

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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AKAHIM EXISTS!

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

Do you remember in 1973 when I claimed in my book "The Gold of the Gods," that in Ecuador there is a gigantic subterranean tunnel system, developed partly by natural and partly by artificial forces? At that time I wrote:

"The passages all form perfect right angles. Sometimes they are narrow, sometimes wide. The walls are smooth and often seem to be polished. The ceilings are flat and at times look as if they were covered with a kind of glaze.... My doubts about the existence of the underground tunnels vanished as if by magic and I felt tremendously happy. Moricz said that passages like those through which we were going extended for hundreds of miles under the soil of Ecuador and Peru."

Juan Moricz, a Hungarian-born engineer then a citizen of Argentina and the "official" discoverer of the caves, had taken us to a secret side-entrance only, through which we could enter into a large hall of the labyrinth. Shortly after the publication of my book, which created quite a stir, journalists from the German publications, Spiegel and Stern, interviewed Moricz, who then denied ever having been in a cave with me. The following is an extract from the Spiegel interview of March 19, 1973:

Spiegel: Mr. Moricz, in his latest book, Erich von Daniken pretends to have descended into a mysterious cave system in Ecuador with you.

Moricz: Daniken has never been in the caves, except in a flying saucer, perhaps... Daniken may lie as much as he wants to, I don't.

Spiegel: How did you discover the (metallic) library?

Moricz: Somebody has taken me there.

Spiegel: Who was this guide?

Moricz: I can't tell you.

A bit later in the interview, Moricz affirmed that the members of the tribe guarding the metallic library were "white Indians with bright eyes."

After this interview was published, I was "exposed" as a liar. Soon, the subterranean tunnels which I described were said not to exist at all. I,

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Pyramid in Brazilian jungle near site of Akahim.

or Moricz at best, must have invented them. Surely, I admit that I believed Moricz when he talked about the passages extending for "hundreds of miles", because I had no way to verify that. In the Spiegel interview, Moricz further maintained that somebody had taken him to the caves. Yet, he refused to name his guide. Who could have known about the subterranean constructions before Juan Moricz?

In his new and thoroughly researched work, Kaskara und Die Sieben Welten, soon to be published by Econ Verlag (Dusseldorf, Germany), Josef Blumrich, former NASA engineer and author of The Space-ships of Ezechiel, deals in detail with the traditions of the Hopi Indians, now living in Arizona, USA. The Hopi believe that their Gods, the Katchina had constructed underground places in South America. White Bear, one of the Hopi elders, related to Blumrich the following legend:

"The bow-clan bombarded the town of the snake-clan with the most powerful and abominable weapons they had. What they used we call electric energy today. It was similar to a thunderbolt. The snake-clan was prepared for it. The snake I mentioned before helped the people to go down under the ground where they were protected by a thick shield and some kind of electric energy as well. When the shooting stopped in the afternoon, use was made of the ability of the snake to entrench itself. They built a tunnel under the fortifications of the bow-clan."

Further, White Bear mentioned that at that time, "all the sounds were stored in crystals.... All these recordings from the third world are lying in a cave somewhere in South America."

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Blumrich then quotes several historical reports confirming the existence of artificial tunnels in South and Central America. Antonio Vasquez de Espinoza wrote: "The Chichipapa Mines are about 25 kilometers from the city of Oaxaca... and near these mines, along the slopes of a steep range, you can find a cave which is one of the most peculiar and remarkable of its kind in the whole world. The entrance of the cave looks like a huge portal; the doors closing it consist of tiny tiles (tejitas) which are linked together in a very skillful way. Two men can ride side by side in the interior space of the cave; the floor is paved with stones... constructed by the Indians in their gentile period, it is certainly one of the marvels of this world."

Thus, the existence of artificial underground passages seems to be assured, at least by mythological traditions. Did Moricz know these reports? How can he maintain then that the tunnels are guarded by "white Indians"?

In 1976, The Chronicle of Akakor was published in Germany by Econ and in the United States by Dell. The author, Karl Brugger, is a graduate sociologist and a correspondent in South America for the German television station ARD. Brugger quotes Tatumca Nara, chief of the Mogulala tribe, who relates the 12,000 year-old tradition of his people that their Gods came from a solar system called "Schwertta" to our planet and built an underground tunnel system in South America. Their ancient towns, Akakor, Akanis and Akahim, as well as a few places known today, such as Cuzco and Macchu Picchu, in Peru, were all connected by a gigantic network of tunnels which is partly existing today and is still used by the Indians.

Working independently of Brugger, the former Swissair pilot, Ferdinand Schmid, was living in Brazil and contacted Tatumca Nara in 1975. In 1977 and 1978, Schmid and Tatumca made several attempts to penetrate the jungle into northwestern Brazil in search of the lost city of Akahim, where, according to Mogulala legend, there are technical appliances of the Gods still hidden underground. Also, Tatumca states that the area of Akahim contains three large pyramids!

A few weeks ago, Ferdinand Schmid returned from his latest expedition with Tatumca and described to me the arduous journey to try to reach Akahim. Schmid reports: "Having arrived there, below the large waterfall where our former camp was situated, we walked another twenty minutes through the dense jungle before reaching a large rock, which we had to climb. Having reached the highest spot, which was overgrown with different types of cacti, I beheld a magnificent view in the distance to the west - I could see the three pyramids just as Tatumca had described them, as well as the nearby mountain range, where Tatumca pointed out the site of the ruins of the ancient city of Akahim.

"Staying near the river bank, Tatumca and I started through the jungle in the direction of the waterfall. Suddenly, an Indian appeared before us, leaning against a tree trunk, separated from us only by a small hollow. Tatumca stopped and quietly said 'Ramos.' The Indian approached us and embraced Tatumca. Ramos had shoulder-long, black hair, quite dark skin, but bright green eyes. He wore a woven head band and a drop-shaped symbol with some figures and an ornamented edge dangled on a chain from his right ear."

Tatumca explained to Schmid that Ramos was the commander-in-chief of the Mogulala tribe and that he was waiting with some warriors, who were farther up-stream. Ramos warned Tatumca that the priests of the tribe had decreed that Tatumca should marry the princess intended for him long ago and that his civil marriage would not be recognized. While I had always had some lingering doubts about Tatumca's credibility, they were now dispelled since the

tribe obviously recognized him as their chief. When Tatumca introduced Ferdinand Schmid, Ramos was disturbed, because he had expected to see me, about whom Tatumca had told him on a previous visit to the tribe.

The situation became somewhat ticklish for Schmid, because Tatumca would have to turn back to live with his wife. Ferdinand was ready to proceed to Akahim alone with Ramos, but he was warned that they could not guarantee his safe return. Schmid was determined to go without Tatumca, but Tatumca feared that if he returned to civilization without Schmid, the authorities would accuse him of deserting Schmid, or maybe of murdering him. Thus, with only a few hours walking distance separating Schmid from his goal, he reluctantly agreed to return with Tatumca. On their journey down the river, their flat-bottomed aluminum boat plunged over a waterfall dumping the men and their possessions into the river. Schmid lost his cameras and film!

Now, the reader must be thinking: "Ah, once again, von Daniken has no proof of Akahim." But that is wrong.

In 1978, Schmid and Tatumca set out in search of Akahim, but at that time the Brazilian military authorities insisted that they be accompanied by an archaeologist, Roldao Pires Brandao. Due to an unfortunate accident, Brandao shot himself in the arm and the expedition was aborted (For an account of that expedition, see Ancient Skies 5:4). After recovering from his gunshot wound, Brandao persuaded the Brazilian authorities to mount an expedition of their own to find Akahim, the approximate location of which Brandao had learned from Tatumca. It became obvious that the Brazilians did not want the Swiss to be the first to discover the lost city and the pyramids, if they did exist.

Brandao set out with six men, and going up a different tributary, reached Akahim at about the same time that Schmid and Tatumca met with Ramos in the jungle. In its August 1, 1979 issue, the Brazilian news magazine Veja, which is comparable to the German Spiegel, and the U.S. Time, reported in detail and with excellent photos on the "race to the pyramids in the jungle." Tatumca was vindicated. The pyramids and Akahim do exist!

It still remains to clarify what this story has to do with the subterranean tunnels and with Juan Moricz. When Tatumca was shown the Spiegel article of March 19, 1973 with a picture of Moricz, he burst out spontaneously: "I know Moricz! In the summer of 1967 I was staying in Venezuela and I told a part of the history of my people, of our Gods and of the underground tunnels to the engineer Juan Moricz one evening while sitting around a camp-fire. Moricz' girl friend, a Miss Rommel, then head of the German Hilfsverein, was also present." What a small world, even in the jungle!

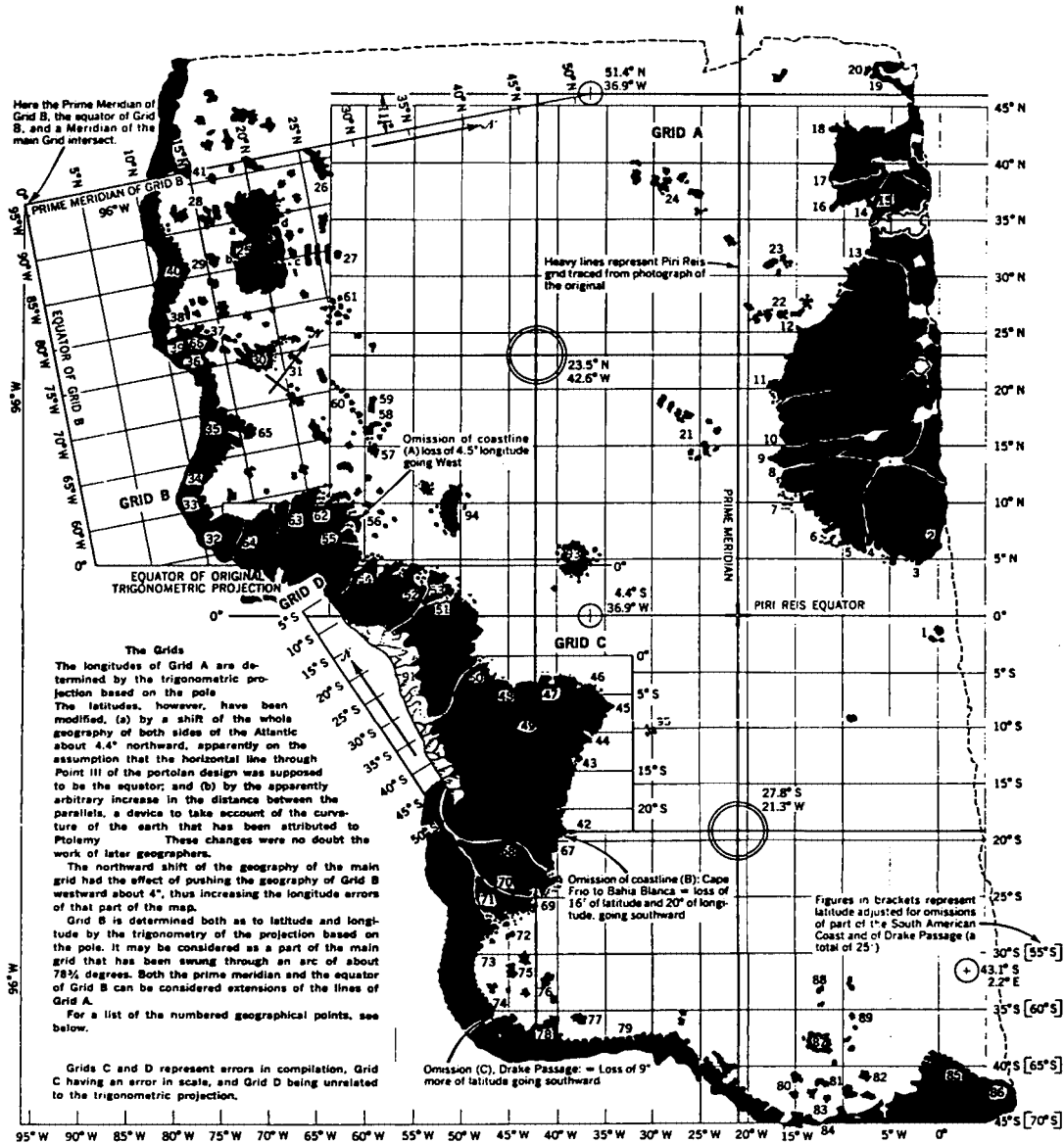
After hearing the story from Tatumca, Moricz must have done some research on his own and was able to locate the tunnel system in Ecuador, and that is how he was able to conduct me to the side-entrance to the caves.

What happens now? After Brandao's successful find, the Brazilian authorities supposedly will dispose of the "Case of Akahim." It remains to be seen whether the Mogulala Indians will be able to protect their secrets. But even if the Brazilians do find the evidence of an extraterrestrial civilization in underground chambers beneath Akahim, will the public ever be told?

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THE PIRI RE'IS MAP OF 1513
 IN ALL THE WORLD THERE IS NO OTHER MAP LIKE THIS MAP—PIRI RE'IS



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|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Annobon Islands | 21. Cape Verde Islands | 34. Essequibo River | 53. Island of Marajo | 73. Bahía Grande |
| 2. Cavally River | 22. The Canary Islands | 35. Orinoco River | 54. Essequibo River | 74. Cape San Diego (near the Horn) |
| 3. Cape Palmas | 23. Madeira Islands | 36. Gulf of Venezuela | 55. Mouths of the Orinoco | 75. Falkland Islands |
| 4. St. Paul River | 24. The Azores | 37. Pt. Gallinas | 56. Peninsula of Paria | 76. The South Shetlands |
| 5. Mano River | 25. Cuba | 38. Magdalena River | 57. Martinique | 77. South Georgia |
| 6. Freetown | (a) Gulf of Guacanayabo | 39. Gulf of Uraba | 58. Guadeloupe | 78. The Palmer Peninsula |
| 7. Bijagos Islands | (b) Quantanamo Bay | 40. Honduras (Cape Gracias a Dios) | 59. Antigua | 79. The Weddell Sea |
| 8. Gambia River | (c) Bahía de Nipe | 41. Yucatan | 60. Laeward Islands | 80. Mt. Ropke, Queen Maud Land |
| 9. Dakar | (d) Bahía de la Gloria | 42. Cape Frío | 61. Virgin Islands | 81. The Regulus Range |
| 10. Senegal River | (e) Camaguey Mountains | 43. Salvador | 62. Gulf of Venezuela | 82. Mühlig-Hofmann Mountains |
| 11. Cape Blanc | (f) Sierra Maestra Mountains | 44. San Francisco River | 63. Magdalena River | 83. Panck Trough |
| 12. Cape Juby | 26. Andros Island | 45. Recife (Pernambuco) | 64. Atrato River | 84. Neumayer Escarpment |
| 13. Sabu River | 27. San Salvador (Watling) | 46. Cape Sao Rocque | 65. Honduras (Cape Gracias a Dios) | 85. Drygalski Mountains |
| 14. Gibraltar | 28. Isle of Pines | 47. Rio Paralyba | 66. Yucatan | 86. Vorposten Peak |
| 15. Guadalquivir River | 29. Jamaica | 48. Bahía Sao Marcos | 67. Bahía Blanca | 87. Boreas, Passat Nunataks |
| 16. Cape St. Vincent | 30. Hispaniola | 49. Serras de Gurupí, de Desordem, de Negro | 68. Rio Colorado | 88. Tristan d'Acunha |
| 17. Tagus River | (Santo Domingo, Haiti) | 50. The Amazon (No. 1) Para River | 69. Gulf of San Mathias | 89. Gough Island |
| 18. Cape Finisterre | 31. Puerto Rico | 51. The Amazon (No. 2) Para River | 70. Rio Negro (Argentina) | |
| 19. Grönde River | 32. Rio Moroni | 52. The Amazon (No. 2) western mouth | 71. Rio Chubua | |
| 20. Brest | 33. Corantijn River | | 72. Gulf of San Gorge | |

The Piri Re'is Map with modern day cartographic grids superimposed and showing the identification of the land masses. Note that the map proves the theory that a land bridge once connected the southern tip of South America with the Antarctic Continent. The above illustration is one of many excellent representations in Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings, by Charles H. Hapgood, published by Chilton Books, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

BOOK REVIEW:

MAPS OF THE ANCIENT SEA KINGS

By Charles H. Hapgood

In 1929, a map was found in the old Imperial Palace in Constantinople which has since been the subject of much controversy. The map was signed by Piri Re'is, an admiral in the Turkish navy, and dated in the Moslem Year 919, which is 1513 AD in the Christian calendar. In his book, Bahriye, Piri Re'is described the preparation of his map and he stated that he had used about twenty older maps in drawing his, and that some of them had been based on mathematics, a science not used in mapmaking until the eighteenth century. Scholars studied the map in the 1930's, but could neither prove nor disprove his statements.

In 1956 the map found its way to the United States Hydrographic Office in Washington, D.C., where a staff cartographer, M.I. Walters, became interested in it and referred the map to Captain Arlington H. Mallery, whose hobby was the study of old maps, after a distinguished career as an engineer, navigator, archaeologist and author. After an intensive study, Capt. Mallery made the surprising comment that he believed that the southernmost part of the map represented the Antarctic Coast of Queen Maud Land, now covered with ice. He thought that somebody had mapped the coast before the ice cap appeared! This sensational suggestion inspired Prof. Hapgood to undertake the current book to examine the Piri Re'is map in detail.

Subtitled "Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age," Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings is the story of the discovery of the first hard evidence that advanced peoples preceded all the people now known to history. The Piri Re'is map is examined in detail and many other Sixteenth Century maps are depicted and analyzed in the book. Prof. Hapgood also builds his evidence to convince the reader that the map is genuine, and is, in fact, as old as it is claimed to be.

Prof. Hapgood writes: "The evidence presented by the ancient maps appears to suggest the existence in remote times, before the rise of any of the known cultures, of a true civilization, of a comparatively advanced sort, which either was localized in one area but had worldwide commerce, or was in a real sense, a worldwide culture. This culture, at least in some respects, may well have been more advanced than the civilizations of Egypt, Babylonia, Greece, and Rome. In astronomy, nautical science, mapmaking and possibly ship-building, it was perhaps more advanced than any state of culture before the 18th Century of the Christian Era."

Quoting a historian of science, Prof. Hapgood writes: "It may be, as some indeed suspect, that the science we see at the dawn of recorded history was not science at its dawn but represents the remnants of the science of some great and as yet untraced civilization."

The author points out that the scientific knowledge possessed by ancient people cannot be accounted for in view of the crudeness of the scientific instruments they supposedly possessed, citing the Mayans and their incredible precision in measuring the length of the tropical year, with only a deviation of .0003 from our computerized calculations!

Prof. Hapgood concludes: "This evidence of a lost technology will support and give credence to many other evidences that have been brought forward in the last century or more to support the hypothesis of a lost civilization in remote times. Scholars have been able to dismiss most of that evidence as mere myth, but here we have evidence that cannot be dismissed. This evidence requires that all the other evidence that has been brought forward in the past should be reexamined with an open mind."

Prof. Hapgood wrote to the United States Air Force for an evaluation of certain unusual features

of the Piri Re'is map and received the following reply from Lt. Col. Harold Z. Ohlmeyer:

"The claim that the lower part of the map portrays the Princess Martha Coast of Queen Maud Land antarctica, and the Palmer Peninsula is reasonable. We find this is the most logical and in all probability the correct interpretation of the map.

"The geographical detail shown in the lower part of the map agrees very remarkably with the results of the Seismic profile made across the top of the ice cap by the Swedish-British-Norwegian Antarctic Expedition of 1949.

"This indicates the coastline had been mapped before it was covered by the ice cap.

"The ice cap in this region is now about a mile thick. We have no idea how the data on this map can be reconciled with the supposed state of geographical knowledge in 1513."

But Erich von Daniken does have an idea - ancient astronauts were here and mapped the area from the air!

The author is a Professor of History at Keene Teachers College in New Hampshire. Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings was published in hardcover by Chilton Books, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, in 1966.

See the illustration on the next page showing the land masses as drawn by Piri Re'is. Modern cartographers have identified the Caribbean Islands, the eastern coastline of South America, the western portion of Africa and Spain, and the northern portion of Antarctica.

SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on July 10, 11, 12, 1980.

NEW BOOKS:

ETHER TECHNOLOGY: A Rational Approach to Gravity-Control, by Rho Sigma, available from Tarnhelm Press, P.O. Box 7, Lakemont, Georgia 30552 USA.

MEVS: CREATOR OF THE PYRAMIDS, by Edgar D. Wilson, available from Astro-Research Publishing, 266 S. Glendora Av., West Covina, California 91790 USA.

WILTSHIRE GALAXY, a pamphlet by Mike Saunders, available from Downs Books, Caterham, Surrey, England.

NEW BOOKS IN GERMAN:

DIE ZWÖLFTE PLANETE, Zecharia Sitchin's book The Twelfth Planet, available from Europa Buch, Unteragerie, Switzerland.

DIE MANNA-MASCHINE, by George Sassoon and Rodney Dale, available from Pabel-Verlag.

KASSKARA UND DIE SIEBEN WELTEN, by Josef F. Blumrich, available from Econ-Verlag.

DER TAG AN DEM DIE GOETTER STARBEN, by Walter Ernsting, available from Marion von Schröder-Verlag.

NEUE BEWEISE DER PRÄ-ASTRONAUTIK, the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society held in Munich, Germany in June, 1979, available in paperback from Moewig.