



# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

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### EARLY IRISH INVADERS

BY DR. JOHN P. KENNY\*

A likely locale to search for ancient legends as they might pertain to the Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis is Ireland, nestled as it is on the western periphery of Europe. Compared to most other European nations Ireland suffered little or no cultural eradication efforts on an intense scale before the 1500s although it had been invaded several times prior to then. Even though the recent five century-long efforts managed by the English Empire to eradicate Irish culture and history from the face of the Earth were almost successful, enough written and oral information has survived so that we can get a picture of ancient Irish history which can be viewed as rather primordial in terms of European events.

As a native Irishman I must give special thanks to many German academic scholars, particularly Keino Meyer and Ernst Windisch of the last century, for their efforts in gathering the language and legend remnants that survived at times when the Irish could not do so. Many of their academic efforts bear fruit today with a rich group of university studies under the aegis of Celtic Studies which have legitimized scholarship on early Irish and Celtic peoples over most of Europe and the U.S. The Irish can be viewed as the largest group of Celtic cultural survivors in present groups which include the Welsh, Scots, Manx, Cornwall natives, Bretons and Galicians. Originally the Celts dominated sizable parts of Europe including the present-day countries of France, Switzerland, the southern half of Germany, northern Italy and most of Spain and many residents of these nations still retain Celtic DNA.

The original Irish inhabitants were Formorians, a race of giants of a rather primitive nature (fear-man, and mor-great or large). This race was largely supplanted about 6000 years ago by the Firbolgs (fear-man and bolga-bag or bellows). Assorted legends surround the Firbolg in that they could sail through the sky in their cloud ships, using the eponymous bellows somehow for propulsion. They did know astronomy rather well, being responsible for many sizable stone structures such as Newgrange in Meath in east-central Ireland and Dun Aengus on the holy island of Aran some 50 km from the city of Galway in the west. Aengus was a god, the son of the Dagda (the good god), and was regarded as a being responsible for music, light and fires of love in young persons. He was close to

Apollo in the Greek pantheon and was associated with both Newgrange and Dun Aengus. I have been able to muster an argument that Dun Aengus (dun-fort) was an astronomical observatory and religious center dating from about 5500 years ago and not, as mentioned in tourist brochures, a fort built about 2000 years ago by farmers enclosing about 13 acres. Newgrange is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Europe and just recently was relieved from its false tintured history of being built by Vikings, the Lost Tribe of Israel, Mycenaens, etc. Oak beams used to move the stones around in its innards have been carbon dated to about 3750 BC, well before any of the above mentioned races appeared on the scene.

The Firbolg were in turn supplanted by the Tuatha de Danaan (people of the goddess d'Anu). These invaders arrived about 4500 years ago and were related to the Firbolg. They alighted on Ireland, on some hill, some say the Hill of Tara in Meath which is close to Newgrange and other neolithic sites, on Beltane (May Day), a date to remain sacred in all Celtic calendars to this day. After several battles with the Firbolg an agreement was reached and the Firbolg retained most of the west of Ireland while the Tuatha de Danaan controlled the rest of the country.

About 2500 years ago the Milesians (children of Mil), true human Celts, arrived in Ireland and defeated the Tuatha de Danaan. The story goes that they took control of the surface areas and the defeated Tuatha de Danaan went to the underworld where they survive as the Sidhe (sheev). The Sidhe have survived in folklore as being fairies, the "little people" and the banshee (bhan-female). However, claims of their leaving the surface were greatly exaggerated when we examine subsequent Irish history where intermarriages, feuds and invasions into certain territories mingled both Tuatha de Danaan and Milesians and even the older Firbolg.

However, with all these invasions there was a cross-fertilization of cultures and gods and people. Some of the unique characteristics of these gods and heroes are now listed which are extremely interesting when viewed vis-a-vis the Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis:

1. The Irish epic hero, Cuchulan (Coohulain), was decidedly left-handed and relatively small, sired children by the time he was nine years old and completed a series of heroic deeds before he died at 17 years of age. His weapons included a gae bolga, which he could unleash with a flick of his toes and which blew open when entering a victim. The victim had to be dissected to remove the gae bolga, which had to be reset for future firing. Cuchulan was part god, was the third or fourth pregnancy of his mother although each preceding miscarried pregnancy was recovered by god-like creatures and implanted again.

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He was a mixture of Tuatha de Danaan and Milesian on his human mother's side.

2. The great sea-god, Manaán MacLir, son of the most powerful god Lir (Shakespeare's Lear), had a chariot which passed over land and sea and had three legs/wheels propelling it. He was a resident of the Isle of Man although he made forays to Ireland and many other places over the planet.

3. The Tuatha de Danaan could raise storms on both land and sea as defenses, make enemies forget their missions and possessed a series of weapons which could seek out individual enemy clusters at great distances and terminate them.

4. As late as 200 AD we have a reasonably accurate account of the High King of Ireland standing with druids on the Hill of Tara all night on Beltane thinking that invaders were going to land there. He suspected they were returning Tuatha de Danaan because he asked the druids to find an explanation of what the Lia Fail (Stone of Destiny) was which they allegedly brought from their native world to Ireland when they originally arrived.

5. Several Irish heroes were spirited to Hy Brasil, the Isle of the Blest, somewhere in the west where they never aged. Some upon returning to Ireland resumed their original age, becoming a heap of bones in several cases when they touched the soil.

Many of these legends have been contaminated and fantasized by later Christian and Anglicanized stories but luckily the Irish language survived and the oral traditions kept several of the legends alive in trying circumstances. At the time of Christ, for example, the Fianna - a group of warrior poets - had to spend seven years memorizing over 10,000 verses, some of which were rather lengthy and which contained the theogeny and history of the early invasions among other things. Many of these were recorded by monks when written western European languages were instilled in the 6th century replacing the primitive ogham (ohm) script which had been in use previously. The seanachie, or story-teller, is still a valued member of Irish society.

I do argue that the Tuatha de Danaan were indeed the children of the goddess d'Anu, a name which is hauntingly familiar to readers of Zecharia Sitchin (Wars of Gods and Men) and his explanation of Eanna and her role in the early development of civilization in the Near East and elsewhere. Even the dating of the arrival of the Tuatha de Danaan in Ireland corresponds with the time of Eanna's rule and re-activated appearance on the historical stage. Early Irish affairs were largely dictated by the behavior of goddesses and demi-godlike heroines, rather than gods, a feature which was to cause them considerable difficulty when confronted by cultures dominated by male gods. The goddess d'Anu became Birgit in later stories that survived.

The Firlbolgs and their cloud ships (the Tuatha de Danaan had air ships too but of a smaller and more mobile variety) were an earlier invasion of these gods. It might be mentioned that names even survive from the Formorian peoples in Ireland such as Balor of the Evil Eye. He was a robot-like giant who could be wheeled into battle and when his single eye was uncovered and turned on the opponents they caught fire.

In this version of revisionist history applied to Ireland some of these legends contain truths which have significance for the Ancient Astronaut Hypothesis. This brief article is just a foray for purposes of illustration. In the coming months I hope to complete a more lengthy series based on early Irish/Celtic history and astronomy. Any comments or insights readers might care to forward would be appreciated.

## UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY NUMBERS

BY JAMES A. MILLER\*

A most productive "translator/transcriber" of cuneiform writing was Prof. Harold V. Hilprecht of the University of Pennsylvania, but neither he nor any of his books are currently listed by the University. Why? On July 8, 1996 I was referred by the University's Press Department, which prints its own books, to commercial bookstores who could "do a search" to try to locate Hilprecht's valuable books. The school does not even know who Hilprecht was - one of their own great scholars of antiquity.

In his several important books, Zecharia Sitchin correlated the last 150 years of the work of Egyptologists, Assyriologists and Sumerologists and emphasized the cuneiform writing on clay tablets left by the ancients. In his The Twelfth Planet, Sitchin quotes from Hilprecht's "The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania" as follows: "[Hilprecht] concluded that 'all the multiplication and division tables from the temple libraries of Nippur and Sippar, and from the library of Ashurbanipal (in Nineveh) are based upon [the number] 12960000.' Analysing this number and its significance, he concluded that it could be related only to the phenomenon of the precession and that the Sumerians knew of the Great Year of 25,920 years." (Emphasis added). That is a very significant conclusion from the cuneiform texts. However, this is not based on the number 12960000, but is the conclusionary number derived from the facts, and unknowingly reversed by Hilprecht.

Yet there is another and more awesome indication of the vast knowledge and technology of the Pleiadian/Anunnaki space people directly concerning our Earth, not space, but related to space. The Anunnaki did give us our local Earth "time", as a geometrical (geometry) relationship of our Earth and Sun. In this they used seconds, minutes and hours for "time".

The Anunnaki also gave us the complete measurements of the Earth in latitude and longitude. For this they used seconds, minutes and degrees. 360 degrees equals the longitudinal distance the Earth rotates at the Equator, or one rotation per day. What this means in simple math is 60 seconds per minute times 60 minutes per degree times 360 degrees results in the number 1296000!

Also, 2160 years per zodiac house times 6 zodiacal houses equals 12,960 years. Multiples of 6, to 60, to 600, to 6000 only add zeros to the mystery number, which is 12,960,000. Another instance, 25,920 years per Great Solar Year, times 5 Great Solar years equals 129,600 years. The multiples of 5 to 500 Great Solar Years only add zeros to the mystery number. The square root of 12,960,000 is 3600 and 3600 Earth years equals one year for the Planet Nibiru.

What the number must really mean, however, is not only Earth measurements or precession measurement of the stars, but also scientific knowledge for exact space travel for our ancient astronaut forefathers, who also used the numbers 12 and 60 in their "sexagesimal system". Besides 12 being the number of spheres in our solar system (including the Sun), it is also found (theoretically) in the microcosmic construction of carbon. Carbon 12 is the basic element of carbon, without which human life is impossible, and just recently we have discovered carbon 60. While the numbers 12 and 60 appear to be mysterious, they are far from being meaningless and "just numbers". The ancient astronauts could freely travel in space and their knowledge of nature and all things observable had a definite meaning for them to survive. Carbon 12 and carbon 60 could not have escaped their scientific notice and the numbers were incorporated in a "mythical" manner until we could fathom and understand their true meaning.

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# AN EGYPT-ENGLAND CONNECTION

BY DR. STUART W. GREENWOOD\*

In view of the considerable effort that has gone into interpreting the mysteries of the Egyptian pyramids over so many years, I continue to be surprised that a major characteristic of the pyramids has attracted relatively little analytical attention. This characteristic is one that is highly apparent to the most casual observer. Perhaps it is because it is so obvious it tends to be bypassed by the intensive investigator. I believe this characteristic has implications for those who search for evidence of links between early civilizations on our planet and of possible extraterrestrial influences. I am talking about the choice of angles of slope of the pyramid faces.

Imagine for a moment that you have assumed the main responsibility for building the Great Pyramid at Giza and that work has yet to begin. There are many decisions to be made, among them issues that will determine the appearance of the pyramid when completed. The key issues here are the number of sides, the orientation of the sides to the meridian, the length of the sides, the slope of the faces and the texture of the faces.

In selecting a four-sided design, the pyramid can be positioned with two of the sides closely aligned with the meridian, the local North-South direction. This will directly site the pyramid in a global context. The length of the sides will be determined by practical considerations (not too large and not too small - presumably the subject of some debate) including choice of the slope of the faces, together with which the height and the volume of the pyramid will be determined. These are quantities that need to be arrived at after careful consideration.

You can make the decision that when the pyramid is completed the faces will be covered with polished limestone blocks. This will provide for brilliant reflection of sunlight and the building will be an impressive sight for those who witness it. But what about the slope of the faces of the pyramid? Why should any one angle be chosen over any other? You can make the obvious judgment that if the angle is too small, the pyramid will be too flat and will presumably fail to attract notice. If the angle is too large, it will be too tall (unless the sides are small) and present construction difficulties. Clearly there will be a practical range of choice of angles for pyramid face slopes that are neither too small nor too large. But we ask again - how do we decide on a particular angle?

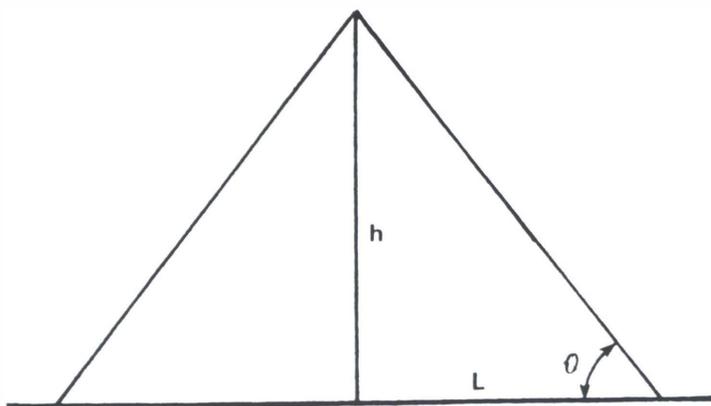


Figure 1. Vertical section through pyramid parallel to one of the sides. The angle of slope in this diagram is drawn as 52 degrees to typify the slope of the pyramids at Giza in Egypt. (Drawn by the author)

It is commonly assumed that construction convenience influences the angle adopted. With reference to Figure 1, the slope angle  $\theta$  is fixed once the height  $h$  and the half-base length  $L$  have been selected. Lauer (1) gives the ratios of  $h$  to  $L$  for a number of Egyptian pyramids, some of which incorporate the value of  $\pi$ , the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Some writers have seen this as indicating a desire to incorporate this quantity symbolically in the pyramid shape, while Mendelssohn (2) quotes a suggestion of Connolly that horizontal distances may have been laid out with a rolling drum. It seems to me to be of relatively little importance either way. Whatever values are selected for  $h$  and  $L$ , the dominant issue is what the corresponding slopes of the faces signify, as this will govern the appearance of the pyramid to outside observers.

We now turn to the question of location of the pyramid. Siting the pyramid at a latitude very close to 30 degrees North, one-third of the distance from the Equator to the North Pole, will affirm that the pyramid is positioned in a global context. We now seek a global foundation for our choice of angle of slope of the pyramid faces. A natural basis for this would be a latitude of significance to the builders that lies within the range of angles that is structurally acceptable.

We cannot enter the minds of those who made the decision to select the angle of slope of just under 52 degrees for the pyramids at Giza, but we do know that this angle corresponds closely to the region between latitudes 51 and 52 degrees North in England where some of the most prominent of the ancient British monuments are situated, notably Stonehenge and Avebury. I first suggested this possible link between Egyptian and British monuments in Reference 3. Ivimy (4) independently noted the same relationship between slope and latitude and as his publication is dated prior to mine he should be credited with the concept.

We have not yet finished with this approach. Let us now consider the largest prehistoric man-made mound in Europe. It is a circular construction located in the Avebury complex in England at a latitude of about 51 1/2 degrees North. (See Figure 2) Now consider this - it has a slope of 30 degrees, the latitude of the Giza pyramids in Egypt. I first pointed out this reciprocity in Reference 5. Is this just a remarkable coincidence, or is there evidence here of an intentional linking of symbols between Egypt and Britain?



Figure 2. Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric man-made mound in Europe, located in the Avebury complex just north of Stonehenge in Wiltshire, southern England. (Photo by the author)

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Devereux (6) in a recent book notes the above coincidence and attributes the observation to "other researchers". I would be interested to learn of any sources of these concepts of which I am not yet aware and solicit the assistance of readers in this search.

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- (1) J-P. Lauer, "Sur le Choix de l'angle de Pente dans les Pyramides d'Égypte", Bulletin de l'Institut d'Égypte XXXVII (1956), pp. 57-66.
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- (3) Stuart W. Greenwood, "Pyramid Slope and Northern Latitudes", The News (now the Fortean Times), April, 1975, pp 12-13.
- (4) John Ivimy, "The Sphinx and the Magaliths", Turnstone, 1974.
- (5) Stuart W. Greenwood, "On the Slope of Silbury Hill", The News, December, 1975, p 6.
- (6) Paul Devereux, "Symbolic Landscapes: The Dreamtime Earth and Avebury's Open Secrets", Gothic Image Publications, 1992.

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## LIFTING THE VEIL THAT OBSCURES PREHISTORY

BY THOMAS A. DORMAN, M.D.\*\*

In an article entitled "Further back down under" in the October 17, 1996 issue of the journal Nature, the author Paul G. Bahn reports on startling discoveries made by three archaeologists at a remote site called Jinmium in the Northern Territory of Australia which indicate that humans occupied Australia at least 176,000 years ago, considerably earlier than the currently accepted date of 60,000 years ago. (1)

The Jinmium site contains stone hand tools and huge sandstone boulders which are etched with thousands of small cupmarks which are definitely artificial, and not natural formations. Using a new dating technique called thermoluminescence, the researchers have been able to establish dates of between 75,000 and 176,000 years old for the artifacts. While radiocarbon and accelerator mass spectrometry dating techniques are accurate only for 40,000 to 50,000 years ago, the luminescence techniques have a potential range of 30,000 to 300,000 years. and require no organic material, as needed for the other dating methods. Naturally the archaeological community is skeptical about the dates and the dating techniques, but with the rapid progress of technology, it is probable that the new methods will hold up and that humankind's antiquity will continue to be pushed farther back in time, as postulated by Michael A. Cremona in his Forbidden Archeology.

(1) R.L.K. Fullagar, D.M. Prince and L.M. Head, as reported in the journal Antiquity, December 1996.

\*\*Dr. Dorman is an orthopaedic surgeon who has done extensive research in back pain and human locomotion. He will present evidence to prove that humans could not have evolved from primates or other quadrupeds at the 24th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society in Orlando, Florida on August 3-8, 1997. Dr. Dorman's address is 515 W. Harrison Street, Suite 200, Kent, WA 98032-4403 USA.

PLEASE NOTE: The Sheraton Plaza Hotel at the Florida Mall in Orlando, Florida, the site of our 24th Anniversary World Conference, has changed its name to: ADAM'S MARK HOTEL. It is the same hotel at the same address and with the same phone and fax numbers.

## BOOK REVIEW:

GODS OF THE NEW MILLENIUM: Scientific Proof of Flesh & Blood Gods, by ALAN F. ALFORD

Reviewed by GEORGE T. SASSOON\*\*\*

Many are the mysteries surrounding the origins of our human race, and contradictions abound. Did we evolve from apes within the last few million years? If so, where are the missing links? And what do we make of the evidence that beings similar to ourselves walked this planet at much earlier times? Was the Sphinx built by the Ancient Egyptians? What then of the geological evidence dating it to several millennia before the first dynasty? Were the megalithic structures found in many parts of the world built using nothing more than ropes, tree-trunks and bronze tools? The list of such questions is endless.

Anomalies such as these abound in our ancient history, which hitherto have been swept under the rug by scholars anxious to preserve their cherished dogmas. But now more enlightened views are beginning to prevail, even among some tenured academics.

As a chartered accountant turned author, Society member Alan F. Alford has no professional axe to grind. In this his first book he offers new ideas to explain the Great Pyramid, Stonehenge, Machu Picchu, the Nazca Lines and other great mysteries of humankind's past. The author builds on the work of Zecharia Sitchin to give us an alternative history and a different chronology of prehistory, thus reconciling the Sumerian Kings List and the Old Testament to an arrival of the gods to Earth 300,000 years ago, all of which fits the known facts as well as or better than the conventional versions. Unlike Sitchin, however, Alford does not overwhelm the reader with a mass of detail. The many line illustrations and excellent color plates, mostly taken by the author, coupled with the author's excellent writing style, make this a very readable book. At the heart of his new chronology the author expounds a theory that the gods benefited from a genetic longevity, which links perfectly with the myths of humankind's creation in the "image" of the gods, hence explaining the large but falling life spans recorded in the Bible.

In addition to Mesopotamian history, the book touches on several other aspects of the ancient astronaut hypothesis, such as the creation myths and legends of the gods to be found in the cultural legacies of many peoples. Rightly, the author points out that it is not only insulting but also poor science to dismiss this material if it does not fit in with conventional theories. An excellent bibliography has references to the latest sources in what is now a rapidly-moving field.

Gods of the New Millennium is thoroughly to be recommended both to the general reader and to those with a specialist interest in ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian cultures. Though not a specialist myself, I found the book quite hard to put down. A preview of the book's contents can be seen on the author's Web site: <http://www.eridu.co.uk>

The book is available in hardcover from Eridu Books, P.O. Box 107, Walsall WS9 9YR England. Tel: +44 1543 452577. Fax: +44 1543 370453.

\*\*\*Mr. Sassoon is co-author of The Manna Machine.

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