



ANCIENT SKIES

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SKYSHIPS OVER FRANCE IN THE DARK AGES

BY ANDREW TOMAS*

In the latter part of the 8th and early 9th centuries central France experienced frequent storms and hail which destroyed the crops. In despair, the populace looked to the Emperor and to the Church for help and an explanation.

As someone had to be blamed for the disasters, Charlemagne (742-814) and then his son Louis the Debonair (778-840) accused Grimaldus, Duke of Beneventum, of hiring sorcerers to cause these weather devastations in France. To give themselves a favorable public image, Charlemagne, and subsequently his son Louis I, issued decrees condemning all persons guilty of manipulating the "Spirits of the Air" who were allegedly responsible for upheavals in agriculture.

In the reign of Charlemagne's grandson Pepin, who ruled a part of France until 833 and died in 838, the Jewish Cabalist Zedechias decided to dissipate the mania that had taken hold of the rural population by asking the "Sylphs" to show themselves to the people and demonstrate their good nature. This was a very brave scheme as it clashed with the declarations of Charlemagne and his son Louis concerning the Rulers of the Air who were supposedly evil.

By reading the chronicles of the times between the lines the significance of the ensuing events would become understandable. As Zedechias was known as "a famous Cabalist," it can be presumed that he was familiar with the "Chariot of the Heavenly Man," or the "Merkabah" of the Cabala. Ancient sources stated that "whoever acquaints himself with the Merkabah and the 'lehashim' (invocations) will learn the secret of secrets." The Cabala refers to Metatron, the leader of the "yorde Merkabah" - celestial voyagers who sometimes descended to Earth in their sky chariots.

The Jewish lore of antiquity has another remarkable tradition which was recorded by Moses Maimonides, a 12th century physician from Moorish Spain, who became the personal doctor of Saladin in Egypt. Maimonides wrote in Moreh Nebhachim (III,XXX) about "teraphim", or figurines which were exposed to the light of planets and stars so that through them the

Cabalist could come in tune and converse with the High Beings dwelling in the stars.

The Mishnah (a part of the Talmud) explicitly states that "the Merkabah Mysteries should not be taught to any except the wise because they are the property of the initiated ones." Some of these wise men, it is said, had become the "yorde Merkabah" by embarking the celestial ships and ascending to the heavens.

The Cabalistic book Zohar, which by tradition is attributed to Simon ben Yohai (2nd century), was compiled by Moses de Leon in the 13th century. It speaks of other worlds whose inhabitants do not look like ourselves and where the constellations have a different appearance in the sky than on Earth. This implies that the Masters of Cabala had knowledge of life in interstellar space for many centuries, going back to Egypt and Babylon.

To the Merkabah Mysteries belongs the Chariot of Ezekiel with its four faces of man, lion, bull and eagle which are definite cosmic symbols because they refer to the constellations of Aquarius, Leo, Taurus and Aquila.

From the scarce historical archives available in France it can be surmised that the celebrated Zedechias was a learned Cabalist who was well aware of the Merkabah tradition, otherwise he could not have done what he did. Zedechias thoroughly detested all the superstitious rumors which blamed the failures of crops on some sinister forces instead of freak weather. To obliterate them he had openly requested the Celestials to make themselves visible so that they could demonstrate their peaceful and kind intentions.

What transpired later belongs to history. In the reign of Pepin, son of Louis I, who ruled between 830 and 833, a number of "wonderfully constructed aerial ships" appeared over the city of Lyons in central France.

Then on the scene came Archbishop Agobard (779-840), a cleric of great virtue and understanding, who wrote this in his Liber contra Insulam Vulgi Opinionem (de Grandine et Tonitruis) in 840: "What happened? Do you suppose that Ignorant Age would so much as reason as to the nature of these marvellous spectacles? The people straightaway believed that sorcerers had taken possession of the air for the purpose of raising tempests. The theologians and jurists were soon of the same opinion as the masses."

In order to offset the alarm and prejudice against them the Celestials landed their "cloud ships" at one place and offered to take volunteers not only for a flight in the air but also to convey them to their distant land and show their government and customs to the people assembled around the craft.

After their aerial voyage to the Republic of the Sylphs these French travelers returned home the same way eager to tell their compatriots all about the

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wonders of the domain of the Celestials. However, on arrival they were met by a crowd which inflicted torture and then death upon them after accusing these people of being cohorts of the Spirits of the Air who were suspected of poisoning the orchards and springs, among other things.

One day three men and a woman were seen disembarking from an aerial craft at Lyons. A big crowd soon gathered which put them in chains as if they were criminals, remembering the brutal decree of Charlemagne about the Spirits of the Air. In vain the four innocents sought to vindicate themselves by claiming that they were local volunteers who accepted the invitation of the Celestials to fly to their abode where they were shown "unheard-of marvels." The agitated mob paid no heed to their assertions and was about to execute the victims when Archbishop Agobard came running to their rescue. The respected Archbishop of Lyons calmed the populace down saying that it was impossible for ordinary people to fly in the heavens and therefore both the accusers and the accused must be wrong. By his rhetoric Agobard succeeded in setting at liberty the four condemned persons. Although the genuine testimony of the accused was rendered invalid, the frenzied mob was prevented by the Archbishop from lynching the innocent people.

The details in the writings of Archbishop Agobard (who eventually became canonized) are too precise to be fantasy even though the story itself is fantastic.

After listening to the narratives of the three men and the woman regarding their air voyage during his successful attempt to save their lives, Agobard recorded the following fact stated by the voyagers: "They claim there is a certain region called Magonia whence ships came in the clouds."

Where is Magonia? It seems the root of the name is the French "Mage" or Latin "Magus", a wise man or magician. "Les Rois Mages" means the Wise Men who came from the East according to the Gospels.

Six centuries before Agobard, Flavius Philostratus wrote the Life of Apollonius of Tyana which relates to the travels of Apollonius in Tibet in the 1st century. He stayed for some time in an isolated community beyond the Himalayas that was governed by the King-Priest Hiarchas, who possessed such wonders as stones emitting brilliant light and levitation making people weightless and airborne.

A similar tradition had existed in China before Apollonius which pointed to the lofty Kun Lun and its hidden valley as the Abode of the Immortals, who were able to fly from their secret sanctuary to the stars and back. There is a parallel legend in India and Tibet which speaks of a retreat of star-men in Central Asia called Shambhala with a secret cosmodrome. It is therefore very likely that the Celestials who landed in France about A.D. 830 and then picked up a number of Frenchmen for a flight to their Republic were none other than the astronauts from an underground cosmodrome in Central Asia which the French voyagers called "Magonia", or the Land of the Magi. Eastern legends intimate that there are similar spacedromes in South America as well as on the Moon and several satellites of the outer planets which are all of great age.

There is little doubt that the manifestation of sky chariots over France in the 9th century was started by the Cabalist Zedechias who by his "teraphim" sent signals to Metatron, requesting an air demonstration to which the Celestials responded in a spectacular manner. However, Zedechias underestimated the ignorance of the masses in the 9th century and did not anticipate the harassment of the brave men who volunteered to fly in the sky.

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EVIDENCE FOR MU AND ATLANTIS?

BY ROBIN COLLYNS*

Indigenous inhabitants on the Island of Vanuatu in the Southwestern Pacific preserve a legend of "ten stones" which were said to hold all knowledge. There is also a legend of Atlantis which alludes to "tablets", apparently either metallic or crystalline, which held a vast amount of information. It seems that the "ten stones" and the Atlantean "tablets" may have been computer memory modules. Although, the Vanuatu legend might be referring to computer memory banks on the lost Pacific continent of Mu. In The Lost Continent of Mu, Colonel James Churchward outlined his lifetime research which indicated that Mu submerged around 12,000 years ago. This was at approximately the same time that Atlantis sank, according to legends. And according to legends from India, civilizations on Mu and Atlantis co-existed for a long time.

Possible proof of Mu? In April 1967, scientists from the Florida State University Department of Oceanography made a dramatic discovery: Fifty kilometers offshore from Callao, Peru, on the research ship Anton Bruun they discovered and photographed artificially-carved rock columns at a depth of 1,000 fathoms. At least one unknown symbol was seen engraved on a column. Dr. Robert J. Menzies, the Research Director, said: "We did not find structures like these anywhere else...I have never seen anything like this before." The sonic depth recorder on the Anton Bruun also detected "lumps" on the level sea bed in the same area, which could indicate the remains of an ancient submerged city.

And proof of Atlantis? In 1964, the Russian professor Georgiy Lindberg of the Zoological Institute of the Academy of Sciences told a Tass reporter that: "The hypothesis that there is a North Atlantic continent, presently submerged beneath 4,500 to 5,000 metres of water, is confirmed by new findings".

Under the heading Concrete Evidence for Atlantis?, New Scientist Journal for June 5, 1975, said: "An international group of oceanographers has now convincingly confirmed preliminary findings that a sunken block of continent lies in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean...Vertical movements made by the block appear to have raised it above sea-level at some point during its history."

The indications are that Atlantis fragmented and sank in stages, with the mid-Atlantic block being the most ancient submerged portion. The mid-Atlantic block is believed to have been engulfed millions of years ago; while according to theosophists the last land-mass of Atlantis submerged around 11,600 years ago.

The Journal Science, Vol. 189, p. 1083 reported that laboratory analyses of two deep-sea cores collected from the Gulf of Mexico by University of Miami geologists proved that the entire sea-level of the world rose substantially around 11,600 years ago.

The New York Times, Sept. 28, 1975, also reported on the Gulf of Mexico core samples and observed that between 11,000 to 12,000 years ago there was a profound change in the level and the temperature of the oceans.

The Journal Science News, in commenting on the core samples, remarked: "In almost every culture emerge strikingly similar tales of a Great Flood that swept away emerging civilizations and changed the face of the Earth."

George L. Gele, an American amateur archaeologist, announced in March 1980 that after seven years of research he had located the remains of an old "pyramidal" city near the Chandeleur Islands south of Biloxi, Mississippi, in the Gulf of Mexico. Gele's finds might indicate a part of Atlantis. He said: "We have evidence that shows a mass which is 1.2 nautical miles square. There are rectangular and square objects on the bottom. We have also located

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masses which are standing up, maybe 20 feet high... We have an area in which there is a cluster of rectangular structures. We have identified three. One is protruding three feet out of the sand, one is five feet, and one mass is nine feet out of the sand."

In July 1973, a seventy-eight member scientific team from Peperdine University in Los Angeles, California, claimed to have made unusual archaeological discoveries on the sea-bed of the Gulf of Cadiz, more than 18 kilometres off South-West Spain. Mrs. Maxine Asher, the co-director of the team, reported that the discovery revealed "evidence of roads and large columns, some with concentric spiral motifs, in the exact place described by the Greek philosopher Plato" (for Atlantis).

Atlantean ruins? In March 1979, Russian scientists from the Institute of Oceanography located what appeared to be artificial ruins that looked like "vestiges of walls and great stairways," on the sea-bed 320-480 kilometres offshore between Portugal and Madeira. Over five years later, the Russian newspaper Izvestiya of Dec. 31, 1984, No. 366, reported that oceanologists on the research ship Academician Boris Petrov had found at a depth of 4,000 metres off the coast of Portugal, a marble fragment which had been artificially polished thousands of years ago.

During 1984 when new expeditions were undertaken, many reports appeared in Russian publications about apparent finds of undersea ruins: The magazine Earth and The Universe, for example, reported that 460 photographs of the sea-bed, 760 kilometres from the Straits of Gibraltar, were taken with the Zvuk-4 M. cable camera. The magazine quoted Dr. Andrei Monin, Research Director on the ship Academician Kurchatov, who said: "In a number of pictures of the North-Eastern part of the summit (of the submerged mountain Ampere), researchers discerned rectangular structures. On one of the photographs, we can see rectangular plates almost one metre wide rising from the bottom. The position of the plates, individual blocks, as well as the regular shape of the plates photographed, may testify to their artificial origin. On other photographs, one can see a plate with regular form and joining rectangular blocks." Dr. Monin reported that the stonework was regularly 45.72 centimetres wide, and that: "All the plates and walls can be clearly seen on the photographs." A Tass news report also commented that in addition to the "walls", what appeared to be the remnant of a "stairway" was seen on a videofilm of Ampere.

The Russian Journal Khimiya i zhizn, No. 1, 1984, pp. 74-75, reported that the undersea mountains Ampere and the nearby Atlantis were once volcanic islands above sea-level. Ampere was above sea-level 40,000 years ago and Atlantis was above sea-level 12,000 years ago. Ampere and Atlantis are amongst a group of flat-topped mountains 100-200 metres beneath the surface of the ocean at "precisely the spot Plato had indicated" for Atlantis, according to Russian oceanographic scientist Andrei Aksyonov, who told reporters that: "Geologists consider it fully likely that the hills represent a rather big archipelago which sank as a result of tectonic activities...it seems to fit...Yes, Russian oceanographers believe it could be true."

By 1985, scientific interest in the matter had subsided, with the consensus being that the "ruins" may have been natural formations after all. But it seems difficult to reconcile the discovery of stone plates on Ampere, each with exceedingly precise measurements to the exact millimetre, 45.72 centimetres wide, including the actual retrieval of an artificially-polished marble fragment thousands of years old off the coast of Portugal, with natural formations.

Another discovery was made in the early 1980s by a French "Atlantis Expedition". Mrs. Nicole Buisson, the leader of the expedition, told reporters that divers had found off the Irish coast the remnant of

a temple for the worship of Poseidon, a "King of Atlantis."

Other finds in recent years which may support the legends and discoveries which indicate the existence of Atlantis, were: fossilized fresh water flora, and fresh water basins offshore from Florida; 17,000 year-old land rocks found undersea north of the Azores; and land sand on the undersea Atlantic ridge. Legends indicate that Atlantis was colonized by beings from the stars. In a possibly relative context, a Maori legend from New Zealand declares that some of the ancestors of humanity on Earth came from the star "Whanui" (Vega) in the Lyra constellation. Present astronomical knowledge is not able to verify whether planets exist in Lyra. Vega is a first magnitude star surrounded by a disc of dust particles which is almost twice the diameter of our solar system. According to scientists at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, within the disc of dust particles there may exist planets, or planets in formation.

Whether any weight could be ascribed to the Maori legend is unknown; though it can be noted that the ancient Maori possessed some sophisticated astronomical knowledge which indicated contact with alien astronauts, or with an earlier advanced civilization on Earth. The New Zealand historian Elsdon Best (1865-1931), wrote that the early Maori knew of the rings of Saturn, long before the days of Galileo; and that they also described the bands of Jupiter to early European settlers, and declared that the Earth is round. In his book Music of the Spheres, the author, Guy Murchie wrote: "One of the great mysteries connected with Saturn, is the still unanswered question of how the ancient Maoris of New Zealand knew about her rings... Could they have had concave parabolic mirrors in some long-forgotten civilization? Is it conceivable that they descended from a great 'lost continent of Mu' in the Pacific Ocean that had advanced to the discovery of optical lenses before vanishing practically without trace?" In indirectly inferring an outer space link for Earthman, the Russian theosophist Madame H.P. Blavatsky asserted in The Secret Doctrine, that: "Owing to the very type of his development, Man cannot descend from either an ape or an ancestor common to both, but shows his origin from a type far superior to himself. And this type is the 'Heavenly Man'... the Pitris." The Pitris were said to be the male offspring of the "gods" (from the Sanskrit "pitr", or "father").

It has not been possible through research to establish precise times for the arrival of space colonists to Earth, if in fact our antecedents did come from other planets, or to establish precise times when Mu and Atlantis were colonized by space beings; if that is what really happened; but the archaic Hindu chronology states that the: "Souls now on Earth first arrived" during the period of Sat-Yuga, the "Golden Age", which was more than 3,888,000 years ago but less than 4,320,000 years ago. Whether this information applies to Mu and Atlantis is not known.

The Judaic Kabbalah which was written in the Semitic language Aramaic in the 12-13th centuries AD, states simply: "There were men from the sky in the Earth in those days." It may be possible to suggest that "those days" might also mean the time of Atlantis, for Rosicrucian knowledge claims that all of the Kabbalahs, that is, Judaic, Christian mystical, magical, alchemical, Rosicrucian and Hindu, were based on teachings which originated on Atlantis.

The Shabd Yogic work, The Path of the Soul, which was published in the Holy City Amritsar, India, says that: "The age of the human race defies imagination. For back, millions and millions of years before the beginning of recorded history, there were great civilizations of which there now remains no trace."

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PROOF OF ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

During our Member Expedition to Peru and Bolivia in May 1994, we visited the archaeological site of Ollantaytambo in the Cuzco region of Peru. Our members had dispersed throughout the site, each going his own way to view the ruins. After a while, Art Heidt, of Canby, Oregon, called to me: "Hey, Gene, did you see this stone? It looks like it has been sawed!" I had not seen it so I rushed to where he was standing. One end of a large stone had been "worked" to produce a smooth, vertical plane, but the bottom one-third of the face had not been completed. The stone had been cut through, but the excess material had not been removed from the lower portion. The cut, which was about one-quarter of an inch wide, could clearly be seen extending downward to complete the smooth surface. The top portion of the excess material (the part being sawed off) had been removed, but the lower third of the excess remained in position. The cutting procedure had been completed and all that remained to produce a perfectly flat, smooth surface was to pry away the remainder of the excess rock. Obviously the work had been interrupted and the workers never returned to finish the job.

It was apparent that the cut had been made by technological equipment - a metal saw, some sort of abrasive cord or wire, or even by a laser beam. It was equally apparent that the cut could not have been made by methods usually suggested by the archaeologists, such as stone hand tools or by mallet and chisel. While we have not found the tools that were used by the ancient workers, we do have their product, the result of their work, which is ample proof of their use of technological equipment.

Note: The photos at the right were taken from a videotape made by the author at Ollantaytambo and show the stone described in the above article. The photos are copyrighted (c) 1995 by Gene M. Phillips and the Ancient Astronaut Society and may not be reproduced without express written permission. All Rights Reserved.

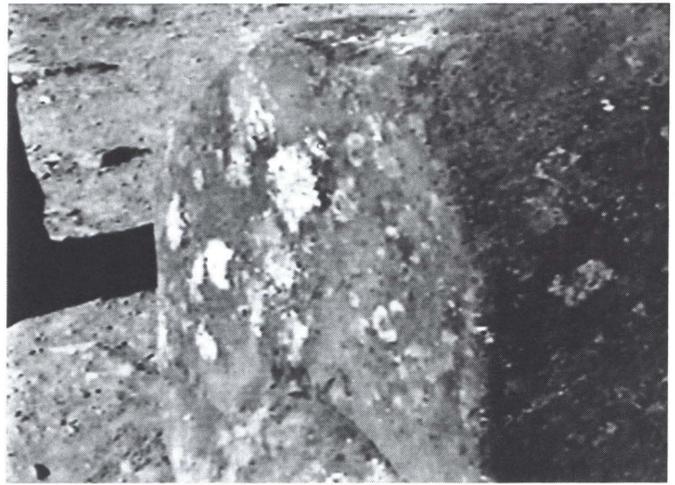
COMING EVENTS:

- AUGUST 3-20, 1995, Member Expedition to Italy, terminating at the Bern Conference: Departing Chicago on August 3, the group will arrive in Rome on August 4 and after visiting that city, will proceed to Naples, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Capri, Sorrento, Florence Bologna, Ferrara, Padua, Venice, Verona, Brescia, Cremona and Milan. On August 17 the group will fly to Zurich, Switzerland and then take a train to Bern to attend the Conference, returning to Chicago on August 20. For a detailed Itinerary and prices, contact the Society Headquarters immediately.

- AUGUST 18-19, 1995, World Conference in Bern, Switzerland. To register contact the AAS, Basellstrasse 1, CH-4532 Feldbrunnen/SO, Switzerland.

- MAY 1996, Member Expedition to Peru. Persons interested in participating should contact the Society Headquarters for an Itinerary and prices.

- AUGUST 3-8, 1997, 24th Anniversary World Conference at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel at the Florida Mall in Orlando, Florida.



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