



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

MARCH - APRIL 2024

- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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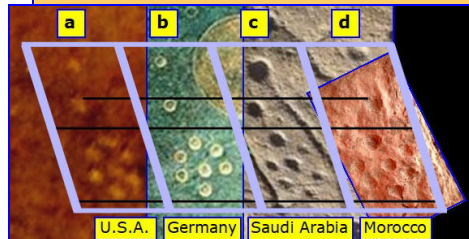
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Cupstone researcher, **Thomas Walli-Knofler**, and a University of Innsbruck excavation team (see below) provide more indisputable evidence Pleiades motifs are *intercontinentally-duplicated* complex rock art. **PCN Editor** began the above Pleiades comparative compilation as a teaser [describing the significance](#) of **Ray Urbaniak's** profound Paiute Reservation discovery (a) *matching* the famous Nebra sky disk (b). *Identicality*, including more examples, points to same-period contact between the hemispheres. See [Feliks p.7](#).

### Pleiades star cluster depictions discovered in University of Innsbruck excavation

Cupstone researcher, **Thomas Walli-Knofler**, and the Austrian Cupstone Team have made many remarkable rock art

discoveries with many Pleiades depictions in the region Ötzi the Iceman lived over 5,000 years ago. After months of official procedures, the site was finally excavated under direction of archaeologist **Hubert Ilsinger** (MA), Archaeology Department, University of Innsbruck. See [Walli-Knofler p.2](#).

Swedish archaeologist, **Dr. Elke Rogersdotter**, PhD, finishes her 8-part scholarly series exploring the history of *non-board* gaming. As explained in Part 1, in archaeology, game boards make game recognition easy. What Dr. Rogersdotter has provided is a background to *non-board game types* that have stood the test of time giving archaeologists an alternative Paleolithic category to 'ritual objects' or 'personal ornaments' long used catch-all terms for evidence that is actually *enigmatic*. See [Rogersdotter p.15](#).

Tom Baldwin assesses the surprising **476,000-year-old 'wood artifacts'** recently discovered in Africa. That date

makes them hundreds of thousands of years before *H. sapiens* confirming again the actual evidence in anthropology *does not fit* the claimed 'fact' of cognitive evolution. Again, *H. erectus* were the innovators. See [Baldwin p.13](#).

Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's Avocational Archaeology reprint series still raising the bar regarding 'figure stones.' See [Steen-McIntyre p.22](#).

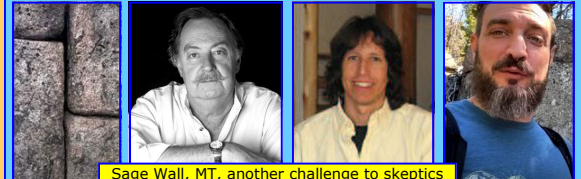
PCN Editor's original "Graphics of Bilzingsleben" pages are available online again (as well as on

ResearchGate) making it a good time to question recent claims stated as fact Europe's oldest map is only 4,000 years old. See [Feliks p.17](#) and [p.20](#).

Dr. Anthony Peratt (PhD) and colleague, **Fay Yao** (LMS, M.A.) briefly explain the proposed effects of "macro-scale physics"—phenomena such as Birkeland currents large enough to be observed by the naked eye—on the creators of rock art imagery in the distant past. Accustomed to thinking in terms of such large structures (e.g., Dr. Peratt's contributions to *non-Big Bang* galaxy-formation physics) Peratt and Yao are not afraid to look anew at controversial evidence even if the science community is convinced their consensus is final—common with fads like entoptics in anthropology—negatively resulting in scientific suppression. See [Peratt and Yao p.18](#).

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## - Welcome to PCN #88 -

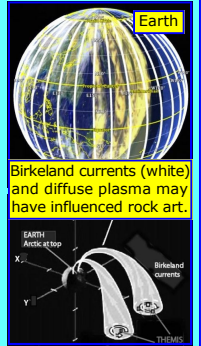


Mainstream-educated researchers holding *knee-jerk opinions* about Sage Wall like the artifacts of Bilzingsleben or Valsequillo were taught from childhood not to question dogma when confronted with unanticipated evidence. Major changes can take years of rethinking. See [Dullum p.8](#).

In their Part 7 installment plasma physicist and former Acting Director (National Security) Nuclear Nonproliferation,

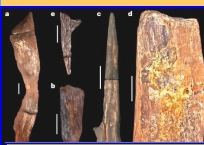


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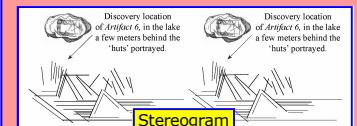


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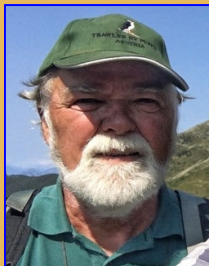


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# Cupstone excavation by the University of Innsbruck, Municipality of Ellbögen-Tarzens, Austria, Part 1

By Thomas Walli-Knofler (Austrian Cupstone Research Team)

*"We also tested astronomical and*



*solstice marker interpretations by way of Stellarium astronomy program especially for what we believe are new representations of the Pleiades star cluster."*



**Fig. 2.** After the municipal forester performed minor clearing work and very helpful municipal workers removed the resting bench (Fig. 1) erected by an unknown person from the cupstone two excavation fields were pegged out around the slabs followed by an exploratory trench. Photo: T. Walli-Knofler. **Inset:** Pleiades from Drone photo II.

**On June 11, 2023, our team under the direction of Hubert Ilsinger (MA)**— Archaeology Department, University of Innsbruck— after receiving all permits (the municipality of Ellbögen as landowner under BM Walter Kiechl and the Federal Monuments Office Innsbruck, Johannes Pöll) was able to start

photograph the current state (Fig. 1) and mark out and secure the excavation area. Here, in the sharp winter morning light, the known cups could be seen particularly clearly. Next, the municipal forester carried out minor clearing work to clear the excavation area. The very helpful municipal workers Walter and Hannes also carefully removed the resting bench erected by an unknown person from the cupstone.

Afterwards, two excavation fields were pegged out around the cupstone slabs found as well as an exploratory trench to the west and measured using GPS (Fig. 3). The exact measurement was facilitated by five existing measuring points in the municipal road below.

After a thorough safety briefing and explanation of the excavation process by the



**Fig. 3.** Belinda Reinhardt, one of our most diligent researchers, cleaning the excavation trench.

excavation manager, and after signing a liability exclusion clause in the event of any injuries during the excavation work, we were able to begin.

> [Cont. on page 3](#)



**Fig. 1.** Original discovery state of the cupstone slab in 2023 I discovered in 2010. Photo: Thomas Walli-Knofler.

excavation work on the cupstones in the Tarzens district.

The first step was to make a survey of the excavation site,

## Cupstone excavation University of Innsbruck (cont.)



**Fig. 4.** Painstaking, kneeling work. Left to right: Archaeologist, Bert Ilsinger; Belinda Reinhardt; and Werner Kräutler in front of the now completely uncovered cupstone slab with now 82 cups in total.



**Fig. 5.** First drone image of Excavation Field 1 showing the fully uncovered cupstone with different ages of the cups. Drone height six meters or c. 20ft.

The first parts of the casing stone slabs were then carefully uncovered with a pointed trowel, hand broom, etc. Early the next day when the sun was shining we carefully began to uncover the exploratory trench 80 cm wide and 80 cm deep.

Now there were five of us; our entire excavation team with Werner Kräutler, Josef Höfer, Thomas Walli-Knofler and Belinda Reinhardt, as well as our friend and excavation manager, Bert Ilsinger; were hard at work uncovering and cleaning the large cupstone slab (**Fig. 4**).

At this point, the project became much more exciting: Were these individual grave slabs to which our prior speculative texts (e.g., [PCN #81](#), [Jan-Feb 2023](#) and [PCN #83](#), [May-June 2023](#)) of previous cupstone discoveries may have referred, or is it a coherent glacial polished slab?

If the latter turns out to be the case, then there are likely no graves underneath but rather somewhere nearby.

### Drone Survey 1

The excavation manager also documented everything from the air using a state-of-the-art drone. Now, for the first time, we have an incredibly sharp aerial image of a cupstone that we have discovered (**Fig. 5**). It represents our first drone image of Excavation Field 1, showing the completely uncovered cupstone and easily discerned "cups" making it much easier and more accurate to produce what we are accustomed to calling a "translation" sketch ("interpretation" might be a more appropriate term). In addition, after uncovering the slab we made a precise list of the individual cups (we have sometimes referred to as 'shells') recording their diameters, physical condition, and their depth and mutual distances from each other in order to describe the finding as accurately as possible.

The smaller cups in Fig. 5 with a diameter of approx. 1.5 cm were fully painted with blackboard chalk. Younger and larger, better preserved ones were only outlined with chalk.

The "translation" made three years ago in the lower left and upper right fields point to a burial site, as already described in the previous report.

As it became apparent the slabs at the upper end of the excavation field went even further, the excavation manager extended the field and measured it again.

At 9:11 a.m., a very cold gale was blowing at over 100 km/h, making the work quite difficult for the team. Unfortunately, I couldn't be there for the uncovering due to an incipient cold.

On November 10, I was back on site and began to study all

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

# Cupstone excavation University of Innsbruck (cont.)

the found cups to record their depths, diameters and types using a caliper, measuring

to the proposed language system used by such as teammate Herbert Kirnbauer and myself

(e.g., see [PCN #81, Jan-Feb 2023](#)) based on an alphabet of sorts with a sample "Key" as follows:

- A= •
- L= ••
- W= •••
- GH= ••••
- Q= •••••

[Eds. Note: As support that Walli-Knofler's discovery including three more representations of the Pleiades star cluster exemplifies a now well-established and complex cosmopolitan rock art symbol see Urbaniak and Albilawi's [Pleiades rock art saga](#) (PCN #73, Sept-Oct 2021). PCN's support and compilations of these—as identically-matching the Nebra sky disk—validates the others. It also suggests similar dating in both the Old and New Worlds.]

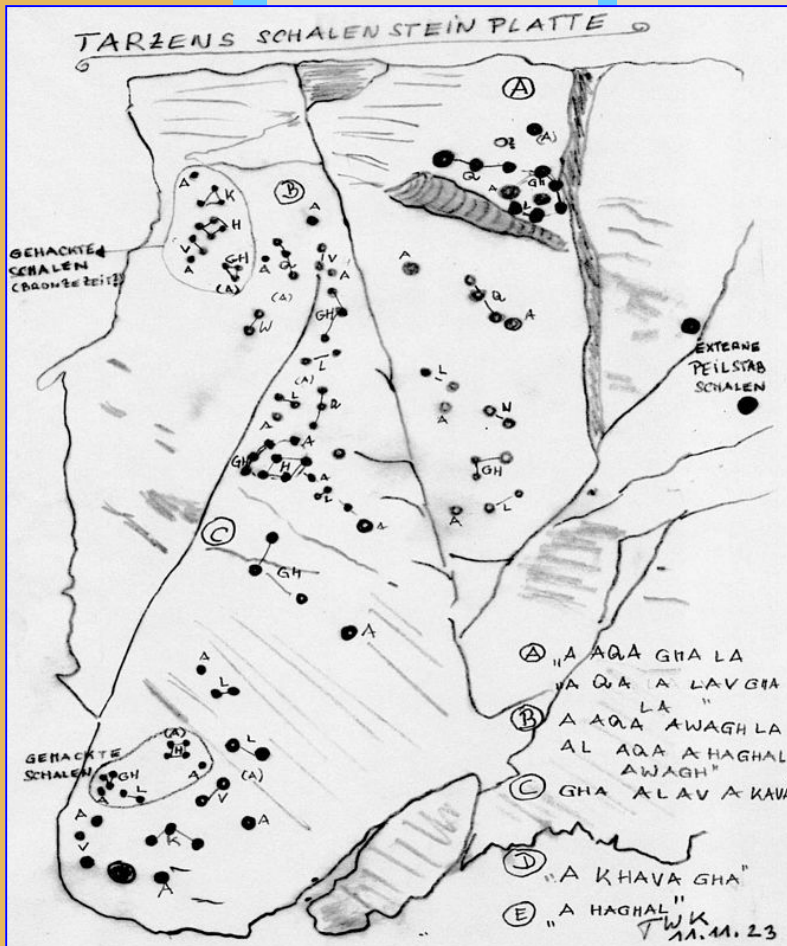
The slab's lower Pleiades are not the otherwise more common seven-pointed cluster, but rather—as on the cupstones of Wenus / Pitztal and Burgstein / Ötztal—8 cups are depicted. This can only indicate a transit of Venus in the constellation Taurus. We have reported on this in detail in [Pleistocene Coalition News](#). The phenomenon has also been confirmed to us by several U.S. scientists that this 8-star image can also be found several times on petroglyphs worldwide. [PCN #80, Nov-Dec 2022](#).

[While the results of this type of study are, of course, highly speculative they may yet give another sense of one reasonable way cupmark arrangements could have been used in the distant past.]

Here is an excerpt from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* newspaper dated 4-15-23. It describes one possible explanation for the extra star beyond the traditional seven:

"In the terrestrial sky, Venus moves through a very interesting region known as the 'Golden Gate of the Ecliptic.' This refers to the area between the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters in the constellation Taurus. Venus passes the two clusters in the middle of the month, and on April 12 it is approximately on a line between them. It comes as close as 2.5 degrees to the 'Pleiades,' which is about

> [Cont. on page 5](#)



**Fig. 6.** My first sketch and 'cupmarks as text' speculative interpretation of the unearthed cupstone. The cupmark arrangements were traced into position directly from the drone photograph in Fig. 5 taken from 6m or about 20ft above.

tape and large compass. New cups appeared again so that we could now complete them in the overall sketch and begin an updated interpretation.

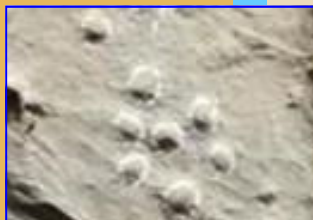
### My first "translation"

The drone photos taken by Bert Ilsinger from a height of 6 meters (approx. 20ft) were a great help. From the first one it was possible for me to make a precise sketch of the cup arrangements on tracing paper at home (Fig. 6).

This made it much easier to assess the "letters" according

### Drone photo II

We also tested astronomical and solstice marker interpretations by way of Stellarium astronomy program especially for what we believe are new representations of the Pleiades star cluster with one being an 8-star as we published prior. See Fig. 7 for the Pleiades detail. Much of the rest of Picture II is redundant to Picture I so, to save space we cover that at a later time. Here is a brief description: One can see the few extra cups it features have a conspicuous astronomical function. One can clearly see the two Pleiades images at the



**Fig. 7.** Unmistakable 7-star Pleiades representation in upper right of Drone photo II. A similar one is to the left and an 8-star version (like another we reviewed in [PCN #83, May-June 2023](#)) is located several feet below.

# Cupstone excavation University of Innsbruck (cont.)

**"Perhaps the reluctance is be-**

the thickness of an outstretched thumb. In ancient Greek mythology, the Pleiades represent



**Fig. 8.** Our excavation team from the left to the right: Thomas Walli-Knofler, Josef Höfer, Belinda Reinhardt, Werner Kräutler and excavation manager Hubert Ilsinger.

**Fig. 8** shows our dedicated excavation team on an especially fine day, **left-right:** Thomas Walli-Knofler, Josef Höfer, Belinda Reinhard, Werner Kräutler and excavation manager Hubert Ilsinger.

**"Translation" of the Tarzens cupstone slab by Herbert Kirnbauer**

When we were able to uncover new cups every day during this first excavation of a cupstone slab, it quickly became clear that the previous interpretation of the small open slabs, which we recorded for the first time three years ago, was no longer tenable.

As the "scribes" at the time were extremely clever, they sometimes incorporated a double function: if one reads the text from top to bottom or from right to left as usual, then it has a completely different meaning when read "backwards."

This was also the case with the text in the lower left-hand field, which at that time was still lying under a resting bench (again, see Fig. 1) and which we clearly translated as the epitaph "Da erwache im Grab." This statement was also the main reason for starting an excavation, in the hope of finding something datable. It turned out differently!

As already mentioned, we found three different cup types from different eras. We agreed together to take only the best and largest cups for the main translation, the small cups located in the lower part of the slab and in the upper left section, we decided to keep the ancient chopped cups separate.

We immediately noticed we were dealing with a very primitive language with only six letters, which suggests that this inscription is one of the oldest found in Tyrol.

I place this inscription in a period around the oldest finds in the Fotschertal/Ullafelsen/Dieter Schäfer, c. 9500–7000 BC. I cannot prove this, as we unfortunately have no datable finds from this excavation, but as we now have a list of finds and what we call "translations" of 100 cupstones in Tyrol, we can clearly state that this slab contains the most primitive writing and is therefore a very special cultural monument on the basis of the letter groups and expressions used.

It must also be pointed out once again that this slab lies directly on an ancient, barely recognizable path above it, which leads from Patsch into the Viggartal valley to the Suncult place and many other first-class cupstones. The old path is still faintly recognizable and was also confirmed to us by the neighboring Kehrerhof, Mr. Peter Gatt.

In addition, Bronze Age settlement foundations and finds were made last year during the excavation of the new Ellbögen school, indicating a very early settlement. It can therefore not be ruled out that there was a settlement here even earlier in the Stone Age. The region could have looked as portrayed in **Fig. 9** 7000 years ago with a view of the Brenner Pass and the Gschnitztal glacier tongue and the settlement in Ellbögen.

But now to the translation of the cupstone slab from Tarzens, which we worked on for two months, as new aspects kept emerging during ongoing visits to the site. New aspects emerged again and again (see **Fig. 10** on the following page).

Herbert Kirnbauer and I soon agreed to separate out the chopped, younger cups and translate them separately, as these were added thousands of years later by a critical contemporary.

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

**cause the**

seven sisters—so Venus joins them for a few days."



**Fig. 9.** A team member's watercolor of the region's past and what it may have resembled 7,000 years ago.

**mainstream view is an a priori view**

(Minor extra note: Small chopped and undrilled cups were also discovered on the cupstone. These may have been added later in the Bronze Age using copper chisels.)

# Cupstone excavation University of Innsbruck (cont.)



**Fig.10.** Close-up of the chopped cups in the cupstone's upper area.

Now to Herbert Kirnbauer's translation of the Tarzens cupstone slab (**Fig. 11**).

A.): "From the Pleiades the water (rain) goes to the valley"

B.): "Awaken all the stars awaken the Pleiades for salvation and blessing"

a.): Small hacked cups: "From there all life comes"

b.): Small hacked cups: "Life path goes there"

C.): "From there always water comes"

These Pleiades cupstones, as well as the large one in Fornare alto on Lake Garda, Italy, above Torri di Benaco, with four Pleiades images, which has an almost similar text, are a rarity.

If you break down text A, it says nothing else, when the Pleiades set in the fall, the harvest time is over, then the November rains come, the important water.

Text B, the Pleiades bring the necessary food to a farming society during the period of their visibility.

cluster at the head of the celestial bull) are virtually in the same boat (together they form the "Golden Gate of the Ecliptic"), the autumn rainy season can hardly be avoided. It waters the thirsty Mother Earth. The rain is equivalent to a celestial fertilization of the "Great Life Giver Earth" and has been ritually celebrated at all times.

And all of this gives the Pleiades Stone of Tarzens the worthy title of an astronomical memogram, which far surpasses the scientific significance of the Nebra sky disk.

To be continued in Part 2...

"Solstice lines on the Tarzens cupstone"

THOMAS WALLI-KNOFLER was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1950. Since 1972 he has been an inventor (incl. ship designer and boat builder), entrepreneur and independent businessman. He was founder of the first nonfood C&C Market in Austria with the first Datapoint Computer system for C&C markets, a wholesale gardener and greenhouse builder as well as mushroom grower with his own patents; 1985 owner of the largest greenhouse project worldwide in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with just shy of 100 acres; 1989 largest mushroom factory of *Pleurotus ag* in Weiden, DE, covering nearly three acres. Experiences that have contributed to Walli-Knofler's passionate amateur archaeology work involve things

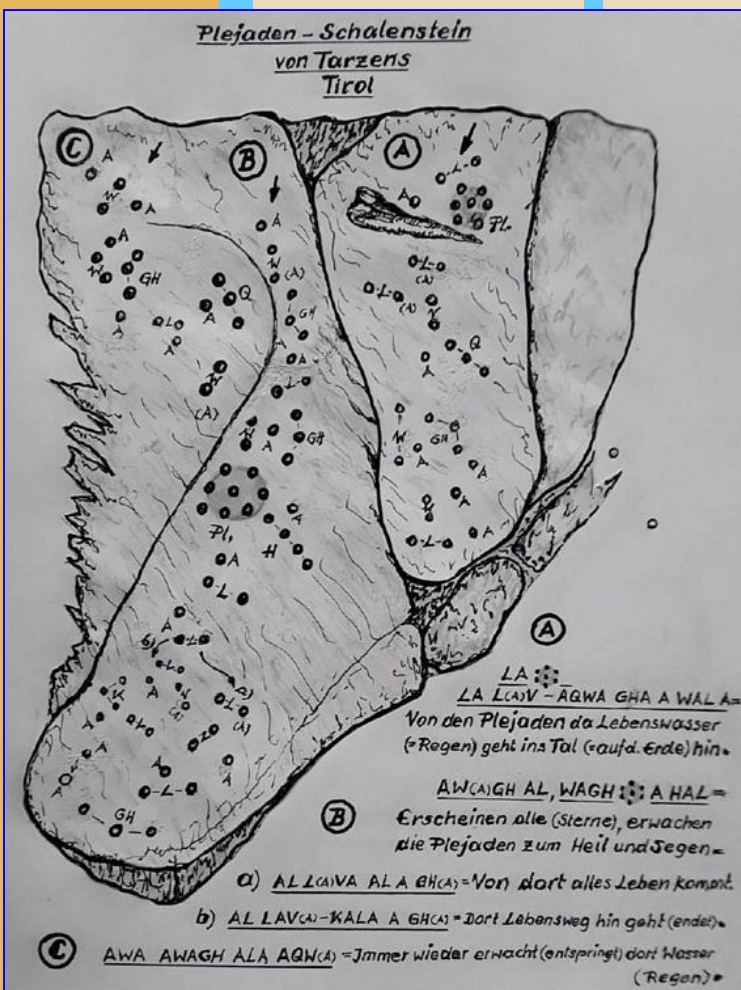
Text C : There the water springs, on the one hand as a reference to the Pleiades, on the other hand also as a reference to the artesian healing spring next to it!

This is the time when the Greeks and Romans stopped sailing. The Bedouins in Africa say: "In November, the valley becomes a stream."

And the Maasai people still use the Pleiades as a rainy season signal star.

As the Pleiades and the neighboring star of the Hyades, the rainy star (= the V-shaped star

relatable to early human history such as trade routes, orientation aids and astronomical abilities. These include numerous expeditions, e.g., to the pygmies of Ituri rain forest, Congo, 1970, Afghanistan-Whakan, 1972, and twice crossing the Sahara. Among his seafaring-related projects, in 1997, he was involved in construction of the renowned research sailing ship, NOVARA—a state-of-the-art 18m 2-mast schooner—participating in its 1998 four-year circumnavigation of the North Atlantic to the ice border 82° North and down to South America. Aside from his cupstone research, Walli-Knofler has also developed the more unconventional hobby of dowsing—learned from his grandfather—having confidence in human intuitions regardless of their status in modern science.



**Fig. 11.** Herbert Kirnbauer's translation of the Tarzen's cupstone:

- A.** "From the Pleiades the water (rain) goes to the valley"
- B.** "Awaken all the stars awaken the Pleiades for salvation and blessing"
- a. Small hacked cups: "From there all life comes"
- b.) Small hacked cups: "Life path goes there"
- C.** "From there always water comes"

Translated by Herbert Kirnbauer, author of the book [Steinzeit-Code, Die Schalensteinschrift](#), Freya Verlag

# Revisiting [PCN #75](#) (Jan-Feb 2022) Pleiades editorials

By John Feliks

**"Anthro-  
pology is  
not sci-  
ence as**



**long as it  
blocks  
evidence  
crucial to  
our un-  
derstand-  
ing of  
human  
history."**

**Above,  
PCN Pleiades  
pioneers:**

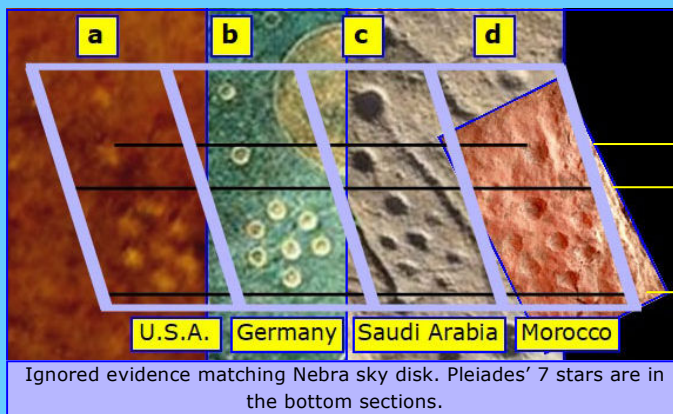
Ray Urbaniak

Abdulrahman  
Albalawi

Juan Crocco

Thomas  
Walli-Knofler

and the Aus-  
trian Cupstone  
Research Team  
and the Cup-  
stone Excava-  
tion Team



### Editorial 1

**The science community** can no longer make any rigorous claims or interpretations of the famed Nebra sky disk (Germany) as the 'oldest star map'—valued at \$11M—without citing the Pleiades 'rock art' discoveries of Urbaniak and Albalawi. These demonstrate identical examples of the sky disk's Pleiades cluster (above groups of 7 stars seen in context w/other apparent stars) in both New and Old Worlds. Their identity suggests not only that they were produced during the same period astronomically but also contact between the hemispheres. Ignoring this evidence confirms—as the PC has long demonstrated regarding Bilzingsleben, Hueyatlaco, etc.—anthropology is not science as long as it blocks evidence crucial to our understanding of human history." [-PCN #75, Jan-Feb 2022](#)

### A few of PCN's Pleiades-in-rock-art mile-markers

[Eight-star Pleiades depictions in rock art.](#) Thomas Walli-Knofler (PCN #83, May-June 2023).

[Ireland petroglyphs: Further support for a nova in the Pleiades.](#) Ray Urbaniak, Abdulrahman Albalawi and Juan Crocco (PCN #78, July-August 2022).

[The Pleiades rock art enigma and its growing international context.](#)

### Editorial 2 (same page)

**Urbaniak's and Albalawi's Pleiades rock art discoveries** continue to challenge PCN's mainstream readers. It is not about pop science fads such as 'entoptic phenomena' (e.g., phosphene hallucinations) aggressively promoted as the 'final word' in rock art for decades. Neither is it about pareidolia (seeing patterns in 'random' data). Rather it is increasingly unambiguous evidence the cluster was well known in antiquity portrayed in rock art worldwide—in Europe, the Middle East, the Americas, Australia, and now, Morocco in North Africa. [See Urbaniak & Albalawi p.14.](#) [-PCN #75, Jan-Feb 2022](#)

### PCN #88 reflection

**There can be little doubt** we are dealing with a complex cosmopolitan Neolithic-Paleolithic symbol that has, at the very least, one agreed upon central meaning likely

Ray Urbaniak & Juan Crocco (PCN #77, May-June 2022).

[Pleiades saga: Alternative orientations of the Saudi Arabian and Moroccan glyphs.](#) Ray Urbaniak & Abdulrahman Albalawi. PCN #76 (March-April 2022).

[Pleiades rock art saga continues.](#) Ray Urbaniak & Abdulrahman Albalawi. (PCN #75, Jan-Feb 2022).

[Saudi panel—Part 2 of the Pleiades rock art saga.](#) Ray Urbaniak & Abdulrahman Albalawi (PCN #73, Sept-Oct 2021).



Austria



Cupstone excavation team

involving astronomy and the Pleiades star cluster in particular. The *identity* of the 7-star motif (there are other variations)—usually with adjacent cup-marks likely also representative of stars—makes it likely they were each created during the same time period on every inhabited continent around the earth. Whatever date is eventually settled on for the Nebra disk (it has fluctuated, with politics and personal motivations apparently also involved), one conclusion is clear: What is referred to as its Pleiades star cluster with matching additional "stars" is indeed identical to both Urbaniak's and Albalawi's rock art discoveries.

[The Pleiades rock art saga: New evidence and implications.](#) Ray Urbaniak (PCN #72, July-August 2021).

[Sequel to Pleiades articles.](#) Ray Urbaniak (PCN #61, Sept-Oct 2019).

[The Pleiades 1600 BC.](#) Ray Urbaniak (PCN #54, July-August 2018).

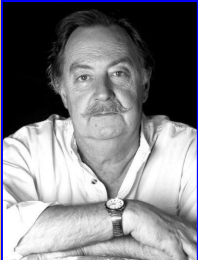
[Dating a remarkable petroglyph site through visual clues.](#) Ray Urbaniak (PCN #50, Nov-Dec 2017).

# Montana megaliths, Part 6

## Compelling evidence at Sage Wall and related enigmas

By Richard Dullum (B.A. Biology), Christopher Borton and Michael Collins

**These unexpected discoveries may**



**soon change the idea that**

“Extraordinary things are always hiding in places people never thought to look.”  
—Jodi Picoult, mystery writer

**In the first 5 articles on the Montana megaliths**—including Sage Wall as seen in **Fig. 1**—the reader has seen discoveries made in just the last quarter-century in the region of southwest Montana near the Great Divide, on the Boulder Batholith. These unexpected discoveries may soon change the idea that North America never had any great material civilization prior to the European colonization. All other inhabited Pleistocene continents show megalithic constructions undoubtedly the work of human societies.

Throughout the world, dolmens, walls, towers, ‘temples,’ stone circles and standing stones—all of huge proportions—exist that are still unexplained by modern anthropology. Some of these are presently below sea level on land that was dry during the Pleistocene Era. This includes such as the ruins of Dwarka off



**Fig. 1.** A portion of Sage Wall near Butte, Montana, boldly called nature-made by mainstream-educated skeptics committed to ‘no advanced technology’ in ancient North America dogma. Resistance tends to be knee-jerk. (PCN #86, Nov-Dec 2023). Still from video courtesy of Michael Collins.

kind lies off the coast of Yonaguni, Japan, was above water in the Pleistocene. A stone circle lies submerged off the island of Kerama, in the South China Sea near Taiwan.

These latest discoveries were made in the sea, one of the greatest parts of our planet still relatively unexplored.

Montana. This is not to say that ‘modern’ humans haven’t been



**Fig. 2.** Sage Wall has been professionally determined to feature an unusually high degree of magnetic qualities, so much so, that magnets stick to the vertical surfaces. Photographs courtesy of Christopher Borton (images cropped).

all over it for millennia, but they weren’t looking for traces of human habitation in the Ice Age era, as everyone assumed, and most still do, that this area was covered in ice for thousands of years and uninhabitable. In fact, as the most recent evidence shows, southwestern Montana was never glaciated during the Pleistocene.

No evidence on the ground for glacial action in this area is apparent. No break-out glacial melting floods reached this elevation averaging 5–6,000 feet above sea level. The granite rock of the batholith (diabase or dolerite) is very unique, in that it has high quantities of hematite and magnetite, such that a magnet sticks to the vertical faces of the rocks (**Fig. 2** and **Fig. 3**).

> [Cont. on page 9](#)

Scan ID: Lower Wall.raw • Lower Wall • Manual  
Scan Parameters: 5.0°/80.0°/0.02°/0.24(s), I(p)=16035/813, Cu(40kV,40mA), Thursday, July 27, 2023, 2:18 PM

Zero Offset = -0.0038 (0.0027)     Displacement = 0.0     Distance Slack = 0.0  
 Kα2 Peaks Present     Kα2/Kα1 Ratio = 0.5     X-Ray Polarization = 1.0

Geometry: Diffractometer Lp    Fitted-Range: 5.0° - 80.0°    BG-Model: Polynomial (8)    λ: 1.54059Å (Cu)  
PSF: pseudo-Voigt    Broadening: Individual FWHM Curve    Instrument: Constant FWHM = 0.1°

Phase ID (θ)	Chemical Formula	PDF-#	Wt% (σ)	RIR	μ
Quartz (?)	SiO <sub>2</sub>	98-000-0399	29.2 (1.0)	4.12	91.3
Anorthite	Na <sub>0.14</sub> Ca <sub>0.85</sub> Al <sub>1.05</sub> Si <sub>2.10</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	04-015-8270	24.8 (1.5)	0.58	130.6
Labradorite (?)	Ca <sub>32</sub> Na <sub>15</sub> Si <sub>1104</sub> Al <sub>814</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	98-000-0781	19.9 (1.3)	0.86	120.3
Microcline	(AlSi <sub>3</sub> )(K,Na)O <sub>8</sub>	98-000-0962	8.6 (0.8)	0.60	119.9
Siderophyllite	Al <sub>1.95</sub> Si <sub>3.11</sub> Fe <sub>0.90</sub> Mg <sub>0.03</sub> Mn <sub>0.11</sub> Li <sub>0.05</sub> K <sub>0.1</sub> Na <sub>0.03</sub>	98-000-8975	7.5 (0.3)	8.43	168.7
Actinolite	Fe <sub>1.639</sub> Mn <sub>0.062</sub> Mg <sub>3.304</sub> Al <sub>1.104</sub> Ti <sub>0.002</sub> Ca <sub>1.022</sub> N	98-000-1987	5.4 (0.6)	0.88	223.3
Magnetite	Cr <sub>0.30</sub> Fe <sub>2.70</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	04-021-2312	1.8 (0.4)	4.98	1172.8
Clinocllore-1M1b (Fe.91Si.09)	Mg <sub>2.8</sub> Fe <sub>1.75</sub> Al <sub>2.7</sub> Si <sub>2.65</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	04-013-2805	1.5 (0.3)	1.12	212.3
(Fe.91Si.09)	(Fe <sub>0.91</sub> Si <sub>0.09</sub> )	98-000-8203	1.4 (0.3)	11.08	2277.8

XRF(Wt%): Fe=4.5%, Mn=0.1%, Cr=0.1%, Ti<0.1%, Ca=5.4%, K=2.1%, Si=29.4%, Al=9.7%, Mg=0.7%, Na=1.0%, F=0.4%, O=46.4%, Li=0.1%, H<0.1%

Refinement Halted (R/E=3.2). • Round=4, Iter=6, P=68, R=8.34% (E=2.60%, EPS=0.5)

**Fig. 3.** Chemical analysis for the rocks of Sage Wall. The results indicate highly magnetic material. Chart by Earth Image Geophysics. For pie chart breakdown, see Fig. 4 on the following page.

**North America never had any great material civilization prior to the European colonization.”**

the coast of Gujarat, India, and Mahabalipuram, off the south-east tip of India. There are carved cart-ruts on Malta that lead out to and come up from the Mediterranean Sea. What appears a huge ruin of some

### Ice Age and magnetism

What most readers don’t know is that other parts of the planet—the really wild areas—with little human habitation are also unexplored. These include the Boulder Batholith area in



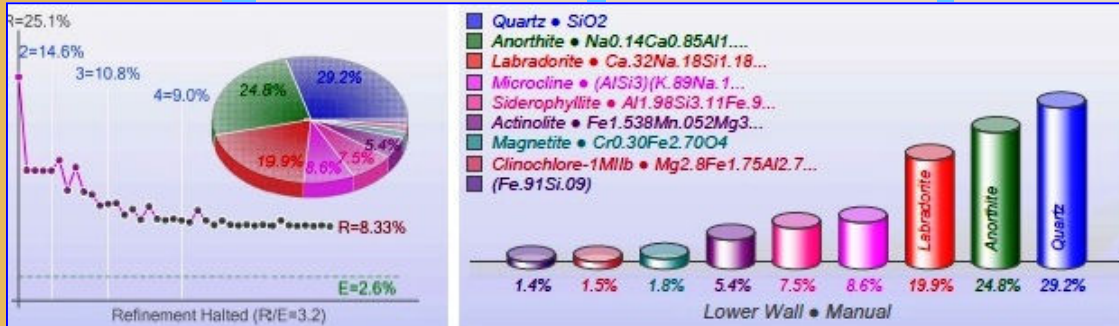
# Montana megaliths, Part 6 (cont.)

## "The geophysicist

Rock analysis (Fig. 3 above and Fig. 4) shows the com-

(GPR) preliminary analysis owners Christopher Borton

squared and fitted like the walls of Mycenae and about the same size, as well.



**Fig. 4.** Sage Wall composition in percentages. The geophysicist who did the composition analysis seen in Figs. 3-4 stated he'd never seen granite with such a high magnetic signal. The USGS map we provided in Part 5 (PCN #87, Jan-Feb 2024, Fig. 3) corroborates this analysis. Chart courtesy of Earth Image Geophysics.

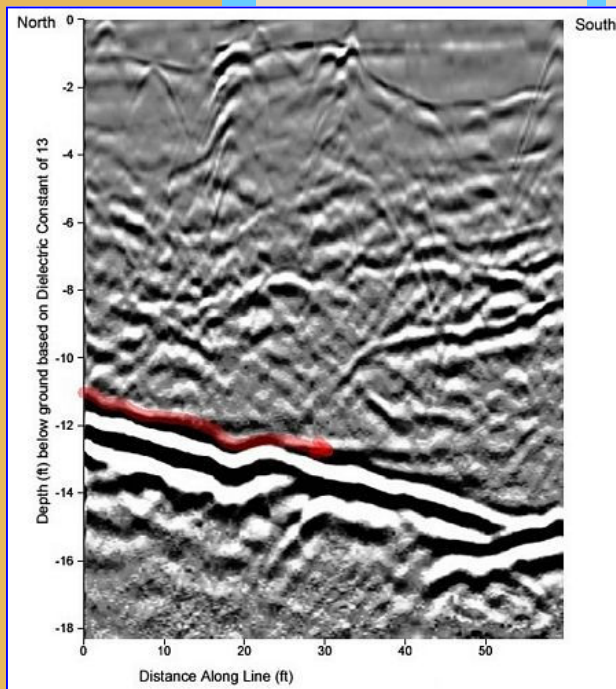
The **Bottom photo** also shows manmade qualities. It is a curved block placement in the ruined wall holding up the Sage Wall trail. Curiously, the four curved

## who did the analysis

position of the Wall. The geophysicist who did the analysis stated that he'd never

and Linda Welsh had professionally done on the trail in front of Sage Wall. The results show a flat reflective base underlying the wall along its length from 11-15 ft below the surface. See Fig. 5.

stones in this wall are *not the magnetic batholith rock*, but pink granite. This joinery has kept this part of the wall



**Fig. 5.** Professionally done ground penetrating radar survey on trail in front of Sage Wall. Results show a flat reflective base (following red arrow) the length of the wall 11-15 ft underground. Depth and distance scanned (c. 60 ft) are shown. Earth Image.

**stated that he'd never seen granite with such a high magnetic signal."**

seen granite with such a high magnetic signal. The USGS map we provided in Part 5 (PCN #87, Jan-Feb 2024, Fig. 3) corroborates this analysis. There was another quite unexpected discovery with Sage Wall recently regarding the ground penetrating radar

An interesting feature found that indicates man-made work at Sage Wall is the presence of what appear to be several parallel walls, covered in dead-fall for the most part on the heavily-timbered area above Sage Wall itself as Mike Collins found and video-taped while hiking the entire area. These walls appear to form channels between them, similar to Sage Wall and its ruined retaining wall that forms the pathway in front of the Wall. Use the link in Fig. 1 of this installment for PCN #86, Nov-Dec 2023. One example can be seen in Fig. 10 of that installment.

### Manmade appearances

**Fig. 6** compares two examples of Sage Wall stonework that do not appear natural. The **Top photo**, especially, matches man-made work



**Fig. 6.** Samples of Sage Wall and nearby clearly not 'natural' in appearance. **Top:** Still from video by Michael Collins. **Bottom:** South America-style. Still; William Brown video for *Incredible History*.

from coming apart by locking together. How does pink granite appear here naturally? *The nearest source of pink granite is 20 miles away in the Pipestone Recreational Area to the south.*

### Cup-marks and cut-outs enigma

A few steps away from Sage Wall, at the head end and above into the brush, Mike Collins discovered and featured a horizontal boulder with seven cup-

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

# Montana megaliths, Part 6 (cont.)

**"Mike photographed**

marks gouged into the surface (again, see Part 4,

quickly inform how likely such a clean cup mark can be made in the traditionally-perceived "primitive" manner.



**Fig. 7.** A remarkable perfectly round and apparently drilled hole discovered right nearby Sage Wall. Photo courtesy of Michael Collins.

This is a perfect time to mention some very informative field experience of plasma physicist, Dr. Anthony Peratt, in the footnote on page 14 of his and Fay Yao's Part 5—in the same issue (i.e., PCN #86). He describes the effort involved attempting such work and the realization gained from

such in-the-field experimentation. I quote him verbatim:

"Carving petroglyphs is a time-consuming, loud and arduous, task. I was never in a field of petroglyphs able to chip away my own petroglyph. Working all day

marks discovered at Sage Wall. I'll wait for the experiment.

**Astronomical implications**

Like cup-marks found elsewhere in the world, such as in Tyrol, Austria (as in the Thomas Walli-Knofler article this very issue of PCN); the U.S. Southwest, South America, Europe, Arabia, Africa, Australia (see John's Editorial reprint this issue), I think it possible these Sage Wall cup-marks involve astronomy. The number of marks on the seven-cup boulder suggests the possibility it may represent an important constellation like the Pleiades.

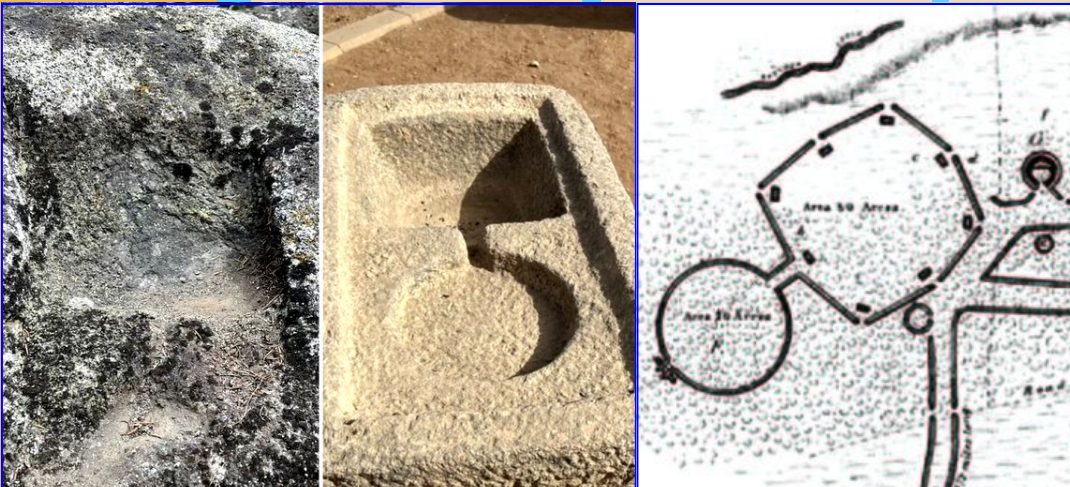
My belief in the possibility of an astronomical connection involving Sage Wall is the "carve-out" of Fig. 8 in PCN #86 (again, the same issue I've been citing this installment). It is another intriguing, even perplexing, petro-

glyph Mike photographed at the Sage Wall site. I didn't at first think it was astronomical but when I saw the earthworks at Newark, Ohio, I recognized the shape resemblance to the Hopewell's astronomical tool for tracking the phases of the moon (Fig. 8). It's orientation to the compass points matches the direction of Sage Wall and faces northeast. Again, this carve-out is

**a boulder with a perfectly round hole in the top... It appears to have**

this time, its Fig. 9 (PCN #86, Nov-Dec 2023).

Even more unexpected, Mike photographed a boulder just across from Sage Wall featuring a perfectly round hole in the top. Remarkably, this hole appears to have been made by a drill



**Fig. 8. Left and Center:** from Michael Collins' Wandering Wolf Productions comparison featured in PCN #86 showing the similarity between a Sage Wall-environs square + channel + round cutout and a cutout from Karnak, Egypt. It reminded me of, **Right:** the astronomical portion of the 2,000-year-old Newark, Ohio, Hopewell site (isolated from an 1837 map). Whether carved in rock or built on the ground the similarity is uncanny.

**been made with a drill of some sort, as it is perfectly round."**

of some sort as it is perfectly round (Fig. 7). It's hard to see how this glyph could have made by pecking away with a stone hammer.

In light of this, I suggest skeptics *try to duplicate* this cup-mark on equally hard rock using a rock as a hammer. It will require the kind of effort that will

in a canyon with hammer and pestle tools within the course of daylight my results were paltry and at the end of the day I was exhausted."

—Anthony Peratt, PCN #86, 2023

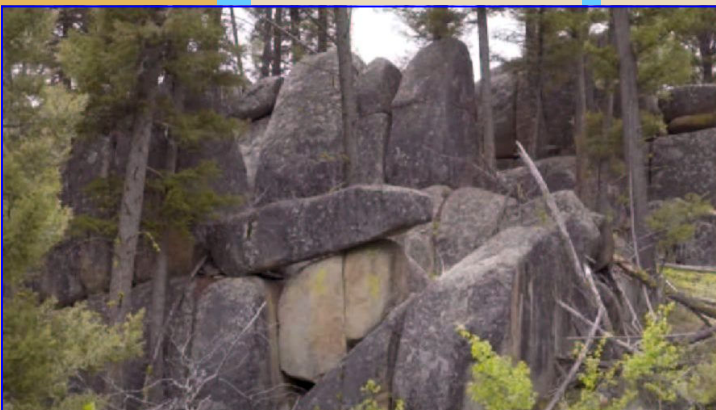
The doleritic rock registers "7" on the Mohs Hardness Index, so it's very difficult to see how anything other than a steel chisel could have made the cup-

found just a few steps away from the cup-mark boulder discussed above. The Newark astronomical tool was invented by Native Americans long before believed European contact and thus might be related to a culture preceding Hopewell.

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

# Montana megaliths, Part 6 (cont.)

## "The New-ark astro-nomical



**Fig. 9.** A nearby Montana site called the "Pink Vault" per the pink granite bafflingly—and apparently deliberately—lodged between the standard rock type of the Boulder Batholith. Photo courtesy of discover Julie Ryder.

**tool was invented by Native Americans long before believed European contact and thus might be related to a culture preceding Hopewell."**

### The "Pink Vault"

Just to the south of Sage Wall is the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, where we find what is called "Giant's Playground." In this

area, Julie Ryder took a photo showing another example of *mixed rock types* in the same formation (**Fig. 9**).

As noted earlier regarding Sage Wall, we have pink granite blocks set into a batholith rock wall where we would expect a consistency of rock type. How does this mix occur naturally? How could this be the result of break-away rocks tumbling downhill? Gravity didn't do this. I would argue the arrangement cannot be natural, that it was, instead, intentionally made. With glaciers ruled out, somebody had to have brought the pink granite to this location. This is called the "Pink Vault," and it certainly signals to the visitor that humans of some skill were here and saw fit to mark this particular area—where many dolmens are to be found—in a quite grand way.

### Concluding thoughts

In this series on the Montana Megaliths, it's been clear to the owners of Sage Wall that more investigation needs to be done and they've done their part clearing the path-

way and the Sage Wall area for visitors to get up close and personal at the monumental relic of a clearly long-bygone time. Last year, they contracted with *EarthImage* geophysical labs to get a

preliminary ground penetrating radar scan on the cleared Sage Wall pathway. This was accomplished, along with mineralogical analysis of the rock, as shown in Figs. 3-5.

The presence of what may be as many as four "walled channels" (per Mike Collins' first video exploration) running parallel to Sage

Wall are covered with dead-fall and obscured by timber and only partially observable and only partially observable by drone. It suggests that Sage Wall might be part of a much larger structure on this particular slope of Sage Mountain. To check this out, the owners are planning a LiDAR survey ('light detection and ranging' using lasers to create 3D digital mapping, etc.) via drone by a local Montana company hopefully this summer. It was suggested by the geophysicist who performed the GPR survey, as well as many observers of Mike Collins' Wandering Wolf Productions on YouTube. It should serve to clarify, and eliminate the clutter on the ground. Here, the owners are indeed taking a very important step forward in research and will hopefully encourage many archeologists to look into the site to investigate further.

In my experience writing about archeology, nothing compares to the discovery of a totally new and unexpected lead to a possible ice age civilization in North America. This possibility should absolutely be pounced

on by academia. The combination of structures widespread over the Boulder Batholith should convince somebody to stick their nose in. There's too much here to ignore, to chalk up to coincidence.

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](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch)

CHRISTOPHER BORTON, co-owner with Linda Welsh of the Sage Wall site, is co-founder and director of Sage Mountain Center in Montana. Among many other responsibilities and associations (and currently on the board of directors for the Montana Renewable Energy Association—serving as VP 2003-12), Borton gives lectures and seminars throughout the state based on his over 30 years experience in the solar, wind, and sustainable-building industries. A tribal member of the Seminole Nation (Tusekia Harjo band) and raised in Santa Rosa, CA, Borton has traveled throughout the U.S., India, and Europe. His avocations include drumming (classical/jazz/rock ensembles) and maintaining his skating skills after winning the 2015 US Adult National Figure Skating Championship. Website: <https://sagemountain.org/>

MICHAEL COLLINS is the owner of Wandering Wolf Productions and is a world traveler, filmmaker, YouTuber and social media personality focusing primarily on documenting and researching ancient sites. He is also a military veteran. Collins' work has been featured on Netflix, the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and his own YouTube channel. His first book, coming in 2024, details his many struggles in life in becoming an extensively traveled citizen-archeologist/photojournalist focused on megalithic sites, as he inspires others to be critical thinkers and innovators in his explorations. [www.YouTube.com/wanderingwolf](http://www.YouTube.com/wanderingwolf)

# Member news and other info

## Quick links to main articles in PCN #87:

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Richard Dullum and Sean Harasymchuk

### PAGE 6

**Member news and other info:**

**Symposium** presentation of oldest sled dating  
Michael Gramly

**U-M and Google** re-post PCN Editor's 39 missing webpages  
John Feliks

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Elke Rogersdotter

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**Austrian cupmarks team** Large 82-cup slab  
Thomas Walli-Knofler

**Six horns** Pronghorn depiction diversity  
Ray Urbaniak

**Coming reprints** Virginia Steen-McIntyre science advice to figure stone collectors

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**Pleistocene civilizations, Part 6,** Our international GPS survey expeditions  
Anthony Peratt and Fay Yao

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**Comparing sizes** of proposed dwarf pronghorn and jack rabbit depictions  
Ray Urbaniak

PCN contributor and leading Clovis expert, archaeologist **Dr. Richard Michael Gramly**, has completed the new and greatly-expanded edition of his classic, *Guide to Palaeo-*



*lithic Artifacts and Features of the Americas* (Fig. 1). With prior editions at 78-90 pages, this new and updated book (from Rowman & Littlefield international publishers) has in-

cluded in ordering the book early. The special offer closes at the end of May.

Dr. Gramly informed us the figurine on the book's cover was recently dated to c. 12,550 RCYBP (radio carbon years before present) which translates to a little less than 15,000 CYBP (calibrated years BP). This is the same age as the sled from Lower Blue Lick (PCN #80). To order the book in advance at Dr. Gramly's cost please send \$60 + \$11 for Priority USPS to the address shown in Fig. 1.

cused 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

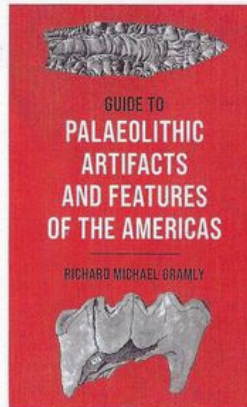
## NEW, EXPANDED EDITION OF IMPORTANT REFERENCE WORK

*ONCE*, (1990)  
Guide to the Palaeo-Indian Artifacts of North America (78 pp.).

*THEN*, (1992)  
Guide to the Palaeo-Indian Artifacts of North America (90 pp.)

*THEN*, (2000)  
Guide to the Palaeo-American Artifacts of North America (90 pp.)

*AND NOW*, (2024) ----- appearing August, 2024.



## GUIDE TO PALAEO-INDIAN ARTIFACTS AND FEATURES OF THE AMERICAS

by Richard Michael Gramly, PHD, FRAI  
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**Fig. 1.** New book edition on American Palaeolithic artifacts and features by Dr. Richard Michael Gramly.

creased to 225 pages. It will appear in August. The publishers have granted Dr. Gramly the purchase of several hundred copies at the "author's rate" of \$60—a savings Dr. Gramly is pleased to pass along to his colleagues and others inter-

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) fo-

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 #87](#)



[Link to PCN #86](#)



[Link to PCN #85](#)

# Homo erectus—the original woodworker

By Tom Baldwin

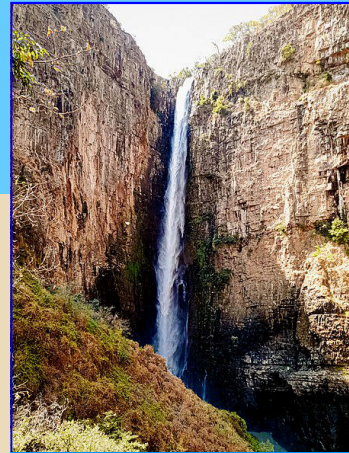


**"That puts the modified wood hundreds of thousands of years in advance of the appearance of Homo sapiens. Men working wood that long ago does not fit the paradigm held by the archaeological establishment."**

**I was reading one of the latest editions of *World Archaeology* magazine** when I found an article on the discovery of wood-working done by early man along the shores of the Kalambo River in Zambia, Africa. Most archaeologists had not really worried much about us lacking wooden tools or items from the Pleistocene. That was because wood was just not believed to last the hundreds of thousands of years necessary between us and it, without rotting away. Why look for something that has decayed years earlier.

However, while they were not being looked for, some wooden tools and other wood items were nevertheless found buried in the sediments of the Kalambo River that have, contrary to all expectations, lasted without rotting (**Fig. 1**). The Kalambo is a small river that just before plunging over a cliff in one of the

more spectacular falls in Africa (**Fig. 2**) meanders back and forth through a valley. The soils are porous and so the ground remains



**Fig. 2.** Kalambo Falls, Zambia, in Africa. Wikimedia Commons.

ment. In that oxygen-free environment, the wood was preserved.

As I said, some samples found show evidence of the wood being worked with tools of early man. The first pieces of wood were found by Desmond Clark in the 1960s. He wondered how

old the wood was and sent it out for Carbon 14 testing. The results came back inconclusive which meant the wood was over 50,000 years old but how much older they could not tell. Judging from other items found in the same



**Fig. 1.** Modified wooden tools from the Kalambo Falls site, South Africa, 2019. **a.)** structural element, **b.)** 'wedge,' **c.)** 'digging stick,' **d.)** cut log, **e.)** tapered piece with single chop-mark. The above is a simplified caption from Fig. 2 of "Evidence for the earliest structural use of wood," L. Barham et al, *Nature* 622, October 5, 2023.

damp all the time. Oxygen in the ground is used up and the water in the soil precludes its replace-

sediments, such as Acheulian stone tools, which are a type of stone tool

> [Cont. on page 14](#)

## *Homo erectus*—the original woodworker (cont.)

**"They want us to have evolved over the eons into the people we are today and not to have already reached that level of intelligence over a million years ago."**

early man made 150,000 to 1.5 million years ago, the wood was old. However, that was a big gap and they wanted to narrow it down because that earlier date of 150,000 was about the time *Homo sapiens* first appeared and they would much prefer the makers to be *Homo sapiens* than some early type "pre"-human.

Next they tried optical stimulated luminescence (OSL), but again they could not get a workable date. In the end they tried many dating methods finally finding one based on feldspar that gave them a date they could believe, even if they did not want to. That age was 476,000 years ago, plus or minus 23,000 years. That puts the modified wood hundreds of thousands of years in advance of the appearance of *Homo sapiens*. Men working wood that long ago does not fit the paradigm held to by the archaeological establishment.

It was decided more data was needed and a return to the Kalambo in order. When they got there the site from the 1960s was gone, washed away or filled in by the river.

The first time they went to have a look at the river they found a woman's digging stick protruding from the sediments. Finding something that should not be there almost as soon as they arrived convinced them that here was an important archaeological site and to dig five test trenches along about fifty meters of the river's shoreline. One turned out to be just stone and of no use for testing. The other four all produced modified wood items.

One trench produced a real bonanza. Two logs about six inches in diameter, one notched to fit the other log perpendicularly. The notched log is in a remark-

able state of preservation and one can still clearly see the chop marks where it was notched with a stone tool. When fit together they make a platform.

Since its founding the Pleistocene Coalition and *PCN* have had two guiding principals. The first of these principals is that people were living in the Americas for much much longer than mainstream archaeology is willing to admit. The second is that early man was much smarter than the archaeological establishment is willing to admit. They want us to have evolved over the eons into the people we are today and not to have already reached that level of intelligence over a million years ago.

This article is one more nail in the coffin of those who see early man as just a step above the great apes. Over the last year alone, we have had articles demonstrating that Neanderthals had rope that they could use to make many useful [composite tools] objects. We have seen where Denisovans were thousands of years ahead of *Homo sapiens* in making beautiful body adornments and other useful items. Just last issue I wrote about *Homo naledi* burying their dead 200,000 years before we were burying ours. This latter behavior hints at a spiritual belief of some type, a religious side to their personalities and possibly a belief in an afterlife. This again long before *Homo sapiens* walked the earth.

Of this woodworking in Zambia, Matthew Symonds, who was my source for much of the preceding article, wrote:

"Excavations at Kalambo Falls produced a range of wooden objects. These included structural ele-

ments that have been dated using cutting-edge technology to an almost unbelievably ancient era. The results force us to re-think everything we thought we knew about the capabilities of early humans."

—*World Archaeology*, November 2023, Issue 122.

Dr. Symonds explains that because building that platform was done by someone with an idea about how the finished product will look it showed they had the capacity to could plan ahead the steps necessary to get to that desired end. Envisioning and planning are not things that archaeology's leaders want to see in ancient people a half million years ago. It just doesn't fit the step-by-incremental-step that evolutionary theory tells us to expect.

Those pesky ancients just aren't cooperating.

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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](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin)

## Games over board! *Part 8, Conclusion*

By Elke Rogersdotter, PhD, Archaeology

**"Game implements in the form of naturally occurring materials,**



**or made from re-used items, may also... have been manipulated in one way or another. "**

Continuing from [Part 7](#) (PCN #87, Jan-Feb 2024)...

### Discussion Part Two

#### *The Importance of the Distinctive and Specific*

Faced with the apparent diversity in both gaming practice and gaming accessories that the gaming world not only offers but is also, de facto, characterized by (as I discussed at the end of the previous part), it may seem difficult to identify traces of past games as precisely that. As for the types of artifact from the ancient Indus that have been the focus of this article, these have been treated mainly as hypothetical examples. Indeed, as we have seen, some of this material even constitutes types of find that are notoriously difficult to interpret overall. On the other hand, an attempt to identify game-related material need not necessarily, or always, be impossible. Although many games could, in principle, be played with almost anything to hand, and in a seemingly infinite number of variations, in reality this seems to have far from always been the case, something that becomes particularly clear not least when the issue is considered from a local perspective.

As we have seen earlier in this series of articles, for example, the game material in question has in several cases been shown to be quite distinctive and specific. Certainly, in some of the examples we could see a more flexible approach, both in terms of

the playing alley (such as in the game of *krulbol*), and regarding the type of playing equipment used (as in *omilla*, for instance). At least as often, however, we have had examples where this apparently has not been the case. Rather, we could say, albeit on a general level, that in distinct contexts, players have tended to prefer distinct kinds of

equipment. The examples also indicate how much time and care could actually, at times, be spent on the manufacture of the necessary gaming implements, either because the game may have required it, or because it may have become more exciting as a result, or simply because the implements themselves may have been so highly valued (**Fig. 1**). For example, from a purely game-technical perspective, the game of *pierbol* would hardly work without its very specially shaped hemispherical bowl. Furthermore, and as several of the examples have shown, game implements in the form of naturally occurring materials, or made from re-used items, may also, and for the same reasons, have



**Fig. 1.** Small well-turned skittle for *table skittles*. Photograph by FrancescoA, *Tischkegel kegel*, 2008. FrancescoA at de.wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

been manipulated in one way or another, whether it has been about small bones that have been filled with lead, billiard cues cut in the right place, or potsherds rubbed into desired shapes. In yet other examples, specific, sometimes very elaborately made implements have apparently been preferred, perhaps of sought-after materials as, for example, Egyptian stone marbles of rock crystal or the iron wood-made bowls in *beugelen* suggest, regardless of whether the game itself really required it or not. Yes, we have also come across examples of game-related accessories with features and attributes that, at least from the point of view of an outside observer, could not have had

> [Cont. on page 16](#)

## Games over board! Part 8 Conclusion (cont.)

**"In the sparsely populated region...**

any kind of real or decisive effect on the actual game-play—implements which from a purely game-technical point of view ap-

real basis for the assumption that the small, carefully engraved shell bowls, a typical class of artifact of the ancient Indus



**Fig. 2.** Three balls of shell, between about 2.50 and 3 cm in diameter and ornamented with concentric circles cut in relief. From Mohenjo-daro (modified after Marshall 1931: Pl. CLIII, 3-5).

(mentioned in [PCN #85, Sept-Oct 2023](#)) (**Fig. 2**), precisely because of their fine craftsmanship could *not* have been game-related, as has sometimes tended to be claimed—on

**pretty much every village, even those that were relatively close to each other...had**

pear 'unnecessarily' well-made or decorated, such as playing stones with painted faces, especially fancifully cut skittles, and so forth, not to mention objects which may have had a special meaning for individual participants, known not

the contrary.

### *The Importance of the Repetitive*

In addition to showing us that gaming materials need not always be of the simpler kind, or of the 'you-take-what-you-have'-type, the examples have also pointed to another archaeologically important factor, namely that specific localities, geographically as well as temporally, tend to having been characterized by specific games or specific variants of games; types and variants which in turn may have differed from what games or

much every village, even those that were relatively close to each other and may not have consisted of more than 4–5 households, had its own variety, both in terms of the way the game was played and the implements used (cf. Karlholm 1979). That different variants on the local level actually compete with each other is *tafelbeugelen* (or *jensen*), the 'table variant' of *beugelen*, a telling example of; developed from the latter, it has in some parts of the southern Netherlands succeeded in supplanting this completely, with the exception of the province of Limburg, the very center par excellence of *beugelen*, where the table variant in turn has not survived (De Vroede 1996). So, to sum up: while it is theoretically true that many games can be played with virtually 'anything,' or 'anywhere,' it seems at least as consistent with the truth, if not more so, that a variety of different games indeed, and for one thing, have required (or have been considered to require) equipment of a specific, indeed in some cases even highly specialized, form. Second, and as we have just seen in the examples, the specific games or game variants that have been de facto preferred in one and the same locality at a given time can generally be assumed to have been relatively limited, in terms of number of types and or number of variants (**Fig. 3**). Certainly, these specific forms and variants of game materials and ways of playing would in turn be difficult to identify, or interpret as related to games, if the specific set-up, along with the rules and requirements of the game in question, are not known. The difficulties in distinguishing mate-

> [Cont. on page 17](#)



**Fig. 3.** Every time and place has its games. *Members of the Bowling Green Bowling Club meet for a game in Central Park. The New York City Department of Parks waters the fine turf, and club members, who meet three times a week, tend a flower border themselves, 1973.* Photo by Suzanne Szasz, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

**its own variety, both in terms of the way the game was played and the implements used."**

least among practitioners of, for example, *pittu garam* or *marbles*, in which players may sometimes tend to put special faith in their 'own' implements.

With this reasoning, and with examples like these as support, it may moreover be interjected that, purely hypothetically, there is no

gaming practices may have been preferred elsewhere or, indeed, in sometimes quite nearby locations. For a clear example, we can again look at the group of *kloter*-games, which themselves represented local variants of skittle games; in the sparsely populated region where they occurred, in addition, pretty



# Games over board! Part 8 Conclusion (cont.)

**"With a broadened perspective of what 'games' and 'gaming' in past settings might actually imply... the archaeological gaze can be sharpened, and other types of material traces can thus become possible to search for: small stones with engraved lines, sticks to keep score with, bits and pieces of once carefully prepared gaming alleys."**

**There seems little doubt the intent was to convey 3-dimensionality.**

rial traces of possible past gaming activities could therefore be assumed as much, or perhaps more often, to be due to this factor, than to the more established, oft-cited assumption that since one may have played 'with anything,' and then usually with something taken directly from 'nature's pantry,' then any remaining traces of such activities would be more or less impossible to identify.

From an archaeological point of view, a reasoning like this can be argued as promising, as it shows a possibility, theoretically speaking and provided that there is sufficient data, to actually find traces of these in reality often well-rooted, repetitive and long-lived activities—at least on a local or regional level, and by the undertaking of comparative studies along with a careful mapping of contextual aspects in terms of the evidence, including context of use (how the objects were made and used—analysis of factors such as material properties, wear) and find context (through the study of such variables as associated finds, surrounding structures, etc.). That context needs to be taken into account in order to be able to say something

more definitive about the matter is, of course, essential for all archaeology. However, as already mentioned, this type of investigation has not been undertaken for this article, nor has it been its purpose. The interpretations have been based entirely on the formal similarities of the finds from ancient Indus with objects from other, often much later contexts, and on how these objects have tended to be employed in and for different game-related situations, which is why the suggestions cannot currently be understood as anything other than hypothetical. Nevertheless: with a broadened perspective of what 'games' and 'gaming' in past settings might actually imply, we can first of all learn to look beyond the board game and the game board. With broadened approaches such as those presented here, the archaeological gaze can be sharpened, and other types of material traces can thus become possible to search for: small stones with engraved lines, sticks to keep score with, bits and pieces of once carefully prepared gaming alleys, and so on and so forth. This in itself should significantly increase the chances of actually discovering traces of

these fundamental activities even in the most remote times of our history.

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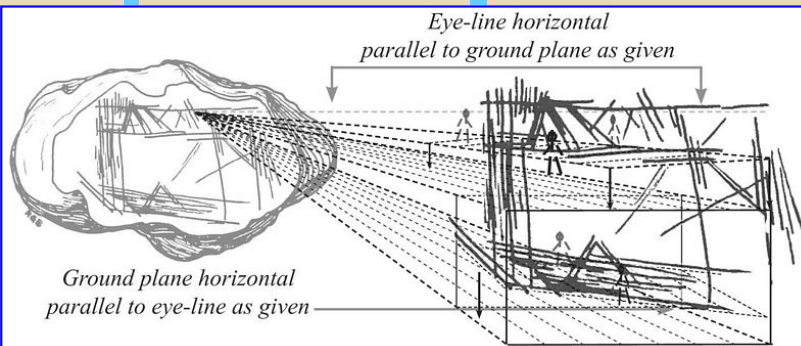
Marshall, J. (ed.) 1931. *Mohenjo-daro and the Indus Civilization: Being an official account of Archaeological Excavations at Mohenjo-daro carried out by the Government of India between the years 1922 and 1927*, Vol. III. Arthur Probsthain, London.

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.

**Original proposal**, *H. erectus*-designed 3D intent, created for [The Graphics of Bilzingsleben](#) presented at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon, September 2006. [The response was completely positive](#) but unfortunately prompted a 5-year ordeal of unscholarly actions by the Session Chairs and associates. This was the beginning with Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's decades-long story and similar for the other founders of forming the Pleistocene Coalition in 2009.

**Current:** A recent claim for "Europe's oldest 3D map" is circulating online *as fact*. So, it seemed right to reprint a few

of the figures for the much older proposed Bilzingsleben map. [Pages 20–21](#) briefly focus on helping to see its 3D nature.



This is Fig. 16b from the *Graphics of Bilzingsleben*, "When a map is a 3D fractal," demonstrating the 3D quality of the engravings in 1-point perspective. [Multiview and oblique projections](#) were published in *PCN* #20, Nov-Dec 2012. Human figures were added to aid sense of depth. [See pages 20–21 for the "stereograms."](#)

# Pleistocene civilizations, Part 7

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

**"In modern times, this was the first**

Continuing from [Part 6](#), (PCN #87, Jan-Feb 2024). Part 7 consists of Section 9 of the outline provided in [Part 1](#) (PCN #82, March-April 2023)...



**experiment in the near Earth plasma to study macro-scale physics—i.e. large enough to be seen with the naked eye such as Birkeland Currents."**

## THEMIS

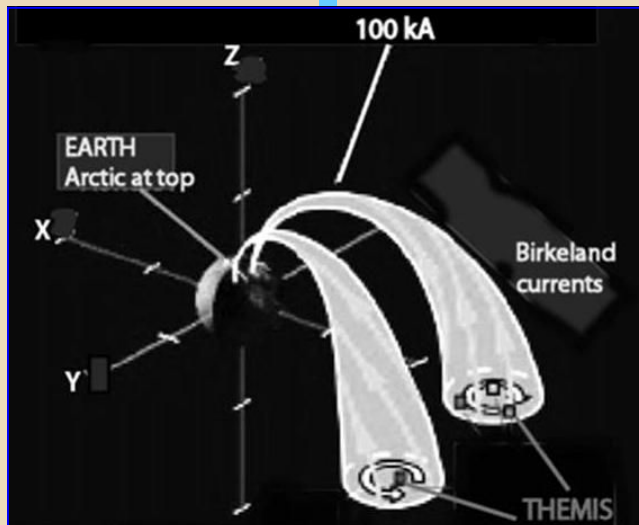
THEMIS—Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms—is a European Space Agency (ESA) venture. It is a quintet of satellites located about 40,000 km (about 25,000 miles) above the Arctic pole. In modern times, this was the first experiment in the near Earth plasma to study *macro-scale physics*—i.e. large enough to be seen with the naked eye such as Birkeland Currents—during auroral substorms, and has greatly expanded since its initiation in 2007 (Burch and Angelopoulos 2012; Peratt et. al. 2009; and Rantsev-Kartinov 2006). These are proposed as relating to representation of such in rock art (**Fig. 1**).

See, for instance, my two-part "Pillars of Heracles" series for which this present series serves as a prequel ([PCN #63, Jan-Feb 2020](#)). For a quick sense of comparison between the macro-physics and the rock art, see especially Fig. 11 of Part 2 and what I proposed as representations of the phenomena in Australian rock art.

The THEMIS spacecraft discovery of 4 tubes of 7 megampere currents data verified in our time (see **Fig. 2**) are related to what I similarly propose are already marked on some of the admittedly controversial Ica stones of Peru. As I have suggested earlier, I believe such astronomical phenomena are the inspirational source of petroglyph geometries recorded in various places on the earth. Previously it was reported



**Fig. 1.** White vertical lines represent 28 Birkeland currents (discussed in terms of Australian rock art in [PCN #63](#)). The cloudlike vertical yellow figures are diffuse plasma observed at the Murchison Array in Australia in 2000. The telescope array is located at approximately ground level in the lower part of the earth (Australia outline can be seen at the bottom).



**Fig. 2.** Two bundles of 7 currents for a total of 14 of the 28 currents in which the earth rotated. These currents defined time on earth until they waned after Plato's time and were replaced by the 360-degree non-visible compass lines. The 2003 THEMIS currents are orders of magnitude less than the original planetary currents. Note: The currents come in externally from space and wrap around the earth while exiting from the opposite pole.

on GPS our world-wide logging of some 8 million of

> [Cont. on page 19](#)

## Pleistocene civilizations, Part 7 (cont.)

**"As I have suggested earlier, I believe such as-tromical phenomena are the inspirational source of petroglyph geometries recorded in various places on the earth."**

petroglyph-only rock art objects, each a filamental MHD symbol generally carved in rock, the carver of which had at least a partial view directly south (Peratt 2003, Peratt *et al* 2007, Yao and Peratt 2007).

THEMIS researchers have also uncovered what appear to be the earliest records of what was seen in antiquity regarding aurora.

*To be continued in Part 8...*

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Burch and Angelopoulos. 2012

Peratt *et. al.* 2009.

Rantsev-Kartinov. 2006.

Peratt, A. 2020. The Pillars of Heracles (Pillars of Hercules), Part 1. *Pleistocene Coalition News* 12(1): 2–4.

Peratt, A. 2020. The Pillars of Heracles (Pillars of Hercules), Part 2. *Pleistocene Coalition News* 12(1): 5–6.

**Addendum:** For more details on Birkeland Currents, see my, [Characteristics for the Occurrence of a High-Current, Z-Pinch Aurora as Recorded in Antiquity](#), available on my ResearchGate page. See also my 2015 (2nd Ed.) book, *Physics of the Plasma Universe* (especially Chapter 2, "Birkeland Currents in Cosmic Plasma," pp. 41-91) 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 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.

For easy access to all of Peratt and Yao's articles in *PCN* go to [https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#peratt\\_and\\_yao](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#peratt_and_yao)

### 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 Alfvén, Peratt translated Alfvén's seminal book, *Cosmic Plasma*, into English. Peratt received his PhD in 1971, after Alfvén 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](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#peratt_and_yao)

Website: [plasmauniverse.info](http://plasmauniverse.info)

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; 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.

# Perspectives on Bilzingsleben Artifact 6

## “When a map is a 3D fractal”

By John Feliks

**BELOW: The reader is invited to compare obligatory evolutionary responses to the Bilzingsleben engravings in general with those in Figs. 1–6:**

“Mania & Mania have published... marked bones from the German Acheulean site of Bilzingsleben, claiming that the markings were purposeful... [I] find no greater patterning in these marks than on the wooden cutting board in my kitchen.”

–Randall White  
Anthropology, NYU

“In my opinion, the marks should not be thought of as anything more than ‘self-sufficient’ ...a term I once applied to some chimpanzee scribbles.”

–Whitney Davis  
Art History, Northwestern University

“By suggesting... the deliberate marks indicate a faculty of abstract thought, the authors may in fact be trivializing their find. Its scientific significance is perhaps primarily that it does not *indicate*, but *foreshadow* such a faculty.”

–Robert Bednarik  
Editor IFRAO, RAR

“Certain bones from Bilzingsleben...have scratches in groups of parallel or radial lines. These could be due to butchery, especially as there are clear indications of gnawing.”

–William Noble & Ian Davidson  
Psychology/Anthropology, University of New England

During the past couple of years there is a ‘map’ being promoted as “Europe’s oldest 3D map.” It is believed to represent an area in Brittany dated to c. 4,000 years ago. It is also being promoted as the oldest map of a “known” location in Europe.

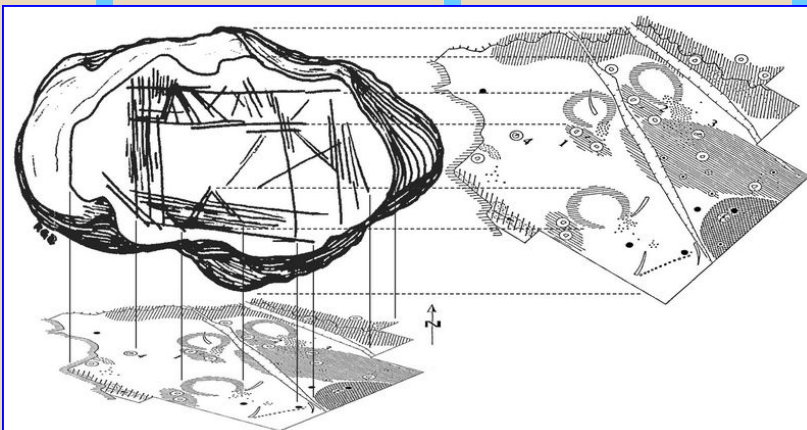
However, in 2006, I presented two back-to-back geometry and drafting-based papers (40 minutes with 112 slides), [The Graphics of Bilzingsleben](#)—with proposal for a much earlier 3D map (e.g., [Figs. 1–2](#))—followed directly by its Part 2, “Phi in the Acheulian,” at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon. This was by request of the Session Chairs familiar with a prior book chapter called “Musings on the Palaeolithic Fan Motif” (also a requested paper) where, among other things, I proposed ‘straight edge use’ by *Homo erectus*.

The latter proposal made possible extremely accurate studies of the Bilzingsleben bone engravings discovered by German archaeologist Dietrich Mania resulting in support of Mania’s much criticized 1988 claim they showed high intelligence in *Homo erectus*.

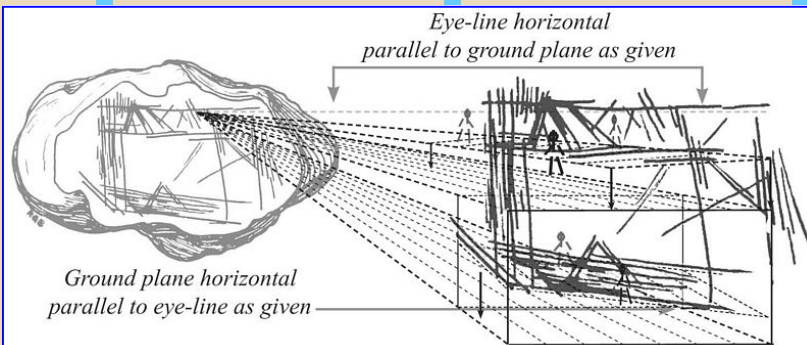
The above three papers ran counter to the nearly 20 years of evolution-based criticism of Mania that held *Homo erectus* back so as to keep them serving as ‘necessary’ ape-men. Without this entire human group used as a *halfway-there* link in an evolutionary chain the

belief system collapses. Hence, the Graphics of Bilzingsleben was blocked and kept from

block papers it sees as threatening. Blocking evidence from the public is *not science*, and is



**Fig. 1.** This is Fig. 16c from *The Graphics of Bilzingsleben* showing proposed association between *Artifact 6* and layout of Bilzingsleben campsite, i.e. the artifact as a depiction of the site by someone who was there 350–400,000-years ago. **Upper left:** Drawing of the artifact by Robert Bednarik used w/permission. **Right and below:** Map of the site by Dietrich and Ursula Mania used and angled w/permission. **Circular areas:** dwellings.



**Fig. 2.** This is Fig. 16b from the *Graphics of Bilzingsleben*, “When a Map is a 3D Fractal,” demonstrating the 2-tier 3D quality of the engravings in 1-point perspective. [Multiview and oblique projections](#) were published in *PCN* #20, Nov-Dec 2012. The persons were added to aid sense of depth or space. “Stereograms” following page.

publication for five years starting the week of its presentation due to the competitive Session Chairs, Secretary General of the Congress (personal friend of the Chair), the EAA, IFRAO, UISPP and, not surprisingly, the *Journal of Human Evolution* though recommended by leading anthropologist NYU Professor Randall White. Contrast this response with the scientific comments in the above link.

When a journal’s ideological bias is part of its name (e.g., *JHE*) it has no choice but to

one of the traits that continues to prevent anthropology from being respected as a science, unlike non-biased fields such as chemistry and astronomy.

### Side column

The reader is invited to compare the clearly-biased comments against *Homo erectus* as fully human with the notable qualities of the Bilzingsleben engravings. I believe objective readers will find them difficult to reconcile.

> [Cont. on page 21](#)

# Perspectives on Bilzingsleben Artifact 6 (cont.)

**"Professor Davis' claim**

Any person with any experience or training whatsoever in graphic design, mechanical or

in The Graphics of Bilzingsleben and elsewhere) could have been produced by wandering forest elephants, flowing water, or 'gnawing' per anthropology professors Noble & Davidson (relayed to them by Solomon). Professor Davis' claim the engravings are no better than "chimpanzee scribbles" is clearly false. Bednarik's comment inadvertently reveals the cause of such beliefs, the idea we already know *H. erectus* was an ape-man, so, he was *not yet capable* of abstract thought.

Resistance to evidence right before one's eyes is the result of modern education errors from PBS and grade school through university that do not teach critical thinking (see propaganda techniques currently used in [Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards classrooms](#); see also [Bryozoa](#)). I.e., right from the beginning, our education systems produce students of pre-history taught *what to think* rather than to look at both old and new evidence objectively.

**Stereograms to help one see the 3D of Artifact 6**

**Figs. 3-5** contain slightly different double images so that if one blurs one's eyes or changes one's viewing distance or angle (and barring vision problems such as cataracts) one can see the two images change into three. The middle image will be

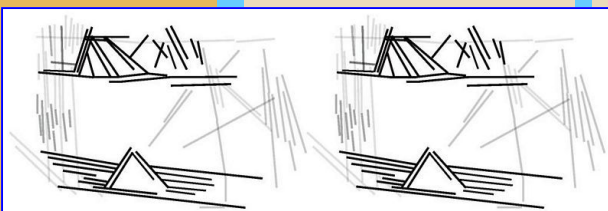
3D with a View-Master-like sense of depth. It may take some experimentation. Stereogram 3 is the ultimate goal.

**The reverse side of Artifact 6 (Fig. 6)**

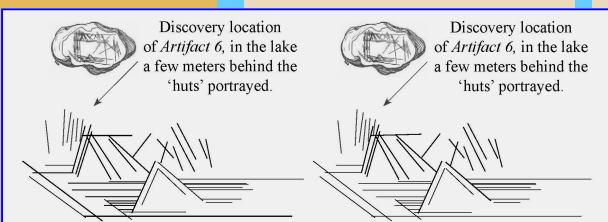
Upon seeing the rectangles and sense of depth on the reverse side of Artifact 6, I felt I had seen the pattern before, and I had. 50 years prior in 1974 when I was 20, running saws, driving fork-lift and building



**Fig. 3. Stereogram 1** shows computer lines drawn over the engraved lines of Artifact 6 isolated from the bone medium. **To see the 3D or stereo image, relax or blur one's eyes** until the two images—each slightly different—overlap each other to create a third image in the middle. That is the one that will be 3D. **It may take a little practice and experimenting.**



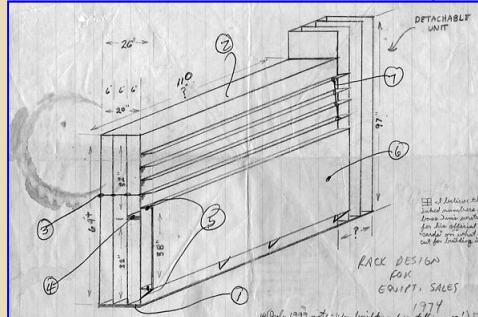
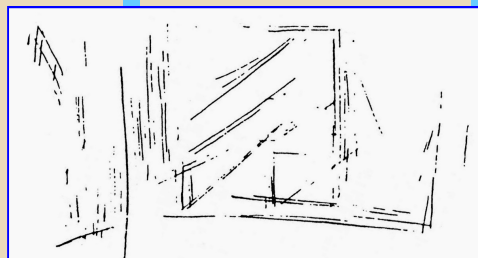
**Fig. 4. Stereogram 2** isolates what are considered the 'huts,' two on the 'upper tier' and one on the 'lower tier.' Each tier is proposed to represent the same 'ground plane.' **The 3D effect should be easier to see with this image.**



**Fig. 5. Stereogram 3.** This should be the easiest one to see in 3D. **Top:** Engraved Artifact 6 (tarsal joint bone of an extinct straight-tusked elephant) is seen hovering in the background. Arrow points to the area the artifact was actually found—in the dried Pleistocene lake ('reeds' area) behind the 'huts.' **Bottom:** As discussed in an earlier article, registration guides on the two tiers (visible in Figs. 1-3) are used to **line the two tiers up to a single 'ground plane.'** The "huts" are thus brought to the same plane. One can now easily compare the hut locations of Mania's site map of Fig. 1. Details were explained in an earlier article. I proposed this was *H. erectus*' solution to 3D and limited space on the bone medium. The final effect is not unlike Medieval and Renaissance picture maps.

**the engravings are no better than 'chimpanzee scribbles' is clearly false."**

perspective drawing, architectural design or engineering should immediately recognize the obvious skill and confidence reflected in *all* the Bilzingsleben engravings. Despite this, mainstream-educated graduates are pre-convicted that *Homo erectus* was an ape-man. With this ingrained prejudice they actually believe such obviously sophisticated *H. erectus* work (explored geometrically



**Fig. 6. Top:** Various lines and rectangles, etc., on the reverse side of Bilzingsleben Artifact 6 (isolated from D. Mania 1990, *Auf den Spuren des Urmenschen: Die Funde von Bilzingsleben*, via C. Gamble 1999, *The Palaeolithic Societies of Europe*. Mania & Mania noted the artifact's rectangles again in Gamble & Porr 2005, *The Hominid Individual in Context*). I am drawn to line qualities having learned basic drafting—T-square, triangles, compass, protractor, etc.,—at an early age from my father who was a pre-CAD tool and die designer. When I saw this side of Artifact 6, I recalled an early and *uncannily similar* design for a materials rack I proposed and built for an international laboratory furniture company where employed at age 20 (**Bottom**). I built it in 1974 and it was still in use when I visited in 1999. Notable is that the two sketches contain similar features.

laboratory furniture, I designed a special rack, showed it to my boss who approved it, and I built it. I believe an equally human mindset is expressed in each of these two sketches. -jf

"The most erroneous stories are those we think we know best—and therefore never scrutinize or question." -**Stephen Jay Gould**

# Insights and inspirations for avocational collectors

Compilation list of articles in series started by Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre

**"In PCN #9...  
and reprinted  
in PCN #48..."**



**Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre,**  
Co-founder  
of the Pleistocene  
Coalition.

***Pleistocene Coalition Co-founder Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre proposed a special series for 'avocational' or 'amateur' archaeology essentially meaning those who do science of any kind out of passion rather than professionally."***

In **PCN #9** (Jan-Feb 2011) and reprinted in **PCN #48** (July-August 2017), Pleistocene Coalition Co-founder **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre** proposed a special series for "avocational" or "amateur" archaeology essentially meaning those who do science of any kind out of passion rather than professionally. [Note that *PCN* has also published short bios of [those who made some of the pivotal discoveries in science were avocational](#)s]. This includes the especially problematic topic of what has come to be known as figure stone collecting.

Since nearly all figure stone collectors focus entirely on what their found-objects "look like" without taking care to record their findspots or important contexts with uncontroversial artifacts such as spear points, etc., she felt this occasional special section could be a combination of showcase for a few of the objects while at the same time using the venue as a way to upgrade the approach of collectors encouraging their scientific awareness in treatment and record-keeping.

Below is a list of most of the features Virginia moderated including agreement among founders and editors on what basic qualities and procedures should be promoted in order to raise the bar in what is expected of collectors wishing their finds to be taken seriously. One important rule may seem counter-intuitive to most collectors. If collectors make bold claims of objects being "thousands" or "tens of thousands" or more years old they must "not" thoroughly clean them. She explains from her knowledge and expertise as a volcanic ash specialist that cleaning removes any last hope of dating a rock object as it washes away residues that have the potential of dating.

## ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

### An avocational archaeology page?

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/january-february2011.pdf#page=17>  
(**PCN #9**, Jan-Feb 2011)

### Pair of eyes or pareidolia?

By Kenneth B. Johnston  
[Includes editor team disclaimers.]  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/january-february2011.pdf#page=18>  
(**PCN #9**, Jan-Feb 2011)

Important disclaimers and goals due to flooding of materials and many conflicts with collectors

Avocational archaeology

### A Pleistocene Coalition statement before beginning our series on 'figure stones'

From the editors  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/november-december2011.pdf#page=20>  
(**PCN #14**, Nov-Dec 2011)

Avocational archaeology

### A brief history of figure stones

By Alan Day, engineer; with pre-series context given by the editors  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/november-december2011.pdf#page=21>  
(**PCN #14**, Nov-Dec 2011)

### Lower Paleolithic 'figure stones' from the Ohle gravel pit, Gross-Pampau, Germany

By Ursei Benekendorff, avocational archaeologist  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/january-february2012.pdf>  
(**PCN #15**, Jan-Feb 2012)

Avocational archaeology

### To clean or not to clean... that is the question

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, Tephrochronologist (Volcanic ash specialist)  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/march-april2012.pdf#page=20>  
(**PCN #16**, March-April 2012)

### Note from Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Jim Harrod on 'figure stones' policy

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Dr. James B. Harrod  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/july-august2013.pdf#page=4>  
(**PCN #24**, July-Aug 2013)

## REPRINT

### An avocational archaeology page?

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/july-august2017.pdf#page=2>  
(**PCN #48**, July-Aug 2017)

Avocational archaeology

### Eoliths, figure stones, and found art revisited

By Brett Martin  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/july-august2017.pdf>  
(**PCN #48**, July-Aug 2017)

Avocational archaeology

Revisiting *PCN* #16, March-April 2012

### To clean or not to clean... that is the question

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, Tephrochronologist (Volcanic ash specialist)  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/january-february2021.pdf#page=18>  
(**PCN #69**, Jan-Feb 2021)

## REPRINT

### Note from Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Jim Harrod on 'figure stones' policy

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Dr. James B. Harrod [Orig. *PCN* #24]  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/may-june2021.pdf#page=15>  
(**PCN #71**, May-June 2021)

### Figure stone collecting takes a step backwards

The Editors  
<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/may-june2021.pdf#page=15>  
(**PCN #71**, May-June 2021)



## The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is unlike that promoted by mainstream science.
- Explore and regain confidence in your own ability to think for yourself regarding human ancestry as a broader range of evidence becomes available to you.
- Join a community not afraid to challenge the status quo. Question with confidence any paradigm promoted as “scientific” that depends upon withholding conflicting evidence from the public in order to appear unchallenged.

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To learn more about early  
man in the Pleistocene visit  
our website at

[pleistocenecoalition.com](http://pleistocenecoalition.com)

**The Pleistocene Coalition** celebrated its fourteen-year anniversary September 26, and the anniversary of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, October 25. *PCN* is now in its fifteenth year of challenging mainstream scientific dogma.