



PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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Welcome to PCN #78

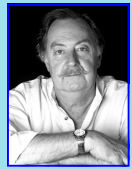


Chilean researchers, **Patricio Bustamante** and **Juan Crocco**, present Part 4 of their thought-provoking series on the origins of astronomy. This time, the topic is **Western astronomy**. See **Bustamante and Crocco p.11**.



The Strickland Stone, is a scientifically-studied trace-fossil confirmed shoe print preserved in volcanic rock. See **Anders p.4**.

Richard Dullum, in this 4th installment of his enlightening series on U.K. eoliths, explores geologist Joseph Prestwich's case for the eoliths *not* being nature-made. It includes his observation that several *tool types* were present which nature does not create on its own (**inset**)! Harrison's finds sparked the debate over British 'pre-glacial man' in the 1890s. Like other inconvenient evidence it is typically reacted to in *knee-jerk* fashion by those educated in mainstream anthropology. 2013's discovery of 800,000-year old *modern human* footprints at Happisburgh does not complement the mainstream's resistance to eolith significance. It is the same machine that has blocked evidence regarding Hueyatlatco, Calico and Bilzingsleben. See **Dullum p.9**.

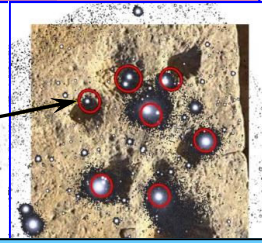
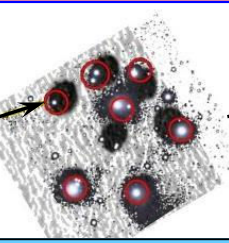


Geologist Joseph Prestwich FRS (1812–1896) *et al* observed tool types such as these in superbly-executed eoliths clearly *not* designed by nature.

Approaching the 13th Anniversary of the Pleistocene Coalition and *Pleistocene Coalition News* we are reminded of what it was that brought our organization together in the first place. Apart from shared interests in the Paleolithic and related subjects we each noticed how monolithic sciences—anthropology in particular—have a history of suppressing evidence that conflicts with their dogmatic views of the past. Many are now aware the practice keeps the public in the dark regarding what evidence we already have. One of our aims, therefore, is to bring new or suppressed rigorous evidence to light. We hope you enjoy *PCN #78*.



In 2007, speleologists from the Saudi Geological Survey Cave Unit, **John Pint**, **Mohammed Moheisen** and **Mahmoud Al-Shanti** mapped out the longest lava tube cave system in Arabia where they discovered what appears to have been an ancient tool workshop. **Inset** shows one of the 'natural' sharp-edged pointed tools. The implications have been largely ignored like other controversial sites (Hueyatlatco MX, Calico US, Bilzingsleben DE, and Trinil ID). See **Feliks p.2**.



Dowth, Ireland, petroglyph superimposed over a 'mirrored' image of the Pleiades. It is also a remarkable match with the Saudi glyph as literal depictions accounting for the proposed *nova* star (arrows).

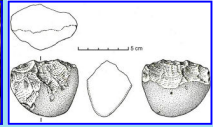


The Pleiades rock art saga continues Just when you thought it had reached its summit, engineer **Ray Urbaniak**, technical engineer **Abdulrahman Albalawi** and agricultural engineer **Juan Crocco** expand the evidence again, this time comparing Ireland rock art with new evidence from the KSA. See **Urbaniak p.15**.



Engineer, **Ray Urbaniak**, makes another startling Utah rock art discovery. It is an apparent baby goat standing on the back of a bighorn sheep—just as similar domesticated animals do today. See **Urbaniak p.8**.

Open-minded archaeologists **Dr. Lutz Fiedler** and **Dr. Hartmut Thieme** discuss mainstream implications of important 2.6 million-year-old tools discovered in Austria by **Herbert Preisl**. See **Fiedler, Preisl and Thieme p.7**.



Archaeological evidence below the Saudi desert

Discovery of an apparent tool workshop in Arabia's longest lava tube

By John Feliks*

*Note: This article contains PC-related perspective based on material selected from among that provided by Saudi Arabia cave-system co-discoverer John Pint.

These discoveries were published in several papers and



Fig. 1. Umm Jirsan system, Harrat Khaybar lava field, 128 km north of Medina.

other venues in 2009. However,

In June 2022 the Pleistocene Coalition was contacted about the discoveries of speleologist John Pint and colleagues and cultural evidence they found in an extensive cave system of the Harrat Khaybar lava field below the sands of the Saudi Arabian desert (Figs. 1-7). This is a quick overview of the evidence of most interest to PCN readers based on materials supplied by John Pint.

[Readers may recognize a response pattern well known from the treatment of American sites such as [250,000-year old Hueyatlaco](#) (Mexico) and [200,000-year](#)

In 2007, a team of expert cavers (speleologists) from the Saudi Geological Survey including Mahmoud Al-Shanti, John Pint and Mohammed Moheisen discovered and mapped out the entire 'Umm Jirsan' system now confirmed Arabia's longest lava tube system (see the complete map in Fig. 5 on the following page). Just under one mile or 1.5 km in length it is also one of the largest anywhere in the world.

The main discovery is what appears to be a "workshop" either for tool 'making' or for selecting among many perfectly-shaped and readily available 'natural' basalt tools of similar qualities and dimensions. Per John Pint:



Fig. 3. "Scraper" found near Station 5, Umm Jirsan lava tube, Harrat Khaybar. As can be seen, it has a very thin edge and fits nicely in the hand. Observations and photo by John J. Pint.

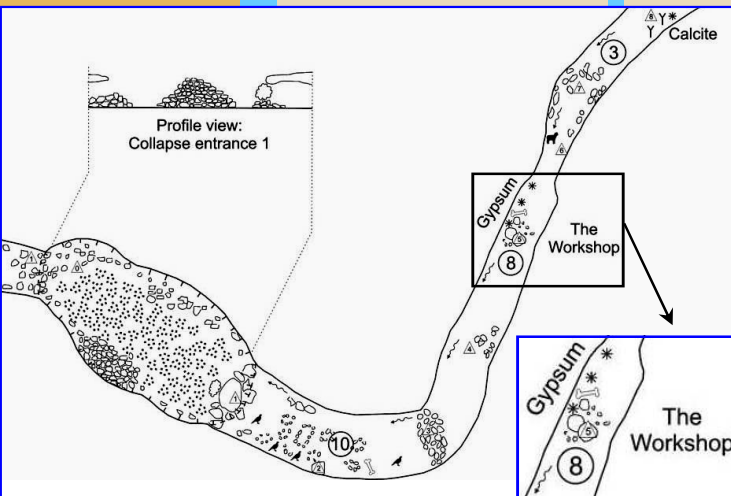


Fig. 2. The "Workshop" about 188 meters from the "Collapse" entrance. Detail from Al-Shanti, Pint and Moheisen's complete map (Fig. 5 on the following page). **Inset:** PCN enlargement showing Station 5 in the triangle.

the evidence has yet to receive the attention it appears to deserve.

[old Calico](#) (United States) as well as the suppressed implications for *H. erectus* intelligence in the [400,000-year old Bilzingsleben engravings](#) (Germany) and equal sophistication of the [500,000-year old H. erectus shell engravings](#) (Trinil, Indonesia).]

"Up to 20 fragments of basalt were found lying on the surface within one meter of one another."

Pint goes on to say that they each had either "a point at one end or a sharp edge on at least one side." Also, most of them had a shape that fit "comfortably" in the human hand (see, e.g., Fig. 3).

As if this choice of apparently ready-made

tools weren't enough, the Workshop also contained a flat-topped rock at a height of 10" serving, very conveniently, as a stool (see Al-Shanti in Fig. 4).

Pint further points out that the concentration of so many similar items usable as tools

all in one small area, begs the question of whether people

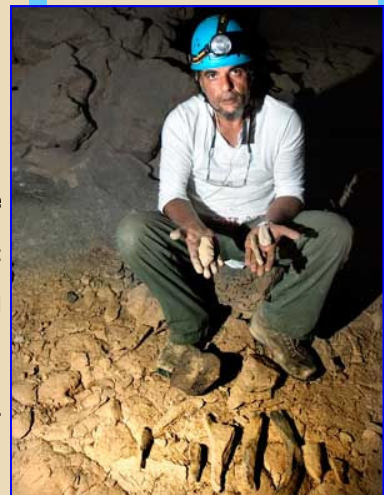


Fig. 4. Mahmoud Al-Shanti sitting on a flat-topped stool-like rock with a few of the concentrated natural basalt fragments "conveniently shaped to fit the human hand." Observation and photo by John J. Pint.

without 'tool-chipping skills' may not have simply gathered

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

Archaeological evidence below the Saudi desert (cont.)

"All the pieces we are looking at are

usefully shaped fragments for use as simple tools, taking the most useful ones with them as they left the cave.

etc. Such unaltered rocks are instantly appreciated, rewarding one with the pleasure of quickly "finding" the perfect tool for the job.]

Later publication citing Pint et al
 "There are some indications that lava tubes are extensive and wide-spread...in HK and...acted as early human occupational sites."

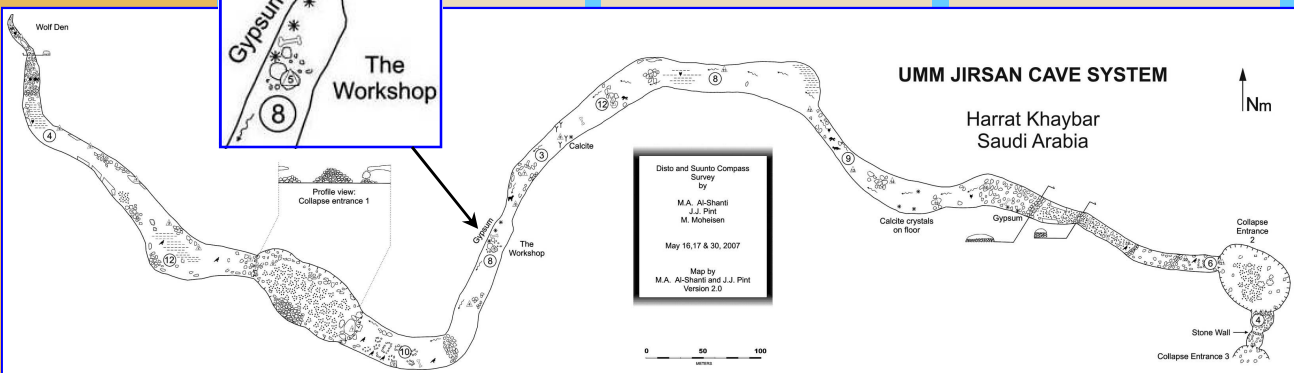


Fig. 5. Complete map of Umm Jirsan lava-tube system, Harrat Khaybar, Saudi Arabia. At nearly a mile in length it is the longest in Arabia. **Inset** again magnifies the "Workshop" area. Map by Al-Shanti, Pint and Moheisen 2007. From John Pint, saudicaves.com.

the rejects. The good stuff was car-

[I would like to offer some support for this idea of *ready-made tools*. It tends to be rejected knee-jerk by mainstream archaeologists who often react by tossing out the term "geofact," not as a positive term but as a **'thought-terminating cliché**.

While there is much more that could be written about Al-Shanti's, Pint's and Moheisen's discoveries, I will end with letting Pint speak for himself again and multiply the likelihood their idea is true. Perhaps it could give just one dogmatic archaeologist a reason to rethink their position:

–K. Nemeth and M.R.H. Moufti. 2017. Geoheritage values of a mature monogenetic volcanic field in intracontinental settings: Harrat Khaybar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. *Geoheritage*, July 2017. "The western side of the HK...was occupied by humans thousands of



Fig. 6. "Gouger" found near Station 5, Umm Jirsan lava tube, HK. The convex side is facing the viewer. Observations and photo by John J. Pint.

ried out of the cave."

Like other propaganda techniques, thought-terminating clichés are used to turn off the objective faculties of the human brain. Use of the term 'geofact' like this, gives away that the user likely followed the grade-school-to-university-PhD-to-professorship path and—as a trade-off—gave themselves very little time for unchoreographed education which has a side benefit of encouraging scientific objectivity.

In today's world of modern conveniences an academic speaking derogatorily of 'geofacts' suggests they've actually had no experience with real world 'roughing-it' camping where naturally-shaped rocks immediately call to one for use as *hammers, scrapers, gougers, diggers,*

"Only a few steps away we find two more flat-topped rocks convenient for sitting upon and each is surrounded by objects of the same shapes we have been looking at. 'This is just like the obsidian workshops I saw in Mexico,' I tell Mahmoud. 'All the pieces we are looking at are the rejects. The good stuff was carried out of the cave.'"

–John Pint, saudicaves.com

Addendum: A few responses John Pint et al received when writing academics about their finds:
 "Stone age tools? They're fakes."
 "Stone age tools? **They're geofacts not artifacts.**"
 "Stone age tools? Yes...and they're at least 600,000 years old."



Fig. 7 Another one of many pointed or sharp-edged basalt fragments found near Station 5, Harrat Khaybar lava tube. John J. Pint. 2009. Umm Jirsan; Arabia's longest lava tube system. *UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves, Proceedings of the international congress of speleology* 15(2): 714–17.

years ago (Camp et al. 1991a, b; Kempe and Al-Malabeh 2013; Kennedy et al. 2015). Human occupation sites are increasingly known across the Arabian Peninsula, indicating paleoclimate and hydrological changes in the region that influenced human habitats (Groucutt et al. 2015; Jennings et al. 2013; Lezine et al. 2010; McLaren et al. 2009). ... The scale and extent of human occupation sites... is poorly known, but growing evidence shows that across the harrats of Arabia, various archaeological features were likely common." –*ibid.*

As our readers know well after nearly 14 years, anthropology controls beliefs about prehistory through selective reporting and fixation on a 19th century ideology.

The Strickland Stone A moccasin print preserved in volcanic rock; a brief history, Part 1

By Joseph K. Anders

"After a quick washing of the stone for future use in a boundary wall, Strickland discovered

The Strickland Stone is a basalt boulder featuring the impression of a moccasin discovered in Portland, Oregon, in 1929 (Figs. 1–2).

In 2009, I was able to pull together an *ad hoc* team of research scientists from the

ogy and physics all pointing to the likelihood the print is extremely old, perhaps in the age range of *Homo erectus*.

Discovery/early history

The Strickland Stone is a basalt boulder (volcanic rock) discovered in Portland, Oregon

in 1929 by Louis H.

Strickland Jr., who hap-

pened to be my grand-

father, while preparing

a home site for con-

struction. After a quick

washing of the stone

for future use in a

boundary wall, Strick-

land discovered what

appeared to be a human

shoe print *seared*

into the stone (again,

Fig. 1). Not knowing the possible

significance of the find, he kept the stone as a

conversation piece. Strick-

land passed away in 1975.

Recent acquisition

In 2004, I acquired the

stone from what was left of

my grandfather's estate. To

be clear, I have no training

in fields such as anthropology,

anatomy, geology or physics.

However, I was curious about the

stone and knew I needed to seek

expert input, later resulting

in the 2009 team mentioned

above. So that the reader can

see the rigor involved the

team leading to the presenta-

tion consisted of four PhDs,

two MDs including an anatomi-

st, and a doctor of podiatry.

Prior standard responses

In the fall of 2004 my family

and me contacted Paul E.

Hammond, Ph.D. Professor

Emeritus of Geology at Port-

land State University. We

spoke of a shoe print in the

stone. Upon examining the

stone, Dr. Hammond declared,

"That is not a footprint,

the stone appears to be a



Fig. 1. The largest of two imprints on the Strickland Stone discovered in 1929. It shows the clear impression of a shod human footprint (see Fig. 2). Our team of specialists demonstrated that the bubble holes were caused by the Leidenfrost effect when a vapor barrier separates an object such as a shoe from a hotter substrate (Fig. 3). Photo by Joseph K. Anders © 2006.



Fig. 2. Left: Latex impression of the Strickland Stone print compared with worn moccasins. Photo/composite © Joseph Anders et al 2009.

ered what appeared to be a human shoe print seared into the stone."

*Dr. Benninger's qualifications

in matters related to the human foot are too numerous to list here but I will mention just a few for those skeptical about the print:

-Dr. Benninger is co-author of *Gray's Clinical Photographic Dissector of the Human Body (Gray's Anatomy)*.

-With a Masters in sports medicine, Benninger was physician to both professional and amateur athletes and a member of the British Olympic Team of Physicians. He is also a member of the prestigious American College of Sports Medicine.

-At Oregon Health and Science University, Dr. Benninger teaches clinical anatomy to surgical residents..

Department of Integrative Biosciences at Oregon Health and Science University; the American Society of Forensic Podiatry; Nike, Inc.; and the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences; among others to be discussed later.

Each contributed to an objective interdisciplinary study of the object culminating in a presentation of the evidence in both lecture and poster form at the 26th Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists later that year. The lecture was given by Dr. Brion Benninger, MD, MSc.* For a quick overview of the project see the news item in [PCN #77 May-June 2022](#).

In this series, I will provide a more detailed history of the object and a closer look at the evidence we compiled and the science leading to the conclusion of our 2009 presentation that the Strickland Stone was, indeed, the print of a moccasin or other type of shoe. That evidence included the archaeology of Oregon (already known for the world's oldest surviving shoe), CT scans, geochemical dating, and comparative evidence from clinical anatomy, anthropology, geol-

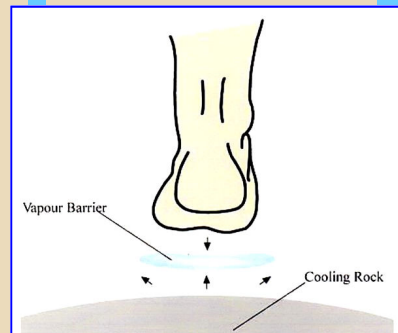


Fig. 3. The Leidenfrost effect is a physical phenomenon. It occurs when liquids in near contact with a mass that is significantly hotter than its boiling point produce an insulating vapor layer. That layer keeps the liquid from boiling rapidly. *It is the insulating effect that protects fire walkers from burning their feet.* In the case of the Strickland Stone, we propose that our subject was wearing moist or damp foot coverings which added to the insulating effect and caused the vesicles to form.

'Columbia River erratic' six to ten million years old; man wasn't alive then."

> [Cont. on page 5](#)

Strickland Stone moccasin print in volcanic rock (cont.)

"I contacted several natural history museums, anthropologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists. The rejection rate was 100%."

Dr. Hammond acknowledged that his initial assessment of age of the stone was cursory, but that it appeared to be a Columbia River erratic. Professor Hammond is a recognized authority on the Cascade Range, the Missoula Floods and Columbia River erratics.

Dr. Hammond felt that the impression was caused by a collision in the matrix which separated after being expelled from the matrix and leaving what appeared to be

a human footprint (later identified and corrected to be a "shoe" print).

I have a great deal of respect for Dr. Hammond, however I was not convinced by his confident statement the stone did not show a print. What I saw then, and what I clearly see is a shoe print. I thought my grandfather's discovery would be welcomed within the scientific community. Boy was I

wrong. I contacted several natural history museums, anthropologists, archaeologists, and paleontologists. The rejection rate was 100% until I had a conversation with paleontologist Robert T. Bakker, PhD (author of the controversial book, *The Dinosaur Heresies*). Unlike the bulk described above, Dr. Bakker encouraged me to continue in my quest for real answers.

...To be continued in Part 2

Member news and other info

Note: This article is brief so as to fill the available space.

What Carl Sagan wasn't about to tell you (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Imagined: "The schizocroal compound eyes of these Phacopid trilobites far more complex than modern arthropods are turning out to be a real pain. I wish I had studied this problem closer before making bold statements about 'natural selection' in this *Cosmos* TV show. Everything else is 'science' but I might be stepping out of bounds with this one." -Fantasy of what Carl Sagan might have thought when filming this unscientific scene while shaking the *Phacops* trilobite and making the foolish statement that pulled a fast one over two generations of PBS-trusting viewers: "Evolution is a *fact*, not a theory."

What our children aren't being told does matter...

especially if it's anthropology, biology or paleontology.

Trilobites rec. direct from formations by the author. -jf

Below are just a few current space filler quotes about the eyes of trilobites being complex from the beginning and more complex than modern versions. **Note:** Not only are such claims **not unique to trilobites** but stated for every animal and plant group known—up to human.

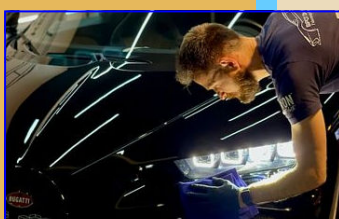


Fig. 3. "Like bulbs in a car headlight sat six (or more) faceted substructures... each of the big Phacopid eyes is a hyper compound eye with up to 200 compound eyes each." -B. Schoenemann. Image: unsplash.com.

"The compound eye of a 429 Mya old Silurian trilobite... shows the characteristic elements of a modern apposition eye."

-B. Schoenemann *et al.* 2020. Insights into a 429-million-year-old compound eye. *Scientific Reports* 10: Article 12029.

I.e. 'modern' not 'primitive.'

"From the very beginning of their appearance they were equipped with compound eyes." -*ibid.*

I.e., *not* after millions of developmental years. What the public and university graduates alike have *no idea of* is that this problem of advanced traits from the beginning is used to describe every group (more below). Sticking to trilobites:

"So where did trilobites come from?... The evidence is neither clear nor unambiguous."

-Sam Gonn III, biologist; trilobite authority, webmaster comprehensive resource trilobites.info (cited in *PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015*).

Even though they're not told at university, the reader can trust, similar statements are made for [all animal and plant phyla](#), e.g., Bryozoa, Brachiopoda, Porifera, Cnidaria, [Echinodermata](#), Mollusca, Arthropoda, etc.

"Trilobites from the family Phacops had compound eyes that were far larger and more complex than their modern-day arthropod

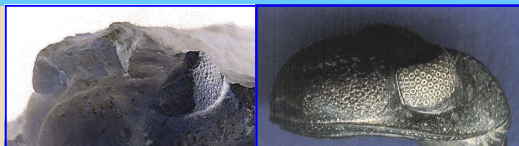


Fig. 2. Sophisticated compound eye trilobites recovered by the author direct from formations in the U.S. and



Canada. This is the type of evidence Carl Sagan actually saw while filming *Cosmos* but 1980 TV viewers didn't. **Hyper-compound eyes:** Not only did trilobites have the first such eyes but contrary to 150 years of mainstream dogma their eyes are now known to have been **more advanced than those of modern arthropods** (*Science Reports*, 9-30-21). **Left: *Dalmanites limulurus*** (*PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015*); Sil. (Joliet Form.); rec. by author 1975; quarry, bluffs of the Mississippi; Grafton, IL. **Right: *Phacops rana***; Dev. (Silica Form.); rec. by author 1967; Medusa Quarry, Sylvania, OH. **Inset: *Greenops widdereensis* w/zoomed-in eye**; Dev.; rec. by author; Arkona Shale; Hungry Hollow; Arkona, ON, CA.

relatives (**Fig. 2**). -J. Thompson. 2021. This trilobite was equipped with a 'hyper-eye' never seen before in the animal kingdom. *Live Science*, 10-8-21.

"Each of their eyes...held hundreds of lenses.... thousands of times larger than a typical arthropod's. Nested... **like bulbs in a car headlight** [**Fig. 3**] **sat six (or more) faceted substructures... each of the big Phacopid eyes is a hyper compound eye with up to 200 compound eyes each.**" -B. Schoenemann, email to *Live Science*.

"Why a trilobite would need that much visual power remains a mystery." -*ibid.*

Member news and other info (cont.)

Quick links to main articles in [PCN #77](#):

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[National Geographic does it again: another propaganda piece](#)

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

The value of evidence in Paleolithic anthropology rests on the honest and objective representation of where geographically and where on the timeline evidence lies.

Archaeologist and archaeological drones expert **Mark Willis** (e.g., [PCN #64](#), March-April 2020, [PCN #66](#), July-August 2020) sent us information on a recent discovery—the 37,000-year-old remains of a female mammoth and her calf exhibiting signs of butchering.

The discovery does indeed confirm once again a central premise of the Pleistocene Coalition regarding the antiquity of humans in the Americas. However, it is an important reminder about how much older evidence is regularly concealed in mainstream anthropology creating completely false impressions of the compiled evidence as it currently stands. *The problem enables media-savvy archaeologists to claim such as a mere 37,000 years is now the oldest known.* This problem is perpetual and never goes away. That is part of why the field is still 'not science.' *In normal science evidence is accumulated and compiled so researchers have access to all known evidence—a PC ideal.*

This aspect of the Pleistocene Coalition relates especially to the work of founding member, **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre** and Hueyatlaco site in Mexico with its resisted problematic date of 250,000-years. The dating alone, despite the fact that it was done by some of the most reputable people in geology, chemistry and archaeology (e.g., [PCN #54](#), July-Aug 2018)

has prompted 55 years of suppression, literal censorship and ridicule by *dogmatically-educated U.S. archaeologists* ultimately leading to destruction of the site.



[Link to PCN #77](#)



[Link to PCN #76](#)



[Link to PCN #75](#)

Following close behind is 50–200,000-year-old Calico, Mojave Desert, CA, brought to international attention by Dr. Louis Leakey with excavation grant from *National Geographic* (e.g., [PCN #31](#), Sept-Oct 2014). Calico is the only New World site excavated by Dr. Leakey. Just like Hueyatlaco, no matter how reputable the scientists (e.g., [PCN #50](#), Nov-Dec 2017), it has been suppressed, literally censored, and ridiculed for decades by the same trainees. Such further separate archaeology from science not only leading to false human history but also to *destruction of the evidence* as already documented for Hueyatlaco in *PCN* and in process for Calico.

Anthropologists participating are compromised by political entities and

big business encouraging [development projects the public never knows about until too late](#) as we have covered in *PCN*. [Controversial sites are easy targets if regular people don't get involved.](#)

We only have time to mention one more U.S. site. The Caltran's mastodon butchering site dated 120,000-years (renamed Cerutti w/the effect of concealing that it was ignored even by its discoverer for 25 years). The only reason it finally

saw the light of day was its being taken up as a cause by PC founding member Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, and *Pleistocene Coalition News* publishing regular reminders the site was being ignored (she had told other researchers about it since 1995). PC founding member archaeologist Chris Hardaker, was friend of the discoverer who, aware of the *PCN* coverage eventually brought it out. Chris explained *self-censorship* in anthropology, a dilemma created by dogmatic monolithic control. *PCN* has published much on this saga including a comprehensive timeline; but for a quick easy-read overview see Virginia's [PCN #45](#), Jan-Feb 2017).



Finally, adding to this topic on the 'international level,' *PCN* writer and copy editor, **Tom Baldwin**, recalls a major example of suppressing important prior evidence:

"In an earlier issue, I compared the carefully engraved design on a shell found with Java Man, i.e. *H. erectus*, with a much later near identical design in other, South Africa—*H. sapiens*. See [Scientific implications of the 500,000-year old Indonesian engraved shell](#) (*PCN* #56, Nov-Dec 2018). *Nat. Geo.* 1-18-15 declared the *H. sapiens* designs 'manmade.' A quote clearly shows how the field manipulates data to create false prehistory:



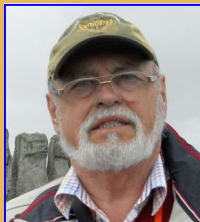
'Even more than cave art, these first concrete expressions of consciousness represent a leap from our animal past toward what we are today—a species awash in symbols.'"

So, what's the problem? As Tom explains, the problem is that there is "no mention" of the *H. erectus*-engraved shell from Java despite the fact it is quite similar and engraved 400,000 years earlier. -jf

Anthropological news from the Central-European region of the Old World

Dr. Lutz Fiedler, Herbert Preisl and Dr. Hartmut Thieme

"The most surprising discovery..."



is not these Acheulean artifacts, far east of England and France, but much older artifacts."

Looking for Acheulean artifacts in Central Europe, east of the river Rhine, we discuss the local collection of Lower Paleolithic artifacts at Dürnkrot, Lower Austria.

Pleistocene river terraces are widespread in many places along the ancient Danube. Here, gravel quarries provide some insight into the stratigraphy of these terraces and often present Lower Paleolithic artifacts *in situ*.

The main and most common raw material of these tools is Paleozoic quartz, which occurs in the terraces in the form of pebbles—from egg to football size. This material is not easy to work and, as a result, unifacial choppers are more prevalent than bifacial choppers and hand axes. For this reason, the first impression of the inventories is more Oldowan than Acheulean, but this is typical for the Lower Paleolithic in several parts of Europe, especially in southern France and Spain.

The most surprising discovery, though, is not these Acheulean artifacts, far east of England and France, but much older artifacts.

The oldest river deposit of the Danube is called *Laaerberg-Terrasse*. Its age is Pliocene-Pleistocene, approximately 2.6 million years old. Artifacts found within the *Laaerberg-Terrasse* must then, by definition, be the same age (**Fig. 1**). We saw a lot of choppers, chopping tools and flake instruments, as well as two elongated picks in the Preisl collection—all of them heavily polished by time and the ancient, slowly flowing Danube.

What does this mean? We believe that these tools could not have been made by real *Homo*. The first australopithecines are known to be from East Africa but, thus far, are totally unknown from Europe. Therefore, we believe the stones that

resemble tools were in all likelihood made by hominids of a lesser intellectual stature.

From the Middle Tertiary (Miocene) onward we have good knowledge of fossil-hominid skeleton material from all over central and southern Europe, as well as from Asia. These beings could be summarized with the name *Dryopithecines s.l.* The first of them

lived as tree-adapted creatures. However, an extreme dry climate period in the Late Miocene changed their life situation. Woodlands vanished and steppes spread from North Africa across the nearly dry Mediterranean Basin to Europe and the near east. Animals and hominids could pass this barrier.

The first record of an upright walking hominid, called *Oreopithecus bambolii*, came from southern Italy. This "animal" was 1.8 m (5'11") high. Another example is *Graecopithecus*, which left some footprints at the coast of Crete, dated 7–6 million years old. A dryopithecine femur from Eppelsheim (Germany) of the same age was adapted for upright walking (about 7 million years ago). A hominid tooth from the same site has features that suggest to us a developmental stage in hominine evolution.

The implements from the *Laaerberg-Terrasse* near Vienna are much younger but show that the descendants of the Late Miocene hominids learned to produce simple stone tools. It is not strictly correct to classify these tools as Oldowan. They are European Archaeolithic (we believe

were made by beings on their way to becoming fully human) and well known from sites in Central France and from the English 'Red Crag' layers for more than a hundred years,

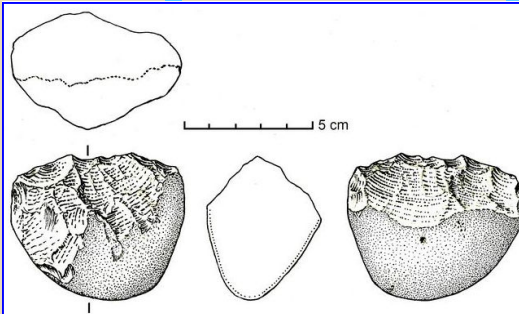


Fig. 1. Chopping tool from the >2.6 million-year-old Laaerberg-Terrasse site (Vienna, Austria). Collection of Herbert Preisl. Drawing by Lutz Fiedler.

but thought of as manmade "eoliths" (Brandt 2011).

One of us (Fiedler) has been critical of the eolithic theory, predominantly because of the lack of any *Homo* capable of making stone tools 6 to 4 million years ago. The new discoveries of Late Miocene European hominids have given new insight as to what might have happened in this early period.

This year, Fiedler published a book about [hand axes and the origin of culture](#) (2022), but a paper currently being written, describing Pliocene stone artifacts from Austria and Germany, will complete this work. We are very happy to share this news from the Old World to the readers of *PC News*.

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LUTZ FIEDLER, PHD, is former State Archaeologist of Hesse, Germany, and discoverer of the 400,000-year-old Tan Tan figurine from Morocco.

HERBERT PREISL is discoverer the 2.6mya Laaerberg-Terrassen artifacts, Austria.

HARTMUT THIEME, PHD, is discoverer of the 400–600,000-year-old hunting spears from Schöningen, Germany.

Analysis of a very old and unique petroglyph

Timeless animal behavior depicted in rock art

By Ray Urbaniak

"My conclusion is that the experience of seeing small goats standing or riding on the backs of sheep was known in ancient times just as it is in modern times."

I recently photographed in Utah a unique image of a bighorn sheep with something on its back (Fig. 1).



At first glance, I had no idea what it was that was on the back of the bighorn sheep. On closer analysis I noticed it was actually another four-legged animal but unlike the classic curved horns of a bighorn this smaller animal had straight horns (Fig. 2).

The straight horns of the little animal reminded me of a mountain goat as I had seen several pictures of goats in weird places—even in trees. So, after getting back home, I began an online search for images

of goats on sheep and came up with some very entertaining results. Two amusing examples are shown in Fig. 3.

Interestingly, the online images I found were all of young goats so they wouldn't have had long horns such as depicted in the rock art image. It is my belief, in the case of the rock art depiction the artist may have wanted to make sure the viewer knew without a doubt what kind of animal it was that they saw on the sheep's back and, so, depicted it with horns even though it likely was a young mountain hornless goat just as in the modern photographs.

The ancient engraver had seen something that intrigued them and felt an urge to document it with the

means at their disposal. The same goes for the modern photographers who documented what they saw though by much simpler means as a digital camera. My conclusion is that the experience of seeing small goats standing or riding on the backs of sheep was known in ancient times just as it is in modern times.

Fig. 4 shows a mountain goat petroglyph I photographed many years ago. It is the only petroglyph of mountain goats I had found to date. Males are recognized by slightly curved horns while females have more straight horns (PCN #24, July-August 2013).

After taking the photo I contacted bighorn sheep specialists. They said mountain goats were only in this area during the last ice age which ended 10,000 years ago and that it could even be a Harrington's mountain goat which went extinct at the end of the last ice age.

I have established that goats do indeed get on the backs of sheep. However, these modern images are of domesticated animals.

Might this suggest a possibility about the animals in Fig. 1? Later, I researched more about mountain goats and their interactions with bighorn sheep and found some interesting observations at earthtouchnews.com in an article called "When it



Fig. 1. An ancient Utah rock art petroglyph of a bighorn sheep with what appears to be a much smaller animal on its back. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.



Fig. 2. Close-up of small four-legged straight-horned animal on the bighorn sheep's back. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.



Fig. 4. Photo of extremely rare mountain goat petroglyph I took in Arizona many years ago. Ray Urbaniak.

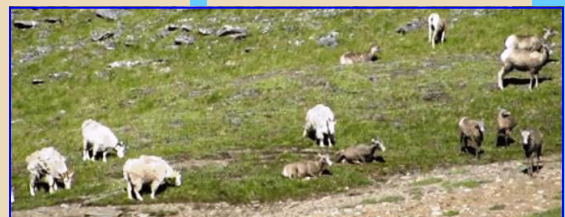


Fig. 5. Bighorn sheep and mountain goats together. Image: F. Dulude-de Broin. Mountain goats are more dominant so it makes sense that a young mountain goat as in my Fig. 1 could have been seen on the back of a bighorn sheep.

comes to hoofed supremacy on the slopes, mountain goats outswagger bighorns" (see Fig. 5). I hope to explore more closely the subject of animal interactions such as depicted in SW U.S. rock art in a future article.



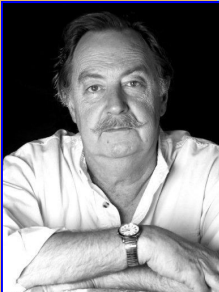
Fig. 3. Online images of small goats standing on top of sheep. Popular Internet images; original sources unknown.

Benjamin Harrison, of Ightham, Part 4

Prestwich's argument for the Kent Plateau eoliths' artificiality, 1889–1892

By Richard Dullum

Prestwich had earlier stressed the



importance of finding the eoliths in situ, in layers exposed by outcropping, such as were exposed near Ightham, where Harrison and his 'finders' routinely walked."

Benjamin Harrison had been collecting the eoliths for a decade prior to Sir Joseph's first presentation to the Royal Geological Society of London, titled: "On the Age, Formation, and Successive Drift-Stages of the Valley of the Darent; with Remarks on the Paleolithic Implements of the District, and on the Origin of its Chalk Escarpment."

One can see in **Fig. 1** some very good line drawings of implements Harrison continued to collect. Prestwich had earlier stressed the importance of finding the eoliths *in situ*, in layers exposed by outcropping, such as were exposed near Ightham, where Harrison and his 'finders' routinely walked. This initial class of eoliths were described as borers, and/or double-scrapers, because, at the time, it was considered important to be able to classify *tool types*, according to their probable function; see **Fig. 2**. Points, blades, scrapers, hand-axes, etc. Even if we can't nail down the function of the tools, we can clearly see parallel flake removal at the edges, on one side only. There has never been any proof that natural agencies can cause flints like these to be chipped only on one side, though it seems to be the standard explanation from mainstream authorities. Also, there is the manner in which eoliths are interpreted as being the crudest and therefore of great age: crudely made by a similarly crude human. Eolithic implements are and have been made and used by humans in all eras. After Prestwich tells the audience that primitive people make eolithic implements, he seems to acknowledge that it is not necessary to attribute eoliths to primitive ape-men. *Forbidden Archeology* notes the obverse: "There is no reason to rule out, *a priori*, the possibility that the eoliths (and the paleoliths) may



Fig. 1. These are eoliths Benjamin Harrison of Ightham excavated from the 'brickearth' well after Prestwich's presentation. Many were found by being present at local excavations on farms on the high gravels. The specimens are reddish-stained. From E. Harrison, 1928, p. 342.

have been made by humans of the fully modern type in England during the late Pliocene."

A more reliable indicator of age is the geological context in which

A special circumstance obtains here: note that the Kent Plateau itself is part of the North Downs, which edge the rolling hills to the south of the chalk escarpment, bottoming out as



Fig. 2. From the Maidstone Museum's Harrison collection. This artifact was used in Prestwich's presentation. Note its startling similarity to Harrison's 1907 specimen drawing (Fig. 1). This equal design was considered a *tool type* possibly a double convex scraper (perhaps a multi-tool). Image courtesy of the Maidstone Museum.

a humanly-worked flint is found. We see this context with Harrison's *in situ* discoveries. These above were 'ochreous,' taking on the color of the beds of the 'brickearth' (Pliocene in age), in which they were embedded.

the Darent Valley, which cuts across the former Weald dome east to west.

The South Downs represent the rise of the ancient rim of the

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

Benjamin Harrison, Part 4 (cont.)

"Even if we can't nail down the function of the tools, we can clearly see parallel flake removal at the edges, on one side only."

There has never been any proof that natural agencies can cause flints like these to be chipped only on one side."

south edge of the dome. Gravels and sediment from North and South Downs are identical, thus showing the hilltop gravels of the Kent Plateau were deposited in the same era.

Most modern geologists assign the age of the Weald dome to be Pliocene, during which era rivers flowed north and south off the dome incline. These rivers left terraces of gravel which also contained worked flint flakes of the eolithic type.

Some of the eoliths had small grains of what Prestwich called iron peroxides and sand stuck to them. The material is a ferrous sandstone which caps the chalk in both North and South Downs, across the Darent Valley, which represents the collapsed great mass of the dome, or middle of the dome, collapsed now and highly eroded with no red sandstone to be found.

Specimens like those excavated *in situ*, but obtained from hilltop gravel drifts (surface finds) were whitish-yellow in color, used as part of Prestwich's presentations. See Fig. 3.

A note on the topic of why I dig into the past, here, in England: I think it's useful, when considering the antiquity of Man in England, as Prestwich did, to review all the available evidence pertaining to the question before us. All the evidence, including that presented in London, beginning in 1889 by Harrison and Prestwich, has not really been considered by the people who educated you; one realizes with some shock and even some anger when you open the pages of *Forbidden Archeology*, finding that the archaeological community had ignored fully half of the available secondary scientific literature/evidence on human origins. That's practically fraud, since it is intentional misrepresenta-

tion, cheating you out of the truth. High school and college texts herald the 'victory' of evolutionary theory, speak of evolutionary theory as if it were proven fact. 'Evolution' is now in common usage, way removed from the scientific context it was presented in; it's so accepted. However, it turns out



Fig. 3. A clearly manmade pointed implement showing wear and retouch. Recovered from the high gravels near Ash. Image courtesy the Maidstone Museum.

that *when all archaeological evidence is known*, a quite different picture emerges than what we are presented with in texts and popular scientific journals of the day.

The case of Benjamin Harrison's finds, like J. Reid Moir (see my [prior articles](#)), whose work followed him, exemplifies how evidence suggesting a possible Tertiary age for man in England, has been totally ignored, overlooked and buried nearly a hundred years ago, because it got in the way of a simple explanation: (we're simply apes that magically morphed into the human species, starting about 5 MYRBP), descended from extinct apemen. Science that existed in the time of Harrison didn't

doubt Darwin's descent of man, it just didn't know when or where it happened. England and Europe seemed to be good candidates for a place, considering the fossil and stone tool evidence discovered in strata dating well into the Tertiary, millions of years. Today's archaeology offers

no explanation for these discoveries, only ridiculing or trying to discredit this huge pile of scientific work, amassed by Harrison and many other 19th and early 20th century archaeologists on several different continents, and still being unearthed to this day, indicating what seemed impossible at the time: that humans had existed in the Tertiary.

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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 degree in biology. Aside from his work with Kevin Lynch, he has written many additional articles for *PCN* and is also a *PCN* copy editor. All of Dullum's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

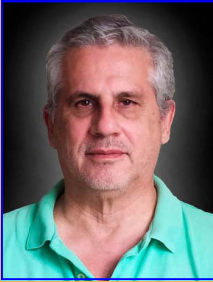
http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch

On the origins of astronomy, Part 3b

Global astronomy, Part 2: The origins of Western astronomy

By Patricio Bustamante*
& Juan Crocco**

"Indigenous Australian beliefs about



the night sky might be among the oldest in the world handed down through oral tradition for some 40,000 years."

Summary

Modern historians trace the origins of western astronomy to Ptolemy's *Almagest*, which is derived from Egyptian and earlier Babylonian astronomy. However, there is evidence of previous astronomical influences from the Indus Valley Civilization, dating c. 3700–1500 BCE.

Through 'pareidolia,' 'apophenia' and 'hierophany' (see Parts 2a–2b, [Conscious astronomy](#) [PCN #76, March-April 2022] regarding these three phenomena grouped together into what we call the 'PAH Triad'), Indian astronomers identified asterisms as constellations to gauge the movement of the sun, moon and planets in the sky. This knowledge may have influenced later cultures and could be the root of Western astronomy.

The origins of Western astronomy

In [Global astronomy, Part 1](#) (PCN #77, May-June 2022) we proposed Australian-South American migration over 15,000 years ago through the South Pacific Ocean as a means to explain the strikingly similar ancient star lore of both continents, where constellations were identified along the Milky Way's dark patches. Indigenous Australian beliefs about the night sky might be among the oldest in the world handed down through oral tradition for some 40,000 years.

Unlike ancient Australia and South America, in Europe,



Fig. 1. Pareidolic Hindu cosmogony.

the Middle East and India constellations are recognized by star groups. Constellations along the 'ecliptic' (path of the sun, moon and planets) are a fixed backdrop to gauge the movement of the Sun, Moon and planets in the sky. These are known as the Zodiac.

Through the PAH triad, recognizing and naming star patterns in the sky grew to possess a religious and mythical significance that led to the development of cosmogonies. To judge by their names, the constellations familiar to stargazers with a Western cultural orientation descend from 3rd-millennium BCE Mesopotamian civilizations¹ which seem to have been influenced by an earlier Indus Valley civilization astronomical tradition (see, for instance, [Fig. 1](#)).

Ptolemy

A pivotal work in western astronomy is the *Almagest* (c. 127–141 AD) by Greek mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, geographer, and

music theorist Claudius Ptolemy by which the movements of the Sun, Moon, and planets could be calculated for the future against a backdrop of fixed stars. It synthesizes the Graeco-Babylonian achievement in mastering the movements of the planets. The *Almagest* would dominate astronomy for fourteen centuries until Kepler showed the need for a thorough reformation.

Pre-Ptolemaic astronomy

Egypt and Babylon

Modern Western scholars trace the origins of Ptolemaic astronomy to Egyptian and earlier Babylonian astronomical traditions.²

The Egyptian civil calendar was based on watching thirty-six star groups which were visible just before sunrise (heliacal rising) that marked each of the ten-day weeks that the year was divided into.³ These were known as 'decans' and appear about

> [Cont. on page 12](#)

Global astronomy, Part 2, Western astronomy (cont.)

2000 BCE (See **Fig. 2**).⁴
Decans were eventually incor-

Since about 2500 BCE,
Babylonian scribes kept re-

movements of the Sun,
Moon and planets, and to

"The constellations familiar to stargazers with a Western cultural orientation descend from 3rd-millennium BCE Mesopotamian civilizations which seem to have been influenced by an earlier Indus Valley civilization astronomical tradition ."

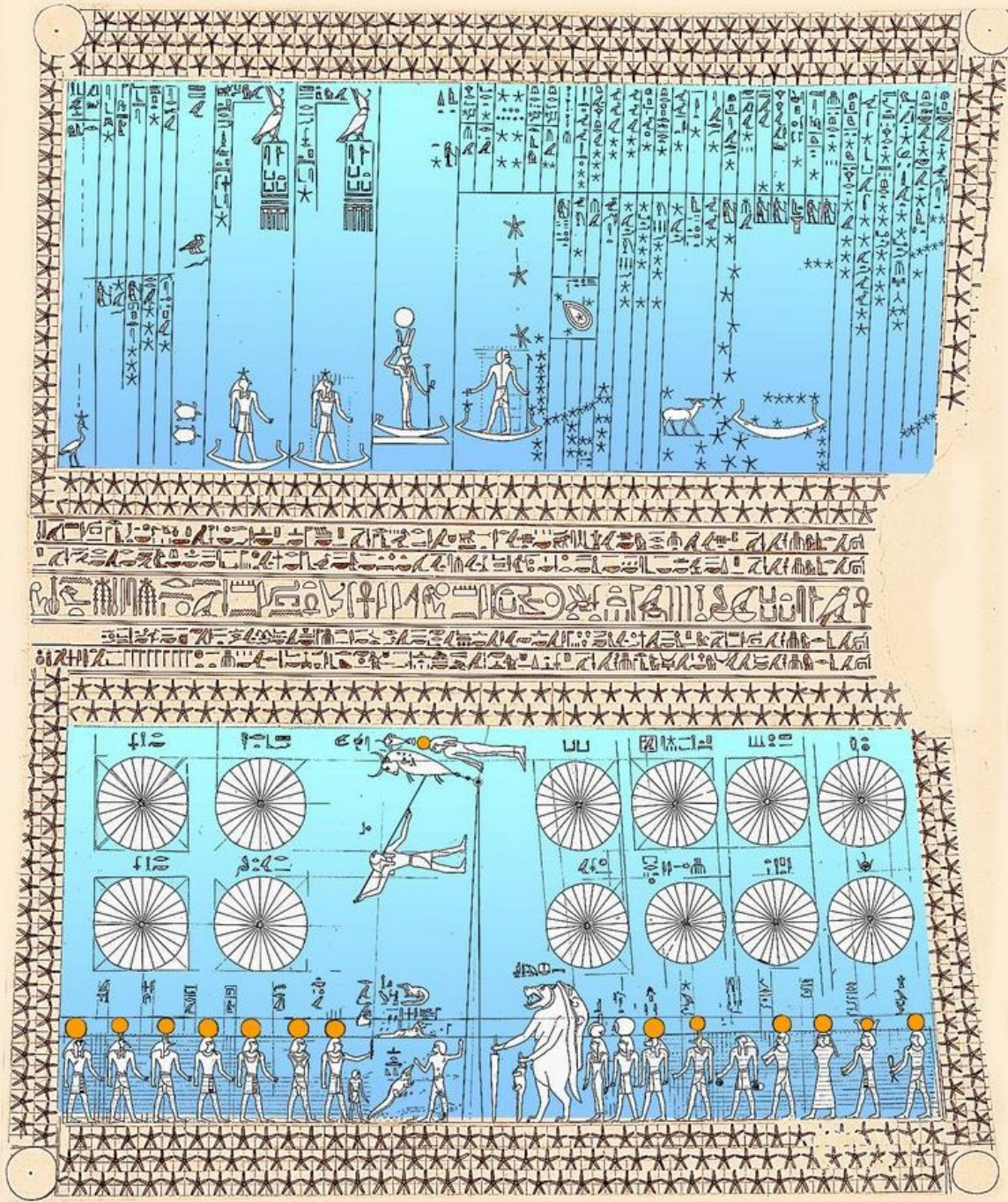


Fig. 2. Decan (constellation) system on ceiling of Senenmut's tomb, Egypt (c. 1479–1458 B.C.). Facsimile by Charles Wilkinson (1897–1986) Founder, Dept. of Ancient Near Eastern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Public Domain.

porated into the Babylonian zodiac by Hellenistic scholars; three decans to each of the twelve zodiacal signs.⁵

cord of astronomical events to refine their prognostications on impending disasters. This practice enabled them to discern cycles in the

devise arithmetical techniques to predict future positions of celestial bodies

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

Global astronomy, Part 2, Western astronomy (cont.)

The Rig Veda mentions the constellations 'Mesa' (i.e. 'Aries') and Vrishabha (i.e., 'Taurus').

² Hoskin, M. 2003. *The history of astronomy: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP Oxford. Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ Vahia, M.N. 2019. *Perspectives on early astronomy in Indian context*. The National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, India.

¹¹ Kak, S. 2011. The astronomical code of the Rig Veda. 3rd Edition. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

¹² "Great Epic of the Bharata Dynasty" is one of the two Sanskrit epic poems of ancient India. The other is the Ramayana or "Rama's Journey."

¹³ Iyengar, R. 2003. Internal consistency of eclipses and planetary positions in the Mahabharata. *Indian Journal of History of science*, 38.2: 77–115.

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¹⁵ Kak, S. 2011. See Ref. 11 above.

¹⁶ Pratap, A. 2018. Decipherment of the Harappan script: An assessment. *Research Deliberation IV* (1): 8–10.

¹⁷ Kak, S. 2011. See Ref. 11 above.

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PATRICIO BUSTAMANTE (DÍAZ): Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía, Fundación Altura Patrimonio (Chilean Society of History and Geography, Altura Heritage Foundation). Bustamante's prior article, [Earth and sky as a 1:1 scale astronomical instrument and Rorschach test](#) (by Patricio Bustamante, Ricardo Moyano, and Daniela Bustamante) can be seen in *PCN* #18 (July-August 2012).

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Bustamante & Crocco's preview [Summary of the astronomy series](#) can be found in *PCN* #74 (November–December 2021).



Fig. 5. Africa is the possible origin of astronomy. Modern artist's collage source unknown.

"Astronomy... may have originated in Africa before dispersion of modern humans throughout the planet."

3.) The theory of epicycles has many points of commonality in the Indian and the Greek systems.

4.) There are parallels in the system of astrology amongst the Indians, the Greeks and the Arabs.

5.) The names of the five planets and the names of the days of the week have commonality amongst the Indians and the Greeks. Venus was named 'Vena' in the Rig Veda—an interesting similarity with the name 'Venus' used in Hellenistic astronomy in the first millenniums BCE.

Conclusion

Astronomy is a widespread global phenomenon with similar observation and recording techniques that seem to have a common origin. We have a fragmentary knowledge of astronomy's remote past, but it may have originated in Africa before dispersion of modern humans throughout the planet (**Fig. 5**). One such piece of knowledge relates to the Indus Valley Civilization, whose texts show astronomy was a well-established practice

Endnotes

¹Aveni, A. 2019. *Star stories*. Yale University Press. Kindle edition.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Kelley, D. et al. 2011. *Exploring ancient skies. A survey of ancient and cultural astronomy*. 2nd Ed. Springer.

⁵ Ainsworth, T. 2018. *A timeline of the Decans: From Egyptian astronomical timekeeping to Greco Roman Melothesia*. Queen's University Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

⁶ Gosh, A. 2020. *Descriptive archaeoastronomy and ancient Indian chronology*. Springer.

⁷ Thompson, R. 1989. *Vedic cosmography and astronomy*. Institute for Vaishnava Studies. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Sidharth, B.G. 1998. The calendric astronomy of the Vedas. *Bulletin of the Astronomical Society of India*. Vol. 26. P.107.

⁹ In classical Hindu astronomy, cosmologists speculated as to the existence of several successive cycles constituting successive periods of evolution and involution of the universe. The period calculated as the basis of the chronology of the universe was the Mahāyuga, consisting of 4,320,000 sidereal years. It was divided into four yugas, or stages, on the hypothesis of an original "order" (dharma) established in the first stage, the Krta Yuga, gradually decaying in the three others, the Tretā, Dvāpara, and Kali yugas. The respective durations of these four yugas were 1,728,000, 1,296,000, 864,000, and 432,000 years (<https://www.britannica.com>).

Ireland petroglyphs: Further support for a nova in the Pleiades

By Ray Urbaniak with new contributions by Abdulrahman Albalawi & Juan Crocco

"There appears to be a cluster of



dates around 3600 BP for the depiction date of the Pleiades with one star in the middle surrounded by six other stars."

The Neolithic stone structures in Ireland

were built as solar observatories which may also have been used to observe and track the 18.6-year cycle of the major and minor lunar standstills.

The Neolithic dates for these structures is about 3,000 BCE and possibly much earlier, yet the petroglyphs appear to have been made in the Bronze age 3300 BCE-1200 BCE, when the images of the Sun and spirals etc. were engraved. The actual burials were probably made during the later part of this period, yet the structures are referred to as tombs even though they were never designed and built as tombs.

I believe it reasonable to suggest the glyphs of the Pleiades I found in Martin Brennan's 1994 book, *The Stones of Time*, are at least 3,600 years old for the Sess Kilgreen petroglyphs p. 35 (Fig. 1) and the Loughcrew petroglyph panel p. 205 (Fig. 2).

Both panels contain what appear to be Pleiades glyphs identical to those depicted around the world during this time period. See our articles in [PCN #77](#) (May-June 2022) and prior via the direct links.

There appears to be a cluster of dates around 3600 BP for the depiction date of the Pleiades with one star in the middle surrounded by six other stars. This way of depicting the Pleiades did not continue in all areas because indications are that the Pleiades no longer looked like this in later years (see Fig. 3 on the following page). Note: It did continue as the way to depict the Pleiades in some areas, probably because the practice was passed down.



Fig. 1. Stone roofing slab of the Sess Kilgreen mound chamber in Tyrone Co, Ireland—all that remains of what was once a complete structure. Today the slab stands upright in a field adjacent to the mound. When George Coffey examined it in 1899, he stated the following: "It had 'some good stars with cup-centres. Some of the stars have lines going from them.'" It is interesting 120 years ago such were thought to depict stars.

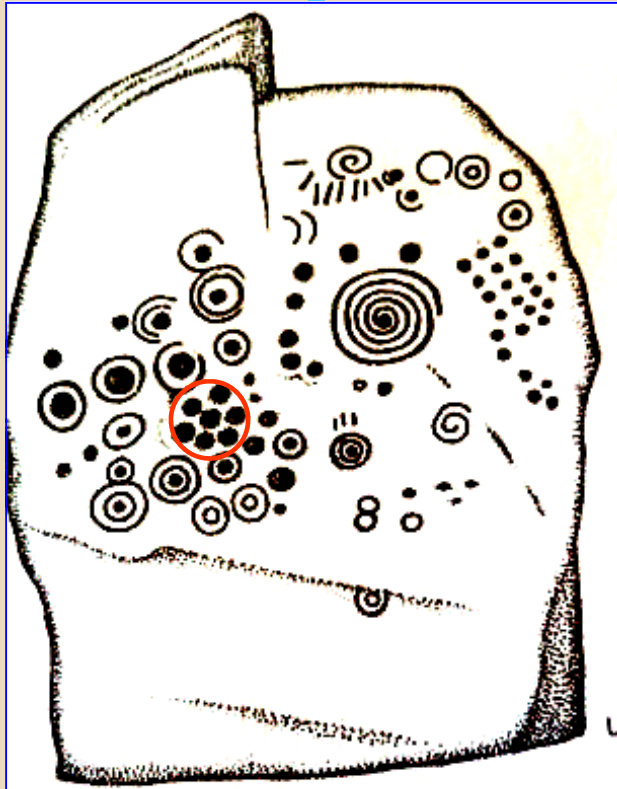


Fig. 2. The Loughcrew petroglyph panel.

Khalid Al-Ajaji, an astronomer in Saudi Arabia, confirmed that the Pleiades and

the Southern Cross or Crux are both visible in the night
> [Cont. on page 16](#)

Ireland petroglyphs further support for Pleiades nova (cont.)

sky low on the horizon in Mecca today (Fig. 4). This

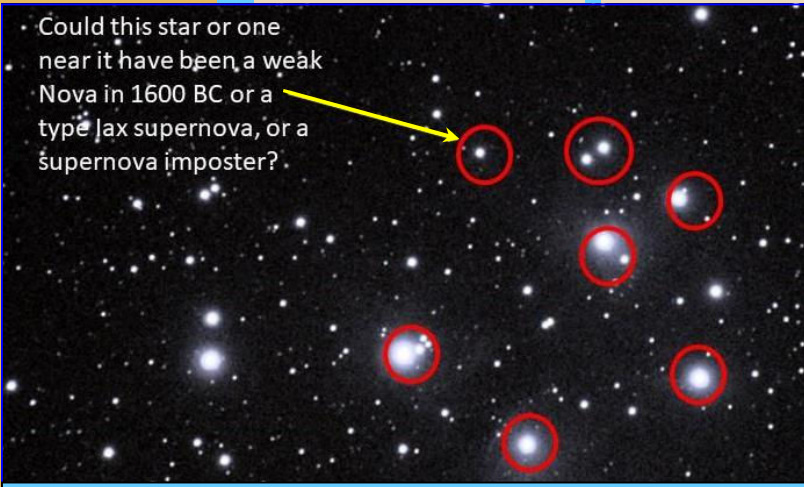
ing this event in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

The opinion of archaeologist Brian Haughton, also in the prior issue of *PCN* (use link on page 1) seems to be pointing in the same direction:

“In the Bronze Age one of the group of stars may have been much brighter.”

I suggest we now have mounting evidence that over 3,000 years ago is when a nova appeared in the Pleiades for a short time and was depicted in rock art around the world!

Abdulrahman Albalawi, in Saudi Arabia, recently found another petroglyph which also appears to be a possible depiction of the Pleiades (Fig. 5). This glyph has not yet been dated. And since it is depicted differently from all the other petroglyphs I initially thought it may



Could this star or one near it have been a weak Nova in 1600 BC or a type Ia supernova, or a supernova imposter?

Note: In our prior *PCN* article, it was noted there have been claims of 9–16 stars visible in the Pleiades yet people only speak of the “seven sisters.” Therefore, it had to be a unique

Fig. 3. From last issue. The arrow points to the star in the Pleiades that probably went nova for a time when the rock art tradition of the ‘Seven Sisters’ began. A nova could have made the star bright enough to be seen as one of the ‘seven.’

allowed me to do a crude calculation for the date of the petroglyph in Tabuk

grouping of stars in order to explain the consistency



Fig. 4. From *PCN* #73: Abdulrahman confirmed w/ astronomer Khalid Al-Ajaji both the Southern Cross (Crux) and the Pleiades cluster would have been visible in the Mecca night sky at the same time. Star chart produced in Stellarium astronomy program (arrows added).



Fig. 5. Another Pleiades rock art glyph recently discovered in Saudi Arabia by Abdulrahman Albalawi. Compare with his prior discoveries in [The Pleiades rock art enigma and its growing international context](#) *PCN* #77, May-June 2022.

Saudi Arabia discovered by Abdulrahman Albalawi. See [Saudi panel: Part 2 of the Pleiades rock art saga](#) (*PCN* #73, Sept-Oct 2021). I dated the Tabuk petroglyph panel to over 3,000 years ago. I am confident the idea these depictions cluster around 3600 years ago is more than coincidence. I am also confident that since the Southern Cross was visible when the seven (7) stars in the Pleiades became visible for the first time during a Nova, the depiction of this unique event coinciding with the Southern Cross also visible on the horizon would have been a way of mark-

of this description from many diverse cultures. I believe it had to be the arrangement of one (1) star surrounded by six (6) other stars that became known as the seven (7) sisters.

The well-known Nebra sky disk was dated to 3600 years ago. Lakota Star Knowledge was dated to as much as 3600 years ago as well!

In the prior issue of *PCN*, Juan dated a Pleiades panel in Chile to 3,200–3,300 years ago.

With all this said, the depictions in Ireland may date to the same time period.

have been made at a different time or that it wasn’t a Pleiades depiction at all. Then I thought it may be a representation of an alternate theory I was considering:

A depiction made during ideal viewing conditions ‘without’ a nova star?

Juan Crocco had sent me an article discussing the Pleiades cluster based on the number of stars visible according to variations in viewing conditions (B. Orlove, J.C.H. Chiang and

> [Cont. on page 17](#)

Ireland petroglyphs further support for Pleiades nova (cont.)

"The well-known Ne-



Fig. 6. B. Orlove *et al*'s clear simulation of how the number of stars in the Pleiades visible with the naked eye changes dramatically according to atmospheric viewing conditions. Top image show appearance with minimal atmospheric disturbances such as cirrus clouds.

bra sky disk was dated to 3600 years ago. La-kota Star Knowledge was dated to as much as 3600 years ago as well!"

M.A. Cane. 2002. Ethnoclimatology in the Andes: A cross-disciplinary study uncovers a scientific basis for the scheme Andean potato farmers traditionally use to predict the coming rains," in *American Scientist* 90 [5]: 428-35). See **Fig. 6.**

It helped me see Abdulrahman's Tabuk depiction as a representation different from other depictions around the world perhaps due to its being made during 'ideal' viewing conditions. It may be an alternative to consider compared to my primary belief that the regular appearance of many rock art depictions of the Pleiades were likely similar due to the observable presence of a nova in the cluster at a certain time. See **Fig. 7** and **Fig. 8.**

However, the newly photographed Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, petroglyph didn't align with the stars-excluding-nova-star either as observed or mirrored.

I was about to ignore the petroglyph completely as possibly not even a Pleiades depiction

when I realized that all the other worldwide depictions were each themselves 'simplified' depictions with *evenly spaced stars around a centered star*—the kind of order our minds like to find with shapes, especially symmetry. I then realized Abdulrahman's discovery could actually be a more literal depiction than more commonly seen, which actually supports my nova theory!

So, I decided to test the idea out by overlaying the

Not only is it a close match but it appears to match my

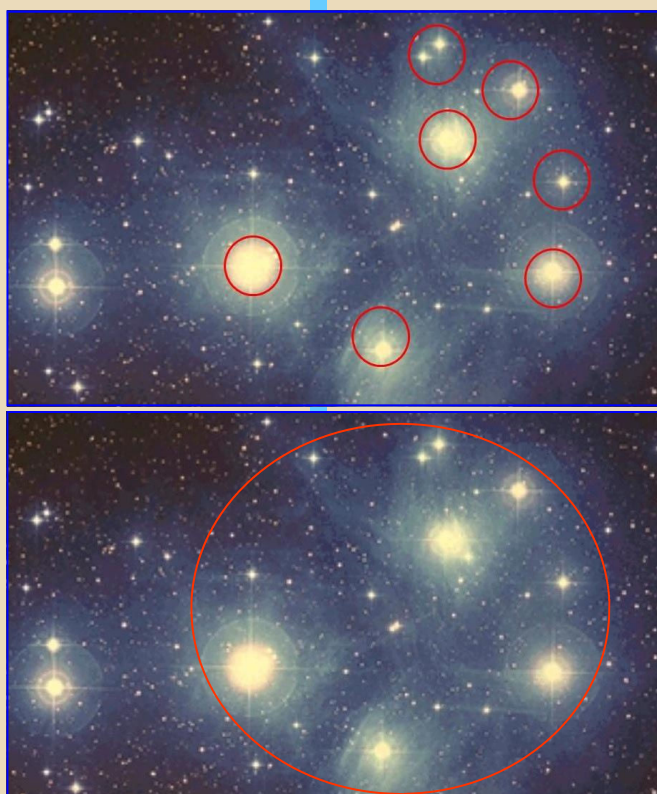


Fig. 7. An optional way of viewing the Pleiades 7-star cluster excluding a nova star. My circles over a Wikimedia Commons color composite.

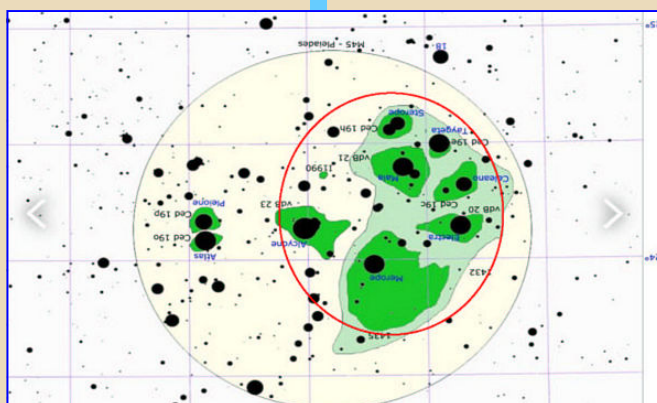


Fig. 8. Star chart Pleiades and their nebulae (Wikimedia Commons) rotated 180° with my emphasis on inner group of stars (dark red circle).

photographic image of the Pleiades as seen in Fig. 3 (the figure with the stars circled in red) on top of the rock art glyph. I was quite surprised to see it is a notably close match (See **Fig. 9** on the following page).

initial interpretive choice to account for the traditional seven stars—a nova. See again Fig. 3 for an easier location sense of the proposed nova star. That position is more

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Ireland petroglyphs further support for Pleiades nova (cont.)

"I decided to test the idea out by overlaying the photographic image of the Pleiades as seen in Fig. 3 (the figure with the stars circled in red) on top of the rock art glyph. I was quite surprised to see it is a notably close match."

consistent with many of the images in rock art. Abdulrahman's new glyph may be the only literal depiction of the Pleiades so far vs. the more 'figurative' or 'stylized' depictions I have discussed since discovering the Paiute reservation glyph in Arizona. That was the rock art glyph that perfectly matched the Pleiades arrangement on the popularly-known Nebra sky disk.

Dowth/Tabuk

After writing the main part of this article I found a glyph in the book: *The stones of time*, by Martin Brennan, which resembled Abdulrahman's new glyph from Tabuk, Saudi Arabia (Fig. 10). The glyph is from Dowth, Ireland. After rotating it and superimposing it on a mirrored version of the Pleiades star cluster I found it, as well, to be a very close match as a 'literal' depiction showing the proposed nova star with the exception of the center star which is 'centered' vs. 'off-center' in the actual Pleiades cluster (Fig. 11).

Below is the most recent prior article in the series. It contains links to most of the earlier articles:

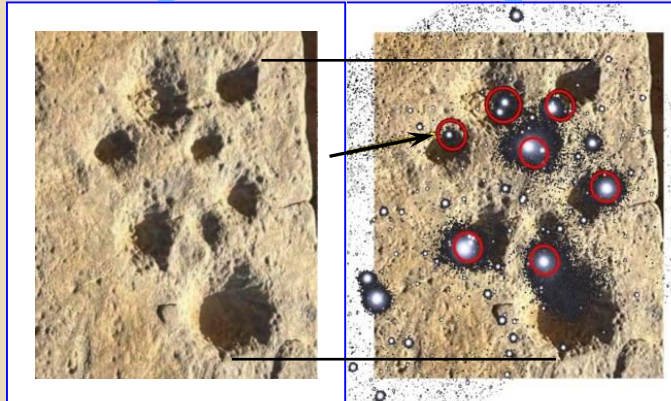


Fig. 9. The remarkable bright-star alignment I discovered after superimposing the Pleiades photo image from Fig. 3 (Right red-circled stars) over Abdulrahman's recent petroglyph discovery in Saudi Arabia (Left). It is a notably close match. The **arrow** is pointing at the proposed one-time nova star visible when many rock art glyphs were created.

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

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<https://juan-crocco-abalos.blogspot.com/>

ABDULRAHMAN ALBALAWI is a technical engineer with a passion for rock art, inscriptions and history. He has been discovering and photographing rock art in northwestern Saudi Arabia's Tabuk region since 2014. In 2019, Albalawi established a Facebook group devoted to rock art and to help lead to a greater understanding of its possible meanings worldwide.

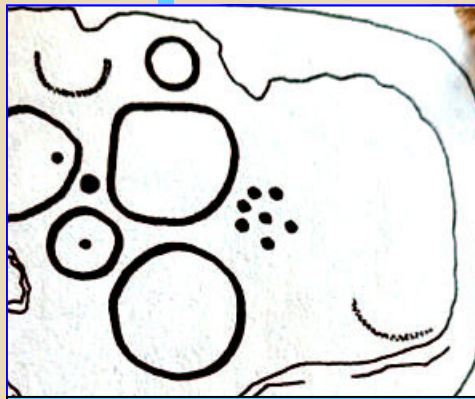


Fig. 10. A redrawn apparent representation of the Pleiades cluster (center) discovered in Dowth, Ireland; from Martin Brennan's book *The stones of time*.

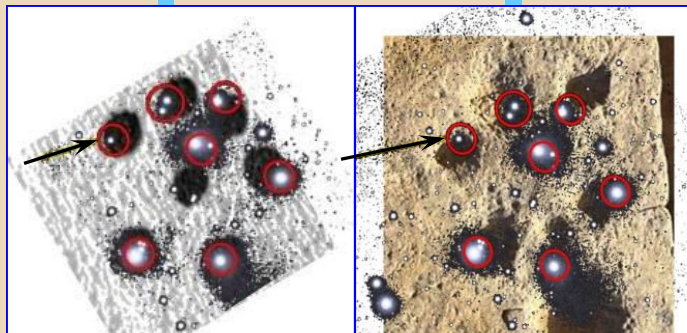


Fig. 11. Left: Dowth, Ireland likely Pleiades star cluster representation rotated and superimposed on a 'mirrored' version of the Pleiades star cluster. This also appears to be a very close match to Albalawi's Saudi glyph, **Right**, as a 'literal' depiction showing the proposed nova star. The nova star in each is indicated by an arrow and a red circle.

[The Pleiades rock art enigma and its growing international context](#) (PCN #77, May-June 2022).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/463030367655466/posts/840031606622005/>



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