

1

00:00:00,020 --> 00:00:18,693

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:18,693 --> 00:00:23,212

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:23,212 --> 00:00:36,847

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:36,847 --> 00:00:41,585

Recent archaeological discoveries in the People's Republic of China are changing America's

5

00:00:41,585 --> 00:00:44,884

concept of its own history.

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00:00:44,884 --> 00:00:50,002

From ancient historical records we hear of a Buddhist monk, Hu Shen, who by his own

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00:00:50,002 --> 00:00:58,559

written account appears to have landed on the American continent in 458 AD.

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00:00:58,559 --> 00:01:02,357

Did the trail they took lead them to Central America?

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00:01:02,357 --> 00:01:09,435

Now, new discoveries off the coast of California may furnish proof that America was discovered

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00:01:09,435 --> 00:01:13,793

by Chinese explorers over a thousand years before Columbus.

11

00:01:20,511 --> 00:01:29,348

The rocky coast of Cape Mendocino in northern California is one of the places where some

12

00:01:29,348 --> 00:01:36,745

scientists believe Chinese explorers landed on our shores many years before Columbus.

13

00:01:36,745 --> 00:01:43,822

Larry Pearson, a marine archaeologist, searches beneath the seas for evidence of such voyages.

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00:01:43,822 --> 00:01:48,421

Larry is one of the few respected scientists who believe there is an element of truth to

15

00:01:48,421 --> 00:01:53,499

be found in ancient Chinese tales.

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00:01:53,499 --> 00:01:58,677

The Chinese memorialize their legends by staging historical pageants.

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00:01:58,677 --> 00:02:04,015

One story tells of a skillful magician who when sent on a secret journey by his emperor

18

00:02:04,015 --> 00:02:12,892

Qi Shuang Di returned with reports of a land far away across a vast ocean.

19

00:02:12,892 --> 00:02:21,089

Representing his report, he stated that it was a land of mighty rivers and mountains.

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00:02:21,089 --> 00:02:28,846

Here strange people dwelt whose gods granted them the gift of the elixir of life.

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00:02:28,846 --> 00:02:34,524

He pleaded for this gift of immortality for his master, but it was denied him.

22

00:02:34,524 --> 00:02:38,802

He claimed it could only be parted with in exchange for rich gifts.

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00:02:39,362 --> 00:02:46,200

A thousand noblemen and beautiful maidens were required together with skilled craftsmen.

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00:02:46,200 --> 00:02:52,957

Excited by the prospect of eternal life, the emperor gave leave to proceed.

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00:02:52,957 --> 00:02:57,915

The magician gathered together a large group capable of starting a new colony.

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00:02:57,915 --> 00:03:07,752

They built the necessary ships, the fleet set sail, and was never heard from again.

27

00:03:07,792 --> 00:03:13,430

Ten thousand miles away and two thousand years later, Larry Pearson travels the coast

28

00:03:13,430 --> 00:03:17,828

of Northern California to investigate Indian legends.

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00:03:17,828 --> 00:03:24,666

He hopes to find tales confirming contact between Asia and pre-Columbian America.

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00:03:24,666 --> 00:03:29,824

His first stop is the American Indian Center at Humboldt University where he consults with

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00:03:29,824 --> 00:03:34,102

Indian expert Bobby Lake.

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00:03:34,102 --> 00:03:39,620

The Pit River Indians and the Pomo Indian Tribal Group of Northwestern California have

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00:03:39,620 --> 00:03:45,898

an ancient myth or legend or folklore that talks about a giant bridge which went from

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00:03:45,898 --> 00:03:52,855

this area across the ocean to another race of people who they felt or thought or believed

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00:03:52,855 --> 00:03:55,534

were Indians, but their skin color was different.

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00:03:55,534 --> 00:03:57,893

It was more yellowish.

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00:03:57,893 --> 00:04:04,051

The way the old legend goes is the world was purified by water and everything on earth

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00:04:04,051 --> 00:04:09,449

was destroyed and many of the high priests and religious leaders knew this was going

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00:04:09,449 --> 00:04:14,248

to happen so they gathered the people together and they moved up high to the high tops of

40

00:04:14,248 --> 00:04:15,807

the mountains.

41

00:04:15,807 --> 00:04:22,005

And while they were up there, some of the visionaries or prophets began to see another

42

00:04:22,005 --> 00:04:26,003

race of people who looked like Indians but were yellow skinned.

43

00:04:26,003 --> 00:04:31,921

So somehow or another, you might call it mental telepathy, they started to build a bridge from

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00:04:31,921 --> 00:04:36,599

this part of the continent while that other race of people started to build a bridge from

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00:04:36,599 --> 00:04:41,797

the other continent and somewhere in the middle of the ocean they linked up together and

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00:04:41,797 --> 00:04:44,037

they communicated with each other.

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00:04:44,037 --> 00:04:48,315

And what really signaled all of this was the rainbow.

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00:04:48,315 --> 00:04:54,473

As the yellow race of people left and they were going back, a rainbow came up and they

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00:04:54,473 --> 00:05:00,031

said someday this physical bridge will be gone but remember us, our brother, because

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00:05:00,031 --> 00:05:04,509

the rainbow will always be there.

51

00:05:04,509 --> 00:05:09,787

Nearby where the Klamath River meets the sea, Larry seeks further information from the local

52

00:05:09,787 --> 00:05:11,467

Indians.

53

00:05:11,467 --> 00:05:16,425

Florence Shaughnessy has lived beside the Klamath River all her life.

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00:05:16,425 --> 00:05:21,423

We're called the Urock people but in Indian we're called Pooleek La.

55

00:05:21,423 --> 00:05:30,500

We are the people that walk by the ocean.

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00:05:30,500 --> 00:05:34,938

To add to the evidence of Asian influence, there are legends of shipwrecks along the

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00:05:34,938 --> 00:05:37,937

northwest coast.

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00:05:37,937 --> 00:05:44,095

The story was that they found a part of Chinese junk along the coast near Tillamook, Oregon

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00:05:44,095 --> 00:05:50,133

and so they had the divers go down and they did find that it was old, old, old, so they

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00:05:50,133 --> 00:05:55,571

figured that the Chinese came over, had caught in a storm, probably old, perished or maybe

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00:05:55,571 --> 00:06:01,369

some swam ashore and they say that some of those Chinese must have survived and then

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00:06:01,369 --> 00:06:07,766

they went inland and there was Indians living all around the coast there that they intermarried

63

00:06:07,766 --> 00:06:14,044

there because some of the Indians from certain parts of Oregon or Flantide and their skin

64

00:06:14,044 --> 00:06:18,122

is just a little different color than the bronze Indians.

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00:06:18,122 --> 00:06:23,081

The Japanese current flows eastward along the 40th parallel then merges with other currents

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00:06:23,081 --> 00:06:25,640

and reaches the coast of California.

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00:06:25,640 --> 00:06:31,118

There it splits, one half flowing north to Alaska, the other moving south along the coast

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00:06:31,118 --> 00:06:32,717

of Mexico.

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00:06:32,717 --> 00:06:37,595

At the division, a churning occurs which is so furious that many vessels riding upon

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00:06:37,595 --> 00:06:50,231

it have been dashed to splinters.

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00:06:50,231 --> 00:06:55,349

These rocky headlands such as the Point of Land behind me, Trinidad Head on the northern

72

00:06:55,349 --> 00:07:00,587

coast of California are the kinds of obstructions, seafarers traveling this coast would have

73

00:07:00,587 --> 00:07:01,907

encountered.

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00:07:01,907 --> 00:07:07,544

These sites of course are historically known as very high hazard areas, graveyards of ships,

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00:07:08,304 --> 00:07:13,422

it is just such a place on the coast that you'd expect to find the highest likelihood

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00:07:13,422 --> 00:07:19,420

of the remains of ancient craft, particularly the Japanese and Chinese vessels that we know

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00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:23,659

now have been here in pre-Columbian times.

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00:07:23,659 --> 00:07:28,737

In response to a letter, Larry has come to examine these odd stones discovered by Dick

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00:07:28,737 --> 00:07:34,415

Young, a fisherman who brought them up in his nets off Cape Mendocena.

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00:07:34,415 --> 00:07:39,813

It is known that early Chinese seamen drilled holes in large stones and used them for ship

81

00:07:39,813 --> 00:07:41,652

anchors.

82

00:07:41,652 --> 00:07:46,810

Many similar stones have been found in Californian and Mexican waters, but most turn out to be

83

00:07:46,810 --> 00:07:49,329

naturally formed.

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00:07:49,329 --> 00:07:54,727

In the case of these two, they're apparently formed in the deep ocean floor.

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00:07:54,727 --> 00:08:01,725

These particular stones are natural, the nucleus could have been a whale bone, a whale vertebrae,

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00:08:02,205 --> 00:08:08,922

but the shape of the hole, the ridges inside, there is no taper here, there are subtle nuances

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00:08:08,922 --> 00:08:12,841

in the hole itself to lead me to believe that they are indeed natural formations rather

88

00:08:12,841 --> 00:08:17,319

than being man-made.

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00:08:17,319 --> 00:08:21,078

As a scientist, Larry is used to such setbacks.

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00:08:21,078 --> 00:08:26,316

The real frustration is not occasional misleading evidence found along the shore, but the fact

91

00:08:26,316 --> 00:08:30,394

that China lies across 7,000 miles of ocean.

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00:08:30,394 --> 00:08:37,392

Further, China's doors have been closed until recently to western scientists.

93

00:08:43,310 --> 00:08:47,588

On a recent trip to the People's Republic of China, the in search of crew filming in

94

00:08:47,588 --> 00:08:53,026

a rural area found some large old stone rollers on a farm.

95

00:08:53,026 --> 00:08:57,225

We were interested to learn that these rollers had often been used as ship's anchors in

96

00:08:57,225 --> 00:09:00,703

early times.

97

00:09:00,703 --> 00:09:05,901

They are still used by some Chinese river boats today, ships of ancient design called

98

00:09:05,901 --> 00:09:06,901

junks.

99

00:09:06,901 --> 00:09:12,899

They are basically river vessels used by fishermen for centuries.

100

00:09:12,899 --> 00:09:19,896

In the famed Peking Museum, we found evidence that much larger seagoing junks once existed

101

00:09:20,216 --> 00:09:22,375

in the distant past.

102

00:09:22,375 --> 00:09:26,174

The scouting of a giant sailing vessel has been uncovered.

103

00:09:26,174 --> 00:09:32,052

A fleet of ships of such size could have carried thousands of passengers.

104

00:09:32,052 --> 00:09:37,330

Remnants of this huge rudder indicate the ship was hundreds of feet long.

105

00:09:37,330 --> 00:09:44,327

A modern Chinese artist depicts how a fleet of these huge junks would have looked.

106

00:09:44,327 --> 00:09:51,325

Marco Polo told of long sea voyages made by the Chinese as they traded with such faraway

107

00:09:53,764 --> 00:09:58,842

places as India and Persia, but these were coastal trips.

108

00:09:58,842 --> 00:10:06,439

Could Chinese junks have survived long voyages in the open Pacific?

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00:10:06,439 --> 00:10:12,077

To prove such a voyage possible, journalist Kuno Kanobal and a group of fellow adventurers

110

00:10:12,077 --> 00:10:16,836

built a sailing junk as close as possible to ancient design.

111

00:10:16,836 --> 00:10:19,755

They named it the Tai Ki.

112

00:10:19,755 --> 00:10:25,712

Their plan to catch the Japanese current to the North American coast, then southward to

113

00:10:25,712 --> 00:10:29,351

Central America.

114

00:10:29,351 --> 00:10:34,349

Despite calms and storms, all went reasonably well, until midway.

115

00:10:34,349 --> 00:10:39,707

They discovered the ship was under attack by thousands of sea worms, burrowing into the

116

00:10:39,747 --> 00:10:45,305

wood and undermining the hull.

117

00:10:45,305 --> 00:10:52,303

It was then that the typhoon hit.

118

00:11:09,696 --> 00:11:16,694

The ship increasingly took on water, filling the hole.

119

00:11:23,811 --> 00:11:30,809

To stay afloat, the crew pumped frantically day and night in mountainous seas.

120

00:11:33,848 --> 00:11:37,766

Helpless when the rudder broke, they sent out an urgent message from their sputtering

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00:11:37,766 --> 00:11:44,764

radio and waited.

122

00:11:47,803 --> 00:11:50,801

Their message had been heard.

123

00:11:50,801 --> 00:11:57,799

First, a coast guard plane from Juno arrived, dropping supplies.

124

00:11:58,918 --> 00:12:03,437

Shortly thereafter, they were picked up by a freighter from which they watched their dream,

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00:12:03,437 --> 00:12:10,114

the Tai Ki, lurch aimlessly away, lost over the horizon.

126

00:12:10,114 --> 00:12:15,552

In spite of shipworms and storms, they did pass the midpoint in their journey, proving

127

00:12:15,552 --> 00:12:22,270

that ancient junk were capable of lengthy voyages in the open sea.

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00:12:22,270 --> 00:12:26,868

There are other discoveries which could prove that early Chinese explorers did complete such

129

00:12:26,868 --> 00:12:30,427

voyages a thousand years before Columbus.

130

00:12:34,426 --> 00:12:40,423

Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic in his flagship, the Santa Maria, in 1492

131

00:12:42,303 --> 00:12:44,782

and discovered America.

132

00:12:44,782 --> 00:12:47,741

Was Columbus the first?

133

00:12:47,741 --> 00:12:53,059

It is generally accepted that the Vikings acknowledged to be daring seafarers predated

134

00:12:53,059 --> 00:12:55,118

Columbus here.

135

00:12:55,118 --> 00:13:00,976

Many monuments still remain as possible proof of their settlements.

136

00:13:00,976 --> 00:13:05,774

Known walls of Phoenician design found in New Hampshire indicate that they too might

137

00:13:05,774 --> 00:13:08,173

have been early visitors.

138

00:13:08,173 --> 00:13:12,732

This theory is strengthened by writings found at the site that some experts believe to be

139

00:13:12,732 --> 00:13:16,650

Phoenician.

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00:13:16,650 --> 00:13:20,729

To argue who discovered America first is to ignore the fact that it has been populated

141

00:13:20,729 --> 00:13:23,128

for hundreds of thousands of years.

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00:13:23,128 --> 00:13:27,446

More important, we should examine what effects visitors from other lands have had on early

143

00:13:27,446 --> 00:13:29,805

Indian civilizations.

144

00:13:29,805 --> 00:13:35,563

About 1500 years ago, a sudden cultural surge occurred in Central America which has mystified

145

00:13:35,563 --> 00:13:38,482

the world of archaeology for many years.

146

00:13:38,482 --> 00:13:45,120

Some believe this may have been brought about by contact from China.

147

00:13:45,120 --> 00:13:52,517

The Buddhist religion was flourishing in China in the 6th century.

148

00:13:52,517 --> 00:13:57,915

In a monastery in Shenshi province, these statues stand guard over the records of Buddhist

149

00:13:57,915 --> 00:14:00,874

history.

150

00:14:00,874 --> 00:14:06,752

We learned from these stone tablets that in 570 AD, several monks set sail across the

151

00:14:06,752 --> 00:14:12,190

Great Sea to seek new converts to the Buddhist faith.

152

00:14:12,190 --> 00:14:17,548

The official account of their voyage states that the monk Hushen and his companions sailing

153

00:14:17,548 --> 00:14:22,546

eastward came upon the shores of a strange far away land.

154

00:14:22,546 --> 00:14:28,744

The distance logged was 20,000 leagues or about 7,000 nautical miles.

155

00:14:28,744 --> 00:14:35,502

This would place them on the coast of Southern California.

156

00:14:35,502 --> 00:14:40,900

The account does not record their feelings as they cautiously entered a strange new land,

157

00:14:40,900 --> 00:14:46,058

only that they made their way inland through forests, across mountains and deserts for

158

00:14:46,058 --> 00:14:52,055

350 miles.

159

00:14:52,055 --> 00:15:05,251

At last, they stood on the rim of a great canyon, banded with many colors.

160

00:15:05,251 --> 00:15:09,689

Could they have been describing the Grand Canyon?

161

00:15:09,689 --> 00:15:15,367

The account continues that at the bottom of the canyon, far below, there was a river winding

162

00:15:15,367 --> 00:15:22,324

among boulders.

163

00:15:22,324 --> 00:15:27,043

Making their way south, they crossed a great desert where the inhabitants ate the purple

164

00:15:27,043 --> 00:15:32,081

fruit of a strange tree they called the Fusang tree.

165

00:15:32,081 --> 00:15:35,440

Was this a cactus?

166

00:15:35,440 --> 00:15:42,517

Finally, they came through dense jungles, arriving some believe in Central America, just

167

00:15:42,517 --> 00:15:48,875

prior to the great cultural flowering of the Mayan civilization.

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00:15:48,875 --> 00:15:53,873

That the learned monk Hushen could have brought the Mayans advanced knowledge from China is

169

00:15:53,873 --> 00:15:59,071

discussed by Dr. James Moriarty of the University of San Diego.

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00:15:59,071 --> 00:16:07,228

I hold with many archaeologists that Central American and Mexican cultures, early ones,

171

00:16:07,228 --> 00:16:12,546

may very well have been influenced by some type of Asian contact.

172

00:16:12,546 --> 00:16:18,544

My reasons for this are not unique and they are found in the works of many who since the

173

00:16:18,544 --> 00:16:23,542

1800s, late 1800s, have worked on these problems.

174

00:16:23,542 --> 00:16:28,580

During the Han dynasty, a certain type of bull with certain kinds of feet was a prominent

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00:16:28,580 --> 00:16:30,220

feature of that culture.

176

00:16:30,220 --> 00:16:35,058

You will find similar bulls in some Mexican cultures.

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00:16:35,058 --> 00:16:41,376

You will find Jade work, which has been much discussed by some of my colleagues, which

178

00:16:41,376 --> 00:16:47,613

certainly shows Chinese influence and possibly even some pieces that are of Chinese origin.

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00:16:47,613 --> 00:16:51,612

In China, we were permitted into the Forbidden City.

180

00:16:51,612 --> 00:16:58,370

The former Imperial Palace is now a museum, housing special relics of the past.

181

00:16:59,369 --> 00:17:04,687

We were allowed to film the ancient Jade soldier.

182

00:17:04,687 --> 00:17:10,085

The soldier's body in burial had been completely encased.

183

00:17:10,085 --> 00:17:16,483

It is significant that Jade burial masks of the same period have been found in Mayan

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00:17:16,483 --> 00:17:24,760

excavations.

185

00:17:24,760 --> 00:17:29,918

In China, we also filmed many serpent heads, only to find identical figures in Central

186

00:17:29,918 --> 00:17:33,917

America.

187

00:17:33,917 --> 00:17:38,595

The Mayans believed these serpents to be the representation of the man-god who brought

188

00:17:38,595 --> 00:17:41,594

them knowledge.

189

00:17:41,594 --> 00:17:47,152

Is it possible that this contact with Chinese culture accounts for the Mayans' remarkable

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00:17:47,152 --> 00:17:49,791

knowledge of astronomy?

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00:17:49,791 --> 00:17:58,708

Or mere coincidence that this Mayan calendar is similar to Chinese calendars of the period?

192

00:17:58,708 --> 00:18:03,506

In many Mayan museums, we found startling items.

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00:18:03,506 --> 00:18:11,463

There were never any elephants in America, yet this Mayan relief depicts one.

194

00:18:11,463 --> 00:18:17,101

The Mayan face had a distinctive shape, yet occasionally faces are found that appear to

195

00:18:17,101 --> 00:18:19,460

be Chinese.

196

00:18:19,460 --> 00:18:25,458

The Mayan god of happiness is unmistakably Chinese.

197

00:18:25,458 --> 00:18:29,736

The image of this bearded man continues to be a mystery.

198

00:18:29,736 --> 00:18:33,255

It is known that Indians do not have facial hair.

199

00:18:33,255 --> 00:18:44,171

Who then was this oriental man found in Mayan excavations?

200

00:18:44,171 --> 00:18:49,569

Mayan discoveries from the ocean floor may provide answers to some of these questions.

201

00:18:49,569 --> 00:18:54,047

It is fortunate that these divers off for Donald Beach, California were alert enough

202

00:18:54,047 --> 00:18:57,406

to recognize something unusual.

203

00:18:57,406 --> 00:19:04,963

Bob Maistrel and Wayne Baldwin have discovered what are believed to be Chinese stone anchors.

204

00:19:04,963 --> 00:19:09,122

We were out scuba diving one day, and the water was dirty and we started looking for

205

00:19:09,122 --> 00:19:10,881

other things other than lobsters.

206

00:19:10,881 --> 00:19:16,039

I noticed this stone that had an indentation in it, and I started scraping the little rocks

207

00:19:16,039 --> 00:19:21,238

and shells off, and I noticed the hole got deeper and deeper and deeper, and so I lifted

208

00:19:21,238 --> 00:19:25,836

the stone up and it had a perfect hole in it.

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00:19:25,836 --> 00:19:29,635

Realizing that they may have found something unique, they decided to bring the stones to

210

00:19:29,635 --> 00:19:38,711

the surface for further examination.

211

00:19:38,711 --> 00:19:43,110

We found five more, raised them and brought them into the shop.

212

00:19:43,110 --> 00:19:47,428

This large stone here that you see weighs over a thousand pounds.

213

00:19:47,428 --> 00:19:52,946

As we were raising it, it just broke the surface and then itself broke in half and dropped

214

00:19:52,946 --> 00:19:54,625

to the bottom.

215

00:19:54,625 --> 00:19:58,944

Two questions must be asked regarding any of these possible anchors.

216

00:19:58,944 --> 00:20:02,862

First, are they from China?

217

00:20:02,862 --> 00:20:06,381

And second, how old are they?

218

00:20:06,381 --> 00:20:12,659

Of all the unusually shaped stones that have been found, there was only one example which

219

00:20:12,659 --> 00:20:14,178

was datable.

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00:20:14,178 --> 00:20:18,577

That would be the stone found at the Patanus Garment site.

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00:20:18,577 --> 00:20:22,495

Samples were sent to Dr. Wang, who was a Chinese geologist.

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00:20:22,495 --> 00:20:29,333

His analysis and comparative studies with known ancient quarries on the coast of China

223

00:20:29,333 --> 00:20:33,931

proved conclusively that the materials hadn't come from China.

224

00:20:33,931 --> 00:20:38,769

The datability was in the form of a manganese concretion that had achieved a three millimeter

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00:20:38,769 --> 00:20:40,689

thickness on this stone.

226

00:20:40,689 --> 00:20:47,526

The rule of thumb rate for manganese concretion is about a thousand years per millimeter.

227

00:20:47,526 --> 00:20:54,044

Allowing a 50% error, this stone is still obviously pre-Columbian.

228

00:20:54,044 --> 00:21:00,961

It has been established to Larry Pearson's satisfaction that at least one of the stones

229

00:21:00,961 --> 00:21:05,160

is from China and is more than a thousand years old.

230

00:21:05,160 --> 00:21:09,638

However, he still seeks more definitive answers.

231

00:21:09,638 --> 00:21:14,636

Answers that he believes will be found in the waters of the Pacific, proving the presence

232

00:21:14,636 --> 00:21:22,553

of Chinese explorers.

233

00:21:22,553 --> 00:21:27,312

The possible presence of Chinese explorers on our shores does not negate in any way the

234

00:21:27,312 --> 00:21:30,710

contribution made by Christopher Columbus.

235

00:21:30,710 --> 00:21:35,149

This is still the honor of founding the first continuing settlement of foreign visitors

236

00:21:35,149 --> 00:21:36,988

in the new world.

237

00:21:36,988 --> 00:21:42,106

Perhaps more important than who was first is the recognition of the valor of all those

238

00:21:42,106 --> 00:21:43,346

brave men.

239

00:21:43,346 --> 00:21:50,423

In the days before Christ, one man humiliated Rome over and over again.

240

00:21:50,423 --> 00:21:52,343

He was infamous.

241

00:21:52,343 --> 00:21:58,860

He was lower than human.