


ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

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HE problem of the origin and the past of the human race in America is becoming more fascinating and not less mysterious with every new discovery. Gradually it is dawning upon some thinkers that the key *may* be found in the traditional lost continent of Atlantis. No longer is it regarded as absurd to accept the possibility that Plato's account of it was founded upon fact, however imperfectly recorded.

According to Theosophy, the traditions preserved in the records of Greece and some of the Oriental nations are correct in so far as they relate that a true civilization existed in lands now sunk beneath the Atlantic Ocean before the great cycle of decay set in which resulted in the so-called 'primitive' Stone Age — really not a primitive but a *degenerate age*.

If we merely assume for the sake of argument that an advanced culture prevailed in Atlantis at some very distant date, finally to break up some thousands of years before the generally-accepted time of the dawn of Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilization, many of the difficulties in tracing racial and linguistic affinities disappear. By the method of 'trial and error,' of seeing which hypothesis fits the facts most appropriately, the great discoveries in science are made, and in this way it is easy to find that there is a great weight of evidence in favor of a prehistoric Atlantis inhabited by non-savage people, contemporary with, or even earlier than, the 'Pithecanthropus' or the Piltown man.

The question of a very ancient continent inhabited by man in a more advanced stage than the supposed 'primitive ancestral savage' is a highly important one, because, if such an Atlantis can be demonstrated, it reconstructs our notions of human history and development. It does not destroy the fundamental truth of evolution but it brings in new and disturbing factors which must be reckoned with if we are to get a true impression of its process. It may come to many as a shock to realize the possibility that evolution of intelligence did not begin in the early Stone-Age, but that this was a stage of retrogression. The Theosophical doctrine is put very plainly by H. P. Blavatsky in *Isis Unveiled*, Vol. I, chapter ix:

"As soon as humanity entered upon a new one [cycle], the same age with which the preceding cycle had closed, began gradually to merge into the following and next higher age. With each successive age, or epoch, men grew more refined, until the acme of perfection possible in that particular cycle had been reached. Then the receding wave of time carried back with it the vestiges of human, social, and intellectual progress. Cycle succeeded cycle, by

THE THEOSOPHICAL PATH

imperceptible transitions; highly-civilized, flourishing nations waxed in power, attained the climax of development, waned, and became extinct; and mankind, when the end of the lower cyclic arc was reached, was replunged into barbarism as at the start."

After quoting a description of the savage race of Les Eyzies, cave-men, she remarks:

"Such are the glimpses which anthropology affords us of men, either arrived at the bottom of a cycle or starting in a new one."

Evidence is accumulating not only of the former existence of a great 'land-bridge' across the North Atlantic, now fully accepted by geology, but it is becoming more and more necessary to admit the possibility of its habitation by human races of some culture. A significant remark occurs in a recent work, *Ancient Man in Britain*, by Ronald A. Mackenzie, a well-known archaeologist, which shows that he feels the need of further explanation of the astonishing artistic ability and culture of some of the prehistoric Stone-Age races who lived perhaps fifty thousand years ago, and perhaps a good deal more. He says:

"The evidence afforded by the craftsmanship, the burial customs, and the art of the Cro-Magnon races, those contemporaries of the reindeer and the hairy mammoth in South and Western France, suggests that they had been influenced by a center of civilization in which considerable progress had already been achieved. There is absolutely no evidence that the pioneers were lacking in intelligence or foresight. If we are to judge merely by their skeletons and the shapes and sizes of their skulls, it would appear that they were, if anything, both physically and mentally superior to the average present-day inhabitants of Europe."

What and where was this 'center of civilization,' of which the Palaeolithic cave-dwellers were the extreme fringe, if not the Atlantean continent or at least *some of its last remaining islands!*

M. Georges Brousseau, writing in the *Courier des États-Unis* for August, 1924, presents some new and strong arguments in favor of the Atlantean origin of customs and languages found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The entire contents of the article are exceedingly interesting but only a few points can be quoted here:

"Atlantis, which was situated between the Canaries and the Caribbean Sea, was inhabited by a civilized race, intelligent and warlike, of which we still find today the ethnical character despite its breaking up about a hundred centuries ago. Monuments and ruins attesting its prosperity and power exist in numbers in Central America and South America. The Peruvians and Mexicans were not the authors of the architectonic marvels found by the Spanish Conquistadores; they were the degenerate descendants of a Caribbean dominating race, the Atlanteans."

The writer then proceeds to give reasons for rejecting the prevailing notion that the Bronze civilization came from the Orient, and for accepting the idea that it was derived from Atlantis, reinforcing his arguments by many striking facts from both sides of the Atlantic. He mentions the solar sun-dial found in France in a cave at Duruthy near Peyre-

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

horade which resembles those of ancient Mexico, and specially emphasizes the similarities and even identities between the Basque language and customs in the Biscayan region and those of certain West-Indian tribes. He gives a tradition current among the Basques themselves: "Our ancestors inhabited in former times and in great numbers a space relatively constricted, from which, later, they scattered far and wide, into countries separated from one another, divided by continents and seas."

This looks like a definite recollection of the dense population of 'Poseidonis,' the last surviving island of Atlantis. M. Brousseau continues:

"The ethnographical study of the inhabitants of the Canaries, despite their crossings since their modern discovery, prove that the Guanchos of the Islands are the same race as the ancient Mexicans, the natives of Florida, the ancient Egyptians, the Iberians, the Basques, the Etruscans and the Phoenicians." (See the remarkable work of the Portuguese savant, J-M. Pereira de Lima: *Iberians and Basques*.)

Let us turn to *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky, and see what light the Eastern Wisdom gives on this point. On page 740, Vol. II, we read:

"Of the great Atlantis, the main bulk of which sank in the Miocene, there remained only Ruta and Daitya and a stray island or so. The Atlantean connexions of the forefathers of the Palaeolithic cave-men are evidenced by the upturning of fossil skulls (in Europe) reverting closely to the *West Indian* Carib and *ancient Peruvian* type — a mystery indeed to all those who refuse to sanction the 'hypothesis' of a former Atlantic continent to bridge the ocean. . . . What are we also to make of the fact that while de Quatrefages points to that '*magnificent race*,' the TALL Cro-Magnon cave-men and the *Guanches* of the Canary Islands as representatives of one type — Virchow also allies the *Basques* with the latter in a similar way? Professor Retzius independently proves the relationship of the aboriginal *American* dolichocephalous tribes and these same *Guanches*. The several links in the chain of evidence are securely joined together. Legions of similar facts could be adduced. . . ."

And on pages 790-791:

"Skulls exhumed on the banks of the Danube and Rhine bear a striking similarity to those of the *Caribs* and *Old Peruvians* (Littre). . . ."

"According to Farrar, the '*isolated* language' of the Basques has no affinities with the other languages of Europe, but with '*the aboriginal languages of the vast opposite continent [America] and those alone*.' Professor Broca is also of the same opinion.

"Palaeolithic European man of the Miocene and Pliocene times was a pure Atlantean. . . . The Basques are, of course, of a much later date than this, but their affinities, as here shown, go far to prove the original extraction of their remote ancestors. . . ."

"The Guanches of the Canary Islands were lineal descendants of the Atlanteans. This fact will account for the *great stature* evidenced by their old skeletons, as well as by those of their European congeners the Cro-Magnon Palaeolithic men."

M. Brousseau gives a long list of words identical in sound and meaning from the Basque and the Carib or Guiana languages, and says that the terminations *ac* in Brittany and Gascony are of Atlantean origin, and that the *tche*, the *ary* and *iry*, and similar place-names on both sides of the Atlantic are conclusive testimony of a common origin. The conclusion

THE THEOSOPHICAL PATH

of his article is worth quoting in full, but we have only room for these striking paragraphs:

"In excavating on the site of the Forum of Rome . . . the mattocks of the Italian workmen, in 1904, brought to light a cemetery older than the Romans of history, tombs where men of another race slept surrounded by jewels, ornaments, vases, arms, and utensils of all kinds, resembling those we have seen in the treasures of the Indians and also those found in the Toltec ruins.

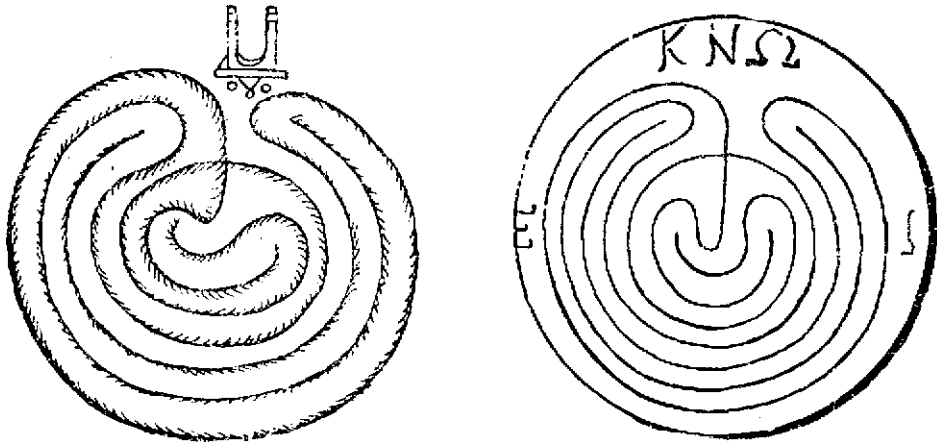
"History has deceived us to this day. It was generally agreed that we should be told that until Rome of the kings there was nothing at all on the Seven Hills. The ancient possessors of the soil, of more than twenty-five centuries ago, have been despoiled, massacred, blotted out for ever it would seem, from human memory. But Rome was only a successor. . . .

"These truths are disconcerting to the exegetists and thinkers of today, who believe they have determined once and for all, with their specious conception of the Creation, the elements of the instruction of all future generations.

"Until now it has been claimed, as an article of faith, that the migrations of races came exclusively from the East, from which it would follow that the ancient civilizations of Chaldaea and Egypt had an original analog, which is impossible because no relation of character exists or can exist between them.

"It is not so, as we see it, when we look carefully from the Western Coast towards America. To deny the facts today is willingly to overlook or ignore the rational data of recent science, or to be obstinately prejudiced. So we must render the Caribbean race, hitherto unacknowledged and discredited, the incomparable glory returning to it in the mission assigned by Destiny under the name Atlantean. Like a star of the first magnitude, it shines in the firmament of science because, from the utmost limits of our history, its civilizing influence has reigned as mistress of the two hemispheres where it has left profound and still vital traces of its intervention."

The French ethnologist does not seem to know of a singular piece of



(LEFT) THE 'HOUSE OF TCUHU': THE LABYRINTH PATTERN OF THE PIMA INDIANS, ARIZONA

From *American Anthropologist*, Vol. IX, Fig. 34 (inverted)

(RIGHT) A COIN FROM KNOSSOS, IN CRETE, SHOWING THE LABYRINTH OF MINOS (200 — 67 B. C.)

From Catalog of Greek coins in the British Museum, 1887 vol., Plate VI

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

evidence of a possible prehistoric connexion between the two sides of the Atlantic, known as 'the House of Tcuhu' (Tcuhiki), but it should be kept in mind in view of further information. About one hundred and sixty years ago a Spanish traveler visited the country of the Pima Indians in the Gila Valley, Arizona, and wrote a manuscript account of his journey which still exists. On the margin was drawn the figure given here, which the Pimas drew on the sand, and he said, it represented a 'house of amusement.' Dr. Walter Fewkes, the well-known archaeologist, recently inquired of an old Pima Indian about it, and was told that no ancient house in that region had a ground-plan like that shown in the figure, but that "he was acquainted with a children's game that employed a similar figure traced in the sand, and it was called the house of Tcuhu." The diagram has also been found on the adobe wall of the Casa Grande ruin among Indian pictographs of an early date.

Now comes the remarkable observation made by Professor Colton that this apparently native Indian sand-figure is identical with a symbol on the reverse of a silver coin of Knossos in Crete, representing the famous Labyrinth of King Minos, though the coin cannot be earlier than B. C. 200.

A comparison of the Cretan and the Indian figures shows that there is not merely a general or superficial resemblance between them, but that they are essentially the same. How can such a complicated and extremely distinctive design have come into existence independently, and yet what connexion can there have been between Mediterranean Crete and the far western Arizona valley? The problem is one that has baffled the archaeologists, but it would not yet be safe to affirm that it can *only* be explained on the theory that this design had some prominence in Atlantis and was preserved by some who fled to various parts of the Old and New Worlds after the final cataclysms, yet it is not easy to find a better explanation.

Some years ago a singular claim was made in a series of articles published in England, America, and Sweden, purporting to be written by Dr. Paul Schliemann, grandson of the famous discoverer of Troy. This claim, which excited considerable comment from eminent geologists and archaeologists, was in part that vases and other objects with similar inscriptions and decorations had been found in Troy and Central America. They were said to be made of a peculiar clay not found in America or Europe, and therefore presumably they came from the lost Atlantis. No satisfactory account has been published of these alleged discoveries and we cannot accept them as authentic: if accepted by science they would establish the Atlantean hypothesis on a firm basis. But the incontrovertible fact of the identity of the Labyrinth-pattern on the Cretan coin with the Arizona 'House of Tcuhu' labyrinth makes it seem possible that

THE THEOSOPHICAL PATH

the Schliemann story may have some foundation. We must never forget that only a few years ago the marvelous and advanced civilization of ancient Crete was entirely unknown, and archaeologists considered the Greek traditions of the Labyrinth and King Minos to be a 'Solar Myth' with no basis of fact!

The strong prejudice — caused originally by lack of information — against admitting the existence of man, especially civilized man, in ancient America, is gradually breaking down under the weight of constant new discoveries. Near Mexico City some remarkable structural and decorative remains have lately been found under geological conditions that are believed to prove an age of many thousand years — perhaps eight or ten!

Last July, Professor W. Niven and Dr. J. H. Cornyn uncovered a prehistoric library consisting of a collection of hundreds of stone tablets, buried under a thick deposit of volcanic ash and debris, ten to twenty-five feet beneath the surface of the ground. Careful estimates of the time taken to deposit the various strata lying above the remains have determined that the tablets have been there for at least seven thousand years, and probably for much more. Not far off stands a rude pyramid whose base is submerged under ten feet of lava in which human skeletons were found; it may be thousands of years older than the great eruption which inundated the valley with a fiery flood and killed the inhabitants. The tablets are covered with carved and colored writing containing obvious references to the sun, moon, and stars, of which the writers seem to have known much; fire, lightning, the Earth-Mother, morning and evening, and the volcano-gods.

Some claim that the tablets are the product of a 'Mongoloid' civilization older than the Aztecs or even the Toltecs, but it is not necessary to accept the theory of an Asiatic migration to America in order to explain certain Mongolian characteristics, though we may fully agree with the immense age demonstrated by the geologists. Speaking of the recent discoveries of pyramids and other remains buried under volcanic lava and ash which prove a large and well organized community at some far-distant date in the Valley of Mexico, Byron Cummings, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Arizona, says:

"Point out as we may similarities to Mongolian types, or to western Asiatic and Egyptian designs and conceptions, we must acknowledge after all that the early inhabitants of America were distinctly American. Their dissimilarities to Asiatics, both east and west, to Africans, and to Europeans, are far more pronounced than their similarities. They form a large group of the human family, separated from the parent-stock at some remote age. . . . America thus has a prehistory extending far back into the early centuries of human development. The steps of her progress and the successes achieved are as interesting and instructive as any attained by the renowned human groups of the Old World. . . . The unraveling of the history of early America devolves upon American scholars from Canada to Chile."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

And we may fully expect many more surprises when the more distant past begins to reveal its hidden secrets.

From the East we are also receiving startling information about the antiquity of civilized man in regions where nothing was known. Sir John Marshall, director-general of archaeology in India, announces the discovery of pottery, coins, chessmen, engraved seals with unknown script, etc., in the Panjâb and Sind, *covered by many successive levels of habitation*. Professor Sayce has found that these inscribed seals are practically identical with the Proto-Elamite tablets discovered by De Morgan at Susa in Persia, and, therefore, that there must have been a close connexion between Susa and cultivated people in the northwest of India at about *three thousand years B. C.* Sir John Marshall points out that hitherto our knowledge of Indian antiquities has carried us only to about 300 B. C.!

Many of the leading Orientalists have shown a strong objection to the idea that a high civilization existed in India more than a few centuries B. C., and especially to the claim that writing was known there in early ages. The great antiquity of Indian culture was strongly defended by Madame H. P. Blavatsky, and she gives strong arguments, derived from native and other sources, to prove that much of the marvelous religious literature of India is immensely old, and that it is preposterous to suggest that India derived its knowledge, including the art of writing, from the later Greeks. We find in *The Secret Doctrine*:

“But such existing prejudices will have to give way and disappear very soon before the light of new discoveries. Already Dr. Weber’s and Mr. Max Müller’s favorite theories — namely, that writing was not known in India, even in the days of Pânini (!); that the Hindûs had all their arts and sciences — even to the Zodiac and their architecture — from the Macedonian Greeks; these and other such cock-and-bull hypotheses, are threatened with ruin. It is the ghost of old Chaldaea that comes to the rescue of truth. . . .”— Vol. II, pp 225-226

Pânini was a grammarian who composed a marvelous grammar of 3996 rules, and who was ‘liberally’ allowed by Western scholars to have lived a few centuries B. C. The new discoveries in the Panjâb referred to above, are additional evidence in the recent accumulation of testimony to the accuracy of the information upon which H. P. Blavatsky based her belief in the great antiquity and culture of the Indian civilization.



“THEOSOPHY is, then, the archaic Wisdom-Religion, the esoteric doctrine once known in every ancient country having claims to civilization. . . . Our society is also called the ‘Universal Brotherhood of Humanity.’”

— H. P. Blavatsky