



ANCIENT SKIES

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SOME THOUGHTS ON THE NAZCA LINES OF PERU

BY PAUL BARTCH*

The several articles about the Nazca Lines which have appeared in Ancient Skies to date suggest the following: The Nazca people usually depicted divinity as flying. Planetary colonists supposedly opted for Equatorial Zone landing sites in order to take advantage of the stability of the Earth's spin axis. Oceanside sites also permitted preferable angles of approach to the edge of large continents. The Plain of Nazca is about 25 miles inland from the Pacific coast and about 2500 feet above sea level. The hill-top "landing strips" are perfectly level, man-made areas. Some of the straight narrow lines are no more than 3 feet wide and were probably intended for line-of-sight orientation purposes only. They were not meant to be landed upon like the ones that are 100 or more feet wide and several hundred to a thousand feet long. Based upon the finding of one unusual marking just off the Plain, there may be other positioning devices which may have served as line-of-approach beacons, or as solar positioning dials.

I have categorized the explanations for the Nazca Lines into the following six hypotheses:

I. Kinship Hypothesis. The idea that the lines were used for pathways, irrigation, agriculture, rituals, shrines, etc. Some of the lines were probably used as roads or pathways, but others were wide and long enough to serve as landing strips. Other lines resembled the Andean coastal roads in straightness, method of edging and positioning of cairns. All of the Nazca Lines were not the easiest way to walk across the landscape. The Lines may also have been used for complex rituals related to ancestor worship, as well as territorial rights, or ethnicity rites and responsibilities. The inhabitants in the river valley bordering the pampa may have been organized into complex socio-political and ritual groupings concerned with the equitable distribution of space and resources. Ritualistic pilgrimages may have centered at Cahuachi by the Nazca River during pre-Inkaic times. Most of the Nazca Lines have been found to connect important points that delineate the flow of water across the pampa, bends in rivers, or hills that descend to the pampa. Many large geometrical figures have orientations that are related to the flow of water.

II. Cultural Hypothesis. The Nazca culture flourished on the south coast of Peru from around A.D. 1 to 700. Cahuachi, located at the geographic center of the entire Rio Grande de Nazca drainage, is a non-urban cultural complex that once consisted of

large temples, cemeteries, plazas and the remains of mound-shaped dwellings. Cahuachi did not appear to have a large permanent population typical of a city. Instead, it was a sacred site inhabited mostly by priests and their assistants. Most of the mounds appeared to have served as temples, housing for the priests and special storage facilities. Construction peaked between A.D. 200-350. The Cahuachi plazas became the center of trading activity and involved religious objects used in rituals. Elaborate ritual performances and religious ceremonies and pilgrimages were held in tribute to the priestly elite and the gods they represented. In short, Cahuachi was like a vacant phantom city that came alive during special ceremonial and pilgrimage events. All of Cahuachi's mounds face north to the main pampa and several of the straight lines running across the pampa point directly to Cahuachi.

III. Astronomical Hypothesis. The general use of the Nazca Lines for astronomical purposes would be difficult, if not impossible, to prove. Most of the lines probably had nothing to do with astronomy at all. However, a few individual line centers may have had important astronomical implications. Some of the lines from the line centers appear to be deliberately aligned toward sunrise positions on or slightly before one of two annual passages of the Sun across the zenith. This occurs at the end of October and coincides with the arrival of water in the brooks and underground channels that convey water to the fields and planting areas.

IV. Radiality Hypothesis. Many of the Nazca Lines appear to originate at radial line centers. Alternative lines sometimes appear to branch out after the lines depart from their radial centers. Some lines lead to other radial line centers or they may terminate at a river or small dry tributary or even at a mountain peak. Most lines end in an agglomeration of man-made features or on the pampa. Some lines lead to one of the large geometrical figures or biomorphs. A few lines develop sharp kinks and bends, often acute angles, and zigzag across the pampa before terminating in some of the ways listed above. At least 62 line centers fit the above characterizations.

V. Radial Line Azimuths Hypothesis. A general preference for azimuths (arc horizons) is found around north and there is an avoidance of azimuths around east radial line directions. Wide lines show a preference for directions around NE, and there is some avoidance of directions around the SW and SE. There is a strong general evidence of interest in upstream-downstream axis manifested in the direction of wide lines relative to local water-flow direction. All but three line centers

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*Mr. Bartch lives at 9 Cushing Street, Wollaston, MA 02170-1805 USA.

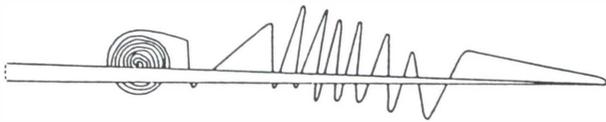
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have at least one wide line oriented in the upstream direction. All but one line center located along the NE side of the pampa at the base of the Andes seems to have at least one wide line oriented very close to the downstream direction. There is no general evidence of an interest in orienting lines upon hill summits. The lines were preferentially let out approximately at right angles to the direction of landmarks such as Cerro Blanco and Cerro Portachuelo, and avoided lining up on them. No clear large-scale preference for azimuths within the solar arc was discovered. Six of the nine lines at line center No. 19 are oriented on a helical event of the Pleiades around A.D. 0.

VI. Solar Colonization or Exile Hypothesis. This hypothesis should not be confused with its galactic counterpart, the interstellar planetary hypothesis, which involves highly advanced UFO Grid Theory and superluminal spaceflights between the habitable planets of other star systems within our galaxy.

Instead, let us assume that human forms of life are sometimes exiled from one highly developed star system to another less developed system because of overcrowding, crime, strife and environmental collapse, such as we are beginning to experience on our own planet today. These exiles are rapidly transported to a part of our Solar System that may have once been more habitable than the Earth. I am here referring to the hypothesis formulated by Zecharia Sitchin in The 12th Planet. After these exiles arrive at their solar habitat (a hypothetical planet X), they soon discover that their survival would be jeopardized if they did not take steps to develop some technological means that would enable them to fly like birds from the planet on which they were previously dropped off, on to another planet with more water. This may very well have been the beginning of primitive, rocket propelled, bird-like flights in our solar system thousands of years ago. We still know very little about this solar colonization hypothesis.

According to the solar colonization hypothesis, the Nazca Lines primarily form a series of alternative, multi-directional glide paths to a number of relatively flat and inviting landing strips on the pampa between the coast of southern Peru and the beautiful Andes Mountains. Like Erich von Daniken, I have never had any doubt about this after I examined some of the astroarchaeological evidence that has been accumulating through the years. You really have to examine drawings of aerial photographs rather carefully in order to understand what was originally in the mind of their designer.



The Needle and Thread Geoglyph on the Plain of Nazca, Peru. The glyph is about 2800 feet long.

After studying the many Nazca geoglyphs, it was the "Needle and Thread" geoglyph which began to tie some loose ends together almost at a glance. (No pun intended). You can see in this glyph the great double spiral arms of our Galaxy, or primitive solar system, depending upon which reference frame you wish to use. It was from this spiral that we all came into existence. You can clearly see the precarious weaving route that must be taken before the exiles could descend to where they can see at a glance all of these bioforms laid out before them. Presumably this place was the best hope for a safe landing. Perhaps they headed for the monkey with the spiral tail, if they had enough time

to line up with the elongated strip in back of its tail. Maybe this would be the final test of their navigational ingenuity. Or, they could have opted to land on one of the mountain top landing strips and trust that somebody ahead of them had removed all the stones.

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- The Lines of Nazca, Edited by Anthony Aveni, 1991

ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS IN ICELAND?

BY PREBEN HANSSON*

As a long-time member of the Ancient Astronaut Society, I am always on the look-out for evidence to prove our theory, so when I visited Iceland I was particularly anxious to find something new. This beautiful, volcanic island situated in the North Atlantic ocean between Europe and Greenland has its myths about flying gods. They are the basis of the island's paganistic religion which flourished for thousands of years. You still find an Icelandic congregation in the capital city of Reykjavik which practices the paganistic rituals devoted to their gods Thor and Frey.

The purpose of my visit to Iceland was to find a tiny place called Bifrost, which, according to Nordic mythology, was a place from whence the gods flew to Asgaard, a destination in the high mountains where the gods mined ore. The gods called their home Bifrost, but the Earth people called it a rainbow, or a trembling road. It was lighted with burning fire and the noise was deafening. (A launch site?)

As in all the old myths, the Nordic version described a winged dragon, Midgaardsorm, who could reach around the world and bite herself in her tail. (An orbit around our globe?) Another Icelandic myth tells of a big bird that came from outside and flew through the Eyjafjord near the town of Akureyri. The bird's wings were so wide that they could reach the mountains on both sides of the fjord. The Eyjafjord is not so narrow and no real bird, present or prehistoric, could touch the mountains, but an aircraft could. The Nordic myths contain many references to their gods Odin, Thor and Frey flying.

At the end of the Eyjafjord, near the approach route of the mythological bird, a small bronze statuette was excavated, which the archaeologists say is probably a representation of the god Thor. (See Fig. A). One can imagine a heavily bearded and mustachioed pilot on his seat, with both hands on the controls, a modern U-shaped stick. The rounded parts could represent the dials of instruments.



Fig. A. Bronze statuette in the National Museum of Iceland estimated to be 1000 years old; 6.7cm high. Photo by Leifur Porsteinsson.

*Mr. Hansson is an author. His address is Ørnumvej 12, DK-4220, Korsør, DENMARK.

THE ANTIKYTHERA COMPUTER AND THE CANARY ISLANDS

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

In his book, *In Search of Ancient Gods* (Meine Welt in Bildern), Erich von Daniken describes the metal object which was found by Greek sponge divers in 1900 off the coast of the small Mediterranean island of Antikythera (Andikithera). At a depth of 180 feet, the divers located the wreck of a ship, later ascertained to have sunk in the first century B.C., which contained many strange blue vases, marble and bronze statues, unusual utensils and a small shapeless, encrusted, corroded lump of metal. An archaeological examination of the "lump" revealed that it was part of a sophisticated complex mechanism of about 40 interlocking cog wheels of various sizes, 9 adjustable scales and 3 axes on a base plate. Decipherment of the scales revealed that the apparatus is part of an astronomic calendar, or planetarium. Inscriptions on the device enabled the researchers to determine its date of manufacture at approximately 82 to 65 B.C.

Now on display in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, Greece, the machine (computer) is a bafflement to modern science, because there is no mention of such an instrument in any of the classical texts and no awareness of the tools or technology which would have been required to design and construct such an apparatus. Figures 1 and 2 are drawings of portions of the device.

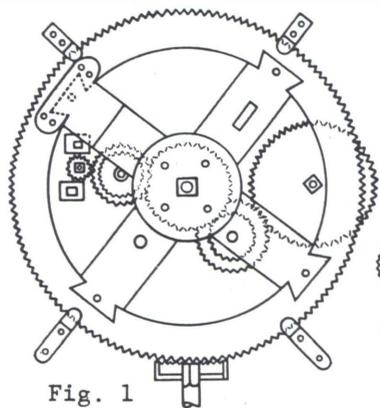


Fig. 1

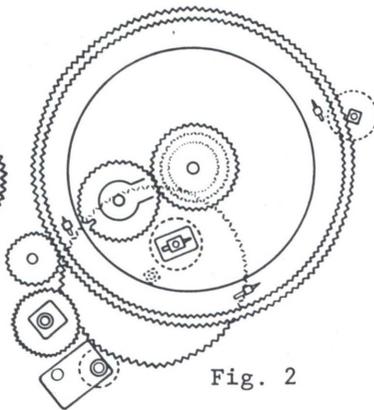


Fig. 2



Fig. 3. Model of a complex of Guanche constructions, Canary Islands.

Some 2000 miles west of Antikythera, beyond the "Pillars of Hercules" (the two promontories at the east end of the Strait of Gibraltar, the Rock of Gibraltar on the north and Jebel Musa on the south), off the northwest coast of Africa lie the Canary Islands, believed by some to be the last remaining vestiges of the lost continent of Atlantis. The now-extinct Guanche race inhabited the Canary Islands in ancient times. Figure 3 shows a museum model of

Guanche constructions on the islands. Note the uncanny similarity of the Guanche layout with the drawings in Figures 1 and 2 of the Antikythera computer!

Is the Guanche complex a huge astronomical calendar? Did the Guanche design and construct the Antikythera apparatus? Is there any connection? Did the Guanche design their constructions to emulate their gods? Are both the Guanche design and the computer products of the same highly-developed, technological civilization which flourished on Atlantis over ten thousand years ago - if it existed?

A MARTIAN STONEHENGE?

BY MAURICE CHATELAIN*

After several years of research, I now believe that the strange features seen on the surface of Mars are artificial monuments, because I made several interesting discoveries which seem to indicate that they were parts of an astronomical observatory similar to that of Stonehenge in England. In order to prove it, I only had to measure the distances and angles between these monuments, assuming that a millimeter on the Viking photos represented about 320 meters on the Martian surface.

According to recent observations and calculations, the polar circumference of Mars seems to be about 21,333,312 meters, compared to the value for Earth of 39,999,960 m, which was used by most of our ancestors. That is a ratio of 8 to 15. On the other hand, if we consider the famous Babylonian cubit of 533.333 mm, or 8/15 of one meter, that is a very strange coincidence. In other words, the planetary dimensions measured on the Earth in meters would be the same as those that could be measured on Mars in Babylonian cubits.

For example, the polar circumference is 39,999,960 meters on Earth or the same number of Babylonian cubits on Mars. The polar diameter is 12,727,260 meters on Earth or cubits on Mars, with the ancient PI factor of 22/7. The average length of a latitude degree is 111,111 meters on Earth or cubits on Mars. And that of a latitude minute or nautical mile is 1851.850 meters on Earth or cubits on Mars. We could therefore assume that a Babylonian cubit used on Earth six thousand years ago had probably been used on Mars as a standard measurement unit several hundred thousand years before, after being derived from the polar circumference of that planet. A distance of one millimeter on the Viking photos would therefore represent 600 cubits on the surface of Mars.

I also discovered on the Viking photos two very particular monuments which seemed to have been neglected before, namely an unfinished human face larger than the famous Face, and a rectangular triangle with sides proportional to 3,4,5 like those of the cross-section of the Chephren pyramid. That gave me six interesting sites which I number as: 1 - The center of the City. 2 - The center of the five-sided Pyramid. 3 - The center of the small Face. 4 - The right angle corner of the Triangle. 5 - The center of the large Face. 6 - The center of the cliff. If my assumptions are correct, the approximate distances in cubits between these six interesting sites would be as follows:

1-2	45,600	1-3	54,000	1-4	93,600
1-5	132,000	1-6	120,000	2-3	60,000
2-4	79,200	2-5	127,200	2-6	102,000
3-4	43,200	3-5	78,000	3-6	68,400
4-5	49,200	4-6	26,400	5-6	36,000

Sites 1-3-5 and 1-4-6 seem to be lined up to summer solstice sunrises. (Continued on next page)

*Mr. Chatelain is a retired NASA aerospace engineer. His book, *Our Cosmic Ancestors*, one of the classics in the ancient astronaut field, is available in oversize paperback from the author at 3976 Kenosha Avenue, San Diego, California 92117 USA.

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With past variations in the polar axis, it can be assumed that different observer and sighting sites had been used in the past. For example, the following sunrise deviations could have been observed: 8 degrees with sites 1 and 6, 30 degrees with 2 and 6, 37 degrees with 2 and 4, 43 degrees with 2 and 5, or 70 degrees with 2 and 3. With the present latitude of 41.8 and deviation of 23 1/2 degrees, the polar tilt could have been 17.3 degrees a long time ago, according to the equation: Sine Tilt = sine Deviation x cosine Latitude.

As for the five-sided pyramid on Mars, its approximate large sides of 4800 and small sides of 3000 cubits have a ratio of 1.6, very similar to that of 1.618 or 89/55 used by the Egyptians for the Cheops pyramid. And its height of 1800 cubits or 6 1/2 times that of the Great Pyramid, is hard to believe even when compared to that of the volcano Olympus, which is 28 times higher with 27,000 meters, or 50,600 cubits.

With the sidereal rotation and revolution periods of Mars, 149 Mars days are equal to 153 Earth days, and 193 Mars years are equal to 363 Earth years. Mars and Earth are lined up with the Sun every 15, 17, 32, 47 and 79 Earth years corresponding to 7, 8, 15, 22 and 37 Mars years. The next conjunctions will happen on 7 January 1993, 12 February 1995, 17 March 1997 and 24 April 1999.

If there were inhabitants on Mars a long time ago, they could have counted the passage of time by observing the heliacal risings of the Earth on their eastern horizon on the days of solstices and equinoxes. It has been calculated that the duration of the seasons on Mars in the northern hemisphere would be 194 Mars days or 199 Earth days for the spring; 177 or 182 for the summer; 142 or 146 for the autumn; and 156 or 160 for the winter.

As we are doing with our Moon, Martians could have counted time by observing the passages of their satellites, every 7 hours and 39 minutes for Phobos, or 30 hours and 21 minutes for Deimos, and their conjunctions every 1670 hours or 68 Mars days, after 218 synodic revolutions of Phobos and 55 of Deimos, whose respective diameters are 22.53 and 12.87 kilometers.

There was water on Mars a long time ago. The Viking photos show several outflow channels one km deep, 200 km wide and 2000 km long, but the present surface temperature of about -35 degrees C during the day and -100 degrees C during the night does not allow Mars to have liquid water any longer. Whatever is left of it seems to be concentrated in the frozen polar caps.

The gravity on the surface of Mars is 2.63 times lower than that on the Earth. That means that the Martians could have been 2.63 times heavier than we are and 1.38 times larger in each of the three dimensions, with an approximate height of 2.80 m

and a lifting power of 200 kg. If they really landed on the Earth a long time ago, they could have been the Giants of the Bible, or the Nefilim of the Sumerian tablets who are supposed to have been our ancestors, according to the remarkable interpretations of Zecharia Sitchin.

An important discovery has been made with the Soil Sampler of the Viking lander, namely that the Martian surface of the landing site in Utopia on 3 September 1976 was made of red clay containing Iron, Aluminum, Magnesium and Chlorine. That clay was similar to that which can be found on the Earth at the bottom of deep oceans or in the United States areas of Georgia and the Carolinas which were under sea water in a relatively recent past. That could indicate that the landing site also was at the bottom of a deep ocean a long time ago when Mars was covered with water as the Earth is now.

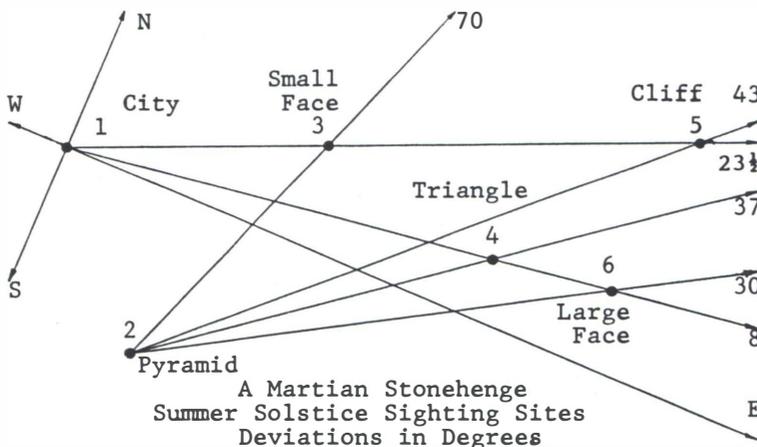
I am therefore convinced that there were intelligent beings living on Mars and that they probably landed on the Earth four hundred thousand years ago, when Mars became too dry and too cold to support life.

FOURTH ANNUAL OZARK UFO CONFERENCE, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, April 3, 4, 5, 1992 at the Inn of the Ozarks. For information: Lucius Farish, Route 1, Box 220, Plumerville, AR 72127; (501) 354-2558.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO MEXICO, May 6 - 17, 1992.

Final call for the Society's Member Expedition to Mexico departing Chicago on May 6 and returning on May 17. The group will visit Merida, the ruins of Uxmal, Kabah and Edzna in the Yucatan; Villa-hermosa with its unique outdoor archaeological museum; Palenque; Oaxaca, museum and ruins of Monte Alban and Mitla; and a two day rest stop on the Pacific Coast at the quaint resort of Puerto Escondido. The price is US\$1,284 per person, double occupancy, plus air fare. Members may join the tour in Chicago, Mexico City or Merida. For a detailed itinerary and complete information, contact the Society Headquarters immediately.

20TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE of the Ancient Astronaut Society will be held at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada USA on April 2, 3 and 4, 1993. Arrival day is Sunday, August 1 and departure day is Thursday, August 5. Two and one-half days of exciting lectures are planned, plus a Gala Buffet Banquet and group admission to the Hotel's long-running show, Legends. Located in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, the Imperial Palace is situated just across the street from the famous Caesars Palace and the new Mirage. The hotel has extended extremely low room rates for our Conference and all prices in Las Vegas are very affordable. Optional tours are being planned to visit Liberace's Museum and the Hoover Dam. Plan now to spend an exciting time at the city that never sleeps; where there are no clocks to remind you of the hour; where you can relax at poolside in the hot desert sun, or spend time (and money) at the hundreds of casinos in this world-famous spa. Erich von Daniken will present a new, two hour slide lecture. Other speakers include Gene M. Phillips, Zecharia Sitchin, George Sassoon, Stuart W. Greenwood, Vincent DiPietro, Gerardo Levet and others to be confirmed. Prices and details soon.



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