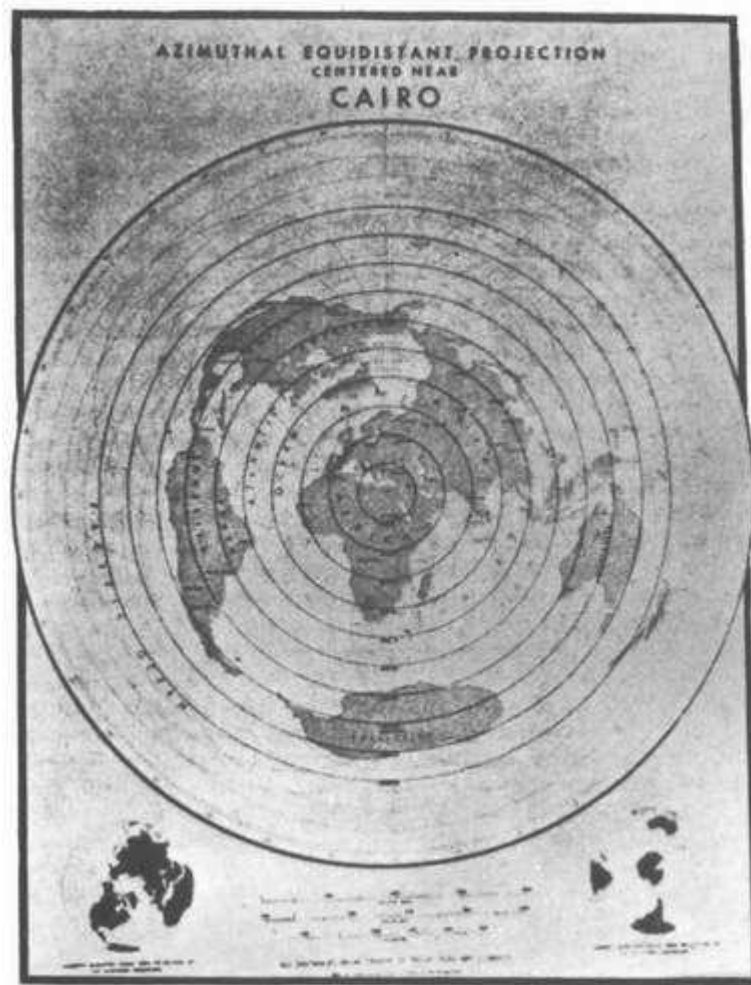


Images



One of the maps found in the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, in the library of Admiral Piri Reis early in the eighteenth century. It shows the Americas and West Africa. Antarctica, mapped at the bottom, conforms very closely to the land mass under the ice, as revealed by echo-sounding gear. In recorded history it has never been free of ice.



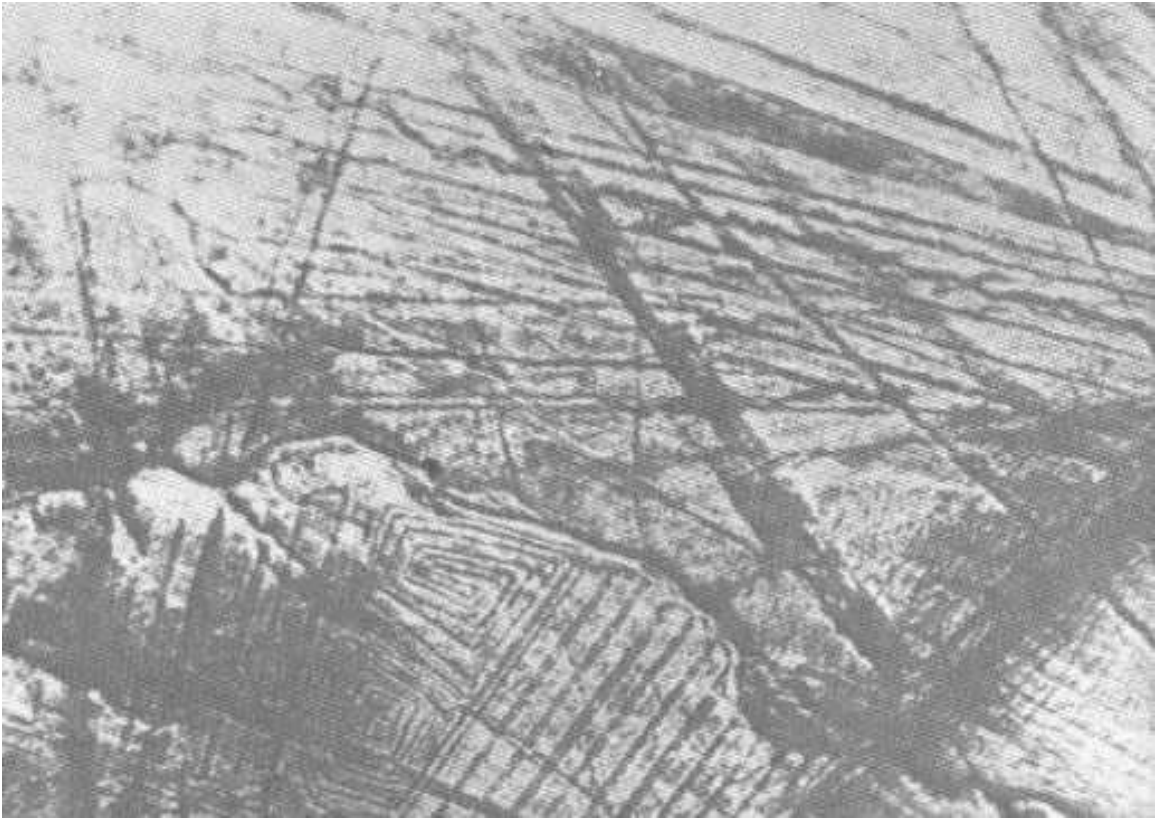
Cartographers projected the Pin Reis map on to a grid using the reference points shown on the map. It then appeared virtually identical with this United States Air Force map of the world on an equidistant projection based on Cairo.



The earth taken from Apollo 8 shows close similarity to the Piri Reis map
The curious elongated shape of the Americas is particularly striking.



On the Plain of Nazca in Peru appear these strange markings A view of the plain showing that the markings (Inca roads, say the archaeologists) lead nowhere.



The markings in greater detail.



Another of the strange markings on the Plain of Nazca. This is very reminiscent of the aircraft parking bays on a modern airport.



This huge 820-ft. figure above the Bay of Pisco points to the Plain of Nazca. Could this be an aerial direction indicator rather than a symbol of religious significance?



This is the ancient Mayan Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque in Mexico.



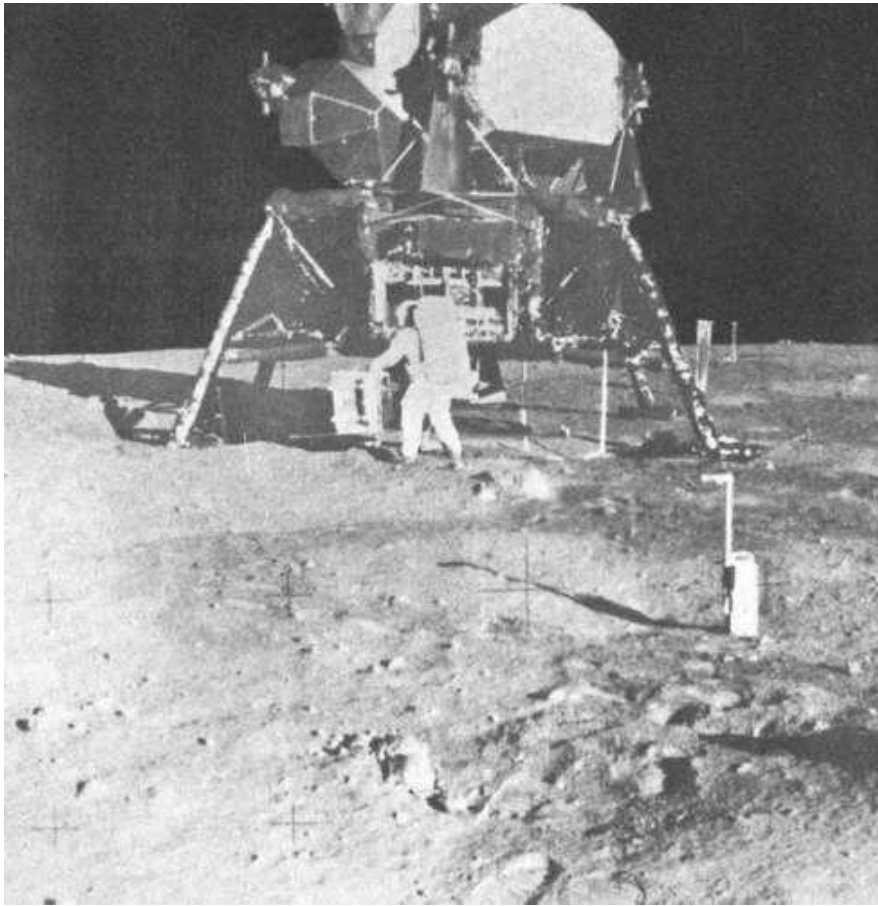
Inside on the wall of one of the small chambers is this relief engraving. There is not enough space to take a full front view photograph, but there is enough detail to check the artist's drawing reproduced on the next page.



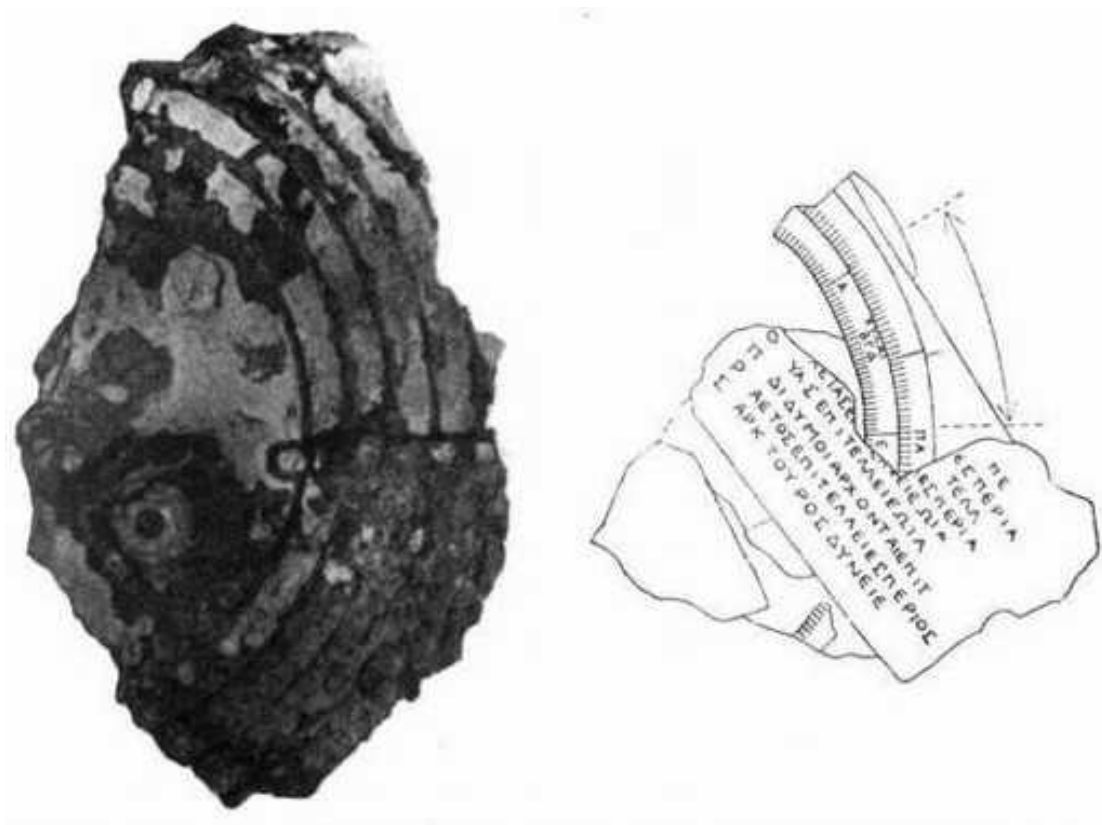
This drawing was made in the Temple. Could primitive imagination have produced anything so remarkably similar to a modern astronaut in his rocket? Those strange markings at the foot of the drawing can only be an indication of the flames and gases coming from the propulsion unit.



American astronauts today take up the same position, their hands on controls, their eyes checking instruments.



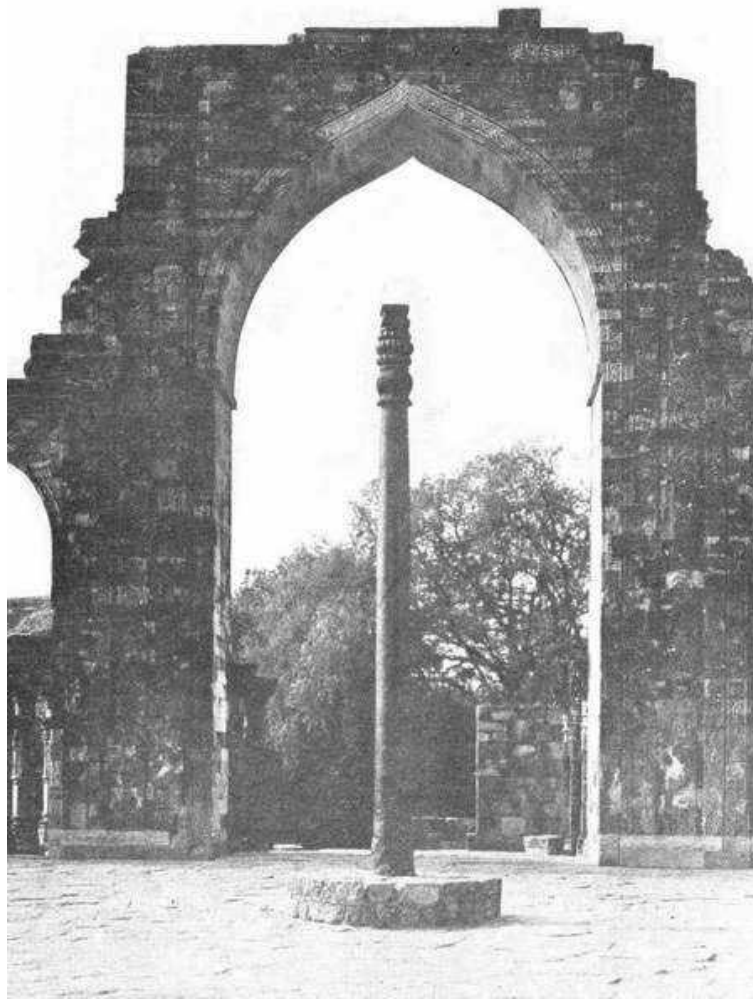
On July 21st, 1969 a London bookmaker paid out £10,000. Only five years earlier he gave odds of a thousand to one that man would not land on the moon before 1970. A fortnight later the Americans released photographs taken 2,000 miles away from Mars Space travel had moved out of the realms of science fiction.



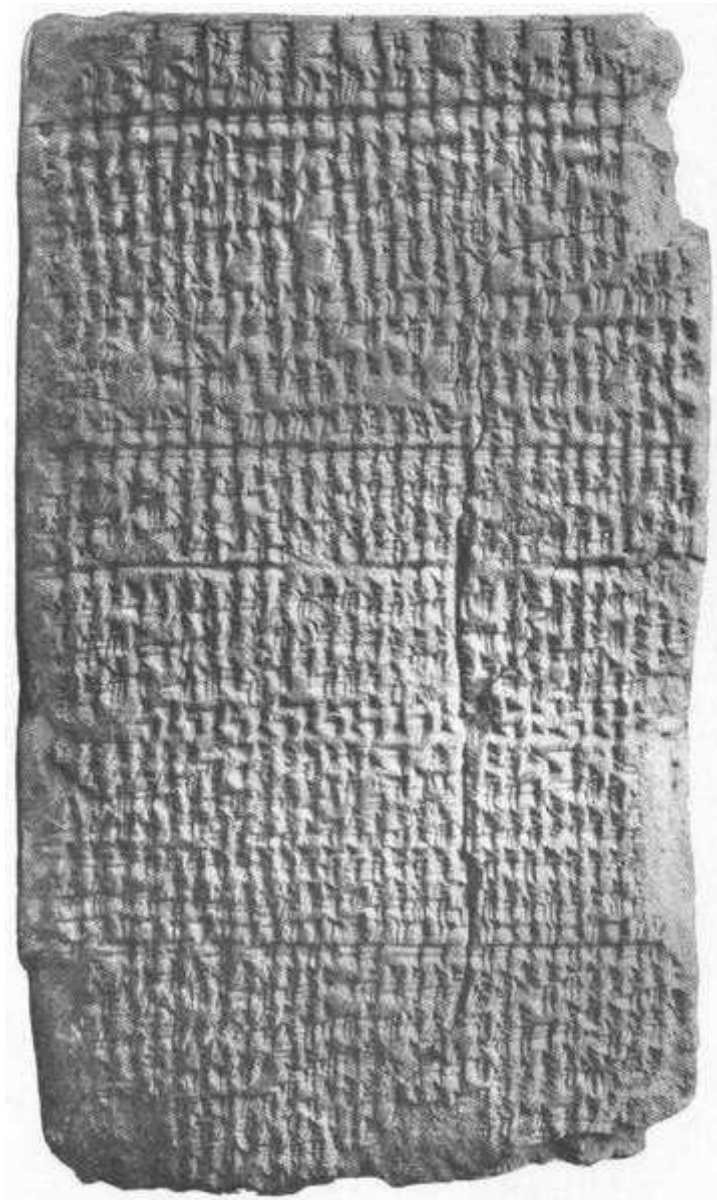
After centuries under the sea this object does not look very important. It was found by Greek divers off Antikythera in 1900. Above, right: Long and patient cleaning revealed that it was a mass of interlocking cogs and was a planetarium. The machine gives the year of construction as 82 BC. This drawing reconstructs part of the machine.



Easter Island is known as the 'navel of the world' by the islanders. The huge statues on this tiny fragment of rock are extraordinary. Even more extraordinary is the fact that this totally isolated island had its own script, which is still undeciphered.



This ancient iron pillar does not rust. It cannot be accurately dated, but it is hundreds of years old.

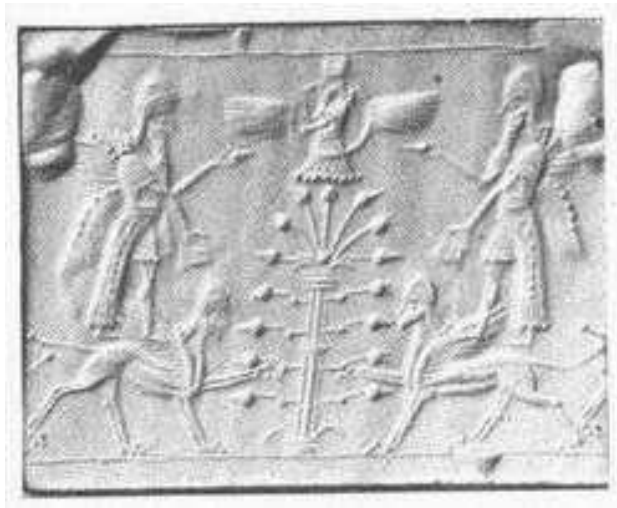


This Babylonian tablet records past and future eclipses.

Here are three curious things from Assyria and one from Iraq:



The "god Shamasi" It is from the third millennium BC and shows stars and figures with peculiar headgear Why should ancient gods be associated with the stars'?



The second tablet is from the early first millennium BC. The object in the centre is described as a sacred tree. It could just as reasonably be interpreted as a symbolic representation of the construction of an atom, with an astronaut in a fiery chariot above. We have a figure within a winged circle and below the circle a representation.



Next we have an Assyrian crystal lens from the seventh century BC. To grind such a lens requires a highly sophisticated mathematical formula. Where did the Assyrians get such knowledge?

Finally, these very ancient fragments, now in the Baghdad Museum, have been identified as the remains of an electric battery.

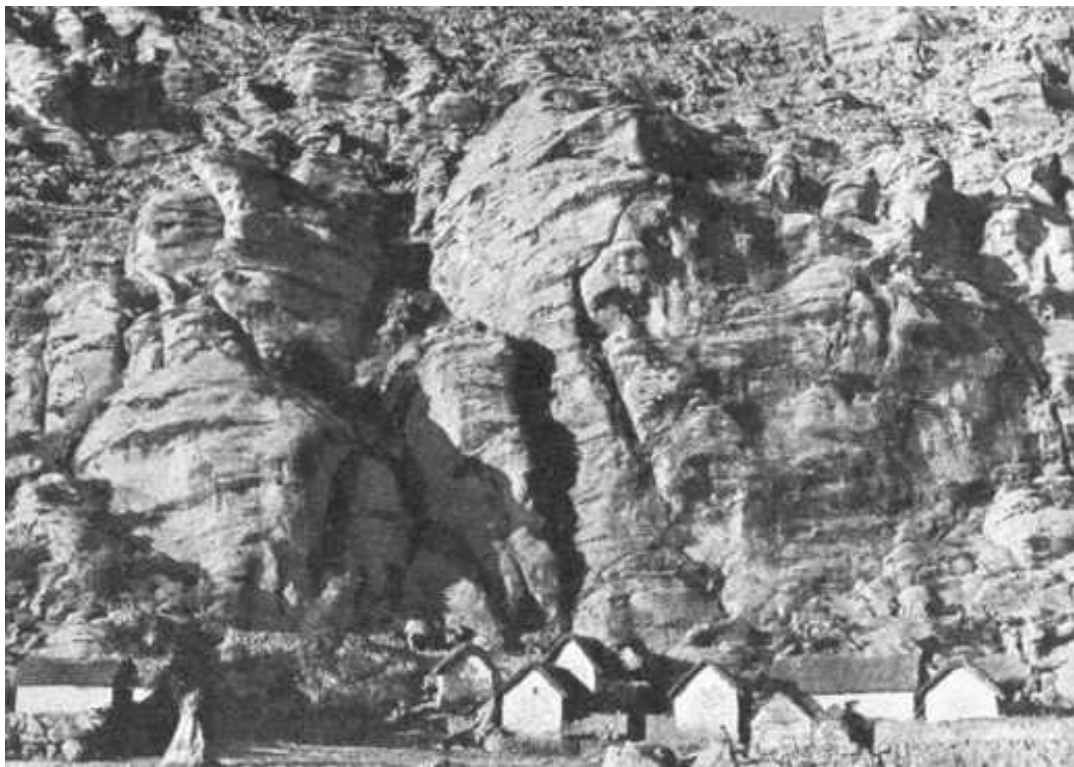
The next five photographs are from South America, a continent teeming with ruins and unexplained puzzles:



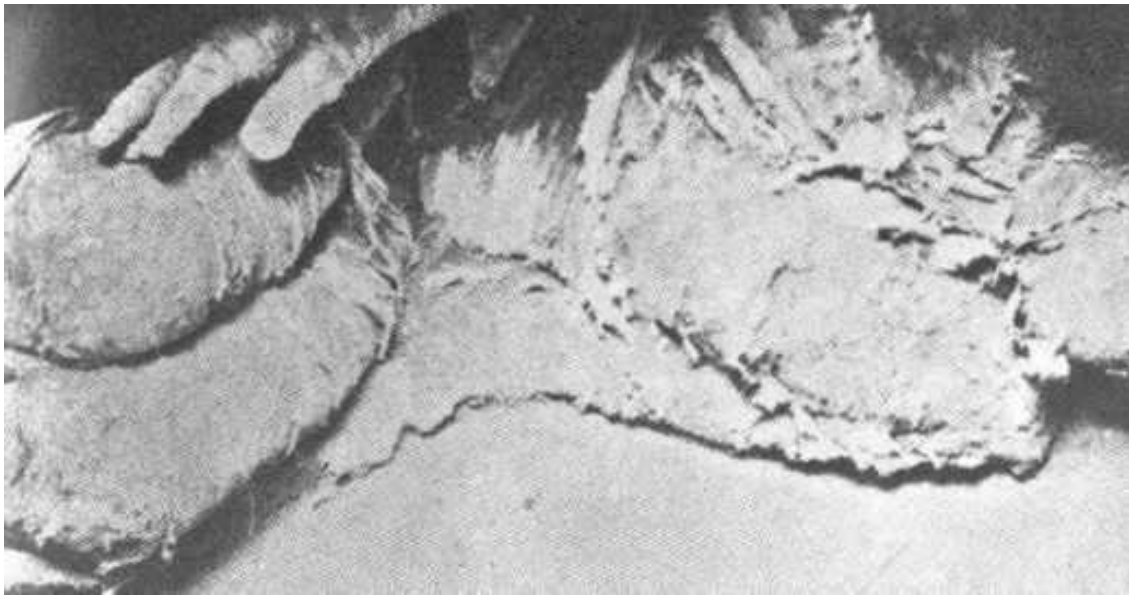
This is part of a huge monolithic block weighing an estimated 20,000 tons It can be found at Sacsayhuaman in Peru



What was its purpose? What titanic forces turned it upside down?
And what did these great steps lead to? A throne for giants perhaps?



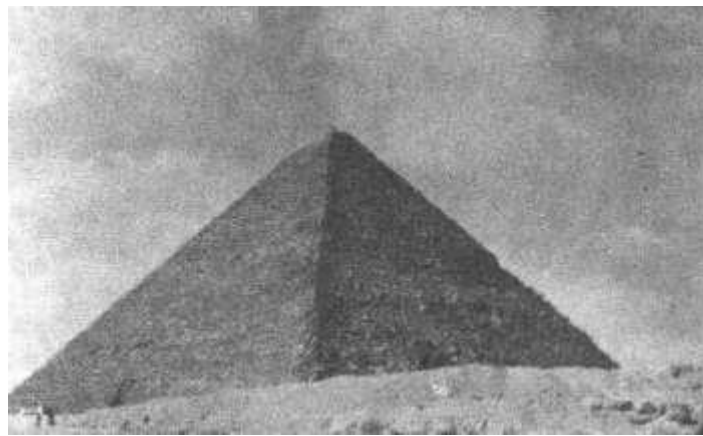
Rock vitrification requires very high temperatures. What caused it in Peru?



Part of the huge terrace walls at Sacsayhuaman. Just look at the incredible accuracy of the jointing. How could primitive people handle these huge blocks?



A mummy from the Second Dynasty.
Part of a very finely woven piece of cloth. Where did the Egyptians get such complex techniques so early?



With wood rollers and manpower it would have taken at least 600 years to handle the 2½ million stone blocks in the great pyramid of Cheops.



As in Peru, we are faced with fantastically accurate jointing of huge blocks of stone.



This temple at Copan in Honduras is constructed according to the Mayan calendar with a fixed number of steps completed every 52 years.



There is no recorded history of Tiahuanaco. On the Gate of the Sun, above, carved out of a single 10-ton block, is the representation of a flying god flanked by forty-eight mysterious figures. Legend tells of a golden space ship which came from the stars.



On the great idol, is found information about astronomical phenomena covering an immense span of time.



Once again what primitive people had techniques for handling and accurately jointing such huge blocks of stone, in this case water conduits 6ft long and 1½ ft

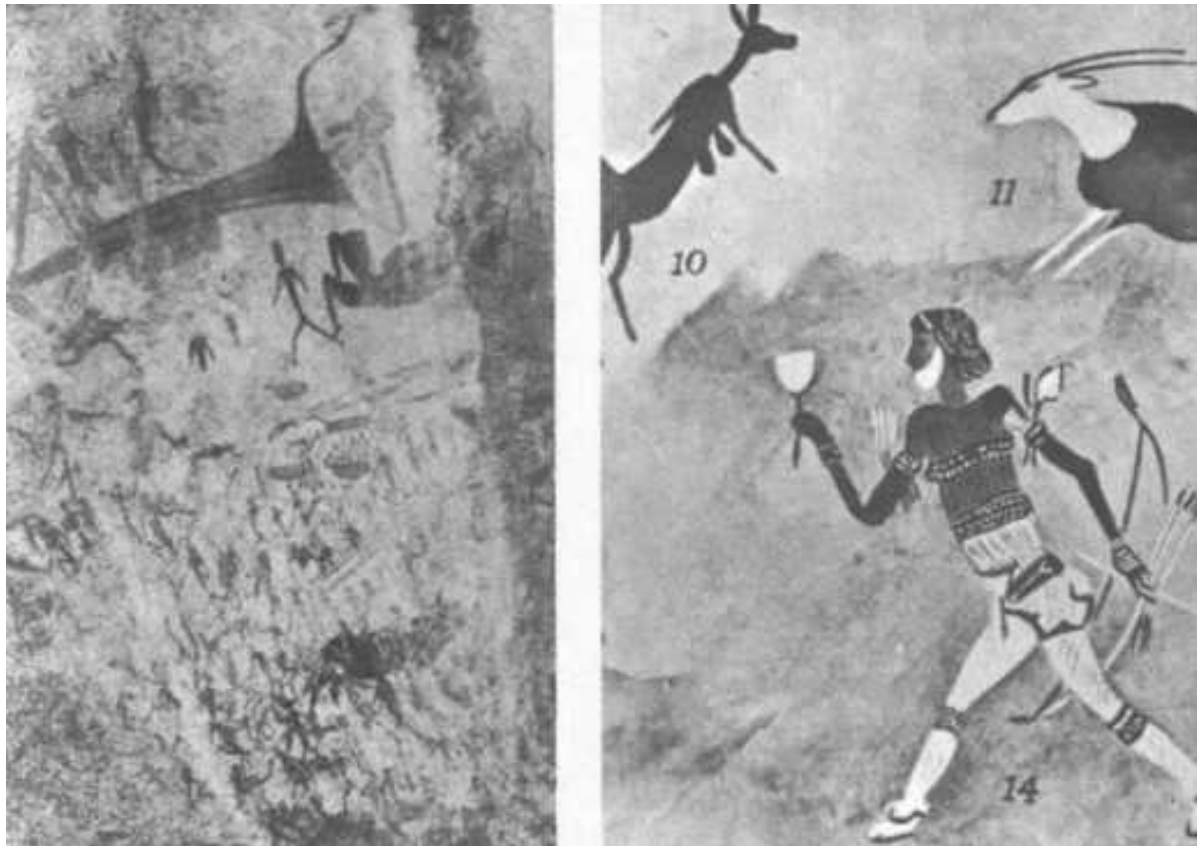


El Castillo at Chichen Itza, Mexico. This also has been constructed according to the Mayan calendar. The 91 steps on each side add up to 364 and the final platform gives 365.



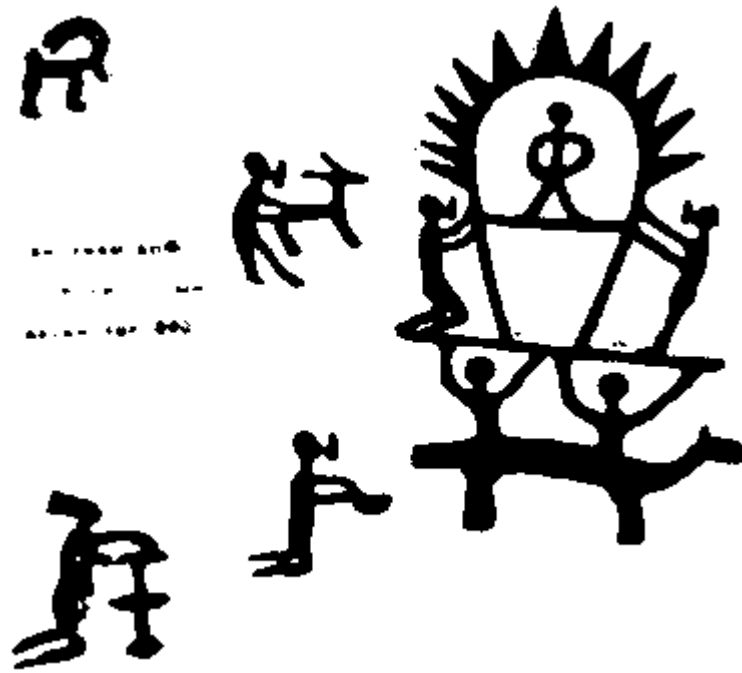
In Bolivia near Santa Cruz are long concrete constructions Could these really be roads for people who did not use the wheel?

Rock drawings from all round the world:



(Left) – From Rhodesia. This reclining figure is clad in chainmail and wears curious headgear. It might be the burial of a king. It might just as likely be an astronaut receiving supplies.

(Right) – This drawing from South Africa shows a white figure dressed in a short sleeved suit with breeches, garters, gloves and slippers. A rather surprising example of imagination on the part of primitive natives who went about naked. This drawing was found by a Russian expedition.



This drawing from Val Camonica in Northern Italy shows yet again the extraordinary obsession



primitive man had with figures in suits and unusual headgear.

More ancient drawings:



From Navoy.



From Fergana in Uzbekistan



From Tassili in the Sahara.



An American astronaut Perhaps the earliest space travellers also wore suits
like this.
