



# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

## Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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### DORJE - THE HEAVENLY ROD

BY ANDREW TOMAS\*

In northern India, Sikkim, Bhoutan and Nepal a strange object is often displayed in curio shops. It is a Dorje, a small rod with two bulbous ends, usually found on the altars of Tibetan Buddhist temples together with the bell, sacred knife and other religious articles.

Unlike the large scepters of kings and the wands of medieval magicians of the West, the Tibetan Dorje is small and has two globes at each end. Actually these represent lotus buds, symbolic of spiritual purity. The two bulbs are fixed on a solid rod and their components vary from brass and iron to silver and gold. Some Dorjes are even made of an alloy of five metals. Because of the presence of copper and tin in some of these Tibetan scepters, it has been surmised that the Dorje is an electrical gadget of some kind.

The Tibetan Buddhists say that the Dorje is a symbol of the dominion of mind over matter. Only the most learned among the lamas, such as the initiated monks of the Kargyut-pa sect in Sikkim, whose mark is a cross formed by two Dorjes, possess its secret.

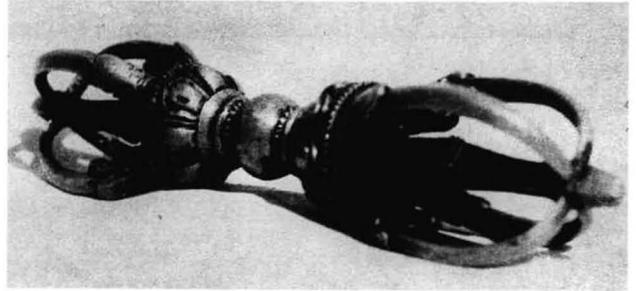
During my three journeys into the Himalayas over the past twenty years I overheard strange remarks made by the younger lamas about "re-charging the Dorje." When I wanted to get more information, the response was a poker face and words "I am not allowed to say."

It is thought that the Dorje is an aid or instrument of some kind used in manipulating an energy about which we know very little in the West. It may be the bio-energy and plasma of modern science.

In ancient scriptures of Mahayana Buddhism one can find passages like this: "After washing his Dorje with the holy water, it shed a brilliant radiance." Others give a veiled description of lamaist initiation rites during which the red and yellow robes of the monks were illuminated by the glowing Dorje.

These and other phenomena suggest manifestations on completely different frequencies - light,

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TIBETAN DORJE

Photo by Andrew Tomas

electricity (such as strong shocks), electro-magnetism and even gravitation, created with the help of this mysterious Tibetan rod.

It is said that the Dorje is charged by a psychic-mental force, human magnetism (raised by means of deep breathing), ultra-sonic vibrations (very high and very low-tone chanting) and unknown chemistry (dipping the metallic rod in some liquid). An experienced lama is capable of producing strange phenomena by means of the Dorje.

It must be borne in mind that the foregoing applies only to those scepters used by the few initiates of the Kalachakra System whereas the rest are mere souvenirs or temple reliques. According to tradition, several Dorjes came from the sky many centuries ago. One fell in Darjeeling and that is why it is called Darjeeling - the "Place of the Dorje" - in Tibetan. The most famous celestial Dorje had appeared at the Sera Lamasery but later it was moved to the Gadden Monastery near Lhasa. It should be noted that the Dalai Lama is also known as the Holder of the Dorje.

The folklore of Tibet speaks of Lung-ta, a winged horse - messenger of the gods - travelling throughout the starry universe. Lung-ta, most certainly an allegory of a spaceship, is credited with having brought to earth several objects. The Dorje may have been one of such extraterrestrial artifacts. Peter Kolosimo's Timeless Earth contains an amazing story of two Soviet scientists in Tibet who were studying Tibetan lore at the Gadden Monastery in 1959. They wanted to learn what knowledge Lamaism possessed in regard to astronomy. After all, the Kalachakra System taught the heliocentric theory, rotation of the earth and even life in space at a time when Europe was immersed in the (Continued on next page)

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utter ignorance of the Dark Ages!

After much persuasion the chief Lama consented to disclose his familiarity with astronomy but insisted on the Russians undergoing a strict regime for a few days in order to purify their minds and bodies.

After due preparation, the high Lama took with the two Soviet scholars called "an instrument" - which was no doubt the Cosmic Dorje of Gadden - and as it began to produce a humming sound, a luminous mist appeared in the lamasery cell gradually taking the shape of an unearthly human being. Then in front of that figure a three-dimensional model of the solar system came into view, formed by lights rotating around a glowing ball - our sun. The Russians were surprised to learn that the model had ten planets, with an unidentified planet orbiting the sun beyond Pluto.

According to Kolosimo, a Scandinavian scientist related this story to an astronautical congress in Moscow. I am checking the original sources at present. The only reason why I have included here this incredible tale, reminding one of a Star-Trek Television episode, is because in my latest book, SHAMBHALA, just published by Robert Laffont in Paris, I write of an equally strange experience of mine in the Himalayas.

Is the Dorje of Gadden Monastery in Tibet a mere religious relic, or is it an artifact from space? That the last hypothesis is not improbable, is evident from the old books of Tibet, some of which I saw at the Dalai Lama's Library in India early in 1976. They may contain records of visitations of ancient astronauts to planet Earth, and these 1,300 year-old lines quite clearly allude to visitors from space who returned to their distant planet leaving no graves on Earth but only legends and souvenirs, among them the Dorje scepter:

Like day they came to Earth,  
Like night they went to Heaven,  
They vanished like a rainbow,  
Leaving no tombs.  
They were seven celestial kings.

We are pleased to announce the marriage of Andrew Tomas and Heather E. Hinshaw on November 17, 1976 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This may have been the first marriage of two members of the Ancient Astronaut Society.

Fuer die kommenden Festtage und das neue Jahr wuenschen wir unseren Mitgliedern alles Gute. Wir danken fuer Ihre Treue und wir werden uns auch 1977 bemuehen, unsere Dienste und Informationen auszubauen. ANCIANT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY

#### NEW BOOKS IN GERMAN:

Berlitz - Das Bermuda - Dreieck  
Berlitz - Das Atlantis - Rätzel  
Gaddis - Geisterschiffe  
Homet - Nabel der Welt: Wiege der Menschheit  
Kolosimo - Unbekanntes Universum  
Muck - Alles über Atlantis  
Schneider/Malthamer - Das Geheimnis der unbekannteten flugobjekte

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**GALVANISCHE BATTERIEN: SCHON VOR 2000 JAHREN  
HIER IRRTÉ DÄNIKEN NICHT!**

Von K. K. Doberer\*

In seinem Buch "Geschäfte mit der Phantasie," das sich gegen die Bücher von Däniken wendet,

schreibt Pieter Coll unter der Überschrift "Der gescheiterte 'Renommierbeweis'":

"Was Erich von Däniken als 'Beweis' für seine Astronautentheorie heranzieht, ist erstaunlich. So behauptet er (Erinnerungen an die Zukunft, Seite 51) 'Im Museum in Bagdad stehen elektrische Trockenbatterien, die nach dem galvanischen Prinzip arbeiten.'

Der Archäologe Dr. Kroll, der im Bayerischen Rundfunk am 20. Februar 1970 einen Vortrag über Science-fiction gehalten hat, erklärte in diesem Zusammenhang, dass er sich wegen der 'Trockenbatterien' mit dem Museum in Bagdad in Verbindung gesetzt und von dort die Nachricht erhalten habe, darüber sei in Bagdad nichts bekannt."

Der Archäologe Dr. Kroll scheint keine Erfahrung im Umgang mit arabischen Museumsverwaltungen zu haben, sonst hätte er sich gehütet, die Auskunft als bare Münze zu nehmen.

Wir beschreiten einen anderen Weg, der von Däniken recht gibt und zeigt, dass sie gegebene Auskunft falsch war.

Suchen wir zuerst die Quelle aus der von Däniken seine Information bezogen haben wird. Es ist das amerikanische Science Fiction Magazin "Astounding" in New York, das vor langen Jahren von dem nach Amerika ausgewanderten deutschen Autor Willy Ley einen Bericht mit einer Skizze über ein solches galvanische Element brachte, das bei Khujut Rabua im Südosten von Bagdad ausgegraben worden war und aus der parthischen Zeit stammte, also um 2000 Jahre alt war.

Ley erwähnt auch wer die Ausgrabungen durchführte. Er war Dr. Wilhelm König, der damals für das Irakische Museum in Bagdad arbeitete.

Damit sind wir auf solidem wissenschaftlichem Grund. Dr. Wilhelm König, ein Österreicher und Wiener, hat neun Jahre für das Irakische Museum in Bagdad gearbeitet und Ausgrabungen geleitet.

Im Jahre 1936 wurde eine Expedition unternommen um den Hügel Rabua abzutragen, eine Ruinenstätte der Parthen. Hier fand man unter anderen Gegenständen ein vasenartiges Gefäß aus hellgelbem Ton, in dem ein von Asphalt festgehaltener Kupferzylinder steckte. Die Vase war 15 Zentimeter hoch, das aus Kupferblach verfertigte Zylinderrohr mit Boden hatte einen Durchmesser von 26 Millimeter und eine Höhe von 9 Zentimetern. In diesem befand sich, durch eine Art Stöpsel aus Asphalt festgehalten, ein vollständig oxydiertes Stäbchen aus Eisen, dessen oberes Ende einen Zentimeter über den Stöpsel heraustrand und mit einer gelbgrauen, völlig oxydierten Schicht eines Metalls, dem Aussehen nach Blei, überzogen war. Das untere Ende des Eisenstäbchens reichte nicht bis auf den Boden des Zylinders, auf dem sich eine 3 Millimeter starke Asphalt-schicht befand.

In seinem Grabungsbericht, den er 1940 veröffentlichte, erzählt Dr. König dann, dass er 1937 Professor K. vom Berliner Museum, in Wien traf und ihn fragte, ob er während seiner Grabungstätigkeit in Ktesiphon auch solche Gefäße mit Kupferzylindern und von Asphalt gehaltenen Eisenstäben gefunden habe. Professor K. bejahte dies und meinte, er sei niemandem eingefallen was das sein könnte. Die Funde waren noch im Berliner Museum und Professor K. schickte an Dr. König drei photos, die einmal ein grosses Tongefäß mit zehn Eisenstäbchen, dann ein Tongefäß mit zehn Kupferzylindern und dann eines mit zehn Asphaltstöpseln, mit je einem Loch, als Inhalt zeigten. Dr. Wilhelm König betonte in seinem Bericht: "Es handelte sich also um 10 in zerlegtem Zustand aufbewahrte elektrische Zellen."

Die Auskunft des Archäologen Dr. Kroll im Rundfunk war also wertlos und den Autor Pieter Coll ist darauf hereingefallen. Behauptungen im Rundfunk sind oft keine "gesicherten Ergebnisse von Wissenschaft und Forschung," und wenn man Erich von Däniken widerlegen will, soll man solche Weisheiten aus dem Spiel lassen.

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## GALVANIC BATTERIES - 2000 YEARS AGO?

VON DANIKEN WAS RIGHT! By K. K. Doberer

(Translated from the German by David B. Koblick)

In his book *Geschafte mit der Phantasie* (Affairs With Fantasy), which attempts to refute von Daniken's theories, Pieter Coll writes, under the heading "The Clever Braggadocio-Proof":

What Erich von Daniken draws upon for 'proof' of his astronaut-theory is astounding. He maintains (in *Chariots of the Gods?*): "In the Bagdad Museum are electrical dry cells, which function on galvanic principles."

The archaeologist Dr. Kroll, who delivered a paper over Radio Bavaria on February 20, 1970, declared in this connection that he had contacted the Museum concerning these 'dry batteries' and was informed that no one in Bagdad knew of their existence.

Apparently Dr. Kroll had had no previous experience with Arab museum administrators, for then he would have been wary of accepting this information at face value.

We took another route, one which proved that von Daniken was correct and Kroll erroneous.

First we tracked down the source from which von Daniken had obtained his information. It was the science-fiction magazine "Astounding" (now titled "Analog"), in which author Willy Ley, who long years earlier had emigrated from Germany, wrote on the subject. His report included a sketch of such a galvanic cell which had been unearthed near Khujut Rabua, southeast of Bagdad, and which dated from the Parthian era - about 2000 years ago.

Ley also mentioned the name of the man who had performed the excavations. He was Dr. Wilhelm Konig, who was at the time employed by the Iraqi Museum in Bagdad.

Now we are on solid scientific ground. Dr. Wilhelm Konig, an Austrian and a Viennese, worked for the Iraqi Museum for nine years, supervising archaeological digs.

In 1936 an expedition was undertaken to level the mound called Rabua, the remains of a Parthian settlement. Here was found, among other articles, a vase-like container of bright-yellow clay in which was a copper cylinder held fast with pitch. The vase was six inches tall, the hollow sheet-copper cylinder about an inch in diameter and 3 1/2 inches high. In the latter, secured with a sort of asphalt plug, was a completely-oxidized iron rod, which protruded a half-inch out of the plug, and was covered by a yellow-gray layer of what appeared to be lead, also wholly oxidized. The lower end of the rod didn't quite reach the bottom of the cylinder, but rested on a 3mm layer of pitch.

In his excavation report, published in 1940, Dr. Konig related that in Vienna he had met a Professor K. (not further identified) of the Berlin Museum, and had asked him whether he had ever run across similar objects during his archaeological career, pitch-filled containers holding copper cylinders, with iron rods secured by asphalt plugs. Professor K. answered affirmatively, and stated that no one had been able to figure out what they could be. The excavated objects were still in the Berlin Museum, and Professor K. sent Dr. Konig three photographs of them. One showed a large ceramic container with ten iron rods, the second another container with ten copper cylinders, and the third ten asphalt plugs with holes presumably for the rods. In his report, Dr. Konig emphasized, "We are dealing here, in a dismantled condition, with a battery of ten electrical cells."

Thus the information given by Dr. Kroll in his radio broadcast was worthless, and author Pieter Coll was taken in by it. It doesn't always follow that radio-disseminated assertions are "reliable conclusions of Science and Research." If one is bent on refuting Erich von Daniken, such pseudo-pearls of wisdom are better excluded.

(Continued from back page)

Only the day before this interview I was told by a leading geneticist that he agreed Man's evolution was not a completely natural and spontaneous development."

The point here was that while Man had forty-six chromosomes, the last primates before the appearance of Man had forty-eight. Yet to produce children both sexual partners had to have the same number of chromosomes.

"The geneticist explained that the mathematical odds against nature producing two similar parties simultaneously would be ridiculously high," said Von Daniken. "And the odds against the two finding each other would be even higher - far too high for the scientist to accept."

"A whole new crop of questions are coming into this which I confess I had not reckoned with. The subject is expanding all the time!"

Returning to the quest for cast-iron historical evidence, Von Daniken readily admitted that he had grappled with the thought - Damm it! Where is it? What is it? - for years.

The problem was that proof in an easily accessible form such as documents or carvings could so easily have been lost through the centuries, destroyed in war or hidden for ever by censorious priesthoods and dictatorships.

"Perhaps there is one possibility left: a mathematical or mathematically placed proof about which there could be no doubt whatsoever," mused the researcher.

"Perhaps, as the English writer Duncan McKinnon has suggested, something - an artificial satellite - has been left in the solar system at the point of zero gravity between earth and the moon. Discovery of such a thing would be conclusive."

"In the meantime, I shall myself in 1978 be leading an expedition to northern Brazil to explore a massive tunnel system - maybe linked to the one in Ecuador, maybe separate - which the Indians say was built by the "Gods" and which is supposed to contain two ancient flying machines."

"It could be that we are on the verge of a major breakthrough, that final definitive proof is one way or another to hand. Let us hope so!"

Erich von Daniken developed the core of his theory when he was a high school student engaged in translating Biblical texts from Latin to Greek and vice-versa.

"It struck me that Moses uses a plural not a singular word when he refers to God - for "Elohim" means Gods, not God - and none of my teachers could satisfactorily explain this to me," he said.

"Then the Apocryphal books such as the Book of Enoch gave me the basic idea. They talk about the world being surrounded by the Guardians of the Sky and glittering vehicles which make thunder-like noises."

"I read through them putting in modern words to replace traditional ones - substituting "robot" for "angel," for instance - and realized that these ancient documents read like a piece of science fiction. Subsequently I decided to try to find the archaeological evidence needed to substantiate this lead."

Von Daniken's revolutionary argument can lead in some mind-bending directions, as the researcher cheerfully admits: "The Bible describes Ezekiel as being taken into the sky by a fiery chariot, which I take to be a space vehicle."

"It's an interesting thought that according to Einstein's theory of relativity the faster you go the more time slows down for you. In other words, the nearer to the speed of light you travel the more slowly you age."

"This means that it is theoretically possible for a person to go in a spaceship and age only a few years while his home planet ages hundreds or thousands. Well, all I can say is that if Ezekiel ever returns to earth I'll have a few questions to ask him!"

## ANALYSIS OF LIFE

BY STEPHEN WOOLLEY\*

Since the publication of "Chariots of the Gods?" argument has raged about the credibility or otherwise of Erich von Daniken's theories.

Set up in 1973 to investigate the evidence, the United States-based Ancient Astronaut Society now have about 1,000 members throughout the world.

These include academic high-fliers such as the 1974 "Outstanding Educator of America" award, Dr. Luis Navia, who is professor of philosophy at the New York Institute of Technology, and Josef Blumrich, structural designer of the Saturn V booster rocket and part-designer of Skylab.

Orthodox historians, however, have been slower to respond to the stimulus. Holder of an honours degree in classics and a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute, John Sissons gives his view:

"On meeting Von Daniken I was impressed by his sincerity and enthusiasm. He has put in a lot of hard work and is well organized in his approach to producing his books and theories. But it is the books' style which has put off the academics.

"The academic community may eventually accept some of the indications Von Daniken makes as evidence that extra-terrestrial visits to earth have been made in the past - but it is a long step from that to say that these visits resulted in producing the species Homo Sapiens, and to claim that our solar system is one in a long chain whose duty is to pass on intelligent life to the next.

"One important cornerstone of Von Daniken's theory is that present methods of dating archaeological material are wildly inaccurate, but in view of the many dating techniques available I find this a difficult view to support.

"It is encouraging, though, that because of Von Daniken's efforts expeditions are being mounted to research some of the phenomena he employs to support his fantastic and fascinating hypothesis.

"It would be doubly fascinating if Von Daniken were proven to be correct - his is the kind of theory which adds excitement to ideas about the universe and meaning of life.

"We must, however, keep our feet on the ground. A lot of systematic research needs to be done, and this moves at a slow pace."

For a man who has become what his publisher enthusiastically - but accurately - calls "an international phenomenon caught up in a whirlwind of controversy," Erich von Daniken has a refreshing lack of conceit, intellectual or otherwise.

He could justifiably claim to be the most influential of all modern writers about the past, having aroused so strong a public interest that the Australian Press have labelled it "Danikenitis."

His lecture tours in Europe and America attract standing-room-only attendances, and orthodox historians and archaeologists have begun to complain that students come to them with a view of history which orthodoxy has little part in shaping.

The intensity of interest is not surprising, for if Von Daniken's analysis is proven conclusively it will shatter "Establishment" ideas about Man's early development - and could propel astronomers into sweeping the galaxy for signs of intelligent life.

This analysis is based on fragments of evidence from legends, mythologies, carvings, drawings and objects scattered over the globe, and which fit uncomfortably - or not at all - into normal interpretations of both the past in general and the technological past in particular. They include:

\*Steve Woolley is a reporter for the Huddersfield Examiner, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. This article first appeared in the Huddersfield Daily Examiner on July 14, 1976 and is reprinted here with permission.

- Finds in the Middle East of cut crystal lenses which today can only be made using caesium oxide, which has to be won by electro-chemical processes.

- Ornaments found in Peru of platinum, a metal which can be melted and modelled only at temperatures of 1,800deg C or above.

- Ancient maps accurately showing the coastline beneath the ice and the mountain ranges of Antarctica: data which were not discovered by modern man til the 1950's, with the help of aircraft and echosounding equipment.

The maps reproduce exactly distortions as seen from a vantage-point 200 miles up, implying that whoever produced them did so from some sort of spacecraft. And rejecting the idea of a highly technological civilization on earth before our own, Von Daniken argues that all that is left is the hypothesis of a visit from space.

Basing his arguments on passages from an Indian epic, the Mahabharata, the Bible and other ancient writings, he goes on to argue that the world was no mere touchdown spot for the aliens but a sort of biological laboratory.

Stories of inter-breeding between "the sons of Gods" and "the daughters of men," he contends, record a deliberate interference in the evolution of the human species - so that mankind may be the product neither of natural selection nor of God, but the genetically engineered protege of a very advanced extraterrestrial race.

It is a daring and radical theory with staggering implications. Along with the "founding father" of Huddersfield Polytechnic's Archaeological Society, lecturer John Sissons, I visited the man behind the theory to find out more.

We discovered that he lives with his wife and daughter in a pleasant - but by Swiss standards by no means pretentious - house in the village of Bonstetten, just outside Zurich.

"Many historians, archaeologists and theologians are strictly against what I'm doing," he admitted. "They do not want to take my working hypothesis seriously, and in a way this is my own fault because I have written my books in a popular rather than an academic style.

"I had good reason to do so, however: before the books appeared I had had more heavily written articles published and they failed to get any reaction at all. I then set out in "Chariots" to be deliberately provocative, so it's not surprising that I should be attacked - fair enough!

"Not all sections of the academic community have been hostile, though. I have good contacts with scientists - physicists, engineers, rocketry experts and so on - who tend to be more open-minded."

All the same, we asked, was it not going to be necessary for the "ancient astronaut" theory to be investigated by mainstream historical researchers? And was it not a fact that much of the claimed evidence for an alien visit was in the form of hints and indications rather than hard proof?

"Certainly," replied Von Daniken. "We are in the situation today where there are hundreds of indications - some strong, some weak - which need thorough, serious scientific checking for definitive proofs.

"At present I am working on a new book, to be called - at any rate, in the German edition - "Proofs," in which I will look in detail at a few really exciting things whose importance cannot be doubted.

"It's also worth pointing out that mainstream interest in my analysis is growing. Two researchers from Zurich University have just gone to carry out investigations in South America, and Glasgow University are launching a major expedition to explore the underground tunnel system in Ecuador that I described in my book, "Gold of the Gods."

"Interest is growing from another angle, too. (Continued on previous page)