



PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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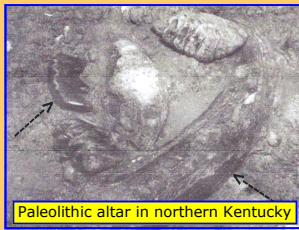
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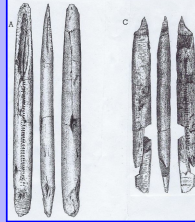


Paleolithic altar in northern Kentucky



Michael Collins at the Austin 'cart ruts'

Separate from the missing Valsequillo engravings PCN readers are aware of, archaeologist **Dr. Richard Michael Gramly** decided to tackle the scarcity of Upper Paleolithic American engravings, presenting his plan to remedy the problem. See [Gramly p.9](#)



Paleolithic designs or records of descent? Washington State



Pleiades star cluster depictions are not the only likely symbolic qualities discovered in the recent University of Innsbruck Tarzens cupstone excavation under direction of archaeologist **Hubert Ilsinger** (now PhD). For one,

Thomas Walli-Knofler and the Austrian Cupstone Team have found what appear to be solstice markers. This is the region Ötzi the Iceman traversed over 5,000 years ago. See [Walli-Knofler p.4](#).



Josef Höfer demonstrating Tarzens cupmark creation

Suggestions of Native American imagery. See [Dullum p.2](#).



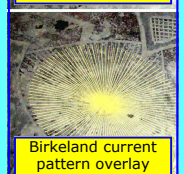
Dr. Anthony Peratt (PhD) and colleague, **Fay Yao** (LMS, M.A.) look anew at controversial evidence held to be 'resolved' by many in mainstream science.



Ica stone radiating pattern



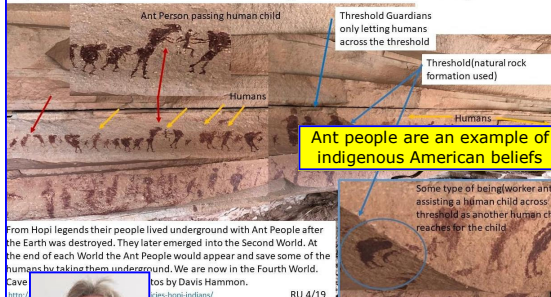
This time, they take a daring new look at the **Ica stones of Peru** in case there is something other researchers perhaps in haste may have overlooked. While most discussions—and conclusions—about the stones



Birkeland current pattern overlay

revolve around the popular dinosaur and human images, Peratt and Yao have a special interest in engravings that may depict less well-known subjects such as large visible atmospheric phenomena known as Birkeland currents that could have inspired certain rock art imagery. See [Peratt and Yao p.12](#).

Top row is a procession of humans leaving the world of the Ant People



Ant people are an example of indigenous American beliefs

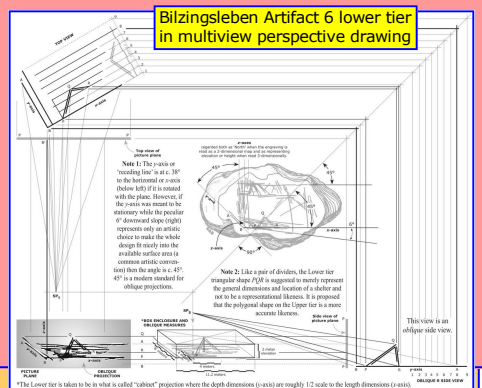
From Hopi legends their people lived underground with Ant People after the Earth was destroyed. They later emerged into the Second World. At the end of each World the Ant People would appear and save some of the humans by taking them underground. We are now in the Fourth World. See [Urbaniak p.18](#)



Engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist, **Ray Urbaniak** gives a quick overview regarding his interpretation of a SW U.S. rock art panel as representing the Hopi legend of the Ant people also known as the origin or emergence myth. See [Urbaniak p.18](#).

Another method of pre-CAD 3D idea conveyance from PCN Editor's "Graphics of Bilzingsleben" poster-size tests, follow-up. See [Feliks p.15](#).

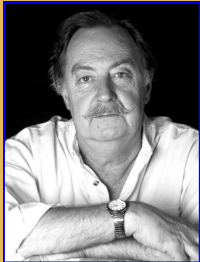
Bilzingsleben Artifact 6 lower tier in multiview perspective drawing



Three objects suggesting Native American imagery with two from the earlier days of less dogmatic archaeology

By Richard Dullum, B.A. Biology

"The doll is the image of a



person of a high civilization, artistically attired."

This is the first in a series featuring unusual and possibly extremely old objects and artifacts that have caught my attention over the years (e.g., **Fig. 1**). Several are pre-dogmatic archaeological discovery reports recovered by Michael Cremona and the late mathematician Richard Thompson in their substantial compilation *Forbidden Archeology* (1993, 1996, 1998). While most readers will not be inclined toward their more extreme interpretations only the most closed-minded would deny the rigorous accomplishment their over 900-page well-documented book actually is. It made me aware of discoveries rejected out of hand or lost by the mainstream science community I would, otherwise, never have known about. Whatever skeptics might wish to say, my preference as an objective researcher is to see all the evidence rather than have others decide what evidence I can or cannot see.

The following two controversial objects will be my focus—one missing from the Smithsonian (a regular problem) and the other still available for study. I may discuss Cremona and Thompson's less accessible proposals such as regarding their suggested extreme antiquity of mankind at another time.

First, I would like to say that my professional background was primarily devoted to my work as a scrub nurse in a large operating room since I was 28 having recently retired after 30 years. I mention this as the job required crucial attention to details. I try to apply those skills to my anthropology research. After realizing humans are not like any other life



Fig. 1. (Left): Natural formation in SW Alberta, Canada, which bears an uncanny resemblance to a portrait of a Native American. Known as the "Badlands Guardian," it has been called by *Atlas Obscura* "one of the most curious places" in the world. Discovered during the Google Earth Project, it is also considered one of Google Earth's most remarkable finds. Here I compare it with a popular image of the Mayan goddess Ixchel (**Right**). Although well-established as a completely natural formation it exemplifies the astuteness researchers must have in separating creative work from the natural. The effect can go in the opposite direction as well. I.e., *dogmatic education* can cause bias against controversial objects very likely manmade.

on earth my deeper studies led me to an awareness that all

concealing or decrying much evidence that should be part of



Fig. 2. The two sides of a 'coin' brought up from an 1871 well-boring in Lawn Ridge, Illinois. The problems began in that the strata it was pulled up from (114 ft. down) was dated c. 200-400,000-years old. The copper coin was rolled flat. Even though it shows evidence of rounding, the edges were chisel-cut, creating a subtle polygonal shape. Depicted on the side at **Right** is a large person wearing a headdress shown holding a captive in his right hand, about to 'smite,' making it reminiscent of imperial civilization depictions of Egypt and MesoAmerica. The reverse side, **Left**, shows a horned, masked, or feather-wearing figure. Each side shows various symbols or glyphic etchings struck into the perimeter around the scenes depicted. We have similar inscriptions on coins today like we've had since coinage was first evidenced in ancient Lycia, in Anatolia. Images: Professor Alexander Winchell, *Sparks from a Geologist's Hammer*, 1881.

manner of evidence continues to be held back from the public in order to sell a single 'theory,' it soon became clear that in order to sell this theory—Darwin's natural selection—I saw it involved deliberately

the objective discussion. **Fig. 2** is my first example. While such evidence is attacked by mainstream skeptics they apply a much lower standard when utterly weak evidence such as

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

Three objects suggesting N.A. imagery (cont.)

"I compare this feature with a "two-feather" headdress worn by a Sioux man, Charging Thunder, who participated in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show c. 1900. The similarity... makes me think of the oft-quoted... 'Occam's razor' principle about the simplest explanation being the most likely."

a single bone is enough for them to unduly praise as proof of an evolutionary event!

Two feathers

One side of the copper 'coin' in Fig. 2 appears to feature an individual wearing a well-known style of Native American headdress—the flowing back many-feathered form. The coin's other side, appears to feature an individual either with horns or projections as part of a mask

of some kind. However, I believe these projections could actually also represent feathers, only this time with only two. In Fig. 3, I compare this feature with a "two-feather" headdress worn by a Sioux man, Charging Thunder, who participated in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show c. 1900. The similarity is uncanny and makes me think of the oft-quoted (though not infallible) "Occam's razor" principle about the simplest explanation being the most likely.

The artifact's current location is not known. In any event, the Smithsonian ruled it a hoax, after which time it simply disappeared like many other items found in 'questionable' stratigraphic layers and places where they did not 'fit' the accepted paradigm. Many such objects suggesting an earlier-than-accepted human presence in North America have been given to the Smithsonian, declared a "hoax" and never seen again. We at PCN don't accept that kind of science.

The enigmatic Nampa figurine

Professor Albert A. Wright of Oberlin College described the figurine in Fig. 4 and its authenticity in 1889 as follows:

"It was not the product of a small child or amateur...

jewelry—they are found mostly on the chest around

the neck, and on the arms and wrists. The doll is the image of a person of a high civilization, artistically attired."

—Jochmans quoted in Message-ToEagle, 2014).*

*Note that the figurine, due to evolutionary dogma, does have many skeptics. However, keep in mind that the scientific world already has its mind made up as to

when humans first showed up in the Americas. I will discuss that in a later article.

The figurine was covered in iron oxide particles bonded to quartz sand grains, matching the coating of the numerous clay balls that came up out of the pump before the figurine was spotted. Even though it is composed of fired clay, and OSL (optically stimulated luminescence) could date it, this has not been done. It exists in the Nampa, Idaho museum, as seen in Fig. 4. OSL could easily tell us if this was a clay doll made by the local tribal people that got nudged down the drill hole as detractors claim. It still exists; test it!

For more details on the Nampa figurine check out the excellent article [How deep do we dig: The pros and cons of a controversial ceramic figurine](#) by Rockey Whipkey in PCN # 19 (Sept-Oct 2012).

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



Fig. 3. Left: Comparing wide-spaced 2-feather Native American headdress (here worn by Sioux Indian, Charging Thunder, c. 1900, public domain) with **Right:** similar spacing on the Lawn Ridge, IL, copper 'coin' image pulled up from a 114' deep well-bore in 1881.



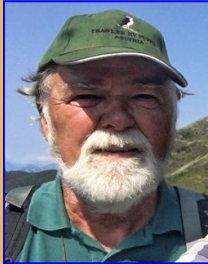
Fig. 4. The Nampa, Idaho, figurine pulled up from a well bore's 300'-level in 1889.

Though badly battered by time, the doll's appearance is still distinct... There are also faint geometric markings on the figure, which represent either clothing patterns or

Cupstone excavation by the University of Innsbruck, Municipality of Ellbögen-Tarzens, Austria, Part 2

By Thomas Walli-Knofler (Austrian Cupstone Research Team)

"The Pleiades rise



and set with the same accuracy as the solstices. According to Stellarium/UNI Heidelberg app, the Pleiades rose on Sept. 17, 7000 B.C. at 19.15h (7:15 p.m.) in the southeast of the Schalenstein plate."

Eds. note: This is a highlights version of Thomas Walli-Knofler's Part 2 so as to best stay within the basic parameters of the PC. As noted in Thomas' earlier articles, readers interested in the topics beyond our present venue (these include such as raetia-stone energies, earth power grids, ley lines in the context of channeling earth energies, dowsing, etc., are encouraged to visit Thomas' webpage at <https://www.raetiastone.com> (in German). In all fairness as to what is or is not science, we again remind readers that the Austrian team's topics or methods are actually no less scientific than Dr. Donald Johanson's and his team's famous "premonitions" and "hunches" as to where to find so-called hominid fossils. We may cover related borderline topics collectively in the future.

Continuing from [Part 1](#) (PCN #88, March-April 2024)...

Update

Just since my Part 1 in the March-April issue of PCN our Excavation Director, Hubert Ilsinger (Archaeology Department at the University of Innsbruck, Austria), received his doctorate. He is now Hubert Ilsinger PhD.

The solstice lines on the cupstone of Tarzens

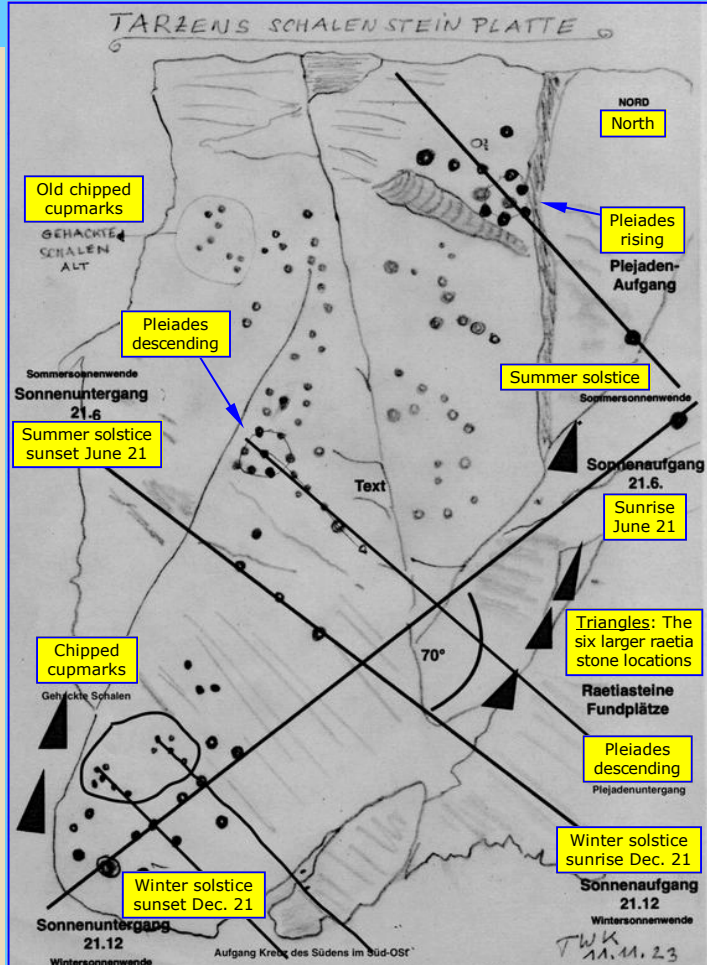


Fig. 1. Solstice lines interpretation of cupstone with Pleiades. Thomas Walli-Knofler. (Yellow English labels added for readers by the Ed.)

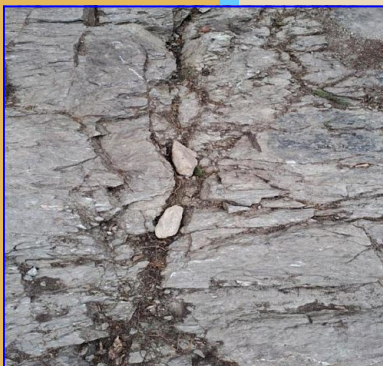


Fig. 2. Specially-placed 'raetia stones,' see Fig. 1, such as we believe at one time surrounded the entire cupstone slab.

Fig. 1 shows my overview and detailed interpretation of the Tyrol cupstone slab and cup sequences as solstice markers. Unfortunately, we were only able to secure six larger and four smaller 'Raetia stones,' **Fig. 2**, from the grooves of the Schalenstein slab. We believe that the entire slab was at one

time surrounded by stones such as these (see Fig. 1).

Excerpts: Solstice lines—more detailed explanation

During a visit to Tyrol in December Mrs. Rosa Schwarzl, President of the Association of Austrian Radiesthesists (dowsers), drew my attention to the fact that there might have been an artesian healing spring next to the cupstone slab.

On December 20, 2023, I went to Tarzens again to carry out a 'water reading,' which was indeed positive. I also took a measurement with a very sensitive Geiger counter and was

able to measure a radioactivity of 0.17 Becquerel at this point (see **Fig. 3** on following page). So it could actually be a radon source which is still active underground. The neighboring farmer from the Kehrerhof farm also confirmed to me that a spring had emerged on his meadow below, on a hilltop a few years back. From our interpretation perspective, what we have called the "text" in the cupstone (our interpretation of the cupmarks) might also refer to this healing spring.

> [Cont. on page 5](#)

Cupstone excavation University of Innsbruck (cont.)

Theory is good, practical verification is better

On November 15, 2023, team member Belinda Reinhardt and I drove to the Tarzens site to check real world alignment of the solstice lines I had sketched out on paper (**Fig. 4**). To do this, we placed neon-colored Plexiglas rods over proposed alignment

ent 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 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



Fig. 3. Location of Geiger counter (behind the stick) reading 0.17 Becquerel at Tarzens cupstone, 12-20-23. In back can be seen the fully excavated stone.



Fig. 4. Images at the cupstone site, Nov. 15, testing the solstice lines with team member Belinda Reinhardt. We placed yellow Plexiglas rods on the cupstone to match the lines on my Fig. 1 sketch. **Top:** Winter sunrise Dec. 21, per farmer Kehrerhof, matching yellow rod. **Bottom:** Winter sunset Dec. 21, *ibid.*

bowls or cupmarks as they are seen in Fig. 1. The rods represent these lines to better illustrate them.

If one then follows the bearing to the next mountain ridges or peaks, one will come to the point at which the winter or summer suns rise or set.

The Pleiades rises and sets with the same accuracy as the solstices. According to Stellarium/UNI Heidelberg app the Pleiades rose on Sept. 17, 7000 B.C. at 19.15h (7:15 p.m.) in the southeast of the Schalenstein plate, exactly the direction indicated by the lower Pleiades cups and directional cups, already very astonishing accuracy!

Additional images

Fig. 5 Top is a photo by team member Joseph Höfer showing an iron ore vein from which he excavated several stones. **Bottom:** a photograph of Höfer demonstrated how the cupmarks were likely made.

To be continued...

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 independ-



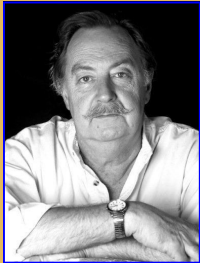
Fig. 5. Top: Cupstone iron vein where Josef Höfer discovered several iron hydroxide stones. **Bottom:** Höfer showing how the cups were likely created.

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.

More baffling 'megalithic' evidence in North America and beyond, Part 1: Austin 'cart ruts'

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

"So many people have seen the



baffling tracks on the exposed riverbed in times of low water... that the Nature Center management needed to offer an explanation for the curious."

For many years, the city of Austin, Texas has had a greenway through the north-west part of the city, following the course of Bull Creek. It is a small limestone-bedded stream with pathways through the natural landscape for nature lovers in the center of urban life.

So many people have seen the baffling tracks on the exposed riverbed in times of low water that the Nature Center management needed to offer an explanation for the curious. Fig. 1 shows an example photo taken seven years ago by Kaitlyn Kaerhart (Kaitlyn@newearth). The explanation offered, and apparently accepted, is that during the 1800's Conestoga wagons carrying various loads embarked from Austin onto the Chisholm Trail—the head of which begins at Round Rock by Bull Creek. (Bull Creek Park is off Capital of Texas Highway near Hwy 183).

It is proffered to the curious that the wagons of settlers bound west wore the ruts with their wagon wheels into the solid limestone bedrock of the creek. Really. These ruts are supposed to represent the wear of wagon use for 20–25 years. In solid rock limestone. It doesn't seem to make sense. The 'ruts' appear to have perpendicular sides and are remarkably straight for long distances, then curve and meander to follow the stream bed, sometimes intersecting each other as well. The photo by Kaitlyn Kaerhart shows the dry condition over four 'ruts' when the stream was quite low. The spacings between the 'ruts' are equal throughout this course, which curves to the left.

Last December, Michael Collins@WanderingWolf and 'Brothers of the Serpent'

Russ and Kyle compares of Michael (who take their name from the famous Serpent Mound) and are also on YouTube explored the Bull Creek tracks.

Besides being close to freezing at the time and with a fair amount of water flowing in the Creek, they managed to video and explore the area with a considerable number of 'ruts.' Some of them were in running water, but many were fairly above the stream flow, as can be seen in the images below. Michael had



Fig. 1. Enigmatic so-called "cart-ruts" in Bull Creek during low water; Austin, Texas. Photo by Kaitlyn Kaerhart (Kaitlyn@newearth). Notice especially this course's veering to the left at the upper part of the picture.

Rut depths challenge theory

In Fig. 2, just above Mike's left hand in the foreground we can see the 'ruts' take a 15-degree turn to the left. Ruts also collide and merge. Perhaps most challenging to the wagon-



Fig. 2. Michael Collins at the Bull Creek 'cart ruts' December 2023. Like in Fig. 1, note the ruts take a 15-degree turn to the left above his left hand.

mentioned to me previously the existence of these structures that were literally in his backyard and his intent to get out to video them. Brothers of the Serpent (from Bandera, TX) were visiting Michael in Austin as they too have considerable content dealing with megalithic sites on their channel.

wheels theory, though, is the "depth" of some of the ruts. In other words, how far down must a wagon wheel extend in order to reach a solid rock base?

In Fig. 3 on the following page, Kyle, one of the 'brothers,' shoves his hand

> [Cont. on page 7](#)

Austin 'cart ruts' (cont.)

to the bottom of a 'rut,' scoops out debris, and

then extends his fingers down to the bottom where wagon wheels are presumed to have casually reached. Believe it or not, the water comes up to his mid-forearm! That's about 10-12 inches deep. While no expert on 19th-century wagon wheels, axles or carriages—not to mention general steering ability in a restricted track, I would imagine that is a pretty deep rut for wagon wheels to either carve out through simple repetition or even just to ride in if already cut.



Fig. 3. Top: Kyle cleans out an Austin rut for a quick measure of its depth. **Bottom:** Quick check shows the rut is 10-12 inches deep. This would certainly be a rough track for anything other than state of the art modern wheel consistencies to ride in. Photos by Michael Collins.

Would wagon wheels cut rock like that, solid limestone, as if cut by a powerful saw? These are clearly vertical cut-marks into the stream bed and must have been made by some type of machine. The only machine I know of that makes those kinds of cuts is a diamond-tipped circular saw, drawn over the stone, like a radial-arm saw. It's highly problematic for conventional archeologists to imagine such sophisticated work being done by humans in the remote past,

but there they are. **Fig. 4** is a recently-added composite image where Michael compares Austin ruts (**Top**) with similar ruts he observed and photographed in Malta (**Bottom**).

Michael plans to revisit the Austin Bull Creek Greenway by drone, with LiDAR, he tells me. We await more surprises in the search for ancient America.

...To be continued in Part 2

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 pre-history 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

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



Fig. 4. Top: Mike's comparison between **Top:** Austin, Texas 'ruts' and **Bottom:** Malta 'ruts.' All photos by Michael Collins.

Member news and other info

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Science advice, disclaimers figure stones

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

Errata for Dr. Anthony Peratt research colleague

Dr. Marinus A. van der Sluijs

Erratum to series article:

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 4

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

In *Pleistocene Coalition News* #85, Sept-Oct 2023.

The above article is missing a caption credit in Fig. 7, p. 21. The correction is as follows:

"**Fig. 7.** '112-ray' (4th multiple of 28 like Chinese mirror) wheel structure; Palpa, Peru, near Nazca. Photo by Dr. Marinus van der Sluijs, taken from a small aircraft May 26, 2008, used with permission. Yellow overlay for sense of Birkeland current spokes by Anthony Peratt. The structure is kilometers wide with boundary holes a meter deep."

Additional background on the photo

Dr. van der Sluijs notes that it is a valuable photograph as it is "strictly forbidden for people to enter the area by foot." The particular formation shown (the so-called *Estrella* or 'star') "had not been properly photographed at the time" and no other images were available in such detail and perhaps even still are not.*

***Dr. van der Sluijs** is the linguist whose contributions Dr. Peratt and Fay Yao discuss in their Part 5 installment ([PCN #86, Nov-Dec, 2023](#)).

Thomas Walli-Knofler and the Austrian Cupstone Research Team sent an update that since [Walli-Knofler's Part 1](#) ([PCN #88, March-April 2024](#)) their Director for the Tarzens cupstone excavation, Hubert Ilsinger (Archaeology Department at the University of Innsbruck, Austria), received his doctorate and is now **Dr. Hubert Ilsinger PhD.**

Priority fixation

Ray Urbaniak and others discovered yet another recently-published example of anthropology 'priority fixation.' This is where researchers—unlike in the rigorous science of chemistry's periodic table—each insist their own discoveries fit into the "A" slot no matter how old or young they may be, and despite any prior evidence, as if none even exists.

Just one recent example

"22,000-year-old artifacts [Parsons Island, Maryland] could rewrite ancient human history in North America" —www.msn.com, June 2024.

"Archaeologists debate when the first humans arrived in the Americas. Controversial 22,000-year-old stone tools are one of the latest discoveries." —ibid.

When such claims are made they are then plastered all over the Internet on countless echo pages even if they originated in pop science journals like *Nature* and *Science*. In propaganda style such claims are repeated over and over. Mainstream-only educated readers instantly and naively accept them as true including the false idea that there isn't older evidence already known. This is why, after 150 years of Darwin and low-rigor migration mythologies paleoanthropology seems perpetually unable to become a real science unless those running the field are voted out.

Per a recent discussion, even in 1888, then-President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS, publisher of *Science*)—S.P. Langley, compared the science community to "a pack of hounds... where the louder-voiced bring many to follow them, nearly as often in a wrong path as in a right one." Langley also noted the entire community could be led as one mind into a false idea.

"That would mean humans first arrived in North

America thousands of years before we thought."

The above is the rote comment in hundreds of such anthropology claims always resisting known older evidence. So, the field continues to promote the following:

"We don't know who these first peoples were... where they came from, when they arrived, the technologies that they had available."

—Todd Braje, Executive Director, University of Oregon, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, —from interview with Business Insider msn.com.

They have little interest in where on a genuine timeline various discoveries might actually fit. With this lack of interest in the larger picture anthropology has little motivation to properly compile and organize all its evidence into a truly meaningful prehistory. —jf

For more explanation of this science rigor problem written for PCN #66 after several readers wrote of a very similar claim in 2020 (and that we reprinted later) see:

[The problem of priority-fixation in paleoanthropology](#) ([PCN #84, July-Aug 2023](#)).



[Link to PCN #88](#)



[Link to PCN #87](#)



[Link to PCN #86](#)

Claims for Upper Palaeolithic schematic and zoomorphic art engravings in the Americas

By Richard Michael Gramly, PhD

FRAI (Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute)

"This specimen was un-



available to the author for verification using non-destructive testing. Therefore, the Vero Beach [mammoth] engraving, in my opinion, lies outside the realm of ordinary scientific evidence."

Although recent discoveries have revealed that portable, zoomorphic sculptural art exists at certain Palaeolithic sites of the Western Hemisphere, the case is altogether weaker when it comes to engraved, "linear" art upon bone, antler, and ivory.*

*I note that there are a few lost or missing artifacts over the past 100 years that might fit into this discussion, but my focus here is only on artifacts presently available for direct, scientific study.

Old World examples

To be sure, even at Old World Upper Palaeolithic sites schematic engravings upon bone, antler and ivory are uncommon and zoomorphic depictions even rarer. We have eminent prehistorian, André Leroi-Gourhan, to thank for a review of the evidence, which in the main, dates to the post-Aurignacian era (Leroi-Gourhan 1967: 53–87)—that is to say, to Middle Upper Palaeolithic times and later.

His inventory of these "minor arts" is limited to: A) spearheads; B) harpoons; C) spear-throwers (atlatls); D) spatulas; E) "half-rounded rods"; F) pierced staffs (batons)—usually made of antler; and G) artifacts that were "hung and strung"—such as discs or roundels with a central perforation. All these classes of objects are represented at New World Palaeolithic sites (Gramly, 2024); however, except in a few cases, incised decorations are not evident or are simple in execution.

To Leroi-Gourhan's listing we may add rare plaquettes or

plaquettes with abstract scenes (Marshak, 1972: 82–83). Large sections of mammoth tusk were utilized for such panels of art, which measure 20–25 cm in maximum dimension (e.g., **Fig. 1**; Gramly 2017: 189).

Sometimes tusk sections were used repeatedly for engraving without erasure of previous works resulting in a confusion of superimposed lines—e.g., Guthrie, 2005: 12; see also **Fig. 2** (after Bahn and Vertut 1988: 49). Naturalistic depictions of single animals more often were confined to bone, antler, or ivory artifacts of small size or to sections of bones with convenient regular surfaces, if you will, plaquettes (see Marshack, 1972: 232–3).

For the New World Palaeolithic, engraved plaquettes of any sort and even isolated zoomorphic figures upon organic raw materials appear to be exceedingly rare—perhaps non-existent. A controversial (unique?) example engraved upon a large sheet of limb bone, was reported from Vero Beach, Florida (Purdy,

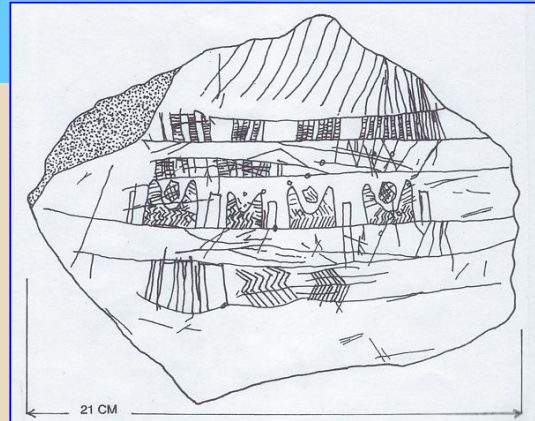


Fig. 1. Complexly engraved mammoth tusk fragment (plaque) from a Gravettian-age dwelling at the Mezhirich, Ukraine. After Shimkin, 1978.

Jones, Mecholsky *et. al.*, 2011). It shows a single mammoth or mastodon in an atypical "head

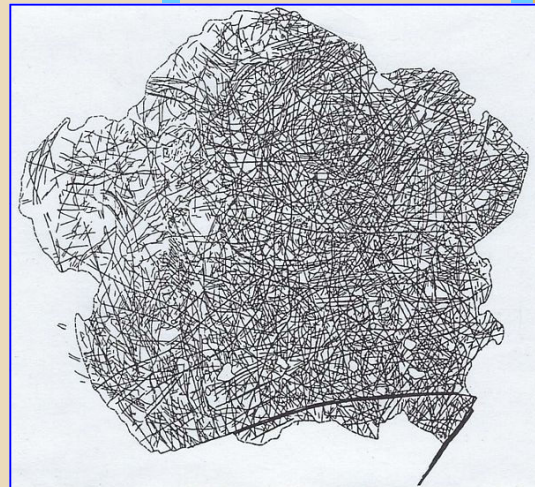


Fig. 2. Plaque with many superimposed zoomorphic and schematic engravings, Gonnarsdorf site, Germany, Magdalenian era. Dimensions of artifact are 18 cm by 20 cm.

down" posture. Unfortunately this specimen was unavailable to the author for verification using non-destructive testing. Therefore, the Vero Beach engraving, in my opinion, lies outside the realm of ordinary scientific evidence.

The true value of this spurious (?) Vero Beach specimen

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

Schematic and zoomorphic art engravings (cont.)

"Admittedly, scant attention has been given to such remains in the past, and engraved artworks may already have escaped our attention."

"The meaning and significance of engraved designs upon the pair of decorated rods from the Richey Clovis site are not addressed by the authors."

is we must be on alert to the possibility that genuine ancient art of this sort might exist. All ivory tusk sections and larger bone fragments from New World sites must be inspected for vestiges of art. Admittedly, scant attention has been given to such remains in the past, and engraved artworks may already have escaped our attention.

New World examples of engraved Palaeolithic art upon artifacts as categorized by Leroi-Gourhan

The list is as follows:

A. Spearheads—one example with ramiform engravings (**Fig. 3**).

B. Harpoons—no reported examples with engravings.

C. Spearthrowers (atlatls)—no reported examples with engravings.

D. Spatulas—no known examples with engravings.

E. "Half-rounded rods"—two examples with schematic motifs engraved upon them from the Richey Clovis site, Washington State (**Fig. 4**). A discussion of the corpus of half-rounded rods across the Americas is furnished by Wygal, Krasinski, Holmes, Crass, and Smith (2021), but the meaning and significance of engraved designs

upon the pair of decorated rods from the Richey Clovis

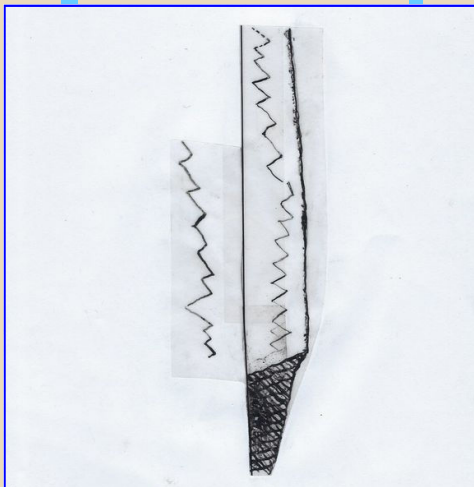


Fig. 3. Zig-zag lines (A and B) upon opposite sides of an ivory *sagaie* (spearpoint) segment from the Sloth Hole site, Aucilla River, western Florida. Length of longer array (A) = 60 mm. Full length of ivory spearpoint = 29.5 cm (measured across the curve).

F. Pierced shafts (batons)—no reported examples with engravings.

G. Artifacts that were "hung and strung"—no known examples except for specimens made of stone.

And a miscellaneous item, namely—

H. A cervid humerus with zig-zag, linear design upon it from Jacob's Cavern, Missouri, reported by A. Hemmings (2004: 221). (No image to share of this artifact.)

As the reader may surmise, it is not the categories of artifacts bearing artistic engravings that are rare in the New World, but

rather it is the art itself. The paucity of engraved schematic and zoomorphic art is due, seemingly, to the relatively late age of most Palaeolithic manifestations in the Americas (around 13,000 CYBP) compared to sites in the Old World. Of course, older sites are known for the New World—ones that also were occupied by hunters of proboscideans who possessed a rich, vibrant material culture—but they are not numerous. Proofs of their existence and greater antiquity have been slow in

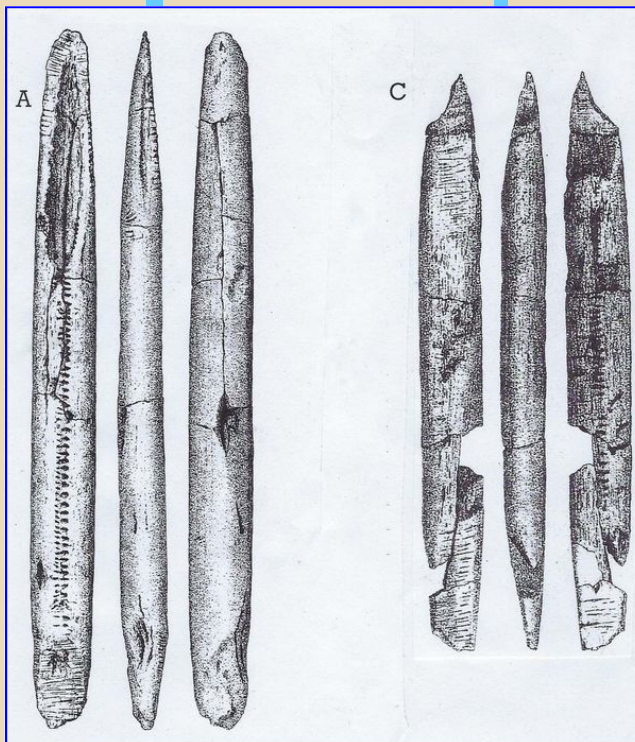


Fig. 4. Pair of "bi-beveled rods" (half-round rods) showing ramiform designs, perhaps expressive of human lineages or descent, from the Richey Clovis Cache, Douglas county, Washington State. Length of Rod A = 26.3 cm; length of Rod C = 20.9 cm. (Images not exactly to scale.)

site are not addressed by the authors.

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

Schematic and zoomorphic art engravings (cont.)

“Older sites are known for the New World – ones that also were occupied by hunters of proboscideans who possessed a rich, vibrant material culture—but they are not numerous. Proofs of their existence and greater antiquity have been slow in coming.”

coming. Yet, it is precisely these older late Palaeolithic manifestations that may be expected to yield full-blown, artistic engravings to researchers.

Fig. 5 supports my optimism that “Old-World style” engraved art works will eventually be discovered within older New World archaeological contexts. This photograph, which was taken during 1954 ransacking of the Lower Blue Lick site in search of extinct animal remains, documents a grouping of proboscidean teeth (one is a magnificent figurine made from a mastodon molar) surrounding a central bone. Note the segment of ivory tusk together with the three teeth of proboscideans. It is such a “canvas” that might bear engraved art but was overlooked. Sad to say, the whereabouts of all these objects are currently unknown. The search for them continues!

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RICHARD MICHAEL GRAMLY, PhD, is an archaeologist with a BS in geology (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and an AM and PhD in anthropology (Harvard University). He has conducted archaeological and geological fieldwork in six countries and 30 states. His PhD dissertation (1975) focused on Kenyan and Tanzanian prehistory. Dr. Gramly worked for six years



Fig. 5. 1954 photograph by Gene Maner showing “altar” uncovered by bulldozing at the Lower Blue Lick site, north-central Kentucky. Arrows point to superb figurine made from a mastodon molar and a section of proboscidean tusk of a suggestive size that would be expected to bear engraved artwork upon it.

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Wygall, Brian T., Kathryn E. Krasinski, Charles E. Holmes, Barbara A.

in East Africa two years of which he was an Exhibits Planner at the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, under famed anthropologist Richard Leakey, being well-acquainted with the entire Leakey family. Dr. Gramly feels a great sense of gratitude for the amateur archaeology community and is the Organizer of the American Society for Amateur Archaeology which has been active in his excavation work.

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

<https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#richard-michael-gramly>

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 8

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

"It was Dr. Jose Cabrera, a physician



in Ica, Peru, who first noted the accuracy of medical procedures depicted on certain Ica stones but beyond general knowledge at the time. He received little positive acknowledgment."

Continuing from [Part 7](#), (PCN #88, March-April 2024). Part 8 consists of Sections 10–11 of the outline provided in [Part 1](#) (PCN #82, March-April 2023)...

Another look at the controversial Ica stones

Though questioned by most with a *set view* of New World prehistory, we believe at least some of the Ica stones of Peru may represent unexpected knowledge or records of events at some time in the distant past—perhaps copied from prior ones.

We further are not so quick to dismiss the idea that some may show knowledge of geography, astronomy, botany, hydrodynamics, atmospheric phenomena, plasma physics, or even human behavior or medical science.

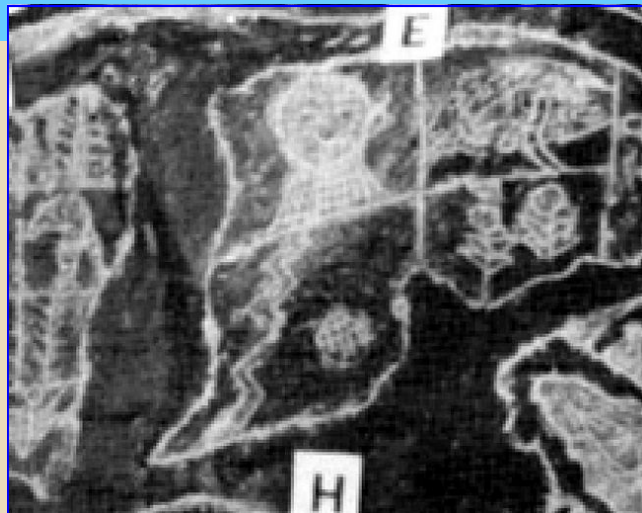


Fig. 1. Images carved on an Ica stone (our label: zIndu1+). The letters are Jose Cabrera’s original tape markings. Comparing to Fig. 2 below (zIRR2015): **Far left** we suggest may show the Gulf of Oman, followed by the Indus River (Fig. 2 **yellow push pins**), Rajasthan (**below**), Xinjiang (**above**) with some detail depicted above the Hotan River region, and Shizusihan (**far right**). Also shown in the figure (**lower right**, Guizhou) are what appear two ice-free plants (The Plant Names of *Bulbophyllum Latino-Sinicum*, Shek Larry Leung 2019; and The Plant Names of *Cactaceae Latino-Sinicum*, Shek Larry Leung 2021).



Fig. 2. US Navy satellite photo, 2015 (our zIRR2015) of region we are comparing with Fig. 1. Zoom in to see locations described in Fig. 1 highlighted in blue ovals. **Left:** Indus River, Rajasthan, India. **Upper Center:** Xinjiang, China (with Tibet and Nepal below), and **Upper Right:** Shizuishan, China, and Mongolia.

Fig. 1 (Ica stone) and **Fig. 2**, for instance, we propose may show geographic awareness of several regions in Asia.

It was Dr. Jose Cabrera, a physician in Ica, Peru who

first noted the accuracy of medical procedures depicted on certain Ica stones but beyond general knowledge at the time. He received little positive acknowledgment. Nevertheless he de-

voted the remainder of his life to studying the carvings on the stones. He eventually amassed a collection of some 13,000.

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 8 (cont.)

"Ica stones were collected in and around

The story is well-known that many came from a person nearby (Basilio Uschuya) who, to avoid prosecution by the law for dealing in antiquities, claimed he had carved

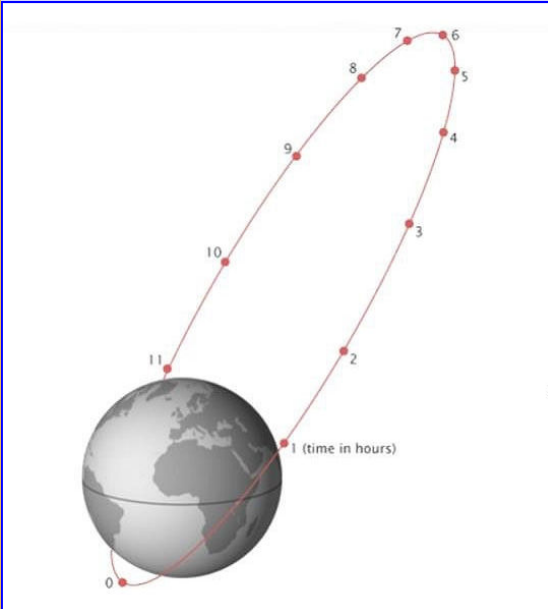


Fig. 3. Molniya figure. Typically a Molniya (whisper, stealth) orbit might be a fraction of a earth radius above the data gathering point, then extending many earth radius beyond. The method allows over time the entire surface of the earth to be viewed and recorded in detail locally. Image: Wikimedia Commons.

Ica, Peru... The Ica valley is known by its collection of geoglyphs, recordings of Birkeland currents in the sky above the famous Nazca Lines and other everyday figures depicted on the stones."

the figures on the stones and that he copied depictions from 'comic books.'¹

In the mid 1960s the data was still not recognized for what it may have been and it lay dormant for nearly 100 years.

The Ica stones were collected in and around Ica, Peru, by Ladrones de Tumbas (Juacaros or tomb robbers). The Ica valley is known by its collection of geoglyphs, recordings of Birkeland currents in the sky above the famous Nazca Lines, and other everyday figures depicted on the stones. The valley is outlined by villages along ancient river beds and also tombs. Here, tomb robbers probe two meters down with a rod until the roof of the tomb is

¹ An impossibility given the extent of the data.

² As the stones are found this far below the surface of the earth, is another indicator that their age is far antiquity and not concurrent.

detected. The tomb is opened and a mummy, its fine woven clothing, and Ica stone are found. The stone in its original shape has its carving and patina undisturbed. This can allow for dating and analysis of the carving.²

Another thing to keep in mind if skeptics believe most Ica stones are inauthentic is that the earliest examples were not those that skeptics speak of regularly but were observed by a Jesuit missionary named Padre Simón who shipped similar stones back to Spain in 1562. That was over 400 years ago, long before any of the present-day discussions. However, the majority of the modern-discussed examples ended up in Cabrera's collection.

More on the proposed map

As mentioned earlier, we believe one of the recognizable features of the map stone in Fig. 1 (denoted by a grid-symbol in the upper right corner) is the Indus River, recognizable with little macroscopic change in well over 20,000 years. Also recognizable are the Rajasthan and Xinjiang regions adjacent to the Indus. Perhaps less noticeable is the Shizuishan waterway valley. We highlighted all of these locations on the U.S. Naval satellite photo of Fig. 2 for comparison with the Ica stone.

In modern times we easily gain accurate images of the earth's geography by way of orbiting satellites. **Fig. 3** shows one of the modern satellite means in what is known as a 'Molniya' orbit. It was devised by Soviet scientists in the 1960s to create Earth survey maps, etc. Placing the idea of an equally advanced early Peruvian culture aside for the time being we're left to wonder, if some of the Ica stones are authentic and perhaps do represent reasonably accurate representations of places on Earth far from Peru, how did

they get the geographic information (the oldest Peruvian tools date 11,000 BP) leaves us free to speculate.

Birkeland currents: Ica stone remains of a circular radiating pattern

Were the makers of the Ica stones skilled enough to record and pass down atmospheric phenomena information such as mentioned above? How might they have recorded or conveyed such information for future generations? **Fig. 4** on the following page shows a remarkable Ica stone example of what may confirm our earlier installments as it appears to show one of the "multiples of 28" we gave examples of in Part 4 ([PCN #85, Sept-Oct 2023](#)). In this case it suggests "56" rays.

Carving the observed data on rock would be one way, and while all the information carved is valid, some ingenuity would be required to catch the eye of a future being. If there were, perhaps, Ica stones carved during the Pleistocene, many of them were recovered post-later on by grave robbers.

One method of approximate laboratory-dating particular Ica stones is whether or not they contain any measurable undisturbed patina on the carved figures. Before making a collective conclusion about them all, each stone may need to be tested individually and not assume that testing a few samples is good enough to make final conclusions confidently.

To be continued in Part 9...

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

> [Cont. on page 14](#)

Pleistocene civilizations, Part 8 (cont.)

"The earliest [Ica stone] examples...were

the physics topics touched upon in this series. Also, throughout the series and as a reminder of how it is organized one can refer back to our page 1 of Part 1 ([PCN #82](#),

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 Alfven, Peratt translated Alfven's seminal book, *Cosmic Plasma*, into English. Peratt received his PhD in 1971, after Alfven was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Peratt then joined the UC National Laboratories (Lawrence Livermore in 1972 and Los Alamos in 1981), receiving his 30-yr. UC Alumnus Award in 2005. He spent sabbaticals at the Max Planck Inst. for Plasma Physics, Garching, DE 1975-77 and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden 1985/1988. In 1986, he gave the prestigious Norwegian Acad. of Science and Letters Birkeland Lecture. Dr. Peratt later received two U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) awards for his experiments and computations. With Prof. Oscar Buneman, Stanford U. (of Bletchley Park fame) Peratt ran the Tridimensional-Stanford fully-3D gravitational and plasma teraflop galaxy code for 14 years in a Stanford-Los Alamos collaboration. 1995-99 Dr. Peratt served in the Dept. of Energy Defense Programs and as Acting Head of Nuclear Nonproliferation. Since then, he served in the Los Alamos Assoc. Laboratory Directorate for Experiments and Computations. Subsequently his research involves the source of petroglyphs as an ancient above-Antarctic intense outburst, with ground GPS measurements and their distribution-orientation with earth-orbiting satellites, in the Americas; Australia, Polynesia (incl. Easter Island), the Alps and Mongolia. 2004-2011 Peratt worked with UPenn Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dr. Peratt is Senior Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science and an IEEE Life Fellow, a member of the American Physical Soc., American Astrophysical Soc., and Archimedes Circle. He acknowledges his tenure at the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Washington D.C., 1995-2000, Dept. of Defense Programs (DP) and Nuclear Nonproliferation (NN). Dr. Peratt is indebted to Professors Hans Kuehl, EE Dept. USC and Zohrab Kaprelian,

Dean of Engineering USC, who started him on a course of studies he could not have foreseen. All of Dr. Peratt's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

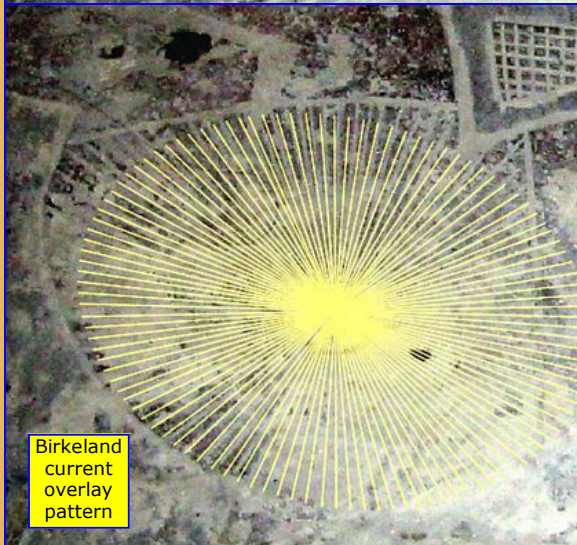
https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#peratt_and_yao

Website: plasmauniverse.info

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.



Ica stone circular radiating pattern



Birkeland current overlay pattern

Fig. 4. Event recorded by the Ica civilization? **Top:** Ica stone carving showing remains of a circular radiating pattern. **Bottom:** Carving overlaid with a yellow 56 (2 X 28) modern line pattern. A complete analysis of the Ica stones will give a comprehensive picture of the pre-ice age Ica civilization that also carved a picture of Birkeland currents deep into the ground as Nazca lines.

observed by a Jesuit missionary named Padre Simón who shipped similar stones back to Spain in 1562."

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

Multiview perspective drawing of Bilzingsleben Artifact 6 'Lower tier'

By John Feliks

"All these were to help

Last issue, I re-introduced two studies demonstrating *Homo erectus* intelligence

citation. It was an ordeal that lasted five years with repercussions involving anthropol-

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for 30 years using an approach based

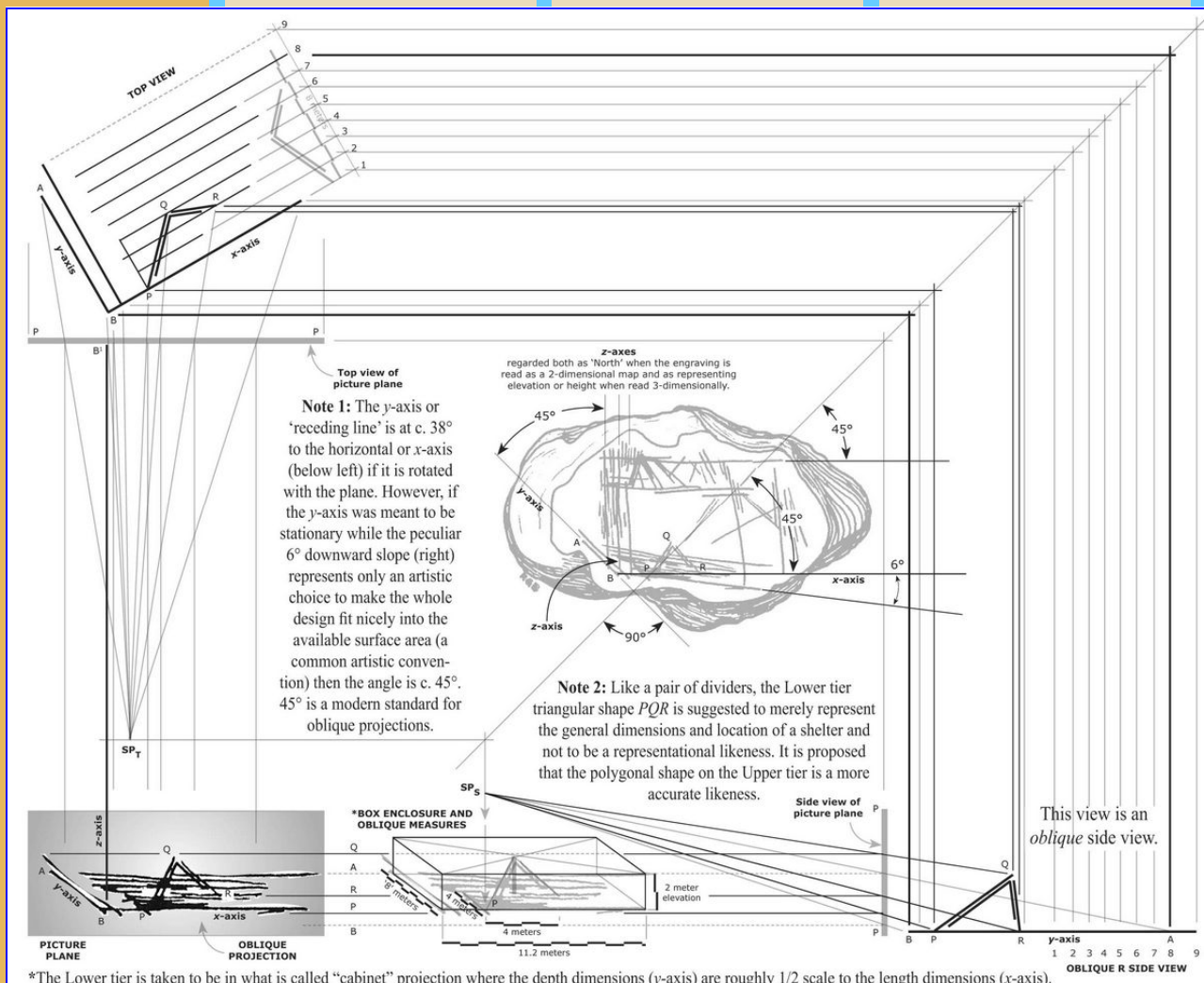


Fig. 1. Multiview drawing Bilzingsleben Artifact 6 'Lower tier' (artifact discovered a few meters north of the 350,000-year-old campsite same level). If one had no idea of its age there would be no resistance to the 3D interpretation. J. Feliks 2006–12. Artifact drawing R. Bednarik, w/permission.

readers be able to see the 3D."

and capacity for 3D (created for and presented at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon 2006) in a new article called [Perspectives on Bilzingsleben Artifact 6: When a map is a 3D fractal](#) (PCN #88, March-April 2024). The original [two-part 40-minute program was very well-received](#). However, within one week the session chairs began blocking both papers while using ideas presented there in their own writings without

ogy continuing to promote early peoples as "ape-men." Last issue I also reprinted three 'stereograms' from PCN, [Evidence for a Homo erectus campsite depiction in 3D](#), [html](#). **Fig. 1** is one of the Artifact 6 drafting-style studies. I placed it in an article called [Artifact 6 'Lower tier' in multiview and oblique projections](#), [html](#) for zoom (PCN #20, Nov-Dec 2012). All these were to help readers be able to see the 3D.

on geometry and techniques of drafting (he learned the basics of drafting—T-square, triangles, compass, protractor, etc—at an early age from his father who was a pre-CAD tool and die designer in the auto industry). One aspect of Feliks' experience that has helped to understand artifacts is a background in music; he is a long-time [composer](#) in a Bach-like tradition as well as an acoustic-rock [songwriter](#) and taught computer music including MIDI, digital audio editing, and music notation in a college music lab for 11 years.

Is hunting and foraging the future of mankind?

BOOK REVIEW of Paul Shepard's *Coming Home to the Pleistocene*

By Ray Urbaniak, Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist

"A deeper implication...is that



wildness removed from animals by domestication means that they are no longer the same animals! Animals in zoos are no longer the same animals."

Paul Shepard, PhD, was a traditionally-educated environmentalist and wrote *Coming Home to the Pleistocene* just before his death in 1996. His wife Florence Shepard, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Utah, edited the book which was then published in 1998.

Although perhaps somewhat dated or even idealistic in certain ways, Shepard's theories are embraced by ecologists, and I myself, found the book extremely fascinating.

Shepard believed that our current civilization was not natural and that the Pleistocene environment shaped our evolution as a species, and that we remain "beings of the Paleolithic." Although it is written from a Western point-of-view, these ideas are essentially what many native peoples have said about the environment all along, one of the main ideas being the interdependence of all animals and plants. We are all part of the web of life according to Native American spirituality. In Shepard's own words:

"The Paleolithic or 'Old Stones' age is not central to the origin of craftsmanship, since all hunters and gatherers have made more use of organic material than of flint. It just happens, however, that the evidence from stone—artifacts, pictographs, and petroglyphs—is our best source of information on the prehistory of speech, art, and narration" (p. 166).

This view is one of the reasons I have spent over 20 years studying petroglyphs and pictographs and Ice Age animals depicted in SW U.S. rock art. These are 'Pleistocene' animal depictions I have photographed

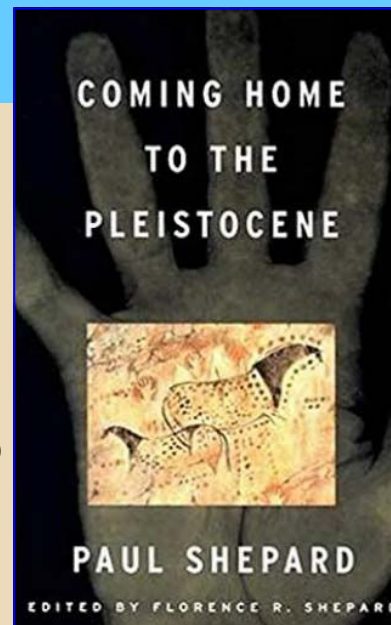
(along with photos provided by others). They total about 30 animal depictions which are summarized in the November-December 2022 issue of [Pleistocene Coalition News \(PCN #80\)](#), pp. 16-22.

Slightly off-topic for this book review, I have also identified and recorded nearly 90 solstice and equinox markers that Native Americans used to mark the passage of time, telling when to conduct prayers and ceremonies such as winter solstice to bring back longer days assuring the renewal of life and abundance. Finally, I have also discovered what I believe are several myths depicted in SW U.S. rock art such as the Hopi emergence myth. I provide a separate 2019 visual composite of this after the book review.

Each of the above I see as windows into the spirituality and mythologies of Native Americans which include a glimpse of the Ice Age animals they either encountered live or recorded based on oral history. Some of my work seems to tie in to a degree with a few of Shepard's ideas, hence, my added interest in the book.

In order to distill the essence of Shepard's influential book I have selected a few quotes that reflect his sense of environmental urgency and depth.

Shepard was influenced by the theories of social anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. Lévi-Strauss studied the indigenous peoples of South America whom he had sympathy and respect for. He believed human characteris-



tics were the same for so-called "primitives" as well as so-called "civilized" humans.

In my opinion Shepard, although influenced by Lévi-Strauss, possessed a passion which stems from his genuine connection to nature and his experiences from living in harmony with nature. He believed that humans were more free than other animals; yet more immature.

Harmonious relations with other humans, animals and plants are lacking

We see adolescent groups hanging out together in war-like cultures, not in hunter-gatherers. We need adult supervision and direction during their transition to adulthood, instead of adolescents raising themselves and joining gangs. Yet Shepard was not a romanticist! He realized that the hunter-gatherer way of life was not an easy one. Still, based on the hunter-gatherer tribes living today—which he researched—he believed it was rewarding just the same.

> [Cont. on page 17](#)

Hunting and foraging (cont.)

"Interestingly, Shepard also acknowledged that hunter-gatherers were equally subject to less favorable qualities such as aggression, lying, stealing, etc. I.e., he believed native peoples were just as complex as we are though more ecologically knowledgeable."

Interestingly, Shepard also acknowledged that hunter-gatherers were equally subject to less favorable qualities such as aggression, lying, stealing, etc. I.e., he believed native peoples were just as complex as we are though more ecologically knowledgeable.

Another interesting aspect of Shepard's system is a belief that killing in the face of death was reciprocity. While hunting you learn to respect the other animals. To hunt large carnivores is to also face your own mortality, since you are aware that you are also prey.

Regarding Agriculture

"If there are slim days the !Kung San do not go hungry for long, compared to the northern Ghana farmers, Says Lee: 'There is still no evidence for a weight loss... even remotely approaching the magnitude of loss observed among agriculturalists'" (p. 74).

In other words, by switching to agriculture there is no guarantee you will have a plentiful crop every year. Shepard further explains:

"Domestication would create a catastrophic biology of nutritional deficiencies, alternating feast and famine, health and epidemic, peace and social conflict, all set in millennial rhythms of slowly collapsing ecosystems" (p. 83).

A central sociological lesson is that farming led to the view of other species as our enemies. These enemies were not only the animals that ate our crops, it led to territorialism when yields declined over time due to soil depletion. More land was needed to feed a growing population which led to war with neighboring people.

On the other hand, Shepard describes the difference in worldview with those raised in foraging societies:

"The child grows up wanting and owning very little, gaining familiarity with the means and joys of life" (p. 46).

I had an anthropology professor who lived for a time with a remote tribe in the Amazon. As hard to believe it may seem for most to understand in our modern world, he said it was as full a life experience as anything our culture had to offer. I still remember this after all these years because I had the sense that he would rather be living with them than teaching the class!

Extreme, yes, but not necessarily false

Shepard saw our species' brain as well-adapted to a Pleistocene environment but no longer suitable for the long-term survival of the planet if we didn't regain a sense of connection with it. While perhaps a little forceful, his ecological mindset comes through and he pulls no punches expressing his discontent:

"The world is full of war, terrorism, social disintegration, poisoned air and land. The soil that has accumulated for centuries is washing into the sea; the earth's forests are being devastated. Virtually all the diseases of the past are with us in more virulent form, and new epidemics of psychic breakdown, dysfunctional families, and organic infection are upon us. The last benefits of the raiding of the earth by the affluent minority still give us an illusion of well-being in the midst of worldwide calamity" (p. 169).

Ecologically, Shepard emphasizes that the domestication of animals, the growing of 'monocrops,' genetically-modified plants, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and the depletion of ground water are not sustainable.

Regarding pastoralism and cattle herding

"Remembering that the opposite of wild is not civilized but domesticated" (p. 145).

A deeper implication of this is that wildness removed from animals by domestication means that they are no longer the same animals! Animals in zoos are no longer the same animals.

According to Shepard, pastoralism and monotheism in the standard historical sense put humans above other animals and described his strong opinion like this:

"Their preoccupation with domestic animals and political strife, tighter male dominance, and the elevation of religious patriarchy to a sky god produced disastrous ideology and ecology. Where farmers destroyed only arable land, the hooves and teeth of ranging ungulates destroyed wild-lands, upper water sheds, and whole forests" (p. 124).

Animals were revered and sacred to native peoples of the Pleistocene as can especially be observed in cave art of sites like Altamira, Lascaux and Chauvet. But these sacred animals are now considered "the other" and relegated to a position of less-than in our civilization and are only here to serve our purposes. We treat other humans who are different from us the same way.

Combined effects of agriculture and pastoralism

"Wildness, pushed to the perimeters of human settlement during the most of the ten millennia since the Pleistocene, has now begun to disappear from the earth, taking world's otherness of free plants and animals with it. The loss is usually spoken of in

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

Hunting and foraging (cont.)

"Animals were revered and sacred to native peoples of the Pleistocene as can especially be observed in cave art of sites like Altamira, Lascaux and Chauvet."

terms of ecosystems or the beauty of the world, but for humans, spiritually and psychologically, the true loss is internal. It is our own otherness within" (p. 143).

Göbekli Tepe—an anomaly

Paul Shepard died in 1996 long before Göbekli Tepe was made public. The stunning archeological discovery, challenging much mainstream dogma, was brought to the world's attention by *Smithsonian Magazine* in 2008. Two years later, *Newsweek* followed with a brief article. *National Geographic* carried the story to it's cover in 2011. I wonder how an 11,000–12,000-year-old structure built by people who some believe were the first agriculturalists would fit into Shepard's model of Pleistocene hunter-gatherers?

Shepard appears to believe the Pleistocene was the high-point of human development. Throughout the book, one gets the feeling he believes

At the end of the book Shepard lists 71 aspects of a Pleistocene paradigm. Yet on p. 173 he seems to deny talking about how bad things are and an eminent collapse of civilization. It seems to me everyone who is predicting a collapse of the environment, including Sir David Attenborough, end their discussions on a positive hopeful note:

"Must we build a new twenty-first-century society corresponding to a hunter-gatherer culture? Of course not; humans do not consciously make cultures."

He talks about creating a modern life around these 71 aspects of a Pleistocene paradigm. But this seems unrealistic unless there is a collapse of civilization leaving a much smaller population on the earth, or his paradigm is just adopted by a cult following.

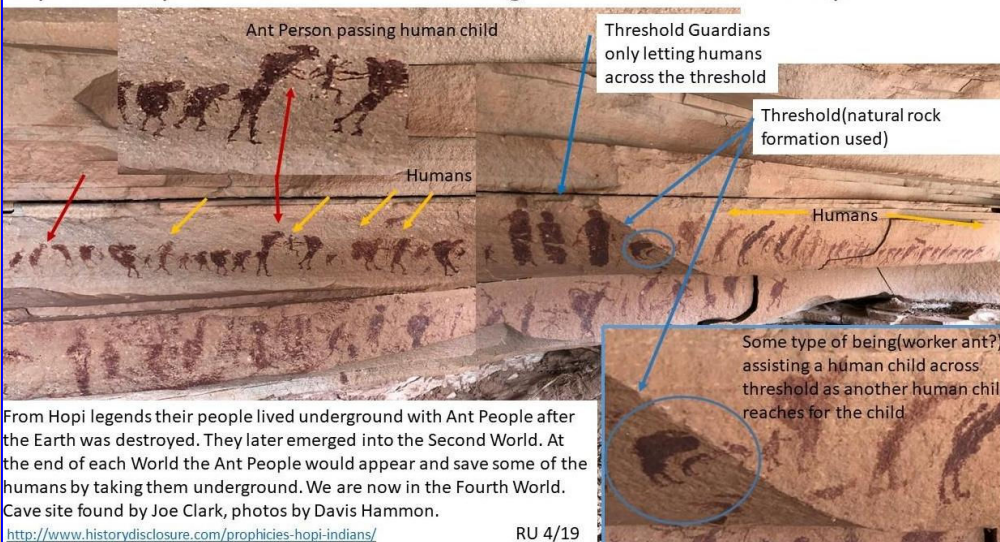
As one might surmise from the above quotes, Shepard is very specific in his belief that farming and pastoralism don't work.

environmental movement because very little progress was being made toward sustainability. That was 50 years ago when there were 4 billion people on the planet. We now have eight billion and a majority believe we have exponential acceleration of global warming, species extinction, pollution, etc. I can't image how Shepard would interpret the state of the world were he alive today.

Even if we were to rebuild after a collapse, we would most likely recreate what didn't work. We are tool makers, and we use tools to make other tools which include tools of mass destruction, genetic engineering, polluting chemicals, etc. Unfortunately, we can't put the genie back in the bottle!

Although my primary interest revolves around human prehistory, I wrote this book review with the hope it will also heighten awareness as to the challenges facing us in today's world and how to best survive our up-coming years. I encourage anyone interested in the late Pleistocene to read Shepard's book, *Coming Home to the Pleistocene*.

Top row is a procession of humans leaving the world of the Ant People



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

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

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

ADDITIONAL ITEM: Rock art interpretation of Hopi 'Ant People' origin myth Ray Urbaniak. See also my article, *Intriguing figures in Southwest U.S. rock art* (*PCN* #59, May-June 2019), for related details.

society will eventually crumble and then, we would "come home to the Pleistocene."

In the early 1970's, after two decades of activism, Shepard became disillusioned with the



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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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.