

EARTHQUEST NEWS

A Newsletter from Andrew Collins. Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 2000

Welcome to the new millennium. The parties, celebrations and fireworks are over and we must now move forward in the knowledge that we have much to look forward to in the year 2000. For me I am glad to put behind me the trials and tribulations of the past year. It has been one of great highs, including the most successful Questing Conference ever and the completion of GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS, yet also one of extreme lows with massive legal and personal problems. These are hopefully now in the past, leaving me free to continue the great work of uncovering the truth of the past.

QUESTING CONFERENCE 1999

We shall begin with a brief review of last year's Questing Conference. Over 820 people packed into its new venue at the Institute of Education in the University of London to hear exclusive lectures from some of the top names in the subject of ancient mysteries, forbidden archaeology and historical enigmas. Among the speakers were David Rohl, who lectured on the Followers of Horus and the rise of Egyptian civilisation; Robert Bauval, on the Egyptian star cult and its revival among Egyptian Freemasonry; Michael Baigent, on the cover up of crucial archaeological evidence in Egypt and Israel; Colin Wilson, on why Charles Hapgood believed civilisation to be 100,000 years old; Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas, on the human origins of the Watchers and Uriel's Machine, and myself on the evidence of cocaine mummies and transatlantic contact in ancient times. A full review of each lecture appears on Eden – the Andrew Collins web site @ www.andrewcollins.net

It was an incredible day and one that I hope to repeat again this autumn. There is no question that the Questing Conference has established itself as the premier event of its kind in Britain today. This was reflected in a major article on the subject in the January 2000 issue of FORTEAN TIMES. There is nothing to compare with it and we are now able to capitalise on this good will to ensure that in the future we book only the very best possible lecturers on subjects you want to hear about. I am currently negotiating with some top names in this field to bring you the most extraordinary Questing Conference ever. I cannot release names at this stage. However, I can reveal that it is to take place at the same venue, the Logan Hall at the Institute of Education, on Saturday, 14 October, so ring this date on your 2000 calendars now! Full details of the line-up will be announced in due course in FORTEAN TIMES, NEXUS and WHAT'S NEXT magazine. You will also receive another mail spelling out details of the QC2000 in April/May. Or ring the conference hotline in March.

MYSTERIES OF THE PAST

To get you back in the swing of things I have organised a major interim conference entitled MYSTERIES OF THE PAST. This will take place on Saturday, 4 March at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1 (close to Holborn tube station). Times are 9.30 for 10 am start with a 5 pm finish. There are five lecturers: Robert Temple, who will preview his new book CRYSTAL SUN (which features brand new evidence that ancient civilisations worldwide used crystal optics for macro and microscopic purposes); David Rohl, who will introduce the Atlantis theme in history, literature and archaeology; David Eccott, Britain's leading transoceanic expert will reveal brand new evidence regarding the origins of the ancient Maya. Emilio Spedicato, a professor at Bergamo University and one of the world's top catastrophe experts, will demonstrate the reality of Atlantis and explain its destruction by a proposed comet impact in the time-frame allotted by Plato. Lastly, I will discuss the true location of Atlantis. David Rohl, Emilio Spedicato and David Eccott have all worked with me on this project to ensure that the new Atlantis theory is strong enough to convince the scholarly community.

The whole day will cost you just £15. Use the separate flyer to order tickets or ring the conference credit hotline on 0171.405.2120 (a £1 booking fee will be charged for each ticket). Also ring the conference hotline on 01702.476614 for last minute details regarding ticket availability and lectures. Remember too that the event is at the beginning of March, meaning that you haven't got that long. If all else fails, just come on the day. Tickets will be available.

I will obviously take the opportunity to use the evening as a launch for GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS (even though it will be available all day) and everybody is invited! It will take place in the function suite of a nearby pub or hotel, so frock up! It could be a good night. Hopefully, most of the speakers of the day will be there and you'll get short, and possibly some quite amusing, speeches from myself and others.

GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS

What can I say without giving the game away. I hate suspense, but the publishers would sue me if I say too much at this point! In my lecture at the 1999 Questioning Conference I posed certain questions that would have to be answered if we were going to pinpoint the true location of Plato's Atlantis. They were:

- Why did Plato state that Atlantis lay in the ocean close to an 'opposite' continent once accessible to 'voyagers' via a series of 'other islands'?
- What is the identity of the shallow sea of mud shoals that Plato said existed in the area where the former Atlantean landmass was once located?
- What global catastrophe led to the memory of Atlantis' destruction by earthquakes and floods in 'one terrible day and night'?
- Was all or just part of Atlantis' island empire drowned beneath the waves and, more important, what remains of it today? What is its shining jewel? Lastly,
- Was there ever an Atlantean race and is there firm evidence of its former existence?

Ponder over these questions and see if you come up with the same answers as we head towards that all important date of 17 February 2000 when GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS is published in the UK by Headline in hardback format at £18.99. Can I also suggest that before this time you purchase a copy of Plato's works the *Timaeus* and *Critias*, which are found together in a combined volume published by Penguin Classics. The sections relevant to Atlantis can be read fairly quickly and easily. Despite this, much of what Plato wrote on the subject of Atlantis is loaded with important clues as to the island's topography and position. Take for instance this description of Atlantis found in the *Critias*: '... the district as a whole, so I have heard, was of great elevation and its coast precipitous, but all round the city was a plain, enclosing it and itself enclosed in turn by mountain ranges which came right down to the sea. The plain itself was smooth, level, and of a generally oblong shape; it stretched for three thousand stadia [552 kilometres] in one direction, and, at its centre [i.e. a line drawn north-south *through* the plain's centre], for two thousand [368 kilometres] inland from the coast. All through the island this level district faced the south and was thus screened from the cold northerly winds.'

It does not take a genius to work out that Plato is describing an east-west orientated island which could have been as little as 600 by 400 kilometres in size, even though he has earlier stated that the Atlantean landmass was the size of Libya (North Africa) and Asia combined. Plato seems to be recalling somewhere real, somewhere accessible to 'voyagers', presumably those from his own world. See if you can decipher what is going on here and we can compare notes later.

One quick clue ... In Book V of Diodorus Siculus' *Library of History*, written around the time of Christ, it speaks of various islands that lie 'in the ocean'. One, he says, is a 'fruitful' island of 'considerable' size that lies 'a number of days' sail west of Libya. It was said to be mountainous, with a 'plain of surpassing beauty' as well as 'navigable rivers' used for irrigation. Here were to be found 'parks planted with trees of every variety and gardens in great multitudes', traversed by 'streams of sweet water'. Here, too, were 'private villas', along with 'banqueting houses' in settings of flowers as well as excellent hunting for 'beast and wild animal'. The climate on the island was mild all the year round, enabling it to produce an abundance of fruit - a virtue that made it seem like a 'dwelling-place of a race of gods and not of men'.

In this graphic description of an Atlantic island we are getting very close to Plato's description of Atlantis. Yet is there a connection, and where might Diodorus have gained his own quite specific information? The answer is not necessarily Plato at all.

In advance of the publication of GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS, why not visit the Atlantis interactive section on Eden - the Andrew Collins website. You can choose from a series of possible candidates for the title of Atlantis and find out exactly what the evidence is for and against each location. You can then choose again and again, until you get bored and decide to press the 'true location' button to see what happens.

One controversy that seems to be raging already with respect to the new book does not concern Atlantis but Plato himself. I have described him as a poet *as well as* a philosopher. This has been disputed by orthodox philosophers, who say he was strictly against poets, whom he stated corrupted the mind. However, I must point out that in recent years academic views on Plato have changed somewhat. In a book entitled PLATONIC ERRORS: PLATO, A KIND OF POET by Gene Fendt, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and David Rozema, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the same university, (Philosophy, Contributions in, No. 69 (ISSN: 0084-926X) Greenwood Press. Westport, Conn. 1998) the authors demonstrate how Plato can indeed be described as a poet as well as a philosopher. Other similar ideas are being debated and discussed among more open-minded philosophical schools around the world.

EDEN – THE ANDREW COLLINS WEBSITE

For those of you not aware yet, Eden – the Andrew Collins website has been completely revamped with new graphics and a new webmaster - the appropriately named Geoff Webb. He takes over from the previous webmasters, Sue and Mark Foster, who started Eden in 1998 and gave it up late last year. To them my eternal thanks go out. Obviously, there is much more on the site than simply material on Atlantis. As already mentioned, there is a major review of the 1999 Questing Conference. There is also various articles on Watchers, the origins of Egyptian civilisation, Baalbek and the full story on the infamous 'Stones of Atlantis'. In addition to this, there is a serious critique of the two recent BBC Horizon documentaries, the first of which slammed the idea of Atlantis being the mother of civilisations - a theory proposed originally by Ignatius Donnelly in his 1882 book *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World*. The second one, entitled 'Atlantis Reborn', trashed the theories of Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval. Although a number of weaknesses in their ideas and views were highlighted in a most embarrassing manner, I have defended many of the subjects discussed in these documentaries.

TIAHUANACO DATING

For instance, the second Horizon documentary, zeroed in on the enigmatic city of Tiahuanaco in Bolivia discussed at length in Graham Hancock's 1995 bestseller *FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS*. The narrator dismissed the view, originally proposed by German archaeologist Arthur Posnansky, that its Kalasasaya temple court is aligned to the solstitial sunrise and sunset of 10,000 BC. This conclusion was determined by examining the slow movement of the sun across the 41,000-year cycle known as the Obliquity of the Ecliptic.

It was pointed out that conventional archaeology places the construction of Tiahuanaco not 12,000 years ago, but just 2,000 years ago, with evidence of the earliest occupation, perhaps a simple village, going back only 3,500 years. These dates were determined by Carbon-14 testing.

All this might be so. However, the documentary ignored the fact that the findings made originally by Posnansky were confirmed only recently by American archaeologist Neil Steede, who used state of the art technology to determine the exact position of the solstitial sunrises as seen from the Kalasasaya court. He found that the angles of variation caused by the slow movement of the sun across the Obliquity of the Ecliptic do indeed suggest a time-frame in the region of 9000-7000 BC.

Neil Steede has also studied the metal clips, or brackets, used to fasten together corresponding blocks at Tiahuanaco. These he has determined are made of a nickel-copper alloy known as monel, indicating that the builders would have had to achieve a melting point 1000 degrees hotter than that associated with conventional copper smelting. He tells me that the nickel is of a type that shows the use of meteorites!

I saw a documentary on Tiahuanaco a few years back on the Discovery Channel which showed that organic deposits, taken from the large occupational mound near the city, were producing Carbon-14 dates in the region of 2500 BC. I am sorry I can't be more specific as this would be very useful information now (if anyone saw this documentary let me know). Moreover, Posnansky's book *TIHUANACU: The Cradle of American Man*, (Vols. I-II, J. J. Augustin, New York, 1945; Vols. III-IV, Ministerio de Educacion, La Paz, Bolivia, 1957) shows elongated skulls found in the hills overlooking the ancient city which are *fossilised*. Although no dates are given for these items I feel sure that fossilisation takes longer than 3,500 years.

No one can prove that the city of Tiahuanaco goes back 12,000 years. However, there seems to be ample evidence that it is more than 2,000 years old and that for some inexplicable reason the Kalasasaya temple court does indeed hint at a solar alignment predating this time-frame by many thousands of years. Moreover, Neil Steede tells me that archaeologists have yet to examine the lowest occupational levels at Tiahuanaco.

ANGEL SCROLL

News come of the recent discovery of a hitherto unknown Dead Sea Scroll that scholars believe, if genuine, could be 'the archaeological discovery of the century', that is according to the 11 October 1999 edition of the *JERUSALEM REPORT*. Known as the 'Angel Scroll' it is apparently loaded with Jewish mystical imagery, including the earliest known references to the kabbalah, as well as descriptions of angels. It could also provide the missing link between the Dead Sea community and the teachings of the Jerusalem Church, the earliest form of Christianity. Potentially it is more important than any of the other scrolls so far examined and is thought to be around 2,000 years old. It consists of some 1,000 lines in Hebrew, with a splattering of words in Aramaic and Greek. It was apparently found by Bedouin tribesmen during the 1970s in the mountains of Jordan south-east of the Dead Sea. They sold it on to a scrolls dealer, who in turn sold it on to a team of Benedictine monk-scholars who spirited it out of the country and began its translation in complete secrecy within a monastery on the German-Austrian border. Here it has remained under lock and key to this day, the only knowledge of it being released to a German-born Israeli following the death in 1996 of one of its monastic translators, an enigmatic figure named Father Gustave Mateus.

Since no outside scholar has seen the original scroll, controversy still rages over its apparent authenticity, one major problem being its apparent dedication. At the beginning of the text it reads: 'To Yeshua, son of Pediai the priest, the holy one'. Yeshua is the Hebrew form of Jesus, a fact that will instantly raise eyebrows among Jewish scholars. However, as we shall see after the publication of Graham Phillips' remarkable new book THE MARIAN CONSPIRACY (published by Sidgwick and Jackson, March 2000), this dedication makes perfect sense of what we know about the true parentage of Jesus.

Among the contents of the scroll is a 'tour of the heavens' undertaken by the author in the company of an angel named Pnimea, unquestionably the Watcher Pênêmûe of the Book of Enoch (Enoch I, written in Aramaic between 165 BC and AD 100). The author of the text is shown the 'secrets of the universe' and taught 'to contemplate signs in the sun and the stars and through them forecast events'. He is also shown 'the signs which are in the raging of the waves and the sea, and in the clouds in the heavens'. Confirmation that Pnimea is Pênêmûe comes in the knowledge that the Angel Scroll's author learns from the angel 'how to use medical plants and stones to cure disease and predict the future. In 1Enoch, Pênêmûe introduced mankind to 'the bitter and the sweet', the use of herbs and spices, as well the use of 'ink and paper'.

Not having seen the Angel Scroll myself, I can only pass cursory comment on its contents. Pnimea's role as the angel who revealed the secrets of heaven is matched in the Secrets of the Book of Enoch (2Enoch, a Greek text of the first century AD). In this Enoch is translated to the Seven Heavens in the company of a similar angel to the one who accompanies the author in the Angel Scroll. Yet the identity of the angel who walks with Enoch is not Pênêmûe, one of the 200 rebel Watchers in the original Book of Enoch, but Raphael, one of the Watchers who remained loyal to heaven at the time of the Fall. This subtle alteration is significant. It indicates that when the Greek form of 2Enoch was being compiled the role played in the original Hebrew text by a fallen angel might have been considered blasphemous enough to be expiated from the revised text - this role being allotted to the more politically-correct Raphael. This could therefore be an example of how the original importance played by the rebel Watchers, as the givers of heavenly knowledge to mortal kind, was gradually removed from later Enochian texts. The full story on the discovery and controversy surrounding the Angel Scroll can be found on Eden - the Home of the Watchers @ www.andrewcollins.net. That's it for now. See you at MYSTERIES OF THE PAST. I'll also be out and about doing talks in bookstores across Britain in February (see website for updates). See you as well at the FORTEAN TIMES UnConvention conference, where I'm lecturing on Atlantis on 29/30 April, and don't forget that 17 February is GATEWAY TO ATLANTIS day!

In addition to the above events, I shall be giving a talk at Southend Central Library entitled THE ATLANTIS LECTURE - FACTS AND THE FICTION on Thursday, 24 February. It will run from 7.30 pm till 9.30 pm and admission is £3 on the door. It will mark the beginning of a new series of talks and meditations on ancient history, forbidden archaeology and questing under the old EARTHQUEST banner.

As I said at the beginning of this newsletter, let's look forward to a great year ahead and remember what it says above the stage at Conway Hall: 'To thine own self be true'. Good advice that I shall be taking myself. Ciao for now.

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