



ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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THE TRIDENT OF PARACAS

BY JOSEF F. BLUMRICH*

In the literature we repeatedly find the statement that the main axis of the puzzling Trident of Paracas (Candelabra of the Andes) points exactly in the direction of the equally puzzling lines and figures of Nazca. The basis for that claim is unknown except, perhaps, that it may be found in wishful thinking. It is necessary to replace such opinion by the actual situation.

I had the opportunity to visit the Paracas area in Peru and climbed the steep hill to the tip of the Trident. From up there it is easily possible to establish the direction of the main axis because it points directly towards an island (Isla Blanca) located a few miles off the coast. That clear orientation allows us to determine the direction of the Trident, which will be briefly described here. The situation is shown in Figure 1.

The grid of the map is rotated clockwise by nearly 2 1/2 degrees relative to geographic north. The direction towards the geographic north pole is shown here. I could only estimate the location X of the Trident; it is not exact, therefore, and may vary by about as much as 100 meters (340 feet). Using the location as shown, we find the main axis of the Trident to deviate about 5° 30' west of geographic north.

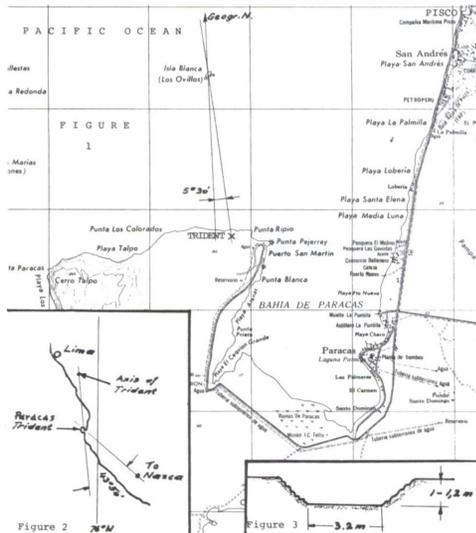
My own measurement by means of a compass showed the direction of the main axis to be about 12° west of magnetic north. The magnetic declination being about 7° east in that area, my measurement would show the orientation of the main axis to be roughly 5° west of geographic north. That figure is in satisfactory agreement with the one obtained from the map.

Considering now the area of Paracas to Nazca (See Figure 2) we find that the axis of the Trident deviates as much as 43° 50' from the line connecting these two points. Even in the case of possible small errors in the above described determination of the Trident's orientation we find that without doubt the Trident is NOT pointing in the direction towards Nazca.

I would like to take this opportunity to also describe a few details of the Trident which have not been published before. Figure 3 shows the cross-section of one of the vertical arms. It is about 1 to 1.2 meters (40-48 inches) deep and its base is about 3.2 meters (10 feet, 8 inches) wide. The sloping sides consist of loose lumps of hard-pressed sand (one also could say brittle sandstone), and the base is covered with wind-pressed sand. That sand is about 12 cm (5 inches) deep and underneath it there is a yellowish-white crystalline layer. The thickness of that layer is probably 20 inches or more. It is a natural deposit because it is also visible from the sea in the steep rocky cliff. Within the range I investigated that layer, I found it to be surprisingly smooth, its wavyness being only about 1 cm (3/8 inches).

The rectangle which can be seen at the foot of the Trident measures about 20 x 14 meters (66 x 46 feet) and consists of a ditch about 2.5 meters (8 feet) wide. A circular pit of about 3 meters (10 feet) diameter is located on the vertical centerline approximately 5 meters (16 feet) below the upper line of the rectangle.

In its original condition the practically white Trident must have been well visible in its dark, reddish-brown surroundings. The question of whether besides that optical reflectivity there exists (and was made use of) any other kind of reflectivity can be answered only after respective investigations, of course. Quite obviously it would be important to also carefully investigate Isla Blanca because the orientation of the Trident towards that island is certainly not a coincidence.



*Mr. Blumrich was born in Austria and educated in Germany in aeronautical and mechanical engineering. He joined the United States space program in 1959 at Huntsville, Alabama. He designed the Saturn V Booster and participated in the design of Skylab and in the development of the Space Shuttle. He was awarded the NASA Exceptional Performance Medal in 1972. Now retired, Mr. Blumrich spends full time in research concerning extraterrestrial visitations to Earth in ancient times. His book, *The Spaceships of Ezekiel* (Bantam, 1974) has been published in ten languages. He lives at 1039 Noria Street, Laguna Beach, California 92651, USA.

SPEAKERS AND TOPICS FOR FIFTH WORLD CONFERENCE

Twenty-six speakers on a wide variety of topics will be presented at the Fifth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society to be held on July 27-29, 1978 at the Chicago Marriott Hotel in Chicago. Speakers include the following:

JOSEF F. BLUMRICH, USA - This is Man's Earth, a technological appraisal of the Hopi Indian traditions.

DOLLY BONACCORSI di REBURDONE, ITALY - Hermes' Miraculous Golden Staff: The Caduceus, a proposal for a technical approach to an evaluation of a specific archaeological artifact.

DR. MIRKO BUNC, YUGOSLAVIA - Human Consciousness and Space Travel in the Past and the Future, an in-depth study of the Great Pyramid, its antiquity, its building and its relationship to a space civilization.

ENRIQUE BURMEISTER, MEXICO - Man, the Piece That Does Not Fit In, a discussion of the human race as the only species on Earth that does not "fit in."

RICHARD T. CROWE, USA - The Ancient Mysteries of Ireland, an examination of the earliest historical inhabitants of Ireland, their mythological forebearers and the archaeological remnants of lost cultures.

RODNEY DALE, ENGLAND - The Manna Machine - And After, a large step beyond the research into a technological description of a machine which produced the mysterious food - manna.

ERICH VON DANIKEN, SWITZERLAND - Where Is The Evidence?, an appraisal of the possible locations of a storehouse of knowledge left by the extraterrestrial visitors.

W. RAYMOND DRAKE, ENGLAND - Messengers From the Stars, a glimpse into the future by an examination of ancient texts.

ROBERT EARLE, USA - Hummingbird Spaceships, an attempt to explain the strange markings on the Peruvian Plain of Nazca and the relationship among the peoples of ancient Mexico, and Central and South America.

WHITE BEAR FREDERICKS, USA - The Kachinas of the Hopi, an interpretation of the Hopi folklore and their extraterrestrial origin by one of the Hopi elders.

DR. RICHARD P. GERMANN, USA - Science's Ultimate Challenge - A Reevaluation of Ancient Occult Knowledge, centering on the Biblical flood and other contemporaneous events.

DR. IRWIN GINSBURGH, USA - First Man, Then Adam!, a fusion of space age science and the Biblical Book of Genesis - were Adam and Eve extraterrestrials? Was the Garden of Eden a spaceship?

FRANZ GISIN, USA - Astronomy, Science and Ancient Astronauts - Past and Present, a layman's view of the science of astronomy and its relationship to extraterrestrial visitations to Earth.

DR. STUART W. GREENWOOD, USA - Ancient Aerospace Technology, an examination of the problem of identifying particular artifacts and material as extraterrestrial.

DR. IGNACIO ITURBE and GUADALUPE ITURBE, MEXICO - The Aztec Calendar - A Spaceship, a study of the famed Aztec Calendar Stone as a part of cosmic intelligence.

REV. JACK A JENNINGS, USA - Religion and the New Cosmology, a discussion of the challenge which the ancient astronaut theory presents to organized religion.

MICHEL LAMBERT, CANADA - Strange, Strange World, a slide presentation of the most popular pavilion at Man and His World, Montreal's permanent exposition site.

WALTER JOERG LANGBEIN, GERMANY - The Rock Drawings of Val Camonica, a discussion of the 15,000 year old rock drawings in northern Italy.

GERARDO LEVET, MEXICO - Ancient Pectorals, an examination of various pectoral representations, particularly the famous "stylized butterfly" on the chest of the Tula giants.

GENE M. PHILLIPS, USA - The Society's Member Expedition to South America, a report and slide presentation of the member expedition to Bolivia and Peru in 1977.

DR. PASQUAL S. SCHIEVELLA, USA - Philosophy, Religion and Ancient Astronauts, a philosophical evaluation of the three subjects.

ZECHARIA SITCHIN, USA - The Twelfth Planet, an explanation that mankind on Earth originated from another planet in our solar system which is visible on Earth only every 3,600 years.

ROBERT K.G. TEMPLE, ENGLAND - The Sirius Mystery, an account of the uncanny knowledge of the universe by the Dogons of West Africa, particularly their knowledge of the Sirius star system.

ANDREW TOMAS, USA - The World Flood and Mankind's Rehabilitation by Space Civilizers, a discussion of the great deluge as myth and as history.

TOM VALENTINE, USA - The Great Pyramid - Man's Monument to Man, a discussion of the vast storehouse of scientific knowledge which is embodied in the Great Pyramid at Giza.

D.R.P. WOOD, NEW ZEALAND - The Theory of Earth Colonization By Spacemen, a discussion of the three principal theories of the origin of mankind - evolution, divine creation and colonization.

The Conference is open to the public and members are urged to make advance reservations.

STRANGE, STRANGE WORLD

The most popular of all the pavilions at the Man and His World exposition in Montreal, Canada, is the Strange, Strange World Pavilion. For the first time, major exhibits from the Strange, Strange World Pavilion will be presented outside of Montreal - over 20 of the enigmatic and puzzling exhibits will be on display throughout the Fifth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society at the Chicago Marriott Hotel. Featuring a model of Ezekiel's spaceship, the display includes models of Japanese Dogus, the gold artifact which is the symbol of our Society, the Tiahuanaco Gate of the Sun, and many, many more. There is no extra admission charge to view this exhibit.

ERICH VON DANIKEN's latest book in English is now available in the United States in paperback under the title, "Von Daniken's Proof" from Bantam Books, New York. His latest book in German is just out from Econ-Verlag, Dusseldorf, called Erich von Daniken Im Kreuzverhor, a question and answer discussion book on the ancient astronaut theory.

ZECHARIA SITCHIN's book The Twelfth Planet has been released in paperback by Avon Books, New York.

WALDENBOOKS of Schaumburg, Illinois will operate the bookstore at the Fifth World Conference in Chicago. Over 250 titles of books in our field, both hardcover and paperback, will be available. The hardcover edition of Erich von Daniken's picture book, In Search of Ancient Gods, will be offered to Conference attendees at a special reduced price.

Dr. Barry Fell has founded THE EPIGRAPHIC SOCIETY for the study of epigraphy, linguistics, anthropology and archaeology. Anyone interested in this field may join the Society by writing for information to 6 Woodland St., Arlington, Massachusetts 02174, USA.

COMING EVENTS:

FIFTH WORLD CONERENCE, July 27, 28, 29, 1978.
Chicago Marriott Hotel, Chicago, USA.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO GUATEMALA (Tikal) and HONDURAS (Copan), December 27, 1978 to January 6, 1979.

SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE, June 14, 15, 16, 1979.
Hotel Sheraton, Munich, Germany.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO EGYPT (The Great Pyramid) and ENGLAND (Stonehenge), June 18 to July 2, 1979.



The above inscription is painted on an inner wall of the Palace Complex at the ruins of Palenque in Southern Mexico. One of our members from Iran thinks the characters are Arabic and that he can distinguish the letters "n" and "s", but he cannot read the inscription. We know that it is not recent graffiti, because it is described by John L. Stephens, who visited the site in 1839. Can you read it?

RECOMMENDED READING:

ATLANTIS, THE ANTEDILUVIAN WORLD, by Ignatius Donnelly, Edited by Egerton Sykes

THE MAYA WORLD, by Elizabeth P. Benson

PALENQUE, THE WALKER-CADDY EXPEDITION, Edited by David M. Pendergast

THE ANCIENT MAYA, by Sylvanus G. Morley, Edited by George W. Brainerd

THEY FOUND THE BURIED CITIES, by Robert Wauchope

LOST TRIBES AND SUNKEN COUNTINENTS, by R. Wauchope

THE CONQUEST AND COLONIZATION OF YUCATAN, by Robert S. Chamberlain

THE MAYA, by Michael D. Coe

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MAYAN CIVILIZATION, by J. Eric S. Thompson

MAYA ARCHAEOLOGIST, by J. Eric S. Thompson

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN CENTRAL AMERICA, CHIAPAS, AND YUCATAN, 2 vols., by John L. Stephens

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL IN YUCATAN, 2 vols., by John L. Stephens

TRAVELS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, by C.A. Morelet

PERU: INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION IN THE LAND OF THE INCAS, by E. George Squier

THE ANCIENT CITIES OF THE NEW WORLD, by Desire Charnay

A GLIMPSE AT GUATEMALA, by Alfred P. Maudslay

RIVER OF RUINS, by Louis J. Halle, Jr.

RESEARCHES IN THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE USUMAT-SINTLA VALLEY, by Teobert Maler

EXPLORATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETEN, GUATEMALA, by Teobert Maler

PEOPLE OF THE SERPENT: LIFE AND ADVENTURE AMONG THE MAYAS, by Edward H. Thompson

SILVER CITIES OF YUCATAN, by Gregory Mason

SOUTH OF YESTERDAY, by Gregory Mason

MYSTERY CITIES, by Thomas Gann

GLORIES OF THE MAYA, by Thomas Gann

MAYA CITIES, by Thomas Gann

TRIBE AND TEMPLES, by Blom and LaFarge

DIGGING IN YUCATAN, by Ann A. Morris

VIEW OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, CHIAPAS AND YUCATAN, by Frederick Catherwood

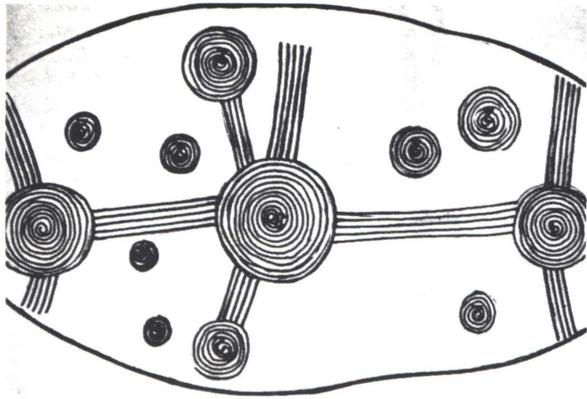
THE DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST OF MEXICO, by Bernal Diaz del Castillo

THE ARTIFACTS OF UAXACTUN, GUATEMALA, by A.V. Kidder

TULUM, by S.K. Lothrop

AN ALBUM OF MAYA ARCHITECTURE, by T. Proskouriakoff

BONAMPAK, CHIAPAS, MEXICO, by Ruppert, Thompson and Proskouriakoff



The above drawing of the "churinga" of Australia, which was reproduced in Ancient Skies, 4:5, has evoked considerable response from our members as follows:

TINA KINCZYK, 11683 Goshen Ave., No. 105, Los Angeles, CA 90049, USA. I think it could be a map of a planet system of another star or solar system. It immediately reminded me of the sketch drawn by Betty Hill while under hypnosis.

MELL CAREY, 1101 Aird St., Saskatoon, Sask., CANADA. Zecharia Sitchin, author of The Twelfth Planet, could possibly interpret this. I think it has to do with our own solar system and the routes taken by visitors coming from another system.

THE CHURINGA

BY JUNE STEWART, 368 Park Ave., Wheeling, IL 60090, USA

The drawing has the appearances of a recording of knowledge, but what kind of knowledge and why? These questions may never be answered, except with supposition, and they pose more questions.

Was this knowledge a segment of a larger body of knowledge that a dying race was attempting to preserve? Or was it an attempt to "better" their circumstances, like the South Pacific island natives who developed a "cargo cult" after exposure to a military operation and incorporated an "airplane god" into their cultural rites?

Is it mere coincidence that there are twelve circles of rings on the "churinga" and that there are twelve known stars within ten light years distance to Earth? The brightest of the twelve stars, Sirius A, is twenty-three times brighter than our Sun, although it is one of the farthest away from us. Many of the stars can be seen from Earth (in our time) only with the aid of a powerful telescope. Therefore, if the "churinga" is a star map - that is, a map of the twelve stars known to us within the ten light year range, then the Aborigines had a technology unknown to us, or they were visited by visitors from afar, or they are the descendants of a civilization that possessed the knowledge of the universe.

While the drawing seems to resemble the present day constellation of Canis Majoris, star configurations over the past 50,000 years have changed considerably and it is possible that the drawing, if it is in fact "ancient," depicts a constellation unknown to us today.

Then again, the drawing could represent our own solar system as it looks from outer space! Perhaps in the remote "dreamtime" the Aborigines had contact with intelligent beings who knew what our star system looks like from afar. Or, perhaps they are the offshoot of a civilization that had this knowledge.

VLADY CORNATEANU, Yousef Abad - Mohamad Reza Shah Ave., 9th St., No. 30, Tehran, IRAN. My first thought that the "Churinga" must represent a solar system, but after poring over astronomical maps in vain, I now have the following theories:

1. In some Australian mythology it is said that there were few suns in the skies, which take turns going up into the sky. Assuming that the drawing is a few thousands of years old, and that the mythology behind it is even older, we may be concerned with the formation of an astronomical phenomenon - the formation of a solar system or a constellation. The "Pleiades" is quite similar to the drawing.

2. The drawing could represent the last phase of the development of a family of planets and a central star from a cloud of interstellar gases.

3. Mythology again directs us to the constellations Centaurus and Orion, either of which could be depicted here.

VASILIS KOTSOS, Kolokotroni 7, Piraeus, GREECE. I have two theories - one, that the drawing represents the structure of the atom. The other, that it could represent a printed electronic circuit. See Figures A and B.

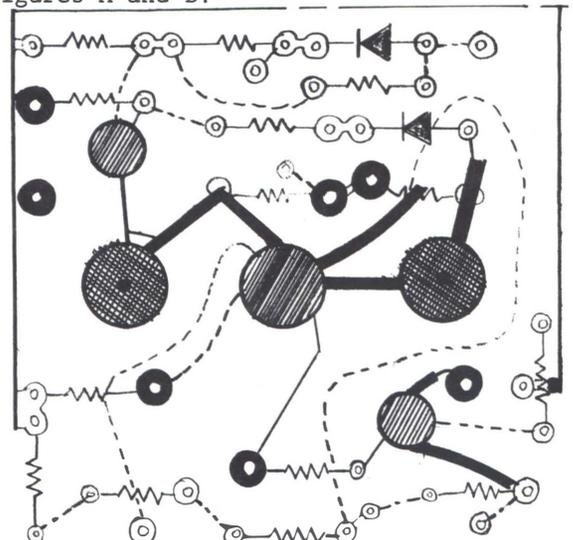


Figure A - Meter Circuit Board

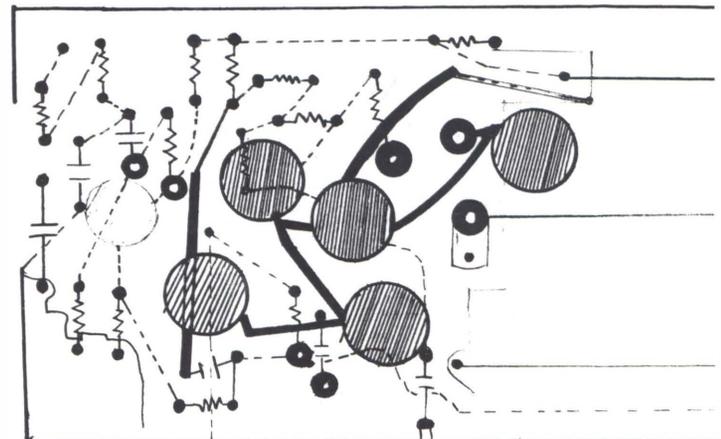


Figure B - Audio Amplifier Circuit Board

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