

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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ASTROARCHEOLOGY AND SCIENCE

by Dr. Luis E. Navia

The emergence of astroarcheology has given rise to a number of reactions in scientific and academic circles, and the number of reviews and critical evaluations grows every day. Since the publication of Erich von Daniken's Chariots of the Gods? only a few years ago, a great deal of discussion about the possibility of ancient astronauts has been generated in the schools. Unfortunately, the critics of astroarcheology have generally opted for a negative attitude, and have spoken of astroarcheology as a sort of intellectual "poison" for which the academic community must develop effective antidotes. Others have drawn attention to the personal vicissitudes of this or that proponent of astroarcheology, and have questioned the motives behind a number of publications. The alleged mistakes and exaggerations of the advocates of the ancient astronaut theory have been underlined, and their enthusiasm has been attacked as if it were a new disease. It seems, then, as if astroarcheology has been met with a most unwelcome reception in the halls of the scientific academy.

It is important, however, to bear in mind that this kind of occurrence is nothing new in the history of philosophy and science. Practically every new idea, every novel approach to understand reality and the universe, has been received in the same unfriendly manner by those who represent a set of accepted dogmas and doctrines. The human mind often tends to find security and comfort in intellectual traditions and even in unjustified and absurd prejudices. The fate of revolutionary ideas and notion has always been to struggle for years before some degree of acceptance is given to them. We only have to think of Copernicus, Galileo, Darwin, Freud, Schliemann, and many other intellectual explorers who sought to open and conquer new scientific territories. The academic and scientific community was reluctant to take seriously their insights and contentions.

Now that the ancient astronaut theory is being advanced perhaps for the first time, one cannot but expect the same reaction that greeted other radically new conceptions. What matters, however, is to become fully aware of the situation in order to act with wisdom and courage. Since my first association with the ancient astronaut theory, I have come to a number of conclusions which I believe ought to be in the mind of those who share my interests in this regard. In the first place, I am convinced that in postulating ancient visitors from other regions of the universe, we are not postulating anything which violates the most rigorous principles of scientific methodology, as

long as we remain on the level of hypothetical thinking. The ancient astronaut theory is, in my view, a perfectly meaningful hypothesis, which is not only possible but, given a number of literary, historical, and archeological data, quite probable. If we emphasize the hypothetical character of the theory, we will not alienate segments of the scientific community that are concerned with the emergence of allegedly factual theories which are simply not factual.

In the second place, I believe that it is essential to divest the ancient astronaut theory of all religious overtones, so that it does not become a new cult. It is not a cult, and it should not become a cult. The religious enthusiasm with which some people welcome anything new and different can be the greatest obstacle on our path. Astroarcheology is not and should not be a religion, even though, obviously it is bound to have religious implications which are not always very positive from the point of view of the religious orthodoxy.

In the third place, we must remember that, at least in the United States, there is no scientific orthodoxy. In the world of science and philosophy, there are many diverse elements, some more open than others. Hence, the condemnation of astroarcheology by this or that scientific journal does not constitute a general condemnation by the scientific community. I know that there are many philosophers and scientists who are sympathetic towards von Daniken's ideas. It is these people who ought to be approached without delay.

Lastly, it is necessary to bear in mind that progress is only possible in an atmosphere of participation and cooperation. This is the reason why the Second Conference on Ancient Astronauts should occupy such an important place. It should constitute a forum in which ideas can be freely exchanged, data examined, and concepts clarified, not a forum for writers and scientists to express with assurance their pet ideas.

Should these few points be kept in the foreground of our activities, we can be sure that the negativism with which astroarcheology has been received will diminish, and a genuine climate of development can be assured. Then, those who have spoken of our endeavors as "childish," "poisonous," "absurd," and "pseudoscientific" will have to find some other sphere of activity in which to ventilate their lack of creativeness, their stagnated mentality, and their ignorance of scientific methodology.

Dr. Navia is Professor of Philosophy at New York Institute of Technology, and is one of the principal speakers for the Second World Conference on Ancient Astronauts to be held in Zurich, Switzerland, on May 29-31, 1975.



NASA PHOTO

Society member James A. Gupton, Jr., of Roanoke, Virginia has furnished Ancient Skies with the accompanying infrared photograph taken from NASA's NIMBUS-5 at an altitude of 1,100 kilometers, which reveals some unusual landmark features heretofore apparently unknown:

1. The long, narrow "straight" line running down the center of the state NNW to SSE. Mr. Gupton has calculated the line to be about 3.8 miles wide and 115.17 miles long! He has been unable to determine if the line is raised or is a depression.

2. On the East coast between Lake Worth and Fort Lauderdale, two craters or dry lake beds, each approximately 20 miles across at their widest points.

3. Black, or "cold," rectangular areas about 4 miles wide and 8 miles long, one near the starting point on the straight line, one to the west of the terminus of the line, and apparently two others beside the craters on the East coast.

We sent a copy of the photograph to Society member, Stuart W. Greenwood, aerospace engineer at the University of Maryland, who frankly admitted that he had no idea what the straight line represents; however, he recalled that John B. Carlson, in a talk at Fortfest this past summer, pointed out that many Mexican and Central American monuments are aligned at an angle of 11 degrees west of north. Mr. Greenwood then discovered that the Florida line also seems to lie 11° W of N.

We also sent a copy of the photo to Society member Lou Zinsstag in Basel, Switzerland, and she surmised that the straight line might be an old fault line, formed in an earthquake.

In view of the renewed interest in the so-called "Bermuda Triangle," and the underwater stone works off the coast of Bimini, perhaps we should try to determine if there is a connection with the Florida "landmarks." We welcome your suggestions.

A CLARIFICATION

by George Teacherson

Open Letter to David Krouse and all others who think that the space program is too introspective: I could not agree with you more. Unfortunately, those who appropriate the funds do not think as we do. We must find a way to change this. Josef Blumrich's The Spaceships of Ezekiel proves the propriety of having a space program. Would it not be terrific if all our large helicopters used no fuel? Think of what it would mean to our energy crisis if the Defense Department found a way to halve its petroleum needs! It has been said that people should learn from history, and this is one facet of what the Ancient Astronaut Society is all about - delving into the history of high technology. It is up to us to ferret out this technology through books such as "Spaceships" and to provide alternatives to present methods of energy use. Once we do this, we will have accomplished two things. First, we will have shown the intrinsic worth of the space program technology to our everyday lives and, as such, automatically stimulate a search program in outer space as we begin to want things even better. And secondly, we will have proven the scientific necessity for the existence of the Ancient Astronaut Society itself!

SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE

Reservations are pouring in from all over the world for our Second World Conference on Ancient Astronauts to be held in Zurich, Switzerland on May 29-31, 1975. Seating is limited to 350 people and the public is invited to attend. If you wish to be a part of this historic event, send your reservation before January 31.

If you have questions on our SWISSAIR group flight leaving Chicago on May 27, or the optional bus tour after the Conference, call Heinz Rufert at (312) 346-2368.

MARS HILL COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM

Robert R. Kramer, Assistant Professor of German at Mars Hill College (North Carolina), and Society member has announced that the College will conduct a symposium from June 23 to July 3, with speakers, discussions, experiments, films, and brainstorming sessions entitled Today, Tomorrow and Beyond. All sorts of phenomena will be covered, including ESP, astral travel, extraterrestrial life, and many others. If interested, write to him at Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754.

Mr. Kramer also has advised that he is conducting a course at the College on the UFO Phenomenon and Extraterrestrial Life. The course carries academic credit.

TAX-EXEMPT STATUS FOR ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce that the Society has received a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service that it is exempt from tax. The importance of this ruling is that gifts and contributions to the Society are deductible for income tax purposes. Your gifts are welcome because we intend to embark on a program of supporting scientific field research and publishing books in our field. If you have any questions, please contact the Society office.

AUTHORS AND BOOKS

JACQUES BERGIER (Morning of the Magicians, et.al.) will speak at our Zurich Conference in May, 1975.

CHARLES BERLITZ (Mysteries from Forgotten Worlds), has a number one best seller in The Bermuda Triangle. The Ancient Astronaut Society will present Mr. Berlitz in a lecture and slide presentation on Sunday, April 20, 1975 at 8:00 P.M. at the Glenbard East High School Auditorium, Lombard, Illinois. Admission price is \$3.50 per person.

JOSEF BLUMRICH (The Spaceships of Ezekiel) has retired from NASA and is doing field research on a new book in the ancient astronaut field. He invites your letters: 1139 Noria St., Laguna Beach, California 92651.

ROBERT CHARROUX (Forgotten Worlds, et.al.) will speak at our Zurich Conference in May, 1975.

ERICH VON DANIKEN (Chariots of the Gods, et.al.), has a best seller in Europe in his new work Apparitions. It should be available in the U.S. in a few months.

ANDREW TOMAS (We Are Not The First, et.al.) has agreed to speak at our Zurich Conference in May, 1975.

TOM VALENTINE has advised that his new book The Great Pyramid - Man's Monument to Man should be available in March.

LUCIUS FARISH has advised that many new books are on their way, including Peter Kolosimo's Spaceships in Prehistory and Robert K.G. Temple's The Sirius Mystery. Also, that John Keel has a new book scheduled for May and two others in the works.

WALTER ERNSTING (Perry Rhodan Science - Fiction Series) will be the Guest of Honor at the First U.S. Perry Rhodan Convention to be held at the Sheraton Towers Hotel, Orlando, Florida, on November 21-23, 1975. For information, write to Tim Whalen, 9324 Tovito Dr., Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

HARDCOVER BOOKS:

IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT GODS - Erich von Daniken
 BEYOND STONEHENGE - Gerald S. Hawkins
 EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN - Sharon S. McKern
 MYSTERIOUS PLACES - Daniel Cohen
 SECRETS OF THE GREAT PYRAMID - Peter Tompkins
 THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE - Charles Berlitz
 MAN AND THE STARS - Duncan Lunan
 MYSTERIES OF TIME AND SPACE - Brad Steiger
 EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTERVENTION - Jacques Bergier
 DID SPACEMEN COLONIZE THE EARTH? - Robin Collyns

HELP KEEP US INFORMED.

If you know of a book in our field which we have not listed, send us the title, the author, whether hardcover or paperback and a brief description of the work. Also, we would like to print the titles and authors of foreign language books in our field - particularly German, French and Spanish.

PAPERBACK BOOKS:

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? - Erich von Daniken
 GODS FROM OUTER SPACE - Erich von Daniken
 THE GOLD OF THE GODS - Erich von Daniken
 WE ARE NOT THE FIRST - Andrew Tomas
 THE HOME OF THE GODS - Andrew Tomas
 MYSTERIES FROM FORGOTTEN WORLDS - Charles Berlitz
 LIMBO OF THE LOST GODS AND DEVILS FROM OUTER SPACE - John Wallace Spencer
 OUR HAUNTED PLANET - Eric Norman
 INVISIBLE HORIZONS - John A. Keel
 INVISIBLE RESIDENTS - Vincent Gaddis
 THE COMING OF THE GODS - Ivan T. Sanderson
 THOSE GODS WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH - Jean Sendy
 STRANGER THAN SCIENCE - Frank Edwards
 STRANGE WORLD - Frank Edwards
 THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH - Hal Lindsey
 THE RA EXPEDITIONS - Thor Heyerdahl
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (EAST) - W. Raymond Drake
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (WEST) - W. Raymond Drake
 ANCIENTS SECRETS OF MYSTERIOUS AMERICA - W. Raymond Drake
 PONAPE - Silbey S. Morrill
 EARTH IN UPHEAVAL - Immanuel Velikovsky
 WORLDS IN COLLISION - Immanuel Velikovsky
 THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL - Josef F. Blumrich
 FORGOTTEN WORLDS - Robert Charroux
 THE GODS UNKNOWN - Robert Charroux
 ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS (etc.) - Robert Charroux
 TEMPLE OF THE STARS - Brinsley LePoer Trench
 THE SKY PEOPLE - Brinsley LePoer Trench
 THE MORNING OF THE MAGICIANS - Pauwels and Bergier
 IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBILITIES - Pauwels and Bergier
 THE ETERNAL MAN - Pauwels and Bergier
 THE CRYSTAL SKULL - Richard Garvin
 IN SEARCH OF THE MAYA - Robert L. Brunhouse
 ATLANTIS RISING - Brad Steiger
 NOT OF THIS WORLD - Peter Kolosimo
 NOAH'S ARK: I TOUCHED IT - F. Navarra
 BERMUDA TRIANGLE - A. T. Jeffrey
 MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT S.A. - Harold T. Wilkins
 RAGNOROK - Ignatius Donnelly
 IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT MYS. - Alan Landsburg
 LEGACY OF THE GODS - Robert Charroux
 COLONY: EARTH - Richard E. Mooney
 THE DEVIL'S TRIANGLE - Richard Winer
 UFOLOGY - James McCampbell
 EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL VISIT. - Jacques Bergier
 THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED - Charles Fort
 LO! - Charles Fort
 WILD TALENTS - Charles Fort
 NEW LANDS - Charles Fort
 WHISPERS FROM SPACE - John W. MacVey
 FENG-SHUI - E.J. Eitel
 IS ANYONE OUT THERE? - Jack Steneley
 SUPERNATURE - Lyall Watson
 MAN INTO SUPERMAN - R.C.W. Ettinger
 LOST ATLANTIS - James Bramwell
 MANKIND - CHILD OF THE STARS - Flindt and Binder
 MASTERS OF THE WORLD - Robert Charroux
 GODS AND SPACEMEN (PAST) - W. Raymond Drake
 ALIENS FROM SPACE - Major Donald E. Keyhoe
 THE GREAT PYRAMID: A MIRACLE IN STONE - Joseph A. Seiss, D.D.
 THE VIEW OVER ATLANTIS - John Mitchell
 PSYCHIC DISCOVERIES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN - Ostrander and Schroeder
 THE DRAGON AND THE DISC - F.W. Holiday
 THE UFO EXPERIENCE - J. Allen Hynek
 THE NEW UFO SIGHTINGS - McWane and Graham
 LEGEND OF SONS OF GOD - T.C. Lethbridge
 TIMELESS EARTH - Peter Kolosimo

THE PYRAMID OF KHUFU

by James A. Gupton, Jr.

No monument or artifact in the world has been measured and surveyed so often and with so much care as the great Pyramid of Cheops (Khufu) in the Giza Group. We know so much about this pyramid and yet, we know so little about how it was made.

It was not until 1880 that an exhaustive study was made of the Great Pyramid by Sir Flinders Petrie. So exacting was his measurements that they remained the standard work through 1925 when the Egyptian government re-surveyed the Pyramid with modern equipment which confirmed Sir Petrie's work and accuracy.

The almost unbelievable accuracy of compass orientation, angles, and stone dimensions seems to have escaped the attention of writers of Cheops' pyramid - perhaps they were more impressed with the colossal size of the structure or engrossed in theorizing on Royal interment after death. Whatever the reason, the degree of accuracy employed does not correlate with the known instruments and tools of the Fourth Dynasty.

We know that the bay and the merkhet were the principal surveying tools of the period and that copper was the principal metal used for construction tools. Such crude devices decry the accuracy we have confirmed, and I seriously doubt the elaborate astral measurement theory of L.E.S. Edwards in his book, *The Pyramids of Egypt*.

First, let us look at the dimensions of the Great Pyramid:

North Base :	230.25506 meters (755.43 ft.)
West Base :	230.35869 meters (755.77 ft.)
South Base :	230.45318 meters (756.08 ft.)
East Base :	230.39222 meters (755.88 ft.)
Height :	146.65478 meters (481.159 ft.)

The maximum deviation of all four bases is 0.09812 meters (0.80 feet) for an accuracy of 0.0004 meters per meter, or 0.015 inch per foot. Considering that the typical stone used in the construction measured 1 by 2 by 3 meters, it would require each stone to have a tolerance of +0.015 inch - a difficult tolerance to maintain by today's precision machinery - impossible to maintain with the known tools of the period.

We must not overlook the angular accuracy measured on the pyramid of Cheops. Here we find the maximum deviation from 90° to be only 0° 6' 25", as shown by the corner angles below:

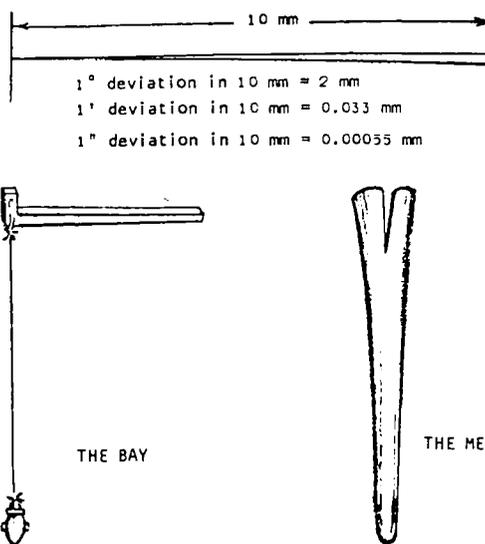
North-East Angle	90° 3' 2"
North-West Angle	89° 59' 58"
South-East Angle	89° 56' 27"
South-West Angle	90° 0' 33"
Pyramid Slope Angle	51° 57' 54"

By way of explanation, each degree of angle corresponds to 60' (minutes) and each minute contains 60" (seconds). This would mean that the South-West corner angle deviation from 90° true, would be 33/3600° or 0.009 degrees.

Considering the facts that the magnetic compass was apparently unknown to the Egyptians and that the position of Polar stars would certainly change over 3700 years, the accuracy of alignment to the present compass points is fantastic:

True North Error	0° 2' 28"	South of West
True South Error	0° 1' 57"	South of West
True East Error	0° 5' 30"	West of North
True West Error	0° 2' 30"	West of North

In evaluation of the accuracy in angular and dimensional measurements of the Great Pyramid of Cheops, one must come to the same conclusion of John Taylor who, in 1859, published the theory that the pyramid had been built by a divinely inspired race of non-Egyptian invaders.



Mr. Gupton serves as Southeastern U.S. Regional Director for the Ancient Astronaut Society. An engineer with International Telephone and Telegraph, he is also a free-lance technical writer, specializing in the fields of electronics and photography.

UFO's AT STONEHENGE?

by William J. Tarplee

To most people, England's Salisbury Plain is best known for the ancient stone monuments of Stonehenge. That the craggy ruins seem to be a congregating point for Unidentified Flying Objects is not so widely known.

During August, 1957, troops from the British Army's London Southern Regiment conducted an exercise against the King's Regiment from Liverpool at the Salisbury Plain. As part of the exercise, the opposing force, the Southern Regiment, was equipped with five Centurion tanks. The tanks were deployed in a guarding role and were to engage midway through the maneuver. While readying for this task one of the tanks reported to Command that the crew had sighted a large silver, cigar-shaped object, and that the tank was about to open fire.

Nothing further was heard from the tank, and no traces of it have ever been found! It had completely vanished without a trace. The Army could not explain what had happened, and conducted widespread searches, and interviewed all persons involved in the exercise. All to no avail. The tank and its five man crew had vanished. Another of the baffling and unexplained disappearances that sometimes follow in the wake of UFO sightings.

Mr. Tarplee is the Ancient Astronaut Society representative in Canberra, Australia.

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