

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGY AND LEGENDRY

by Professor HANS SCHINDLER BELLAMY*

Up till our times, Man's feet were tied by gravitation to the surface of the Earth and he could explore it only by treading along its length and breadth. But his head was always directed into the third dimension and he was free to turn his eyes to the skies. This he did ever since he became aware of his Man-hood.

It must remain an open question how he came to name the really striking constellations in the way he did - by projecting terrestrial happenings into the starry heavens, or whether he observed certain actual celestial happenings and interpreted them in a terrestrial way. The names of certain stars and constellations, and their juxta- or contra-position seems to point in this latter direction. The problem certainly has fascinating aspects - but I do not want to enter into them here. It is another matter that I want to deal with at present.

It can be safely assumed that for a good many millennia the skies have looked practically like they do today. The discovery of the proper motion of the stars is of a very recent date: only the well-noticeable movement of the planets was recorded and interpreted. Of these there were "seven", including the Sun and the Moon - though the last two caused many difficulties when regarded as planets.

The day was dominated by the Sun. Eventually its "movement" became the basis of calendrical systems among the more advanced nations in many parts of the world.

But what about the Moon? It clearly does not really fit in anywhere. It is visible both during the day and the night. It moves rather rapidly and shows peculiar phases. Periodically, it clashes with the Sun, and is itself stricken periodically. Its course is not commensurate with the apparent course of the Sun, nor with that of any other planet. Especially because of its movement the Moon was actually taken as a convenient calendar basis by many peoples. (In fact the word "Moon" actually means "measurer".) Semitic and oriental peoples still use, though only privately, more or less complicated Moon calendars. (In the Old Testament the ages of many of the "patriarchs" are still given - without any warning - in time-units which are called "years", but are really "months", Methusalah having thus been actually, and quite decently, only about 80 years old when he died.)

Myths have a definite "archaeological" aspect: they are so to speak fossilized primeval history, and they are certainly worth being duly considered, *Professor Bellamy is an expert on Tiahuanaco, having made several archaeological expeditions to the site of the ruins in the 1930's. Author of several books, Professor Bellamy is now retired from active teaching.

"dug into", and dealt with as carefully as are potsherds, stone tools, or bones with scraper and brush.

That the Moon was actually an "intruder" that at one time in the past had forced its companionship upon our Earth is borne out by many "myths", like that of the Pelasgians.

As mentioned by Aristotle and, independently, by Apollonius Rhodius, those predecessors of the Hellenes told that they had inhabited Arcadia since before the time that there was the Moon in the skies. Those "Proselenians" did not tell how the Moon came to be there - but the myths of a number of "primitive" races contain significant references. The Chibchas, for instance, Indians of Colombia, tell that the good god Bochica banished his bad wife Chia into the sky, where she turned into the Moon.

So there must have been a time when the mighty sky looked different because there was no Moon; but also, because there existed another planet on the firmament.

What had happened then was that a smaller planet in orbit outside the Earth's had in the course of time got so "near" that it was "captured" as a satellite. (The Moon "moves round the Earth" only apparently, when regarded from the geocentric point of view, heliocentrically regarded, it actually still moves round the Sun in a planetary orbit, though this orbit is so to speak intertwined with the Earth's).

The small planet that was seen in the "ancient" skies was "Luna", the "Brightly Shining One". Its periodic conjunctions are mentioned in ancient Mexican myths which tell that such an approach recurred "every 52 years" and its dangers were magically oriented by the priests. The Okinagan Indians tell of a time when "the Sun" (actually the Moon is meant) was no bigger than an ordinary star (that is: a planet). A Jewish myth tells that at some time in the past the Lord "exchanged two stars" (that is, "changed one star into another", one heavenly body, a planet, becoming another, the Moon).

St. Augustine, to mention a weighty authority, tells in his book, "De Civitate Dei", that the Roman historian Varro quotes from a lost work by the Roman historian Castor that "a most monstrous change of colour, magnitude, figure, and motion, the like of which there never was before nor since, befell "the brightest star in the firmament".

As such a "capture" must have happened when the outer smaller planet "Luna" had a close conjunction with the inner bigger planet "Terra", the first phase of the new satellite must have been "full moon" - as is actually told in myths of the Pellew Islanders, the Society Islanders of Raiatea, and the Ami, an aboriginal tribe of Eastern Formosa, to mention only a few.

When did the skies get the aspect that we are familiar with? It is not quite impossible to give
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an answer, which, even if only approximate, nevertheless appears to be a close guess.

The great and sudden gravitational pull of the newly captured moon must have caused great tectonic and tidal phenomena, to say nothing of earthquakes. The waters of the oceans were drawn towards the tropics, causing a flood which is mentioned in many myths. Such a phenomenon as the drowned Congo Canyon, to mention only one of the tidal consequences, gives relative evidence.

No "date" can be inferred from the flood myths, just as little as pottery or tools bear a definite date. But also the terrestrial crust felt the gravitational grip of the new satellite. Some geological fractures may be "dated" with considerable accuracy.

The Niagara Falls are at the end of a gorge which was formed by the Niagara River falling over the lip of an escarpment and cutting the place of the Falls backward. From the present rate of progress upstream it can be inferred that the escarpment was formed about 12,500 years ago.

According to the ancient Egyptian report mentioned by Plato the Continent of Atlantis was lost about 12,550 years ago. Such a date is also borne out by a piece of volcanic rock fetched up from the area of the supposed sunk site of Atlantis whose age has been, independently, calculated as being about 13,000 years. - Great lava extrusions in the Pedregal area, south of Mexico City, that overwhelmed a prehistoric culture, have been dated as being about 10,000 years old, at the least. - The "Klimasturz", that sudden great climatic breakdown, is regarded as having happened about 12,000 years ago. - As a last "date" I want to mention the Egyptian zodiac of Dendera. It begins with the sign of Leo. Evidently something must have happened in the heavens at about that time that made them devise a new zodiac - so to speak for the beginning of a new aeon of our Earth. At present zodiacs are devised to start with the sign of Aries, the vernal point. If it is calculated when Leo was the vernal point, it is found that that was about 13,000 years ago.

Thus, it is in every respect extremely likely that the skies above and the Earth below them were changed then, and that the "first heaven" - the ancient skies - "and the first Earth were passed away", and the Earth that we are familiar with came into being.

With the above I hope I have been able to make a point for a new way of dealing with the old myths. Someone once called them "a disease of language." However, they are, on the very contrary, a great complex, a great mass of most valuable material, the careful dealing with which will increase our knowledge of man, what he saw and suffered and how he survived - just as the science of digging up the past is giving us a picture of how he worked and made his world better livable.

Professor Bellamy, an avid stamp collector, would enjoy receiving letters from Society members around the world. You may write to him at Blechturm-gasse 23-5-10, A-1050, Vienna, Austria.

While reading Brad Steiger's "Atlantis Rising," I came upon the idea that the "Candelabra of the Andes," which is a large figure on a sandy cliff above the Bay of Pisco, in Peru, South America, was intended to represent a "trident." In the book, these passages struck me: "The crown of the Trident was the symbol of the royal house of Atlantis." "Atlantis was the land of the Trident." "The Trident was the symbol of ancient Atlantis." I concluded, therefore, that the survivors of lost Atlantis settled in Peru and constructed the Trident as a memorial to their lost homeland and to identify their new location.

Since the trident figure in Peru points towards the markings on the Plain of Nazca, it is possible that the survivors of Atlantis are also responsible for the Nazca drawings. John J. Jirik, 1504 S. 82nd, West Allis, Wisconsin 53214.

TORONTO MID-WINTER MEETING - FEBRUARY 14, 1976

We have negotiated lower hotel rates for the one-day meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Toronto, Canada, on Saturday, February 14, 1976. The new rates, which include admission to all events, the gala banquet, and two nights at the hotel are: for one person, single occupancy, US \$101.00, and for one person, double occupancy, US\$75.00. Anyone who has made reservations using the old rates will be refunded the excess.

Speakers at the meeting will include Erich von Däniken, Josef F. Blumrich, Dr. Luis E. Navia, and Stuart W. Greenwood. Mr. von Däniken will report on his recent expedition to Asia, which will include an all-new slide presentation.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the current postal strike in Canada, we request that your ticket orders be sent to the Society office, 600 Talcott Rd., Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. Members in Canada should telephone Mr. Ralph Kirchen, Toronto, 416-225-1927.

THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE - MAY 17-21, 1976

The week of May 17, 1976 has been selected for the THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS to be held in Crikvenica, Yugoslavia. Speakers thus far include Erich von Däniken (Switzerland), Jacques Bergier (France), Josef F. Blumrich (USA), Vladimir Avinsky (USSR) and Alexander B. Minervin (USSR). A total of 12 to 15 speakers will present original papers at this scientifically oriented Conference and other noted authors will participate in panel discussions and small study groups.

Members outside of the United States and Canada should write directly to the Conference Headquarters for information and tickets, as follows: Dr. Josip Kotnik, National Executive Committee of the Third International Congress of Ancient Astronaut Society, Hotel Omorika, 51260 CRICKVENICA, YUGOSLAVIA.

RADIO SHACK SCORES AGAIN!

RADIO SHACK has donated a REALISTIC CTR-33 Cassette Tape Recorder to the Ancient Astronaut Society for use at its meetings and Conferences to record the lectures. RADIO SHACK earlier donated two Realistic Citizens Band "Walkie-Talkie" Radios to the Society for use on field expeditions. RADIO SHACK products are available in Europe and Australia through the TANDY International Electronics stores.

For sheer beauty no place can compare with Machu Picchu! The Peru-Bolivia Expedition was the most spectacular tour that I have ever been on, and the members in our group got along as one big happy family. After making the tour, I am more convinced than ever that Erich von Däniken has opened a Pandora's box of questions which Ancient Astronaut Society members should explore.

I was struck forcibly by the fact that we really do not have answers to the questions concerning the construction of the many gigantic structures in the South American countries. How could the ancients erect walls and buildings with 300 ton stone blocks? With the help of "angel architects," as one Indian legend recalls? I would like to invite Society members to offer their opinions on how these feats were accomplished and I will coordinate the material. Lawrence Blazey, 537 Juneway Dr., Bay Village, Ohio 44140.

ANCIENT SKIES is published bi-monthly by the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, 600 Talcott Rd., Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, for distribution to its members. Telephone (312) 696-2016.

The Ancient Astronaut Society, founded in 1973, is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit corporation organized exclusively for scientific, literary and educational purposes.

AUTHORS AND BOOKS

Congratulations to JACQUES BERGIER for being elected as a Fellow in the World Academy of Arts and Sciences! The next time someone tells you that there are no serious scientists among the Ancient Astronauts, refer them to Mr. Bergier.

ERICH VON DÄNIKEN's "In Search of Ancient Gods" (Meine Welt in Bildern) is now available in English in paperback. (Bantam, New York 10019)

DR. LUIS E. NAVIA's first book "A Bridge to the Stars," is scheduled to be published in April, 1976 in the German language by ECON (Düsseldorf).

W. RAYMOND DRAKE's new book "Gods and Spacemen Throughout History" is now available in hardcover. It is published in the United States by Henry Regnery Co., Chicago 60610.

STUART W. GREENWOOD has written an article on Ancient Astronauts and anthropology which appeared in the September 1975 issue of "Skylook" magazine.

JAMES A. GUPTON, JR. has written articles for S-9 and CB Magazines, which will be published soon.

ULRICH DOPATKA, author of "Das Spiegelbild Der Götter," is currently in Tunisia to gather material for a new book.

FRENCH/FRANCAIS (Robert Laffont - Publisher)

Charroux	- Historie Inconnue des Hommes Depuis Cent Mille Ans
Charroux	- Le Livre des Secrets Trahis
Charroux	- Le Livre des Maitres du Monde
Charroux	- Le Livre du Mysterieux Inconnu
Charroux	- Le Livre des Mondes Oublies
Charroux	- Le Livre du Passe Mysterieux
Charroux	- L'Enigme des Andes
Maziere	- Les Enigmes de l'Univers
Maziere	- Fantastique Ile de Paques
Hennig	- Les Grandes Enigmes de l'Univers
Niel	- Stonehenge
Pochan	- L'Enigme de la Grande Pyramide
Waisbard	- Tiahuanaco
Waisbard	- Machu Picchu
von Däniken	- Presence des Extraterrestres
von Däniken	- L'Or des Dieux
Tomas	- Les Secrets de l'Atlantide
Schwartz	- Nouvelles Recherches Sur l'Ile De Paques
Sendy	- Ces Dieux Qui Firent le Ciel et la Terre
Burrows	- Les Manuscrits de la mer Morte
Mazel	- Avec les Pheniciens
Mazel	- Enigmes du Maroc
Neubert	- La Vallée des Rois

For a catalog of books by JACQUES BERGIER in the French language, write to EDITIONS ALBIN MICHEL, 22, rue Huyghens, 75014 PARIS, France.

BOOK REVIEW: THE ANCIENT ENGINEERS
by L. Sprague DeCamp
Ballantine 1974 (New York 10022)

The basic premise of The Ancient Engineers is that civilization, as we know it, resulted from technological innovation, which did not spread evenly throughout the world, but rather, along established trade routes. For example, the author notes that the development of the wheel did not occur in Egypt because it could not have been used in the soft sands.

The author also sets forth the premise that certain innovations developed independently, because, he believes, natural barriers such as the oceans, prohibited the exchange of ideas among civilizations. Thus, he concludes, the Mayas and the Aztecs invented the technique of pyramid building without the help of the Egyptians.

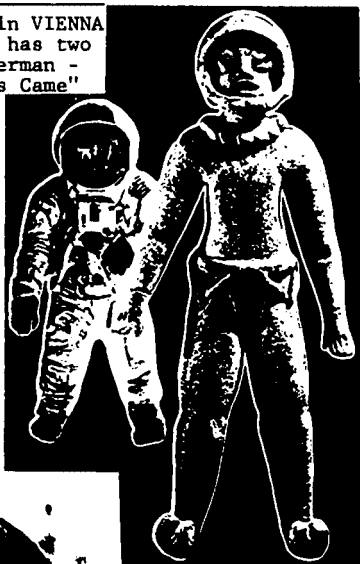
The author notes that recorded history deals sparsely with engineering activities, but decides that the reason is that the records were kept by priests, who praised their gods, and poets, who flattered their kings.

The author depicts the method of building the Great Pyramid in the classic manner - brute force moving gigantic stones up inclined "earthen" ramps - but he concludes that the estimate of 100,000 men working for 20 years is "much exaggerated." He believes that 4,000 workers could have done the job, stating that 8 men could easily move a 2 1/2 ton block on level, and for the incline, they used a sled and "poured probably milk, the fat content of which makes it a better lubricant than water, on the ground before it."

It must be remembered that this book was originally published in 1960, before the current trend to test the old conclusions by looking anew at the evidence with today's space age eyes.

While the book presents interesting reading, it appears to be a restatement from outdated encyclopedias, and the author's conclusions certainly are not shared by most writers on the subject today. Keith J. Kulie. (Mr. Kulie is a practicing patent and trademark attorney in Chicago.)

*PETER KRASSA, born in VIENNA on October 29, 1938, has two books published in German - "When the Yellow Gods Came" and "God Came From the Stars." In 1972 and 1973, Mr. Krassa travelled to China and the Soviet Union to gather material for his books. In Russia, he was assisted by Author Alexander Kasanzew, a Member of the Moscow Academy of Science. Mr. Krassa is Editor of the newspaper "Niederösterreichischen Nachrichten: in St. Pölten, Austria.



Above. Figurine at right was found in Xochipala, Mexico and is estimated to be about 3,000 years old. Helmeted, with mongoloid features, the 6 1/2 inch high figure is discussed in Peter Krassa's "When the Yellow Gods Came," to be published in English in paperback by Bantam (NY) in April, 1976. Note the similarity of the figure with the present day astronaut.



PETER KRASSA

*Kurzfassung des Vortrages, den PETER KRASSA, Autor des Bücher "Als Die Gelben Gotter Kamen" und "Gott Kam von der Sternen" bei der Zweiten Weltkonferenz der Ancient Astronaut Society in Zürich/Switzerland

Seitdem es unseren Raumschiffen möglich ist, den Anziehungsbereich der Erde zu verlassen, hat unsere Sehnsucht, die Rätsel des Universums zu ergründen, gewaltig zugenommen. Dem Forschungstrieb des Menschen haben sich neue Aufgaben gestellt. Die Schlüsselfragen unserer Existenz: WER sind wir? WO HIN gehen wir? WOHER sind wir gekommen? warten auf ihre Beantwortung. Dieses Bemühen dient einzig dem Zweck, die Vielzahl der wie Mosaiksteinchen zusammengetragenen Indizien über die Rätzel unserer Herkunft zu einer Pyramide aufeinanderstürmen, an deren Spitze dann die Krönung unserer Forschungsarbeit stehen müsste. DENN ES GEHT UN DEN BEWEIS!

Un den Beweis, dass wir im Verlauf unserer Existenz Besuch von erfremden Intelligenzen erhalten haben, die den Werdegang vieler unserer Hochkulturen beeinflussten - vielleicht auch unsere Verhaltensweisen - und deren reale Identität den NASA-Raumfahrtexperten Ing. Josef F. Blumrich zur logischen Schlussfolgerung kommen liessen: "Sie waren da - also müssen sie auch hergekommen sein!"

Machen wir uns nichts vor: Die Front der Gegner, Spötter und Ignoranten ist grösser als uns lieb sein kann. In diversen Massenmedien, ganz gleich ob TV, Radio oder Presse, werden wir vielfach als Veruckte, Phantasten oder Sektierer abgewertet; Freiwald für intolerante Journalisten, die oberflächlich und engstirnig veranlagt - auch die Tatsache ignorieren, dass sich der ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY anerkannte Wissenschaftler aus aller Welt angeschlossen haben, die schon von ihrem Fachgebiet her nicht so ohne weiteres bereit sind, unabweisbare Spekulationen ohne Überprüfung zu akzeptieren.

Doch wenn man es darauf anlegt, ein negatives Image zu konstruieren - wie dies von gewisser Seite gerne geschieht - dann finden sich natürlich auch Beweggründe, Wissenschaftler und Autoren mit Wohlbehagen als "Sektierer" in der Öffentlichkeit lächerlich zu machen. Diese "Meinungspäpste" sprechen dann von einer "Modeerscheinung", von einem "Trend" - und übersehen doch das Wesentliche: Jeder Trend pendelt bekanntlich irgendeinmal wieder zurück, jede Modeerscheinung geht irgendwann zu Ende. Wissenschaftler und Autoren, die sich ernsthaft mit dem Thema der "Ancient Astronauts" auseinandersetzen, sind jedoch solchen kurzzeitigen Strömungen gewiss nicht unterworfen. Das beweist allein schon die immer stärker werdende Resonanz, die unser Interessensgebiet in den vergangenen zwei Jahren gefunden hat. Nicht Modeerscheinung und nicht Trend sind in der ständig grösser werdenden Publizität der "Ancient Astronauts" und ihres einstigen Besuches auf diesem Planeten erkennbar, sondern eine, sich wie ein Lauffeuer verbreitende TENDENZ.

Es liegt nun an allen in der Society Mitarbeitenden, vorrangig jedoch an den Fachexperten aller Wissenszweige in unserer Mitte, das Beweisverfahren zielstrebig fortzusetzen. Nicht heimlich und im stillen Kämmerchen und jeder für sich - sondern in Teamarbeit - im offenen Gedankenaustausch, frei von allem Egoismus.

Dazu ist es notwendig - und das ist mein Appell an die ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY - Expeditionen unter wissenschaftlicher Führung auszurüsten und in jene Gebiete unseres Planeten zu entsenden, in welchen es nach menschlichem Ermessen und aufgrund von Hinweisen in alten Schriften oder infolge von Entdeckungen vorgeschichtlicher Relikte echte Beweise geben könnte. Solche Unternehmen sollten jedoch zunächst ohne viel Publicity gestartet werden - nur mit dem alleinigen Ziel, durch wissenschaftliche Detailbemühungen das Indiziengebäude zur Vollendung zu bringen. Denn am Ende steht unser aller Wunsch und Hoffen" DER BEWEIS! Um ihn allein geht es. Der Amateurarchäologe Heinrich Schliemann hat uns hier ein richtungweisendes Beispiel gegeben. Arbeiten wir deshalb mit nachdruck daran, auch UNSER "Troja" zu finden!

Ever since it became possible for our space-ships to leave the Earth's gravitational field, man has yearned with an ever-increasing intensity to solve the riddle of the universe and the scientific community has found itself faced with new problems in a new context. The key questions of our existence - WHO are we? - WHERE are we going? - WHERE have we come from? - are still waiting for answers. The singular purpose in attempting to solve the multitude of individual problems concerning the riddle of our origin, which are as numerous as the tiny pieces of stone which go into a mosaic, is to gather evidence which can be stacked up as a pyramid with a solid base, and then crowned with our research work. IT IS PURELY A MATTER OF PROOF!

Part of this proof is that, in the course of our existence, we have been visited by extraterrestrial intelligences, which influenced the evolution of many of our advanced cultures (or, perhaps, served also as hindrances). Their actual identity was logically summed up by the NASA Space travel expert, Engineer Josef F. Blumrich, who pointed out that... "They were here - so they must have come from somewhere."

But let's not kid ourselves into thinking that our task is easy. The camp of our adversaries, who ridicule us in their ignorance, is larger than we would like to think. In the diverse mass media, whether it be television, radio or the press, we are depicted as crazy eccentrics; "pseudo-scientists" filled with fantasies - an easy prey for intolerant journalists who tend to narrow-mindedness and superficiality. Even down-to-earth people ignore the fact that certain recognized scientists from all over the world have joined the Ancient Astronaut Society, and from their diverse areas of expertise are willing to consider unproven speculations, until proof is presented.

When an attempt is made to create a negative image, as some persons genuinely enjoy doing, they are always able to find reasons for making certain scientists and authors appear ludicrous to the public. The self-styled "Popes", guardians of public opinion, comfortably speak of fads and trends, overlooking the essential fact that every trend gradually fades into oblivion, and every fad eventually recedes into being unfashionable. Scientists and writers who have seriously addresses themselves to the subject of ancient astronauts are certainly not negatively influenced by such short-sightedness. This is proven by the continually increasing support which our area of interest has won in the past two years. Neither fad nor trend will characterize the ancient astronaut theory, and in the final analysis, as more and more proof of extraterrestrial visits to our planet become recognizable, our support will grow and spread like wildfire.

It is the task of all those working within the Ancient Astronaut Society to see that the proof which has been gathered (primarily from the technical experts in all branches of knowledge) is given further testimony. Not secretly, from obscure scientific cubbyholes, with each working alone, but with teamwork and an open exchange of thought, free of all egotism.

It is in addition necessary - and this is my appeal to the Ancient Astronaut Society - to equip expeditions under scientific leadership, and to dispatch these expeditions to every corner of our planet, to garner bits of proof from human experience, ancient writings, and prehistoric relics, from which judgments can be made which will amount to genuine proof. Such undertakings should be initiated without much publicity, and only with the singular goal: that through detailed scientific efforts to find evidence which can help to complete the circle of proof. For in the end all of our hopes and dreams hinge on PROOF! Proof alone!

The amateur archeologist Heinrich Schliemann has set the example of the direction to follow. We will, therefore, work with vigor at our task, and some day we will also find our "TROY!"