



ANCIENT SKIES

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THE ROCKETS OF THE DOGONS

BY PROFESSOR HANS SCHINDLER BELLAMY*

In a recently published book, The Sirius Mystery, by Robert K.G. Temple, which is based upon material collected by the French anthropologists, Germaine Dieterlen and Marcel Griaule among the Dogons of Mali (a Sudanese people in the Timbuctoo area of northern Africa) in the 1940's, there are many interesting references to a subject matter which, when it was first recorded, was regarded only as strange and peculiar, and which neither the two French scientists nor Temple can make anything of. The subject becomes of prime interest now that the ideas of Erich von Daniken and the devotees of the ancient astronaut theory have given a new sense and exciting reality to it.

According to Dieterlen and Griaule, the sages, or "priests," of the Dogons tell, make drawings in the sand, and have carvings on ceremonial objects, of what they call "houses with storeys," in which in the dim past superior beings, also referred to as "amphibians," came to the Earth. These very technically looking objects make sense only when interpreted as "rockets" or "spaceships." See Figure 1.

The Dogon sages also tell that at the time when visits of the peculiar objects were first observed, a "star" called "Amma" remained visible in the heavens (obviously the interstellar main craft, or "mother ship") from which "Nommo" came down to the Earth (obviously rocket landing vehicles). In these shuttle craft were "amphibious creatures" (evidently wearing space suits).

What is even more astounding is that the ancestors of the Dogons must have actually seen manoeuvres with landing and taking-off gear, and the traces of the landing and taking-off blasts, because the sages of the Dogons made for the French anthropologists peculiar drawings in the sand which must have puzzled them, though they do not puzzle us. These drawings are circular, with various types of lines, or rays, emanating from them, which to us can be readily explained as the descent of a rocket and the various stages of blasts while easing off. Also, the ground pattern after the landing which indicates the dust cloud thrown up by the blast.

While all this may sound unbelievably fantastic, and appear to be copied from recent astronautic literature, both of the serious and science fiction type, the Dogon drawings in the sand were noted, or reported, at a time when neither was yet known either to the two French anthropologists, or and still less, of course, to the Dogon priests.

The Dogon sages say that the "amphibious beings" that emerged from the spaceships came "from

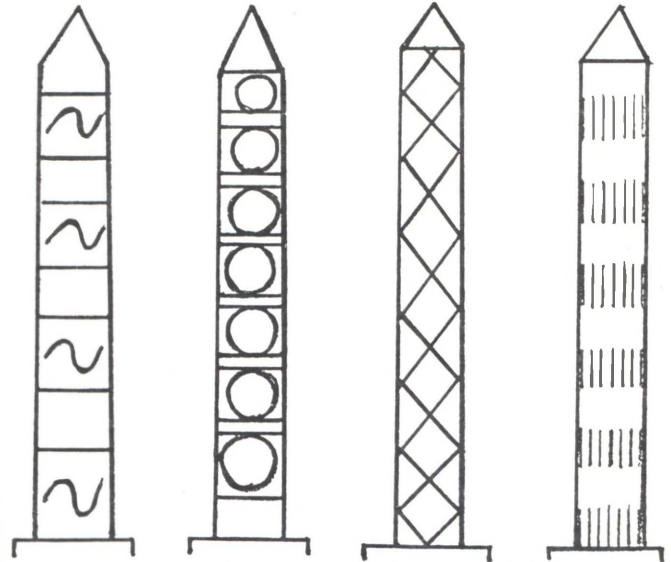


FIGURE 1. DOGON DESIGNS

a planet of the Sirius system." Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens, and in striking proximity to that fascinating constellation of Orion, and so it might easily have been singled out as a possible source. However, there are a few most peculiar and really disturbing points in the reports of Dieterlen and Griaule for they tell that the Dogon sages say that Sirius has an "extremely heavy" companion which moves around it in fifty years and they draw its orbit as a rather eccentric ellipse. These facts have only quite recently been established by astronomers, so neither the Dogons can really have known it, nor can the two Frenchmen have suggested it to them. The knowledge must somehow have come from "ancient astronomers", or spacemen. The Dogons also say that Jupiter is accompanied by "four" satellites (which we call the Galilean ones), and that Saturn is encircled by rings. Such knowledge the Dogon sages could hardly have gathered from anywhere - they must have got it by tradition from those "amphibious beings" that came in rockets "from a planet of the Sirius system," at some time in the distant past - tradition that was handed down to them and faithfully remembered as ancient sacred lore.

There seems to be no possible reason to doubt the genuineness of that traditional lore of the Dogons, and the two French anthropologists are certainly also entirely above suspicion. Whatever content of fact can eventually be gained of the strange "Sirius Mystery", two things appear to be of the utmost importance and to require immediate attention.

(Continued on next page)

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(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

First, a group of trained and especially interested scientists, preferably of the ancient astronaut persuasion, or free at least of the preconceived limitations of the old scientific schools, should go to the country of the Dogons and try to contact the small and dwindling number of the Dogon sages to verify the reports of Dieterlen and Griaule, and to gather more material on rocket myths and extraterrestrial culture heroes, material that may have escaped the attention of the French scientists, or that they did not consider worth recording, because they regarded it as the mere fantastic mumbo-jumbo of primitive tribal priests.

Second, such work should be undertaken forthwith. The great and deep-going political changes that are afoot in that part of the world are a great danger to ancient traditions (much greater than the influence of the missionaries who were satisfied with lip-service only), for whichever political ism, or isms, will eventually become established there will most certainly be no interest whatever in the tales of the days of old, and the ancient lore will become lost beyond recovery.

THE EASTER ISLAND CONTROVERSY

By WALTER JOERG LANGBEIN*

While many scientists have convinced themselves that Erich von Daniken's theories about the enormous stone statues on Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean are wrong, they have been unable to offer a unified and convincing substitute.

William Ziehr (1) states that "the existence of monumental stone statues is not at all as miraculous as often claimed, because wood on Easter Island was extraordinarily rare. (Emphasis added.) The only material available for the artists was tuffaceous limestone."

Thor Heyerdahl (2) asserts, however, that Easter Island was covered with great forests, and that wood in enormous quantities was necessary for the transportation of the huge statues.

Now, I must ask - who is right? Was there no wood at all, or wood in abundance?

Similarly confusing are the various declarations of the writers concerning the weight and height of the statues. According to Ziehr, the statues measure from 11 1/2 feet to 18 feet in height and weigh up to 20 tons. John Gilbert (3) claims that the statues are taller than 30 feet and have an average weight of 50 tons. Gerhard Gadow (4), referring to Heyerdahl, says that the average height of the statues is only 16 1/2 feet, with the tallest being 40 feet.

Fritz Felbermayer, a European who has lived on the Island and speaks the language of the Islanders fluently, reports that the maximum height of the giant statues is 63 feet (5), which incidentally is the same as von Daniken has reported.

There is no substitute for first hand investigation of the ancient sites. We should demand that those who are the most critical of Mr. von Daniken's theories be required to follow in his footsteps around the world before they are qualified to speak out against him.

- (1) William Ziehr, *Zauber vergangener Reiche*, Stuttgart, 1975.
- (2) Thor Heyerdahl, *Die Grossen Steine der Osterinsel in "Versunkene Kulturen"*, Zurich, 1963.
- (3) *Tropische Inseln im Pazifik*, London 1971.
- (4) Gerhard Gadow, *Erinnerungen an die Wirklichkeit*, Frankfurt, 1971.
- (5) Fritz Felbermayer, *Sagen und Uberlieferungen der Osterinsel*, Nurenberg, ohne Jahesangabe.

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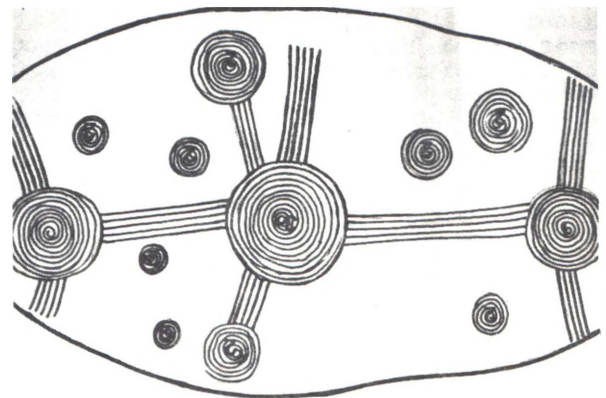
REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY, SOUTH AMERICA, ISSUES SPACE COMMEMORATIVE STAMP.



The Republic of Paraguay has issued a stamp to commemorate space travel. Only 10,000 copies of the stamp, serially numbered, were struck, and they are destined to be a collectors' item. The Spanish text contains a quotation from Professor Hermann Oberth, considered to be the father of modern rocketry, which reads, in translation: "I consider very probable the visit of an extraterrestrial race to our planet."

The small stamp depicts a NASA manned project to the planet Mars, and the text at the bottom describes the photo of the Palenque Slab as follows: "Palenque: City of the old Mayan Empire. This sarcophagus lid was discovered in the Temple of Inscriptions. According to the archaeologists it shows the "Palenque King" falling into the open jaws of a mythological monster. Erich von Daniken has expressed a different opinion: an astronaut at the controls of his rendezvous space capsule, adorned with some Mayan glyphs."

A special cancellation stamp was devised with the outline of the "astronaut at his controls" for use on the First Day Covers.



Milleniums ago, the "Aborigines" of central and western Australia carved cult-rocks and ceremonial wooden plaques with mysterious designs similar to the "churinga" shown above. If you have an idea as to what the above drawing represents, please contact the Society office.

BOOK REVIEWS

AMERICA, B.C. by DR. BARRY FELL
 Quadrangle, New York

America, B.C. contains a collection of pictures, petroglyphs, drawings of inscriptions and comparative alphabets of ancient languages, all designed to show that rock drawings and markings found in many places in the Eastern half of the United States are in reality the same as ancient Egyptian, Celtic, Iberian-Punic, Libyan and Basque languages. Dr. Fell is eminently qualified scholar with a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, and is currently a Professor of Biology at Harvard University. This book not only sheds new light on ancient history, but also provides the beginnings of a rich and abundant history of America, where none was thought to exist before.

As a young man, Fell's major interest was biology, but as a hobby he studied Celtic and became familiar with the megalithic monuments of Scotland. After earning his doctorate, he worked as a marine biologist in the South Pacific, and while studying ocean currents, became interested in writings found in island caves. One of his most amazing finds was in a cave in New Guinea, where a navigator named Maui left drawings of sophisticated astronomical and navigational equipment and a depiction of a solar eclipse. Harvard astronomers aided Fell in fixing the date at 232 B.C.

The archaeologist James Whittall had long been convinced that there was a connection between ancient ruins in New England and the megalithic structures in Spain and Portugal, and he persuaded Fell to accompany him to Mystery Hill, near North Salem, New Hampshire. Fell deciphered an inscription as being Iberian-Punic, and another as Iberian-Ogam. While such inscriptions in Ireland had been almost obliterated by Christians, these in America were like brand new, so to speak. More and more inscriptions were made available for Fell to decipher from various parts of America, and he was able to establish that a thriving trade existed 1,000 years B.C. between America and the Mediterranean peoples. While some explorers claimed the land, others cut their names in stone and moved on. Some colonists intermarried with the natives, and their children were taught to write a form of ancient Egyptian 2,000 years old, not known in Europe before 1797.

Beyond the Pillars of Hercules lay Atlantis, but it was not an island and it did not sink.

O. L. Hope.

GOD'S WEAPON by David Medina

Subtitled "The Deadly Ark of the Covenant," Mr. Medina's book is a survey of the description and history of that object discussed in the Old Testament of the Bible.

Part One of the book describes the instructions which Moses received for constructing the Tabernacle, the Ark, and other ritual objects, and gives diagrams of the layout. Part Two recounts the checkered history of the Ark, and the damage it did to friend and foe alike, and of its final disappearance.

Giving details of the construction of the Ark, which he has culled from various biblical accounts, Mr. Medina raises many questions about the possible purposes of the various objects described. He is more concerned with the factual accounts of the Ark and its exploits, than he is with the physics behind the phenomena he describes, such as electricity, radioactivity, magnetism, lasers, and so on, with little discussion of the relation between the structures and the postulated effects. But this should not deter us. In collating the accounts from the Bible, Mr. Medina has performed a useful service for those who would search for evidence of technology in the ancient texts. No student of the ancient astronaut theory should be without this book, which is available from the author at 6 Grant Court, 18 Spencer Hill, London, SW19 4NY. Rodney Dale.

THE DAY THE GODS DIED By WALTER ERNSTING
 Bantam, New York (paperback)

In The Day the Gods Died, Walter Ernsting presents a fictionalized account of the search for the truth about the Earth's past. Basing his narrative on his own experiences and motivations as a science fiction author, and on his meeting and subsequent friendship with Erich von Daniken, author of Chariots of the Gods?, Ernsting uses the format of the novel to render in concrete form the ideas and theories postulating Man's cosmic prehistory.

Relating the development of his own thinking on the incongruities found in many ancient historical writings, Ernsting tells of his fears of the reaction he would have received had he presented his ideas in a serious fashion. He recounts:

There was only one possibility left to present it (his idea) to the general public: As a novel!...I would run no risk in expressing the truth the way I saw it by incorporating it in some utopian plot and elaborating upon it as I pleased (pp. 9-10).

Since 1954, Walter Ernsting has authored several novels with an "ancient astronaut" theme, and has been a prolific writer of science fiction; English speaking readers will recognize him under his pseudonym of Clark Darlton.

Men who have independently come to the same revolutionary conclusion may unknowingly influence each other, and inevitably come into contact; Ernsting uses the device of telepathic communication to show the certainty of this idea in a case as profoundly important as his. He relates how, in 1964, he met Erich von Daniken. He goes on to describe how the two men compared their theories and, finally, tells of the mission on which von Daniken sent him, and of the key to the past which he was given to accomplish this mission.

The Day the Gods Died is a valuable contribution to the furthering of the Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis. Like much science fiction before it, this work will serve to accustom the public to a still-new idea. In addition, it presents a great part of the theory in a coherent manner, and makes a meaningful statement concerning Man's existence. In the author's words:

The readers will either be entertained by it or bored by it - according to their mentality. A few will try to separate fact from fiction to get at the very truth (pp. 228-229).

It is very difficult to see how a reader can be anything but enthralled by this novel. Setting aside its tremendous theoretical worth, and examining only its success as a science fiction novel, it will be found that the author constructs an exciting adventure on the factual base. The line between evident fact and obvious fiction is hazy at best, making for a smooth and believable transition between the two. A skillful rendering of the drama of human inquisitiveness in the face of certain opposition, combined with an imaginative portrayal of advanced technology and an admirable presentation of the emotions and reactions of the narrator, serve to pull the fascinated reader into the action, and make this story an excellent piece of science fiction in its own right.

The Day the Gods Died, in addition to being an important work about an important question, is an extremely well-written and entertaining novel. Even if one should disagree with, or simply miss, the message of the story, it is well worth reading the book for its captivating tale. Gregory E. Phillips

ERICH VON DANIKEN's latest book Beweise has been on the Best Seller List in Germany for ten months! It is now available in Great Britain, Canada and Australia from Souvenir Press.

ROBERT CHARROUX's latest book has been published in France by Robert Laffont under the title Archives des Autres Mondes.

WHEN MAN SPOKE PROTO-CELTIC

BY DR. HANS-RUDOLF HITZ*

A very long time ago, there existed a language which has almost disappeared. I believe that it must have been spoken by the builders of the megalithic monuments, because I first discovered this language in the megalithic sites and their environment. When I was searching for these monolithic stone works in the Swiss and French Jura. I was amazed to find at many different sites the same or similar place-names; Lichsen, Leimen, Sinzen, Urmen, Loer, Bure and so on. Such ubiquitous names are called "appellatives" or "language-monuments". I further observed that those appellatives existed not only in Switzerland and France, but also in the rest of Europe and were always in connection with the megaliths. I give as examples Avebury/Abury (England), Ben Cora (Jura Island, Scotland), Loch Gur (Ireland), Mane Lud (France), Zuschen (Germany), Sartene (Corsica), and Grandson (Switzerland).

I had the idea that such "language-monuments" could also be found in the names of the hills and mountains, particularly for "sun", "star", and "fire."

I called the still-hidden language of the appellatives PROTO-CELTIC, for two reasons. First, I could prove that their linguistic roots can still be found in the four extant Celtic idioms (Irish, Gaelic, Welsh and Breton). Second, they exist in the surroundings of the megalithic sites which were built at least a thousand years before the appearance of the Celtic people.

We know that the designations for such megaliths are MEN-HIR, DOL-MEN, and CROM-LECH, which can be translated from the Celtic language as "long-stone", and "stone-table", and "stone-circle" respectively. From these names, one can conclude the existence of two forms for the term "stone"; namely, MEN and LECH. But my further investigations in the megalithic place-names showed that in Proto-Celtic there were additional terms for "stone", such as MAEN/ONN/HONN, and LEACH/LEY. And from the names of the hills and mountains I discovered the Proto-Celtic terms for the celestial bodies. It became apparent that "sun" was called GUR and GREN, "star" SUR/SIR or SUL, and "moon" existed in two forms as BERE/BEURE as well as LEU/LEURE/LOER. The term for "fire" was TE and TENE which also appeared in the suffix form as SIN or ZIN, designating a "fire-sign" or simply "sign."

With this Proto-Celtic vocabulary we now can try to translate the megalithic place-names mentioned before:

Lichsen	:	LECH-SIN	("stone-sign")
Leimen	:	LEY-MEN	("stone-stone")
Sinzen	:	SIN-ZIN	("sign-sign")
Urmen	:	(G)UR-MEN	("sun-stone")
Loer	:	LEURE	("moon")
Bure	:	BEURE	("moon")
Abury	:	BEURE	("moon")
Ben Cora	:	... GUR	("sun")
Loch Gur	:	... GUR	("sun")
Mane Lud	:	MAEN-LEU	("stone-moon")
Zuschen	:	AUR-SIN	("star-sign")
Sartene	:	SAR-ZIN	("star-sign")
Grandson	:	GREN-SIN	("sun-sign")

But it seemed to me that SIN/ZIN ("sign") as well as TE/TENE ("fire") must have also been used outside the megalithic sites and also outside Western Europe. We find in the Bible the holy mountain with the name of Sinai, which means SIN-AI ("high sign"), and in the Gilgamesh Epic SIN is called the "moon-god". As far as TE/TENE ("fire") is concerned it was surprising for me to discover it worldwide in the names of the volcanoes. For example, Ae-tna (Italy), San-ta-ram (Portugal), Yo-se-mi-te (USA), Cim-bo-ra-zo (Ecuador), and Tan-ci-ta-ro (Mexico).

When we consider the above mentioned names of volcanoes it seems likely that they are syllabic constructions. I therefore raised the question of whether Proto-Celtic itself could have been such a code-language. I suggested that Proto-Celtic code words would have been such syllables as we have found in the volcanic names (that is, YO, SE, ME, BO, RA, CA, and so on). Looking now into the formation of consonants in the different Celtic idioms, I realized that there must be at least 22 possibilities:

S/Z	H/CH	F	W	RH	LL
T	K/C	P	QU	R	L
D	G	B	GW		
N	NG	M			
NH	NGH	MH			

In addition to these consonants for building a code word, there does exist a vowel which must have been interchangeable within the whole scale of A, E, I, O, U, AI, EI, EU, etc. Supposing that the vowel was an "E", we now can form a list of 22 code words such as SE, TE, DE, NE, etc.

It took a long time to find out the meaning of the 22 code-words in the Proto-Celtic language, and I finally came to the following translation: SE = "flash of lightning", TE = "fire", DE = "world", RE = "ray", LE = "light", NE = "heaven", CHE = "stone", GE = "earth", KE = "man", BE = "creature", WE = "god" and so on.

I came to the conclusion that in the volcanic names the Proto-Celtic code system is manifested. For example, "San-ta-rem" derives from SIN-BE-RE-SE ("sign-creature-fire-flash of lightning"), and "Tan-ci-ta-ro" from SIN-KE-TE-RE ("sign-man-fire-ray"). I must confess that I can translate only these polysynthetic "building block" words but I do not yet know the key to this "computer language". This system can also be applied to the names of celestial bodies.

I could not stop my linguistic excursions with the Proto-Celtic code system when I read that there was in South America the pre-Incan god Viracocha, or Huiracocha, whose name cannot be explained with the "classic" Indian language and therefore must have belonged to an ancient idiom of the Andean Mountains. I tried to translate the name Viracocha with the Proto-Celtic code and I found that it comes from WI-RE-KE-GE, which means "god-ray-man-earth". And when I looked at other Indian names in America I translated the name of the tribe Inca with IN-KE ("soul-man"), their "flash of lightning god" Yllepa with BI-LE-WA ("creature-light-god"), and the god Huaca with WU-AN-KE ("god-soul-man"). We can also translate the name Manitu, an Indian god in North America, as WA-NE-TE ("god-heaven-fire"); Totem probably comes from TO-TE-WA ("house-fire-god").

Let us now come to a conclusion. I am proposing the existence of a very ancient language which I call Proto-Celtic. I believe that it must have been spoken over a great part of the world. I assume that it could have existed in the earliest stage as a form of a syllabic code language.

*Dr. Hitz was born in 1934 in Zurich, Switzerland. He is a micro-biologist, and an amateur linguist and amateur archaeologist. He has studied Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and for years has been interested in the Celtic languages, as well as in the European megalithic monuments. Dr. Hitz' address is Gunten-garten 23, CH-4107 Ettingen, Switzerland.

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