

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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LIGHT FOR THE PHARAOH

BY REINHARD HABECK and PETER KRASSA*
Translated from the German by
Prof. Hans Schindler Bellamy**

It is a historical fact that the Danish natural philosopher, Hans Christian Orsted, was the first to recognize, in 1820, that an electric current caused magnetic phenomena. The Englishman, Michael Faraday, continued research in the possibilities of this electro-magnetic relationship. A further achievement in this direction was the invention of the first electric bulb by the American, Thomas A. Edison, in 1871.

It now would seem that this line of development in the history of electricity will have to be abandoned, even if scientists may find it difficult to accept new aspects that are coming to the fore. The proof is presented by the sensational discovery of the Austrian archaeologist, Wilhelm Koenig. In the course of the excavation of a Parthian site he found a puzzling object in the form of a vase. Subsequent investigation showed that this object must have been, without doubt, a galvanic cell. Every essential component was there: a copper cylinder and an iron rod. A few years ago this ancient contraption was put to a working test in the Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum of Hildesheim, West Germany. The astounding result was that this cell is still capable of producing a current output of one-half a volt! Thus it was proved without a doubt that the appliance found among the ruins of Chuyut Rabuah had really been in use as a galvanic cell.

*This article is based upon the authors' book, *Licht Für Den Pharao* (Light for the Pharaoh), to be published in German by Luxemburger "Verlag 2000", 23, rue des Genets, Postal Code 2476,22, Luxembourg. The book will be presented at the 1982 Frankfurt Book Fair on October 7, 1982 in Frankfurt-on-Main, West Germany.

Mr. Habeck is a professional technical surveyor with an avocation in satirical drawings. His work, *Habeck's Cartoons*, depicting personalities in the ancient astronaut field, was published in 1980 by Luxemburger "Verlag 2000".

Mr. Krassa, a journalist and an editor of the Vienna Daily "Kurier", has six books published in German in the ancient astronaut field, including a biography of Erich von Daniken, which has been published in England. He has travelled extensively in the USSR and China doing research for his books.

Mr. Habeck and Mr. Krassa will be speakers at the Eighth World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society in Vienna, Austria on November 12,13, 1982. Their mailing address is Anton-Baumgartner-Str. 44, B 7/166, 1232 Vienna, AUSTRIA.

**Prof. Bellamy is an expert on Tiahuanaco (See *Ancient Skies* 8:4). His address is Blechturm-gasse 23-5-10, A1050 Vienna, AUSTRIA.

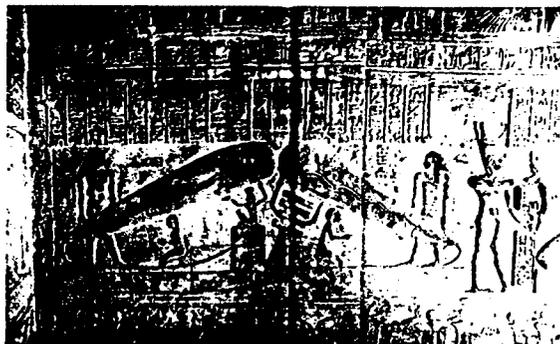


Photo of relief on wall of a crypt in Hathor Temple, Dendera, Egypt

Also, copper fragments found at Selenkia on the Tigris, and in Ctesiphon, the ancient Parthian capital, had evidently been components of similar appliances. Thus it would appear that the rough-riding Parthians of two thousand years ago had knowledge of a technology that historians had never yet dared to attribute to them.

Did also the ancient Egyptians know electricity, and used it? When we admire the magnificent colorful wall-paintings and the reliefs and inscriptions in the subterranean crypts of their temples, do we think of the powerful sources of light they must have employed to execute them? It is usually supposed that they used torches, candles, or oil-lamps. But did they?

For neither in the halls of the various temples, nor in the passage-ways of the pyramids, and in subterranean structures have ever been found any traces of soot. The doubtlessly lengthy use of such dim and smoky forms of lighting must have left tell-tale smudges on ceilings and walls. What is the cause of this inexplicable state of things?

To clear this puzzle we got into touch with the Austrian Egyptologist, Prof. Helmuth Satzinger, of the Vienna Museum of History of Art. When asked for his views regarding the problem of "Ancient Egyptian sources of Illumination" his cautious answer was: "I know of no references to such sooty traces. But I remember reading an article once whose author ventured to suggest that they may have been capable of producing smokeless torches at that time."

Does this solve the question regarding ancient Egyptian sources of illumination? We regret to have to negate it. Prof. Satzinger had to admit that up to now no one had tried to produce, and use, smokeless torches.

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Also the hypothesis that the Egyptians had installed relays of mirrors which reflected the Sun's light into the dark recesses of their temples had had to be abandoned as practical experiments showed that most of the Sun's light was dissipated in this process and was thus unable to lighten the subterranean crypts.

Thus it appears to be quite legitimate to renew the question: "Did the Egyptian adepts know electricity, and its use for lighting?"

Puzzling reliefs in the ancient Hathor Temple of Dendera certainly seem to support this compulsive supposition. This Temple is situated in supreme solitude, about 40 miles to the north of Luxor. Only a small part of the edifice projects above the desert surface.

Hidden in the massive masonry of the subterranean substructure of the ancient Temple there are twelve long narrow passage-ways, or crypts, on three levels, one below the other, which are very difficult of access. Are there, perhaps, situated the secret repositories of the still unknown arcana that were at the command of the ancient Egyptian priesthood?

To write the manuscript of the book to be published under the title Light for the Pharaoh the authors made a special trip to Egypt to investigate in detail the ancient Temple of Hathor. We got down into the Dendera catacombs. After scattering the obligatory largesse of "baksheesh" and after a most troublesome scramble and squeeze through pitch-dark narrow passages, we reached what we had been aiming at: it was a widening with a floor-space of about 60 square feet - but what struck our eyes on its walls fully compensated for our perspiring scramble through the narrow passages below the Temple.

We saw astounding reliefs of human figures, depicted holding or handling, elongated bladder-like cylindrical objects which, without stretching one's imagination unduly reminded one of outside electrical bulbs! Within those objects were shown what resembled undulatory "serpents". Were they supposed to depict "filaments"? The pointed ends of those "serpents" were always shown in contact with the calyx of a "lotus flower", which in its turn was connected with a peculiar "cable" of some length, which in its turn again originated from a rectangular "box", obviously containing a "generator", or battery, or some other source of energy. Sitting on this box was depicted a figure which, according to Prof. Satzinger, represents Shu, the god of the air. May this bladder-like object perhaps be interpreted as a reference to aerial ionization?

Closely connected with this depiction, or upholding the "bladder" there is shown a so-called "Djed-Pillar", whose two "arms" are in direct contact with the "serpent". The meaning of this Djed prop is regarded as a complete puzzle by Egyptologists. Some believe to see in it a pole to which sheaves of corn are tied in successive tiers. Other archaeologists see in it a tree, more especially a palm tree, with propped-up fronds, or stretched on a wall at the back.

However, the hieroglyphic symbol for "Djed" also stands for "stability" and "power" - which meanings would connect with its obviously being used as a "carrier of energy". Indeed, the striking resemblance of the "Djed-Pillar" with modern high tension current insulators is too obvious to need special stressing. Every electrical engineer will no doubt confirm this.

We are also greatly intrigued by that apelike being which is always depicted with one or two knives in its hands. In Egyptian mythology, it represents the significantly relative deity, Thot. He is also addressed as the "scribe of the Gods", the "Great Master of Magic", and the "Measurer of Time." It is significant that Thot was supposed to have tried to "light up the darkness" with his own light!

It is generally known that manipulation with electric current can have the most "serious" consequences. Would it therefore not be logical that the knives of the God of Science are placed in his hands to warn everybody of the risky nature of the depicted, or described, phenomenon - electricity?

Are all the cogent references mentioned in the above paragraphs only fortuitous?

What opinions are offered by Egyptologists respecting those peculiar pictorial documents?

One explanation is that the objects depicted in those reliefs are so-called "serpent stones", large blocks of stone in whose hollow centers snakes wriggle up. They are supposed to have been placed upright as protectors in front of temples. We believe that this explanation is a very weak one, because just at Dendera there is not a single relief showing such "serpent stones" upright. At Dendera they are either depicted as being propped up by "Djed-Pillars", or they are shown supported by persons holding them in a sloping position.

Prof. Satzinger offers another surmise: he believes that what is depicted is a sun-bark of the god Re, the standard symbol of Ancient Egypt. It resembles somewhat the papyrus boats of Thor Heyerdahl; at their stern they feature a platform from which hung a mat while their stern was fashioned into the shape of a lotus-flower; of course, this idea would have to be thoroughly investigated.

But just this very statement should make us reflective. One may turn it as one will - but the conceptions "god of the air", "hanging mat", "Papyrus boat", and "snake stone", just do not show any relationship.

Further, why is the "Djed-Pillar" always so conspicuously depicted as slanting? What exactly are the evidently priestly persons shown in the relief doing? What is the meaning of the knives in the hands of the "god of the sciences"? Nor must we overlook the feline figure below one of the "snake-stones". It is depicted as being in a state of extreme physical tension. Why? Was it attempted to express the idea of "electric tension" by means of the symbolism of this figure?

No convincing answer to all these pivotal questions have hitherto come forth. On the contrary, refuge is being taken to an illusory world of symbolism and conjecture and the activities that have evidently been depicted are being dismissed as being merely pictorial representations of ritual acts without trying to get at their real meaning. Especially with regard to the reliefs in the Hathor Temple such superficial interpretations are inapplicable. For these depictions are illustrations of a quite special nature which try to explain and elucidate something - in fact they try to demonstrate technical processes. There is nothing spiritistic or fanciful in these pictures. They depict facts.

The Hathor Temple of Dendera features another peculiarity which is without parallel in Egypt: every square inch of its walls and columns is covered with inscriptions and pictorial representations. The whole Temple has been made to convey knowledge - knowledge, evidently, about electrical matters.

But this remains still shrouded in darkness. In talks we had with Egyptian, German, and Austrian experts the fact was established that Egyptologists have not yet been able to "read" the hieroglyphic texts of Dendera.

It would seem as if the priesthood of ancient Egypt had used a system of communicating specialized knowledge which was only intelligible in their own circles - very similar to the code-systems used by modern scientists.

Why have these puzzling pictorial documents not yet been scanned with modern eyes and approached from modern points of view? Is it due to a lack of real interest?

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One man who has made an attempt in this direction is the British scientist, Dr. John Harris, of Oxford University. He studied the reliefs with great attention and arrived at the conviction that there can be no doubt that these depictions, if anything, are exact representations of technical processes as they are applied in our own times.

This is a realization which is amazingly parallel to the results of investigations carried out by the Viennese scientist, Walter Garn, an electrical engineer and for a number of years, technical director of a power station in Thailand. When we showed him photos of the Dendera reliefs he showed immediate interest. He is convinced that the depictions can be fully interpreted from technical and physical points of view. He was also able to construct a model for the manuscript of our book. However, he qualified his opinion with this remark: "For a more exact and detailed technical interpretation of the reliefs the accompanying hieroglyphics would also have to be taken into consideration."

He intends to continue the analysis of the puzzling Hathor reliefs and texts, and for the time being he says, "From the investigations carried on so far it has become obvious that their further examination will bring forth further valuable results, even if only in a mythographically very involved form. I would recommend further thorough investigations of the whole complex."

This is a well-meant piece of advice addressed to Egyptologists. It remains to be seen if the challenge will be taken up. There can be no doubt that such an action is highly due.

But, as is the case with every unconventional hypothesis, there are justified doubts that the priests of ancient Egypt, the scientists of their time, had knowledge of producing and using electricity. It cannot be denied that there are extraordinary reliefs in subterranean passages of the Dendera Temple, but where are the objects and implements that are shown depicted? Even if we do not assume that those depictions are only the products of the imagination of ancient artists: a supposition that we, the authors and advocates of the "electric current in antiquity" hypothesis, vehemently deny - then the originals of the objects shown in the reliefs of Dendera must still be in existence somewhere, or they must have existed in the lifetime of the artists.

To give an answer to this that holds good is not easy. We know:

First: That ancient Egypt was repeatedly overrun by foreign invaders, like, say, the Hyksos, about 1650 to 1542 BC, and was plundered and gutted.

Second: From ancient traditions we know that no pardon was given to priests, the learned men of pharaonic Egypt, and they were either taken away as captives to learn their wisdom and knowledge, frequently through torture, or they were killed.

Third: It is therefore by no means unlikely that some of these objects were either hidden away in secret places in Egypt, where they lie in safety until they are discovered (the tomb of the all-around genius, Imhotep, for instance, has not yet been found), or they were destroyed in the course of the military campaigns in the realm of the Pharaohs, frequently perhaps, only because their real value was not recognized.

Fourth: So far - and this seems to us to be of special importance - no really purposeful search for such technical apparatus has been made. It is our considered opinion that any such search should not be undertaken only by Egyptologists, but by a mixed body of scientists.

Many important things may still be slumbering in the sands of the Egyptian deserts which might entirely change the general aspect of ancient Egyptian history. Things that at present are still falsely addressed as religious symbols, but would, even at the threshold of the Third Millennium, literally revolutionize that history.

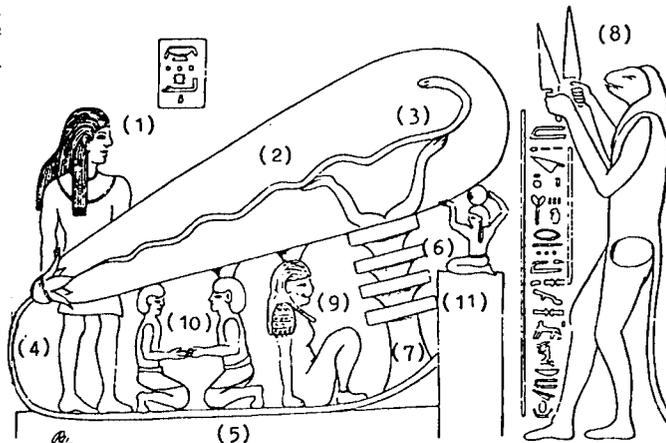


Illustration from the book Light for the Pharaoh.

- (1) Egyptian priestly adept.
- (2) Ionised vapour, or gas
- (3) Stylized serpent, pictorial interpretation of an electric discharge.
- (4) Lotus flower (a socket?) from whose tip the electric arc originates. This fact is physically correctly shown because here the electric field-power shows the highest tension.
- (5) Cable-like connection
- (6) Shu - god of the air.
- (7) "Djed-Pillar"; has the function of an insulator.
- (8) Thot - god of science, holding a pair of knives. A reference to the danger lurking in the apparatus depicted?
- (9) Symbolism for "tension"?
- (10) Opposite polarity or tension; the right figure denoting the positive pole.
- (11) Box containing the generator.

NEW BOOKS:

ERICH VON DANIKEN's book The Stones of Kiribati will be available in the United States in hardcover in December 1982 from G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, under the title Pathways to the Gods.

ERICH VON DANIKEN's latest book in German is now available from ECON Verlag, Dusseldorf, West Germany, under the title Die Strategie Der Goetter (The Strategy of the Gods).

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OPENING ADDRESS AT THE EIGHTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY - VIENNA, AUSTRIA

By GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

Since 1973 members of the Ancient Astronaut Society have travelled to remote sites throughout the world in search of evidence to support the theories that a highly-developed, technological civilization existed on Earth before our recorded history; and that intelligent beings from outer space visited our planet many thousands of years ago. The evidence which has been accumulated and reported on is truly overwhelming, leaving no doubt that technologically-advanced civilizations flourished on Earth in eons past. From the surviving remnants of their accomplishments, we can only imagine the stupendous heights of culture and civilization which they achieved.

The written accounts which have survived of these past great civilizations describe technological wonders which we, even with our level of achievement, have not duplicated today and which we label as myth.

Based upon the evidence thus far accumulated, we are convinced that past cultures on Earth reached a pinnacle of technological accomplishment not yet duplicated by modern science.

But we must still determine whether extraterrestrial intelligent beings influenced, directly or indirectly, the development of intelligence on our planet. To date there is a very large amount of evidence of extraterrestrial intervention, but it is circumstantial or conjectural. However, logic dictates that intelligence in human beings could not have simply erupted overnight - in one giant evolutionary leap forward.

If human intelligence on Earth did occur all of a sudden, then surely it did not evolve, but was brought here - in one form or another. Mankind is, of course, the best evidence of the intervention of intelligent beings from outer space. Either we are their product, or we are their descendants. We shall continue our search for the evidence which will prove that civilization, technology and intelligence originated in outer space.

COME SEARCH WITH US!

MORE ON ATLANTIS

In W. Raymond Drake's excellent article on Atlantis in Ancient Skies 8:6, he suggests that the Mahabharata chronicles the conflict between the Atlanteans and the Aryans. In fact, it is the other great epic from Sanskrit, the Ramayana, which depicts in great detail the fight between Rama and Rawana.

According to Drake, the two parts of Atlantis were called "Ruta" and "Daitya". These words are Sanskrit in origin. Ruta means "universal order" while the Daityas are those who oppose order.

The Ramayana describes Rawana as a "daitya", an evil giant, who lived on an island which is described very much like the account of Atlantis. The island was called "Lanka".

This connection with Sanskrit has made me wonder what language the Atlanteans spoke. Were they the originators of Sanskrit, the mother of modern languages? Sanskrit is often called "Devavani", or the "language of the gods." It is said to have originated in the heavens and then as it pleased the lord for reasons described in the various Puranas, was taught to human beings on Earth.

Since the Atlanteans are also thought to have originated in space and settled on Earth, one wonders whether Sanskrit was brought to Earth by the Atlanteans.

Niranjan S. Ghate, 734 Sadashiv Peth, Pune
411030 INDIA.

MORE ON THE CUENCA SCRIPT

I was intrigued with the article in Ancient Skies 9:3 by Dr. Dileep Kumar Kanjilal in which he states that Dr. Barry Fell has interpreted the script on the gold stele at Cuenca, Ecuador in an inverted form.

Attempts to decipher script upside down are quite common. Perhaps one of the most famous of such cases is that of Cyrus Thomas, who found an inscribed object in an Indian mound in Loudon County, Tennessee, USA. Thomas read the script as letters of the Cherokee Indian alphabet and for 85 years the object hung in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. upside down. Then qualified Hebrew scholars read the script correctly as a Judean script used in the 2nd Century A.D.

Dr. Kanjilal is, without a doubt, the foremost Sanskrit scholar of the world and no one outside of India can hope to acquire his intimate knowledge of the language.

O. L. Hope, 425 E. Davidson Ave., Gastonia, NC
28052 USA.

SOCIETY MARKS NINTH ANNIVERSARY

September 14, 1982 marked the Ninth Anniversary of the founding of the Ancient Astronaut Society, and we look back with satisfaction on some of our accomplishments.

This issue of Ancient Skies represents the fifty-second continuous publication of our logbook, which has received world-wide acceptance and acclaim. We also publish a German language edition of Ancient Skies from our office in Switzerland, which is distributed to our more than 1,200 German-speaking members.

We have arranged Member Field Expeditions to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, England, Egypt, Malta, Jordan, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Tahiti and Turkey.

We have held World Conferences in the USA, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Brazil, West Germany, New Zealand and Austria; and local meetings in the USA and West Germany.

Members of our Society have presented hundreds of lectures and slide presentations throughout the world and have appeared on countless radio and TV programs.

Almost every author in the ancient astronaut field is a member of our Society and the sales of their books number in the millions of copies.

The Society has distributed free to its members over 1,000 copies of books in the ancient astronaut field.

Membership in the Ancient Astronaut Society knows no boundaries, political, religious or otherwise. We are proud to report that we have members in 49 of the United States of America (North Dakota excepted) and in Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Netherland Antilles, Barbados, Bahamas, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, West Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Canary Islands, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, USSR, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Israel, Iran, Egypt, Morocco, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Union of South Africa, Japan, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Fiji, Tahiti, New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand.

We invite everyone to be with us in Chicago on August 6,7,1983 to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary.