

ANCIENT SKIES

"Come Search With Us!"

Official Logbook of the Ancient Astronaut Society

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MORE ON THE MARS FACE

BY GENE M. PHILLIPS, Founder of the Society

In his article on the Mars FACE in Ancient Skies 15:1, Walter Hain mentioned that two US computer experts, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, had done computer enhancements of the photo of the FACE and had concluded that the FACE was not a trick of light and shadow. Their findings were published in 1980. Mr. Hain also reported that Dr. Mark Carlotto had enhanced the data and discovered an "eyeball" and "teeth" in the FACE.

Mr. Hain corresponded with Mr. DiPietro and in May 1988, received a letter from Mr. DiPietro with a copy of the Fourth Edition of their book, which contains the latest information on their work.

Ancient Skies wrote to Mr. DiPietro and received a copy of the new edition along with a very informative letter, which reads in part as follows:

"In 1979, Greg Molenaar and I, using our own money, performed some image enhancements using computer programs of our own labor and data tapes from NASA on peculiar land formations on the planet Mars. Mr. Molenaar is a computer specialist and I am an electrical engineer. Each of us has over 15 years experience in developing image processing techniques. We published our first edition of Unusual Martian Surface Features in 1980. In recent years, Dr. John Brandenburg, a plasma physicist, has joined us as we continue to explore the Viking imagery for new clues to the findings we have made. The three of us have combined our talents and have found more images of features on Mars which resemble human faces. The objects are under continued observation and two trains of thought prevail:

1. They are natural formations caused by weather and geological factors present on Mars.
2. They are unnatural formations caused by that of unknown origin, but provocative enough to warrant further investigation.

"There are a few glaring errors in the article by Mr. Walter Hain. First, let me assure you that no one has ever intended to not credit Mr. Hain for the work he has done, but to be quite honest, we were not aware of his simultaneous efforts while we were doing work with the digital data tapes of this Cydonia Region (on Mars).

"The 'discovery' of the FACE was made by Dr. Tobias Owen in 1976 and confirmed by the Viking Mission Scientist Dr. Gerald Soffen, both from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California. Gerald Soffen is now at the Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Therefore, the 'discovery' of the FACE belongs solely to Dr. Owen.

"We 'discovered' a second picture of the FACE and thereafter 'discovered' four more Viking pictures of the Face area, all of which are shown in the

Fourth Edition of our book.

"The 'eyeball' was 'discovered' by us using our copyrighted computer enhancement techniques and is published by us and is referenced in our book.

"The computer enhancement of the data tapes that revealed the 'discovery' of the 'teeth' were made by Dr. Mark Carlotto.

"All the computer results performed by all persons are NOT proof that the structures are artificial; they might suggest it, but proof will not be forthcoming until a manned landing and investigation take place (on Mars).

"It would be very interesting to review the 'computer analysis technique' which Mr. Hain used on the photos to see how it compares to the 'computer enhancement techniques' used by us on the raw data tapes. Part of our algorithm is given in our book. We created the copyrighted computer program which we used to perform the enhancements. It would also be interesting to review the 'experiments' that Mr. Hain performed to conclude the possibility to see the other side of the Face.

"Recently, the 'discovery' of the FACE was made to be news worthy, and was seen on nationwide television in the USA. Also within a day of this airing there was an article in the Washington Post about the 'discovery'. Unfortunately, only Mr. Richard Hoagland, Dr. Brian O'Leary and Dr. Mark Carlotto were mentioned. No reference was made to the original discovery made by Dr. Tobias Owen; no mention was made of our computer enhancement work which has taken us several years and more than \$20,000 of our own money to create; and no mention was made of the work performed by Mr. Hain. In April, 1988, our copyrighted work on the Mars FACE was published in Germany in Playboy magazine WITHOUT our permission. Unfortunately, this action continues to go on unabated due to lack of law.

"This letter is meant to clarify some misconceptions about the work which we have performed on the Mars Viking data. Many writers have recently flooded the media with their own stories using our copyrighted science work as their theme, without our permission. To set the record straight - We do NOT endorse the work of those who have mixed inventions of their own creation with excerpts of our work with the Mars data. We do NOT endorse the claims of a city in the Cydonia Region. We do NOT endorse any wild claims of an advanced civilization on the planet Mars. We do NOT endorse other conjectures about alignments between features on the surface of Mars. These and other claims were made by writers of their own invention, and have nothing to do with the data as we have interpreted it. Further, we do NOT endorse continued publications with wild speculations as to the origin of the features.

"We DO welcome scientific study of the features and await new data from future spacecraft. We DO en-

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dorse the Manned Mission to Mars by the US government and will pursue this cause to effect reality in the near future."

The Washington Post article referred to by Mr. DiPietro quotes the astronomer Carl Sagan as saying: "It's probably something perfectly natural which by accident looks like a face." The article states that Sagan has viewed thousands of pictures of Mars and has himself seen faces in the Martian surface, to wit:

"There's a wonderful happy face in the middle of a crater - from which I do not deduce that there are people who live on Mars who make happy-face buttons." This is a typical ploy of Sagan - to reduce the argument to ridicule. It is reminiscent of his response to an inquiry concerning the Dogons of West Africa and their uncanny astronomical knowledge of the Sirius star system, which they have known for hundreds of years before modern astronomy learned it. His off-hand answer was that "missionaries" gave the information to the Dogons!

The article reports that Sagan, as well as NASA officials "point out that the patterns of the features could have been caused by wind erosion."

During the Mars Conference in Washington, DC, May 21-23, 1986, Vincent DiPietro personally showed Carl Sagan the work which he, Molenaar and Brandenburg had done, especially the data on the enhanced versions with the eyeball of the FACE and the teeth illustrated in Dr. Carlotto's work. Mr. DiPietro said that apparently Sagan had not seen the material prior to that time and he felt that Sagan "seemed very impressed." However, in 1988 Sagan apparently was no longer impressed with the data, or he failed to mention it to the Washington Post reporter, or the reporter failed to mention it in the article.

The work which DiPietro, Molenaar and Brandenburg have done is truly impressive and cannot be brushed aside by ridicule or frivolity. Their Unusual Mars Surface Features, Fourth Edition gives convincing evidence that the mile-long FACE in the Cydonia Region is real and not a trick of light and shadow, or the result of wind erosion. While it had been assumed that only one photo of the Mars FACE existed (the one shown in all the media and books on the subject and labeled 35A72), after painstaking search through the Viking data, the authors succeeded in finding another photo which contained the FACE from a different angle. Intrigued by an off-hand remark made by the Viking image team chief that a second image of the area made "a few hours later" portrayed just an ordinary mesa (with no face), the authors looked through the Viking library and found no pictures made over the same area "a few hours later." They did, however find another scene over the same area made 35 days later by the same satellite with a higher sun angle. This scene, labeled 70A13, clearly shows the FACE and a comparison of the image in 35A72 and the one in 70A13 leaves no doubt that the figure has bilateral symmetry and is not a "trick of chance lighting".

The authors developed their own computer enhancement technique which they call "Starburst Pixel Interleaving Technique" (SPIT). Applying the technique to both 35A72 and 70A13, they were able to obtain much higher resolution which revealed much more detail than had been earlier observed. Also, additional features emerged: the contour of the eye cavity remained unchanged; the second eye cavity became more distinct; the hairline continued to the opposite side; and the chin line began to take shape.

The Fourth Edition of Unusual Mars Surface Features also contains many photos of pyramids on Mars, first discovered in 1972 by Mariner-9 photos. One enormous pyramid near the Cydonia FACE measures one mile by 1.6 miles!

An interesting note in the book concerns the Egyptian word "Al Qahira", which means "to conquer", but it also means "Cairo", the capital city of Egypt, and the site of Egypt's Great Pyramid. Coincidentally, the root of the word "Al Qahir" means "MARS."

The book contains many NASA photos which leave little doubt that Mars was once a water planet. Further, there is an intriguing discussion about the Viking life experiments, which were officially reported as showing no evidence of life on Mars, but which actually show evidence of life.

The book also contains photos of two other possible "faces" which Dr. Brandenburg discovered in the Mars region called "Utopia Planitia". Whether these are "tricks of light" remains to be seen.

Unusual Mars Surface Features, Fourth Edition, is a soft-bound booklet, 8 1/2" x 11", containing 136 pages with many actual NASA photos as well as the authors' SPIT processing enhancements, some in color. Much technical data is included in the book to describe the methods used to attain the results presented and will be of great interest to those with computer and other technical capabilities. The book is available from MARS RESEARCH, P.O. Box 284, Glenn Dale, Maryland, 20769 USA. The price is US\$15 postpaid for US residents, and US\$21 postpaid for those outside the US. Also available is a 17"x 21" wall poster of the Cydonia FACE.

The NASA photos are available to the public from: National Space Science Data Center, Goddard Space Flight Center, Building 26, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771 USA.

[Please note that in the second paragraph of Mr. Hain's article in Ancient Skies 15:1 the date of December, 1986 is in error. It should be December, 1976.]

1989 WORLD CONFERENCE

The next World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 24, 25 and 26, 1989. (Not this year, but 1989). The Conference will be held at the Schaumburg Marriott Hotel in Schaumburg, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago just 15 minutes west of O'Hare Field.

The Schaumburg Marriott is an excellent, full-service convention hotel with 395 rooms. The Hotel has two swimming pools, one indoor and one outdoor, a sauna and exercise room, and three restaurants. The Hotel has excellent meeting facilities and a large outdoor tent, where we will have a reception on Friday evening for all persons attending the Conference. A gala banquet will be held on Saturday evening in the Hotel's Grand Ballroom. The Hotel is just one block away from Woodfield Mall, one of the world's largest indoor shopping malls.

We have negotiated very low room rates for persons attending the Conference - only US\$59 per room per night. This is a per room rate and up to five persons can occupy a room for the one low rate! To obtain the Conference room rate, reservations must be made on special reservation cards which will be available soon from the Society.

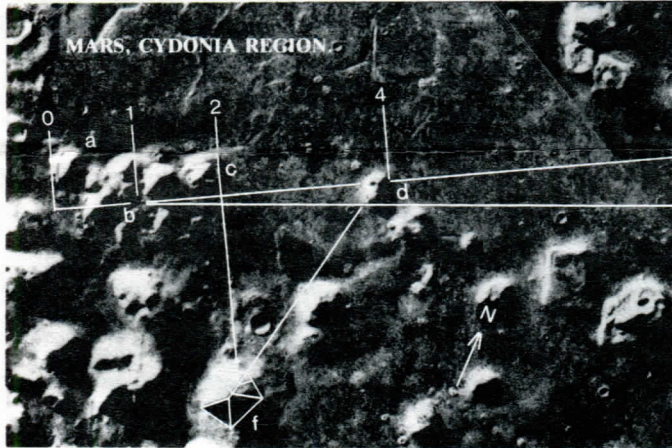
We will have three full days of lectures and we expect to have 18 or 19 speakers from around the world, including Erich von Daniken, author of Chariots of the Gods? and other books in the ancient astronaut field. Also, we expect to have at least one speaker from the Soviet Union.

The 1989 Conference will mark the 16th Anniversary of the founding of the Ancient Astronaut Society and we intend to make it the best Conference ever. All members should mark their calendars now for the last week-end in August 1989 and plan to bring the entire family for three days of enlightenment and entertainment. Details and prices will be available later this year.

STILL MORE ON THE MARS FACE

BY RAYMOND P. BOISVERT*

The issue of Ancient Skies 15:1 with the article on the Mars Face was extremely interesting. I recently obtained a book entitled Monuments of Mars by Richard C. Hoagland, which contains many of the NASA Mars photos. On the back cover of the book is one of the photos of the Cydonia Region with the Mars Face which has been written about so much. But this photo shows considerable detail of the region on Mars where the Face is located. As you can see from the accompanying photo, there are three-sided and five-sided "pyramids", which respectively should be correctly called TRIAmids and PENTAmids, because PYRAMids are four-sided.



NASA Photo

I was immediately attracted to what appears to be a gigantic mountain sculpted to resemble a half-buried human SKULL, with the cranium, the empty eye sockets, nasal channels and bone nostril. You can see the Skull in the photo immediately below the small letter "b".

Now, once in awhile I like to look at photographs upside-down, because some things can be seen from one position and not from another. If you turn the photo upside-down, you can see another stone sculpted Mars Face between the two white lines designated "0" and "1". This face appears to be simianic with a crowned or crested skull-top and what appears to be a beard on the chin. I have never seen this face mentioned in any of the literature on the subject and I do not believe that anyone else has noticed it before. This Face is miles larger in size than the well-publicized Mars Face.

*Mr. Boisvert lives at 1200 Elm St., Rm. 57, Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 USA.

[Ed. Note: Mr. Boisvert's "monkey-face" may indeed be a "trick of chance lighting", but until a manned mission to Mars investigates the area, his theory is as good as any of the others.]

IN ANCIENT SKIES 15:1, reference is made in the article on the TV Special on the Pyramids to the approximately two and one-half million blocks contained in the Great Pyramid, requiring a placement rate of one approximately every five seconds, if construction were completed in the 23 year period of the rule of Cheops. My check of this estimate indicates a placement rate of one approximately every five minutes. This would still be a remarkable accomplishment, and quite frankly incredible. The TV Special reviewed was yet another triumph of banality over the continuing search for truth. Dr. Stuart W. Greenwood, 5004 Laguna Road, College Park, Maryland 20740 USA.

MEMBER EXPEDITION TO CHINA AND TIBET

Arrangements are complete for the Ancient Astronaut Society's Member Expedition to China and Tibet scheduled to depart from Chicago's O'Hare Field on April 19, 1989. The China portion of the tour will last 15 days and will include visits to Shanghai, Beijing, Zhengzhou, Luoyang, Xi'an and Hong Kong. The group will return to the US on May 3, 1989. The price for the China Tour is US\$2,995 per person in double occupancy and includes round trip air fare from Chicago via Northwest Airlines, all air and other transportation within China, first class hotel accommodations, all meals except lunches and dinners in Hong Kong, comprehensive sightseeing, private motor coaches, all transfers and admission fees, baggage handling, English-speaking guides throughout, a special travel insurance plan and US airport and departure taxes.

Special arrangements can be made with Northwest Airlines for members in the US and Canada to fly to Chicago at reduced air rates and for members on the west coast to fly directly to Shanghai to join the group.

For members outside the US, Canada and Mexico who wish to join the tour in Shanghai on April 20, 1989, the price for the China Tour is US\$2,050 per person double occupancy. Such members would arrange their own air to Shanghai and from Hong Kong.

The Tibet Extension is optional and should be attempted only by those who are physically able to stand the rigors of rugged terrain, possibly sub-standard accommodations, and high altitudes (up to 17,000 feet). Highlights of the Tibet Extension will include the Potala Palace in Lhasa, several monasteries, and a motor excursion over rugged mountain terrain to Xigaze. The Tibet group will separate from the China group on May 1 in Xi'an and fly to Chengdu, China's gateway to Tibet. The Tibet travellers will arrive in Hong Kong on May 9 and then return to the US on May 11, 1989.

The price for the Tibet Extension is US\$1,195 per person, double occupancy, and includes air transportation from Xi'an to Lhasa and return to Chengdu, all transportation in Tibet, all hotel accommodations, all meals, all transfers and admission fees, baggage handling, English-speaking guides and comprehensive sightseeing.

Reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and participation in the expedition is open to the public. Members who wish to participate in this exciting adventure should contact the Society Headquarters for a detailed itinerary and reservation form without delay.

The Society has published an Informational Brochure which describes the objectives and activities of the Society. The Brochure contains many photos of interest in our field. Copies of the Brochure are available to members. Also, if anyone would like a copy to be sent to a friend, send the name and address to the Society Headquarters and we will be pleased to oblige.

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MORE ON THE NAZCA MARKINGS OF A DIFFERENT KIND

The two articles in Ancient Skies 15:1 by June Choate and O. M. Weiss on the unusual markings near the Plain of Nazca in Peru have stimulated considerable response from our members, who have a variety of ideas as to what the markings represent. Some of the ideas follow:

1. John L. Mohn, of 12810 Deeroak, San Antonio, Texas 78253, writes that the concentric circles and overlapping rectangles are precision range or altitude markers placed on Earth by beings from a starship in order to determine the range or distance. An optical instrument on board the ship is designed and calibrated so that when the circles overlap or coincide to form a single circle and the rectangles merge into a square, the range may be precisely read or fed into a computer.

As for the Nazca lines themselves, Mr. Mohn believes that they were drawn by the extraterrestrials as part of an overall system of correcting the Earth's axis to prevent catastrophes every eight to ten thousand years. The lines, he says, are reference marks necessary to locate and determine the actual axis of rotation of the Earth in relation to certain stars and to determine the amount and direction of thrust required to change the Earth's axis.

2. Denis St-Laurent, of 1167 Rue Lamonde, Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada G6G 4K9, relates the figure to the Seven Races of People on Earth. He sees seven geometric figures, each representing a race. The two concentric circles, according to Mr. St-Laurent, represent two star systems, each orbiting the Sun, which is the central figure with twelve rays extending outward. Overall, he sees the figure as the signature of a new race of People which have come from the stars. Mr. St-Laurent also commented upon the other figure in the photo, that is, the smaller figure of two concentric circles, with a bright center with lines drawn through it. He states that he cannot help but wonder about the races of the past and their urges to make geometric figures, to build a monument in some way. For thousands of years people have been doing such things, probably for good reasons. He writes: "Probably all they wanted was to be remembered? And here we are trying to understand the things they have left behind, having at the same time a hell of a time doing it!"

3. Ted Powell, of P. O. Box 461, Baldwin, Long Island, New York 11610 suggests that two key items are needed in order to properly analyze the puzzling new Nazca drawing. First, the exact north-south-east-west orientation of the rectangles and secondly, the exact dimensions of the figure taken with a direct vertical 90° camera shot. He explains that attempting to estimate dimensions from an angle (isometric) photo is not too accurate. He says that if the rectangle alignments relate to the Earth spin axis, we have proof of advanced technology and a possibility of a "four stairway" pyramid base lay-out. Also, if an exact 0.68 "golden rule" mathematical ratio; or if some sort of exact Pi ratio exists in either length or area ratios, we again have an advanced technology proof, such as exists in the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

Mr. Powell states that the center radial pattern is the universal sun symbol and suggests the MU-South America colonization link, as indicated by many other archaeological and hieroglyphic links. It is a basic MU symbol, he states.

If there is an exact cardinal point orientation, we have an indication of a navigation beacon for aircraft or even spacecraft, as recorded in ancient Asiatic Indian writings.

Like many of our members who became interested in solving the "riddle" of the "new" Nazca

marking, Mr. Powell asked if Ancient Skies has any other or better photos of the marking. Unfortunately, the only other slides of the marking were taken at approximately the same height and angle and are actually less distinct than the one which was published. Perhaps the next time some Society member travels to Nazca an effort can be made to get better photos of the marking.

4. Dorothy J. Rickhoff, of 348 North Lincoln, Villa Park, Illinois 60161 writes: "The picture given is too small and dark and of too poor a quality for readers to do much of anything with it. But a closer examination does show that the whole picture is full of supportive detail and that detail is necessary to 'knowing what it is'. For one thing I seem to see the usual bird symbol on the outer circle (the orbit). It looks like a most interesting MARKING and too bad we cannot have a good photo of it. If it shows the satellite's orbit as the outer circle, chances are the inner circle depicts Earth and the four quarters - symbolism. And here again the lines shoot off in every direction - or possibly the pumpkin symbol - and to the upper right there is another circle and it seems to have a face in it, the same as in the first figure most likely."

5. Perhaps the most fascinating interpretation of the marking comes from I. Harry Summer, 737 Ridge Avenue, No. 4-J, Evanston, Illinois 60202. Mr. Summer reports that on June 3, 1988 he was attending a symposium during his 55th class reunion at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts and a representative of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) presented a lecture and showed on the screen a design which was identical to the "new" marking at Nazca. The explanation was that it was a transistor wafer, so small that it could not be detected by the naked eye, and was being developed by AT&T as a device for the "instantaneous transmission of information."

ON INCA BUILDING TECHNIQUES

The stones used in classic Inca masonry were more or less square, but their faces were never perfectly plane. Yet, the two touching surfaces meshed so precisely that a blade could not be inserted between them. This construction technique was extremely resistant to earthquakes. The method by which the Incas were able to accomplish this subtle stone "cutting" remains a mystery even today, and it is not possible to imitate their work by means of modern technology.

One interesting theory explains the mystery thus: Zoologists have noticed that the Lit Lik bird (there is still nowadays a ruined Kuelap village named Lit Lek, a two hours' walk northwest of Uchumarea in the Chachapoyas District of Peru) excavates a new nest each year in solid rock faces of inaccessible high cliffs. These zoologists have observed through binoculars that the Lit Lik approaches the new nest with an unidentified herb in its beak. After a while the herb is supposed to "soften" the stone so that the bird can peck out the loose scraps! It was thought that the Incas knew of this herb and where to find it. They collected it in quantity and spread the herb between the stones as they laid down each course. It was thought that by consistent pressure, both horizontally and vertically, the surface molecules of each stone face "softened". Finally the herb rotted and washed away, leaving the stone surface perfectly joined, but not plane. See also Ancient Skies 10:3, 11:3, 12:4 and 12:6.

Helmut Zettl, Himbergerstrasse 10/4, A-2435 Ebergassing, NO, AUSTRIA.

[Ed. Note: Col. Percy H. Fawcett reported this activity of the birds in his book Lost Trails, Lost Cities, published by Funk & Wagnalls, New York.]