

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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REAL EVIDENCE FOR THE FACE ON MARS?

BY WALTER HAIN*

In 1976, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) released photos of the Planet Mars which were taken by NASA's Viking I space probe to the red planet. Included in the photos was one which revealed what appeared to be a stone structure resembling a human face. (See Fig.1)

In December, 1986 a NASA Film with the Viking I Mars pictures was presented on the Austrian TV News, and I saw the "Marsface" for the first time. As a member of the Ancient Astronaut Society, my first immediate reaction was that this could be proof of ancient astronauts. I obtained a copy of the "Marsface" photo from the TV film and sent it to Erich von Daniken, but at that time he showed little interest in it.

I also wrote to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to try to obtain more and better pictures of the face. Mr. Don Bane of JPL wrote to me on October 31, 1977 saying that he could not find any photos of a "Marsface." He said, "Those nicknames you give the pictures (like 'Marsface') mean absolutely nothing to me - they are your nicknames, not mine."

However, a few months later, on March 2, 1978, Mr. Bane wrote to me: "At last I know what you mean when you refer to the 'Marsface' picture!" Included with the letter was a very good picture of the "face." JPL stated that the image "which resembles a human head" was situated "in the northern latitudes of Mars." No exact location was given. I wrote to Mr. Bane about this and he advised me that the coordinates were 40.89 North and 9.55 West. This enabled me to localize the image in the region of "Cydonia" on Mars. In 1978 and 1979 I wrote to JPL for more pictures of the "face" taken perhaps from a higher altitude, or without the shadow on the left side, but Mr. Bane advised me that NASA had no other pictures of the "Marsface."

In 1978 most people believed the "face" to be simply a trick of light and shadow. In that year I sent a copy of the photo and my own drawing of the face (See Fig. 2) to the American Headquarters of the Ancient Astronaut Society, but Mr. Phillips sent the photo and drawing back to me with a letter dated October 22, 1978 stating that "The 'face' is indeed fascinating but I do not think there is enough substantiation as yet for an article in *Ancient Skies*."

But I did not give up. The NASA photograph shows a little light area in the shadow side of the "face" and I concluded that it could be possible that the other half of the face is, in fact, there. When I made the drawing based upon the NASA picture, I was



Fig. 1. NASA Photo of "Marsface"

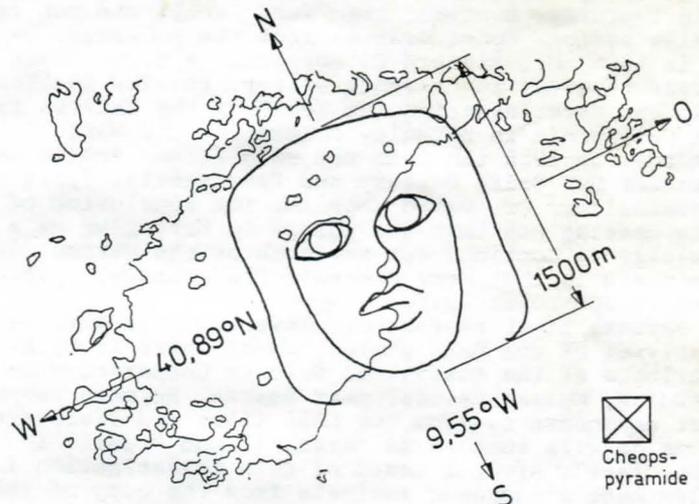


Fig. 2. The author's drawing of "Marsface"

surprised to see the symmetry of the face. The "eye", the "nose", the "mouth" and the "hair"; all were in the right position as in a real face. Consequently, I drew in the other side of the face which lies in the shadow. Also, I compared the size of the figure with the measurements of the Cheops Pyramid.

The most important question, of course, was: Did the other side of the face exist or not? I therefore made a model, a reconstruction of the "face",
(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

and with a spotlight I simulated the sunlight which came from an angle of 20 degrees (following a footnote contained on the back of the NASA photo) to prove if anything was visible on the shadow side. After several experiments, I concluded that it was possible to see the other half of the "face".

Since no other photos of the "face" were available, I decided to publish my findings. In 1979, I wrote a book called Wir vom Mars (We Are From Mars) which included the NASA "face" photo, the photo from the TV News program, my model reconstruction and my drawing with the measurements of the figure. Also, I included several other Viking photos of Mars which I obtained from NASA. To my knowledge, mine was the first book which gave information about the "Marsface" and the possibility of an ancient civilization on Mars. I had much difficulty in finding a publisher, but finally Ellenberg Verlag, of Koln, West Germany agreed to publish it, but with the stipulation that I pay for the printing, which I did at a great cost. I presented my book at the world-famous Book Fair in Frankfurt, West Germany in 1979. Unfortunately, the book is no longer in print, but I am seeking another publisher.

The NASA photos also reveal other strange objects on Mars near the "face", including huge pyramidal structures and "ruins" resembling an Inca city.

I wrote several newspaper and magazine articles on the subject and Erich von Daniken accepted my report for publication in the German Edition of Ancient Skies, July-August 1980. Also, I presented my evidence at a One Day Meeting of the Ancient Astronaut Society which was held in Fulda, West Germany in October 1980.

In 1980 I read in a German newspaper that two US computer scientists working at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, had done computer enhancements of the "Marsface" from the original NASA photos and had come to the conclusion that the "face" on Mars is not a trick of light and shadow. The scientists, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, published their findings in 1980 in a report entitled "Unusual Martian Surface Features." This was presented to the press and in several public lectures. However, the "face" still did not receive serious consideration from the public.

In 1984, Mr. Richard C. Hoagland, a former NASA press reporter and science writer, founded an "Independent Mars Investigation Team" at the University of California in Berkeley to examine the Mars photos. In 1986 the team met with former Apollo Astronaut Dr. Brian O'Leary and Presidential Space Commissioner Dr. David Webb and the conclusion of the meeting was that the things on Mars give us a message to continue our research on the matter. It is possible that Mars conceals the greatest mysteries of our solar system.

Several other researchers have begun to work on analyses of the Mars photos, among which is Dr. Mark Carlotto of the Analytical Science Corporation in Redding, Massachusetts, near Boston. He made computer enhancements from the NASA files and discovered some details such as an "eyeball" and "teeth" in the "face". After I heard of this investigation I also made a computer analysis from the copy of the picture which I have and I, too, found such details.

The clearest enhancement of the NASA photos have been done by the well-known Stanford Research Institute in California. From their computer enhancements, we can really see a face with two eyes, and the "hair" on the dark side of the figure. Unfortunately, my copy of the computer enhancement does not contain sufficient contrast to reproduce here.

Other books on the subject have appeared recently, including Planetary Mysteries, by Richard Grossinger; The Face on Mars, by Brian Crowley and James J. Hurtak; and The Face on Mars, by Randolph R. Pozos. However, these books give credit for the "Marsface" "discovery" to Mr. DiPietro and Mr. Molenaar in

1979. Actually, this is not right, as I have discussed above.

I am proud to say that my suggestions in 1977 and thereafter have been proven correct, and that according to the latest computer results, the "face" and other structures on Mars are artificial structures, not natural formations. But we must continue our research in this field.

[Ed. Note: At the Society's World Conference in Novi Vinodolski, Yugoslavia in September 1987, Baron Johannes von Buttlar presented a lecture on the "Marsface" with many color slides of the computer enhancements. The evidence now available is truly convincing and in our opinion there is now "substantiation" to support the foregoing article.]

NEW DATING TECHNIQUE

The wheels of official science grind slowly and finally anthropologists are admitting what we in the Ancient Astronaut Society have been saying for so long - that modern mankind on Earth is much, much older than the scientists have said.

In an article published on February 20, 1988 by the Brisbane Courier Mail (Australia), it was announced that a new dating technique, called thermoluminescence, has been used to determine the age of human skeletons at almost 100,000 years. The new technique was developed by scientists from the French Institute of Low-Level Radiation, headed by Dr. Helene Valladas. The skeletal remains were found in a site called Qafzeh Cave in Israel. The scientific finding was reported in the Journal "Nature".

Before application of the new dating technique, most scientists believed the skeletons to be only about 40,000 years old. Thus, the commonly-held view that modern man evolved from Neanderthal man must now be discarded and Darwin's "missing link" must surely be the visit to Earth in eons past by intelligent beings from outer space.

Mrs. May Flitcroft, 44 Creswick Street, 4011 Clayfield, Brisbane, Queensland, AUSTRALIA.

SOVIET COSMONAUTS Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Alexandrov both grew taller during a record 326 days in space, which ended on December 29, 1987 when they returned to Earth in their Soyuz TM-3 return spacecraft which landed in Soviet Kazakhstan. Romanenko grew 4/10 of an inch and Alexandrov grew 6/10.

The data was attributed to Soviet Cosmonaut Georgy M. Grechko, who himself spent 96 days in space. Grechko, who was at ground control outside Moscow when the Cosmonauts returned, said "During prolonged flights in the absence of normal gravity, human height increases."

Cosmonaut Grechko, a PhD in physics and mathematics, addressed the Society's World Conference in Novi Vinodolski, Yugoslavia in September, 1987.

COMING EVENTS FOR 1989

1. **MEMBER EXPEDITION** to China and Tibet. A two-week expedition to visit museums and archaeological sites in China is being planned for April, 1989, with an optional one-week extension to Tibet. Details and prices will be available soon.
2. The next **WORLD CONFERENCE** of the Society will be held during August, 1989 in Chicago. The exact dates, location and details will be announced in Ancient Skies when available.

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MEMBERS IRATE OVER NEW TV SPECIAL ON PYRAMIDS

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

Many members have expressed their disgust with a new television special which was shown throughout the United States during the third week of April, 1988, entitled "Mysteries of the Pyramids... LIVE." The two-hour special attempts to answer all the questions surrounding the building of the Great Pyramid and the Sphinx at Giza, near Cairo, Egypt. Hosted by Omar Sharif, this latest program follows the usual pattern of the Host, who knows nothing about the subject, interviewing a supposed expert in the field, who claims to know everything about the subject. Presented in a light, somewhat jocular manner, the program opens with Sharif stating that there are "as many theories about pyramids as there are pyramids themselves. Who built them? Priests from Atlantis? Or, of course, my personal favorite, architects from outer space? But the real story of the pyramid needs no embellishment to make it fascinating."

Sharif then introduces the expert, Mark Lehner, as "one of the new generation of Egyptologists from Yale University." Lehner states without any hesitation: "We know that the pyramids were built by the ancient Egyptians 5,000 years ago." (Emphasis added) So in one simple statement, the Yale Egyptologist solves two of the greatest mysteries of all time - who built the Great Pyramid and when.

"How did they do it?" asks Omar Sharif. Not waiting for an answer, Sharif continues "If we assume that Cheops built it, then we can safely assume that it was built in the 23 years that he ruled-23 years? Thousands upon thousands of men were working around the clock." Now this is an understatement to say the least. Estimates of the number of stone blocks contained in the Great Pyramid vary from 2,300,000 to 2,500,000, weighing an average of two and one-half tons, with some stones weighing up to 70 to 75 tons. You do not need a computer to calculate that if the structure was completed in 23 years, a stone would have been fixed in place approximately every five seconds - around the clock!

Sharif then asks Mark Lehner to explain how the workers carried the stones. Lehner: "That mystifies us experts as well...but they had to have used some kind of a ramp." He then explained that a straight-on ramp would not have been feasible because it would have been too long "if it had a functional slope." He estimated that "too long" was about the length of seven football fields (700 yards, or 2,100 feet). In fact, a functional straight-on ramp to reach the top of the 481 foot high Great Pyramid would need to be at least one mile long!

When Lehner was questioning the theory of a ramp straight-on against the pyramid, he was undoubtedly referring to the theory espoused by the National Geographic Society, which presents such a theory in its book Ancient Egypt, published in 1978. This grossly oversized hardcover work (11 x 14 inches) contains an "explanation" of how the Great Pyramid was constructed and uses a large, two-page artist's rendering of the Pyramid being built with a huge straight-on ramp. (See pages 98 and 99)

"My idea," said Lehner, "is that the ramp started close to the base of the Pyramid and wrapped itself around the Pyramid. As it reached the apex, the ramp was removed as they came down smoothing the sides of the Pyramid as they went." The program shows an artist's rendering of a wrap-around ramp. Perhaps Lehner came upon this idea of his own accord - it does happen. However, the wrap-around ramp is depicted in an artist's rendering on page 192 of The World's Last Mysteries, first published in 1976 by Reader's Digest. But, it satisfied Omar Sharif, who commented: "That's a good theory, Mark."

Mark Lehner is shown inside cramped quarters in the heart of the Pyramid. He says: "Here at the far end of the uppermost of the five chambers you have

what really clinches the Great Pyramid for Cheops. It is his name written in red ink on one of the stones, left by the workmen who dragged it into place." He then shows the red outline of a cartouche, and explains that it spells out "Khufu", the ancient Egyptian name for Cheops.

Sharif: "So. Proof that Cheops did build the pyramid - so much for ancient astronauts."

Incredible! "Mysteries of the Pyramids...LIVE," has just set back Egyptology 150 years! It was in 1837 that Col. Richard Howard Vyse announced that he had discovered the red cartouche in the upper chamber of the Great Pyramid, attributing it to King Khufu, or Cheops. The archaeological world accepted the finding at face value, although many doubts continued to linger. In 1980, Zecharia Sitchin, a linguist-researcher-scholar, published his book The Stairway to Heaven (1) in which he devoted an entire chapter to a discussion of Col. Howard Vyse's find and concluded rather convincingly that the red cartouche is a forgery, perpetrated by Howard Vyse himself! The entire issue of Ancient Skies 8:2 is devoted to this account. After two years of careful sleuthing into old documents and records in the British Museum, Sitchin concluded that the cartouche was, in fact, a deliberate forgery, and very clumsy at that. Sitchin showed that Howard Vyse used a source book to copy the cartouche which incorrectly spelled out the hieroglyph for KH-u-fu as RA-u-f-u. The red cartouche found in the upper chamber of the Great Pyramid which Mark Lehner pointed out to the television viewers contains the same misspelling.

After the publication of Sitchin's book, a long-dead eye-witness to the forgery was brought forth by the great-grandson of the witness. Walter M. Allen of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, wrote to Mr. Sitchin in April, 1983 and told him that his great-grandfather, Humphries Brewer, worked as an assistant to Howard Vyse on the work at the Great Pyramid in 1837. Brewer had a dispute with Howard Vyse's assistants about the painted marks inside the pyramid, contending that some had been repainted and that some were new. Brewer was discharged from the project because of the dispute and he reported the incidents in letters to his father. The letters have been kept in the Brewer family. See the follow-up account in Ancient Skies 10:3.

Several of our members have become exceedingly irate over the misrepresentations and falsehoods foisted upon an unsuspecting viewing public by the "Mysteries of the Pyramids...LIVE." Mr. Michael A. Priest of Palm Desert, California called to express his dismay with the program, stating that he would not want his children to be subjected to such misinformation.

Mr. Vaughn M. Greene of San Bruno, California wrote that "last night I saw something outrageous. They showed something called "Mysteries of the Pyramids...LIVE," with Omar Sharif. They went out of their way to attack the ancient astronaut theory, and Sitchin in particular. The program was pure BS and totally unscientific."

Mr. James A. Miller of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho wrote to the CBS Television network on April 21, 1988, in part as follows: "I cannot let you get away with the actual and continued fraud of your telecast 'Mysteries of the Pyramids...LIVE.' 'They' tried to portray, with voice and photography, totally false and fraudulent concepts of the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx that cannot be supported or upheld by the actual and truthful records of history of these ancient landmarks."

(1) The Stairway to Heaven was first published in hardcover by St. Martin's Press, New York (1980). It was subsequently published in paperback by AVON BOOKS, New York, as Book II of The Earth Chronicles, by Zecharia Sitchin. His other books in the series are Book I, The 12th Planet, and Book III, The Wars of Gods and Men.

NAZCA MARKINGS OF A DIFFERENT KIND

BY JUNE CHOATE*

We were on the first leg of our Ancient Astronaut Society Member Expedition to Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Easter Island in September 1983. Having flown over the enigmatic Trident at Pisco Bay and over the weird markings near Humay, we were now cooling our heels at the Hotel Las Dunas in Ica, Peru, because it was already 9:30 AM and our pilots were late. Finally they nonchalantly sauntered in hiding their countenances behind huge sunglasses typical of fly-boys. Then they had to have their breakfast, so we did not arrive at the small airstrip until 11:00 AM. Normally this would have been no problem, but when your destination is the Plain of Nazca, you want to arrive either early in the morning or in late afternoon, to catch the shadows on the markings. Unfortunately, we were circling the pampa at Nazca at high noon on a very hot and hazy day.

We squeezed into the cramped quarters of a Piper Cub, just large enough for the pilot and three small passengers, for the 40 minute flight to Nazca.

Finally we were over the pampa and began circling to view the markings below, but there was no shadow and with the haze it was very difficult to see the markings even at 500 feet. Also, it was obvious that there had been considerable destruction of the markings since our fly-over in 1977, when the visibility was much better. We particularly noticed that the huge spider figure had been mutilated badly by pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Our pilot asked if we had seen enough, and we told him we were ready to leave. He turned the Cub around and headed towards Ica. Just at the edge of the pampa, where the Pan American highway climbs from the valley below onto the plain, I noticed a peculiar marking on a small hill across the highway. We asked the pilot to circle the area so we could get some photos. In spite of the poor visibility, we were able to capture the markings on film, although not too clearly.

The accompanying photo shows what we saw and it is truly a mystery. Obviously we have no idea what the markings represent, who made them or when, but I have never seen them represented in any publication before.



If anyone has any idea as to what the markings represent, please write to Ancient Skies.

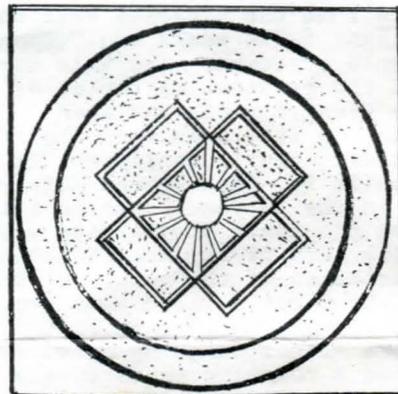
*Ms. Choate is a securities trader in Chicago. Her address is 23740 West Hedgeworth Ct., Barrington, Illinois 60010 USA.

MORE ON THE MYSTERIOUS NAZCA MARKINGS

BY O. M. WEISS**

Ancient Skies sent me an advance copy of the photo in the previous article to see if the symbol meant anything to me. During World War II, I worked as a designer of light-weight rocket engines and was involved in the development of total combustion thrusters. I also co-designed a flying disk, which operated successfully in a laboratory experiment.

It appears unlikely that the symbol would have served as a landing mark for hover-craft and I must admit that I have never seen such a mark in any of my professional work. However, there is a great similarity between this mysterious symbol at Nazca and the symbols translated from old clay tablets by Col. James Churchward, who states that the symbols are at least 12,000 years old and reach back to the time of Atlantis. You will note that the circles are perfectly round and that the entire design is a perfect layout, insofar as geometry is concerned. I have prepared the accompanying illustration of the marking to enable our members to more fully appreciate the complexity of the design.



The perfectly level pampa of Nazca, situated in the foothills of the Andes (see photos "D" and "E" in Ancient Skies 14:6), leads me to the conclusion that the entire site at Nazca was a project under construction, which was interrupted for some now unknown reason. That is why nothing there seems to make any real sense.

Certainly there is no "Stonehenge" at Nazca.

**Mr. Weiss studied mechanical engineering and is now the manager of a plastics manufacturing firm.

CONGRATULATIONS on the article on Nazca by Gene M. Phillips in Ancient Skies 14:6. What is being presented in the media about Nazca is really incredible and ridiculous. All these cranks who speak "scientifically" about Nazca have no idea what they are talking about. It is unfortunate that my latest books do not exist in English. In my book Habe Ich Mich Geirrt? I have an entire chapter which discusses the 20 theories which have come up in the past few years about Nazca. In the book I explain that Nazca is a world-wide phenomenon, because in addition to Peru, there are ground markings in Chile, in the Sonora desert in Mexico, near Blythe, California, in different places in England, in Saudi Arabia and even in the Ustjurt Desert near Lake Aral in the Soviet Union.

I am still seeking a publisher for my books in the United States, but any members who read German may obtain my books from C. Bertelsmann, Munich, West Germany. The latest titles are Der Tag an dem die Gotter kamen, 11. August 3114v. Chr.; Habe Ich mich geirrt?; and Wir alle sind Kinder der Gotter. Erich von Daniken, Baselstrasse 1, CH-4532 FeIdbrunnen/SO, SWITZERLAND.