

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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NEW EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

The stated objectives of the Ancient Astronaut Society are to search for evidence to determine whether a highly developed, technological civilization existed on Earth prior to recorded history, and to determine whether Earth was visited in the remote past by intelligent beings from outer space.

Our recent member expedition to Central America discovered evidence of ancient technology which has not been previously reported.

Perhaps the most striking evidence of technology found to date is the helmeted figure depicted on a stone stele at El Baul, Guatemala (Figure 1). Carved in deep relief in a six foot tall slab, the intricate sculpture shows two full-size human figures, one standing and one having fallen to the ground, as though in combat. In fact, the archae-

ologists suggest that they are boxing, or playing ball!

The detail shown in Figure 1 is of the standing person who is wearing an elaborate head gear, connected to a small tank on his back. Clearly the artist intended to describe a human head inside a protective covering, because through the "window" in the helmet can be seen the profile of the forehead, nose and eye of the wearer. A flame appears to shoot out of the opening at the mouth of the headpiece.

Erich von Daniken, author of Chariots of the Gods? and other books in the ancient astronaut field, suggests that the carving represents an alien who has come to Earth and the helmet and tank constitute his life support system. The "flame" is the artist's representation of the foul breath being exuded. The companion on the ground has fallen because he has lost his head-gear breathing filter. (Continued on next page)



Figure 1. Detail of stone carved in deep relief. El Baul, Guatemala, Central America.



Figure 2. Life-size stone torso. Copan, Honduras.

As with all ancient archaeological objects, interpretations vary with the inclination of the observer; however, there is no mistaking the fact that the helmeted figure of El Baul represents the most conclusive evidence of ancient technology discovered to date.

At the Mayan ruins of Copan in Honduras, we discovered two stone objects which can be nothing other than representations of technology - the application of scientific knowledge and methods of manufacture. The first, shown in Figure 2, represents a life-size torso of a human with an attire which resembles the uniform of a Roman Legionnaire. Note that the hands appear to be working handles on some now-missing object at the chest.

The other object at Copan, shown in Figure 3, is truly fantastic. Gear boxes carved or cast in stone! What more proof of pre-historic technology can be expected?



Figure 3. Stone gear boxes. Copan, Honduras.

After a full day of exploring the grandiose structures of Tikal in northern Guatemala, we were disappointed at not finding any evidence of ancient astronauts at this site. Realizing that the central plaza of Tikal has been almost completely restored by university professors, we could not expect to find too much in our field. However, because of a mix-up in our travel arrangements, we found quite by accident a very interesting stone sculpture.

After visiting the small museum near the airstrip at Tikal, I wandered into the grassy yard beside the museum building and saw a grey stone about three feet high. From a distance, the stone had the aspect of the back of a person in a crouching position. My curiosity aroused, I approached the stone and then I could distinguish a well-worn carving. Close-up, it was obvious that this was a sculpture of a human figure with some sort of a helmet, connected by a tube to a pack on his back! (Figure 4). The pack has an unusual configuration - gear-like! The front of the stone is so worn that little can be distinguished, except that it appears to have its arms coming together at the chest, similar to sculptures at Tiahuanaco, Bolivia, in South America. To me, this small, stone figure at Tikal is one of the most important finds, because it clearly represents evidence of ancient technology, and it is being swept "under the rug" so to speak. Left in the open to be eroded by wind and rain, future travellers will see nothing but an irregular, rounded grey stone in the museum's courtyard!

We must conclude that the evidence in favor of ancient technology is overwhelming. What remains to be proved is that the intelligence required to produce the technology came from outer space. We shall continue to search for that evidence.

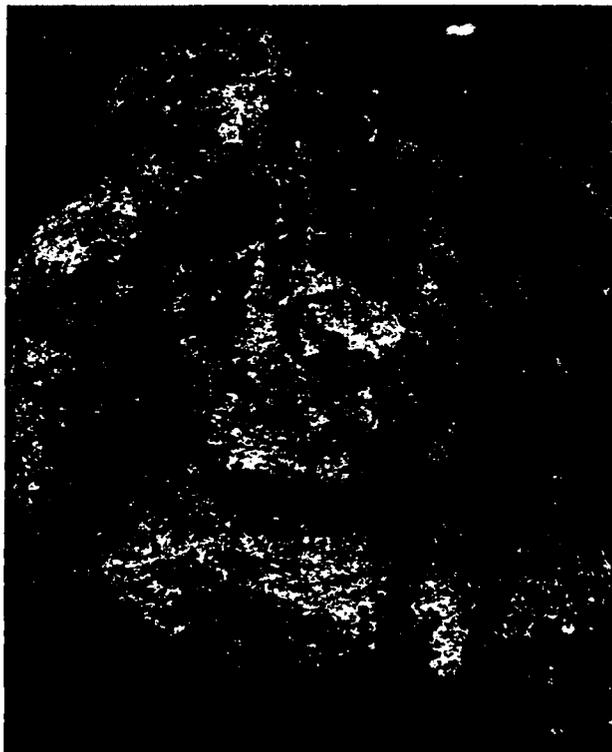


Figure 4. Stone statuette. Tikal, Guatemala.

REPORT ON MAYAN EXPEDITION: 1978 - 1979

BY GREGORY E. PHILLIPS*

Our group of twenty arrived in Guatemala City on December 27. The next day we flew to Flores, an island city situated in the vast wilderness of the Peten District. After dumping our luggage and other loads at the hotel, we bussed 120 kilometers south along dirt roads and were ferried across the River Pasion to the well-kept site of Seibal.

Among the more interesting items at Seibal were well-preserved stelae featuring flowing headgear, and ear and nose fixtures, and a reconstructed temple. In addition, there was a large three-tiered hillside which, our guide assured us, was a pyramid. In fact, we were informed (although it took no great insight to guess!) that each of the regular, wooded hills surrounding us in the main square was a pyramid. In answer to the obvious question as to why they were as yet unexcavated, our guide replied that the jungle reclaimed any untended clearings. Wind and rain encouraged the growth of moss; this moss decayed and served as the basis of small plant life. This in turn became soil for bushes and trees. In ten years a small pyramid could become an innocuous knoll. In a thousand years a great culture could be lost.

Early the next morning we drove another 100 kilometers to the unexcavated ruins of Yaxha. Crossing Lake Yaxha in a dugout canoe, we proceeded to climb the rocky trails leading to the central temple complex. Once there we started up the 75-meter face of the main pyramid. From the top we beheld the lake on one side, and a seemingly virgin jungle in the other three directions: But, we were told, the foliage hid one of the greatest of the Mayan cities.

The entire site was overgrown with jungle; only scattered carvings had been uncovered and set up for display. These included slabs, statues, altars and stelae. Following Mayan causeways, or roads built up on the jungle floor, we examined a large area; nevertheless, what we saw was only a small portion of the whole. Unfortunately funds are not forthcoming for digs at Yaxha, as this site is considered to be of low priority.

On the 30th we left Flores for Tikal. After checking into our hotel, we set out for the ruins. Perhaps the most important and certainly the most well-known of Mayan constructions is the central plaza at Tikal. Accordingly we made it a point to visit this area first.

The two main pyramids and the structures immediately surrounding the central courtyard have been reconstructed. Climbing to the top of the imposing temples presented a minor challenge. The steps of Temple 1 were worn by years of tourist use, and a chain had been run up the steep slope; Temple 2, while less worn and less steep, was almost as high as Temple 1. Each took five to ten minutes to climb at a moderate pace. Atop each was a square structure divided into three or four rectangular chambers perpendicular to the passage leading in from the stairway. A wooden lintel carved with hieroglyphics spanned a doorway in Temple 1. Assorted smaller pyramids, temples and houses framed the rectangular courtyard in parallel rows between Temples 1 and 2. Stelae and circular altar stones were lined up along the sides of the plaza and before the pyramids. As a whole Tikal's central complex presented an aspect of Romanesque elegance comparable to England's 11th-Century Norman constructions.

Three major unreconstructed pyramids are known at Tikal. After lunch we visited each of them. Temple 4 is the tallest pyramid (68 meters); using tree roots, prominent stones and occasional lad-

ders we ascended to the highest point possible. From there we could see the tops of Temples 1 and 2 from behind the latter. Temple 3 had been damaged in a storm and was unsafe for climbing; however, Temple 5, overlooking the central plaza from the left of Temple 1, afforded a most gratifying view.

One of the most striking carvings we saw was that on a circular stone slab near Temple 3. Two figures faced each other. The one on the left appeared much like other Mayan representations, with square ear fittings and a Mayan physiognomy. His companion, however, was wearing a triangular hat which looked like those found in old China; in addition, his features were unmistakably Oriental. The entire piece was in an almost Japanese style. Mayan glyphs framed the work. This particular stone appeared strangely out of place here.

Another most interesting statuette was found alone in a lot between the small museum and the airstrip. The hunched figure had a protuberance on its back on which could be seen a star-shape. There was a ridge running from the head to the hump (See Figure 4 on preceding page). One opinion has it that this piece represents a spaceman, with backpack, breathing apparatus and helmet. At any rate, this piece certainly deserves more attention than it has received.

We celebrated New Year's Eve with fireworks and a banquet atop the Hotel Ritz Continental in Guatemala City. New Year's Day was spent sightseeing at the colonial city of Antigua. On January 2 we were off on an all-day 225 kilometer drive to Honduras. After some difficulty crossing the border (among other things our bus had to be fumigated) we proceeded to the small village of Copan.

The next morning we began our exploration of the ruins. Immediately upon entering the fenced-in enclosure we came to a stacked heap of assorted worked and carved stones. Our guide explained that they were stored in that way until time or funds were available to enable a reconstruction. On seeing the main complex we discovered that all but a few of the structures were only partially reconstructed: Stone blocks, carved and uncarved, were stacked in the general shapes of low pyramids and houses; however, they had not been fitted closely. Nevertheless, there were many fascinating works amidst the melee. Among these were the stone heads. A wide range of races and facial types were represented in a quite realistic manner. Interestingly, these were for the most part non-Mayan. An intercultural connection of some kind between the Maya and Eurasian and African peoples is certainly to be considered.

One most interesting piece was chanced upon in the course of our observations. This figure, and others of its kind, represented a humanoid torso and arms (if this fellow had a head and legs, he has since lost them!). The hands were in a rather unnatural attitude, and some manner of garment was indicated (See Figure 2). One thought is that the item on the chest is a technical apparatus, and the hands are manipulating controls of some kind. One can only hope that this and other pieces will find a prominent place in the reconstruction.

We were led to the celebrated ball-court and the hieroglyphic stairway. The former was a reconstructed masterpiece of symmetrical elegance. Flat wings sloped gradually up from the long sides of a sunken rectangular floor. At the top of each side were three stone rings, one at each end and one in the middle, from which a low ridge sloped the width of the wing to divide it in half. Atop either side were three stone chambers. The ends of the court were open. Such is the structure; its function is less certain. As the name implies, the accepted interpretation is that a ball game was played, and indeed Spaniards witnessed such games at other Mayan sites. However, the purpose of the structure is still open to speculation.

The hieroglyphic stairway faced perpendicular
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to the line of the ball court. As one can imagine, this was a stairway constructed of blocks carved with hieroglyphs. Five larger figures had places at intervals down the middle of the structure (although one has since been removed to Harvard's Peabody Museum). The pyramid itself was still unreconstructed. Whatever the explanation of this construction, it remains a monument to its builders.

Opposite the ball court we were shown a row of massive blocks arranged as steps. Our guide had been assuring us that he was leading us to something fantastic; now, he indicated a glyph high up in the structure. It was a crouching Mayan figure encircled in a frame of sorts. It did bear a resemblance to representations in Egyptian and Babylonian work which was not uninteresting.

Rather more striking, however, were the carvings placed, one should hope temporarily, by a tree below this glyph. Ridged cylinders were depicted which bore an uncanny similitude to today's gears (See Figure 3). Interestingly these carvings could also be found in plaster in a tunnel beneath the hieroglyphic stairway; for an unknown reason (perhaps for no reason!) they were the only ones still discernible in the tunnel.

The entire site of Copan was scattered with large, ornamented statues and stelae. Several figures had been carved with extremely complex and intricate headdresses. Many of the representations had a remarkably Oriental aspect. Stone blocks covered with glyphs could be found. One of these had glyphs arranged in a diagonal pattern. Finally several low, round objects could be seen; one of them looked disturbingly like a hamburger on a kaiser roll. These last, and the large turtles to which they may be related, also appeared in relief on stelae. A great deal of effort has been devoted to the study of these statues and carvings; much more investigation will have to take place before the nature of their message can be discerned.

On January 4th we travelled to the archaeological site of Quirigua, in Guatemala. Perhaps because it was much smaller and better cared for than Tikal or Copan, Quirigua had an atmosphere of simplicity and elegance of overall design unmatched by its two great relatives. Indeed, the carvings were quite intact, and reconstruction work proceeded on the structures as we watched.

The stelae at Quirigua were simpler and more streamlined than those at Copan (among them was the tallest known Mayan stele, at 11 meters); the difference was much like that between Neo-classical and Baroque art. However, the reverse is true of the other form of statuary. Where Copan had had "hamburgers" and turtles, Quirigua had bulbuous monstrosities covered with glyphs and reliefs, as if in a hideous mutation. On coming to the temple area we came upon two immense "mutants," covered with all manner of intriguing depiction in an apparently haphazard way. Above these boulders was the temple complex, where large-scale work was being done. Quirigua is a fascinating little site, containing different and revealing styles of Mayan craftsmanship.

We bussed back to Guatemala City. The next day we made for our final destination, the black Pacific sands of Likkin. On the way, however, we visited two small but thought-provoking places. At La Democracia, we visited the local museum. The most noteworthy piece was the large, rotund statue of a smiling "god." Non-Mayan in appearance, this work has an almost African appearance. We saw one of these fellows in a sugar plantation; there its entire immense body was buried, leaving only a one meter high head. From other representations of the same figure, the body can be estimated to have been some three meters tall and almost as wide. Obvious parallels can be drawn to Easter Island.

At El Baul we stumbled upon perhaps the most important find of our trip. Under a thatched shel-

ter situated in the midst of a sugar factory with other carvings was a large stele with a format similar to Babylonian cylinder seals. On it was depicted a life-size Egyptian-style figure. We were immediately struck by the unusual aspect of its head: It was round, with a circular depression in it, and various ridges and reliefs associated with it. A saw-tooth ridge ran from one side (See Figure 1). The interpretation from the point of view of Ancient Astronaut Society members is obvious: A helmet, connected to a backpack, with flames, water, words or breath issuing from the mouth.

There were other striking pieces as well. One shallow relief presented a face in an almost Inca style. Another bust was of a grinning Caucasian figure. Yet another had the features and expression of a statue in a Medieval French cathedral. El Baul held one of the richest collections of carvings we examined. Investigation into their original settings and into the context in which the works were undertaken is most certainly in order.

For the next two days we took the waters at the resort of Likkin. We nursed our sunburns on the trip home to a foot of snow.

Several rather unrelated observations must be made concerning our experiences. First, the need for further study of the Mayan works is apparent, and should be encouraged. Secondly, the frequent representation of non-Mayan peoples and the utilization of apparently non-Mayan artistic styles points to greater intercourse among civilizations than has traditionally been allowed (although it should be noted that several researchers have begun to adopt this view, with or without a postulation of extraterrestrial intervention). Thirdly, it is interesting that many of the sites our group visited were by and large quite unknown to all but Maya scholars until the ancient astronaut theory gained currency. Finally, one should never forget the emotional impact of these sites. In architecture, in art and in natural setting these remnants of the Mayan culture are as important as the monuments of African, Asian and European civilization. Material analysis must never be allowed to obscure their lofty grandeur.

SEVENTH WORLD CONFERENCE

The Seventh World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society will be held in Auckland, New Zealand on July 10, 11 and 12, 1980.

A group flight is being arranged for members in the United States and Canada to leave from Los Angeles. Persons interested in joining this flight should contact the Society Headquarters office.

Another group flight is being arranged for members in Europe, leaving from Zurich, Switzerland. Persons interested in this flight should contact the Society at Baselstrasse 10, 4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, Switzerland.

Members in other parts of the world can make reservations for the Conference directly by writing to Ancient Astronaut Society Seventh World Conference, 39 Callender Terrace, Paraparaumu, New Zealand.

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