



# ANCIENT SKIES

*"Come Search With Us!"*

## Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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### WAS THE MEGALITHIC SOCIETY THE MOTHER CULTURE?

BY FILIP COPPENS\*

In the first months of 1997, the English archaeologist Aubrey Burl stated that according to his two decades of research, Stonehenge, the assemblage of huge megaliths in southern England, was probably built by French immigrants coming from Brittany, and not by "Englishmen". This caused moral and particularly chauvinistic outrage in English scientific circles, one person even attacking Burl stating that it was denigrating to state the French had built this as the British could most certainly have built it as well. According to this logic, every house in the world is built by British people since British people are known to be able to build houses.

Around the same time, the author Alan Alford in England published an article in which he recapitulated certain facts and ideas on Stonehenge. The builders exhibited a remarkable knowledge of astronomy. The rectangle formed by the four Station Stones marks an exact alignment to the eight key points of the 18.6 year cycle of the Moon. This feature can only occur on the latitude of Stonehenge. This knowledge might have been incorporated into the landscape as early as 8000 BC, when the earliest construction on Stonehenge - but not as we know it today - began. More interestingly, John North, in a recent study on the monument, stated that the Avenue, a two mile long earthen causeway that connects the site to the river Avon and that can be compared to the Avenue of the Dead in Teotihuacan in Mexico, was - in 3180 BC - aligned to the star Sirius. Professor Gerald Hawkins has stated that the Avenue of the Dead is aligned on a Sirius-Pleiades axis. Finally, going against all new agers wishes, North also showed that Stonehenge was aligned to the sunset at midwinter solstice, not sunrise at the summer solstice.

Stonehenge, because of its enormous tourist success, can be said to be the main focus of the "megalithic era", even though its design is strangely "un-megalithic". The nearby Avebury, safe for its enormous scale, is more typical of this "trend". Here, we are confronted with large unmodelled stones

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standing in a circle. Nearby are dolmens and the impressive Silbury Hill, the largest man-made hill in Europe. Its construction is estimated to have taken about 20 years and must have involved several thousands of people. The area surrounding Silbury Hill, the standing stones and dolmens of Avebury make up one vast complex. The English researcher Paul Devereux has called this a "symbolic landscape", in which man-made structures have been constructed in such a manner that they perfectly blend in with the natural landscape, becoming a symbiosis of Man and Nature. Certain researchers, amongst them David Percy and the American David Myers, have gone even further. When people like Walter Hain, Vincent DiPietro, Gregory Molenaar and Richard Hoagland brought international media attention to certain features on Mars, which they believed to be man-made, Percy and Myers believed they had found a scale-model of these Martian man-made structures on Earth: namely, the area around Stonehenge and Avebury was a scale-model of the Martian monuments, the megalithic monuments perfectly echoing the presumed man-made structures on Mars. This is probably the strangest approach to the megalithic mystery. Though Erich von Daniken in one of his more recent books argued for a high technology intelligence behind the design of certain of these megaliths, Percy and Myers went way beyond this and actually concluded that whoever built the monuments in the English countryside knew precisely what could be found on Mars! However, we still know too little about the Mars monuments to determine whether their theory is true or false.

What is known is that Stonehenge and Avebury form an integral relationship with each other, one that is often not explained or discussed by archaeologists. The Belgian historian Marcel Mestdagh believed that one vital aspect of the Stonehenge-Avebury complex had been overlooked: a perfectly curved road connects the two sites and extends to the east of both sites. In all, the road makes a perfect oval, with the two sites situated on this oval. Before Mestdagh, about the only researcher who had discovered a relationship was Alfred Watkins, who believed that a "ley-line" existed between the two sites. Watkins was the discoverer - or the inventor, whichever side you choose - of ley lines.

Mestdagh believed that his discovery would prove to be very important. When he measured the dimensions of the oval road, he discovered that they represented a scale model - on the scale of 1/10 - of similar oval networks he had found in France. More importantly, Mestdagh had been able to link the oval systems in France with the megalithic civilization. Inside Mestdagh's newly found oval in England can be found another interesting site: Woodhenge, which is not merely situated inside this vast megalithic complex, but is in fact situated at the terminus of

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the Avenue of Stonehenge. Woodhenge is a series of concentric ovals along which were once placed wooden poles. Historians and archaeologists have always assumed that these are examples of how the ancients depicted the Sun. But this seems to be a feeble explanation, for Woodhenge doesn't look anything whatsoever like a depiction of the Sun. It is obvious there is some stellar relationship associated with this system. But Mestdagh also realized that Woodhenge was a perfect depiction of the ovals he had discovered in France.

Mestdagh's discovery of this oval network in France happened because of his interest in the Viking crusades that occurred in the 10th century AD. Viking ships left Scandinavia, attacked English villages and afterwards made their way to the European continent, where a similar warfare originated. Mestdagh believed, however, that he had seen an aspect in their way of travelling that no-one had before seen. It appeared as if they made wide sweeps across the English countryside, zooming in on something as they progressed. Eventually, they reached Nottingham and then suddenly left England. On the European continent they began to make similar wide sweeps, zooming in on the city of Sens, a very important city some 150 km southeast of Paris. In Celtic times, it was the territory of the Senones - the Elders - the most influential tribe. Afterwards it was the place of the Archbishop's seat. It seems that throughout history, until the Middle Ages, Sens was always regarded as the religious capital of France. Even the Vikings seemed most impressed as Sens was the only city they did not sack and loot. Instead, they waited outside the city for the inhabitants to surrender. The Vikings seemed to have deemed Sens important, and it did seem to be the goal of their travels. Could it be that Sens was their mythical Valhalla? For when the Vikings left Scandinavia, their own reason for going on their long and arduous travels was to find the location of the hall of Odin into which the souls of heroes slain in battle are received, which according to their legends was somewhere to the Southwest.

In figuring out how the Vikings moved about the countryside, Mestdagh realized they had encountered an old and long-forgotten system of roads, which was interlaced with a network of megalithic stones. It was known that the Vikings were intimately aware of megaliths, what they stood for and how they were used, much more so than their contemporaries in western Europe. Unfortunately, very little of their knowledge has come down to us. It seemed the Vikings were able to use this old road system to make their way to Sens, because all the roads zoomed in on Sens, which was the axis, with all the roads being the spokes of a wheel, as it were. Taking his research even further, Mestdagh realized this network of roads and megaliths was placed upon vast concentric ovals, with Sens at its centre. These ovals are today quite often nothing more than roads, but his on-site research proved that once a concentric system of enormous ditches could be found, which were ancient canals connecting with natural waterways.

Sens as the centre of the megalithic world might seem odd, for today, the megaliths in Brittany are far better known. Still, this is a misconception for which the tourist industry should partly be blamed. In the 1870s, a French scientist was asked to make an index of all the megaliths that could still be found in and around Sens. Though today most of these have disappeared, because of the ever increasing grasp of modern living, until the beginning of this century the area around Sens was actually littered with megaliths.

What purpose could these have served? Marcel Mestdagh himself believed it served as a perfect system of defense against any possible invaders, who had to cross huge canals, some measuring 180 metres wide. However, he also noted that the sheer size of these ovals, filled with water, would make

them highly visible from outer space. Their perfect oval shape would also make sure that every intelligent being or probe passing by would know that the ovals could not be a natural occurrence. Interestingly, there have been people in recent history who pondered the idea as to how Earth would be able to attract the attention of such "passing aliens". The German mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, in the 1820s, believed that planting pine trees in Siberia would be the solution. Planting these trees in quadrangular, triangular and other mathematical forms would surely attract the aliens' attention. Some twenty years later, Joseph von Littrow, believed that a twenty-mile long ditch in the Sahara desert would be the solution. If it were filled with kerosene and set ablaze at night, he surmised, it would be a beacon for any alien visitor. Perhaps unintentionally, the megalithic civilization in France seems to have entered a far more modern, practical and lasting way to "call" any wandering ancient astronaut. It would seem, however, to be rather simplistic to suppose that anyone would go through such efforts, which lasted about two millennia to complete, merely to attract the attention of a possible ancient astronaut passing by our globe. The Dutch researcher Wim Zitman, who has privately made tremendous breakthroughs in Egyptological research, took the dimensions of this civilization and realized that they expressed numbers that are related to the star Sirius. He believes that the ancients believed that time was equal to distance - a concept that is essentially correct as time and space are identical - and that when measuring specific distances of ancient monuments, etc., you will find numbers that are relevant in astronomy and astrology, of which the most important aspects were incorporated into myth and legend, as those numbers were relevant to the gods and goddesses. This, he feels strongly, helped the ancients in observing the sky and astronomical events. Hence the proverb: "as above, so below".

In the 1930s, an obscure Frenchman, Xavier Guichard, made as his life study the place name of Eleusis (Elysium). There is such a city in both Greece and Egypt. The Greek city is the most famous as it is the home of the Eleusian mysteries. Little is known of these mysteries, except that they are somehow related to the Mysteries of Isis, which are strange rituals - the rituals themselves being unknown - that initiated people in arcane knowledge regarding the star Sirius. In mythology, we also have the "Eleusian fields", the abode of the good in the Afterlife. The authors Robert Temple and Robert Bauval have, during the last two decades, emphasized the importance of Sirius in relation to the ideas of the Egyptians and their belief in the Afterlife and the life of the Gods. Indeed, Egypt is not the only place where such a belief prevailed. For those who believe that there is no such thing as coincidence, witness that in 1972 the Mariner space probes photographed what very much appears to be pyramidal structures on Mars. These supposed pyramids were located in the Elysium region of the planet!

Guichard published his findings in a book called Eleusis Alesia, a study of the origins of European civilization. Published in 1936, it had a printing of 500 copies, several of which were lost. Earlier this year, André Douzet, a researcher friend of mine, was able to locate a copy of the book in the library at Lyons, the second largest library in France. My friend told me that no one had checked out the book during the past twenty years. These are the conclusions that Guichard reached: all the places that were called Alesia, or a closely related name, had been named in prehistoric times. Not one place had been given such a name in more recent times. He believed the name derived from an Indo-European root meaning "a meeting point to where people travelled". The majority of the sites, more than

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400 of them, were in France, but a few were found in Greece, Egypt, Spain and Poland. Guichard was unable to find such names in Britain, which suggests that the name originated before the last Ice Age, when Britain was covered with thick sheets of ice.

Guichard, like Mestdagh, made it an issue to personally visit most of the sites that figured into his research. He discovered that the sites had two characteristic features: they were on hills overlooking rivers and were built around a man-made well of salt or mineral water. He also found that all the sites lay on lines radiating like the spokes of a wheel from the town of Alaise, in eastern France. This echoes what Mestdagh had discovered regarding Sens. Guichard believed that 24 lines, equispaced radiating lines, plus four lines based on the sunrise/sunset at the two equinoxes and the summer and winter solstices, touched every site. This was a total of 28 lines, which could have a lunar connection. Intriguingly, a play of numbers, starting from 28 (which is two times 14, a number connected with Osiris, the Egyptian god of the underworld and judge of the dead and the consort of Isis) gives numbers like 56, 64 and 72, all of which feature prominently in sites such as Stonehenge, the megalithic civilization and in Egyptian mythology. Of course, we can do a lot with numbers (which is, after all, what they were designed for in the first place), but it is interesting that certain key numbers keep coming back, particularly those with direct astronomical significance.

All this seems to suggest an intimate relationship between the Egyptian and megalithic civilizations, and in fact the two were contemporary. Fernand Niel recorded the finding of small blue beads in a burial ground in Wessex, an ancient Anglian kingdom in southern England. On close examination it was discovered that they had been made in Egypt. In 1911, W.Y. Evans-Wentz wrote in his The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries that plainly there had to be some significant connection between Brittany and Egypt.

The Tuat, the place of the Afterlife, was in Egyptian mythology represented as an island in the west and was an enclosed oval formed by the body of Nut, ending with an opening to the "Imperishable Star", Sirius, surmounted by Osiris holding aloft the Solar Disk. It may be of some significance that there were fourteen states in the Tuat, each governed by a different god, and this is the same number of pieces into which Osiris' body was dismembered by Set, thus forming an integral part of the Mysteries of Isis and Osiris, which have to do with Sirius. And, in Ptolemaic times, the Mysteries of Isis and Osiris were reorganized by two people: one of them was Manetho, whose chronology was inspired by Sirius. The second was Timotheus, a Greek priest in the mysteries of Eleusis, in Greece. Bruce Rux, author of Architects of the Underworld, stated: "It may be of interest that the Elysian Fields of the Tuat, the Sekhet-hetep (Field of Offerings), was famous as a place intersected by canals."

As Letorneau noted in 1893 in the Bulletin de la Soci t  Anthropologie, "the builders of our megalithic monuments came from the South, and were related to the races of North Africa." His colleague, Sergi, recorded finding the sign of the ankh and other hieroglyphic signs on French dolmens. Prof. J. Morris Jones confirmed the suggestion of Sir John Rhys that Celtic languages preserved Egyptian Hamitic syntax: "The pre-Aryan idioms which still live in Welsh and Irish were derived from a language allied to Egyptian and the Berber tongues." In 1996, Dutch researcher Wim Zitman made some extraordinary discoveries, of which he asked me not to tell too much because he hopes to publish his findings in 1998. What I can say is that his material involves astonishing new evidence regarding our forefathers' obsession with Sirius and an unknown but vitally important lost civilization in the Sa-

hara, which opens links between Sumer, Egypt and the megalithic civilization and their joint obsession with the star Sirius.

I believe that Sirius is at the core of Mankind's existence. Underneath the apparently absurd excesses of certain mass suicides by those who believed that they would be reborn on a planet around Sirius, lies the same obsession with finding a link to something very deep and profound, which we all seem to have forgotten, but which was omnipresent many millennia ago. I believe that the megalithic civilization shared this obsession with Sirius and that it was instrumental in creating and propagating certain knowledge about things which we are only now beginning to realize. Whereas today's main focus lies in Egypt, I feel we should also look towards the megalithic civilization. I wholeheartedly believe that the megalithic civilization will unravel certain enigmas that the Great Pyramid and all the wonders of Egypt and Sumer combined will not be able to solve.

## Florida House of Representatives Tribute

*A Tribute welcoming members of the Ancient Astronaut Society.*

*WHEREAS, the Ancient Astronaut Society was incorporated on September 16, 1973; and*

*WHEREAS, the organization operates exclusively for scientific, literary, and educational purposes; and*

*WHEREAS, the objectives of the society are to search for evidence to determine whether a highly developed technological civilization existed on Earth before our recorded history and whether intelligent beings from outer space visited our planet during the remote past; and*

*WHEREAS, the Ancient Astronaut Society has members from around the world; and*

*WHEREAS, activities of the society include member expeditions to remote areas of the world, museums, and archaeological sites; publication of "Ancient Skies"; one-day meetings; and biennial world conferences; and*

*WHEREAS, the Ancient Astronaut Society is holding its 24th Anniversary World Conference in Orlando, Florida, from August 3, 1997, through August 8, 1997. NOW, THEREFORE,*

*BE IT RESPECTFULLY PROCLAIMED that the members of the Ancient Astronaut Society are hereby extended a hearty welcome to the Sunshine State.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of August 1997.*



*Suzanne Jacobs*  
Suzanne Jacobs  
Representative, District 88

THE ABOVE TRIBUTE WAS PRESENTED TO GENE M. PHILLIPS, FOUNDER OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE SOCIETY'S 24TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. MS. SUZANNE JACOBS HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY FOR 20 YEARS. SHE IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 88TH DISTRICT.

We regret to announce the death of long-time member MR. RUSTUM D. PATEL, of Karachi, Pakistan, who was a frequent contributor to Ancient Skies of his incisive comments on other articles.

# THE SHAMIR IN THE STONE AGE

BY JOSEPH S. ELLUL\*

The articles in Ancient Skies 24:2 about the miracle device "shamir" by Dr. Matest M. Agrest and Thomas H. Fuss solved for me a long-standing problem. During my lifelong observations of the Neolithic Temples and Cart Ruts in Malta, I have always been puzzled about certain facts that I noticed occurring in the rocks of the buildings and in the cuttings of the cart ruts. When I remembered that the stone age people had no metal tools, I always wondered how they managed to cut certain channels about 5 cm wide, a metre or more long and about 20 cm deep, leaving the sides as smooth as polished marble. They also cut large deep water wells, and even more amazing, the cutting into solid rock of the three-storey underground palaces known as the Hypogeum of Malta.

This enormous cutting phenomenon has so much intrigued me that I always tried to observe every minute detail in the workings. It would be very natural to smooth the walls of the Temple of the Hypogeum to present a neat appearance, but what was the use of smoothing the walls of a water well? Moreover, why should they smooth the sides of a 5 cm wide channel used for splitting the stone? Besides it would be a very difficult maneuver to polish the works. But this channel was also very smooth.

Besides these diggings the stone age people also cut miles of cart ruts, sometimes into hard stone to smooth the passage of the wheels of their vehicles. Some of these ruts are 40cm deep and V shaped. The upper parts, which would have had no contact with the wheel, were also very smooth. Why? It has always perplexed me. (See Ancient Skies 9:6)

But now, I think I have the solution. It is the SHAMIR!

But the Shamir is not a tool invented by humans. It is a "divine tool", a god-given tool, a tool given to humans by extraterrestrials. But this is not the first time that I have claimed that the extraterrestrials had helped the Hagar Qim People of Malta to solve their problems. They directed the people to a flat rock fit for digging seven water-holding wells that are still serviceable to this day, even after some 12,000 years. It is humanly impossible to find such a rock in the type of the surrounding terrain.

Another thing is the stone fit for a fireplace. Malta's stone, if used as a fireplace, cracks into bits; yet the stone on the nearby island of Gozo does not crack. At Hagar Qim on Malta there is a large stone in the ground in front of the main door of the temple that has a big hole in it to be used as a fireplace. This stone is reddish with fire but is not cracked. Where did they get it? Surely they had the help of extraterrestrials in their work.

As explained above, the Shamir is an extraterrestrial tool, so it is no wonder that the stone age people of some ten or twelve thousand years ago already had made use of this, so-called "miracle device" - the Shamir, which is a kind of laser tool.

\*Mr. Ellul is an amateur archaeologist and a lifelong resident of Malta. His family has been active in the excavation and caretaking of Malta's antediluvian building sites since 1839. His father, Carmel, was officially the caretaker of the Hagar Qim Temples, but also was placed in charge of excavations at Tarxien, Ghar Dalam and the Hagar Qim ruins by the famous Maltese archaeologist Sir Temi Zammit. Carmel Ellul was an expert on the different types of Maltese rock. Joseph Ellul accompanied his father in the excavation work and gleaned from him all the observations and opinions of those working in the field. After spending a lifetime in and around the archaeological sites of Malta, it is understandable that Mr. Ellul is very upset about the lack of

care being given to maintain the monuments. A frequent contributor to the local newspapers about the condition of the temples and the sites, Mr. Ellul recently wrote:

"Some weeks ago there was an article in a local paper titled: 'Malta's History Has to be Re-Written' in which it was shown that a lot of Malta's history facts had been hidden, stolen or swept under the carpet. I took up the cue and wrote something to enhance what was being said.

"First, I mentioned that Prof. J.D. Evans, who reorganized the Malta Museum, spirited away the Hagar Qim human skull, which was discovered during the excavation of Hagar Qim. My father and I used to see the skull in the museum at the Auberg d'Italie under the care of Sir Temi Zammit. But after Prof. Evans reorganized the museum, the skull disappeared. People who should know better, claim that they know nothing about it, as if it never existed. Further, certain microliths also disappeared from the museum during Evans' 'reorganization'.

"Our professor of archaeology is such a 'connoisseur' that he classified the Hagar Qim statuettes as female. When I tried to discuss this with him on the phone, he hung up on me. Sir Temi Zammit first classified them as male, but later a foreign archaeologist called them 'sexless', but then he coined the catch phrase 'Goddess of fertility', which sank into everyone's minds and that is what we are told today.

"As to the age of the Malta temples, some foreign archaeologists now say that they are dated to about 1500 BC. Professor of Archaeology Vere Gordon Child of the University of London once told my father at Hagar Qim that Malta's temples were the oldest in the world and were 12,000 years old. Later, I proved this as a result of carbon 14 testing on a certain wall at Hagar Qim. Thus, if the Temples were begun 12,000 years ago, then those people must have occupied the land for thousands of years before that.

"Today the state of our archaeology in Malta is in ruins, actually, no pun intended. The megalithic temples are in ruins. The Hypogeum, 'owing to some reconstruction' has been closed to the public for some SEVEN years. Mnajdra has suffered a major collapse. The authorities have blamed the disaster on blasting at the nearby quarries. But the real fault is because the supposed 'archaeologists' some 30 years ago had ordered to remove some stones from between the walls. These stones had served to stop the upright stones of the upper temple from sliding out. I wrote this in the papers and the architect's report confirmed what I said. But the authorities don't admit their own fault, and keep blaming the blasting.

"Hagar Qim is being left to erode without any repairs being made, as they used to do 30 years ago. They have recently spent a million dollars on ridiculous works in the surroundings, but the temples have been left to crumble. There are no real archaeologists in Malta now."

Mr. Ellul has written a book about his experiences entitled "Malta's Prediluvian Culture", an oversize paperback, which is available from the author for US\$10, including surface postage. Now 77, he is always on the go. His address is Hagar Qim House, 58, St. Catherine St., Zurrieq, ZRQ 06, MALTA, Europe. Note: For further information about the sites in Malta see Ancient Skies 8:3, 16:5 and 17:3.

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