



ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

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MARCH-APRIL, 1974

ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY BORN SEPTEMBER 14, 1973

Conceived in January 1973, the ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY came kicking and screaming into the modern world nine months later - naturally.

While watching the television special, "In Search of Ancient Astronauts", Gene M. Phillips, Park Ridge, Illinois attorney, conceived the idea of a member participation society to further the theories of ERICH VON DANIKEN.

The Ancient Astronaut Society is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation organized exclusively for scientific, literary and educational purposes. The Society's goals are to seek evidence to determine whether intelligent life existed on Earth before recorded history, and to determine whether Earth was ever visited by extraterrestrial beings. A substantial portion of the Society's activities will be directed towards the diffusion of knowledge to its members and to the public.

The Society intends to arrange expeditions, present lectures, arrange study groups and seminars, collect and exhibit artifacts and physical evidence of ancient civilizations, promote scientific research, and establish and maintain a library. The Society will publish a bi-monthly logbook to keep its members informed of activities in the field, and will publish a Journal to report on the Society's expeditions and conferences. Also, the Journal will present original articles on subjects of interest.

ANDREW LITAVSKY PRESENTS ARTWORK TO SOCIETY

Andrew Litavsky, Chicago artist, presented to the Society his painting of an Ancient Astronaut based upon a drawing in Erich von Daniken's book "The Gold of The Gods", which depicts what appears to be an astronaut holding a disc which may have been a record or computer activator. The original is a rock painting near Fergana, Uzbekistan, USSR.

Mr. Litavsky's work was featured in a display at the Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Park Ridge, Ill., and is currently on display at the World Headquarters of the Society.

MASTHEAD LOGO

The logo on the masthead was drawn by Editor Richard T. Crowe, and depicts a gold trinket discovered in Colombia, South America, which bears an uncanny resemblance to a modern delta-wing jet fighter. The problem, however, is that this trinket was made one thousand years before the Wright Brothers historic flight.

ERICH VON DANIKEN FIRST SOCIETY LECTURER

The Ancient Astronaut Society presented as its first lecturer, ERICH VON DANIKEN, Swiss author of "Chariots of the Gods?", "Gods from Outer Space", and "The Gold of The Gods". Mr. von Daniken's books have sold more than 25,000,000 copies throughout the world.

The lecture and slide presentation was held last December 2nd, at McGaw Hall, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Highlights of the lecture were slides of the Ezekiel spaceship as depicted by NASA Space Engineer, Josef Blumrich, and the stone at Palenque, Mexico. Mr. von Daniken urged the audience to look at the evidence with "today's Space-age eyes - not the eyes of yesterday".

During the question and answer period, Mr. von Daniken was asked if he had received any academic degrees. His answer was classic - "if a degree were offered in my subject, I would be the professor!"



Erich von Daniken

Photo by Mary Ann Kresin

On January 16th, Richard T. Crowe delivered a lecture and slide presentation on the Mysteries of Ireland, at Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Ill. Mr. Crowe based his talk on both actual experiences and on stories and legends told to him by local residents when he visited Ireland.

Some of the things he discussed were the Great Stone Circle, which, as the name implies, is a circle of stones, somewhat similar to Stonehenge in England but larger and older, and as yet unexplored; the Fairy Forts of Ireland, which are stones arranged in groves of trees as forts for the Little People; the Ghost Lights - balls of light which are said to haunt certain paths and roads; and New Grange - an earthen mound which is believed to have once been covered with white limestone similar to the original cover of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh, Egypt.

While answering a question from the audience, Mr. Crowe connected the "Little People" of Irish folklore with the possibility of Ancient Astronauts. He said that possibly the then semi-barbaric inhabitants of the island witnessed spaceships and astronauts generations ago and, in the time from the visitation until now, the story has been distorted to include fairies and leprechauns.

Mr. Crowe will give a lecture and slide presentation on The Chimu of Peru at the Society's First Annual World Conference on Ancient Astronauts in April. Greg Phillips.

DAVID TECHTER DISCUSSES THE OLMEC CULTURE

David Techter, Associate Editor of Fate Magazine, Highland Park, Ill., gave a lecture and slide presentation on the little-known Olmec Culture of Southern Mexico at Loyola Academy, Wilmette, IL. on February 14th. Mr. Techter served as a geologist at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History for 14 years before becoming curator of the Rochester (New York) Museum of Natural History. He joined the staff of Fate Magazine in 1968.

Mr. Techter pointed out that the Aztecs and the Mayas of Mexico and Guatemala may have derived their sculptures and art forms from the much earlier Olmec believed to be the oldest culture in North America. The Olmecs flourished from 1200 B.C. until 200 B.C. The Olmecs, Techter stated, must have had a sophisticated network of trade routes, because materials found in Olmec ruins could only have been brought from hundred of miles away. Mr. Techter said that there were no real roads, though. When asked as to the reason nothing or wooden products were found he explained that anything capable of rotting would not long survive the hot, humid jungle of Central America.

Many stylized statues and carvings have been found, especially of what may appear to be leopard claws, eyes, and teeth; however, Techter quickly acknowledged that it was anybody's guess as to what the objects actually represent.

Of particular interest is that every Olmec statue has been defaced in some way. Techter advanced the possibility that there was some sort of political upheaval and that perhaps these were statues of overthrown politicians or symbols of the former deposed government.

Mr. Techter mentioned that it is possible an older civilization may have existed in Mexico, but only traces of such a possible culture have been found and no serious work has yet been done.

Mr. Techter will present his lecture again at the First Annual World Conference on Ancient Astronauts in April. Greg Phillips.

Artist Olga Valentine Baker, a member of the Ancient Astronaut Society, has written a most intriguing letter, and she has given us permission to print her story:

"I am writing you with the hope that your opinions may help me solve an ancient mystery regarding one of my ancestors. He just possibly was the descendant of an ancient astronaut!

"I read the 'Chariots of the Gods?' by Erich von Daniken and watched the TV presentation 'In Search of Ancient Astronauts' but in neither of these documentaries was anything mentioned about what I want to tell you. **THE FOLLOWING IS FACT:**

"My great, grandfather was a member of a small group of people living in the far reaches of Siberia - even further north than the arctic circle. They called themselves 'Aztecs'. At the time that he lived there (about 1840), the settlement had dwindled down to about fifty souls. They eked out a precarious existence, hunting for Caribou in the frozen Tundra or fishing in the arctic ocean. They were tall, well-built, good-looking people - the men handsome and the women beautiful of face and figure, not at all like the squat, heavyset Aleuts, Eskimos and other far northern natives with their flat Mongoloid features and indifferant attitudes.

"Russian missionaries who established a church in this colony, spoke of seeing artifacts - dishes and sculpture similar in appearance to some used by the Mexican Aztecs. Furthermore, they related that the old people spoke of a legend, handed down for generations from father to son, of some Leader for whom they were waiting these many years.

"THE FOLLOWING IS THEORY:

"Now, is this what could have happened? Do you suppose a spaceship crashed in that frozen Siberian wasteland eons ago? The crew was stranded and their commander departed for help - but never returned. So here is this group of Aliens stuck in all the ice and snow, hopelessly waiting for Him who never came. Finally, disgusted at the inclement weather, certain members of the group traveled east along the northern coast of Siberia, across the Bering Strait, down the west coast of America, and finally into what is now Mexico, where they settled. And when Cortes came, as you know, Montezuma welcomed him with open arms because he thought that it was their long gone Leader come back again.

"Even the word 'Aztec' supports my theory that both these Ethnic groups come from the same source. Translated, it means 'White Land by the Sea'.

"Do you think there could be any truth to my story?"

If you would like to comment on Mrs. Baker's story or discuss it with her, let me know and we will put you in touch.

RAVINIA COURT - OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY

Ravinia Court Travel Service has been selected as the Ancient Astronaut Society's official travel agency. Ravinia Court has arranged the Society's Peru-Bolivia Expedition for March, 1975. The itinerary can be obtained from the Society office or from Ravinia Court Travel Service, 588A Roger Williams Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035 (433-4333).

Ravinia Court also is handling the travel arrangements for the First Annual World Conference.

ANCIENT SKIES is published bi-monthly by the ANCIANT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY, 22 S. Washington St., Park Ridge, Illinois 60068 for distribution to its members.

Gene M. Phillips - Founder
Richard T. Crowe - Editor

MARY ANN KRESIN NAMED OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Chicago free-lance photographer, Mary Ann Kresin, has been named official photographer of the Ancient Astronaut Society. Mrs. Kresin will participate in the Society's expeditions and her photographs will be presented in the Official Journal.

After attending the Art Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Art, Mrs. Kresin worked in various advertising studios.

Among Mrs. Kresin's achievements are: Winner of Life Magazine Photo Contest (1971); chosen as one of Chicago's top 70 photographers (1972); nine of her pictures were chosen to be presented in the Chicago Photo I Show at the John Hancock Center (1972); and Winner of Second Prize at the Artist's Guild Exhibition (1973).

Mrs. Kresin maintains her own studios at 2661 N. Lincoln, Chicago, IL.

JANE MYERS - "ATLANTIS ACCORDING TO EDGAR CAYCE"

Ever since Plato astounded the classical world in the fourth century before Christ with his unbelievable account of a highly cultured civilization which sank into the ocean some 9,000 years before, the name "Atlantis" has spurred man's imagination. More than 25,000 volumes have been written on the subject.

Jane Koukal Myers, of Bethesda, Maryland compared the Cayce readings with current scientific opinion on March 10 at Loyola Academy, Wilmette, IL. Edgar Cayce, the world renowned "sleeping psychic", often referred to Atlantis and Lumeria in his clairvoyant readings.

Mrs. Myers has been a student of the Cayce materials for twenty years. A free-lance science writer and mother of eight children, she has a bachelors degree from the University of Minnesota and a masters degree from the University of Chicago.

PERU - BOLIVIA EXPEDITION

The Ancient Astronaut Society's Expedition to Peru and Bolivia is definitely GO for 1975. We have an excellent itinerary arranged which will enable you to see firsthand the physical evidence of prior civilizations. We plan to have the arrangements complete by the end of April.

You should make sure that your passport is valid and that you have a current small-pox vaccination. Also, to prepare for this most interesting journey, we suggest that you study the following:

The Conquest of Peru	-	Prescott
Beyond Stonehenge	-	Hawkins
The Conquistadors	-	Innes
National Geographic	-	Feb. 1964
National Geographic	-	Feb. 1971
National Geographic	-	Jan. 1973
National Geographic	-	Dec. 1973
Fate Magazine	-	Mar. 1974

If you have questions about the expedition, call the Society office (696-2016), Joan Roettger at Ravinia Court Travel Service (433-4333), or call Mr. Ingmar Soderholm at Braniff International (372-2571).

CURRENT BOOKS ON ANCIENT MYSTERIES

(*) Denotes Paperback books

*CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?	-	Erich von Daniken
*GODS FROM OUTER SPACE	-	Erich von Daniken
THE GOLD OF THE GODS	-	Erich von Daniken
MY WORLD IN PICTURES	-	Erich von Daniken
*WE ARE NOT THE FIRST	-	Andrew Tomas
*MYSTERIES FROM FORGOTTEN WORLDS	-	Charles Berlitz
*LIMBO OF THE LOST	-	John Wallace Spencer
*GODS AND DEVILS FROM OUTER SPACE	-	Eric Norman
*OUR HAUNTED PLANET	-	John A. Keel
*GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER	-	R.L. Dione
*INVISIBLE HORIZONS	-	Vincent Gaddis
*INVISIBLE RESIDENTS	-	Ivan T. Sanderson
*THE BIBLE AND FLYING SAUCERS	-	Barry H. Downing
*THE COMING OF THE GODS	-	Jean Sendy
*STRANGER THAN SCIENCE	-	Frank Edwards
*STRANGE WORLD	-	Frank Edwards
*THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH	-	Hal Lindsey
*THE RA EXPEDITIONS	-	Thor Heyerdahl
*THOUGHTS THROUGH SPACE	-	Sherman and Wilkens
*THE SCIENTIST SPECULATES	-	I.J. Good
*LANGUAGE AND MYTH	-	Ernst Cassirer
*GODS AND SPACEMEN IN THE ANCIENT EAST	-	W. Raymond Drake
*THE STORY OF ALCHEMY AND EARLY CHEMISTRY	-	John Stillman
*PONAPE	-	Silbey S. Morrill
*THE DAWN OF ASTRONOMY	-	J. Norman Lockyer
*THE EXACT SCIENCES IN ANTIQUITY	-	O. Neugebauer
*EARTH IN UPHEAVAL	-	Immanuel Velikovsky
*IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT MYSTERIES	-	Alan Landsburg
*THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL	-	Josef Blumrich
BEYOND STONEHENGE	-	Gerald S. Hawkins
PASSPORT TO MAGONIA	-	Jacques Vallee
THE BIBLICAL FLOOD AND THE ICE EPOCH	-	Donald W. Patten
EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN	-	Sharon S. McKern
MYSTERIOUS PLACES	-	Daniel Cohen
*FORGOTTEN WORLDS	-	Robert Charroux

OFFICIAL BOOKSTORE

WALDEN BOOKSTORE, 6115 Woodfield Mall, Schaumburg, Illinois, has been selected to operate the bookstore at the First World Conference. Walden has agreed to stock the books we will be interested in, particularly those of the Conference speakers.

If you are interested in a particular book, call or write Connie Schoeld, Manager (312) 882-6850.

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? - NOW A MOVIE

Erich von Daniken's best seller "Chariots of the Gods?" has been made into a full-length motion picture. The documentary was produced by Sun International of Los Angeles. A review of the movie will appear in the next issue of ANCIENT SKIES.

Sun is currently in production on another movie based upon von Daniken's works. Watch for "The Gold of the Gods" to appear soon.

FIFST WORLD CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS

The Ancient Astronaut Society is proud to present the First World Conference on Ancient Astronauts. The Conference will be held April 26, 27, and 28 at the Arlington Park Towers, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The Conference is open to the public and tickets are available at the Society office (696-2016).

In addition to group discussions, workshops, movies and a bookstore, the Conference will feature the following speakers:

April 26 - 3:00 P.M. David Techter
4:00 P.M. J. Gordon Melton
7:00 P.M. Homer R. Lathrop, III
8:00 P.M. Brad Steiger

April 27 - 9:00 A.M. John W. White
10:00 A.M. Peter Tompkins
1:00 P.M. Ralph and Judy Blum
2:00 P.M. Dr. Luis E. Navia
3:00 P.M. Panel Discussion
Peter Reich, Moderator
7:00 P.M. Richard T. Crowe
8:00 P.M. Erich von Daniken

April 28 - 9:30 A.M. Tom Valentine
10:30 A.M. James B. Beal
1:30 P.M. Josef F. Blumrich

The Conference promises to be a memorable event which you should not miss. We already have people coming from all around the United States and from Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Mexico and Japan.

DR. LUIS E. NAVIA TO ADDRESS FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE

Luis E. Navia, Doctor of Philosophy and professor of philosophy at New York Institute of Technology, will examine the ancient astronaut theory from the scientific and philosophical viewpoint at the First World Conference on Ancient Astronauts in April. Speaking of the Conference, Dr. Navia said that prejudices from religious sources and scientific sources should be put aside in order to seriously examine the views of Erich von Daniken and Josef Blumrich.

RICHARD T. CROWE - EDITOR OF SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Richard T. Crowe, of Chicago, Illinois, has been named Editor of ANCIENT SKIES, the Society's logbook, and Editor-in-Chief of ANCIENT LIFE, the Official Journal of the Ancient Astronaut Society.

Mr. Crowe holds a Masters Degree in English from DePaul University, Chicago, IL. A writer and lecturer, Mr. Crowe originated the Chicago Ghost Tours. Anyone interested in participating in a Ghost Tour this Spring should write to Mr. Crowe at P.O. Box 29054, Chicago, IL 60629.



Richard T. Crowe

Photo by Mary Ann Kresin

NEW HOME FOR WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Effective May 1, 1974, the Society will move into new and larger offices at 600 Talcott Rd., Park Ridge, Illinois 60068. The telephone number will remain the same (312) 696-2016.

ANCIENT SKIES

Many thanks to Gregory Phillips, for naming the Society's logbook ANCIENT SKIES. Greg is a sophomore at Loyola Academy, Wilmette, Illinois.

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PARK RIDGE, ILL. 60068
(312) 696-2016

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