

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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SOME NOTES ON PERU

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

PERU - the very name evokes visions of fabulous hoards of gold and silver and of the vast, far-ranging Inca Empire, one of the mightiest civilizations of the world.

When Francisco Pizarro and his small band of ruffians (from 130 to 250 men and 25 to 80 horses, depending upon the historian) landed in Peru in 1532, the Inca Empire included Ecuador and the southern part of Colombia to the north, all of present-day Peru and large parts of Bolivia and Chile to the south - an area one-third the size of the continental United States.

Beginning in about the 12th Century AD, the relatively small culture of the Incas, centered in the mountains at Cuzco, began an orderly system of "acquisition" of the peoples and territories surrounding them, until by the 15th Century AD, the Incas dominated the entire country, having taken over the much older coastal cultures of the Chavin, the Chimu, the Sechin, the Mochica, the Paracas and Ica, the Nazca and others. A well-organized, highly-developed civilization was coordinated by the Lord-Inca, the supreme ruler, who called himself the "Son of the Sun."

Not only did the Incas develop an orderly society, which was basically communistic, but also they produced marvelous technological achievements, such as architecture, construction, engineering, horticulture, art and music, and the network of Inca roads.

As did the Romans, the Incas paved their roads with stone where necessary, sometimes as wide as 12 feet. They cut steps into steep, rocky mountainsides and stretched suspension bridges across roaring river gorges. There were two principal "highways" running roughly parallel from north to south. The Coastal Road ran from Tumbes in the north to Talca in Chile, south of Santiago (over 2,500 miles long); and the Andean Road, some two hundred miles to the east, which ran through the mountains all the way from Quito, Ecuador to Cuzco and on to Talca (3,250 miles long). The two main arteries were connected at intervals by lateral roads, thus providing a method of rapid communication throughout the Empire, utilizing a unique system of swift relay runners (chasquis) with stone stations from two to ten miles apart. Messages could thus be relayed across hundreds of miles in a remarkably short time. It is reported that the Inca in Cuzco enjoyed fresh fish brought by the chasquis from the Pacific Ocean almost three hundred miles away!

It is interesting to note that half a world away in remote Tibet, high in the Himalayas, the same system of relay runners was employed, with the stations four miles apart. Also, both the Incas and the Tibetans followed a practice of depositing stones in piles as they travelled along the road.

It is also noteworthy that the facial features, skin coloring and shape of the eyes of the Tibetans and the Quechua Indians of the Cuzco area and the Aymara Indians of the Bolivian altiplano are almost identical. Still today, Peruvian Indian babies are born with an "Oriental" birthmark, which consists of a rectangular patch of skin (about 3 in x 2 in) on the back at the base of the spine. The mark resembles a scar or healed burn.

Because the Incas did not develop a system of writing, much of their origins and history is lost to us. However, they did utilize an ingenious mathematical system, called the "quipus," a series of cords of different colors with various kinds of knots. The type and position of the knots and the color and length of the cords were used as numerical records based upon the decimal system. Like the Oriental abacus, the quipus were exceedingly accurate and contained an infinite capability for counting. The use of such a hand-operated "computer" certainly indicates a high degree of technology.

Francisco Pizarro marched into Cuzco in November, 1533 and the conquest of the Inca Empire was thus completed. For years afterward, a steady flow of gold and silver from Peru almost totally depleted its wealth. Heavily-laden Spanish galleons plied their way from the Caribbean across the Atlantic with the precious metals which had been melted from fantastic works of art. Many ships were attacked by pirates, others sank to the bottom of the Atlantic in raging storms, but most reached their destination - the monarchies and churches of Europe.

Although Peru was despoiled of its fabulous wealth of gold and silver, the country remains today as a storehouse of archaeological treasures. There are ruins and archaeological sites throughout the country, but the Cuzco region has particular interest for students of the ancient astronaut theory.

Cuzco, capital city of the Inca Empire, has many remnants of stone walls of incredible construction. The stones are fitted together in "jig-saw puzzle" fashion with such precision, without mortar, that a knife blade cannot be inserted between them.

On a mountain top overlooking the city of Cuzco stand the ruins of Sacsayhuaman, called the "fortress" by the Spaniards because of its impregnable walls. The blocks of stone are so huge and are fitted together with such precision, that the Spanish could not pull them down. The fortress consists of three parallel stone walls, built in a "zig-zag" or "saw-tooth" fashion. The lower, or outer wall, averages 30 feet in height throughout its incredible length of 2,000 feet. All the walls are built with enormous, bluish-gray stone blocks, hewn to fit together perfectly without mortar. The largest stone in the complex is in the lower wall and weighs an estimated 360 tons. It is 30 feet high, 15 feet wide and 12 feet thick. The second wall is built at the level of the top of the first wall and set back

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about 30 feet. It averages 18 feet in height. Above that wall, the third wall, also set back, averages 14 feet in height.

The fortress walls face on a huge "parade ground" across from which can be found some even more incredible stone works. A small platform has been cut into the stone outcropping of the small hill beyond, and broad steps are carved on each side leading up to the platform. This work has been done with such perfection that it appears to have been machined and polished smooth. Nearby are some cuts in the living rock that defy the imagination. Smooth polished cuts have been made into the rock in such a fashion that it resembles a knife blade having been inserted into a piece of cheese and the small portion smoothly removed. There is no apparent purpose for these cuts. They are not steps, nor seats, nor can we imagine any possible use for them.

North of Cuzco beyond the Yucay Valley, called the "Sacred Valley of the Incas", the old Inca village of Ollantaytambo exists today just as it did 400 years ago. The site is seldom visited by tourists because of the time required to make the trip from Cuzco and because Ollantaytambo is literally at the end of the road. The highway ends here, although just 25 miles beyond lie the ruins of Machu Picchu, "Lost City of the Incas", perched precariously in the saddle between two high mountains.

Since the road does not continue through the narrow river gorge to Machu Picchu, the only ways to reach it are by the small railroad from Cuzco, or on foot over the old Inca road across the mountain tops, a distance of 70 miles. Hence, hundreds of thousands of tourists each year en route to Machu Picchu, pass by Ollantaytambo but are not allowed to stop.

Situated in the Urubamba River gorge, Ollantaytambo is dwarfed by the steep mountains surrounding it. Nearby is the Cordillera de Urubamba, with five snow-capped massifs ranging in height from 18,000 to 19,000 feet. The village is dominated by the ruins, whose narrowly-terraced stone walls climb the steep mountainside. The incredibly steep incline gave the Incas a tremendous defensive advantage over their enemies. The terraces are built of rather small stones, but at the very top of the complex are several gigantic stones which have been sculpted as if they had been made of clay. The principal feature at the top is a most unusual stone wall, 33 feet in length and built of only six enormous stones of red porphyry, hard as granite. They stand upright and between the stones, long inserts of the same red porphyry have been fitted to fill the gaps between the upright stones. The largest of the stones is over 13 feet high, over 6 feet wide and almost six feet thick. The average height of the stones is 12 feet. They are estimated to weigh 50 tons each. The top of the bluff on which the wall is built is so narrow that the wall extends almost to the very edge of the steep cliff, with a sheer drop-off several hundred feet to the valley floor below. There are some other huge blocks of the same type of stone lying about near the wall, so it is possible that the wall was a portion of a building at one time. It is inconceivable how such a structure could have been built in this precarious position because the stones were quarried on the adjoining mountain across the river. Thus, the stones had to have been removed from the quarry, taken down the mountain, across the river, and then up the steep incline to their final resting place.

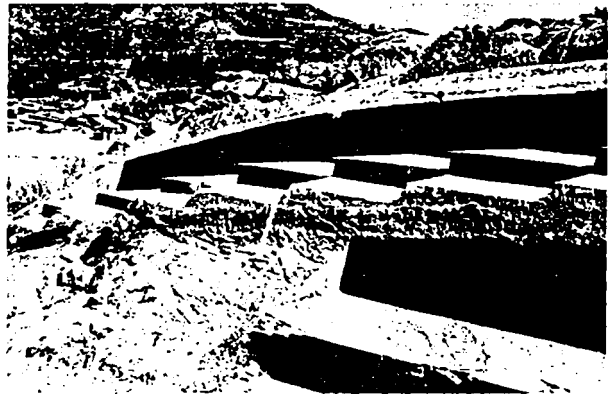
At the bottom of the terraced fortress one can see some other very large stones, of a bright blue color, polished perfectly smooth and with large chunks removed from them in a precision fashion.

On the mountainsides around Ollantaytambo, there are multi-storied structures built of a yellowish stone clinging to the steep mountain faces, reminiscent of the monasteries of the Himalayas.

At Machu Picchu and at Ollantaytambo, the immense stones are at the top of the complexes and in many instances, the more crude, less precise work of a later civilization has been superimposed on the older work. Certainly the Incas built, or rebuilt, much of the surviving stone work in the Cuzco region, but it is more likely that a much earlier, more advanced civilization built the massive walls of Sacsayhuaman, made the strange cuts in the stone nearby, and maneuvered the enormous stones to the top of Ollantaytambo, sculpted them and erected them into a wall.

SUGGESTED READING ON PERU:

The Conquest of Peru, by William H. Prescott
The Incas, by Pedro de Cieza de Leon
The Incas, by Garcillas de la Vega
Lost City of the Incas, by Hiram Bingham
The Desert Kingdoms of Peru, by Victor W. von Hagen
The Ancient Sun Kingdoms of the Americas, v. Hagen
The Royal Road of the Incas, by von Hagen
National Geographic Magazines: October 1950,
January 1955, February 1964, February 1971,
May 1971, January 1973, March 1973, December
1973, May 1975, June 1975 and March 1982.



A



B

ALL PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR. LEGEND:

- A. Smooth, polished steps in stone - Sacsayhuaman
- B. Enigmatic cuts in stone near Sacsayhuaman
- C. Left one-third of fortress walls - Sacsayhuaman
- D. Center one-third of fortress walls
- E. Right one-third of fortress walls
- F. Largest stone in fortress walls - Sacsayhuaman
- G. Wall of six enormous stones - Ollantaytambo
- H. Portion of wall - Ollantaytambo
- I. Large, polished blue stone - Ollantaytambo
- J. Cuzco wall with different construction styles

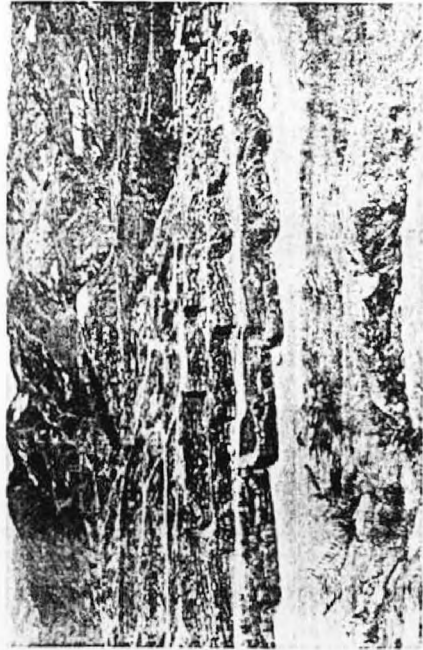
ZECHARIA SITCHIN's book The Stairway to Heaven is now available in paperback from Avon Books, NY.



C



D



E



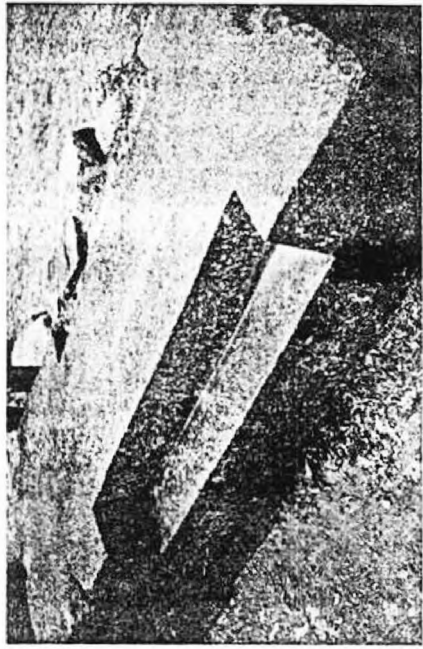
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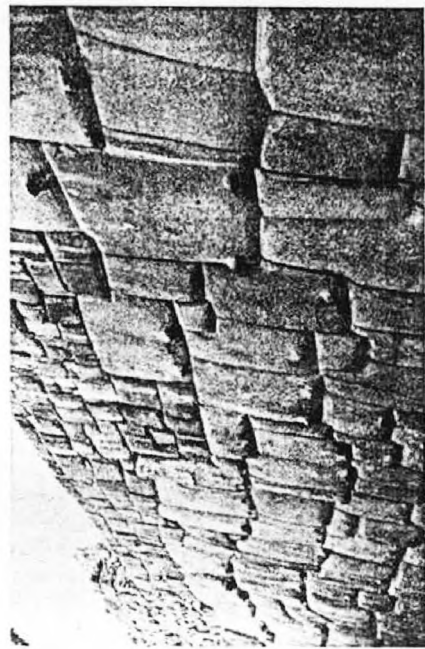
G



H



I



J

LIGHT FOR THE PHARAOH - ANOTHER VIEW

BY ODDVAR ERIKSEN*

I read with interest the article in Ancient Skies 9:4 by Habeck and Krassa entitled Light For the Pharaoh in which the authors conclude that the reliefs carved on the walls of a crypt in the Hathor Temple at Dendera, Egypt depict electric light bulbs. In my opinion, what appears to be a snake inside the "bulb" (see figure) should not be interpreted as a filament, but as an electric eel. I believe that the Egyptians placed an electric eel inside a glass bulb filled with water and the eel produced the electrical charge. It is known that an electric eel gives from 40 to 650 volts of power. So what we have is a living powerstation, which was returned to the water pool with the fish when not using it for producing light.

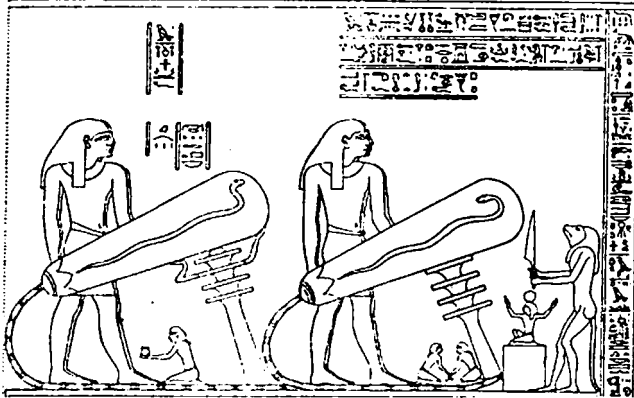


Illustration of Hathor Temple relief, Dendera, Egypt

Referring to the accompanying figure, the bulb on the left is connected to a copper plate and the one on the right goes to a transducer, on which stands a lamp which gives the light. It would appear that the eel used in the bulbs is about 2 meters long, and it is known that electric eels in the Amazon region of South America grow as long as 3 meters. It is also known that the electric organ in the eel made of mussel cells has a positive charge in the back portion and a negative charge in the front.

This view can lead to a new interpretation of the hieroglyphs accompanying the scene, when we read the jagged line which is the symbol for water also as a symbol for magnetism and electric power.

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TENTH ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE

Arrangements are now complete for the Ancient Astronaut Society's Tenth Anniversary World Conference to be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, 1983. The Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn-O'Hare/Kennedy, at 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois, the largest Holiday Inn in the world. The hotel offers free parking for 1,000 cars and a free courtesy bus between O'Hare Airport and the hotel.

The Conference will consist of two full days of lectures, slide presentations and audience participation discussion periods following each lecture.

A gala banquet will be held on Saturday evening at 8 PM at the hotel to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society.

Speakers for the Conference include Erich von Daniken (Switzerland), author of Chariots of the Gods? and other books in the ancient astronaut field; Zecharia Sitchin (USA), author of The 12th Planet and The Stairway to Heaven; George Sassoon (England), co-author with Rodney Dale of The Manna Machine and The Kabbalah Decoded; Walter Ernsting (Clark Darlton

(Ireland), author of hundreds of books in the science-fiction field; Andrew Tomas (USA), author of We Are Not the First and many other books; Vaughn M. Greene (USA), author of Astronauts of Ancient Japan and The 6,000 Year-Old Space Suit; Dr. Pasqual S. Schievella (USA), retired professor of philosophy and President of the National Council for Critical Analysis; Gerardo Levet (Mexico), mechanical engineer and co-Director of the Mind Development Institute; Johannes von Buttlar (West Germany), author of many scientific works and a radio and TV personality; Gene M. Phillips (USA), founder of the Ancient Astronaut Society; and possibly others.

Admission fees for the Conference are US\$10.00 per day for members of the Society and US\$14.00 per day for non-members. No meals are included. Members may purchase as many tickets as they wish at the reduced member price.

The price for the gala banquet to be held on Saturday evening, August 6, is US\$30.00 per person.

Special reduced rates for hotel rooms at the Conference Hotel have been arranged for persons attending the Conference. The room rates are US\$60.00 per day for a single room, plus tax of US\$4.77; and US\$70.00 per day for a double room (two persons), plus tax of US\$5.67. To qualify for the reduced room rates, reservations must be made in advance through the Ancient Astronaut Society. Reservations made directly with the hotel will not be eligible to receive the reduced rates.

This will be the first appearance of Erich von Daniken in the United States since 1978 when he participated in the Society's Fifth World Conference in Chicago.

Contact the Society Headquarters for an application for conference tickets, banquet tickets and hotel reservations.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO SOUTH AMERICA AND EASTER ISLAND SEPTEMBER 2 - 25, 1983

There is still time to sign up for the Society's Member Expedition to Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Easter Island. The tour will visit archaeological sites, museums and other places of interest in South America, before exploring tiny, remote Easter Island in the South Pacific.

Two weeks will be spent in Peru visiting Chan Chan, the Great Wall of Peru, Cuzco, Sacsayhuaman, Ollantaytambo, Pisac and many other sites, including overnight at Machu Picchu, the "lost city of the Incas." The travellers will fly over the Trident at Pisco Bay, over the Colca-Majes Canyon and over the Plain of Nazca, with its gigantic markings on the desert which can be distinguished only from the air.

Exciting train rides through the breathtaking, majestic peaks of the Andes, a hydrofoil trip across Lake Titicaca, highest navigable lake in the world, and a visit to the ancient ruins of Tiahuanaco and Puma Punku near LaPaz, Bolivia at 14,000 feet elevation, will highlight the trip.

The price for the entire trip is US\$2,500 per person, double occupancy, plus air fare. Space is limited and reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information and a detailed itinerary, write to the Society Headquarters or call (312)432-6230.

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