



ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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REPORT TO MEMBERS - EL FUERTE*

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

For those who demand "hard" evidence of ancient technology, let them visit El Fuerte, in central Bolivia, South America. They will not find a buried spaceship, or a cache of antediluvian hardware, but they will see with their own eyes what many believe to be the remains of an ancient "Cape Kennedy," complete with a ramp for catapulting space vehicles, a stadium for witnesses to view the exploits of their ancient engineers, a directional compass and other unexplained objects, all carved in stone atop a remote mountain, miles from the nearest civilization.

Almost unheard of in archaeological annals, the only explanation advanced by that learned community is that the area is the site of an abandoned brewery! For those who have visited the site, this explanation is a ridiculous joke, which it probably was intended to be. Unfortunately for the armchair traveller who must get his archaeology second-hand, such attempts at humor in the scientific world are accepted as fact.

Colonel Percy H. Fawcett's travels took him within ten miles of El Fuerte fifty years ago when he passed through the small Indian village of Samaipata, the nearest place of habitation to the archaeological site, but apparently he never even heard of the mountain-top remains, otherwise he would surely have made the effort to climb the mountain for a look at these enigmatic carvings.

El Fuerte, literally "the fort," can be seen only from the air, or when one is actually at the site, because it is situated on the very top of a mountain. A few years ago, the Bolivian government bull-dozed a winding road around the mountain to the top, but did not bother to pave nor maintain the road. Because of the rains and the erosion, motorcycles are the only vehicles that can make it to the top. Consequently, our bus could take us only to the base of the mountain and we walked the remaining two and one-half miles, up almost 2,000 feet to the top. Although in the dead of winter, the bright sun became very hot as we slowly made our way up the dusty road. After a climb of an hour and a half, we came to a barbed wire fence with a rickety gate, chained with a rusty lock. A dilapidated sign warned that the archaeological zone was government property and that entrance thereto was forbidden. Naturally, we ignored the warning because we had come too far to turn back now, and further, except for a couple of ferocious looking bulls grazing nearby, there

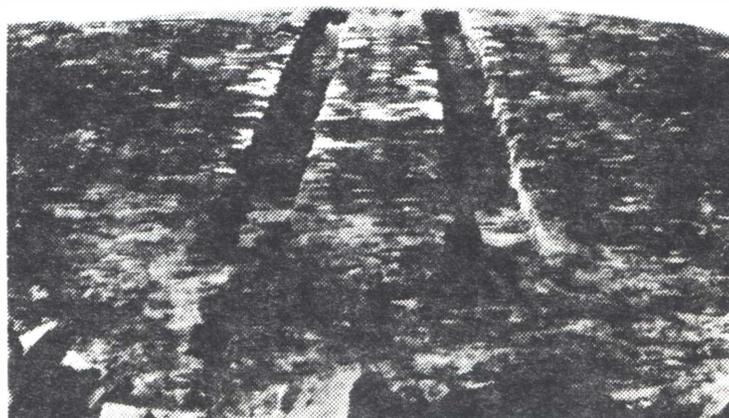


Figure 1. Tracks at El Fuerte, Bolivia

was no one on hand to enforce the ban. One simply crawled through the barbed wire fence and proceeded to enter. There was no admission fee, save for the few deep scratches one rendered up to the barbed wire.

The climb to the top had been exhausting but the first view of the site removed all concern for our aches and pains, as we climbed over the various cuts and markings in the rock. The incessant wind was so strong that we could hardly stand erect, although the deep blue sky was cloudless. After the over-all view, the first distinct object that one encounters is the perfectly round medallion, a fifteen foot diameter carving adorned with the figure of a Jaguar, but also terribly defaced by latter day graffiti and initials of former sightseers. Farther on we could see the remains of a crude rock wall, about two feet high, obviously or recent vintage, which appears to have been a fruitless attempt by poor Indians to make the place habitable.

Then, one's attention is riveted to the principal object at the site - the parallel "tracks" carved into the soft stone (see Figure 1). The tracks are each about one foot wide, four inches deep, and extend for about 100 feet, perfectly straight and three feet apart. On the raised portion of stone between the two tracks, and running the entire length, is carved a series of one-foot squares, in line and connected at the two opposite corners, so as to appear to represent a diamond pattern. The outline of the squares is about one inch deep and is made in such a way that if water were poured into the

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*First in a series of reports of sites explored on the Member Expedition to Bolivia and Peru in June and July, 1977.

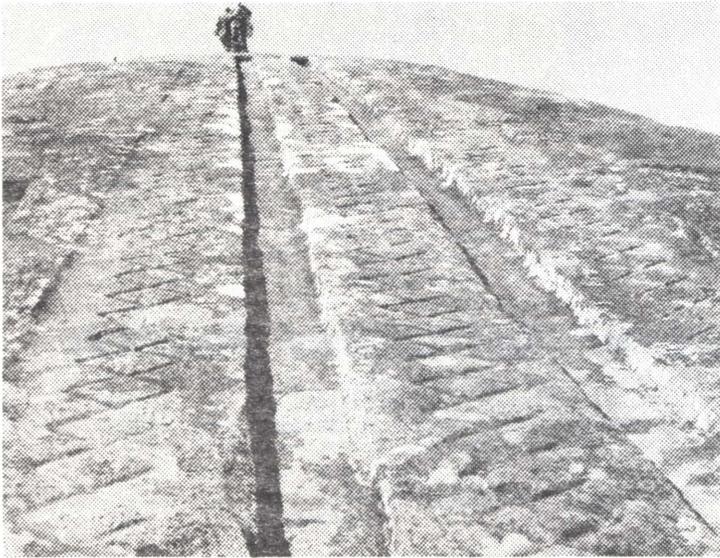


Figure 2. Detail of Tracks at El Fuerte, Bolivia

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outline at the top, it would run unimpeded down the entire slope in the carved lines (see Figure 2).

On the outer edge of each track, and running the entire length, is a similar connected-square pattern. And, curiously, on the extreme outer surface of each such pattern, there is an impression in the rock, also running the entire length, as if made by a heavy, rubber-tired vehicle!

This set of tracks faces easterly, and is on an incline, terminating abruptly at the top of the stone hill. Just beyond the end of the tracks, and at the very top, is carved into the stone a round area with alternating triangular and curved "seats," the whole of which could have been a large compass with the cardinal points indicated. The center area is sunken, so that one could actually sit in the rounded "seats", thus giving rise to a fanciful story that this area was once used by the Indians as a place for holding a tribal council of war!

Beyond the "compass" at the top is a large, elongated animal carved into the stone, which does resemble a Jaguar. Then there is a series of square and rectangular "boxes" cut into the stone to a depth of three or four inches. Each box has a flat level bottom, with an outlet at one corner so that water will run into the neighboring box, and eventually off the mountain. There is also an area about three feet long which looks very much like the imprint of a large iron chain which might have laid there for eons and eventually rusted away!

On the north and south sides of the stone outcropping are niches cut into the stone, resembling doorways, or sentry posts, but only a few inches deep. These may have been the basis for the name "fort," but it should be pointed out that there is nothing at the site which one would normally associate with a fortification, such as walls, rooms, protective enclosures, lookout posts, battlements, or other things to protect one from the enemy.

The southeast face of the stone outcropping has a steep, sloping side which has been carved into what could have been a stadium, or reviewing stand, with rows of rounded "seats" large enough to accommodate a person, overlooking a bowl-like area approximately 50 yards in diameter. These are definitely not natural formations in the rock, and are of ancient origin because of their worn and weathered condition.

It is easy to conjure up some fantastic explanation for a site such as El Fuerte - that is, until you have actually seen it. Then, you are more puzzled than ever. Your concern is not so much with "who" might have made the site, but rather with "what" it could have been used for.

THE MEDALLION OF EL FUERTE

BY DOLLY BONACCORSI DI REBURDONE*

The bus was obliged to stop. The already narrow road to El Fuerte had become impassable after a recent landslide. So we began to climb. In the crystal air of this Bolivian winter morning the warm, rose tonality of the rocks prevailed over the scanty spots of vegetation. Even the little emerald green serpent which hustled away, frightened by our footsteps, had his back crossed by reddish lines.

When we arrived at last in front of the sculptured stone hill with the straight, parallel lines carved into it, ending abruptly at the top of "the fort," I stood amazed. At the foot of the hill, whose gigantic incuts had suggested the idea of a prehistoric launching ramp for missiles, there was something very familiar to attract my curiosity. At the bottom of the unique hill, which had been cleared of any form of dust and vegetation by the fierce, constant wind, there is a circular shape carved in the stone ground (see Figure A.) I had seen something like it hundreds of times in the blue Mediterranean bay where I taught my children to swim. When I used to wonder how to answer their question, "Mamma, what are these round things?"



Figure A. Stone Medallion at El Fuerte, Bolivia



Figure B. Stone Circle at Taormina, Italy

Back in Italy, I began to investigate the similar carvings on the seashore near Taormina (see Figure B). The 6 to 10 inch deep circles, cut at different levels in a rock outcropping of conglomerate (Continued on next page)

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erate, are in part submerged. In the three decades that I have been observing them, I remember that with the changes brought about by tide and storm the circles would be more or less covered by sand, sometimes for as long as a year.

The old fishermen called the circles "il tempietto": the little temple. The younger generation knows nothing about them. Further, archaeologists had had so many enthralling finds in nearby Naxos, one of the first Greek colonies in Sicily, that even if they once had noticed the carved circles, they passed them over.

So I drew their attention to the stone circles at Taormina. We visited the area and discussed it, but it is extremely difficult, if not impossible by this time, to find the answer to the riddle. There is no contemporary material to use for comparison to help in dating the carvings. But even though it is not easy to determine what the circles were used for, we can state with a great degree of certainty what they were NOT. They can not have been produced by natural causes. They could not have been bases of columns in a temple, because of their irregular arrangement. The possibility that they were "fondi di capanna," fireplaces in primitive huts like those of Jericho, has to be discarded, because they are different in form, dimensions and spacing. Nor do they seem to be adapted for milling, unlike other single stones of similar form that have been found. On the other hand, they may be the traces of the yet unknown civilization which has left its imprint in stone and landscape all over the world.

In the Mediterranean area traces of an earlier civilization are rapidly vanishing, because of the buildings and artwork of later peoples. Thus, the isolated mountain top of El Fuerte offers a great advantage for investigators with modern research techniques to study the unique carvings which remain relatively unmolested by modern civilization.

*Mrs. Bonaccorsi di Reburdone is a writer and a scuba diver, interested in underwater archaeology. She lives at Via de Cristofaro 12, Catania 95126, ITALY.

STRANGE, STRANGE WORLD TO EXHIBIT IN CHICAGO

The City of Montreal, Canada will present its Strange, Strange World Exhibit in Chicago for six weeks beginning January 18, 1979. The exhibit will be presented in the North Lobby of the Talman Federal Savings and Loan, 5501 S. Kedzie, Chicago, Illinois. The exhibit features models of Josef Blumrich's Spaceship of Exechiel, the Tiahuanaco Gate of the Sun, Japanese Dogus, and over twenty other models and displays in the ancient astronaut field, all of which were on display during the Society's Fifth World Conference in Chicago last July.

The display is open to the public, free of charge, and can be viewed Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 AM to 8 PM, on Tuesdays from 9 AM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

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SOME REFLECTIONS ON REV. JACK A. JENNINGS'
ARTICLE: ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS - RELIGION'S THIRD
GREAT CHALLENGE (Ancient Skies 5:4)

I - By Dezso Nyirfas, Szentgotthard Pb 45, H-9971, HUNGARY.

First, I must confess that I am greatly impressed by the ideas of Rev. Jennings, who has composed a lot of my uneasiness about the "challenge." As a Catholic, I can see at once the contradictions between our "dogmas" and the questions raised by the ancient astronaut theory, but I was surprised to learn that some of my church friends were greatly interested in the theory and did not refuse the possible conclusions presented by it. Their opinions are in fact very close to those of Rev. Jennings.

Generally, their point of view is that God is greater or stronger than people on Earth can even imagine, that God did not create the universe solely for the inhabitants of Earth, and that creation occurred by some cosmic means.

Even Darwinism left open a way to include this new concept. If we do not refuse the theory of evolution, we can follow its logical line. Thus, what is its next step forward? We do not need to believe that man is the ultimate in evolution, but that a higher level can still be attained.

Rev. Jennings is correct in stressing the importance of love and mercy, and I would like to add also the importance of Hope. Hope that mankind on Earth can work together in harmony, in spite of the differences of custom, language, religion and ideology. I was proud when Hillary reached the peak of Mts. Everest, when Gagarin made his first flight, when Armstrong set foot on the Moon's surface. Such events fill me with hope that mankind as a whole will make the next great step on our evolutionary way. Whether we produce angels or devils, will depend solely on our own decisions.

II - By O. L. Hope, 425 E. Davidson Ave., Gastonia, North Carolina 28052, USA.

After accumulating several thousand words and an unfinished paper, I will summarize as follows:

The Bible is an ancient history of the Jewish people. But, creation and the events which have occurred in the past can be found in myths and legends from Tibet to Ireland. The Hopi, for example, considered themselves to be the "chosen people." They were guided to the Second World by a "cloud by day and a star by night." The Hopi ate food during the Great Flood, but the supply was not exhausted. They sent forth birds to find dry land! And, they rowed to the Fourth World.

I believe that the Bible never was the Word of God. God is a God of science. His Universe is ticking away in perfect order with the precision of an atomic clock. I can see God's handiwork, but I know nothing about God, nor does anyone else. God permeates and is an integral part of the Universe. Maybe when man can make a detailed map of the Universe, he can then visualize God.

God created planet Earth as a perfect, self-contained recycling machine, fueled by the Sun. Its elements combine and re-combine into various forms of life, which constantly struggle, but are eventually destroyed, to become part of other forms of life. As species become stronger, others cease to exist. Evolution, therefore, improves each surviving species, but for what purpose, only God knows.

A discussion of God's handiwork should omit the spiritual, and concentrate on the physical facts; on the laws of science. God is neither a God of mercy nor a God of vengeance. He interferes in no way with the activities on Earth. Mankind has perfect freedom to fight and die, or to live in peace. If it is ultimately proven that man is a visitor from space, this fact should not upset any minister of the church who wishes to teach the truth. There is no devil, except in the minds of men.

In addition to the speakers announced in the last issue of Ancient Skies, the following speakers have been added: Zecharia Sitchin (USA), Andrew Tomas (USA), Dr. Stuart Greenwood (USA) and Dr. Dileep Kanjilal (India). The Sixth World Conference will be held at the Hotel Sheraton in Munich, a luxury-class hotel with modern, up-to-date technical facilities. Official languages will be German and English, with simultaneous translation services and wireless earphones for the audience. Erich von Daniken, who is handling all the arrangements, writes: "Our Conference is intended to be a congress of encounter. Daily discussion with all speakers is open to all members attending the Conference. We want to deepen our mutual relationship, to get to know each other still better and to exchange views and experiences. A pleasant gathering in one of the hotels many restaurants and bars is as much a vital part of the congress as the formal lectures and the gala banquet at the close. We have arranged for special reduced rates at the hotel for Society members."

The Conference will be held June 14,15,16, 1979. A group flight will be arranged from Chicago, and persons in the United States and Canada should contact the Society headquarters for information. Persons in all other parts of the world should write to: Ancient Astronaut Society, 4532 Feldbrunnen/ SO, Baselstrasse 10, SWITZERLAND.

SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND

Arrangements are underway for the Seventh World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society to be held in New Zealand in 1980. Details will be available soon. Group flights will be arranged from Europe and from Chicago, and possibly, Los Angeles. It is anticipated that after the Conference, side trips will be arranged into New Zealand, to Australia, and to the South Pacific Islands, including Tahiti. Also, the United States flights will try to visit Easter Island on the way home. If you think you might be interested in attending the New Zealand Conference, send your name to the Society headquarters.

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS

The Maine Historical Society, founded in 1929 for history honor students at Maine Township High School in Park Ridge, Illinois, awarded its Gold Medal to Josef Blumrich, Erich von Daniken and Gene M. Phillips at the Fifth World Conference in Chicago last July. The presentations were made by Audree Epstein and Steve Mennig, President and Vice President, respectively. Also present at the ceremony was faculty sponsor, Mr. Paul Carlson.

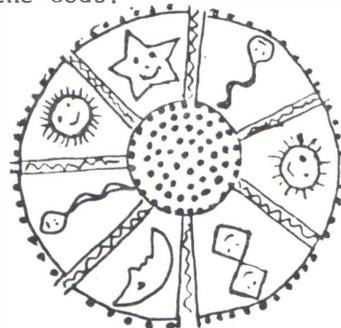
SOCIETY MOURNS JACQUES BERGIER, who died in Paris on November 21, 1978. Mr. Bergier was a pioneer in the ancient astronaut field, with the book, *The Morning of the Magicians*, which he co-authored with Louis Pauwels in the early 1950's. A Fellow of the World Academy of Arts and Sciences, Mr. Bergier was a consultant to the French Atomic Energy Commission. One of the principal speakers at the Ancient Astronaut Society's Second World Conference in Zurich in 1975, Mr. Bergier compiled all the presentations of that Conference into a book which he co-edited with Georges H. Gallet which is now available in France under the title: *Le Livre des Anciens Astronautes*.

WILLY WEGNER

ASTRONOMY OR IMAGINATION?

BY CHARLOTTE MILLER*

Genuine artifact of antiquity or hoax, the data obtained from the design patterns on the object pictured below offer some interesting information to those inclined toward astronomy. Of unknown age and origin, the object was found in South America and was given to a church in Ecuador. A photo of the object appears in Erich von Daniken's book, *The Gold of the Gods*.



The central design consists of concentric circles of raised dots which have numerical values of 7,13,18, and 24. The raised dots on the rim number 54. There are "spokes" with a wave pattern separating the seven sections whose designs indicate an astronomical symbolism.

With the use of a calculator the following information was determined: Using the value of 93×10^6 as the mean orbital distance of the Earth and assuming that, because we are the third planet from the Sun, we may use 18 (3rd dot circle), a constant of K of 0.1935483 was found as the $\tan \angle a$. By the same means, the graph coordinates for each of the other inner planets were plotted. The resulting line is a straight-line graph; the dot values seem to be true for the inner planets. The fifth coordinates seem to correspond to a distance of 279×10^6 (representing a planet once between Mars and Jupiter and shattered into asteroids).

There are other computations I have made that seem to check out to prove that the object was once used in an astronomical computation. The mean distance of sidereal revolution can be calculated from the use of the graph functions.

If this system is truly an easy way to compute distances for planets of a solar system of the same size or age or of any system with orbiting fields of energy, then we may be onto something. I would appreciate hearing from members interested in this subject.

*Ms. Miller is a hospital technologist and a member of Mensa. Her address is 30-37 79th St., Jackson Heights, New York 11370 USA.

NEW BOOKS:

SPACESHIPS IN PREHISTORY, by Peter Kolosimo

Available from Lyle Stuart, Inc., 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, NJ 07094 USA.

ASTRONAUTS OF ANCIENT JAPAN, by Vaughn M. Greene

Available from Box 169, Millbrae, CA 94030 USA

ERICH VON DANIKEN: DISCIPLE OF THE GODS, by

Peter Krassa, available in paperback in England, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Malta

FIRST THERE CAME EVE, By Chase C. Coffey

Available from Vulcan Books, P.O.Box 25616, Seattle, WA 98125 USA.

PSYCHIC ARCHAEOLOGY, TIME MACHINE TO THE PAST, by Jeffrey Goodman

WE ARE THE EARTHQUAKE GENERATION, by Jeffrey Goodman