

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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ATLANTIS

BY W. RAYMOND DRAKE*

For countless generations the name Atlantis has evoked magic in the hearts of men. Priests have mourned its spiritual wisdom degenerating into wickedness; philosophers have moralized on its divine kings; poets have extolled its fabled perfection. All the virtues, all the vices, all the splendor of a brilliant civilization when Earth was young, vanished from memory like a dream. Its towers, temples, palaces, navies, armies, and myriads of men and women thronging those marble courts through millennia have vanished like ghosts leaving not a trace. Thousands of books have been written proving the reality of Atlantis; thousands more deny its existence. Can the minds of men down dusty ages be held captive by the same dream? Where was this City of Wonder?

Traditions assert that at the zenith of its magnificence a million years ago, the Atlantis continent extended from Iceland to South America. Maps actually exist showing how catastrophes in 800,000 BC and 200,000 BC progressively reduced the land mass to two islands, Ruta and Daitya. A convulsion around 30,000 BC left only part of Ruta, known as Poseidonis, said to have been finally submerged in 9,564 BC when the British Isles were still joined to Europe and the Sahara formed part of the Atlantic Ocean. Early inhabitants, the black-skinned giant Rmoahals, roamed dense forests contending with gigantic animals. After climatic changes and glaciations, a shorter, reddish-brown race, called the Tlavatis, settled in the mountains. The Toltecs, the classical Atlanteans, originated in the area of modern Mexico. They were magnificent copper-colored people, averaging eight feet tall. Their noble features resembled the ancient Greeks, their psychic faculties were keenly developed and many attained lofty spiritual and mental powers. Thus Atlantis attained a worldwide Golden Age soon after the earlier civilization of Lemuria, torn with volcanic eruption, sank into the Pacific.

Atlantis was ruled by its Priest-King in a theocracy dominating every aspect of life. Its social system continued in Ancient Egypt and in Peru and persisted in Tibet even until the last decade. The cosmic religion taught reincarnation, with death being welcomed as a blessed rest before rebirth. The Atlanteans worshiped the Sun as a symbol of the Supreme Being and erected circles of giant monoliths or trilithons in complex arrangements showing the rising of the Sun on certain dates, and the orientation of Sirius and other important stars.

Plato, born in Athens in 429 BC, claimed descent

on his mother's side from Solon, the great law-giver of Greece. After Socrates' execution, under whom he studied, Plato journeyed to Egypt, Sicily and southern Italy acquiring wisdom. He returned to teach in the shady groves of Athens where he died at the remarkable age of 82, still immortalized by his transcendent philosophy. In his brilliant dialogues, *Timaeus* and *Critias*, Plato plainly states that his ancestor, Solon, one of the Seven Sages of Greece, travelled to Egypt about 600 BC and was told by the Priests of Sais that their Goddess Neith had founded the City of Athens 9000 years earlier. The priests, versed in the vast accumulation of papyri texts, added that Athens was attacked by hordes from a great island to the West. The valiant Athenians saved Europe and the Middle East and in a single day and night of storms, the invaders' continent of Atlantis was destroyed. The Egyptians told Solon that the story was written on pillars which were still preserved. In 310 BC the Greek philosopher, Crantor, related that he had seen in Egypt a column on which was written the history of the wondrous island now submerged in the ocean.

The magic, mellifluous, musical "Atlantis" could not have been dreamed by Plato. The word is not found in any Indo-European language. "A" or "atl" in Toltec and Berber signifies "water." "Atlan" means "amid the water;" "Azatlan", the fatherland of the Aztecs, was depicted in old Mexican drawings as an island with mountains encircled by concentric rings of walls and canals similar to the citadel of Atlantis described by Plato.

The *Critias*, in terse guide-book prose, describes the Island of Atlantis with a realism attractive to our tourists of today. Plato's impressive account rivals that brilliant description of Babylon by Herodotus, delighting all antiquity. In the center of the whole island there was a plain which is said to have been the fairest of all plains, very fertile, surrounded by mountains celebrated for their size and beauty, studded with prosperous villages, lakes, rivers, meadows, and both wild and tame animals.

Seafarers from Atlantis explored the Earth, and their enterprise built a vast Empire dominating Western Europe, Italy and Libya. The virile Atlanteans, gloried in mastery of the world with imaginative conception and technical genius. They fashioned their island with busy ports and wide harbors for their navies and merchant-fleets and constructed broad, concentric canals linked by bridges leading to the Citadel. The entire outside wall was covered with tin; the innermost wall flashed with the red of orichalcum. The city shone with palaces of massive stones coloured white, red and black, set amid fountains from hot and cold springs, watering public baths and luxuriant trees of wonderful height and beauty. All these magnificent buildings glowed in the tropical sun, eclipsed only by the great Temple dedicated to Poseidon and Cleito, which was cov-

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ered with silver and orichalcum, with its pinnacles gleaming in gold. Such a wondrous metropolis embellished by sculpture and works of art through many millennia must surely have inspired all its inhabitants and imbued the Atlanteans with the proud feeling that they were truly the children of the golden Sun God. The plan of Atlantis is said to characterize the design of old Mexico, Carthage and many ancient cities throughout the world. Some have alleged that all copy the splendid capital of Venus, thus implying that our civilization was inspired from Space.

Plato continues with a brief description of the army and navy, Poseidon worship, civil administration of the country under ten kings; then, to the exasperation of all posterity, his fantastic account ends abruptly.

According to the distinguished scholar, Egerton Sykes, there are over 150 classical references to Atlantis. Heinrich Schliemann, of Troy fame, quoted a papyrus in the museum of old St. Petersburg as describing a forlorn expedition dispatched by Pharaoh Sent of the Second Dynasty to discover Atlantis. Another papyrus in the same museum referred to the Kings of Atlantis. Schliemann claimed to have discovered amid the ruins of Troy, bronze vases and pottery engraved in Phoenician hieroglyphics signifying "From King Chronos of Atlantis."

The Chinese cherished traditions of an island continent called "Maligasima", which was destroyed because of its evil giants. Its King Peirium escaped like Noah and his descendants peopled China with Divine Dynasties. The Hindu Puranas give a description of wars on continents and islands situated beyond Western Africa in the Atlantic Ocean. Sanskrit records suggest that the "Mahabharata" actually chronicles the conflict between the Atlanteans and the first Aryans. Proclus quotes Marcellus who wrote a history of Ethiopia mentioning the great island of Atlantis, which was destroyed in ancient times by a violent storm. Aelian in *Varia Historia* tells of a marvellous tradition related to Silenus, son of a nymph, to Midas, King of Phrygia, as mentioned by Theopompus of Chios writing about 320 BC describing an unknown land with vast meadows which could refer to the prairies of North America. Timagenes and Diodorus Siculus mention warlike giants from the Western Ocean invading Hyperborea. Dionysius of Halicarnassus suggests that Hercules came from Red Island, possibly Atlantis, to invade Europe. He swiftly conquered Spain and Italy where he founded Herculaneum near Pompeii.

In the 19th Century, Ignatius Donnelly, with masterly arguments marshalled impressive evidence to prove the existence of Atlantis. Fossils discovered in America show that the ancestors of the horse originated in the Western Hemisphere and must have crossed to Europe by a land-bridge in ancient times. Botanists find many plants common to the East coast of America and the West coast of Europe. Fascinating links between the languages, religion and culture of South America and Babylonia suggest some common link between the two. The mythologist, Lewis Spence, in a shrewd analysis of Celtic legends and American folklore, offers valuable support for Donnelly's findings. Prof. Hans Schindler Bellamy applied the Cosmic Ice Theory of the Austrian cosmologist Hans Hoerbiger and persuasively suggests that Atlantis was destroyed in the immense floods which were raised when Luna, our present Moon, was captured by the gravitational pull of Earth.

Naturally, scholars differ in their interpretation of Plato's account. Jurgen Spanuth equates Atlantis with the island of Heligoland, dominating a Bronze Age empire three thousand years ago. Prof. Angelos Galanopoulos, of the University of Athens, suggests that Plato's Atlantis was really the small island of Santorin which erupted and disappeared beneath the waters of the Mediterranean Sea about 1500 BC. Students, all with plausible arguments, have sited Atlantis in South America, Africa, and

Spain. Occult sources insist that the lost continent was in the Atlantic Ocean.

Solon stated that Atlantis was given to a God represented in Greek by Poseidon, grandson of Uranus, and brother of Zeus, presumably by his father, Chronos or Saturn. This symbolism associated with the Gold, Silver and Bronze Ages and the Wars in Heaven mentioned in classical mythology may conceal three separate epochs with invaders from Space. Poseidon, the Roman Neptune, held domination over the sea and dwelled in a wonderful palace in the ocean depths. He rode a glittering chariot drawn by brazen horses with golden manes, almost identical to the golden car of Indra in the *Rig Veda* of ancient India. His trident, a three-pronged spear, raised storms and shook the Earth like Indra's dart, which blasted like a nuclear bomb. One of Poseidon's sons was Belerophon, who wrought fantastic deeds with his flying steed, Pegasus. Poseidon was associated with dragons, horses, and particularly flying-horses, the symbol of the Sky People. Poseidon rising from the sea to civilize the people of Atlantis evokes Oannes, the being with the body of a fish, who, according to Berossus, appeared from the ocean to teach the early Babylonians all the arts of civilization.

Poseidon married the mortal, Cleito. Their son, Atlas, became King of Atlantis. In Greek mythology, Atlas was the brother of the hero Prometheus. Together they led the Titans in the War in the Heavens against Zeus. Solon mentioned a son of Poseidon called Nestor, the name of a King of Argos and of Mycenae about the time of the Deucalion Flood. This may perhaps be confirmed by an inscription said to have been found by Heinrich Schliemann on the Lion Gate at Mycenae relating that Misor was the child of Thoth, son of an Atlantean priest, who fell in love with the daughter of King Chronos. He escaped and wandered to Egypt, where he taught the wisdom of Atlantis. Some suggest that it was the Atlanteans who built the Great Pyramid of Giza.

The American psychic, Edgar Cayce, startled scientists, physicians and clergymen in the early 1900's with his "readings" on Atlantis while in a self-imposed trance. He described the Atlanteans as traveling through the air and under the seas, photographing objects at a distance, utilizing X-rays, recording sounds and sights on video-tape, obtaining laser-like powers from crystals, devising terrible weapons from cosmic rays and utilizing anti-gravity propulsion. The Atlanteans produced power from a "fire-stone", which utilized fusion or fission from radioactive materials. This was described by Cayce 12 years before the first atomic bomb was exploded. Earthquakes shattered the continent into many islands which gradually submerged and about 10,000 BC Poseidon, the last of the islands, sank beneath the water. Most of the Atlantean population, according to Cayce, anticipated the catastrophe and migrated to Egypt in the East and to America in the West.

Although the Atlantean invasion of Europe is not recorded in the few ancient manuscripts left to us, physical proof perhaps may be established by the sudden appearance of the magnificent Cro-Magnon Man, whose impressive broad and lofty forehead, splendid cranial capacity and tall stature made him equal, if not superior, to Homo Sapiens of today. This remarkable being, far more advanced than the British Neanderthal Man, arrived in South-West Europe quite suddenly, as if from another planet, or more probably from Atlantis.

The Soviet scientist, N. Zirov, describes how the Atlantis land-mass barred the warm currents of the South Atlantic from reaching the coasts of Europe, then covered with ice. After the submergence of Atlantis, the Gulf Stream washed Western Europe and banished the Ice Age about 10,000 BC.

The existence of a world-wide civilization destroyed long ago may be established by many signs, insignificant perhaps in isolation, but which together form a wonderful mosaic depicting a brilliant

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culture in ages past. Startling evidence of lost civilizations may exist all around us. All over the world, men utilized some now-unknown power to cut and raise enormous blocks of stone into pillars, pyramids and cyclopean platforms. The mystery of Atlantis, which haunted the noblest minds of antiquity, confounds us even more in today's Space Age. The secret still lies enshrined in the sea-green ruins of Atlantis, yet to be discovered.

STUDY TRIPS WITH ERICH VON DANIKEN

Two study trips have been arranged for members who wish to travel with Erich von Daniken to archaeological sites of interest in the ancient astronaut field. The first is a trip to Turkey from April 17 to 24, 1982, departing from Zurich, and the other is to Peru from September 15 to 29, 1982, departing from Zurich or Frankfurt, West Germany. For detailed itineraries and prices write to AMERICAN EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL, INC., Abteilung Gruppenreisen, Kreuzstr. 26, CH-8034, Zurich, Switzerland.

ZECHARIA SITCHIN'S new book The Stairway to Heaven will be available in paperback from Avon Books, New York, later this year. Also, Mr. Sitchin's first book, The 12th Planet, has been translated into Portuguese and Italian and will be available in those countries in 1982. Recently, Mr. Sitchin was featured on the television program entitled "In Search Of...The Ultimate Disaster."

EIGHTH WORLD CONFERENCE - VIENNA - 1982

The Eighth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society will be held at the Hotel Hilton in Vienna, Austria on November 12 and 13, 1982. Hotel rooms are limited and are available on a first-come first-served basis. Members in the United States, Canada and Mexico who wish to attend should write to the Society Headquarters in the United States as soon as possible. Members in the rest of the world should make reservations with the AAS, Baselstrasse 10, 4532 Feldbrunnen/50, Switzerland.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE - CHICAGO - 1983

Mark your calendar now for the celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Ancient Astronaut Society. A World Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 6 and 7, 1983 at the Holiday Inn O'Hare/Kennedy in Rosemont, Illinois, just minutes from O'Hare Airport. Details will be announced.

THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY is pleased to offer the complete works of John L. Stephens on his travels to Central America and Mexico free for a contribution of US\$50.00 to the Society. Published in oversize paperback, the four volumes are complete and unabridged with a total of 1,567 pages and over 240 illustrations of Frederick Catherwood, the artist-architect who accompanied Stephens on his explorations to Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico in 1839, 1840 and 1841. Catherwood's detailed drawings show exactly how the Maya sites and monuments looked 140 years ago, before archaeological excavation and restoration were even dreamed of. Stephens takes the reader to Chichen-Itza, Uxmal, Coba, Palenque, Quirigua, Copan and over 40 other Maya sites. Excellently written with intricate detail, the books describe hair-raising adventures, danger-filled experiences in the rebellion-torn countries and physically exhausting travels.

To receive your free copies of all four volumes, send your contribution in the amount of US\$50.00 without delay. This offer is valid only so long as the supply lasts. Contributions are deductible for U.S. Federal Income Tax purposes.

PALEOVISITOLGY

BY VLADIMIR V. RUBTSOV*

Recently I returned from the SETI-Tallinn-81 Conference that was dealing with the problem of extraterrestrial intelligence. Participating in this very interesting meeting were about 150 Soviet and about 20 foreign scientists, including F. Drake, R. Dixon and D. Schwartzman. Some of the topics concerned UFOs and paleocontacts.

The Ancient Astronaut theme is being discussed regularly in our country on Tsiolkovsky Readings held every year in Kaluga. At the 1979 meeting, Yu. N. Morozov and I gave our lecture on "An Appraisal of Modern State of the Problem of Paleovisits", recently published in Proceedings of the 14th Tsiolkovsky Readings. A summary of the lecture follows:

1. We propose the term paleovisit to refer to any presence of extraterrestrials on Earth in the geologic, prehistoric or historic past. Paleocontact between extraterrestrials and earthmen might be a significant part of a paleovisit. We know that a paleovisit was possible, but not for a fact that it happened; therefore, we have the problem of a paleovisit. The problem may have been solved only by searching the traces of a paleovisit. Such traces may be: direct (extraterrestrial artifacts, such as the remains of a spaceship), or indirect, such as traces of radioactivity; evidences of genetic manipulations in living beings; images of extraterrestrials in various paintings; oral and written texts; etc.

2. The present stage of the discussion of the problem is being characterized by the sharp controversy between supporters and opponents of the Ancient Astronaut hypothesis. The essential defects of this situation are, in our opinion, as follows:

a. Each side is sure it can come to unequivocal conclusions. But to search the traces of paleovisit it is necessary to possess methods that would unite both traditional methods of historical investigations to get information about ancient objects, and new methods to make it possible for us to distinguish extraterrestrial objects from terrestrial ones. We do not possess as yet such integrated methods; therefore, any conclusion about a supposed paleovisit evidence, either positive or negative, has no scientific persuasiveness at the present time.

b. The Ancient Astronaut hypothesis is only one of the possible solutions to the paleovisit problem; however, that hypothesis and that problem are usually identified together and very often the critical attitude against the Ancient Astronaut hypothesis develops into a denial of the subject matter of paleovisits. The problem would still be worthy of scientific attention even if all the evidence found by supporters of the hypothesis proved to be erroneous.

c. At the present time, the paleovisit problem is being studied primarily on a "pre-scientific" level. That is, it is discussed mainly in the pages of popular science publications, and scientists form only a small percentage of the active researchers.

3. We believe that the only solution is to create a special scientific branch of study, which we refer to as paleovisitology, within the framework of the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) field. There must be developed within this new branch such theoretical conceptions as paleovisit, as well as methods of searching the traces; all on a scientific basis. At the same time it is reasonable to study intensively some of the most promising facts, such as the astronomical knowledge possessed by the Dogon of Africa. These practical investigations will stimulate the development of the theory and methodology of paleovisitology.

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THE EASTER ISLAND BOARDS

BY TOM GARY*

Easter Island is a mere dot in the South Pacific Ocean 2,000 miles due west of Santiago, Chile. Just 50 square miles in area, this tiny, barren island contains one of the most baffling mysteries in the world - hundreds of immense stone statues which were carved from the volcanic rock. No one knows for sure who carved the statues or for what purpose.

But equally baffling is the mystery of the rongo-rongo tablets which were found by the hundreds when the island was first discovered in modern times on Easter Sunday, 1722 by the Dutch explorer, Roggeveen. After the Dutch left, the Spaniards and the English, in turn, visited the island, killed or captured most of the inhabitants and destroyed all but a very few of the rongo-rongo tablets. Today only about 20 of the tablets survive in various museums.

The tablets, made of hard toro miro wood, appear to be carved with characters or symbols about 1/2 inch high in rows, with every other row being inverted. Both sides of the board are covered with the mysterious script, which contains over five hundred different characters, resembling human figures, birds, animals, fish and other inexplicable shapes. The boards are thin, most have rounded edges and are from 12 to 20 inches long, although it was reported that some were up to 6 feet long. Apparently, every family on the island possessed a rongo-rongo tablet, believing them to contain magical powers because they had been brought to the island by the "gods."

We are searching for evidence to determine whether Earth has been visited by intelligent beings from outer space, and while most of us may doubt if we will find the remnants of an alien spaceship, it is conceivable that there are objects which have already been found which could not have been produced with the technology earthmen possessed. I believe the Easter Island boards to be such objects.

To test my theory, I went to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and examined their exact stone copy of one of the wooden rongo-rongo tablets. I was permitted to handle the 18 inch-long stone tablet and examined it in detail. I placed the stone on a lazy Susan, marked to be turned at intervals of ten degrees. With a camera mounted at an angle, I photographed the stone 36 times. I was amazed to find that parts of the design appeared as different shapes in the photos. For example, a small square in one photo, appeared as a small circle in another.

Believing the designs to be scrambled pictures, rather than script, I devised a viewer, using a design found on the back of some of the Easter Island statues (Figure 1). The round object in the figure is a glass ball and the other a three prism arrangement. When the prism is placed between the glass ball and the tablet, an unscrambled picture, or hologram will appear in the ball. As the board is lowered, the picture in the ball becomes smaller and an area comes into view that was not visible when the prism rested on the tablet. If the ball and prism are moved across the board, a moving picture evolves.

My photos of the tablet show that the designs extend to the very edge of the beveled edge of the board and in some places near the edge, only half of the design can be seen. Further, my examination reveals that the consistency of the individual designs leads to the inescapable conclusion that the designs were not carved into the wood, but were produced by some mechanical means.

As we begin to have a better understanding of holograms, it is possible that it will be discovered that the rongo-rongo tablets are, in fact, messages from the "gods" and could be the evidence we are seeking to prove that Earth was visited in the past by extraterrestrials.

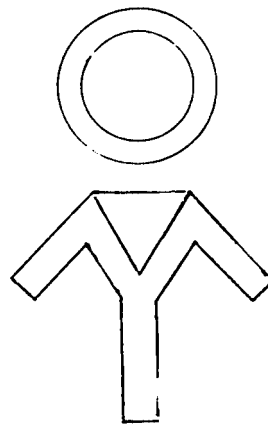


Figure 1.



Portion of museum tablet examined by the author.

*Mr. Gary is an inventor and the author of a privately published pamphlet entitled "Adventures of an Amateur Psychic." His address is 1255 Avenue D, Beaumont, Texas 77701 USA.

A Member Expedition is being planned to visit Easter Island in October 1983. About four days will spent on the island, after first visiting sites in Peru, such as Chan-Chan, Cuzco, Macchu Picchu, Sacsayhuaman, Toro Muerto and a flight over the Majes Canyon, one and one-half times deeper than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado in the U.S.; and Tiahuanaco in Bolivia. Members interested in participating should contact the Society office.

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