PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2024

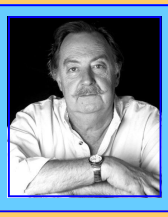
- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

Inside

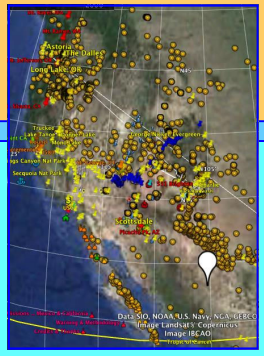
Ancient Native American rock art far more diversified than anyone expected

Engineer, **Ray Urbaniak**, continues his unique explorations into the nature and possible identifications of unusual or completely unique animal depictions in rock art of the U.S. Southwest. Apart from the more common types, he has covered peccaries, llamas, cheetah, cave lion, yak, Saiga antelope, camel–track petroglyphs, giant ground sloths, bears, moose, birds, and pronghorns. Many are unknown from the SW fossil record and known only from rock art. More to come next issue. See **Urbaniak p.12** and **p.18**.

– Welcome to *PCN* #87 –



Richard Dullum and **Sean Harasymchuk** continue the challenging story of the Montana megaliths. In Part 5, they discuss the aerial magnetic survey of Boulder Batholith, general location and magnetism of Sage Wall, the apparent megalithic constructions of Tizer and Spiral Dolmens among nearly 50 others and the ground-penetrating-radar-survey revealing a flat rock base. See **Dullum and Harasymchuk p.2**.

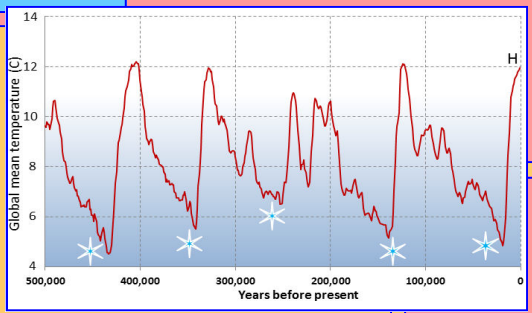


Swedish archaeologist, **Dr. Elke Rogersdotter**, PhD, continues with Part 7 of her 8-part scholarly exploration into the history of *non-board* gaming. This issue she discusses some of the more theoretical and social implications of gaming and the importance of gaming in cultures worldwide that goes past simple entertainments, etc.

Dr. Rogersdotter is presently involved with an archaeological excavation in India. See **Rogersdotter p.9**.

Over many years time, plasma physicist and former Acting Director (National Security) Nuclear Nonproliferation, **Dr. Anthony Peratt** (PhD), and colleague, **Fay Yao** (LMS, M.A.) have GPS-surveyed in person and through team members and guides petroglyph rock art in the U.S. and Canada; Central America; South America (Venezuela, Peru, Columbia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Patagonia); the Italian, French and German Alp's; Hawaii; Easter Island; Australia; Southeast Asia and Mongolia by foot, horseback, and motor vehicle. To correlate their rock art studies with astronomy they used the well-known radio telescopes at Arecibo (Puerto Rico), the Very Large Array (New Mexico), and the Munchison Array in Australia. Part 6 documents several of these areas. See **Peratt and Yao p.13**.

"20,000 years ago, when people were leaving footprints in New Mexico the glaciers were at their maximum...It would not have been a good time to ...cross from Asia to North America. That means they must have arrived even before on a previous superhighway caused by a previous ice age." **Tom Baldwin** continues to emphasize the crucial facts of there being "several" prior ice ages and interglacials not just one "Ice Age"—the latter is a mainstream anthropology propaganda tool to justify suppressing evidence of far earlier humans in North America. See **Baldwin p.7**.

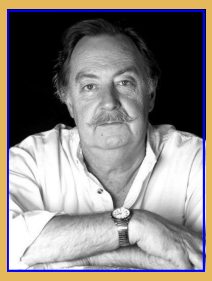


Member news and other info p.6: 1.) **Dr. Michael Gramly's** upcoming presentation, 2. **John Feliks'** websites reinstated.

Montana megaliths, Part 5 By Richard Dullum (B.A. Biology)

and Sean Harasymchuk
(B.Sc. Mathematics)

Sage Wall… is in Montana,



North America, yet it is as physical and as enigmatic as Stonehenge in England. It is as long as a football field and mostly plumb and straight… strongly suggestive of man-made walls elsewhere."

Do You Believe Your Eyes?

Sage Wall (**Fig. 1**) is in Montana, North America, yet it is as physical and as enigmatic as Stonehenge in England. It is as long as a football field and mostly plumb and straight (e.g., **Fig. 2**), strongly suggestive of man-made walls elsewhere. It also features what resemble V-shaped battlements *at regular intervals, all of the same basic shape and depth.*

Fig. 1. A small portion of Sage Wall near Butte, Montana. The wall extends further in both directions. The part highlighted in yellow is the area represented in Fig. 2 below (which is Fig. 11 in Part 4 last issue, *PCN* #86, Nov-Dec 2023). Photo: Christopher Borton.

Fig. 2. View of Sage Wall portion highlighted in Fig. 1. It shows the geo-physicist hired by landowners Christopher Borton and Linda Welsh to do a ground penetrating radar survey (GPR) which revealed a large flat rock base, 2023. Photo: Christopher Borton.

Many of Sage Wall's blocks are multi-ton in weight and composed of doleritic granite with high concentrations of hematite and magnetite. *A magnet sticks to the rock*. A survey contracted by Rio Tinto (a large mining conglomerate) did an aerial magnetic survey in 2022 of the entire Boulder Batholith (the batholith is discussed in Part 1, *PCN* #83, May-June 2023). The resulting USGS map shows the magnetic properties of the rock nearly off the scale's high end. See **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4** on the following pages.[1]

The primary rock type of the Boulder Batholith is diabase or dolerite—hardness 7 on the Mohs hardness index. It has near "0" porosity making it among the most weather-resistant rock types.[2] The wall is underlain by a solid, horizontal rock base its entire length, extending 15' below the surface seen in the GPR trail study commissioned by the owners in 2023. More is planned 2024[3] along the base of the Wall, as documented in *PCN* Issue #85.

This is an extraordinary discovery made a quarter-century ago by the owners when walking their property in 1996. They also discovered that there are other semblances of wall-like structures as well, all running parallel to each other, over and down the crest of the inclined terrain. (See Fig.10 in *PCN* #86 prior issue for two such examples photographed by Mike Collins.[4]) The heavily-timbered nature

> **Cont. on page 3**

[1] Sean Harasymchuk, downloaded from/and data courtesy of the USGS.
[2] Geologyscience.com
[3] Correspondence with Sage Wall co-owner Christopher Borton
[4] Michael Collins wanderingwolfprod@gmail.com

Montana megaliths, Part 5 (cont.)

"The wall is underlain by a solid, horizontal rock length, which extends 15' below the surface."

of the terrain combined with the numerous fallen trees everywhere, severely restricts getting a clearer picture of the relationships of the structures found in this location and how extensive they might be.

The similarity to other known Megalithic sites seen around the world, are evident. A geologist sitting in on a live-stream from the site by William Brown[5] label this a naturally occurring magmatic dike or series of dikes is not borne out by close examination at the site of the Sage Wall, which the owners spent years clearing the fallen timber from for those wishing to see and get up close for themselves.[6]

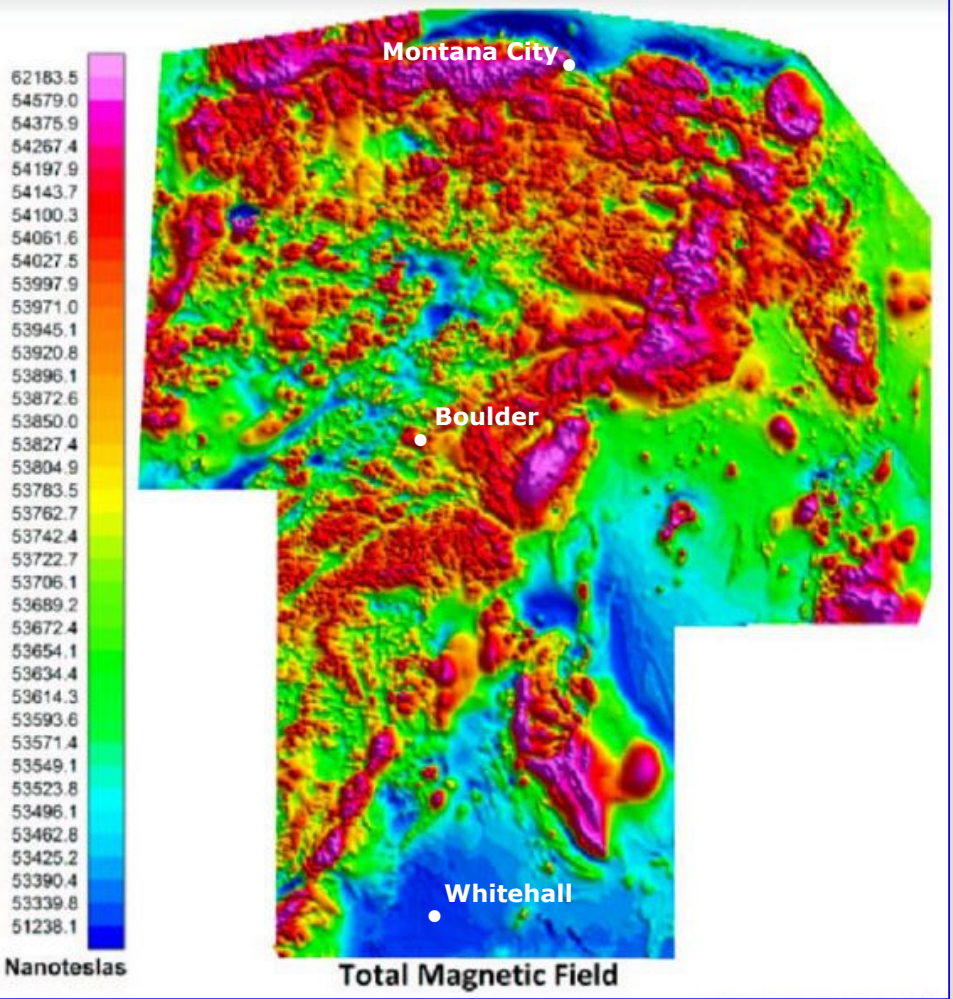


Fig. 3. Total magnetic field of Boulder Batholith encompassing Sage Wall and the other Montana megaliths, e.g., the many dolmens. The map colors indicate highly magnetic material in the rocks with reds and pinks representing highest magnetism. They contain the highest concentrations of hematite and magnetite minerals. For whatever it may signify (as we noted earlier) Mike Collins demonstrated how a magnet readily stuck to the rock of Sage Wall. Rock analysis obtained by owners Christopher Borton and Linda Welsh showed the rock of Sage Wall is high in hematite and magnetite contained in amorphous crystals scattered throughout the rock, making them particularly hard and durable. As we have also noted earlier, the rocks comprising Sage Wall featuring straight lines in their 'construction' *does not* naturally fracture that way. On the contrary, the natural rocks fracture randomly with 'conchoidal' fracturing sometimes taking place. In other words, the rock of Sage Wall would have to somehow have been *cut* into blocks. Sage Wall is in the region west of Whitehall. Butte, is a short distance northwest. Data courtesy USGS. Towns overlaid by *PCN*. Helena is just north of the map.

Many who have been to this site have remarked that a LiDAR study is in order, including the geophysicist who did the GPR preliminary study on the trail in front of the Wall. The terrain features 40–50' Douglas fir and lodgepole pine in profusion, growing up through as much fallen timber. Drone viewing over the non-cleared areas reveals a tangle akin to any ruined jungle site.[7]

So far, no academic research group has expressed such an interest in doing so, or even an on-the-ground study of the site, probably because they simply don't know it exists; something I plan to remedy this season and I would hope five articles here on the matter will reach somebody, as well.

Whether any have expressed interest to do further investigation awaits announcement by the owners.

Though it could easily be accomplished with minimal cost, the participation of an academic institution still involves a certain level of commitment and any proposed 'study' has to have a goal embedded in the reasoning to do that study in the first place. If that goal involves overturning the presently accepted model of the human history of North America, it's not likely to garner much serious discussion among those whose reputations or even jobs depend on defending the status quo.

> Cont. on page 4

[5] *Incredible History* series on YouTube.
[6] *The Sage Mountain Story* by Christopher Borton and Linda Welsh.
[7] Michael Collins, ibid 4

Montana megaliths, Part 5 (cont.)

"It is almost like there's a taboo against scientifically investigating what promises to be a paradigm-shifting archeological site."

"Even if this leads to a scientific revolution, science should be led by evidence, not theory, and investigation should be encouraged, not stifled."

It is almost like there's a taboo against scientifically investigating what promises to be a paradigm-shifting archeological site. What are they afraid of? Such overwhelming disinterest is puzzling to me and many others, who think of science as being interested in almost everything in nature![8] It seems to me that this extraordinary find requires extraordinary investigation.

Perhaps the reluctance is because the mainstream view is an *a priori* view that holds no significant human civilization capable of building stone walls like this, or of building dolmens could possibly have existed prior to our modern European colonial era.

Extraordinary claiming behaviors—such as found in popular culture on the internet—should give way to *scientifically rigorous agnosticism*[9] (e.g., we don't know, but we should try to find out, with every tool science gives us!) about such discoveries. This could help spur on the investigation of these 'archeological manifestations,' using the technology we have and committing resources to examine further, instead of *theorizing* this or that unknown civilization could or could never have existed.

Even if this leads to a scientific revolution, science should be led by evidence, not theory, and investigation should be encouraged, not stifled.

Using sociology professor M. Truzzi's old saw, "extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof," the archeological mainstream sets the stage for failure of contrary views; stifles and does not encourage research, but I will use it anyway. My claim is that one of the other Montana stone structures we discussed prior—not previously documented except in picture form—may be an example of an extraordinary proof. It is 'Spiral Dolmen' in **Fig. 5** below. We believe it meets at least the 'evidence' standard per Carl Sagan's milder version of the aphorism.[10]

The verified existence of even *one* recognizable dolmen in SW Montana should give the academic world pause (see also *PCN* #84, July-Aug 2023). I challenge dolmen experts from around the world to find a more perfect example of classic dolmen construction. This is no tumble of boulders randomly assuming a dolmen shape at all. It is a multi-ton, intentionally-built construction of four uprights capped by an even more massive stone, situated in an earthquake-prone area (4–5 per day). It's a wonder it wasn't toppled over long ago, a testament to the skill of its builders.

Fig. 4. The survey helicopter (parked at Bert Mooney Airport east of Butte, Montana) used to create the magnetic survey map of Fig. 3. The measuring equipment used is a 'magnetometer' rigged on a fiberglass boom placed at the front of the helicopter so the device does not pick up the magnetism from the aircraft's chassis. Crop of photo by Sanders Geophysics Ltd, USGS study, July 2022.

Since 2012, and up to the present, Julie Ryder and her team of citizen explorers have discovered more than 100 artifactual sites and constructions which merit further investigation and these are all photo documented and geo located within a 70-mile radius of Helena, Montana, several of which I've been permitted to show here in the pages of *PCN*.

Those who read this and intend to visit SW Montana, to see Sage Wall, Tizer Dolmen and other sites should be getting their gear in order and start planning now for a trip there after the snow melts in the late spring

> Cont. on page 5

[8] Essay in Ch27, Leslie Kean's2010 *UFO's*, by Alexander Wendt and Raymond Duvall, dispelling taboos.
[9] Distilled from Wendt and Duvall's 'militant agnosticism'
[10] Popularized as acronym ECREE with "evidence" in place of "proof."

Montana megaliths, Part 5 (cont.)

"Perhaps the reluctance is because the mainstream view is an* a priori *view that holds no significant human civilization capable of building stone walls …or of building dolmens could possibly have existed prior to our modern European colonial era."

2024. Be aware that some of these sites require some hiking to reach, so plan on acclimatizing yourself for the altitude, and make arrangements and reservations with the few concessioners authorized to get you there, as well as fees needed for these treks, and places to stay around the Bozeman and Helena areas. A minimum of two weeks stay in the area should be planned for, both to acclimatize and to reach your destinations. Also be aware this area is close to Yellowstone and as such, is seismically active. I would not recommend posing under too many dolmens for that reason.

If 'real' scientists want to beat the others to this archeological find of a century, I suggest you make haste, because many in the public are now well aware of Montana megaliths and their significance and will no doubt be there this season, making their own stories about ancient civilizations.

You've got a chance to be the first, but you'd better get up there quickly, otherwise the evidence others find will topple over on you like a load of boulders!

You can always say that you knew about this all along, that recent discoveries of human footprints well back into the Pleistocene Era in New Mexico and elsewhere in North America led you to this. You could even cite the works of Chris Hardacker and Louis Leakey at Calico, Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Sam VanLandingham, Roald Fryxell, and Juan Armenta at Hueyatlaco, as having finally tipped the scale to allow *you* to be among the first to enter a new paradigm of American discovery.

Continuing in Part 6…

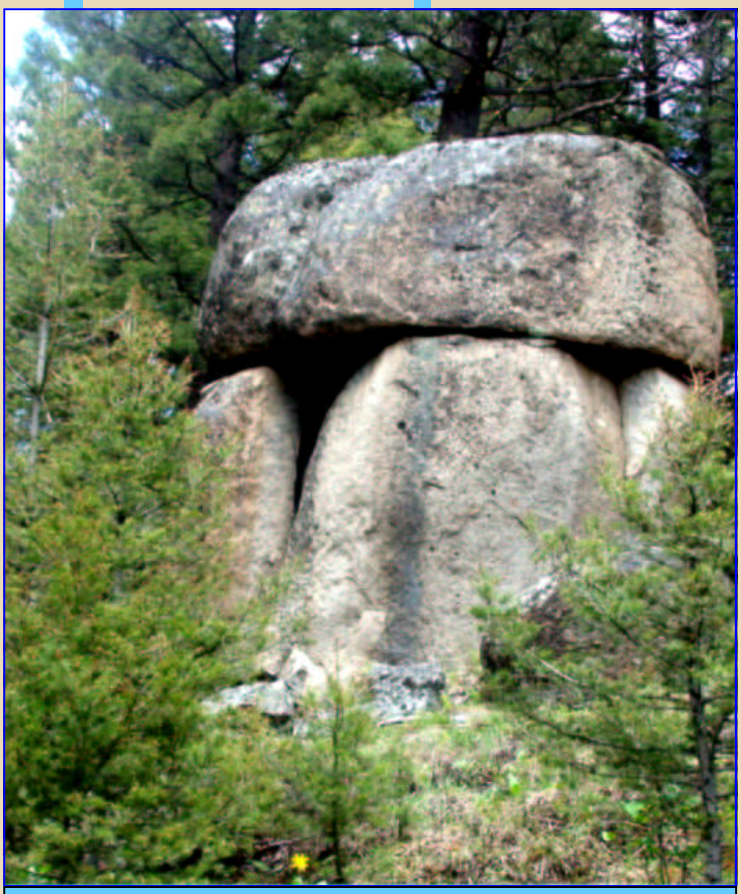


Fig. 5. "Spiral Dolmen," of the Montana megaliths, clearly a manmade structure (from Part 2 in *PCN* #84). Photo courtesy of Julie Ryder.

RICHARD DULLUM, retired as a surgical R.N. working in a large O.R. for the past 30 years, is a researcher in early human prehistory and culture. He is also a Vietnam veteran with a B.A. in Biology. Dullum has written many articles for *PCN* since 2009 and is also one of *PCN*'s copy editors. All of Dullum's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch

SEAN HARASYMCHUK, is a mathematician and computer software designer by background. He is Chief Technical Officer, Co-founder and Co-Chief Software Designer and technology partner for PointVerge, Ltd., and the world of Materials Management, resulting in the development of their QuBR™ software. He lives in South Alberta, Canada. Aside from several decades working in measurement and controls automation for the oil and gas industry and later–present as an expert in modern management techniques and technologies for large company projects (incl. Materials Management, Design, Drafting, and Custom CAD Specs in the world of industrial data communications and storage, etc. Harasymchuk has recently taken a great interest and is involved in the documentation of archaeological sites specializing in collecting data on the nature of sites such as Sage Wall using state-of-the-art techniques and technologies. His data collection for Sage Wall is balanced against the presumed natural features of eroded batholiths. Harasymchuk holds a B.Sc. with a mathematics major supplemented by computer science.

Member news and other info

Quick links to main articles in *PCN* #86:

Archaeologist and *PCN* contributor, **Dr. Richard Michael Gramly**, this upcoming April 13 will be presenting at the first Northern Ohio Archaeology Symposium. The symposium is free and open to the public. Dr. Gramly's 45-minute presentation (plus 15 minutes for questions) goes far more deeply into an important prehistoric Americas topic *PCN* readers are familiar with—the Paleolithic dating of the oldest absolutely-dated sled in the world he discovered in pieces at the Pioneer Museum in Kentucky. The discovery (**Fig. 1**) is helping to change the whole picture of what Clovis life was actually like. Dr. Gramly is a leading expert on Paleolithic Clovis culture.

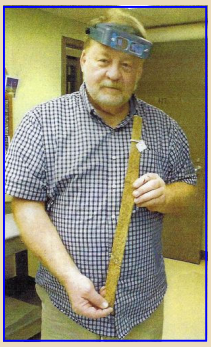


Fig. 1. Sled runner dated absolutely; from Lower Blue Lick (*PCN*#80, Nov-Dec2022), subject Dr. Gramly's talk.

Richard Michael Gramly, PhD, is an archaeologist with a BS in geology (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and an AM and PhD in anthropology (Harvard University). He has conducted archaeological and geological fieldwork in six countries and 30 states. His PhD dissertation (1975) focused on Kenyan and Tanzanian prehistory. Dr. Gramly worked for six years in East Africa two years of which he was an Exhibits Planner at the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, under famed anthropologist Richard Leakey, being well-acquainted with the entire Leakey family. Dr. Gramly feels a great sense of gratitude for the amateur archaeology community and is the Organizer of the American Society for Amateur Archaeology which has been active in his excavation work.

Links to all of Dr. Gramly's articles in *PCN* can be found at:

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#richard-michael-gramly

Link to *PCN* #86

Link to *PCN* #85

Link to *PCN* #84

U-M and Google re-post *PCN* Editor-in-Chief's 39 long-missing html pages

These include evidence of *Homo erectus* intelligence via geometric studies of the Bilzingsleben engravings (published in *British Archaeological Reports International Series*) reproduced in zoomable form. They also included the magnifications of 200 fossils I recovered from formations across the U.S. and Ontario, Canada (Cambrian to Pennsylvanian [Upper Carboniferous], Cretaceous and Pleistocene) direct from quarries, road-cuts, railroad cuts, riverbeds and construction sites over a 30-year span. They also kindly re-posted the beginnings of my musicology, e.g., Bach, and music/arts pages.

(The latter were placed on back burners in 2010 when as webmaster I was called on to double as *PCN* Editor-in-Chief. Now, to catch up with my passion for music, I am working toward posting online a number of my original songs. For those interested, they will be posted at: www.youtube.com/@JohnFeliks.)

Before they might disappear again, those interested can find the anthropology papers on Google by typing (w/the quotes): "john feliks" "public.websites.umich.edu"

This link comes from the same search terms after clicking on 'Images.' It gives direct access to the Bilzingsleben geometric studies and many more fossils after clicking on the "See more anyway" link at the bottom.

As a backup, if the pages do disappear again, one might access them on the Wayback Machine, e.g., Graphics. *–jf*

Reflections on the Bering Land Bridge megafauna superhighway

By Tom Baldwin

"20,000 years ago, when people were leaving footprints in New Mexico the glaciers were at their maximum with the Ice Age in full swing. It would not have been a good time to try to cross from Asia to North America. That means they must have arrived even before on a previous super highway caused by a previous ice age."

Coming home from Las Vegas, where I spent Thanksgiving with my family, I took Interstate 15 through the Virgin River Gorge. If you haven't been along that route at night thank your lucky stars. Cliffs hundreds of feet high on each side of the road make for the darkest, blackest stretch of highway I know. The white stripe on the asphalt is all you have to guide you.

As I drove through the canyon I got behind a slow-moving semi and decided to just follow it. Let it find the way for both of us. This worked well for about a few miles and then the semi started to weave back and forth across the lanes and even on to the shoulder sometimes. I knew what was happening. The driver was falling asleep at the wheel. I decided I better get around it. I didn't want to be caught in an accident.

My truck is turbocharged and can jack rabbit when I ask her to. I asked. Just as I was darting by the truck it started to drift again, this time into the lane I was using to pass. I must have shouted some bad words (not what you are thinking, the "F" word is not in my vocabulary) bad enough and loud enough to wake my passenger.

I made it around the truck wishing the road was wider and I didn't have to cut it so close. I only had a few feet to squeeze past that sleepy driver. My experience on that highway reminded me that there was once a superhighway in Alaska I could have used that night. It was hundreds of miles wide. People and animals used it extensively to travel between Asia and North America and with all that room there were very few collisions except saber-toothed cats running into caribou.

A list of megafauna using that highway at the end of the Pleistocene would include woolly mammoths, bison, saber-toothed cats, caribou (reindeer), musk oxen, grizzly bears, short-faced bears, giant beavers, mastodons, camels, dire wolves, foxes, ground squirrels, badgers, American lions, and the list goes on.

The scientific community would look at that list and nod their heads sagely saying it was a fine list. If, however, I said Man should be included they would throw their hands up in holy horror, and say Clovis man was the first to cross and only found his way to North America about 11,000 years ago.

But that just isn't so. New archaeological finds are coming to light all the time that are much older than Clovis. Just recently, human footprints have been found in New Mexico that are very old. The discoverers ran test after test on the footprints trying to get their finds to fit within the ruling paradigm. They did carbon-14 tests, optically stimulated luminescence tests, and tested pollen found in the prints themselves. All came back with ages for the footprints of 21,000–23,000 years of age, in other words, twice as old as Clovis.

So why don't archaeologists just say, "Hey we were wrong on that one. We now see the light. Clovis people weren't the first people here in the Americas." The reason they won't admit that is the glaciers.

For the last half million years and more our planet has gone through a series of ice ages. 20,000 years ago, when people were leaving footprints in New Mexico the glaciers were at their maximum with the Ice Age in full swing. This would not have been a good time to try to cross from Asia to North America. That means they must have arrived even before on a previous superhigh-

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Reflections on the Bering Land Bridge (cont.)

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way caused by a previous ice age.

I have studied several charts showing glacial ice ages such as **Fig. 1**. It looks to me that proper conditions for the faunal superhighway existed about 11,000, 120,000, 250,000, 340,000, and 420,000 years ago. At any of those times the highway would be open.

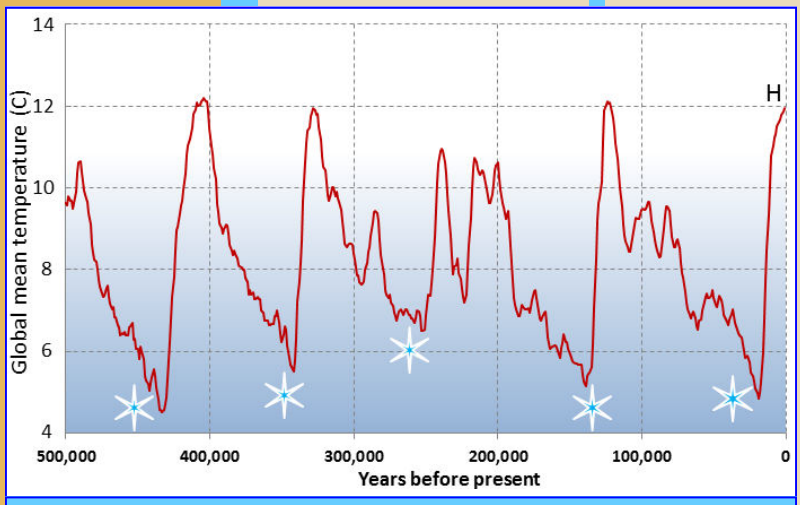

Fig. 1. Line chart showing temperature changes over the last half million years. It provides knowledge most consumers of popular science are never informed about. They're taught to think about "the" Ice Age when, in reality, they should be taught about "many" ice ages over hundreds of thousands of years. The 'snowflakes' represent the last five glacial periods. "H" represents the current interglacial warm peak (i.e. the Holocene which is the period that we are currently in). Knowing of these cycles, university graduates and TV viewers would not be so inclined to reject evidence of earlier human arrivals in the Americas. Chart: Stephen Earle. 2019. Glacial periods in Earth's history. *Physical Geology*, Chapter 16. Creative Commons by the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

11,000 years ago the Ice Age would be over, the megafauna superhighway—known as Beringia or the Bering Land Bridge—open, and animals crossing back and forth. People like the Clovis would be crossing too. However, 22,000 years ago when those tracks were being laid down in New Mexico it is highly unlikely anybody or creature was making the trip. They had probably retreated south to find better weather and living conditions.

But when, then, did the people and animals come? They came after glacial minimums when an ice age was over and the ice was melting, but not enough had yet melted to flood the superhighway. There has been a series of ice ages, each with a maximum and a minimum. Each included a time when people and animals could cross without much difficulty. I believe that is just what they did. Think of the time choice as similar to a Goldilocks and the Three Bears situation. At one early time the climate may have been "too hot," with the glaciers having melted and all that water flooding the superhighway. At another time, the glaciers were a mile thick and covering everything, making it "too cold." At a different time, however, the glaciers were in the process of melting back but had not yet flooded the highway and things were "just right" for a crossing—which animals by the thousands were doing.

As I have written before, the mainstream accepts animals having crossed at far earlier times but not humans, even though there is much evidence that they did. Not only did they cross, they left proof of their presence in different archaeological sites here in the United States and Mexico as evidenced by Calico Early Man Site and the CalTrans Site (Cerutti Mastodon) both in California, and Valsequillo site in Mexico, to name just a few.

The saddest thing about all this is that it should not be me giving you this information. It should be the professional archaeologists as objective scientists that are passing on to the public all the fantastic genuinely early sites that have come to light over the years.

When I was an amateur archaeologist working at the Calico Early Man Site we always had visitors coming to view or learn how to dig for artifacts. The public is hungry to learn about mankind's origins, but they seldom get it from the archaeological establishment. So keep reading this, the *Pleistocene Coalition News*, and we will endeavor to keep you informed.

TOM BALDWIN, an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah, also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. He has been a central writer and copy editor for *PCN* since 2010. He was actively involved with the Friends of Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, CA) since the early days when famed anthropologist Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only Western Hemisphere site excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is a very well received and entertaining fictional story based on Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of *PCN,* Baldwin has published over 50 prior *PCN* articles focusing on the intelligence of early humans, including *Homo erectus*, as well as early man in the Americas. Links to all of Baldwin's articles can be found at:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin

Games over board! *Part 7*

By Elke Rogersdotter, PhD, Archaeology

"The considerable time span and

durability of some games may seem surprising at first glance. Often, as we have seen, they have a simple concept..."

"The real dynamics of games unfortunately have a tendency to remain invisible as long as we only observe them from the outside, from a distance."

Continuing from ***Part 6*** *(PCN #86, Nov-Dec 2023)…*

Discussion Part One

The specific category of games addressed here—bowling games—has served as an illustrative example; there are, of course, other types of games that likewise take place 'in the air and on the ground,' that is, beyond the well-marked area of the game board. Likewise, the Indus-related artifacts that have been mentioned here, as well as the ways in which they have been discussed, should also be primarily understood as an exemplifying sample. It should be pointed out that for more reliable interpretations, more careful analyses would be required, which would also have to include studies of the spatial distribution of the objects, their find- and use contexts, etc. The objects have been selected and discussed in the ways they have, based on selected historical and ethnological examples, mainly for the purpose of stimulating the thought processes. Neither the selections nor the interpretations are to be considered comprehensive or definitive in any way; rather, the sample might indicate how much there is in this specific field of elementary human activities that probably remains undiscovered.

Apparent Simplicity?

This said, as indicated by the examples, from a game research perspective there are several advantages to approaching the subject of early games and gaming in terms of larger, overarching categories. One of the advantages of this kind of broadened perspective is that it makes visible the universal dimension of gaming, not only in terms of the *need* for games and play, but also in terms of the *types* of gameplay that are preferred

Fig.1. Simple pastime or a challenging game? Photograph by Sarthak Somvanshi, *Childhood games*, 2020. Sarthak Somvanshi, ublic domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

or have been preferred, almost regardless of time and place. The considerable time span and durability of some games may seem surprising at first glance. Often, as we have seen, they have a simple concept, something that several researchers in this specific field, not least De Vroede (1996), emphasize precisely as part of the recipe for success for a popular and long-lived game. But the simplicity itself may also easily lead us to believe that it equally applies to the very execution of the game. The real dynamics of games unfortunately have a tendency to remain invisible as long as we only observe them from the outside, from a distance. Indeed, it is perhaps only when we really engage in a game that its inherent power and various challenges are truly revealed. The aforementioned locally occurring group of games known as *kloter*, for example, have been referred to and described by practitioners as appealing not least because of the unusual speed with which they were usually played and their propensity for rapid changes of play (Karlholm 1979). That is to say, qualities are mentioned here that would be difficult to infer as an outside observer, given the unusually clumsy and heavy playing equipment that was used in these games. In the case of games such as *woskate icaslohe* or *than-ka-la-wa*, on the other hand (**mentioned in *PCN* #83 and 86, respectively**), not only skills such as strength and throwing ability are challenged, but at least as much fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, and mental capacities such as ability to concentrate. In other words, skills that at first glance may not seem so obvious to someone who only studies the games from the outside or in hindsight.

Thus, and with the outside perspective that by definition cannot be avoided, many games seem to be easily at risk of being considered simple pastimes, something to do alongside other (read: more important) activities (**Fig. 1**). This, in turn, can conceivably contribute to them being seen as less serious than board games, while the material traces of activi-

> **Cont. on page 10**

Games over board! *Part 7* (cont.)

"This, in turn, can conceivably contribute to them being seen as less serious than board games, while the material traces of activities like these risk being categorized as 'toys.'"

"We see how the games fundamentally appeal to a number of elementary, constantly recurring skills that we humans apparently like to put to the test, almost regardless of time period, social context, or cultural milieu."

ties like these risk being categorized as 'toys' without further specification. As the examples suggest, however, as well as the review in general, we can see that the simplicity in this regard appears in several cases to be illusory, even false. Here, then, we see another advantage of approaching the question of ancient games via a focus on formal game structure, because thereby the emphasis falls precisely on the execution itself of the games (which is already implied in the name of the game category): the *handling* is what defines or makes the games, as well as that which becomes decisive for what distinguishes them from each other (rather than the implements). Beneath the surface of seemingly endless variations, we see how the games fundamentally appeal to a number of elementary, constantly recurring skills that we humans apparently like to put to the test, almost regardless of time period, social context, or cultural milieu. As can be deduced from several of the examples, there is a recurrent tendency among the players to want to challenge abilities such as physical dexterity, from strength and speed to various motor skills, but also mental and social skills such as good perception and tactical skills, ability to teamwork, etc. Were we to look at other categories of games, such as 'guessing games' which in character can be said to be far removed from the games of bowling, we would find an emphasis on a number of other, but to an outsider probably also more or less 'hidden' aptitudes and capacities, such as arithmetic skills, sense of form and proportions, etc. (but that's another story…). Yes, even in this aspect De Vroede thinks he sees part of the secret of the tremendous success or durability of certain games. Because, if the games we play were not capable of challenging us in one way or another, albeit in an exhilarating rather than demanding (read: suffocating) way, they would quickly bore us; such games would not survive the test of time. Indeed, De Vroede receives support on this point from several theorists on the subject, some of whom go so far as to suggest that more robust ways of discussing and classifying games and play could be precisely to go by the kinds of skill and stimulus (thrill) they appeal to (e.g. Caillois 2001 [1961]; Fritz 2004). The perspective can thus offer a way to more easily understand the sometimes strikingly similar features of many of the games, as well as their often long continuity in time.

Fig. 2. Play and games only come alive when they are viewed from their social and cultural context. *Tossing in a bison robe or foot moving (a Hidatsa child's play)* (from Wilson, Gilbert Livingstone, *Waheenee: An Indian Girl's Story*, St. Paul, 1921). Made by Frederick N. Wilson., Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

In addition, and as several of the examples demonstrate as well, the practice of gaming also, and to an equal extent, appeals to our social nature; to the desire and joy of coming together, to the prospect of exciting and electrifying performances, to group-strengthening endeavors and so forth (compare Camy 1995) (see **Fig. 2**

> Cont. on page 11

Games over board! *Part 7* (cont.)

"The examples also demonstrate, the practice of gaming also, and to an equal extent, appeals to our social nature...the desire and joy of coming together...the prospect of exciting and electrifying performances...to group-strengthening endeavors."

and **Fig. 3**). In this respect, one of the just-mentioned theorists in the field actually maintains that games can also, and with advantage, be differentiated and analyzed based on the types of attractive forces they can conceivably exert on all the participants in question (Fritz 2004). These powers of attraction can then be expected to look slightly different for different participants, or between active participants and spectators. This, in turn, makes visible the process-like features of gaming, as well as its more multi-faceted dimensions and effects. Parallel to the universal, cross-border nature of many games, the degree and importance of their social and cultural 'embeddedness' is thus also underlined; and then, above all, at the local level.

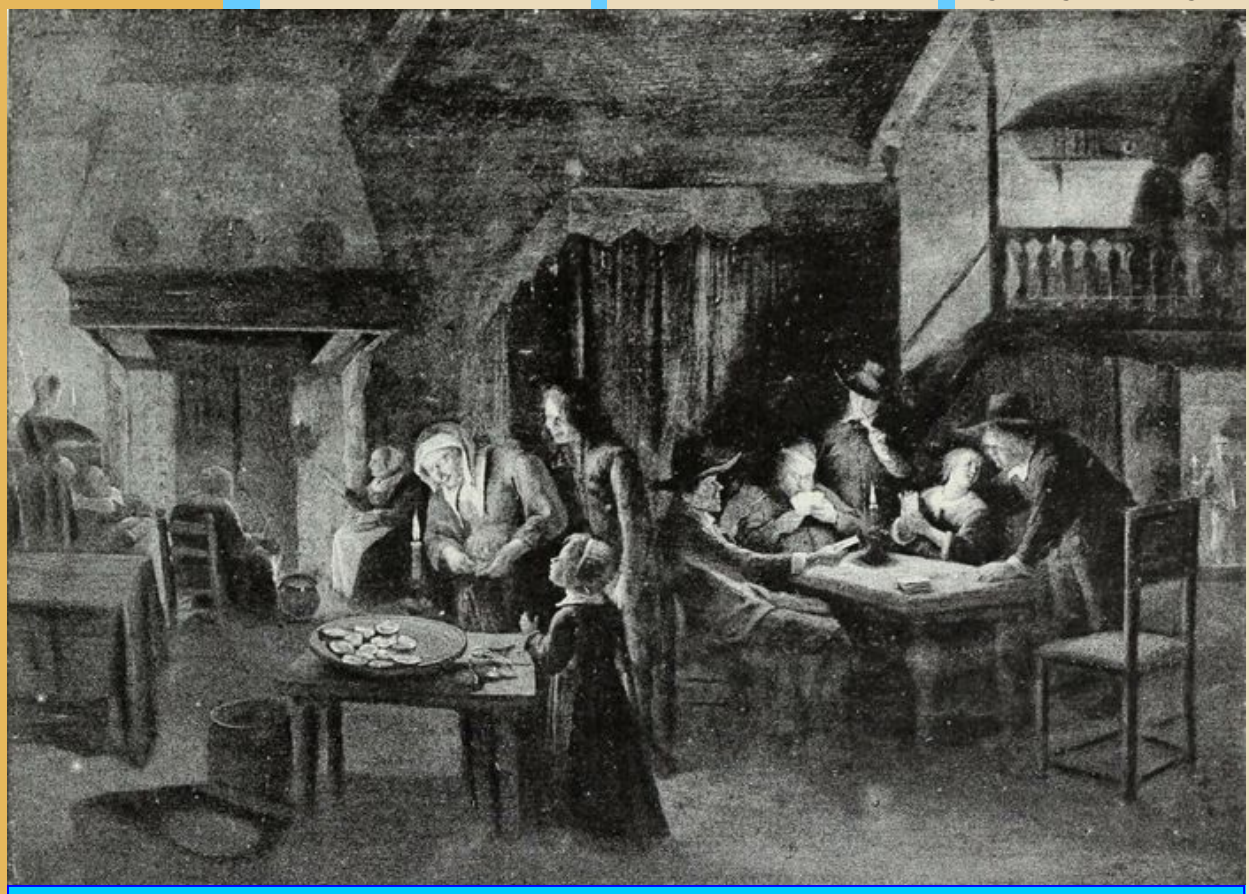

Fig. 3. Playing games may not always be about winning—an evening in the company of good friends can be just as desirable. Drawing by Jan Steen, *Tavern Scene by Candlelight*, 1660. Jan Steen; Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

All in all, this perspective, with this kind of reasoning, should thus pave the way for assuming, at least theoretically, that games like these should reasonably have existed even further back in time, probably as a fundamental part of human life and social coexistence on the whole.

Expanded Scope of Opportunities

Taking on games in the wide-ranging way that has been exemplified in this series of articles has, on the other hand, also provided an insight into how incredibly *varied* games within one and the same category can actually be, both in terms of types of implement employed and regarding how the game is played—a diversity that can work as a reminder to avoid too taken-for-granted categorizations, as well as not to become too categorical in the search for and assessment of possible game-related traces in archaeological contexts. In other words, here we can see further advantages with the way of approaching games and gaming that has been presented here. With the emphasis placed on the formal and structural components of games, and with the support of a broad comparative approach, we become less bound by, for

> Cont. on page 12

Games over board! *Part 7* (cont.)

"All in all, this perspective… should thus pave the way for assuming, at least theoretically, that games like these should reasonably have existed even further back in time, probably as a fundamental part of human life and social coexistence on the whole."

example, type of object, or type of material, in our search. Rather, thinking *across* type-, form-, or material-related boundaries can be facilitated. As the review has further indicated, in the long run it may also not be particularly fruitful to only search for the obvious, since traces of games may constitute so much more than what we might think at first, and include far more diverse kinds of implement than proper game boards and similar 'orthodox' items. Here, for the sake of clarification, we can recall one of the review's perhaps more striking examples of what kind of game accessory a specific game, at a certain time and in a certain environment, could actually involve: for, what are the chances that the specific mixture of earth, flour, salt and ox blood traditionally included in the top layer of the playing alley on which the game of *platte bol* is played (mentioned in *PCN* #83) would indeed be recognized as such, if the remains of such a composition were to be accidentally encountered at, say, a future excavation, and that it would consequently be classified as game-related evidence? Probably quite small if no prior knowledge of the game in question exists, nor any type of supplementary sources that could provide some guidance. A too narrow and one-sided focus on what is most obvious can also hardly make visible precisely the richness of variation and diversity that is so characteristic of non-sports-related gaming, locally as well as globally, and which can therefore be taken itself as a valuable variable when searching for these kinds of activity in the past. For, on a general level, it would logically be the universal/constant occurrence *together* with the seemingly endless variations that may be taken as indicative of the playful aspect of these activities; they are popular, long-lived, usually passed down by word of mouth. In other words, variations and variants should be expected in the archaeological material, at least from a larger perspective than the most local.

Series conclusion in Part 8…

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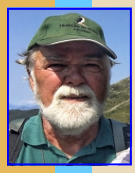
ELKE ROGERSDOTTER holds a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Gothenburg (her PhD thesis, *Gaming in Mohenjo-daro—an Archaeology of Unities*, 2011, concerned social aspects of ancient gameplay with a particular focus on the Bronze Age Indus urban center of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan). She has been working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University. The fellowship has concerned the late medieval city of Vijayanagara in present-day Karnataka, South India, as traced through material remains of game boards. Among other places, Dr. Rogersdotter has conducted archaeological fieldwork in India, Pakistan, Russia and Romania.

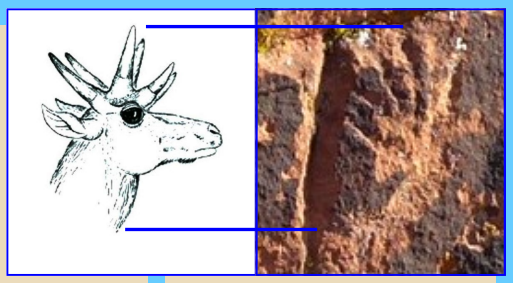
"82 drilled cups… interpreted as precise information that suggests what may have been 'fundamental astronomical knowledge' around 9,000 years ago."

Member news and other info
(continued from p. 6)



Thomas Walli-Knofler, of the Austrian Cupstone Research Team, sent an update, though not in time for *PCN* #87. Walli-Knofler's basic news is that they were finally able to conduct the first excavation of an Austrian cupstone discovered in 2010. He describes the large slab as containing 82 drilled cups which they have interpreted as precise information that suggests what may have been "fundamental astronomical knowledge" around 9,000 years ago.

Six horns add to proposed *pronghorn depiction diversity*



Engineer and rock art researcher and preservationist, **Ray Urbaniak**, continues to research diversity of 'extinct' American pronghorns. Details to come.

Before suffering her illnesses and two debilitating strokes PC Co-founder, **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre**, managed and attempted to bring a more scientific approach to the controversial and often contentious subject of **figure stones**. Since we continue to receive highly subjective pictures of these but still without context, etc., we plan to re-print some of Virginia's important recommendations for collectors to follow.

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6

By Anthony Peratt, PhD., and W. F. Yao, LMS, M.A.

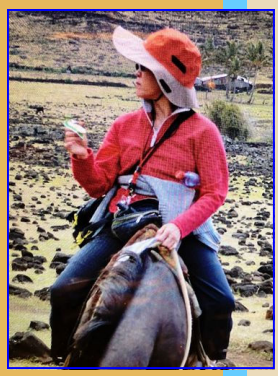


Fig. 1. Partial marking of known petroglyph sites in Venezuela. **Top center:** Caracas. **Top left:** San Estaban National Park. **Top right:** Resort sites and Mount Roraima. **Center right:** Canaima. **Center:** Orinoco River from Puerto Ayacucho (lower red marker) to Caicara del Orinoco (upper red marker)—the El Sol site noted by Baron Von Humboldt in 1803. **Upper right:** Site of where Columbus first set foot in the Americas. **Bottom:** Amazonia. The straight light blue lines are our airplane routes flown.

"The regions we... surveyed by foot, horseback, and motor vehicle included North America... Central America and South America... the Alp's ... Oceana ... Australia, and parts of Southeast Asia and Mongolia...

Radio telescopes were used to investigate the skies."

Continuing from Part 5, (*PCN* #86, Nov-Dec 2023). Part 6 consists of Section 8 of the outline provided in Part 1 (*PCN* #82, March-April 2023)...

Survey expeditions

The regions that we or other members of our team surveyed by foot, horseback, and motor vehicle included North America (USA, Canada) Central America and South America (Venezuela, Peru, Columbia, Bolivia. Brazil, Chile, Patagonia), the Alp's (Italian, French, and German), Oceana (Hawaii), Isla de la Pascua (Easter Island), Australia, and parts of Southeast Asia and Mongolia.

Radio telescopes were used to investigate the skies and how stars, etc., might relate to international rock art. These were Arecibo in Puerto Rico, the Very Large Array in New Mexico (each of these would be familiar to those who saw the popular film, *Contact*)—with the latter being the world's largest radio telescope array—and the Murchison Array, Australia.[1,2]

Fig. 1 shows a partial marking of the known petroglyph rock art sites in Venezuela.

Fig. 2 on the following page shows Yao (Left) and

[1] On our visit to the Museum of Antiquities, Lima Peru, some 24,000 vases are kept where all nature of human activities have been recorded. Much like our focus on particular Ica Stones (such as the sample in Fig. 11 later), the vases we focused on involved data related to the topics of interest in this series.

[2] Alexander von Humboldt's (1769–1859) advocacy of systematic geophysical measurements laid the foundation for modern geomagnetic monitoring. He was an explorer of the Orinoco River (See Fig. 1, Center) where he recorded El Sol and its tributaries on his way to the Amazon. His encounter with dangerous electric eels focused his mind on electricity and magnetism. Later, he met Simon Bolivar (the founder of Venezuela) in Rome and Thomas Jefferson (third U.S. President) at Monticello, Virginia, where the two conversed in French about the development of the United States. Humboldt was a member of most world scientific societies of the time including the American Philosophical Society.

> Cont. on page 14

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6 (cont.)

"The Moai, often with their wide red top knot headpieces have been suggested to represent Shiva, a statue found all over the southeast pacific rim Asian countries and also in parts of South America (Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru)."

Peratt (Center) as we were GPS logging a petroglyphic rock art site in Utah, 2008.

Fig. 2. Peratt and Yao studying and GPS-logging petroglyphic rock art in Utah, 2008.

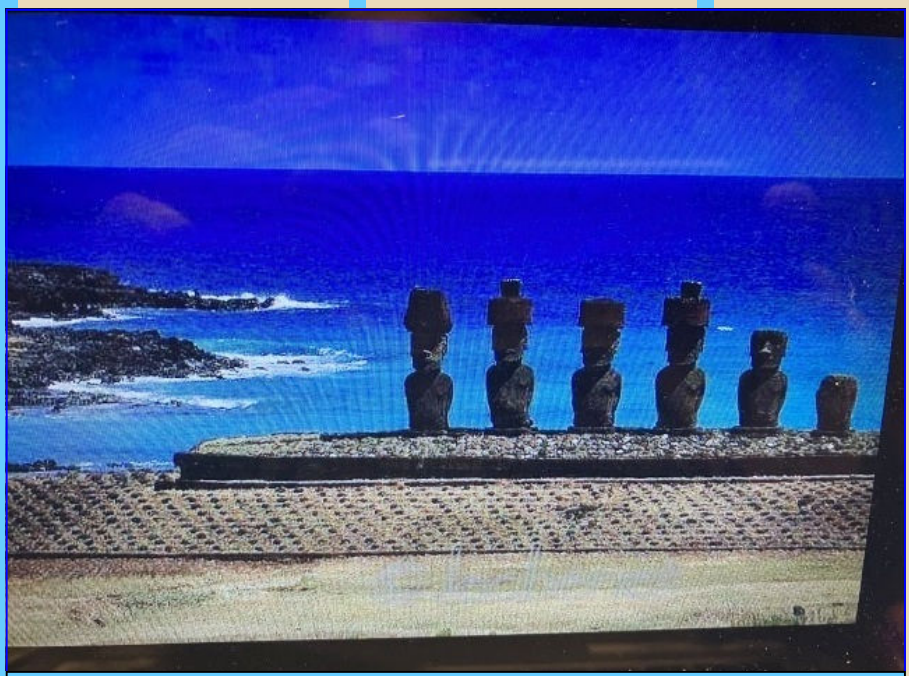


Fig. 3. Photo from our visit to Easter Island in 2009 (quality is low here as the image was taken from a projected slide). It shows Moai statues facing inwards to Easter Island. Antarctica is due south c. 4,500 miles. It is thought that Moai may actually represent Shiva (a Hindu deity) which, aside from inland, is found all over southeast Pacific-rim Asian countries and South America suggesting Hindus may have approached several ways perhaps including Antarctica.

Fig. 3 is a photograph of a projected slide that was taken during our rock art survey and GPS logging of Easter Island in 2009. The famous Moai statues are facing inwards to Easter Island. From this point Antarctica is due south about 4,500 miles. The Moai, often with their wide red top knot headpieces have been suggested to represent Shiva, a statue found all over the southeast pacific rim Asian countries and also in parts of South America (Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru). A possible explanation is that some Hindus left Antarctica on their way to Easter Island. **Fig. 4** on the following page is Yao on horseback GPS-logging the rock art sites on the northeast side of Easter Island.

Fig. 5 (also on the following page) shows Peratt and Easter Island guide, Tuki, on mountain horses

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Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6 (cont.)

"[These Moai weigh] ***about 287 tons. …***

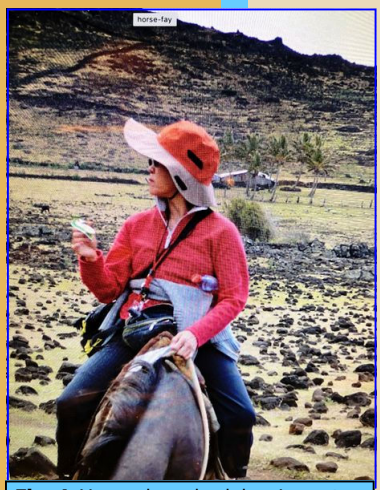

Fig. 4. Yao on horseback logging petroglyphs on Easter Island's northeast side.

The weight …would be movable by 'Big Carl'—

GPS-logging in the same general area.

Fig. 6 shows many Moai statues at Rano Raraku volcano on Easter Island. Of the some 800 unfinished Moai at this location, some have beards. Two unfinished (only a bottom weight-bearing length of tuff would need be cut away to move them) lie in a 'roofed' cove near the top of the quarry (near the picture's upper right). These are 6.7 meters in length (about 22 feet) and weigh 260 metric tons (i.e. about 287 tons). A work

Fig. 5. Peratt (right) and Tuki on mountain horses GPS-logging petroglyphs on the northeast side of Easter Island.

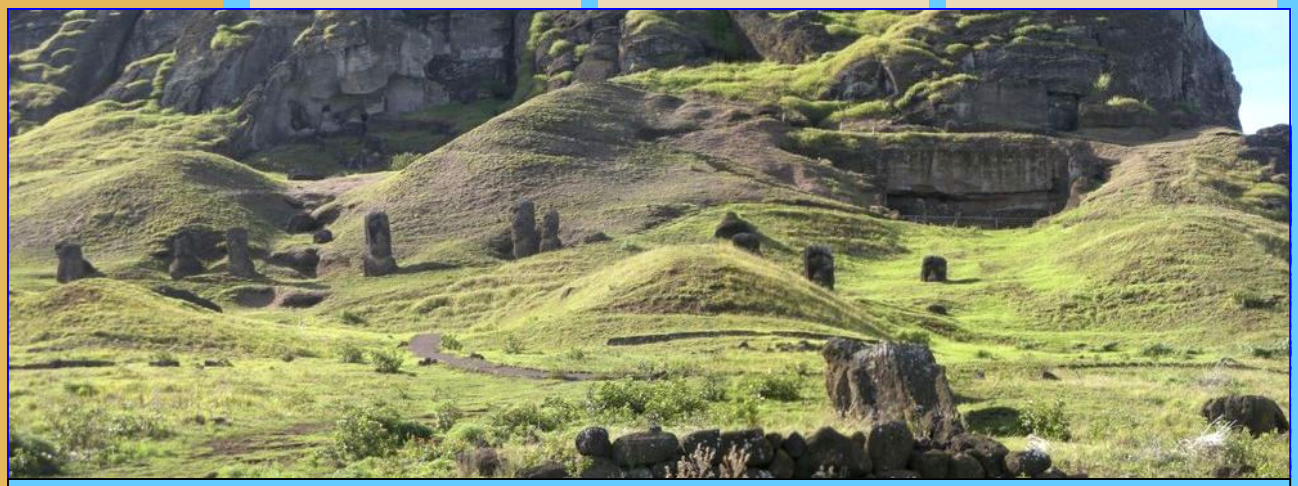

Fig. 6. Moai statues at Rano Raraku Volcano, Easter Island. Of the roughly 800 unfinished Moai here, some have beards. Two unfinished Moai lie in a 'roofed' cove near the top of the quarry (near upper right). They are 6.7 meters in length (about 22ft.) weighing 260 metric tons (approx 287 tons). The weight of these Moai would be movable by 'Big Carl' (the world's largest crane) but would take 250 trucks to move. This enigma of Easter Island suggests a vanished technological culture equal to that of Peru's Sacred Valley.

the world's largest crane (2023)—but would take 250 trucks to move."

force necessary to build such structures would not be possible at a site more than 3 km above the present surrounding ocean (per marine charts 2010). The weight of these Moai would be movable by 'Big Carl,' the world's largest crane (2023), but would take 250 trucks to move. We believe it is a feat not likely developed at this Rano Raraku location.

According to mechanical engineer, Al Qöyawayma M.A.—earlier known for his work in the development of inertial navigation or inertial guidance systems—and as a co-founder of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society—Easter Island suggests the existence of a vanished Pleistocene continent, or at least culture, with an advanced technology such as once found in the 'Sacred Valley' of the Incas in Peru. To give some perspective on how this relates to Easter Island technology, the Sacred Valley features carved multi-megaton stones *quarried at a lower altitude* kilometers away then remarkably transported *upward* to the top of a mountain.

That Easter Island's culture was involved in efforts of

> Cont. on page 16

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6 (cont.)

"That Easter Island's culture was involved in efforts of equal organization to megalithic civilizations around the world can be grasped from Fig. 7."

equal organization to megalithic civilizations around the world can be grasped from **Fig. 7**. At the least, it will give one a sense of the quarrying efforts involved in creating the giant Moai.

Fig. 7. One of the many presumed 'unfinished' giant Moai in the quarry at Rano Raraku (it is now believed some were never intended to be moved). The Easter Island statues have inspired much conjecture over the years but it is clear the skills to create them were not developed on the island. Photo, Soizic Gaborel, Wikimedia Commons.

Fig. 8. Inclinometer and compass recording instruments.

Fig. 8 shows a couple of the field tools used in recording and organizing different kinds of data we have collected over many years time. The instrument on the left is called an 'inclinometer.' It is used to measure angles related to slope, tilt and elevation (or depression) of objects as related to gravity.

Fig. 9 shows author, Peratt, logging petroglyphs during a survey of the Columbia River in the State of Oregon. The area can be seen plotted in the upper left of Fig. 1 map in the prior issue (*PCN* #86, Nov-Dec 2023).

Fig. 9. Peratt logging Columbia River, Oregon.

Fig. 10 is on the following page. It shows co-author, Yao, noting and GPS-logging some of the petroglyphic rock art on Easter island.

Fig. 11, also on the following page, is an example of a controversial carved stone head from Ica, Peru. The main interest here is that it features 28 vertical stripes at top of crown. This is significant as the number of lines may be related to the proposed representation of internationally-observed 'Birkeland currents' discussed in earlier issues of *PCN* (e.g., *PCN* #85, Sept-Oct 2023) that appear to show up in rock art, etc., of the world.

Finally, **Fig. 12**, on the following page features a cultural rock art motif known as 'El Sol' we GPS-logged in Caicara, Venezuela. The motif was first recorded by Baron von Humboldt in c. 1799–1800. See again Fig. 1 and Footnote 2 at the beginning of this article. The carved image shows 21 rays. However, the carving would just fit a full set of 28 per the proposed observation of multi-continent Birkeland current representations (e.g., *PCN* #85, Sept-Oct 2023).

To be continued in Part 7…

Addendum

My 1991 (2015: 2nd Ed.) book, *Physics of the Plasma Universe*, explains in more detail many of the physics topics touched upon in this series. Also, throughout the series, and as a reminder of how the series is organized regularly refer back to our page 1 of Part 1 (*PCN* #82, March-April 2023). It

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Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6 (cont.)

"The main interest here is that it features

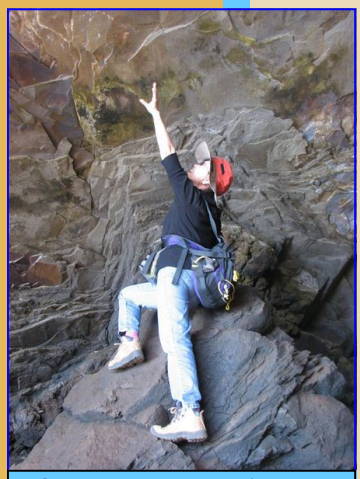

Fig. 10. Yao noting and GPS recording petroglyphs on Easter Island.

28 vertical stripes at top of crown... related to the proposed representation

Fig. 12. El Sol. Caicara, Venezuela. First recorded discovery was by Baron von Humboldt c. 1799–1800 (see Fig. 1 and Footnote 2). 21 rays are shown here. However, the carving would just fit a full set of 28 per proposed multi-continent Birkeland Current representations (see, e.g., *PCN* #85, Sept-Oct 2023). Photo F. Yao.

of internationally-observed 'Birkeland currents.'"

will remind readers that these new installments, together, serve as a prequel explaining portions of the research studies that led to the ideas I originally published in *PCN* #63 (Jan-Feb 2020) and to help show how the archaeology and physics topics are interrelated or overlap.

Abbreviated bios

(Full bios are at start of Part 1)

ANTHONY LEE PERATT, PHD, received his BSEE from California State Polytechnic University, 1963, followed by his MSEE from the University of Southern Cal, 1967. Assigned for two years to Professor Hannes Alfven, Peratt translated Alfven's seminal book, *Cosmic Plasma*, into English. Peratt received his PhD in 1971, after Alfven was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Peratt then joined the UC National Laboratories (Lawrence Livermore in 1972 and Los Alamos in 1981), receiving his 30-yr. UC Alumnus Award in 2005. He spent sabbaticals at the Max Planck Inst. for Plasma Physics, Garching, DE 1975–77 and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden 1985/1988. In 1986, he gave the prestigious Norwegian Acad. of Science and Letters Birkeland Lecture. Dr. Peratt later received two U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) awards for his experiments and computations. With Prof. Oscar Buneman, Stanford U. (of Bletchley Park fame) Peratt ran the Tridimensional-Stanford fully-3D gravitational and plasma teraflop galaxy code for 14 years in a Stanford-Los Alamos collaboration. 1995–99 Dr. Peratt served in the Dept. of Energy Defense Programs and as Acting Head of Nuclear Nonproliferation. Since then, he served in the Los Alamos Assoc. Laboratory Directorate for Experiments and Computations. Subsequently his research involves the source of petroglyphs as an ancient above-Antarctic intense outburst, with ground GPS measurements and their distribution-orientation with earth-orbiting satellites, in the Americas; Australia, Polynesia (incl. Easter Island), the Alps and Mongolia. 2004–2011 Peratt worked with UPenn Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dr. Peratt is Senior Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science and an IEEE Life Fellow, a member of the American Physical Soc., American Astrophysical Soc., and Archimedes Circle. He acknowledges his tenure at the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Washington D.C., 1995–2000, Dept. of Defense Programs (DP) and Nuclear Nonproliferation (NN). Dr. Peratt is indebted to Professors Hans Kuehl, EE Dept. USC and Zohrab Kaprelian, Dean of Engineering USC, who started him on a course of studies he could not have foreseen.

All of Dr. Peratt's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#peratt_and_yao Website: plasmauniverse.info

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FAY YAO completed post-graduate course work toward a PhD in multi-disciplines; received M.A. in Lib. Science and Sec. Education, UNM, 1971; B.A., Chinese Lit. and Hist., Philippines CKS College, 1969; studied Bus. Admin. and Mathematics, University of the East, Philippines, 1966–69. She is an affiliate member of the Intl. IEEE Computer Soc., IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Soc., and NM Museum of Science and Hist. Ms. Yao is fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Haisanese, Fujanese, and reads Tagalog and Spanish. Yao co-founded the Albuquerque Chinese Arts and Language School, 1978, founded the Acad. of Chinese Performing Arts, 2015, and NM Chinese American Speaker Series, 2016. Ms. Yao was Sec. of a UN Model Collegiate Students Organization of the Philippines, 1966–69;

Fig. 11. Carved stone head from Ica, Peru (resting on a RG58 cable). It features 28 vertical stripes at top of crown, again, significant as possibly related to the proposed representation of Birkeland Currents (e.g., *PCN* #85, Sept-Oct 2023) in rock art, etc., of the world. Photo by Peratt and Yao.

Sec., NM League of Women Voters, 1988; Rep. in the Alliance for Better Community Relations, Albuquerque Jewish Fed., 1988–9; State Sec. NM Elem. School Librarians Assoc., 1989; and served as Nat. Rep. to the Nat. Chinese American Citizens Alliance, San Francisco since 2020. She received the 2016 Spirit of NM award by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for her "outstanding leadership, service… to our community, state, and country." Yao received the 2008 U.S. Congressional Women's Art, Woven' Vision Award. Among others, she has done lectures for the UNM Maxwell Anthropology Museum. Yao has co-authored papers in the Trans. Plasma Sci., the European Physica Scripta, and IEEE Spec. Issue. Latin American Workshop on Plasma Physics, 2018, works representing her GPS and Magnetic Transit petroglyphs orientation investigations interpreting cosmopolitan symbols. She served as a petroglyph archeologist with field work for the Museum of NM Rock Art Recording Project to GPS log Petroglyph Natl. Mon. and other sites. Dr. Yao was first to decipher a Chinese petroglyph panel as describing the evolution, shape, dynamic properties and observational location of the Axis wadi emanating from Earth's surface. She has special interest in how symbols relate to each other worldwide.

Comparing sizes of proposed dwarf pronghorn and jack rabbit depictions By Ray Urbaniak (Engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist) including photo by Bill Woodland

"When I wrote the prior article,

I had no idea what the... mysterious animal... was, so I ignored it."

Following the enigmatic rock art presented last issue, *PCN* #86 (Nov-Dec 2023), I provide support for the *diminutive pronghorn* assertion—this time, from southern Utah—plus evidence for rock art depiction of a *jack rabbit*, Winslow, Arizona.

Fig. 1 shows another photo of a very old panel featuring what I believe to be another "diminutive" pronghorn *depicted to scale*. It is smaller than the other extinct pronghorn species (black arrows) or the big-horned sheep depicted (yellow arrow). Photo by Ray Urbaniak. The *Tetrameryx* and *Capromeryx* pronghorn NPS illustrations are by Benji Paysnoe of the Tule Springs Pronghorn, U.S. National Park Service (nps.gov).

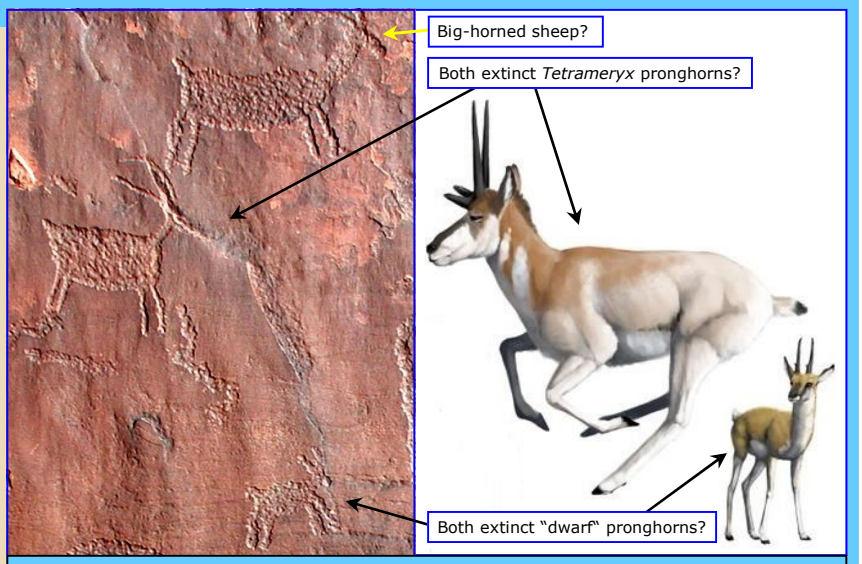

Fig. 1. Comparing Southern Utah rock art antelope depictions with modern-day depictions. **Left:** Petroglyph photo by Ray Urbaniak. **Right:** Modern illustration comparing large and small pronghorns excerpted from *Tetrameryx and Capromeryx* by Benji Paysnoe, U.S. National Park Service, nps.gov. I offer this comparison to support the idea that differently-sized images may actually represent different species depicted to scale. Suggested "diminutive pronghorn" stood only 1 1/2–2 feet at the shoulder.

Fig. 2. Mysterious animal (yellow arrows) near the "diminutive" pronghorn. Rock art panel south of Winslow, AZ: EMU Professor Emeritus, Bill Woodland.

As mentioned in Part 1, the diminutive pronghorn are said to have been 1 ½ to 2 feet tall, **Fig. 2** (black arrows). The partly-visible animal in the corner to the right is slightly larger but still within that range (if it is, in fact, also a dwarf pronghorn). Fig. 2 is the original photo by Bill Woodland presented in Part 1.

Above and to the left of the smaller pronghorn is another animal indicated by the yellow arrows. It is superimposed on the big animal which is about the size of the animal to the right of the smallest pronghorn. When I wrote the prior article, I had no idea what the unusually-shaped mysterious animal superimposed on the large animal was, so I ignored it. However, the animal's identification continued to bother me so I took a closer look and noticed what appeared to be 'ears' rather than horns or antlers. [I have prior proposed ID's for several less common animals in rock art that appear to show very distinctive ears, e.g., Rarely-depicted Ice Age animals in U.S. cave art (*PCN* #59, May-June 2019) and Ice Age animals in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada: Game-changing Native American pictographs and petroglyphs (*PCN* #80, Nov-Dec 2022, reprint of *PCN* #74, Nov-Dec 2021 for back-to-back with Part 2 in the same issue).]

I also noticed the exaggerated curve in the animal's back and now believe this is, in fact,

> **Cont. on page 19**

Diminutive pronghorn support and proposed jack rabbit (cont.)

"Not afraid to speculate on occasion, I thought, perhaps the rock artist might have included the image in the petroglyph panel to emphasize that the small pronghorn was actually smaller than a large jackrabbit which... can reach a height of just under 2' tall!"

the depiction of a large jackrabbit. Not afraid to speculate on occasion, I thought, perhaps the rock artist might have included the image in the petroglyph panel to emphasize that the small pronghorn was actually smaller than a large jackrabbit, which, for those who may not be aware, can reach a height of just under 2' tall!

Fig. 3. Left: Detail of the enigmatic animal portrayed in a petroglyph south of Winslow, AZ, discovered in the photo by Bill Woodland (Fig. 2) which I believe is the depiction of a large 'jack rabbit.' **Right:** A modern-day jack rabbit. Photo by Thomas Schoch; Wikimedia Commons.

Conclusions

If the mysterious animal is indeed a jack rabbit, it will be another example of either rare or completely unknown representation of a particular animal in rock art such as I've presented in several earlier issues of *PCN*. More importantly, it will be another example that ancient Native Americans were much more scientifically observant than the field has credited them for so long a time. Also, if I am correct in my examination, the inclusion of the jackrabbit to possibly emphasize the size the small pronghorn had on the observer (smaller than a jackrabbit), could have been used to create extra impact similar to the rock art image I wrote about showing a goat on the back of a sheep (*PCN* #78, July-August 2022). The observer saw something that intrigued him and he wanted to document it in an impactful way.

Fig. 4. The size impact of a jack-rabbit in the wild. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archeologist with many years systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 80 articles with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of Urbaniak's articles can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak

Sacred Rock Art—Archaeology, rock art, archaeoastronomy (naturalfrequency.net)

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