

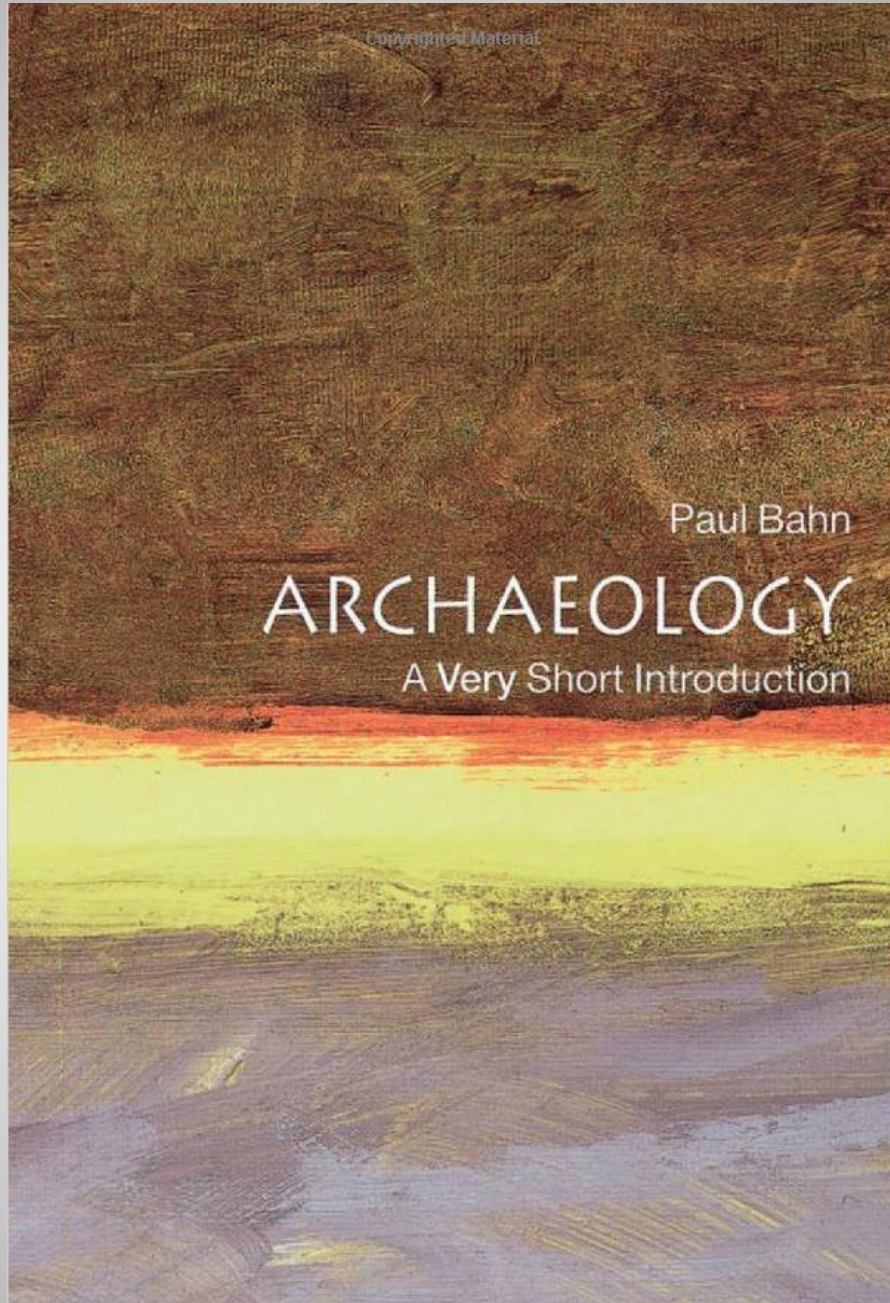
CRACKPOTS AND CRACKED POTS:
Eccentric Theories
in Archaeology

Copyrighted Material

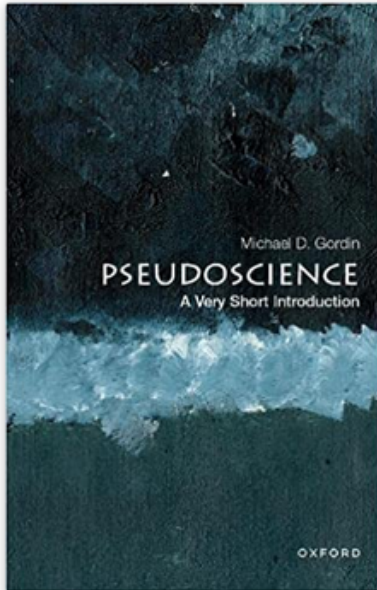
Paul Bahn

ARCHAEOLOGY

A Very Short Introduction



Oxford University Press (April 27, 2023)



[See this image](#)

Follow the Author



Michael D.
Gordin

Follow

Pseudoscience: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



by [Michael D. Gordin](#) (Author)

[See all formats and editions](#)

Paperback
\$11.95

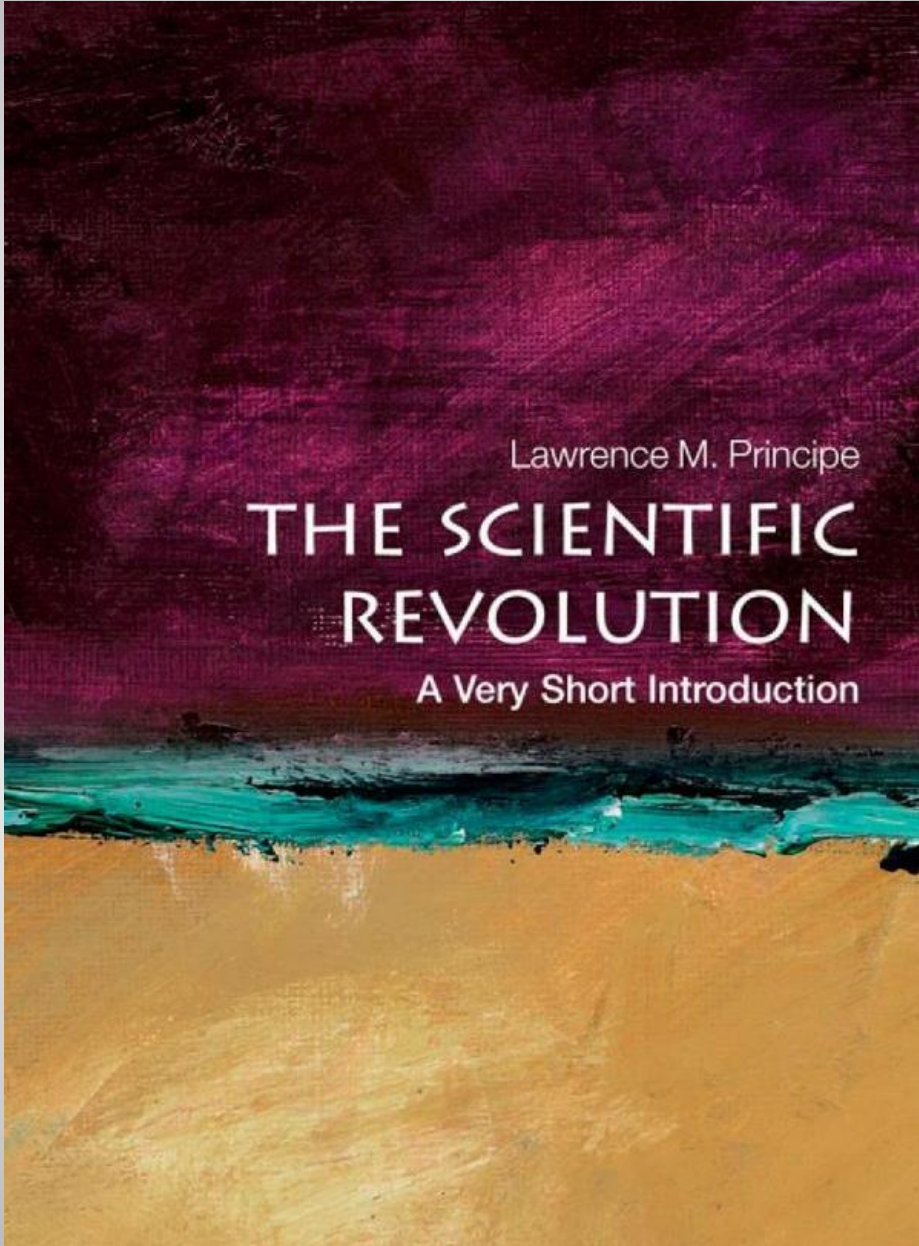
1 New from \$11.95

Pre-order Price Guarantee. [Details](#)

Everyone has heard of the term "pseudoscience," typically used to describe something that looks like science, but is somehow false, misleading, or unproven. Many would be able to agree on a list of things that fall under its umbrella - astrology, phrenology, UFOlogy, creationism, and eugenics might come to mind. But defining what makes these fields "pseudo" is a far more complex issue. It has proved impossible to come up with a simple criterion that enables us to differentiate pseudoscience from genuine science. Given the virulence of contemporary disputes over the denial of climate change and anti-vaccination movements - both of which display allegations of "pseudoscience" on all sides - there is a clear need to better understand issues of scientific demarcation.

Pseudoscience: A Very Short Introduction explores the philosophical and historical attempts to address this problem of demarcation. This book argues that by understanding doctrines that are often seen as antithetical to science, we can learn a great deal about how science operated in the past and does today. This exploration raises several questions: How does a doctrine become demonized as pseudoscientific? Who has the authority to make these pronouncements? How is the status of science shaped by political or cultural contexts? How does pseudoscience differ from scientific fraud?

Michael D. Gordin both answers these questions and guides readers along a bewildering array of marginalized doctrines, looking at parapsychology (ESP), Lysenkoism, scientific racism, and alchemy, among others, to better understand the struggle to define what science is and is not, and how the controversies have shifted over the centuries. *Pseudoscience: A Very Short Introduction* provides a historical tour through many of these fringe fields in order to provide tools to think deeply about scientific controversies both in the past and in our present.



Lawrence M. Principe

THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

A Very Short Introduction

How to Think About
Weird Things

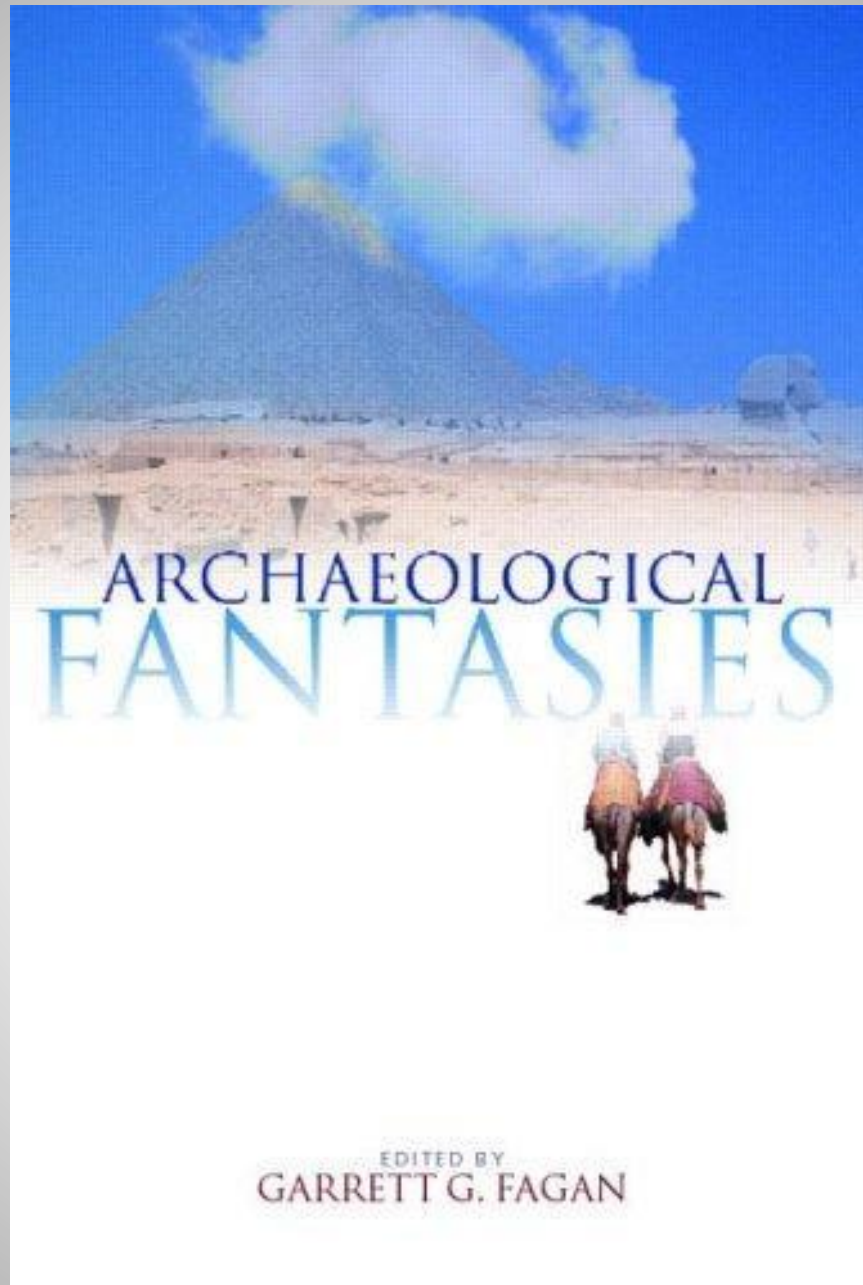
Critical Thinking for a New Age

THIRD EDITION



Theodore Schick, Jr.
Lewis Vaughn

Foreword by Martin Gardner



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FANTASIES

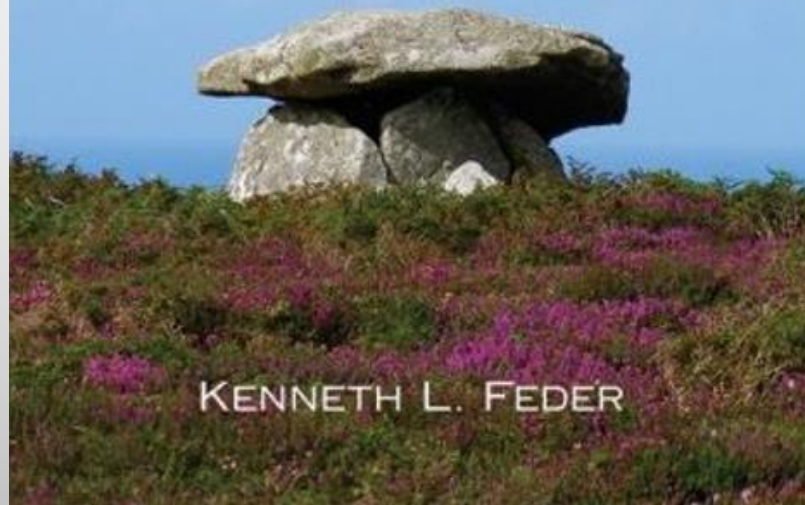


EDITED BY
GARRETT G. FAGAN

seventh edition

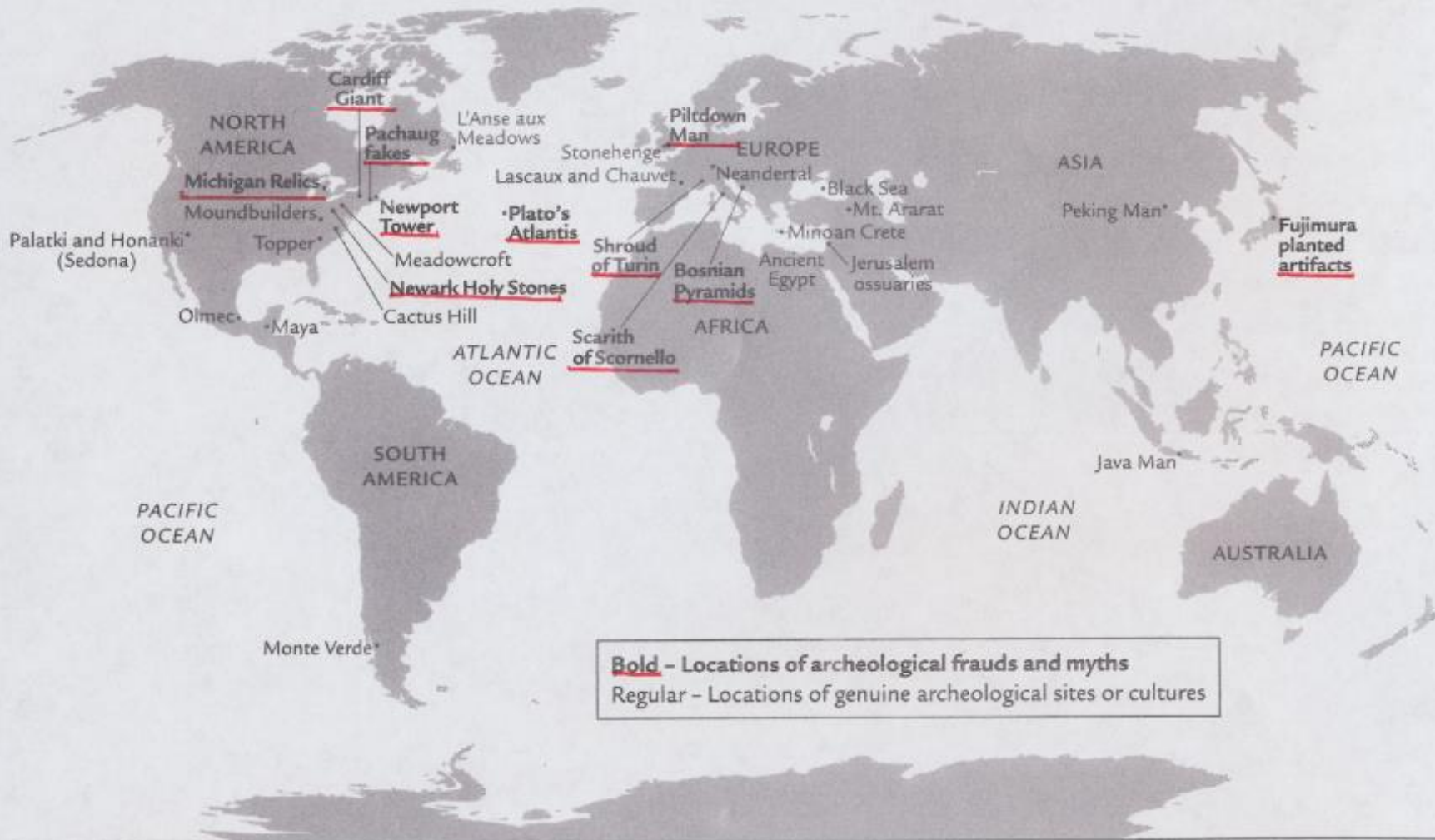
FRAUDS, MYTHS, AND MYSTERIES

Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology



KENNETH L. FEDER

The Geography of Archaeological Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries



Bold - Locations of archeological frauds and myths
Regular - Locations of genuine archeological sites or cultures

SPECTRUM OF VIEWS AND BELIEFS

MAINSTREAM
("ORTHODOX")
SCHOLARSHIP

MINORITY VIEWS OF
SCHOLARS

ECCENTRIC AND
UNSCIENTIFIC
VIEWS

IRRATIONAL OR
NON-RATIONAL
BELIEFS AND VIEWS

MAINSTREAM
("ORTHODOX")
SCHOLARSHIP

MINORITY VIEWS OF
SCHOLARS

Controversies IN ARCHAEOLOGY



ALICE
BECK
KEHOE

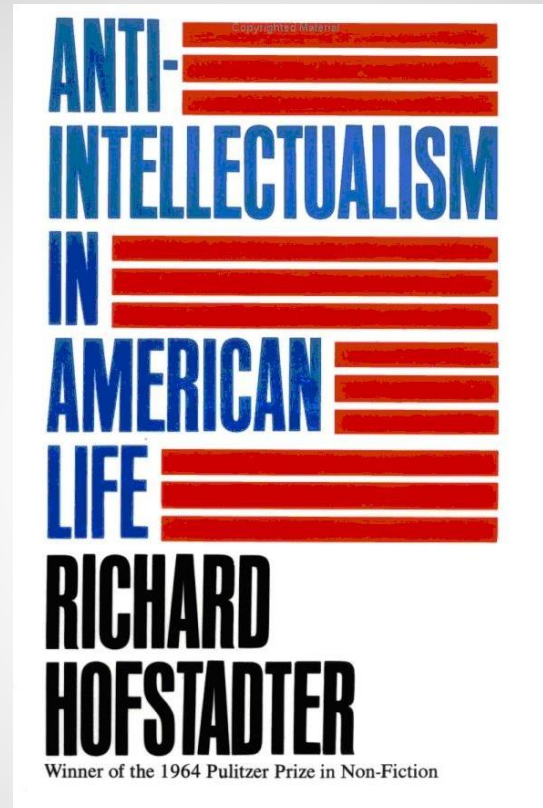


Many authors of “eccentric theories” books (and their readers) sneer at “orthodox” science, whose practitioners don’t give them the respect they think they deserve.



Dr. Phuddy Duddy and his captive audience, a strait-jacketed student. From Harold S. Gladwin's *Men Out of Asia*.

This is a significant theme in American history, and is alive and well today.



In the '60s, George Wallace used to talk about “those pointy-headed professors who can’t even park their bicycles straight!”

EXAMPLES:

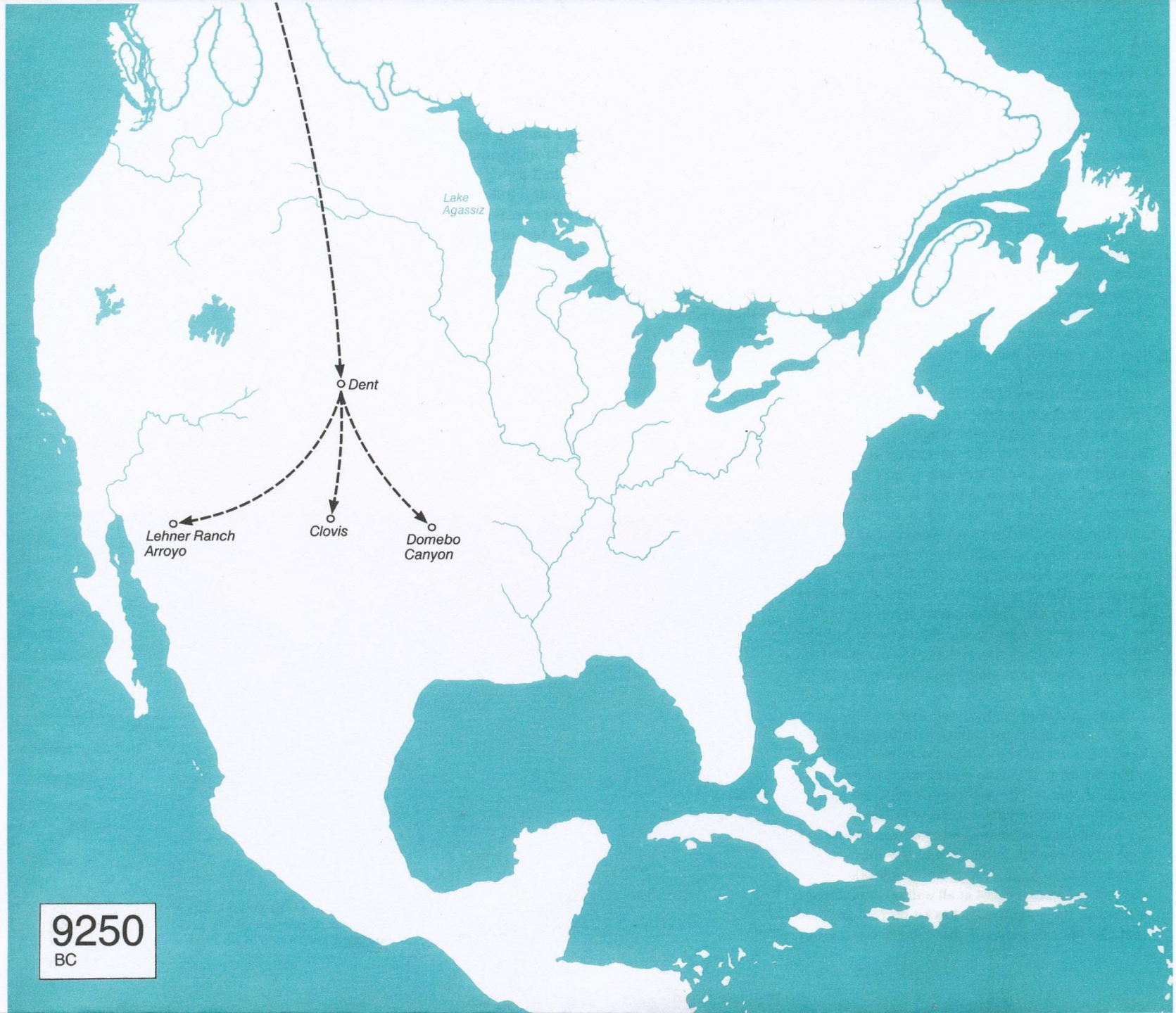
MAINSTREAM
("ORTHODOX")
SCHOLARSHIP

MINORITY VIEWS OF
SCHOLARS

ECENTRIC AND
UNSCIENTIFIC
VIEWS

IRRATIONAL OR
NON-RATIONAL
BELIEFS AND VIEWS





9250
BC



MAJOR PALEOINDIAN SITES IN NORTH AMERICA

The Bluefish Caves and Meadowcroft sites have strong claims for pre-Clovis occupations. Dry Creek has unfuted points about the same age as Clovis. Charlie Cave has yielded a fluted point with a date of 10,500 years ago.



- 1 Bluefish Caves
- 2 Dry Creek
- 3 Charlie Cave
- 4 Richey-Roberts Clovis cache, Washington State
- 5 Simon Clovis cache, Idaho
- 6 Lange-Ferguson, South Dakota
Clovis mammoth kill
- 7 Lehner and Murray Springs, Arizona
Mammoth kill and camp site (respectively)
- 8 Backwater Draw, New Mexico
Clovis mammoth kill and camp site
Folsom kill and camp site
- 9 Donebo, Oklahoma
Mammoth kill
- 10 Kinwick, Missouri
Clovis points and mastodon remains
- 11 Vail, Maine
Camp site with Clovis points
- 12 Debert, Nova Scotia
Camp site with Debert-style points
- 13 Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Pennsylvania (719,000)
- 14 Thunderbird, Virginia
Clovis camp site
- 15 Aucilla River, Florida
Underwater site with Clovis-age ivory artifacts
- 16 Anzick Clovis cache, Montana
- 17 Mill Iron, Montana
Goshen bison kill
- 18 Hanson, Wyoming
Folsom camp site
- 19 Carter/Karr-McGee, Wyoming
Goshen; Folsom bison kill
- 20 Colby, Wyoming
Clovis mammoth kill
- 21 Casper, Wyoming
Hell Gap-age bison kill
- 22 Agate Basin, Wyoming
Folsom bison kill

- 23 Hell Gap, Wyoming
Goshen and Folsom bison kill and camp site
- 24 Lindenmeier, Colorado
Folsom camp site
- 25 Dent, Colorado
Clovis mammoth kill
- 26 Cattle Guard, Colorado
Folsom bison kill and camp site
- 27 Folsom, New Mexico
Folsom bison kill
- 28 Taima-taima (713,000)
- 29 El Inga (9,000)
- 30 Pachamachay (10,500)
- 31 Pikimachay (725,000-715,000)
- 32 Pedra Furada (735,000)
- 33 Tagua-Tagua (11,500)
- 34 Monte Verde (733,000)
- 35 Fell's Cave (11,000)

All dates are years ago.



MAJOR PALEOINDIAN SITES IN SOUTH AMERICA

The Taima-taima, Pedra Furada, and Monte Verde sites have strong claims for pre-Clovis occupations. Some fish-tail-type points, such as those from Fell's Cave, are examples of a true fluting technique.

New Routes From the Old World

The idea that a single migration—from Siberia by way of the Bering land bridge—led to the peopling of two continents is being challenged by a host of alternative “first American” hypotheses. There may not be a simple answer; over tens of thousands of years waves of settlers may have journeyed here from many origins.

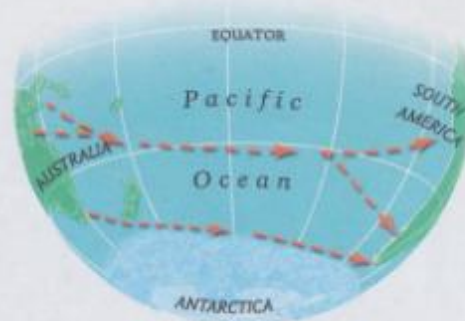
Skirting the Ice From Asia?

By 17,000 years ago melting glaciers had exposed ice-free havens along the North Pacific coast. If the first Americans came out of Asia, either walking from the interior or following the shoreline in boats, such refuges would have offered hospitable territory for those who chose to settle and relatively easy travel for those driven to keep moving.



An Epic Pacific Journey?

Researchers think the first people to settle in Australia crossed 80 miles of open water some 60,000 years ago. Some physical anthropologists and linguists see resemblances among native peoples of Australia, Southeast Asia, and South America. Could the earliest South Americans have traveled across thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean? The challenges seem insurmountable, yet the possibility remains intriguing.



Early European Influences?

Anthropologists Dennis Stanford and Bruce Bradley see similarities between tools from eastern North America and those from a southwestern European culture, the Solutrean, that faded away about 19,000 years ago. Though the two scientists acknowledge that a direct link may never be proved, they believe it's important to explore the hypothesis that Europeans participated in the first settling of the Americas.



New Book: “Across Atlantic Ice : The Origin of America’s Clovis Culture”

Posted on 31 January 2012

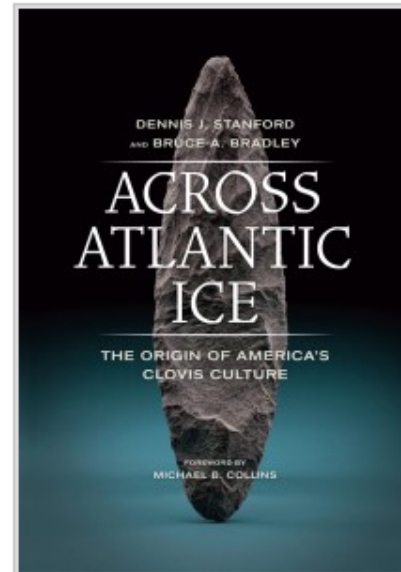
Book Review, anthropology

Who were the first humans to inhabit North America? According to the now familiar story, hunters entered the continent some 12,000 years ago from Siberia crossing a land bridge that spanned the Bering Sea. These early New World people, known as by their distinctive stone tools, came to be known as the Clovis culture.

Across the Atlantic Ice boldly challenges this old narrative and presents overwhelming evidence for a pre-Clovis occupation of the American continents, and finds virtually no direct evidence that the progenitors of Clovis came from Siberia. Evidence put forth in this new book overwhelmingly indicates southwestern Europe, specifically the Ice Age Solutrean Culture of France and Spain, as the source of the people that developed into the Clovis.

Drawing from original archaeological analysis, paleoclimatic research, and genetic studies, noted archaeologists Dennis J. Stanford, of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, and Bruce A. Bradley, associate professor at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, apply rigorous scholarship to a hypothesis that places the technological antecedents of Clovis in Europe. Their research indicates that the first Americans crossed the Atlantic by boat and arrived earlier than previously thought.

Supplying archaeological and oceanographic evidence to support these assertions, the book dismantles the old paradigms while persuasively linking Clovis technology with the culture of the Solutrean people who occupied France and Spain more than 20,000 years ago.



New Book: “Across Atlantic Ice : The Origin of America’s Clovis Culture”

Posted on 31 January 2012

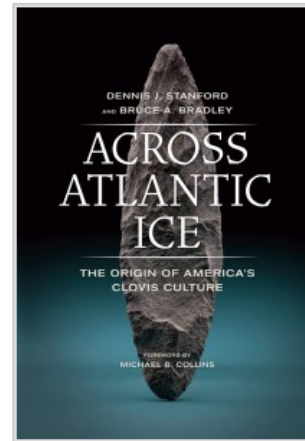
Book Review, anthropology

Who were the first humans to inhabit North America? According to the now familiar story, hunters entered the continent some 12,000 years ago from Siberia crossing a land bridge that spanned the Bering Sea. These early New World people, known as by their distinctive stone tools, came to be known as the Clovis culture.

Across the Atlantic Ice boldly challenges this old narrative and presents overwhelming evidence for a pre-Clovis occupation of the American continents, and finds virtually no direct evidence that the progenitors of Clovis came from Siberia. Evidence put forth in this new book overwhelmingly indicates southwestern Europe, specifically the Ice Age Solutrean Culture of France and Spain, as the source of the people that developed into the Clovis.

Drawing from original archaeological analysis, paleoclimatic research, and genetic studies, noted archaeologists Dennis J. Stanford, of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, and Bruce A. Bradley, associate professor at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, apply rigorous scholarship to a hypothesis that places the technological antecedents of Clovis in Europe. Their research indicates that the first Americans crossed the Atlantic by boat and arrived earlier than previously thought.

Supplying archaeological and oceanographic evidence to support these assertions, the book dismantles the old paradigms while persuasively linking Clovis technology with the culture of the Solutrean people who occupied France and Spain more than 20,000 years ago.

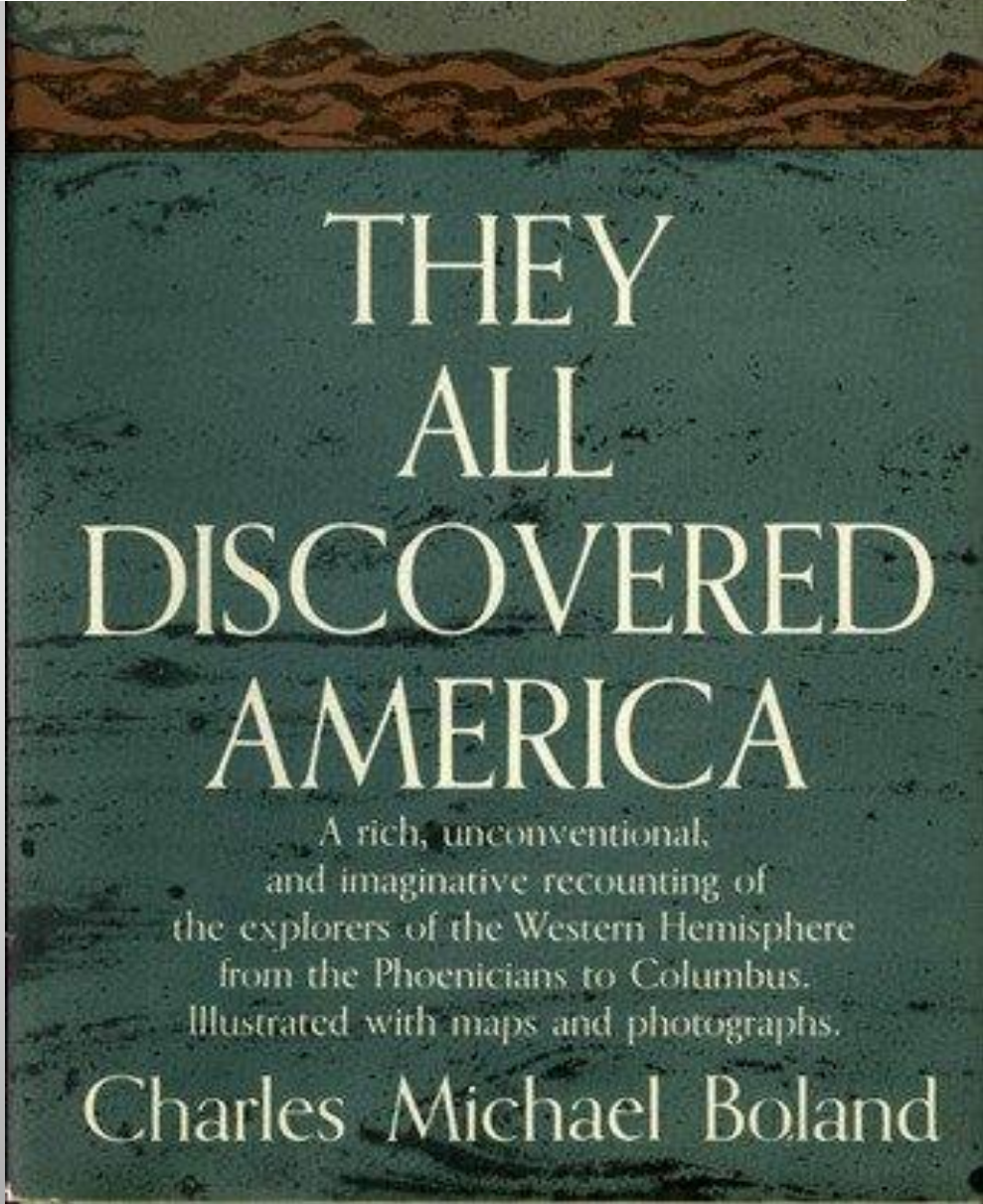


Solutrean culture— c. 20,000 BP



Clovis culture— c. 11,000 BP

One of many works advocating unsound ideas with sloppy thinking....



THEY ALL DISCOVERED AMERICA

A rich, unconventional,
and imaginative recounting of
the explorers of the Western Hemisphere
from the Phoenicians to Columbus.
Illustrated with maps and photographs.

Charles Michael Boland



PLATE 27. The head in this Aztec vase seems remarkably viking-like.



PLATE 28. —and even more so when the proper headdress is added.



PLATE 29. This is what the typical Aztec of the ninth century looked like.



PLATE 30. The head on this Aztec effigy cup is certainly not that of a Middle-American Indian. The weary, bearded face belongs more properly to an eleventh-century Irish monk.

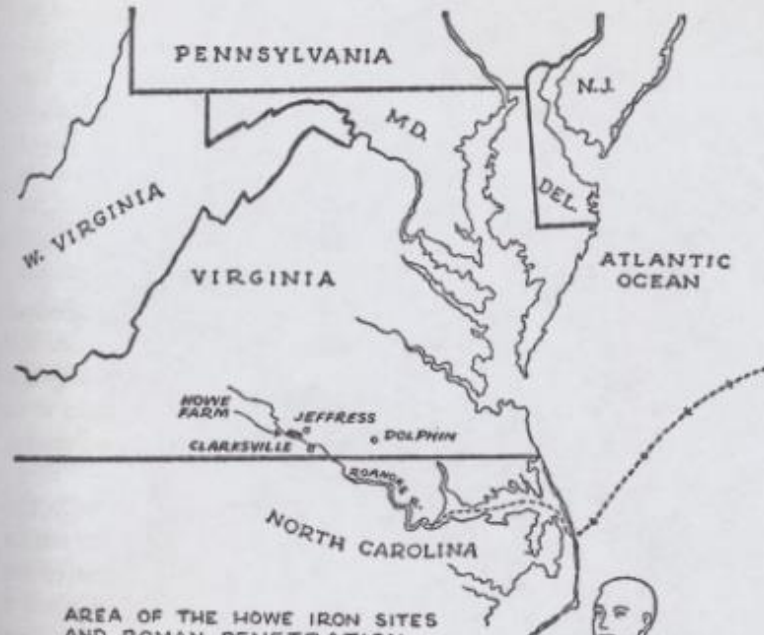
CHAPTER 2



PHOENICIAN ROUTES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA



CHAPTER 3



AREA OF THE HOWE IRON SITES
AND ROMAN PENETRATION...



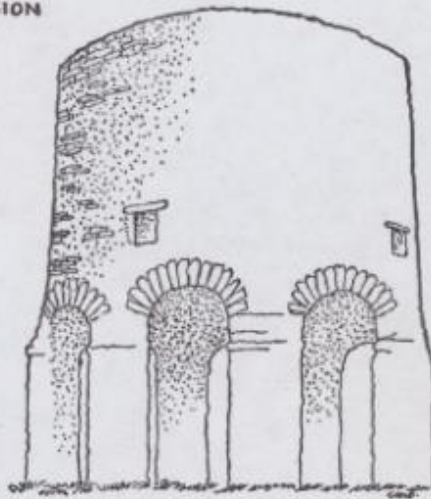
CHAPTER 5



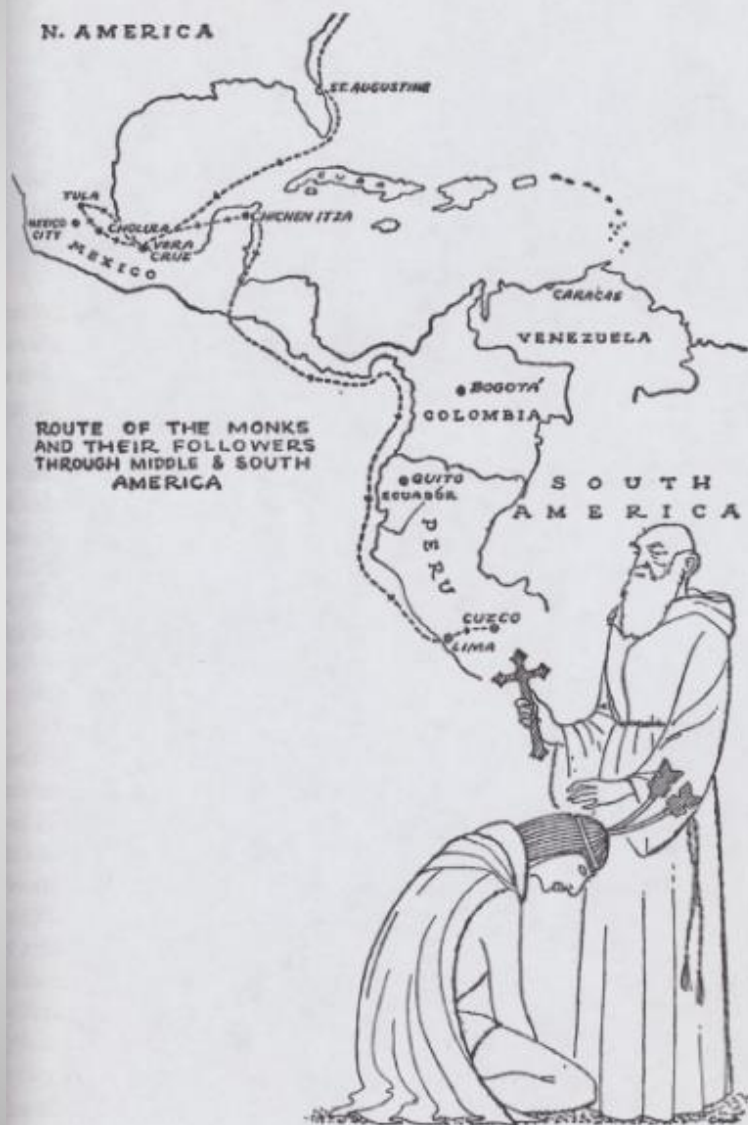
CHAPTER 14



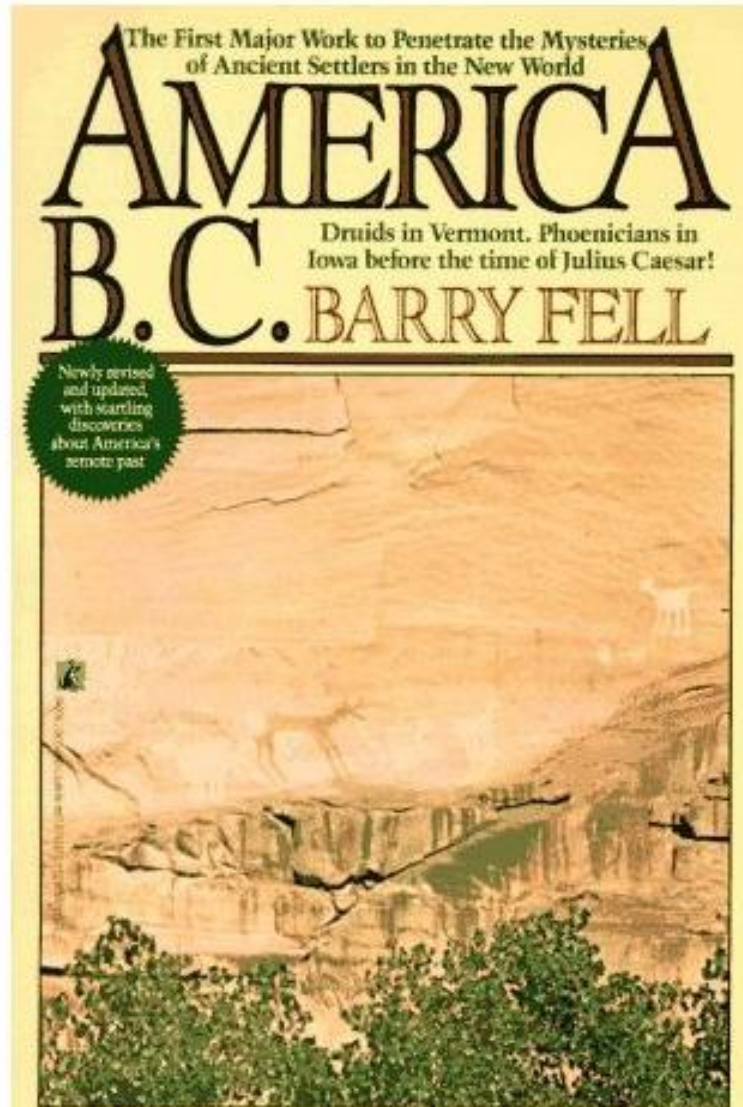
NARRAGANSETT BAY REGION



CHAPTER 15



Fell, a respected academic in marine biology, embraced eccentric theories after retiring....



AMERICA B.C.

It has long been taken for granted that the first European visitors to American shores either sailed with Columbus in 1492, or with Norsemen like Leif Erikson a full five centuries earlier. But the history of our land before that date has remained, so far, lost in native Indian legends.

Now Harvard Professor Barry Fell has uncovered evidence, including astonishing new discoveries, to replace those legends with myth-shattering fact. Illuminating, authoritative and enhanced with over 100 pictures, *AMERICA B.C.* describes ancient European temple inscriptions from New England and the Midwest that date as far back as 800 B.C. Professor Fell examines the phallic and other sexually oriented structures, found in our own country, that reveal the beliefs of ancient Celtic fertility cults—cults that were virtually destroyed in Europe in early Christian times. Further evidence has been found in the tombs of kings and chiefs, in the form of steles—written testimonies of grief carved in stone.



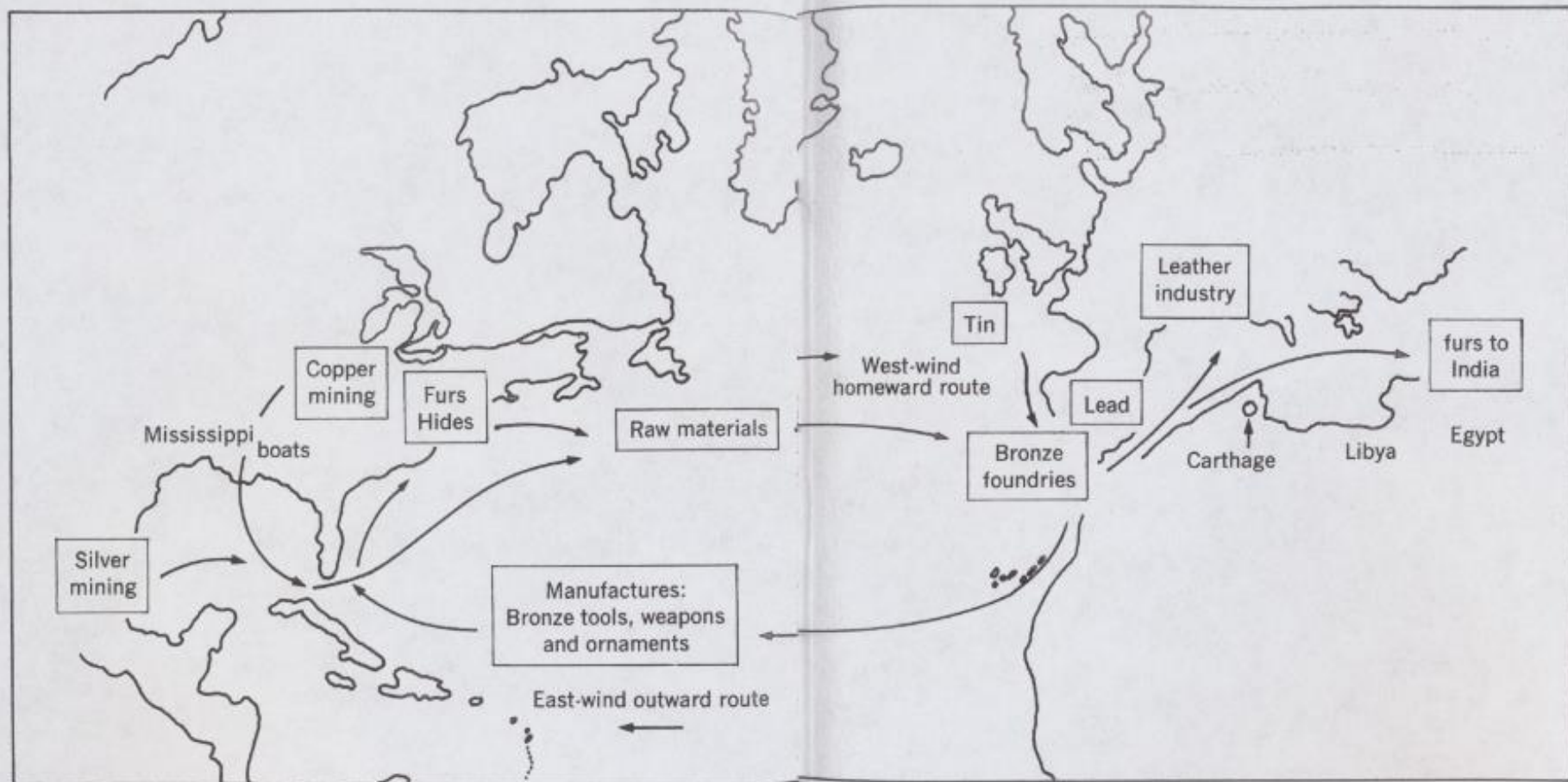
"NOW, THANKS TO THE GENIUS OF A SINGLE MAN... WE MUST INCLUDE IN OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE FIGHTING CELTS FROM SPAIN AND DARING SEMITIC SEAFARERS FROM CARTHAGE, LIBYA AND EGYPT. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHERS WILL BE ADDED BEFORE THE END OF BARRY FELL'S EPIC VOYAGE INTO THE PAST?"
—Reader's Digest

"A STUNNING BOOK...AN AUTHENTIC LANDMARK...AMERICA B.C. DESTROYS THE PREMISE OF EVERY PREVIOUS TEXT!"
—Peter Tompkins, author of *Secrets of the Great Pyramid*



ISBN 0-671-67974-0





Inferred transatlantic trade patterns after 500 B.C. and until 179 B.C. The conquest of Egypt by Darius I in 525 B.C. and the successive rise of the Greek and Roman empires effectively closed the eastern Mediterranean to Carthaginian shipping. Carthage retaliated by closing the Straits of Gibraltar to all European mariners. Under the guise of supposed Spanish and North African trade, Carthaginian merchants exploited the North Atlantic resources, bringing to Cadiz the copper of the Celtiberian settlements of North America, and the tin of Cornwall, to provide the raw materials of a bronze industry, whose products were re-exported to Britain, Gaul, North America, and West Africa. The Celts of New England obtained a share of the American imports by supplying furs and

hides, both of which the Carthaginians re-exported to the eastern Mediterranean as supposed products of Gaul, the furs even reaching India. By the time the Romans conquered Spain and Carthage they had adequate alternate sources of these materials, and they took no interest in overseas shipping, having no merchant navy. The North American trade dwindled, the last phases presumably being operated by the maritime Celts of Brittany until their conquest by Caesar in 55 B.C. For 400 years after the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C. the Romans had no navy, since they had no rivals, and the memory of America apparently was lost. By 200 A.D. geographers believed that a voyage westward from Spain would lead to India and China, and this was the inheritance of Columbus.



Approximate areas of settlement and points of entry via the river systems of early visitors and colonists from Europe, North Africa and eastern Asia. Some of the Amerindian tribes with whom the visitors are believed to have come in contact are also indicated. The southeastern tribes are believed to have descended in part from the Mediterranean colonists shown here as settling that region. The Iroquois are believed to have reached North America after most of these settlements had been made, possibly from South America around 1200 A.D., passing up the Mississippi to drive an enclave into the Algonquian area.



- ⊙ swords
- ⚔ battleaxes
- ⊖ burials
- ◌ inscriptions
- R runestones


Celtic Americans from the New England region appear to have spread across North America in the latitudes of about 40° to 50° N before Roman times. Their later distribution is at times difficult to distinguish from the Norse settlers on account of the close affinity of Celtic and Norse art. Later Celtic immigration came principally from Ireland and brought Christianity to the erstwhile pagans.

Some Representative Dates and Events in Ancient and Medieval American History.*

Time Scale	America	Europe and Mediterranean
325 B.C.-250 B.C.	Carthaginian trade. Imports; Phoenician manufacturers. Exports; lumber, gold and furs.	Carthage and Rome dominate western Mediterranean, come into confrontation. Libyans cross Pacific to reach west America.
264 B.C.-241 B.C.	Carthaginian trade ceases. Libyan Greeks integrate.	First Punic War. Fleets of Carthage destroyed.
250 B.C.-100 B.C.	Trade with Europe disrupted. Token coins issued to relieve currency shortage. North America mapped.	218 B.C.-201 B.C. Second Punic War. Hannibal. 149 B.C.-146 B.C. Third Punic War. Carthage destroyed.
100 B.C.-400 A.D.	Roman traders, mainly Iberian, active in America. Roman currency adopted.	31 B.C. Battle of Actium. Rome dominates world. 27 B.C.-476 A.D. Roman Empire.
69 A.D.	Jews settle Kentucky and Tennessee.	Destruction of Jerusalem.
132 A.D.	Second wave of Hebrew refugees.	Second Revolt of Jews.
425 A.D.	Stone chamber in Vermont carbon dated to this time.	Some stone chambers in Europe known still to be in use at this time.
450 A.D.	Flight of North African Christians to America to escape Vandals.	Barbarian incursions into Europe and North Africa.
500 A.D.	Libyan science and mathematics flourishes in west North America.	Byzantine power in North Africa. Islam invades Libya (646 A.D.)
700 A.D. onwards	Islamic inscriptions in western states. Christian Celts in West.	Islam dominates Mediterranean. Arabs cross Pacific to reach west coast of America.
700 A.D. onwards	Byzantine inscriptions. Americans explore Pacific. Hawaii mapped.	Islam and Byzantium in confrontation.
1000 A.D.	First Norse visits to northeast America.	Iceland becomes Christian, but Viking raids continue.
1341 A.D.	Vinland Norsemen revert to paganism. Reversions to barbarism.	1347 A.D. Norse refugees from Labrador reach Iceland and sail on to Norway.
1355-1362	Norwegian expedition seeks lost Vinland Norse settlers.	1362 Norway gives up Vinland and Greenland colonies as lost without trace.
ca. 1350	Vinland cathedral church build in Rhode Island.	
1398	Last Norse-Celtic voyage to North America.	
1492	Columbus reaches Caribbean.	1493 Europe reawakened as to potential of American trade.
1524	Verrazano finds blond people in Rhode	

Fell, a respected academic in marine biology, embraced eccentric theories after retiring....

I The origins of domestic plants and animals

 core areas of crop and animal domestication



CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Cereals	Pulses	Root Crops
Asian rice	Mung bean	Taro
Common millet	Soybean	Yams
Foxtail millet		
Fruits	Other Crops	
Apricot	Aubergine	
Banana	Coconut	
Citrus fruits	Sago palm	
Mango	Tea	
Peach		

SOUTHWEST AND CENTRAL ASIA


Cereals	Pulses	Root Crops
Barley	Broad bean	Carrot
Oats	Chickpea	Parsnip
Rye	Grasspea	Radish
Wheats	Lentil	
	Pea	
Fruits	Other Crops	
Apple	Garlic	
Date	Onion	
Fig	Safflower	
Grape		
Olive		
Pear		

NORTHERN TROPICAL AFRICA

Cereals	Pulses	Root Crops
African rice	Cowpea	Yams
Finger millet	Pigeon pea	
Pearl millet		
Sorghum		
Fruits	Other Crops	
Tamarind	Coffee	
Watermelon	Oil palm	
	Sesame	

The Columbian Exchange: different crops and herds (if any) on the two sides of the Atlantic.

1 The origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 BC

 the origins of domestic plants and animals to 4000 BC

MESOAMERICA

Cereals

Maize
Teosinte

Pulses

Common bean
Runner bean
Tepary bean

Fruits

Avocado
Tomato

Other Crops

Chilli pepper
Squashes

NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

Pulses

Common bean
Lima bean

Root Crops

Manioc
Potato
Sweet Potato
Yam

Fruits

Guava
Pineapple
Soursop
Sweetsop

Other Crops

Cashew
Chili pepper
Cocoa
Peanut
Quinoa
Squashes



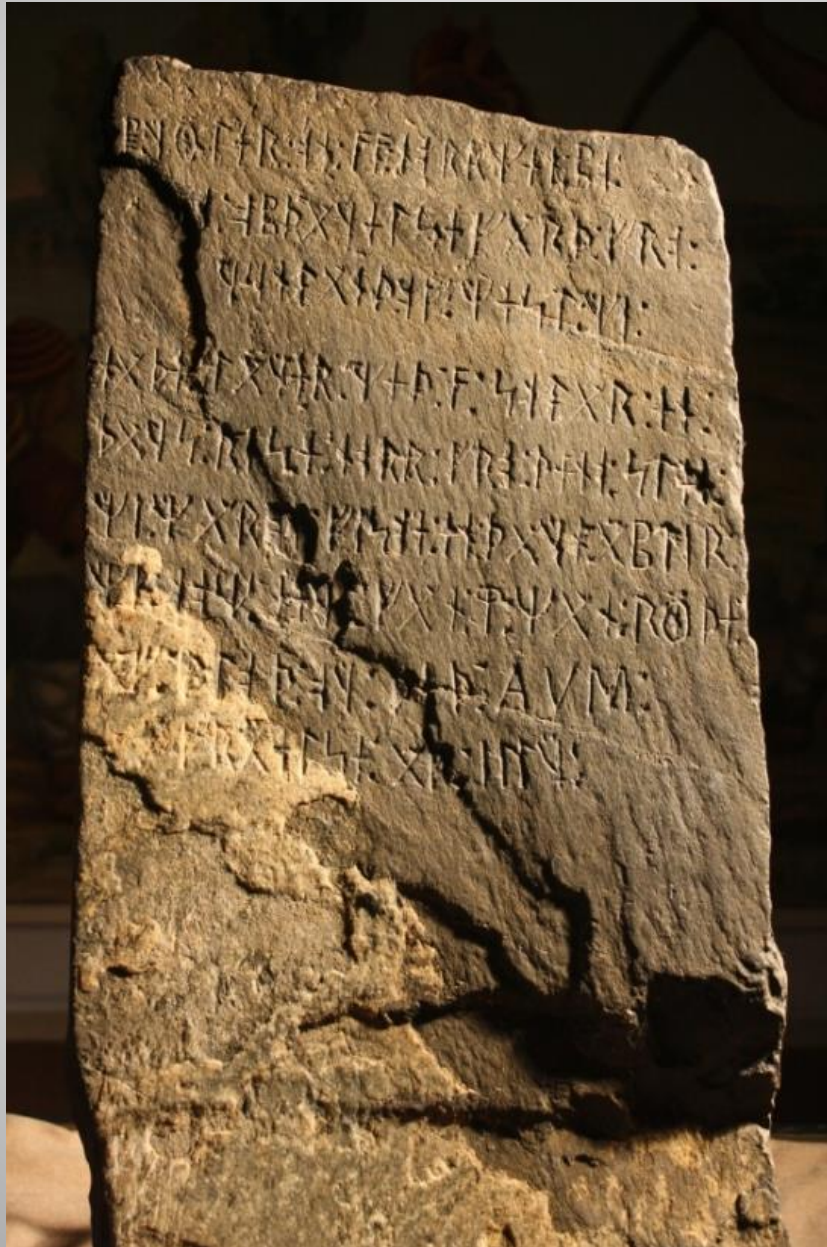
The Columbian Exchange: different crops and herds (if any) on the two sides of the Atlantic.

The Columbian Biological Exchange

<i>Forms of Biological Life Going From:</i>		
	Old World to New World:	New World to Old World:
Diseases:	Smallpox Measles Chicken Pox Malaria Yellow Fever Influenza The Common Cold	Syphilis
Animals:	Horses Cattle Pigs Sheep Goats Chickens	Turkeys Llamas Alpacas Guinea Pigs
Plants:	Rice Wheat Barley Oats Coffee Sugarcane Bananas Melons Olives Dandelions Daisies Clover Ragweed Kentucky Bluegrass	Corn (Maize) Potatoes (White & Sweet Varieties) Beans (Snap, Kidney, & Lima Varieties) Tobacco Peanuts Squash Peppers Tomatoes Pumpkins Pineapples Cacao (Source of Chocolate) Chicle (Source of Chewing Gum) Papayas Manioc (Tapioca) Guavas Avocados

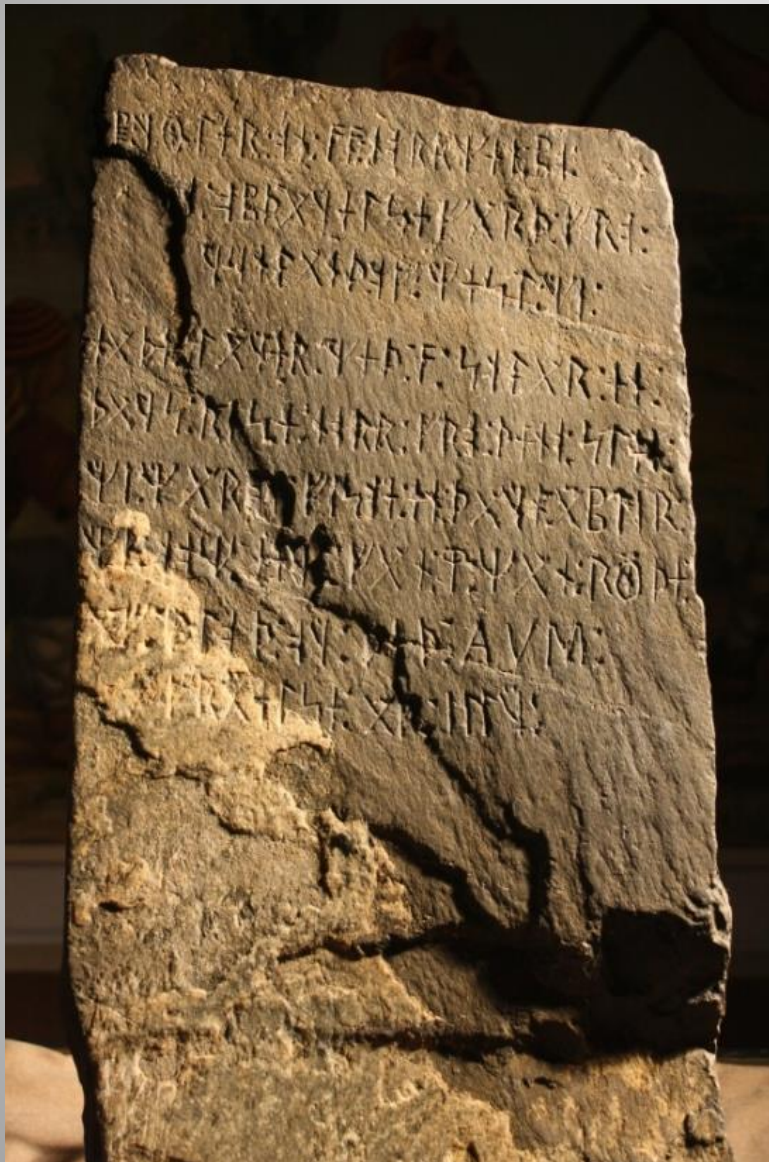
| This page was last updated on 12/3/98. | [Return to History 111 Supplements](#) | [Site Map](#) |

The Kensington Rune Stone, widely (but not unanimously) regarded as a forgery.





The Kensington Rune Stone, widely (but not unanimously) regarded as a forgery.



Created 19th century
Discovered 1898 CE
Originally [Kensington](#);
currently located at [Alexandria, Minnesota, United States](#)

Discovered by Olof Öhman

Runemaster Disputed

Text – Native

Swedish dialects

8 : göter : ok : 22 : norrmen : po :
...o : oppagelsefärd : fro :
vinland : of : vest : vi :
hade : läger : ved : 2 : skLär : en :
dags : rise : norr : fro : þeno : sten :
vi : var : ok : fiske : en : dagh : äptir :
vi : kom : hem : fan : 10 : man : röde :
af : blod : og : ded : AVM :
frälse : äf : illü.
här : (10) : mans : ve : havet : at : se :
äptir : vore : skip : 14 : dagh : rise :
from : þeno : öh : ahr : 1362 :

Translation

(word-for-word):

Eight [Götalanders](#) and 22 [Northmen](#) on (this?)
exploration journey from Vinland far to the
west. We had a camp by two (shelters?) one
day's journey north from this stone. We were
fishing one day. After we came home, found 10
men red from blood and dead. [Ave Maria](#) save
from evil. (*side of stone*) There are 10 men by
the inland sea to look after our ships fourteen
days journey from this peninsula (or island).

Year 1362



In 1892, the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage produced pride among Italian-Americans...and some irritation among Scandinavian-Americans, who felt that they deserved the bragging rights!

The Kensington Rune Stone was probably produced as a result of this attitude.





The Kensington Runestone

**Approaching a Research
Question Holistically**

Alice Beck Kehoe

“Kon-Tiki:” a valiant voyage in support of an eccentric theory.







Thor Heyerdahl





MD304
50c

ROBERT C. SUGGS

The Island Civilizations of Polynesia

With sixteen pages of PHOTOGRAPHS



AN ANTHROPOLOGIST STUDIES THE ORIGIN AND CULTURE OF THE CHILDREN OF TANGAROA—A PRIMITIVE PEOPLE WHOSE ANCIENT MIGRATIONS ACROSS HUNDREDS OF MILES OF UNKNOWN SEAS IN OPEN BOATS RANK WITH THE GREAT HUMAN FEATS OF ALL TIME.

MENTOR, ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

A good book that alerted me as a teenager to the existence of crackpot theories: his chapter on “The Kon-Tiki Myth” was an eyeopener.

THEY CAME
Before
COLUMBUS

THE AFRICAN PRESENCE
IN ANCIENT AMERICA



IVAN VAN SERTIMA

"Brilliantly, I think, [Van Sertima] has demonstrated that there is far more to black history than the slave trade. . . . There is no question but that the book is a landmark." —JOHN A. WILLIAMS

Another of the many "before Columbus" books



FIG. 8. Monument 17, San Lorenzo, front and rear views. (Drawing by Felipe Dávalos, reprinted from Coe and Diehl [1980], courtesy of Michael D. Coe.)



FIG. 9. Monument 17, San Lorenzo, side views. (Drawing by Felipe Dávalos, reprinted from Coe and Diehl [1980], courtesy of Michael D. Coe.)

The people represented in the Olmec sculptures had short, round, flat faces with thick lips, flat noses, and epicanthic folds; that is, they resembled people who still live in the tropical lowlands of Mexico (see figs. 10 and 11).



FIG. 10. Woman from Olmec area. (Photo Donald Corddry, reprinted from Bernal [1968].)



FIG. 11. Tzotzil from Chiapas. (Photo B Reyes, reprinted from Morley [1947].)

Van Sertima (1992b, 1995) places great emphasis on Tres Zapotes head 2 (also known as the Nestepe or Tuxtla head) [19] because it has seven braids dangling from the back, which he claims (1992c:57; 1994:296, fig. 1c), citing no supporting evidence, to be a characteristically Ethiopian hairstyle. [20] He also asserts that the braids are "probably the best hidden secret in Mesoamerican archaeology" (1992b:37), that the "head was never published outside of Mexico" (1992a:7), and that "this photograph was kept in the dark (and I think the blackout was deliberate)" (1992b:38; 1995:74). [21] To support his claim (1992c:37; 1995:74) he quotes the Mexican Olmec scholar Beatriz de la Fuente, who states, "If at any time, one could imagine that there were Negroes in Mesoamerica, it would be after seeing Head 2 of Tres Zapotes, the one that is most removed from the physiognomy of our Indian ancestors" (de la Fuente 1971:58, our translation). [22] However, he overlooks her comment on the next page that "certainly the colossal heads do not represent individuals of the Negro or Ethiopian race as José Melgar, the first Westerner to see one more than a

Resemblance does not mean contact or connection.

MOUND BUILDERS OF ANCIENT AMERICA

The Archaeology of a Myth

ROBERT SILVERBERG



Most of this very good book is devoted to examining the 18th and 19th century beliefs which have since been discarded....at least by rational scholars!

Mound-building is a very widespread human activity, found in cultures all over the world and in many time periods.



In America, the Adena and Hopewell cultures (2000 years ago) and the Mississippian culture (1000-500 years ago) built mounds for various purposes.



In the 19th century, romantic ideas flourished about an extinct race of moundbuilders, unconnected to American Indians....who were regarded as unable to have created such huge works.

Even a liberal/socialist like H. G. Wells couldn't avoid the widespread racial (racist) thinking of the 1920s and 30s.

at last across the Pacific and to Mexico and Peru. It was a coastal culture not reaching deeply inland. This peculiar development of the Neolithic culture, which Elliot Smith called the *heliolithic*¹ culture, included many or all of the following odd practices: (1) circumcision, (2) the very queer custom of sending the *father* to bed when a child is born, known as the *couvade*, (3) the practice of massage, (4) the making of mummies, (5) megalithic monuments² (e. g. Stonehenge), (6) artificial deformation of the heads of the young by bandages, (7) tattooing, (8) religious association of the sun and the serpent, and (9) the use of the symbol known as the swastika (see figure) for good luck. This odd little symbol spins gaily round the world; it seems incredible that men would have invented and made a pet of it twice over. Elliot Smith traces these associated practices in a sort of constellation all over this great Mediterranean-India Ocean-Pacific area. Where one occurs, most of the others occur. They link Brittany with Borneo and Peru. But this constellation of practices does not crop up in the primitive homes of Nordic or Mongolian peoples, nor does it extend southward much beyond equatorial Africa.

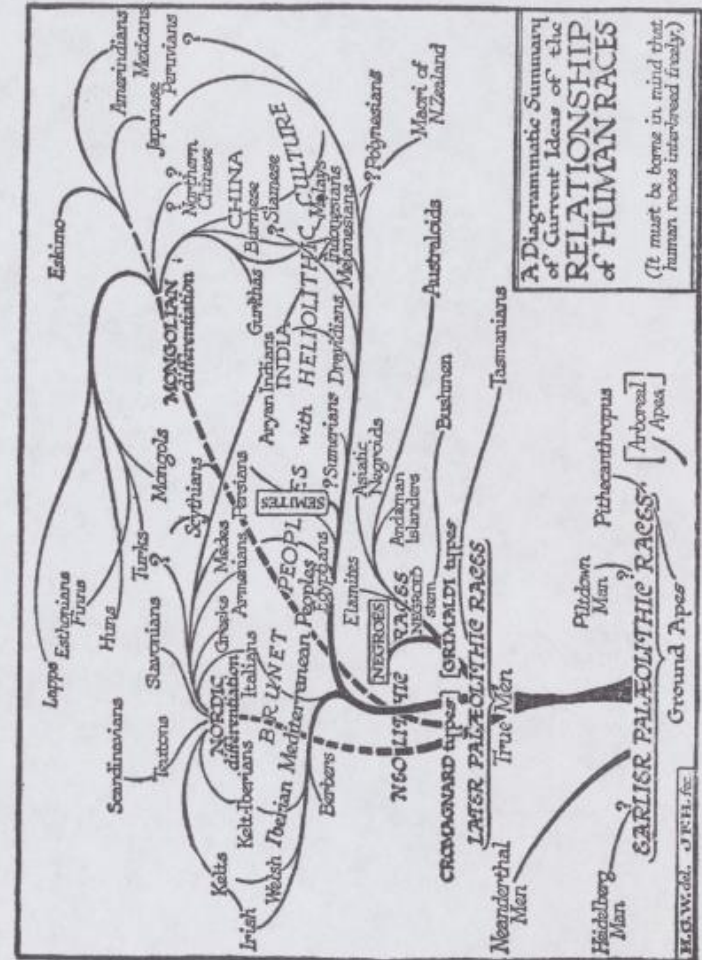


The Swastika

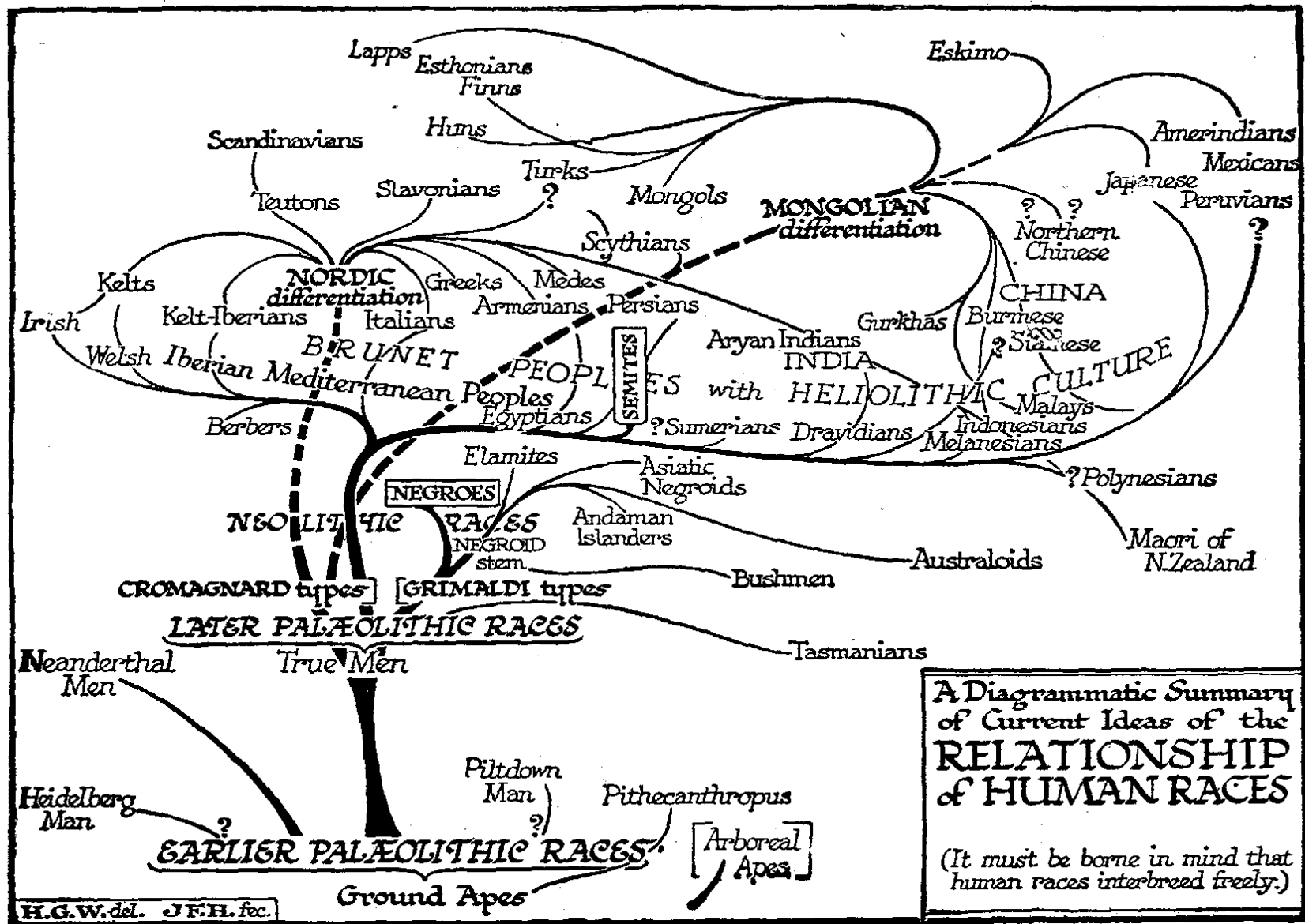
For thousands of years, from 15,000 to 1,000 B.C., such a heliolithic Neolithic culture and its brownish possessors may have been oozing round the world through the warmer regions of the world, drifting by canoes often across wide stretches of sea. It was then the highest culture in the world; it sustained the largest, most highly developed communities. And its region of origin may have been, as Elliot Smith suggests, the Mediterranean and North-African region. It migrated

¹ "Sunstone" culture, because of the sun worship and the megaliths. This is not a very happily chosen term. It suggests a division equivalent to palaeolithic (old stone) and neolithic (new stone), whereas it is a sub-division of the neolithic culture.

² Megalithic monuments have been made quite recently by primitive Indian peoples.



Even a liberal/socialist like H. G. Wells couldn't avoid the widespread racial (racist) thinking of the 1920s and 30s.



A Diagrammatic Summary of Current Ideas of the RELATIONSHIP of HUMAN RACES
(It must be borne in mind that human races interbreed freely.)

Earthen mounds were common in the United States....



Stone pyramids were common in Mexico.



Similarity does not mean contact. These were built thousands of miles and thousands of years apart. There are only so many ways to pile up stone blocks!





Another 19th-century belief: the Welsh discovery of America!



Prince Madoc (imaginary portrait)

CHAPTER 16



Early visitors to the Mandan people on the Missouri River said that, to them, the Mandan language sounded like Welsh...



Another theory: the Lost Tribes of Israel were the ancestors of the American Indians.



In 722 BC, the northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians and its people exiled. Most scholars think that they were assimilated into the populace of the Middle East, losing their Jewish faith.



The southern Kingdom of Judah survived until the Babylonian conquest in 586 BC, and its people kept their faith intact until their return (permitted by the Persian Empire) less than half a century later.

The Lost Tribes of Israel

Published 23 July 2007 | By Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews

You can read this at your leisure...

Since the unexpected discovery in 1492 of humans not accounted for in the Bible, Europeans were keen to find out where they had come from. An ingenious solution was proposed: they were the tribes of Israel that disappeared from history with the fall of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah in the middle of the first millennium BC. A whole religion (the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints) has been built on these shaky foundations.

There was also a movement in the late nineteenth century to identify the English with the same lost tribes. There are still traces of the 'British-Israelite' movement today.

The Israelite hypothesis

Very quickly after the discovery of the New World, Europeans began to treat its inhabitants as little more than their possessions. There was some debate about whether they were fully human and thus descendants of Adam. At first, few of their fellow Europeans protested, but in the early sixteenth century, Bartolomé de Las Casas (1474-1566) became a champion of the Native American cause. He spent many years trying to improve the conditions under which they lived in the Spanish colonies in the West Indies, Peru and Guatemala. Las Casas believed that the Native Americans should be converted to Christianity, as he was convinced that they originated in Ancient Israel and felt that the Bible contained the proof that they were members of the Lost Tribes of Israel. He was not alone and it was in no small measure thanks to his efforts that Pope Paul III (1468-1549; pope 1534-49) declared that the Native Americans were fully human, after all, in 1537.

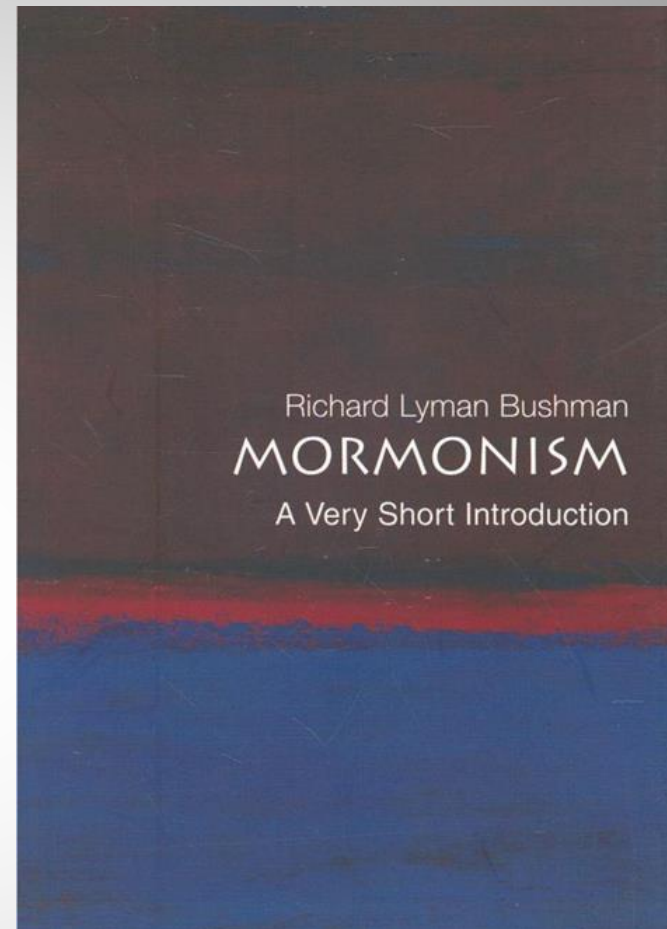
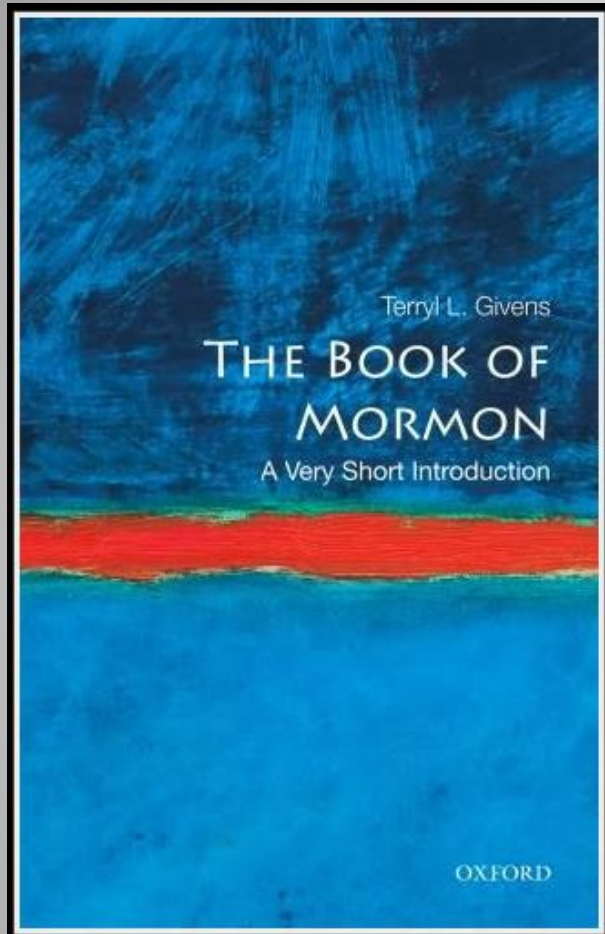
A report by the seventeenth-century Portuguese traveller, António Montezinos (also known as Aharón Leví de Montezinos), published in 1644, reawakened interest in the subject. He claimed that there was a Jewish tribe living beyond the mountain passes of the Andes and that he had heard them recite the She'ma Yisro'el (the expression of the Jewish faith) and saw them observe Jewish rituals. Alas, Montezinos was a fantasist whose stories were accepted uncritically.

Having decided that some of the Native Americans practised Hebrew rites and were therefore ancient Canaanites or the lost tribes of Israel, this meant that they were in dire need of conversion. Thomas Thorowgood's *Jewes in America, or, Probabilities that the Americans are of that race*, first published in 1650, was one of the first to argue for the need to convert these lost tribes. The second edition of 1660 quotes the authority of John Eliot (1604-1690), the 'Apostle to the Indians', who went on to publish a translation of the bible into the Massachusetts dialect of Algonquin in 1663. Groups like the Corporation for Propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New England were founded by English settlers who believed that the Native Americans were lost Jews who would need to be reconciled with Christ at the end of time. Although the belief that Indians were Hebrews quickly faded as knowledge of their languages, customs and beliefs increased, Edward Johnson (1598-1672), author of *The Wonder-Working Providence of Sion's Saviour* (published in 1654), argued that a mass conversion of Indians was necessary if America were to be the site of the new heaven and new earth.

Menasseh ben Israel (born in Madeira as Manoel Dias Soeiro, 1604-1657), a respected Dutch Jewish scholar, was heavily influenced by the account of António Montezinos and wrote his best-selling booklet, *The Hope of Israel*, which he dedicated to the English Parliament. Meeting Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658; Lord Protector of England 1653-1658), he petitioned for the recall of the Jews (who had been expelled from England in 1290) and expressed his belief that the dispersion of Jews to all corners of the Earth was the beginning of the redemption. Certain Christian traditions claimed that when the Ten Tribes of Israel were found and restored to the Holy Land, the return of Christ to reign supreme was not far off, a belief that is still had by some, especially American, fundamentalist churches. There was thus a considerable vested interest among some believers to identify the Lost Tribes. Now that apparently Israelite tribes had been discovered in the Americas, ben Israel argued, Cromwell must readmit the Jews to England to bring about the Messianic era.

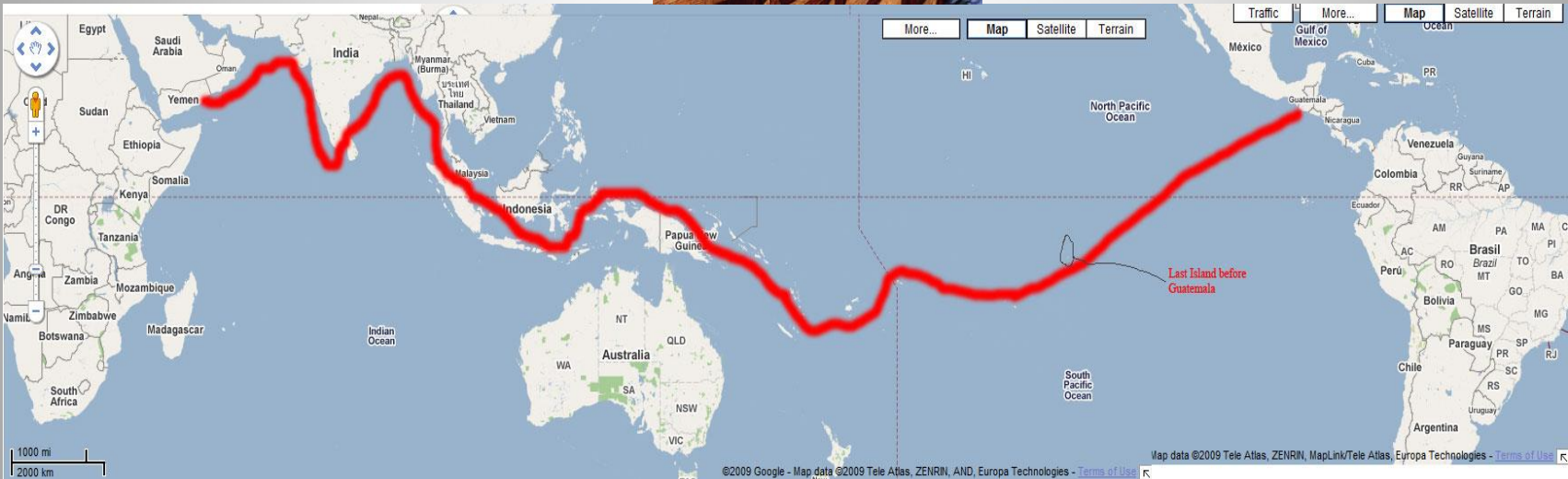
Similar sentiments were expressed, albeit in more humanistic terms, in the second half of the eighteenth century during the American and French revolutions. Some abolitionists, for instance, claimed that the Messianic Age would be ushered in when the slaves were freed and when the native Americans, as descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes, were converted to Christianity. The sometimes eccentric religious beliefs of the pioneer settlers developed political overtones, with the production of bizarre propaganda works such as the *Apocalypse de Chiokoyhikoy, chef des Iroquois* (published in 1777 by the newly-formed Congress and condemned by the Inquisition in 1779). This purported to be an account of the end of the world by an Iroquois prophet, denigrating the English to support the cause for American independence by showing how the Iroquois would be better off under American rule.

Mormonism



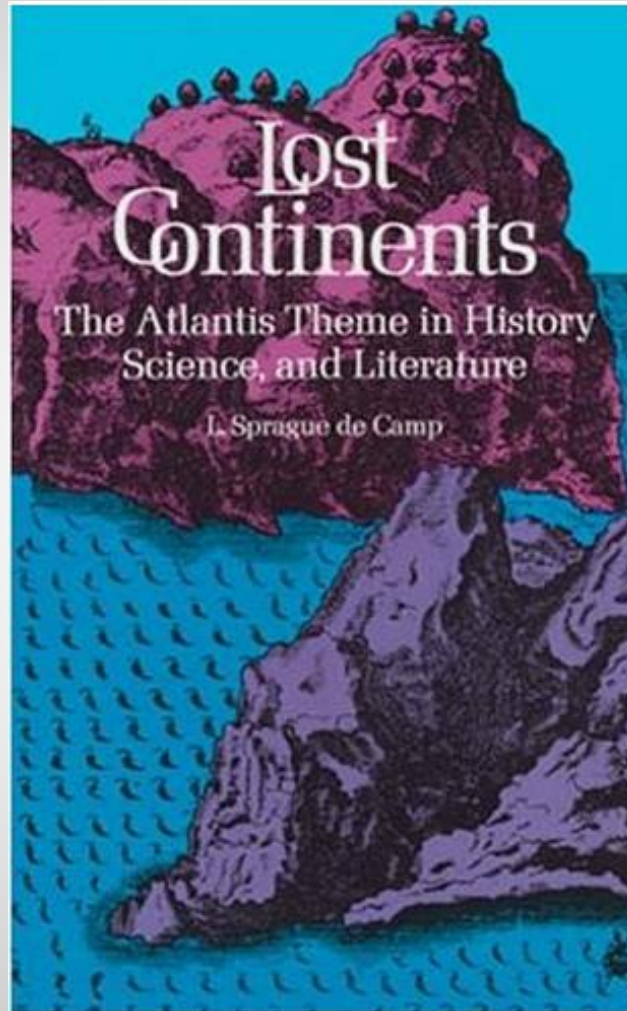
Traditional Mormon beliefs assert that the Native Americans are descendants of the “lost tribes of Israel”





If the Tribes did make this journey, they left a few things behind: all their staple crops and herd animals, all their disease microorganisms, and their genetic makeup.

...and then there is Atlantis.

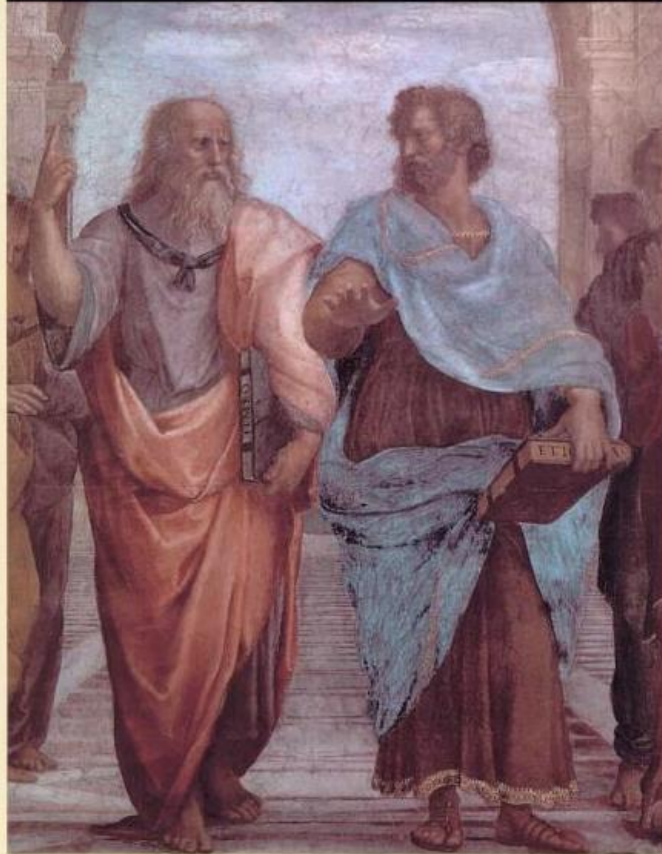


A very sound and rational book, though a bit dated (from 1970).

PENGUIN CLASSICS

PLATO

TIMAEUS AND CRITIAS



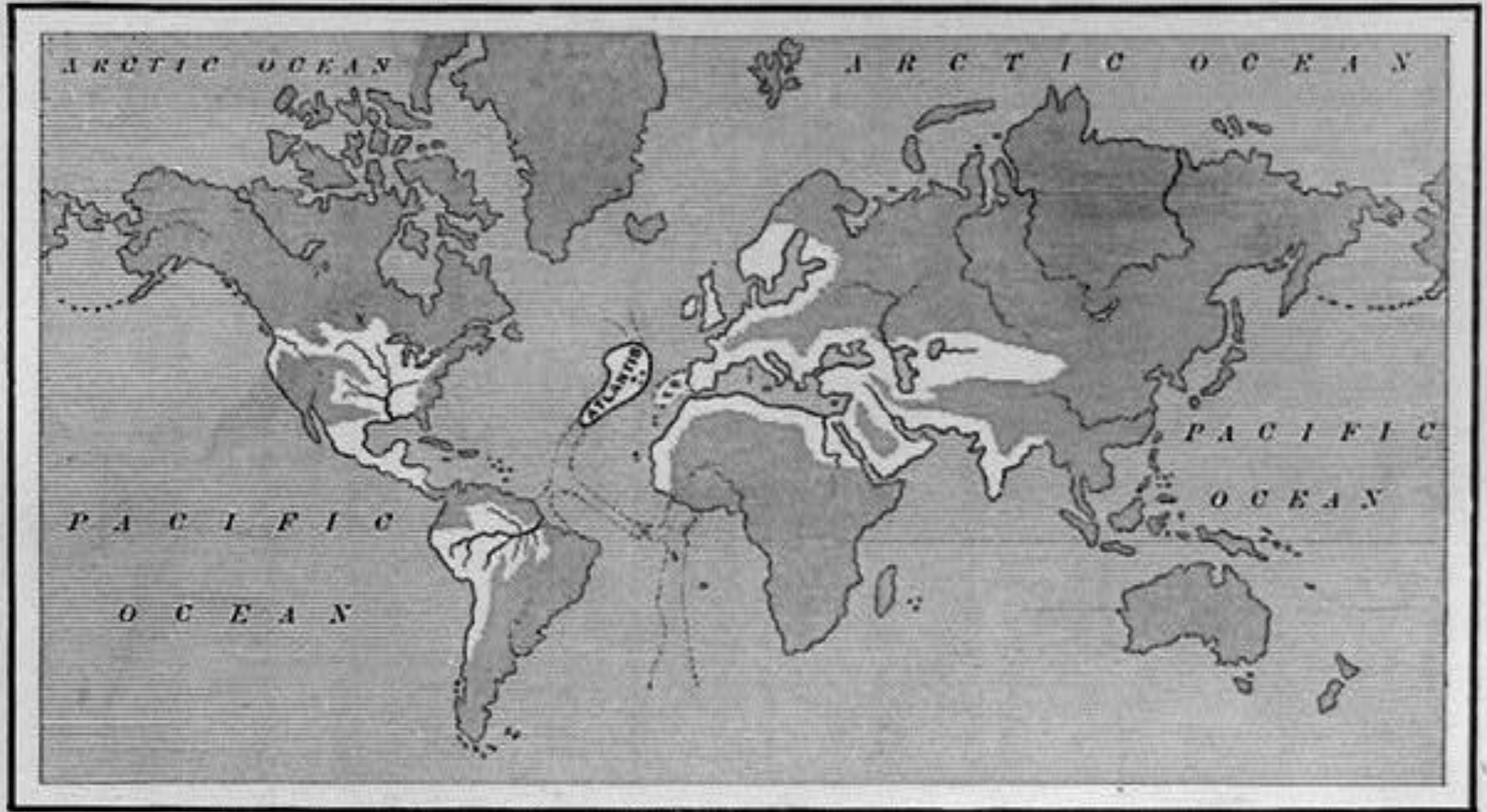
Copyrighted material

Plato's parables are the only ancient sources for the story of Atlantis. Most agree that they are fiction.



The city of Atlantis, as described by Plato

Lewis Spence's eccentric theories about the influence of Atlantis (1920s)



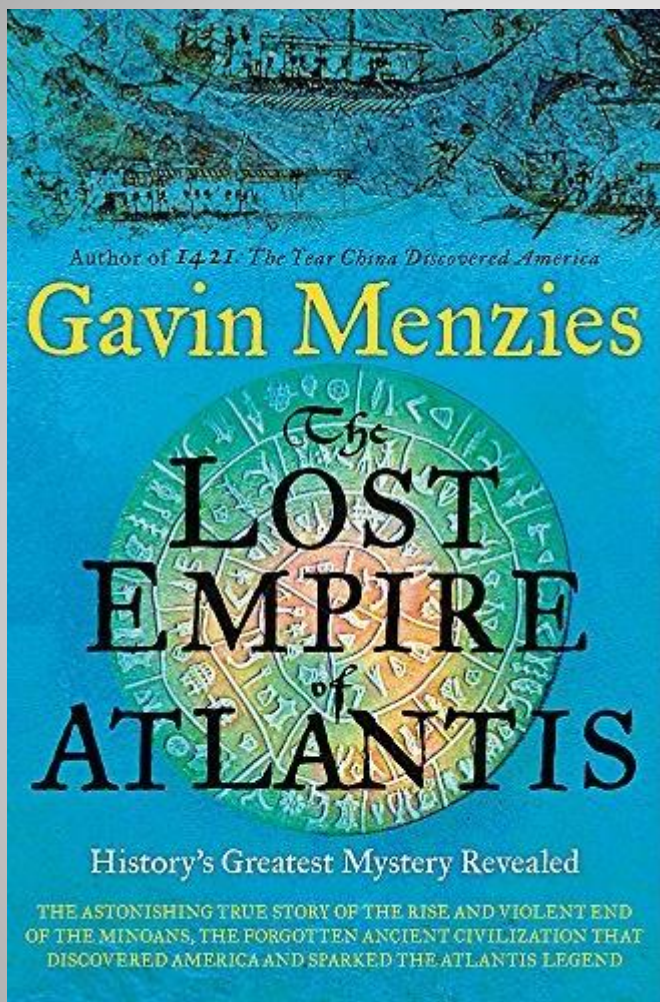
THE EMPIRE OF ATLANTIS.



Mythical Continents of the Atlantic



A Continent Without Scientific Basis



Menzies, Gavin. *The Lost Empire of Atlantis: History's Greatest Mystery Revealed.*

Morrow. 2011. c.400p. illus. bibliog. index.

ISBN 9780062049483. \$26.99. HIST

As in his previous works, Menzies does not employ the historical method and insists that his revisionist history is accurate. He is a gifted storyteller and displays in his work the passion of a believer. In spite of this, it must be remembered that history and archaeology are disciplines ruled by solid evidence rather than by unprovable statements. **VERDICT** If you are in need of a good yarn in the vein of an *Indiana Jones* film, this is the book for you; however, if you do not care for mostly fictional works cloaked in the mantle of verity, avoid it. [See Prepub Alert, 3/14/11.]—Brian Renvall, Mesalands Community Coll., Tucumcari, NM

—from Library Journal

Q5753 * \$1.25 * A BANTAM BOOK

**FEATURED ON TV AS
"IN SEARCH OF
ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS"**

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?

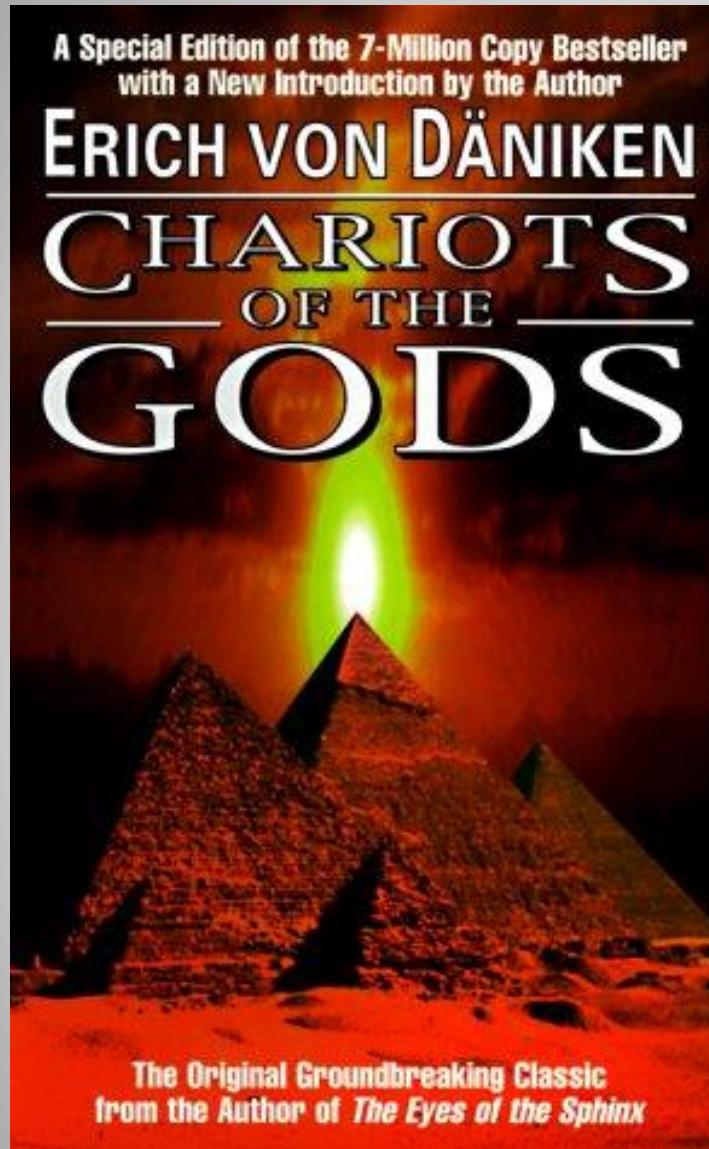
**UNSOLVED MYSTERIES OF THE PAST
BY ERICH VON DÄNIKEN**

THE STARTLING BOOK THAT ASKS:

- DID ASTRONAUTS VISIT THE EARTH 40,000 YEARS AGO?
- IS THERE EVIDENCE OF A PREHISTORIC AIRFIELD IN THE ANDES?
- DID EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS HELP SET UP THE GIANT STONE FACES THAT BROOD OVER EASTER ISLAND?
- AND OTHER EARTH MYSTERIES UNANSWERABLE UNTIL OUR OWN SPACE AGE!

FULLY ILLUSTRATED

....and the best known of the crackpots



“the ‘looks-like-a-spaceman-to-me’ line of argument treats the archaeological record as if it were a Rorschach test”

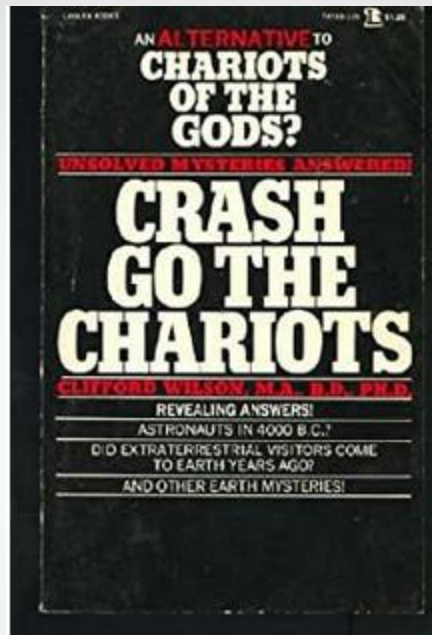
A Special Edition of the 7-Million Copy Bestseller
with a New Introduction by the Author

ERICH VON DÄNIKEN
CHARIOTS
OF THE
GODS



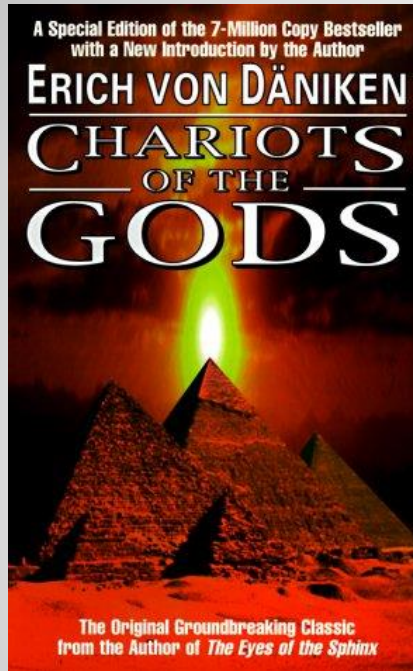
The Original Groundbreaking Classic
from the Author of *The Eyes of the Sphinx*

An educated person could win a bet, saying that he/she could open this book to any page at random, and find either a clear factual error or a blatant flaw in basic logic.

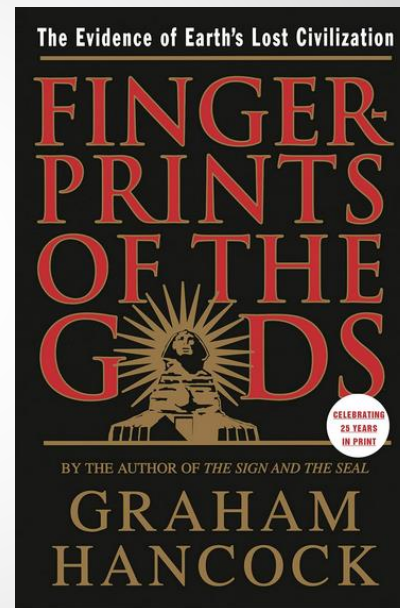


**There have been numerous rebuttals to von Däniken.
This one is from a fundamentalist Christian viewpoint.**

From von Däniken to Hancock: more of the same, into the 21st century!



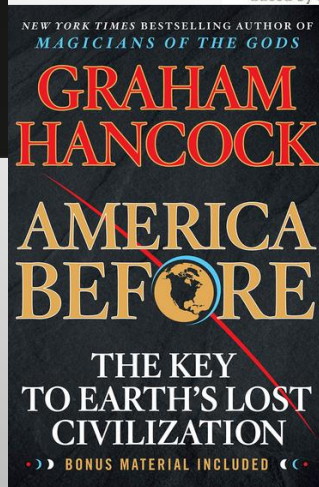
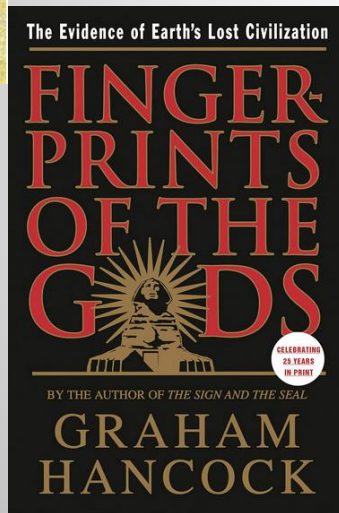
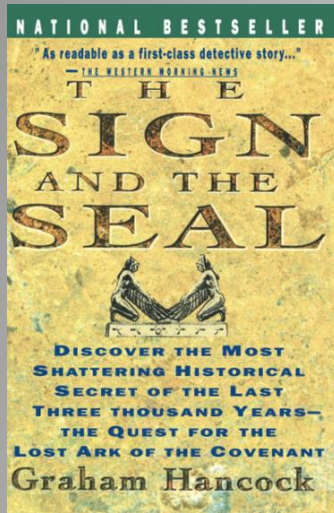
1968



1995

(Snarky question: did the Gods leave fingerprints on their chariots?)

REVIEW



American Atlantis

A review of *America Before: The Key to Earth's Lost Civilization* by Graham Hancock

REVIEWED BY JASON COLAVITO

IN 1552, THE HISTORIAN FRANCISCO López de Gómara became one of the first to suggest that the American continents were in fact Atlantis. America was, he said, greater than Africa and Asia combined, and the peoples of Mexico even called water “atl,” the very name of Atlantis, in memory of the sunken capital of ancient times. Nearly five centuries later, the new book *America Before* opens with its author, Graham Hancock, telling readers that after decades of ignoring the “obvious clue” of Atlantis because of the stigma attached to such research, he had come to believe that the lost continent “does sound a lot like America.”

America Before is the story of Hancock’s search for proof that Atlantis—or a civilization so similar as to be identical in all but name—flourished in the Americas prior to the end of the last Ice Age. His new book, handsomely produced by St. Martin’s in the United

tive set-pieces, Hancock’s recent books have lacked something of the spirit of adventure of his earlier work. Since he is no longer an innocent questing for truth but a self-styled advocate of “alternative archaeology,” his books have taken on the tone of jeremiads, their sense of wonder and discovery replaced by righteous indignation and the casual assumption that most readers will already be familiar with his earlier volumes, which he references frequently with the clear expectation that readers have read and largely agreed with them.

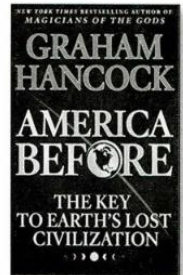
This leads *Magicians of the Gods* (2015) to seem somewhat disjointed to those unfamiliar with *Fingerprints*. Now *America Before* plunges the reader headlong into a web of assumptions and conclusions that don’t always have clear lines of evidence leading to them. In just the first few pages, Hancock dismisses the consensus view of

for my own forthcoming book on a similar topic to *America Before* (the myth of the Mound Builders) and kindly recommended it to his editor, though my book ultimately ended up with another publisher.

America Before is divided into eight somewhat loosely connected parts, which we will consider in turn.

1. Manitou: The Mystery of the Serpent Mound

The book first focuses on Ohio’s famed Serpent Mound, an earthwork whose origins are still debated. While that debate largely focuses on whether it was the work of the Adena culture (1000-




St. Martin’s Press, New York, 2019. 608 pp. \$29.99
ISBN 13: 978-1250153739

In one particularly ridiculous parallel, Hancock notes that Egyptian astronomer-priests and Pawnee astronomer-chiefs both wore clothes sewn with star-shapes. It would seem a rather obvious fashion choice for an astronomer; Neil DeGrasse Tyson often wears ties with similar patterns, but that doesn’t make him a secret recipient of Atlantean knowledge.

Here's a Youtube video doing a pretty good job of critiquing Hancock....

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoyyLw9_Q


YouTube Premium Search



BAD HISTORY:
FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS

0:00 / 17:58

Bad History: Fingerprints of the Gods by Graham Hancock

 EmperorTigerstar ✓
452K subscribers

Subscribe

6K

Share

Thanks

208K views 1 year ago

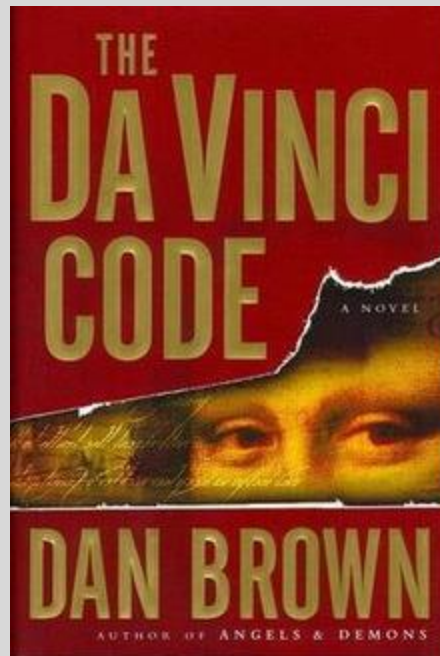
It isn't ancient aliens, it's actually ancient super Antarctica. Well, so this book claims.

► Support this channel with my Patreon! <https://www.patreon.com/emperortigers...>

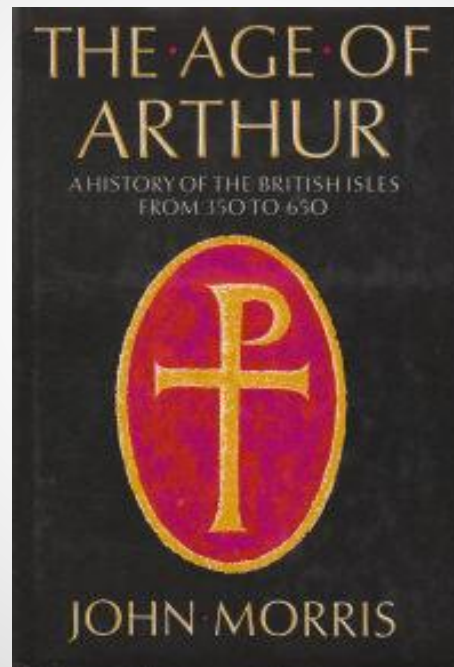
PDF of Fingerprints of the Gods: http://megpugh.com/files/Graham_Hanco... Show more

2,084 Comments Sort by

....and then there's Dan Brown, many of whose readers cannot tell the difference between fiction and fact.



Still in print since 1973, still on library shelves, still being widely read....

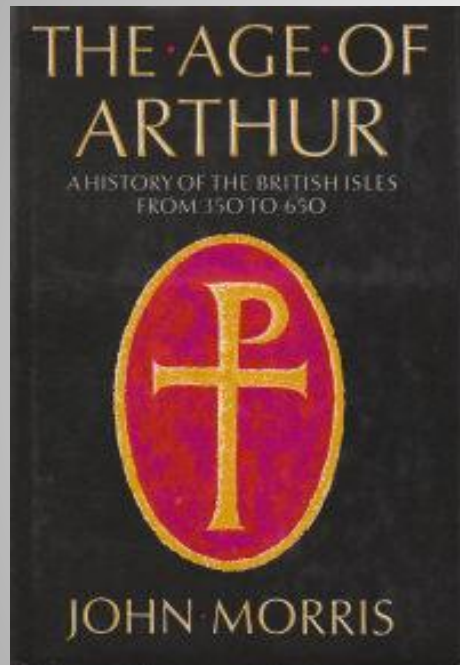


“King Arthur:” some basic points

—The historical documents from Britain around AD 500 are very few and very unreliable. This produces a gigantic information vacuum which is filled with numerous theories about who the real Arthur was. None of those theories has been widely accepted by scholars.

“King Arthur:” some basic points

—There is a huge disconnect between the findings and views of scholars (mostly skeptical) and the general public, who really want to believe in a real and preferably romantic version of Arthur.



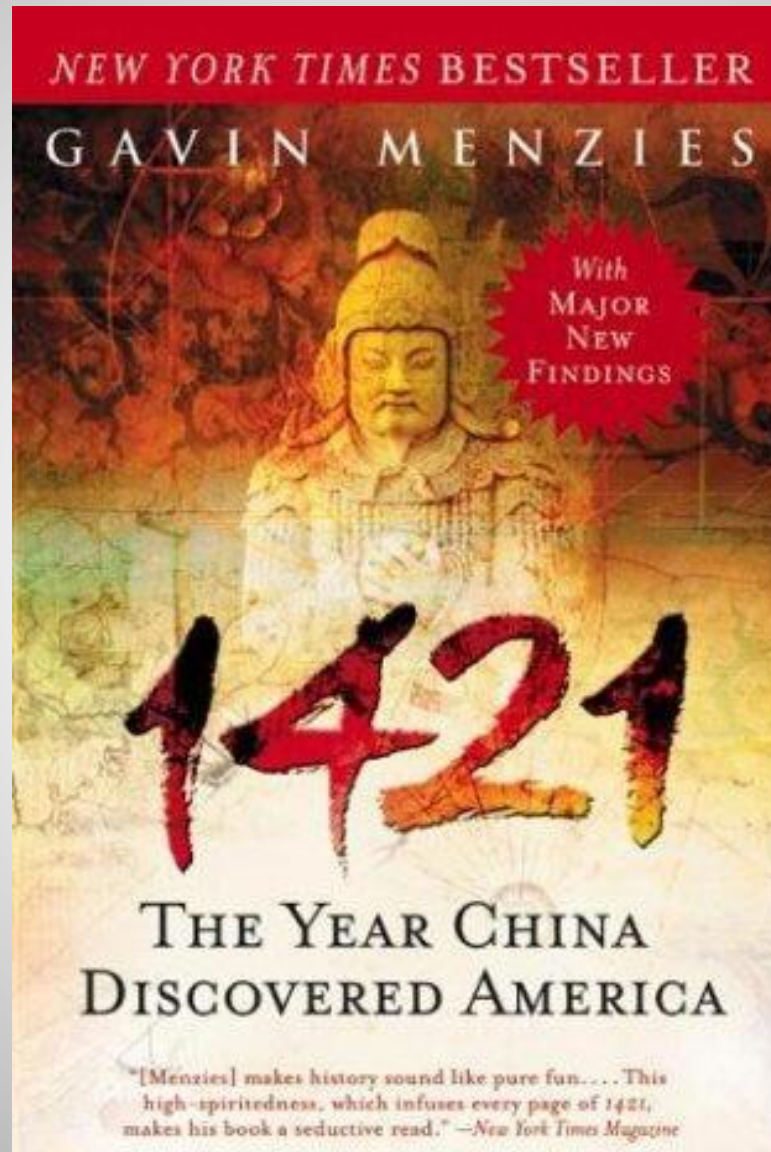
“There are two things you need to know about Morris’ *The Age of Arthur*: one is that it is a marvellous, inspiring read; the other is that very little of it can be relied upon.”

—Guy Halsall, Worlds of Arthur

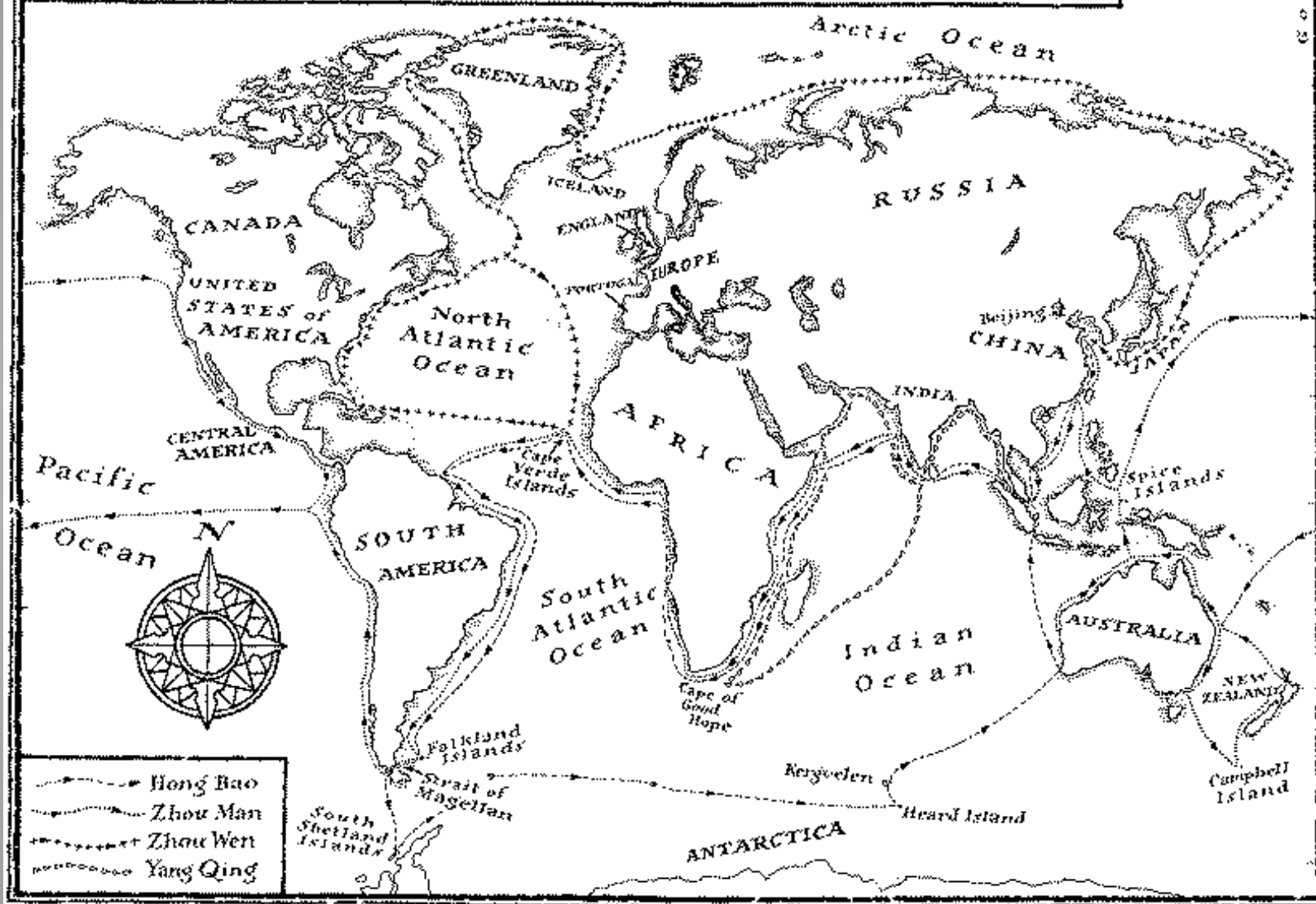
“...an outwardly impressive piece of scholarship [which] crumbles upon inspection into a tangled tissue of fact and fancy which is both misleading and misguided.”

—D. Kirby and J. Williams, in a 33-page detailed review/critique in the journal *Studia Celtica* (1975)

A more recent crackpot and bestseller



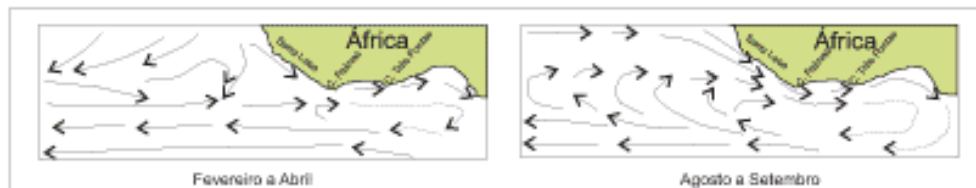
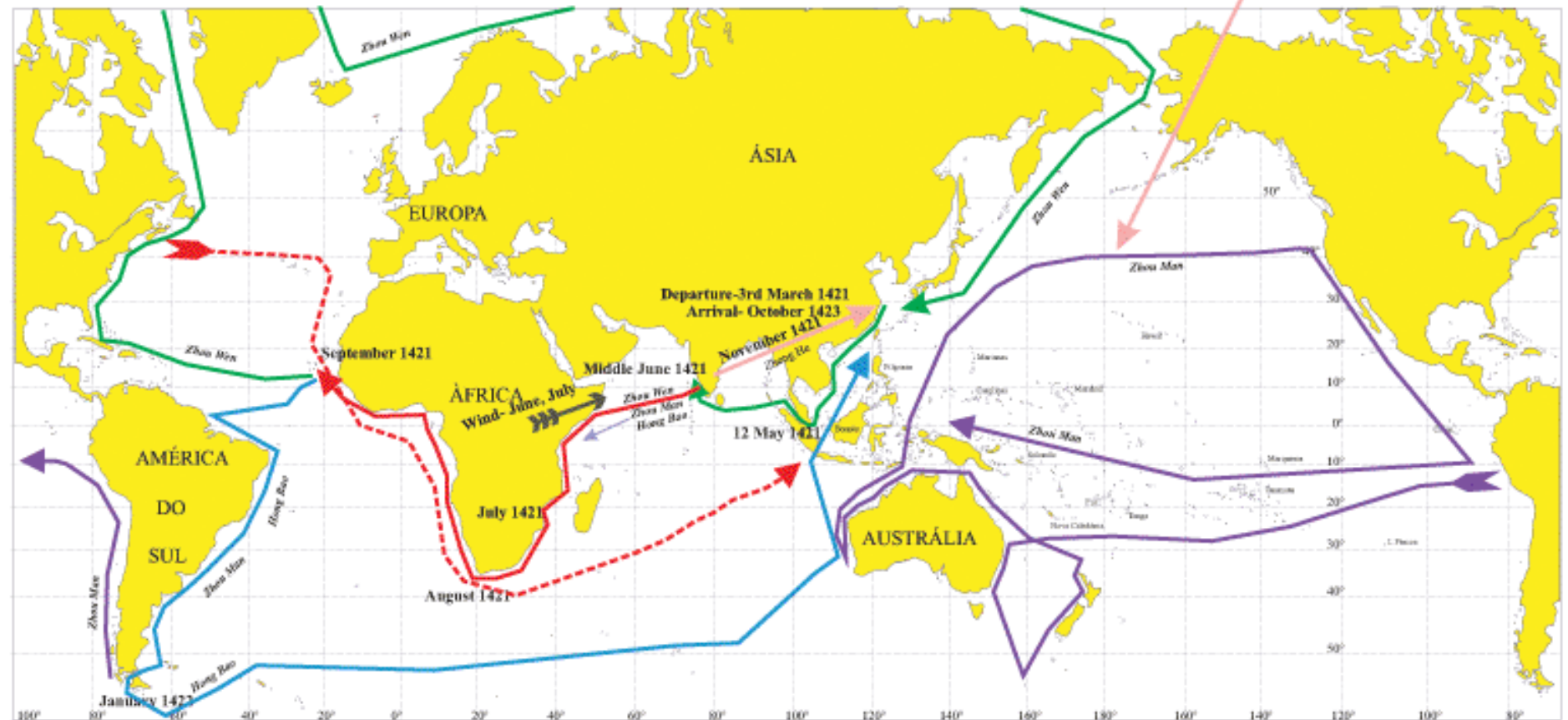
Voyages of the Treasure Fleets, 1421~3



The Ming Dynasty voyages of Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho)....genuine, but not as shown here!

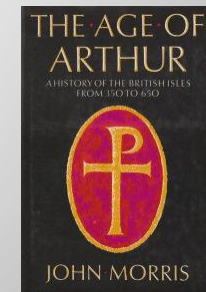
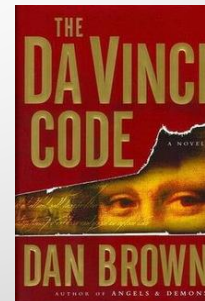
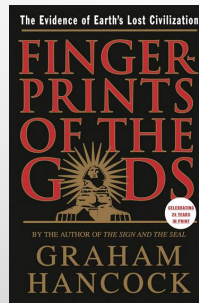
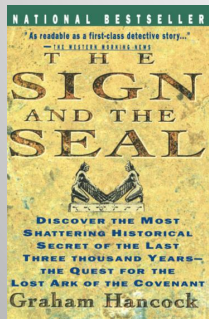
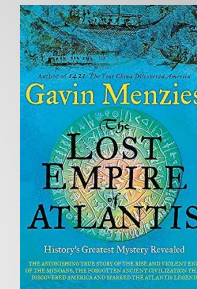
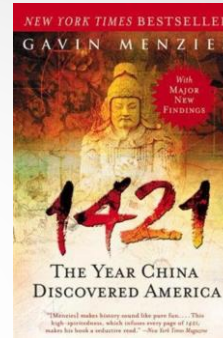
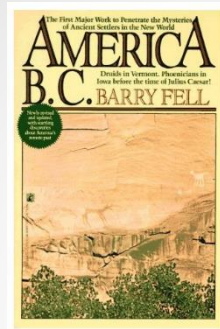
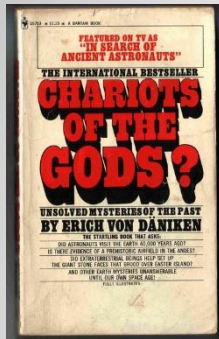
Chinese voyages between 3rd March 1421 till October 1423, according with Gavin Manzies

(Zhou Man- aprox. 73 000 miles in 940 days- 3.3 knots)



Average currents in the Gulf of Guinea

We could go on (and on and on) but you get the idea.



HOW THEY OPERATE: METHODS OF PSEUDOARCHAEOLOGISTS

(adapted from G. Fagan, ed., Archaeological Fantasies)

Stubborn adherence to disproven ideas.

Disparaging academia.

--sarcastic contempt... but also....

Appeal to academic authorities.

--love/hate relationship!

Huge and sweeping claims.

Selected / distorted presentation.

--ignoring or emphasizing facts as desired.

“Kitchen-Sink” mode of argument.

--ranging widely over many fields of knowledge, overwhelming and impressing the reader.

Vague definitions.

--terms like “pyramid” or “civilization” used in a casual manner.

Sloppiness of comparison.

--comparing things far removed in time and space.

Obsession with esoterica.

--secret codes and hidden meanings.

Rhetorical tricks and strategies.

--“Can it be a coincidence that...” becomes a fact for the next assertion to build upon.

WHAT'S THE APPEAL OF ECCENTRIC THEORIES?

MOTIVES OF AUTHORS AND BELIEVERS

THE AUTHORS:

- Many honestly believe in their theories.
- Emotional/psychological benefits (adulation, notoriety)
- \$\$\$\$\$

THE BELIEVERS:

- Emotionally satisfying.
- Excitement, drama.
- Easy and enjoyable to read and understand.
- Harmless rebellion against conventional wisdom.
- Resentment against intellectual know-it-alls.

HOW TO RESPOND TO PSEUDOARCHAEOLOGISTS?

—Ignore them.

—Counterattack vigorously.

—Debate them.

—Publish and present good, entertaining, and accurate information (books, TV, websites).

<http://www.1421exposed.com>

Contributors

The <http://www.1421exposed.com> and <http://www.1421exposed.tv> joint websites have been set up by an international group of academics and researchers who are greatly concerned about the myths being created and perpetuated by Gavin Menzies, his business group, and his publishers.

In his book *1421: The Year China Discovered the World* Menzies claimed Chinese admiral Zheng He had circumnavigated the globe, in the process "discovering" most of the world.

Subsequent media coverage has failed to accurately present to the public the large body of evidence that Menzies' claim is a fabrication, without any basis in fact.

The purpose of this website is to present that evidence, and ensure that history is not rewritten by publishers more interested in short-sighted marketing campaigns that ensure their financial security, rather than intellectual integrity and public enlightenment.

Dr. Geoff Wade

Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr. Kirsten A. Seaver

Independent Historical Researcher

Captain Phil Rivers

FRGS FNI MRIN ACII ACI Arb. Master Mariner, author

Dr. Stephen Davies

Museum Director, Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Andrew Hannam

Associate Professor W.A.R. (Bill) Richardson

Adelaide University

Emeritus Professor Victor Prescott

Melbourne University

Michael Ross

President, Australian Map Circle



WWW 1421exposed.com

User Guide

[Updates](#) [Beginner's Guide](#) [Zheng He](#) [Discussion](#) [Sites](#)










1421EXPOSED.COM


This website has been set up by an international group of academics and researchers who are greatly concerned about the myths being created and perpetuated by Gavin Menzies, his team, and his publishers.. [more](#)

CONTRIBUTE

Have you applied your expertise to the '1421' question and want to share your findings? Can you add further to the analysis of *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*, or the discussion of the "1763/1418" map, "The Island of Seven Cities" or the upcoming volume on 13th century maritime explorations by Yuan dynasty sailors? [Click here!](#)

Is this website still active in 2023? A search led to this.....

← → ↻  <https://maritimeasia.ws/topic/1421bunkum.html>        



Maritime Asia

Exhibition:
• [7 shipwrecks](#)

Specific ships:
• [Tg_Simpang](#)
• [Tunang](#)
• [Desaru](#)

Topic pages:
• [Chronology](#)
• [Melaka 1512](#)
• [Malaysia](#)
• [Ship types](#)
• [Iron](#)
• [Compass](#)
• [Soundings](#)
• [Tioman](#)
• [first Dutch](#)
• [1421 bunkum](#)

[Homepage](#)
[What's new](#)
[People/contacts](#)

Last modified:
30 Jan 2021

Popular History and Bunkum

The book '1421, The Year China Discovered America' is a fairytale & a fiction

... but the publishers describe it as 'history'. Dr Geoff Wade of the National University of Singapore believes this is a violation of the British Trade Descriptions Act of 1968. He sent this complaint to the [Consumer Complaints body of the United Kingdom](#) on 21 October, 2005, against Transworld Publishers of Britain. It is reprinted here with his permission.

I purchased a copy of Gavin Menzies' '1421: The Year China Discovered the World', published by Transworld, on the basis that it was classified as 'History' in their catalogue. A detailed reading of the text revealed that the work is a fairytale and fiction of the worst kind. I detail some of the outrageous fiction perpetrated within the volume:

Claims by Mr. Menzies followed by facts

- 1. Claim:** Four eunuch admirals Hong Bao, Zhou Man, Zhou Wen and Yang Qing - led fleets to the Americas, Australia, Greenland and the Antarctic during voyages between 1421 and 1423.
Fact: There are no Chinese or other texts which suggest in any way that these four eunuchs, or any other Ming commanders, traveled anywhere at all beyond Asia, the Middle East and the East coast of Africa. All other voyages derive solely from Mr. Menzies' imagination. Further, the currents, winds and dates Menzies cites in support would not have carried the ships anywhere near where he claims. In short, there is no archaeological, textual or archival material to support the Menzies thesis as set down in '1421'. In this book Menzies intentionally distorts known materials and deliberately alters known facts in order to support his thesis.
- 2. Claim:** Sailors and concubines from these fleets settled in the Americas, Australia, New Zealand and islands across the Pacific. In evidence, he cites studies of "recent" inflow of "Chinese genes" and "East Asian DNA" into the Americas.
Fact: There is no evidence of Ming settlement sites in, or even Ming knowledge, of these places until the arrival of the Jesuits in China in the 16th century. The genetic evidence on which Menzies relies is provided by a company whose genetic tests have been labelled a 'scam' by Stephen O'Brien, the US National Cancer Institute's laboratory chief.
- 3. Claim:** There exists a range of wrecks of the ships from these voyages spread around the world, and these are proof of the voyages claimed by Menzies.
Fact: Not one wreck which can be linked with the eunuch voyages in the first 30 years of the 15th century (or indeed any Chinese wreck) has been identified outside of the Asian region.
- 4. Claim:** The Ming voyagers built celestial observation platforms at 24 places across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Menzies names and provides coordinates for these platforms. ('1421', pp. 416/17, 457).
Fact: There is no textual or archaeological evidence to even begin to suggest that the Ming voyagers built observation platforms anywhere in the world. Again, their existence derives only from the fertile imagination of Mr. Menzies.
- 5. Claim:** The Ming armadas left a range of other built structures around the world, particularly in Australasia and the Americas, including the Newport Round Tower, the Gympie pyramid and other structures and mines. They also left a ship's slipway made of stones on the Bimini islands in the Caribbean.
Fact: Not one of the structures Mr. Menzies cites has been shown to have any links with China. The Bimini 'slipway', which is in any case parallel to the shore, has been shown to be a completely natural formation.
- 6. Claim:** The Chinese "were aware that the earth was a globe and had divided it into 365 and a quarter degrees (the number of days in the year) of latitude and longitude". ('1421', p. 449)
Fact: There is no evidence that during the early Ming, the Chinese had any knowledge of the earth as a globe and certainly none that they were aware of latitude and longitude.

....with this link connecting you to it!

Junk History

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation interviewed Gavin Menzies, his publishers, and distinguished historians for their documentary, '*Junk History*'. A transcript is [here](#).

1421exposed.com

For comprehensive rebuttal, see the [Internet Archive record of 1421exposed.com](#):

The 1421exposed website was 'set up by an international group of academics and researchers who are greatly concerned about the myths being created and perpetuated by Gavin Menzies, his group and his publishers. In his book *1421: The Year China Discovered the World* Menzies claimed Chinese admiral Zheng He had circumnavigated the globe, in the process "discovering" most of the world. Subsequent media coverage has failed to accurately present to the public the large body of evidence that Menzies' claim is a fabrication, without any basis in fact. The purpose of this website is to present that evidence, and ensure that history is not rewritten by publishers more interested in short-sighted marketing campaigns that ensure their financial security, rather than intellectual integrity and public enlightenment.'

Zheng He voyages: other resources

Other good reviews & dismissals of '*1421*' are by [Robert Finlay](#)⁽¹⁾ ("The reasoning of '*1421*' is inexorably circular, its evidence spurious, its research derisory, its borrowings unacknowledged, its citations slipshod, and its assertions preposterous") and [Phil Rivers](#)⁽²⁾. Other demolition articles include those of Prof T.H. Barrett and Dr Felipe Fernandez-Armesto [obsolete links removed]. The best popular account of the Zheng He voyages in English remains the book by Louise Levathes: '*When China ruled the seas*'⁽²⁾.

1434

1433: The Year China Discovered Italy: Kick-starting the Renaissance

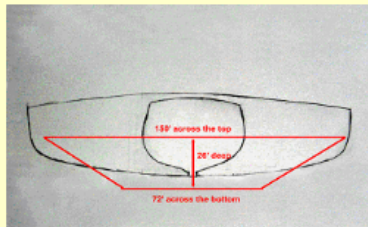
Captain P. J. Rivers
FRGS FNI MRIN ACII ACI Arb, Master Mariner



Rather modestly, for a change, Gavin declared, "As will be seen - neither I nor the 1421 Team has made any original contribution". This disclaimer ignores completely the spin that Gavin's lively imagination has contributed to an inordinate interpretation of an obscure passage in a letter of Toscanelli. [More](#)

The Suez Canal and the Passage of Zheng He's fleet on its way to Italy in 1434

Dr. Stephen Davies, Museum Director, Hong Kong Maritime Museum



There is absolutely no solid evidence that stands up to scrutiny that a large fleet of Chinese vessels visited Italy in the first half of the 15th century. No record mentions it – yet this was a time when any wonder was eagerly commented on and recorded. But let's assume everyone was having a blind month, or that assiduous traducers of

1421

Junk History

4 Corners Documentary Team
Australian Broadcasting Corporation



This is not just a story about one man's wild theory. It is a parable of modern popular culture, a tale about intellectual chutzpah and about a publishing industry that knows how to extract profit from a public which wants to thumb its nose at the dry though documented history taught at school.

[Verbatim Script](#)
[4 Corners Documentary](#)

Walrus Pitch & Other Novelties: Gavin Menzies & the Far North

Kirsten Seaver



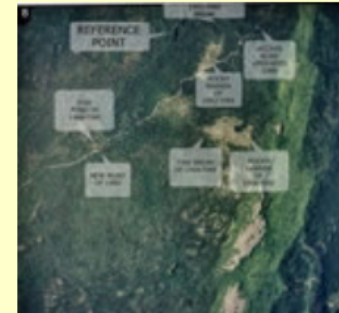
Some four years have passed since knowledgeable critics began to take apart Gavin Menzies's published assertion that the task of Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, Vasco da Gama and other early European explorers had been considerably simplified by their access to maps incorporating key information collected by medieval Chinese navigators who supposedly preceded them: thus it is hardly news that 1421: The Year China Discovered America is now seen primarily as a completely unsubstantiated hypothesis dressed up as history. [More](#)

Fathoming the Unfathomable:

The Island of 7 Cities

The Island of 7 Cities Exposed

Andrew Hannam



"After examining the physical evidences offered in the book *The Island of Seven Cities* we can find no evidence at Cape Dauphin to support Mr. Chiasson's theory. To the contrary, the actual evidences in the aerial photographs and proper understanding of the physical and geological features along with the known and documented history of human activities of the Cape Dauphin site leads us in a totally different direction".

Exploration



"When I see the errors in the book, on things I know about, it makes me doubt the validity of other things in the book of which I have no knowledge. Did Mr Chiasson walk on the "Chinese road" to the "courtyards" shown on page 258? If so, he surely saw the white plastic and/or steel

Ten years ago....



Bad Archaeology

Leave your common sense behind

- Home
- Privacy policy and copyright
- What is it?
- The history of archaeology
- Bad data
- Conspiracy theories
- Lost civilisations
- Extraterrestrials
- Other chronologies
- Controversies
- Other dimensions?
- Religious delusions
- Frauds and hoaxes
- In the service of politics
- Dubious methodologies
- Explanations
- Reference material
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Links
- Contact the authors

Home

Bad Archaeology is the brainchild of a couple of archaeologists who are fed up with the distorted view of the past that passes for knowledge in popular culture. We are unhappy that books written by people with no knowledge of real archaeology dominate the shelves at respectable bookshops. We do not appreciate news programmes that talk about ley lines (for example) as if they are real.

In short, we are Angry Archaeologists.


Now with [added blog](#)!

Real Archaeology

Archaeology is extraordinarily diverse. From the field technicians knee deep in mud in a Hebridean winter to the Classical specialist examining frescoes on a wall at Pompeii, from the geneticist tracing ancient bovine DNA to the linguist refining our understanding of Maya inscriptions, the range of specialisms and viewpoints is enormous. Nevertheless, there are commonalities of approach and boundaries to that diversity, united by what may be termed 'the scientific method'.

These boundaries are best explained by showing what archaeology is not. Someone who uses explanations that involve unknown civilisations, extraterrestrial contact, the inerrancy of religious texts or the operation of paranormal powers, belongs to a very different intellectual tradition from mainstream archaeology. The orthodoxy – itself a mass of contradictory, competing and often abstruse arguments – generally relegates these other investigators to a 'fringe' or 'cult' status, as a result their claims go unchallenged.

The aim of this site is to explore the main strands of thought within the 'fringe', to explain how and why they are different from orthodox archaeology. Although much of what we have written is aimed at debunking the misconceptions and distortions of the past promoted by fringe writers, we are always open to the idea that they may be able to tell orthodox archaeology something of value. The fringe is interesting and entertaining in its own right; this site can only scratch the surface of such a huge area of human endeavour but we will continue to dig away, exposing Bad Archaeology wherever we find it.



Real archaeology can be very prosaic: digging in Chester's Roman amphitheatre, 19 June 2001

Share this: [Print](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [+1](#) [0](#) [Tweet](#) [8](#) [Share](#) [Share](#)

Select Language

Sensible and rational websites!

....and still here today.



Home

Privacy policy and copyright

Bad Archaeology: what is it?

The history of archaeology

Bad data

Out-of-place artefacts

Conspiracy theories

Old maps

Lost civilisations

Extraterrestrials

Other chronologies

Controversies

Other dimensions?

Religious delusions

Frauds and hoaxes

In the service of politics

Dubious methodologies

Explanations

Reference material

Frequently Asked Questions

Links

Home

Bad Archaeology: exposing frauds, misconceptions and distortions

Published 24 December 2009 | By Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews

Bad Archaeology began as part of my personal website in 1997, back in the early days of the web. I was joined by James Doerer as co-author in 2007. The name was inspired by astronomer Phil Plait's *Bad Astronomy* website (now a [blog hosted by slate.com](#)). James and I are fed up with the distorted view of the past that passes for knowledge in popular culture. We are unhappy that books written by people with no knowledge of real archaeology dominate the shelves at respectable bookshops. We do not appreciate news programmes that talk about ley lines (for example) as if they are real. We want to show that claims about alien DNA in ancient skeletons (for instance) are fraudulent.

In short, we are Angry Archaeologists.

You can read the [blog](#) alongside this site. Think of the main site as a work of reference (but, I hope, more accurate than Wikipedia). The blog is my editorial comment on news items.

Real Archaeology



Archaeology is extraordinarily diverse. From the field technicians knee deep in mud in a Hebridean winter to the Classical specialist examining frescoes on a wall at Pompeii, from the geneticist tracing ancient bovine DNA to the linguist refining our understanding of Maya inscriptions, the range of specialisms and viewpoints is enormous. Nevertheless, there are commonalities of approach and boundaries to that diversity, united by what may be termed 'the scientific method'.

These boundaries are best explained by showing what archaeology is not. Someone who uses explanations that involve unknown civilisations, extraterrestrial contact, the inerrancy of religious texts or the operation of paranormal powers, belongs to a very different intellectual tradition from mainstream archaeology. The orthodoxy – itself a mass of contradictory, competing and often



Cult and Fringe Archaeology: a screenshot of the final incarnation of this site's precursor



In The Hall of Ma'at
Weighing the Evidence for Alternative History



Katherine Reece
Founder and Director

Discourse

- ANCIENT EGYPT**
Ancient Egyptian Discussions
- ANCIENT HISTORY**
Ancient History and Archaeology
- LABORATORY**
Science and Technology
- OH, THE HUMANITY!**
Culture and Anthropology
- PAPER LENS**
Popular Media
- 2012**
Discussion of claims that December 2012 will be a time of cataclysm
- COFFEE SHOP**
The Ma'at Community
- ALTERNATIVE GEOMETRY AND NUMEROLOGY**
Alternative mathematics discussion
- ADMINISTRATION**
Administrators only



Aphrodisias

Focus

Grounding the Nasca Balloon
by Katherine Reece

In his book *Nazca: Journey to the Sun* Jim Woodman puts forth the idea that the ancient Nasca flew with the aid of hot air balloons. In this article his evidence is examined and found to be flawed.

Papers

- PRE-COLUMBIAN CONTACT**
Gavin's Fantasy Land, 1421: The Year China ...
- OUT OF PLACE ARTIFACTS**
The Coso Artifact: Mystery from the Depths of Time
- AFROCENTRISM**
Stolen Legacy (or Mythical History?) Did the Greeks Steal Philosophy from the Egyptians?
- ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS**
Space Travel in Bronze Age China?
- DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION**
The Emergence of Civilizations to 500 BCE

Opinion

Photo by Jon Bodsworth

- Temples, Tombs and Hieroglyphs by Barbara Mertz (2007 Revised Edition)
- Omm Sety's Egypt
- My idea on 1421
- Maps, Myths and Men
- Early America Revisited
- Sacred Sites of Ancient Egypt: An Illustrated Guide to the Temples and Tombs of the Pharaohs
- Egypt: Gods, Myths, and Religions
- Ancient Man: A Handbook of Puzzling Artifacts
- << MORE >>

....and still here today.

In The
Hall of Ma'at 
Weighing the Evidence for Alternative History



[HOME](#)

[DISCUSSION FORUMS](#)

[AUTHORS](#)

[PAPERS BY TOPIC](#)

[WEB LINKS](#)



In ancient Egyptian mythology, the Hall of Ma'at, goddess of Truth and Justice, was the place where evidence was weighed and judgement reached. Here, we consider the evidence for alternative theories of history and science.

LOST CIVILIZATIONS AND PRE-COLUMBIAN CONTACT

WERE NATIVE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN PYRAMIDS, MOUNDS AND CROPS, OR WERE THEY TAUGHT BY A LOST OR UNKNOWN CIVILIZATION THAT REACHED THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS?



TOPICS

[Afrocentrism](#)

[Americas](#)

[Ancient American Civilizations](#)

[Ancient Astronauts](#)

[Ancient Texts](#)

[Astronomy](#)

[Atlantis](#)

[Australasia](#)

[Bermuda Triangle](#)

Is crackpottery really a harmless mental attitude?

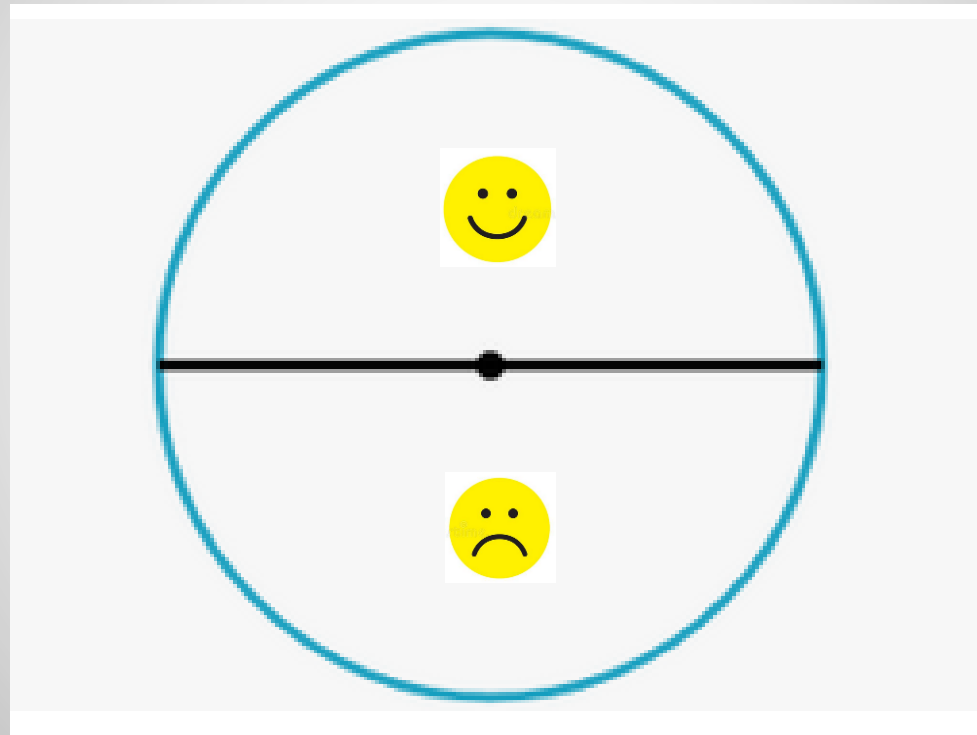
Maybe not. Those who are capable of believing in these strange things are also likely to believe in much more sinister conspiracy theories (like QAnon, or Jewish space lasers starting California wildfires).

They vote, and they vote for like-minded people. If more Americans believe in these theories than in rational/scientific ones, their views may eventually be expressed in government policies.

CRACKPOTS AND CRACKED POTS: Eccentric Theories in Archaeology

For an explanation of all this and much else, just remember....

For an explanation of all this and much else, just remember that half the people in the world are below average intelligence!



**The last word goes to these 20th century
philosophers:**

The last word goes to these 20th century philosophers:



Lou: "I've got a great theory but they all laugh at me. I'll show them! They said Columbus was crazy! They said Einstein was crazy! They said Luigi was crazy!"



Bud: "Who's Luigi?"

Lou: "He's my uncle. He is crazy!!"

Andrew Robinson

GENIUS

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

Copyrighted Material

Frank Close

NOTHING

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

Copyrighted Material

CRACKPOTS AND CRACKED POTS:
Eccentric Theories
in Archaeology