the relics and again pronounced them fakes in an article published in 2001 in BYU Studies.

Now lets see here, do you really think that a Mormon, would go against what the brethren want? It's like having the IRS police itself. This is not how you find truth. The only way I know and rely upon is that which I have already suggested.

Re: copper: There is positive evidence that copper from upper Michigan was melted and formed in ingots in the shape of Ox hides as their trademark. This copper has turned up in most of the world during the Bronze age when it was the military metal of choice. Ancient artwork depicts these Ox hide designs plus the unique chemical make up of the copper identifies its source. These people were not dumb, they learned to harden copper and I really am not sure we have done this today.

Though Stamps, the LDS Church decided to donate its collection to the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing.

Can I swear here? They disposed of something which did not belong to them. The owner was actually Notre Dame, but new owners were established when after many attempts to have them sent back failed, and Notre Dame sent a letter telling them (Milton R. Hunter, and Paul Cheesman to keep them. The Hunter family believe them to be theirs, and they are included in Milton R. Hunter's will.

I know this has not set will with the family, possibly this is why Linda Hunter Adams, who use to be the proof-reader for the Prophets talks, and is no longer at BYU.

Appreciate your input.

K. Duane Erickson, student, BMS