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Was the Great Russian Writer Aided by the Supernatural?

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New Science Challenges Orthodox Thinking

## Native Americans in the Old World

STEVEN SORA

Did the Red Man Go East Before the White Man Went West?

## Tracking the Great Airship of 1897

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# ATLANTIS RISING®

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**PUBLISHER & EDITOR**  
J. Douglas Kenyon

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
John Chambers  
Carl Johan Calleman  
Philip Coppens  
Michael Cremo  
J. Allan Danelek  
Frank Joseph  
Julie Loar  
Jeane Manning  
Patrick Marsolek  
Richard Milton  
Marsha Oaks  
Martin Ruggles  
Robert M. Schoch  
Steven Sora  
Carly Svamvour

**COVER ART**  
Ryan Hammer

**GRAPHICS**  
Ryan Hammer  
Randy Haragan  
Denis Ouellette

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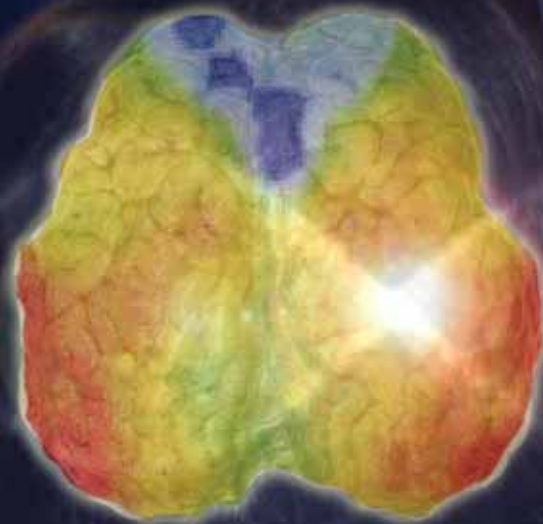
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## EARLY RAYS



Shifting of  
brain activity  
when exposed  
to sound at a  
frequency of  
110 hz.

## ANCIENT TEMPLES USED ACOUSTIC TECHNOLOGIES

**L**ocated south of Sicily, the islands of Malta and Gozo are home to megalithic structures created by a highly developed people more than a thousand years ahead of Stonehenge and the pyramids. The monuments, including ancient temples, represent free-standing architecture in its purest and most original form. Design features, including corbeled ceilings, are mirrored in subterranean mortuary shrines that have been carved out of solid limestone. (In architecture, corbeling is a system of a row of stones oversailing the one below it, reducing the area of the ceiling with each row upward and distributing its weight.) Malta's Hal Salfieni Hypogeum provides the most extraordinary example. A multileveled complex of caves and ritual chambers, it is a gem of archaeology that lay undisturbed until workers broke into it accidentally in 1902.

As anyone who sings in the shower knows, sound echoing back and amplifying itself from hard walls can do unusual things. That effect is magnified several times over in the stone chambers. "Standing in the Hypogeum is like being inside a giant bell," says Linda Eneix, President of the Old Temples Study Foundation (OTSF). "You feel the sound in your bones as much as you hear it with your ears. It's really thrilling!"

A consortium called The PEAR Proposition, Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research, are pioneers in the field of archaeo-acoustics, merging archaeology and sound science. Directed by Physicist Dr. Robert Jahn, the PEAR group set out in 1994 to test acoustic behavior in megalithic sites such as Newgrange and Wayland's Smithy in the UK. They found that the ancient chambers all sustained a strong resonance at a sound frequency between 95 and 120 hertz: well within the range of a low male voice.

In subsequent OTSF testing, stone rooms in ancient temples in Malta were found to



Corbeling  
in Mnajdra  
Temple

match the same pattern of resonance, registering at the frequency of 110 or 111 hz. This turns out to be a significant level for the human brain. Whether it was deliberate or not, the people who spent time in such an environment were exposing themselves to vibrations that impacted their minds.

Sound scientist, Prof. Daniel Talma of the University of Malta explains: "At certain frequencies you have standing waves that emphasize each and other waves that de-emphasize each other. The idea that it was used thousands of years ago to create a certain trance—that's what fascinates me."

Dr. Ian A. Cook of UCLA and colleagues published findings in 2008 of an experiment in which regional brain activity in a number of healthy volunteers was monitored by EEG through different resonance frequencies. Findings indicated that at 110 hz the patterns of activity over the prefrontal cortex abruptly shifted, resulting in a relative deactivation of the language center and a temporary switching from left- to right-sided dominance related to emotional processing. People regularly exposed to resonant sound in the frequency of 110 or 111 hz would have been "turning on" an area of the brain that bio-behavioral scientists believe relates to mood, empathy, and social behavior.

Research about Malta's Temple Culture is documented on a DVD from the foundation at <http://www.otsf.org/Legacy.htm>. ■

# New Claims Made for Atlantis in the Caribbean

Another controversial report for the finding of Atlantis has made the news; though, in fairness, it should be pointed out that no Atlantis claim was made by the new discoverers. The story which first appeared the *Herald of Paris* in December reported that anonymous researchers had found, in the Caribbean, the underwater ruins of a city. Accompanying the statement were several grainy satellite photos which appeared to show a vast grid structure complete with a pyramid and other large structures beneath the water. The actual location was kept secret. Other media, including *MSNBC*, the *Huffington Post*, and Britain's *Daily Telegraph* quickly jumped to the Atlantis conclusion. And though the *Herald* protested, the A-word remains linked to the report.

At this point it is difficult to either confirm or reject the validity of the claim. Other researchers who have pursued the possibility of lost antediluvian civilization in the region, when contacted by *Atlantis Rising*, expressed skepticism over the reality behind the latest report.

According to the *Herald of Paris*, the discoverers are trying to raise money to finance further explorations, which they say is not connected with the find reported a few years ago off the northwest coast of Cuba. That site, still not fully investigated, was said to be at a depth of over 2200 feet. This one appears to be in much shallower water.

Although some distance from the Bahamas, where recent discoveries by Drs. Greg



and Laura Little and their associates have pinpointed ruins in locations which have been underwater since 10,000 B.C., the new site, said to be older than the pyramids, also seems to fall into a persistent pattern of claims for lost ancient civilization in the waters in the vicinity of the so-called Bermuda Triangle. Edgar Cayce, Virginia Beach's famed sleeping prophet, famously said the ruins of Atlantis were located in the area and predicted they would soon come to light. ■



## Human Origins Pushed Back Again

Headlines concerning discoveries in ancient human development very often seem to include the phrase "much earlier than we thought." Whether the discussion is about the last 20,000 years or the last couple million, new research pushes back the frontiers of theoretical ancient timelines. The latest examples come from the Middle East as well as Europe and Tibet.

Evidence of sophisticated, human behavior as early as 750,000 years ago—some half a million years earlier than has previously been estimated by archaeologists has been discovered by Hebrew University of Jerusalem researchers. The discovery was made in excavations at the prehistoric Geshar Benot Ya'akov site, located along the Dead Sea rift in northern Israel. Analysis of the spatial distribution of the findings there reveals a pattern of specific areas in which various activities were carried out. Such skills are thought to be unique to modern humans.

Researchers in the Languedoc region of France, after investigating a recently discovered cache of bones and tools, are now declaring that human ancestors were in Europe over one and half million years ago, 200,000



years earlier than previously thought. Meanwhile, recent genetic studies in China show that the ancestors of today's Tibetans had settled the Tibetan plateau as much as 21,000 years ago—once believed to be about 10,000 years ago.

Similar findings are pushing back the frontier of human habitation in America many thousands of years beyond the so-called Clovis horizon of 12,000 years. In the Middle East, advanced human activity has been clearly documented at Göbekli Tepe in Turkey to 10,000 years B.C., thousands of years before we are told we had graduated from the hunter-gatherer stage. There are many other examples.

All of this serves to widen the already immense time window of possibilities which would seem essential for the rise and fall of ancient civilizations, advanced and otherwise. While, at this stage, the ruins of such developments may remain undiscovered, the fact is that the main area where such remains might be found—beneath the sea—is still 97% unexplored. ■

## Ancient Amazon Civilization Found

Despite long-standing rumors of ancient civilization in the Amazon basin, mainstream science has long insisted that there were no complex societies there before the arrival of Portuguese and Spanish explorers in the fifteenth century. Now, however, as large areas of the region are being deforested, signs of a vast ancient civilization are coming to light.

According to *New Scientist.com* some 260 giant avenues, ditches, and enclosures have been spotted from air in the border region between Bolivia and Brazil. Such discoveries have become commonplace as development rapidly expands.

The legendary British archaeologist and explorer Colonel Percy Fawcett disappeared, along with his son, under mysterious circumstances in 1925 during an expedition to find what he believed to be an ancient lost city in the uncharted jungles of Brazil. Mainstream archaeology considered Fawcett a fool, but wherever he is now, he may be having a chuckle. ■



• BY ROBERT M. SCHOCH, Ph.D.

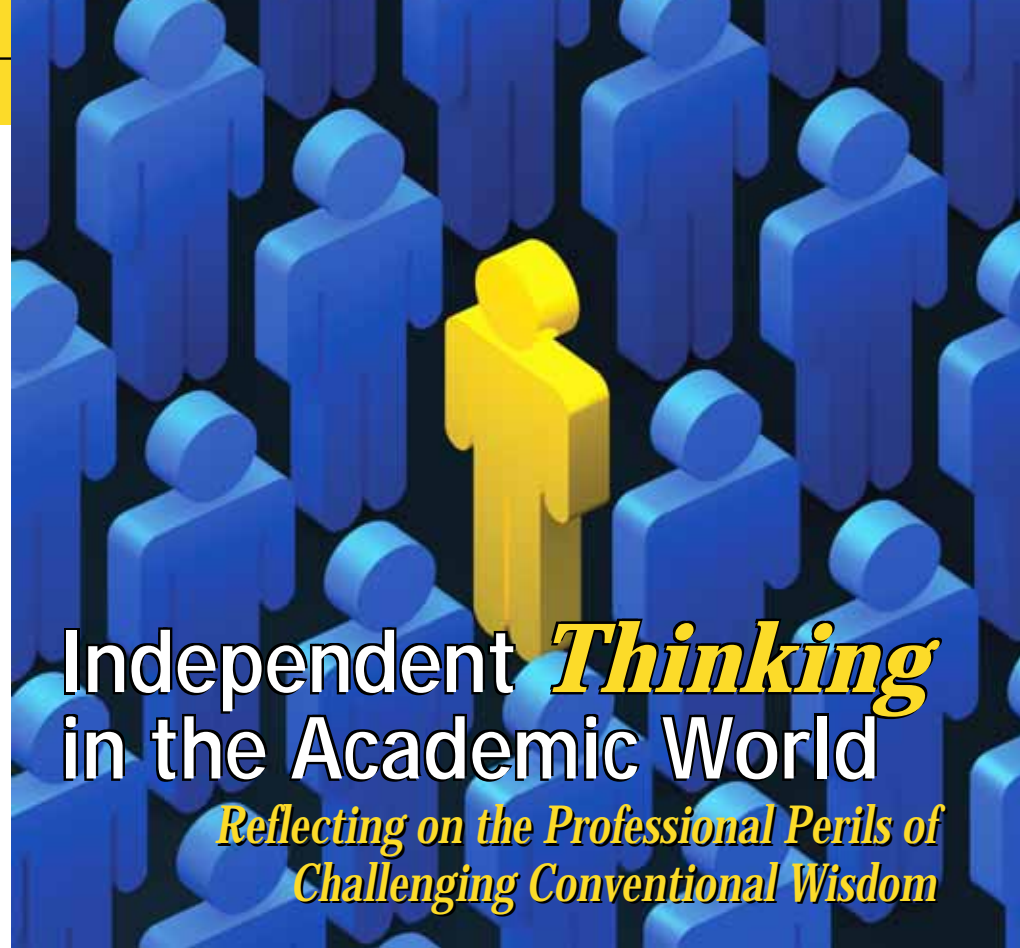
**A**s regular readers of *Atlantis Rising* know, I have found myself butting heads with mainstream academics more than once. Perhaps most famously, or infamously, for two decades I have advocated the position that the Great Sphinx of Egypt traces its origins back thousands of years earlier than the standard Egyptological date of circa 2500 BC (as recounted in various issues of *Atlantis Rising*, including most recently *AR* #s 76 and 78). An older Sphinx overturns the classical view of when and where civilization and high culture arose. Not only is the Great Sphinx older than conventional wisdoms holds, but so too is the oldest portion of the Great Pyramid (see my 2005 book *Pyramid Quest*).

Further enraging my traditional colleagues, I contend that climatic changes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and bombardments by comets may have destroyed some ancient civilizations catastrophically (*Voices of the Rocks*, 1999). Still further countering establishment views, I believe ancient peoples were not totally isolated from one another but were in contact across the continents and across the oceans, with the concomitant exchange of ideas and even material goods, thousands of years before Columbus (*Voyages of the Pyramid Builders*, 2003). In my opinion, the evidence points to a primordial civilization, which arose toward the end of the last ice age (with earlier precursors) and subsequently spread around the globe.

My unconventional thinking on ancient history is bad enough, but much to the chagrin of some of my academic colleagues, I have delved into various “esoteric” and “occult” studies, seriously researching such taboo subjects as parapsychology and psychical research (*The Parapsychology Revolution*, 2008, as well as my articles in *AR* #s 66, 67, 68, 71, 73).

Schooled to be a mainstream academic scientist (Ph.D. in geology and geophysics, 1983), I am now a full-time tenured faculty member at Boston University. I started out with a conventional career, studying fossils and rocks from the period of about 65 to 40 million years ago, so how did I become sidetracked? Where did I “go wrong”? Why challenge orthodoxy? Why make life difficult for myself?

I never set out to question traditional notions. Trained as a natural historian, my desire is to make sense of the world as a whole. I am not satisfied with simply understanding a little piece in detail (many scientists are extreme specialists, and even I have my specialties). Between my theosophist grandmother (she taught me to question everything, including the things she taught me) and a graduate education that encouraged true inquiry, open-minded consideration of the unconventional comes naturally to me. I re-



member well the private advice I was given by a senior Yale professor while still a fledgling graduate student: If you want a satisfying intellectual career with the potential to discover something significant, then study important, cutting-edge, possibly unconventional, subjects, even if such a path is difficult and controversial. Of course, he warned, such a strategy is a genuine gamble, potentially risking one’s career and with it one’s mental, emotional, and physical health and well-being!

As science historians Juan Miguel Campanario and Brian Martin (in the 2008 book edited by M. L. Corredoira and C. C. Perelman, *Against the Tide*) have pointed out, there are different strategies one can pursue as a scientist (or academic scholar more generally). Most scientists build their career by accepting, and working within, the existing paradigm of the time, adding to the overall picture with carefully sifted bits of data and perhaps elaborating and tweaking slightly existing theories. The work they do is neither highly original nor spectacular, but in terms of peer acceptance and likelihood of success (whether measured in terms of contributions to the paradigm, or more honestly, promotion and upward mobility in terms of jobs and salaries), it is a good, conservative, approach. Such a path, herding with the scientific pack, generally results in a stable career, moderate prestige, and the material benefits that go with being a well-paid industrial or academic scientist.

On the other hand, we can consider the “scientific risk-takers,” those who pursue

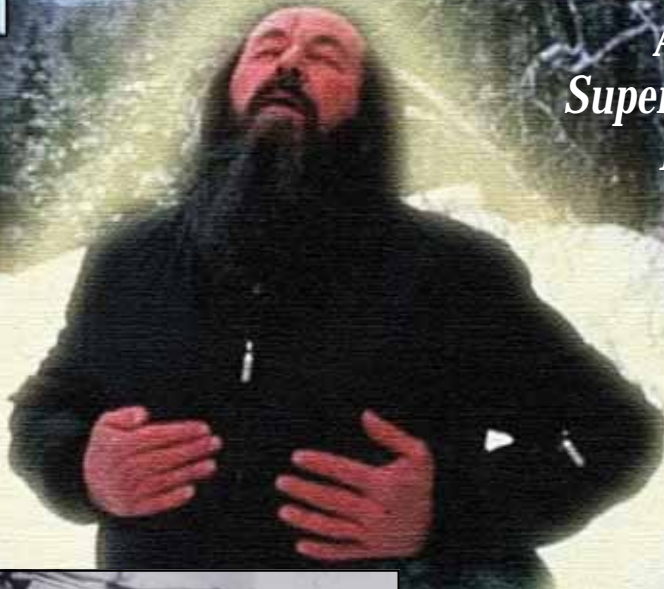
speculative or unusual ideas, do not dismiss anomalous data, and end up questioning the reigning paradigm. The stakes are high. If the dissident succeeds in having a new idea or theory accepted by the mainstream, the rewards in terms of prestige (which may result in funding, jobs, or other material benefits) can be enormous. However, the odds are stacked against the true innovator, and such a path is difficult, to say the least. Not only, one can argue, is there a high probability that the theory or ideas espoused by the innovator are false in an absolute sense, but even if there is something to them, there is an incredible prejudice against new ideas among status quo scientists. As the Nobel Prize winning physicist Max Planck (1858-1947), one of the founders of quantum mechanics, famously asserted, “A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.”

Among my academic colleagues, at informal university gatherings for instance, I often find that I must be extremely careful as to how much I reveal concerning my interest in either paranormal phenomena or anomalies of ancient history. A scientist or scholar who seriously studies the idea of a primordial civilization in the deep recesses of the past (before civilization is supposed to have originated) or researches paranormal phenomena like telepathy may be branded as a crank,

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# ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN and the FORGOTTEN SENSES

*Was the Great Russian Writer Aided by Supernatural Powers?*



Solzhenitsyn in Vermont

• BY JOHN CHAMBERS

**O**n his first night at Lubyanka Prison in Moscow, the lean, frightened army captain was subjected to subtle cruelties he never knew existed. And this despite the fact that he had been battling the Nazi invaders across the steppes of Russia for four years, first as a soldier, then as an officer, in the Soviet Union's Red Army.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, 26, had been arrested at the battlefield on February 9, 1945, for making derogatory remarks about Soviet leader Joseph Stalin in letters to a friend. He had been stripped of his rank and quickly transported from East Prussia to the Russian capital by train.

On that first, sleepless, night in prison, he was taken to one cell after another and made to strip three times. The first time was to search his body cavities and rip his shoes and clothes apart to see if he was hiding a weapon. The second time was to make him shower, then clip off all his body hair. The third time was to subject him to a rigorous medical examination. He was forced to give his name and birthplace over and over again. Solzhenitsyn ended up in a cell without a bed, continuously lit by a 200-watt bulb, so small he could rest on the floor only perpendicularly. He wasn't allowed to sleep.

Then came three days of interrogation. Sometimes he was beaten. He passed this time in solitary confinement.

Late on the fourth night, he was transferred to a cell containing three other pris-



Prisoners brought to Lubyanka prison in 1928

oners. This made him happy. Other human beings were here, in the same predicament as himself, with whom he could talk.

Solzhenitsyn didn't meet these fellow prisoners until everyone woke up the next morning. He liked and trusted two of them. He completely mistrusted the third.

Twenty-nine years later, he wrote in *The Gulag Archipelago (Vol. I)*, "I sensed something alien in this front-line soldier who was my contemporary, and, as far as he was concerned, I clammed up immediately and forever."

"I had not yet even heard the word '*nasedka*'—'stool pigeon'—nor learned that there had to be one such 'stool pigeon' in each cell. And I had not yet had time to think things over and conclude that I did not like this fellow, Georgi Kramarenko. But a spiritual relay, a sensor relay, had clicked inside

me, and it had closed him off from me for good and all. I would not bother to recall this event if it had been the only one of its kind. But soon, with astonishment, and alarm, I became aware of the work of this internal sensor relay as a constant, inborn trait. The years passed and I lay on the same bunks, marched in the same formations, and worked in the same work brigades with hundreds of others. And always that secret sensor relay, for whose creation I deserved not the least bit of credit, worked even before I remembered it was there, worked at the first sight of a human face and eyes, at the first sound of a voice—so that I opened my heart to that person either fully or just the width of a crack, or else shut myself off from him completely. . . . On the other hand, the sensor relay helped me distinguish those to whom I could from the very beginning of our acquaintance completely disclose my most precious depths and secrets—secrets for which heads roll. . . . During all those seventeen years [of imprisonment, exile, and underground authorship] I recklessly revealed myself to dozens of people—and didn't make a misstep even once. (I have never read about this trait anywhere, and I mention it here for those interested in psychology. It seems to me that such spiritual sensors exist in many of us, but because we live in too technological and rational an age, we neglect this miracle and don't allow it to develop.)"

For Solzhenitsyn, who had excelled in



# Entangled Minds

## and the Quantum Factor

### Putting Orthodox Thinking to the Test

• BY PATRICK MARSOLEK

**D**o you believe in psychic phenomena or are you skeptical? Have you had an experience not explainable by materialistic science? If you have and you're curious about your experiences, you may have already delved into the realm of parapsychology. This field of anomalous leftovers is what the early psychologist and philosopher William James called the "unclassified residuum," a field which has been labeled pseudoscience by many mainstream scientists.

If you explore with an open mind, you will find a large amount of scientifically valid research showing that phenomena like telepathy, remote viewing, distant intention, and gut feelings are real. In terms of science, the evidence is important but not sufficient. An explanatory framework is required to account for the data and bridge to our existing scientific understanding of reality.

That's what Dean Radin, the author of the book, *Entangled Minds* has attempted to provide. He has demonstrated how the concept of quantum-entangled minds can be compatible with the concept of quantum-entangled particles, an already established scientific fact. His theory suggests that your mind may be linked with other minds and perhaps other things as well. Information from that connection comes into your conscious awareness through intuitions, gut feelings, or other subtle perceptions. This information is not transmitted by normal

means. You are interconnected at a place where consciousness and matter interact.

Physicist Erwin Schrödinger first coined the term *Verschrankung* in German. *Verschrankung* is translated into English as entanglement. Some argue that this translation is misleading. It might be better to talk about this concept as a "folding of arms" or an "orderly folding." Entanglement refers to how pairs of subatomic particles behave as if they are connected even when separated by a large physical distance. A change in one particle is instantaneously reflected in the other. The change is too fast to be caused by any kind of cause-and-effect connection that we know.

Entanglement is one phenomena from the realm of quantum physics that New Age thinkers take as confirmation that there is a spiritual or energetic connection between everything. If subatomic particles can become entangled, why not larger bits of matter? Why not people? Maybe entanglement is what causes a person to feel anxiety in his gut and to think of his brother at the exact moment that his brother has an automobile accident.

Let's take a brief look at some of the trends in quantum physics and parapsychological research and see how these two fields may be pointing towards a partnership and a new theory of reality. Physics has come a long way since Max Planck dubbed packets of light 'quanta' around the turn of the last century. Since its inception, quantum physics has moved further out from main-

stream science into the realm of extraordinary possibilities, consciousness, and belief. There are now scientific conferences which combine quantum mechanics, consciousness, and quantum computing.

Yet skeptics and many scientists argue that quantum entanglement can't be an explanation for things like intuition and telepathy because these quantum events only occur in simple forms between pairs of subatomic particles in the very small, cold and fast quantum world. They believe there is no evidence of any quantum effect in our every day lives and that there isn't even any proof that there is a psychic connection between people.

With the push to develop quantum computing, current research is revealing how there might be much more quantum phenomena in our daily world. It seems that almost every week there is a new study, showing that quantum effects have been observed in much more "sexy" environments that are hot, wet, lasting, and much larger. In a 2004 article in *New Scientist*, Michael Brooks says: "Physicists now believe that entanglement between particles exists everywhere, all the time, and have recently found shocking evidence that it affects the wider, 'macroscopic' world that we inhabit." Quantum entanglement has been shown in paired neurons, in physical particles that are large—the current record is now up to 108 atoms—and even in super conducting chips.

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Traditional Micmac Wigwam. Non traditional garb.. (1873)

# The DISCOVERY of the OLD WORLD by NATIVE AMERICANS

*Before the White Man Came West, Did the Red Man Go East?*

• BY STEVEN SORA

**T**he winter of 1534 was particularly cruel to the first French adventurers in the New World led by Jacques Cartier. In their camp on the coast of the St. Lawrence River, near what would become Montreal, scurvy broke out.

The hideous disease had taken the lives of twenty-five men whose bodies were piled under snowdrifts. The ground was too frozen to properly bury the dead. Among the remaining one hundred and twenty-five, only ten men were healthy. Those ten attempted to make enough noise to prevent the nearby Algonquin tribe from finding out just how weak they were.

When their neighbors did find out, it was just in time to save their lives. The medicine man boiled the bark of a certain tree to make a brew they called "annedda," and had the men drink this strange brew. To a man, all were saved, their scurvy cured by the concoction.

The British navy would not "discover" the cure for scurvy until 1795, which was based on



Jacques Cartier

the same foundation the native seagoing peoples of Canada had understood from centuries before.

The discussion of the ability of pre-Columbian North American peoples has never amounted to anything more than isolated accidents, in part because of the need to paint a picture of American peoples as savages. With ships as large or greater than that of Columbus, cities certainly greater than those of Europe, and more exacting science of mathematics and timekeeping, the Americas clearly transcended our own previous understanding.

That the Native Americans had a cure for the greatest plight of long distance sailors was not the last surprise for the French. What would grow to become Montreal was Hochlaga, a planned village with streets emanating from a central square. They were simply not the savages that they would become in the histories of the New World. Just as the Spanish would find the Aztec City of Tenochtitlan to be greater than their own great city of Seville, the Europeans would also encounter

many surprises from the native Americans of the North.

One of the greatest surprises was from a branch of Algonquin language tribes called the Micmac. Upon entering the mouth of the St. Lawrence, the French met this tribe who surrounded their own ship with two separate fleets of fifty canoes each. The ability of the native population to mass a large number of people on the river was surprise enough, and the French were soon to discover they could navigate great distances as well, possibly making numerous voyages to Scotland and the northern isles.

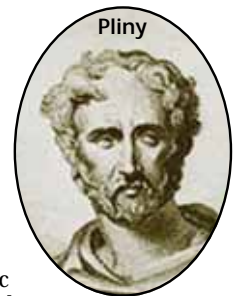
Europeans would find that the native populations of the northeast actually did engage in a vast trade that brought both goods and knowledge from far flung corners of the continent. From Mexico came the ability to farm beans and corn. From the southeast came conch shells, from the northeast came obsidian, and from the Great Lakes came copper. Much of the trade was conducted by water routes.

The ability to sail great distances by sea was made known to Columbus as well. We know that the Carib people who Columbus encountered had canoes, complete with masts, that held twenty-five to seventy people. Columbus seized a ship of the Putun Mayans larger than his own. It could hold as many or more sailors than his own ships held. The Mayans had fleets of a hundred ships and more and built wharves in Tulum and on the island of Cozumel for trade. On the other side of the continent, the Kwakiutl in the Northwest would have had ocean-going "canoes" that held 70-100 individuals. Clearly trade was well established in the Americas before the Europeans arrived.

## Could American Indians have crossed the Atlantic?

Actually, we know that they did cross the ocean, and long before Columbus. After Caesar had conquered Gaul, a canoe with three survivors landed in Germany. A chieftain of a Germanic frontier tribe handed the men over to the governor Quintus Meltellus, who recognized that they were not Europeans. The incident was recorded by the Roman historian Pliny. Other instances were mentioned in other works of the same period. Inuit people had been known to cross the icy North Atlantic in kayaks and one such kayak decorated the cathedral at Nidaros in Norway.

When Columbus was still a mapmaker he sailed to Galway in Ireland. Here a powerful current reaches the British Isles all the way from the Gulf of Mexico. When Columbus was there it washed ashore with two brown



Pliny

Continued on Page 67

• BY PHILIP COPPENS

In recent months, rumors and evidence of excavations and underground passages on and under the Giza Plateau have surfaced. But why are the local authorities mocking and downplaying these?

The Giza Plateau hosts the only surviving wonder of the ancient world: the Great Pyramid. The site as a whole continues to intrigue many, and at one time every archaeological discovery there received massive publicity. But in recent years, the excavations and discoveries at Giza are receiving almost no media attention. Why?

The central figure in all the goings-on on the Plateau since the early 1990s is Zahi Hawass, the controversial poster boy of Egyptology. In June 2009, in front of hundreds of cameras, he welcomed American president Barack Obama to the Giza Plateau. He seemed far less pleased, though, with the visit in November of American pop star Beyonce, whom he labeled a “stupid person.” The comment made international headlines, as does most of what Hawass says. He is, in short, able to generate massive exposure for anything Egyptological, whether it is an archaeological discovery or a campaign to return artifacts from the Louvre or other European museums.

One might therefore think that Egypt is pleased with its son. But the Egyptian news-

papers are not. In reporting on the Beyonce incident, they highlighted that this was typically Hawass, a man known for his outbursts, adding that he often uses Arabic to insult guests at dinner events and gatherings, believing that they will not understand his Arabic. The Bikya Masr newspaper even reported that “The incident has left archaeologists angered. They say it is time to show the world the real Hawass. ‘He insults and is so controlling that it has become extremely difficult to work in this country,’ one archaeologist [who requested anonymity] said.” So, who is the real Hawass?

As reports have it, Egypt would like to get

rid of Hawass, but can't. Indeed, Hawass, apparently, has more lives than a cat. Set for mandatory retirement in May 2010, in October 2009, the President of Egypt signed a decree naming Hawass Vice Minister of Culture for life. It is a remarkable move, inasmuch as Hawass' career has always been surrounded by scandal.

Just a year before, on October 8, 2008, the former Head of Restoration in Islamic Cairo and two other Egyptian Culture Ministry officials were jailed for ten years for receiving bribes from contractors. The Cairo court ordered Ayman Abdel Monem, Hussein Ahmed Hussein and Abdel Hamid Qutb to

# The Unknown Catacombs of Giza

*Is There a Secret Seige Beneath the Pyramids?*



Underground workers in the Giza environs



A Cairo newspaper describes recent Giza excavations

pay fines of between LE 200,000 and LE 550,000. Abdel Hamid Qutb was actually the head of the technical department at the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and reported to Hawass. The contracts under suspicion were worth millions of dollars and involved the restoration of some of Egypt's most famous monuments.

At the time of his arrest in September 2007, Hawass was quick to defend Qutb, claiming that the accused was not in a position to give out contracts. Hawass told the BBC's Arabic Service that contracts are only handed out after a "rigorous procedure," and Qutb had no decision-making power. The court obviously ruled differently. Hawass, it seemed, never commented...

Despite personally loving the limelight, most of the excavations at Giza in recent months seem intended to shun the daylight. There are even allegations that Hawass is exploring the Giza underworld in almost total secrecy, with some Egyptian newspapers going as far as to use the word "illegal."

When Hawass does announce his endeavors, he seems to distort the truth. In April 2009, Hawass reported: "Under my direction, the Supreme Council of Antiquities is working to reduce the groundwater level around antiquities sites throughout Egypt. We have completed a USAID-funded effort to de-water Karnak and Luxor temples, and work is underway in many other places. One of our greatest recent successes has been the development of a system to prevent the Great

Sphinx at Giza from getting its paws wet!"

It reads like the most mundane of research, but it is anything but. When one looks at Hawass's reports rather than at his statements to the press, an interesting picture emerges. We learn that in early 2008, the Supreme Council of Antiquities co-operated with Cairo University's Engineering Center for Archaeology and Environment to drill four boreholes, each four inches in diameter and about twenty meters deep, into the bedrock at the base of the Sphinx. A camera was lowered into each borehole to allow examination of the plateau's geology. A separate scientific update states that 260 cubic meters of water are being pumped out every hour through these drainage tubes. That's 6,240 cubic meters or 6,240,000 liters of water per day. An Olympic swimming pool has 2,500,000 liters. In short, water of a quantity equal to almost three Olympic swimming pools is pumped away on a daily basis from underneath the Sphinx. Indeed, the Sphinx itself could roughly fit inside an Olympic swimming pool. The report continues that, as such, the water in front of the Sphinx has been reduced to 70 per cent of its original volume. But wait: no fewer than 33 monitoring points were established to inspect the movement of the body of the Sphinx and the surrounding bedrock, this over a period of a month, and this monitoring proved that they were steady.

Now, unless I am seriously mistaken, for such significant amounts of water to be moved hourly there would need to be at least

one cavity, roughly the size of a small swimming pool, which could fill up continuously with water—in short, an underground lake. Which brings us to the next question: Why are they emptying an underground lake? For stability, or for something else? One might argue that removing the water will reduce the stability of the Sphinx, which was an obvious concern since this is why the stability of the Sphinx area was being monitored. But apparently, based on a month-long observation, emptying this underground cavity does not endanger the stability of the surface structures. But why empty it in the first place? To keep the Sphinx's paws dry?

One source, when confronted with Hawass's reports and my observation, has gone so far as to argue that Hawass—accompanied by Egyptologist Mark Lehner—had actually found this lake several years ago. The lake is under the entire plateau, the area contained within the concrete wall (construction of which began in 2002). He added that, in his opinion, these projects were preparation for an exploration of the Giza underworld.



Andrew Collins Explores Giza's "Catacombs"

In August 2009, British author Andrew Collins and Nigel Skinner-Simpson announced they had made a fortuitous discovery on the Giza Plateau: a cave system explored by Henry Salt and Giovanni Caviglia in 1817, but whose existence was subsequently forgotten.

As far back as 2003, Nigel Skinner-Simpson had realized that Henry Salt, the British consul general to Egypt, working alongside the Italian explorer and sea captain Giovanni Caviglia, had entered unknown "catacombs" at Giza, somewhere west of the pyramid field. When Salt's memoirs were published, the two men learned that they contained a better account of the exploration of the catacombs. The explorers had apparently penetrated "several hundred yards" into

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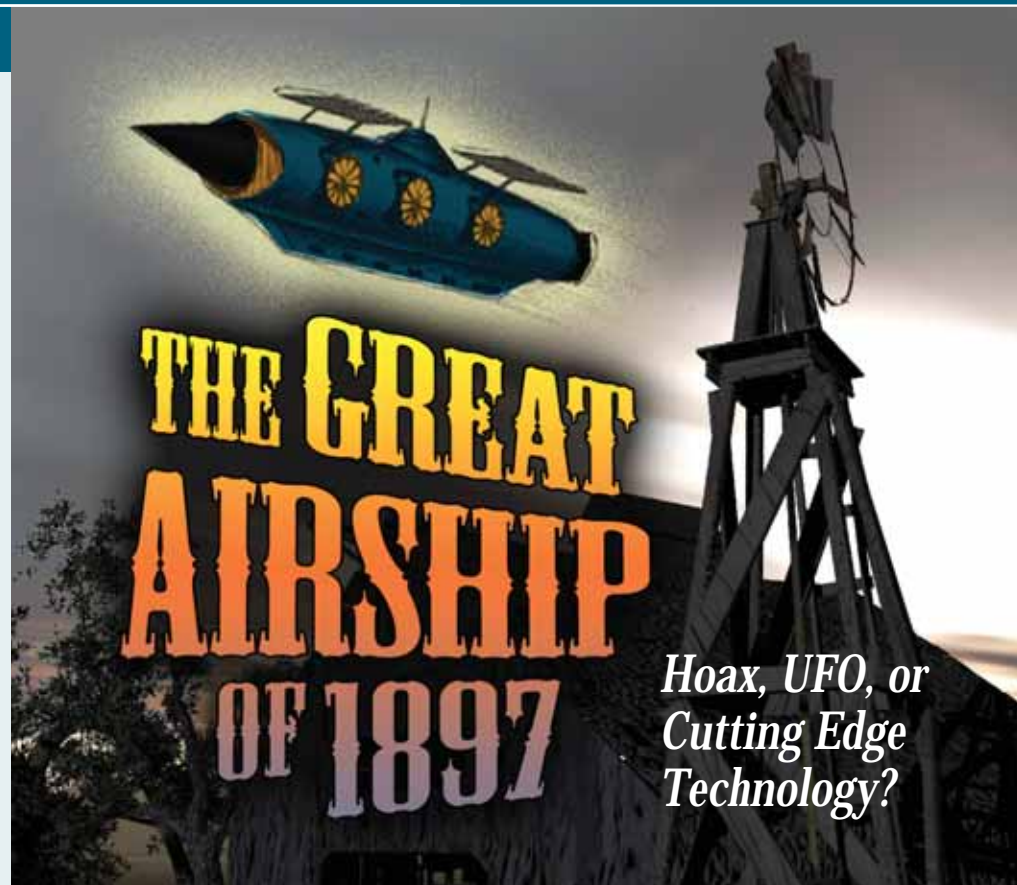
• BY J. ALLAN DANELEK

**W**e normally assume that the modern era of ufology began with Kenneth Arnold's sighting of mysterious objects—later dubbed “flying saucers” by the press—over Mount Rainier, Washington, in 1947. Many, though, are surprised to learn that it actually began much earlier—during the time of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells to be exact—with the “great airship flap” of 1896-97, an event which remains as great a mystery today as it was over a century ago.

For those unfamiliar with this event, it all started on the evening of November 17, 1896, when a bright light suddenly appeared over Sacramento, California, silently making its way over the city (and against the wind) before disappearing into the dark rain clouds as suddenly as it had first appeared. It was seen by literally hundreds of witnesses; and though most described it as simply a bright, slow moving light, some maintained that the light was suspended beneath a massive, “cigar shaped” vessel of considerable size. A few even claimed to spot what appeared to be oversized propellers and rudders on its undercarriage, with one man describing it as having wheels on its side like those on “Fulton's old steam boat.”

After several repeat appearances over both Sacramento and San Francisco (once showing over both cities on the same evening), after a few weeks the reports abruptly ceased, suggesting that the mysterious visitor had departed as mysteriously as it had first arrived. Its absence was to prove short-lived, however. In early February the same mysterious light/craft was sighted across the prairie states of the Midwest, apparently making its way eastward at a slow but steady pace. Reports of the craft continued with some regularity throughout the spring of 1897 before once again abruptly vanishing—this time apparently for good.

What was the strange light seen over California that autumn and over much of the Midwest the next spring? No one knows. Debunkers, of course, maintain that the whole incident was nothing more than a hoax—a product of the “yellow journalism” of the era designed to boost newspaper sales—mixed with naiveté and a type of mass hysteria in which people imagined any light in the sky to be the rogue “airship.” Indeed, some speculation had it that the object was an especially bright appearance of the planet Venus. Such a premise, though, seems highly presumptuous. First, there is no evidence that those living a century ago were any more likely to mistake the planet Venus for an airship than we are today; in fact, it could even be maintained that those living in final years of the nineteenth century saw a considerably darker night sky, often superior to that of the casual star gazer of today. Second, it fails to explain why reports have the ship tending to



*Hoax, UFO, or  
Cutting Edge  
Technology?*

move from west to east or why they would begin and cease so abruptly. Even if we assume the majority of reports were spurious or mistaken, it is curious how “mass hysteria” is capable of effecting only people living along a particular path. Further, it is uncertain how many midwesterners would have been aware of the earlier California sightings and thus be inclined to imagine the mysterious “airship” was headed their way; newspapers rarely picked up general interest stories from other parts of the country, preferring instead to stick with national headlines and stories of local interest. In this case, however, media coverage of the sightings tended to *follow* the appearances, not *precede* them as would be the expected norm if the media was simply priming the country for more stories. And, finally, would some of the largest and most influential papers of the day be so willing to compromise their journalistic integrity—and with it, their political clout—all in some feeble effort to sell a few more papers? Clearly, the mass hysteria/yellow journalism theory leaves us with as many questions as it answers.

Then there is the extraterrestrial theory so popular in some quarters today. Could the lights have been evidence of alien visitation, as some maintain? Obviously, in the era before manned flight, *any* light traveling through the sky was significant, making the prospect that they were not something from this world plausible. But if we are to take the many eyewitness accounts seriously (or, at least, the most reliable among them), how do we account for the fact that many witnesses described the craft as possessing pro-

pellors, wings, rudders, and undercarriages—all such appendages unlikely, it seems, to be seen on an extraterrestrial vehicle? And why did it move in a slow, ponderous fashion so in contrast to the stunning aerial feats of which modern UFOs seem capable today? The craft sounds a bit too prosaic to be evidence of alien technology, even by nineteenth century standards.

But if we assume the craft to be neither imaginary nor extraterrestrial, what is left? Only one possibility remains, and that is that the vessel seen in the skies over much of the United States in the winter of 1896-97 was a powered balloon or, more accurately, a dirigible, possibly being put through its paces by some intrepid inventor intent on bringing lighter-than-air flight to humanity.

It's an intriguing possibility that is rarely considered by most skeptics today, who tend to dismiss the notion outright, confident in their assumption that such an explanation is inconsistent with the technological capabilities of the time. The world was still in its industrial infancy, they argue, and while many remarkable inventions had been introduced by then, most people still lived much as their forefathers did, using candles and kerosene lamps to light their homes and making their way about via carriages or on horseback. Yes, there were trains transiting the continent and steamships capable of crossing the Atlantic in a week; but in 1896 the Wright brothers were still seven years away from launching their tiny airplane, and practical, reliable travel by air was still decades in the future. Even Von Zeppelin had not yet begun

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