

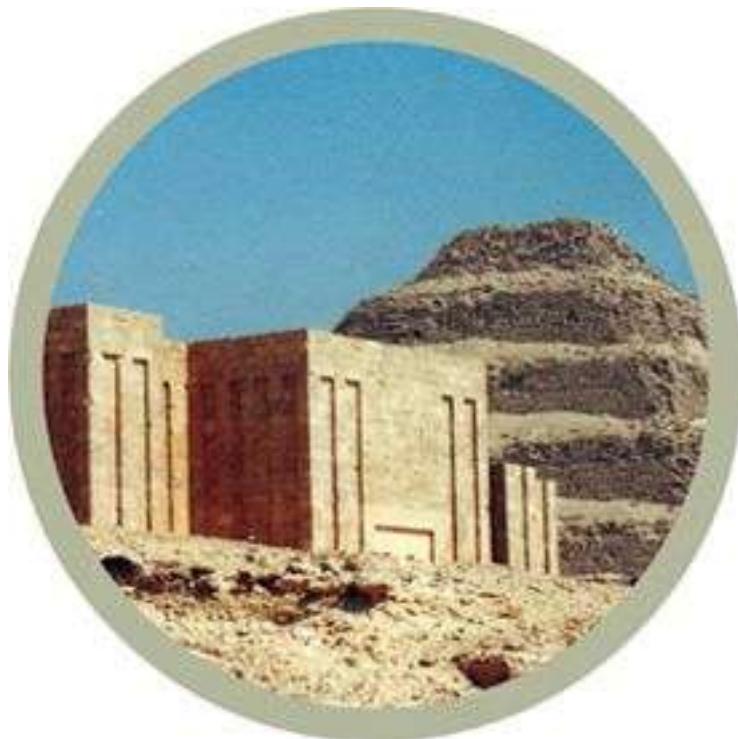
## THE ANCIENT ALIEN QUESTION



The Mitchell-Hedges Crystal Skull is the most enigmatic of all crystal skulls. Its detachable jaw, made from the same piece of crystal as the rest of the skull, has posed an impossible challenge for those looking for a simple explanation.



Ever since Macchu Picchu was discovered in 1911, its beauty and majesty has made it one of the must-visit places on the planet. Though the stones used in its construction are perhaps not as massive as those used in others such sites in Peru, its location makes it part of a sacred pattern that involved the wanderings of the civilizing deity Viracocha.



The Zoser Pyramid is the oldest pyramid in Egypt. The entire complex, both in layout and inscriptions, reveals the true purpose of the pyramids. They speak of a festival in which the Pharaoh was to become one with the gods, so that his power and character as a ruler were proven in the eyes of his subjects.



Just slightly smaller than the Great Pyramid, the Pyramid of Khafre has retained some of its covering stones at the top. It therefore allows one to

imagine how brilliant these pyramids must have looked in the sunlight during their heyday.



The three pyramids at Giza, just outside of the Egyptian capital of Cairo, are the ancient world's most enduring legacy. Their size and majesty can only be appreciated in person. They were laid out in the form of Orion's Belt, conforming to the layout of the Hopi Mesas in Arizona, as well as the pyramid complex in Teotihuacán, Mexico.



The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacán has many things in common with the Great Pyramid of Egypt. Together with the Pyramid of the Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, it forms the layout of Orion's Belt, which the pyramids at Giza also mirror. How were these cultures, separated by time and space, able to build their monuments according to the same template?



A detail of the hill that overlooks the temple complex of Ollantaytambo. A section of the hill clearly reveals a face, which has been linked with the god Viracocha, the civilizing deity of the Inca. Judging from the extraordinary engineering that went into some of the ancient structures found in Peru, the divine origins of their builders' techniques should not be dismissed.



The Wali Hopi Mesa is one of three Mesas in the heartland of the Hopi reservation in Arizona. Laid out according to Orion's Belt, it formed the final goal of a series of wanderings by various Native Americans, carried out on orders of their god, Maasaw.



The Tayos Cave was once wrongly identified as the site of the famous Metal Library, arguably one of the greatest treasure troves ever discovered. But when the Cave was explored in 1976, it became evident that sections of the complex were man-made.



The temple complex of Baalbek in Lebanon became the home of the largest Roman temple. But it is the platform below the Roman complex that is one of the great enigmas of the ancient world: it contains stones that weigh hundreds of tons, and no one knows how they were transported.



The Piri Reis map is an early 16th-century map that was constructed using several maps. The map shows the correct longitudes for the Brazilian coastline and, as some researchers suggest, the correct, pre-glacial coastline of Antarctica, a continent that would only be discovered three centuries later.



When the Spanish Conquistadors discovered the Coricancha, the Temple of the Sun, in the heart of the Inca capital of Cuzco, they stripped all the walls of their gold. Little remains of the temple, but what does remain reveals extraordinary workmanship that went into it, including this doorway.



The Nazca lines in Peru are one of the mainstays of the Ancient Alien Theory. Their patterns are reminiscent of the landing strips of modern airports; indeed, many tourists visiting the lines approach them in an airplane in a faux aborted landing so they can experience the full excitement.



Nazca line images courtesy of Erich von Däniken, used with permission



The Great Pyramid of Khufu is the only surviving wonder of the ancient world. Many believe that the scale and precision involved in building this gigantic monument was simply outside the scope of the ancient Egyptians. Recent discoveries have shown that the method and science involved in its construction are so advanced that the how was only recently discovered.



Detail of the section of the Pyramid of Khafre where the Arabs abandoned their work in removing the cover stones. It reveals the extraordinary precision involved in the building work of this and other pyramids.



The temple complex of Baalbek in Lebanon became the home of the largest Roman temple. But it is the platform below the Roman complex that is one of the great enigmas of the ancient world, as it holds stones that weigh hundreds of tons. No one knows how they were transported.



The Stone of the South, still in the quarry of the Baalbek complex. It is 69 feet long, and is estimated to weigh 1,200 tons. It is among the most gigantic stones ever to have been carved. How these and similar stones were ever meant to be transported is unknown, and poses challenges even to our modern equipment.



The French town of Carnac is primarily famous for its stone rows. More than 4,000 remain. But the area once also had the tallest standing stone in the world, weighing 340 tons and measuring 60 feet high. This incredibly large stone has since fallen and broken into various parts.



The site of Sacsayhuaman, located just above Cuzco, displays some of the largest and most extraordinary stones. The stones have several differently shaped sides, which somehow all fit perfectly together. This technique was necessary because of the severe earthquakes prevalent in the region. The Inca's construction technique has proven to withstand these quakes when no other buildings did.



The Sacred Valley of Peru descends from Lake Titicaca, via Cuzco and Ollantaytambo, to Macchu Picchu and beyond. It was the path walked by the civilizing deity Viracocha, which is why the valley is sacred. Based on the extraordinary engineering features found in the various monuments, the idea of an otherworldly interference is not incredible.



Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world. It is seen as the site where the Inca deity Viracocha emanated on this planet. The borders of the lake hold some of the most extraordinary archaeological sites, specifically Tiahuanaco and Puma Punku.



Ollantaytambo is built at an altitude that makes it almost impossible to believe that such gigantic stones went into the construction of the temple complex. But its location here was predicated on the presence of a sacred feature on the hill that overlooked the site: Its slope revealed a face, which was that of the god Viracocha himself.



Remarkable stonework built by pre-Inca people who lived in Peru can be seen in various locations, but one of the more interesting and accessible sites is the streets around the Coricancha in the “navel” of the Inca capital of Cuzco.



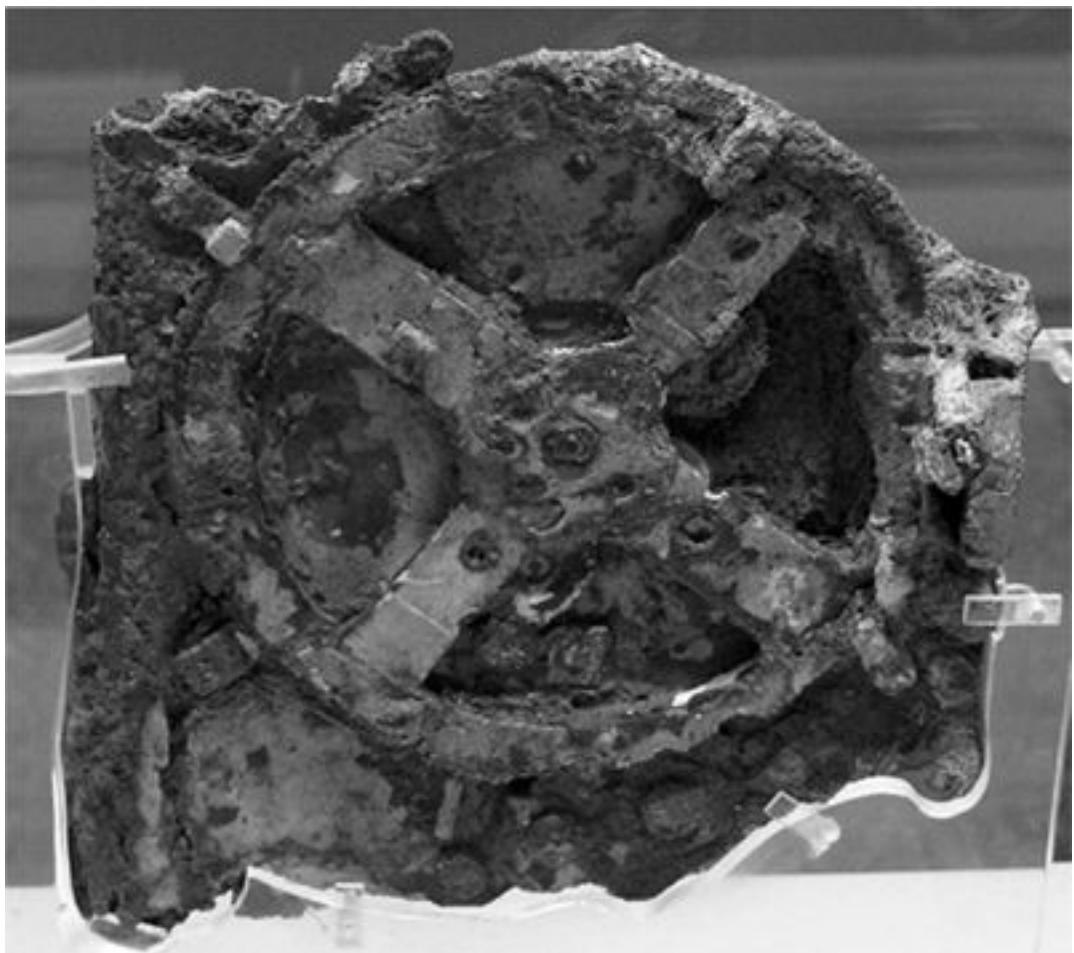
Puma Punku is one of the world's most enigmatic sites. The stones are not only gigantic in size, but they also show chiseling that is so precise and intricate that it is beyond the means of ordinary tools, but required machinery on par with our most modern equipment.



Even though we could reproduce some of the chiseling in the rocks, there are so many diverse shapes, channels, tubes, and holes that it is not simple to ascertain their purpose.



Stan Hall (left) and Neil Armstrong at the Tayos Cave basecamp, after Armstrong had entered the cave. If the Tayos Cave had been the location of the Metal Library, Armstrong would not only have been the first man on the moon, but also among the first to find evidence of one of the greatest enigmas on this planet.



The Antikythera Device was found in 1900 in a shipwreck. It was 50 years before anyone realized the device was a mechanism that incorporated accurate

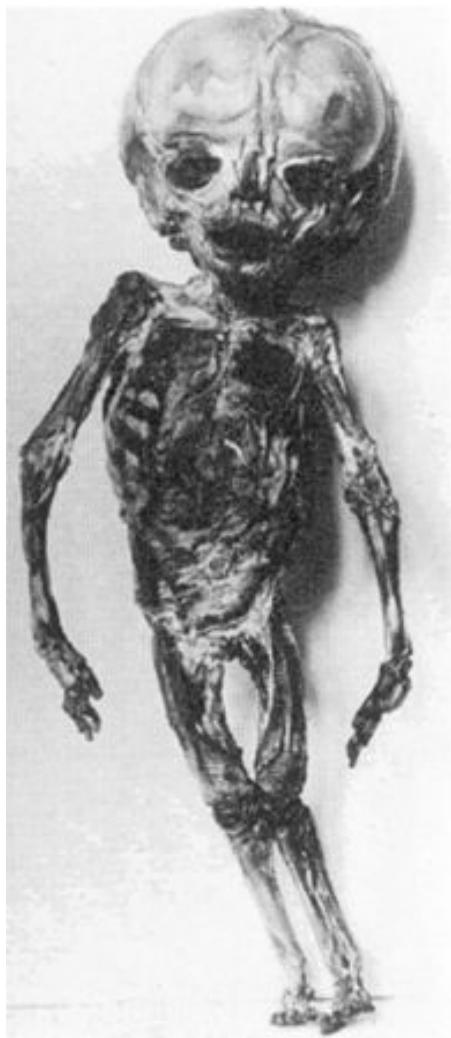
workings for various bodies of our solar system. It is now often considered to be the first computer.



The Pacal tomb is one of the best-known billboards for the traditional Ancient Alien Theory. When flipped 90 degrees, it appears as if Pacal is riding a type of flying scooter. Only when confronted with this challenge did archaeologists finally begin to look more carefully into the potential meaning of this tomb slab.

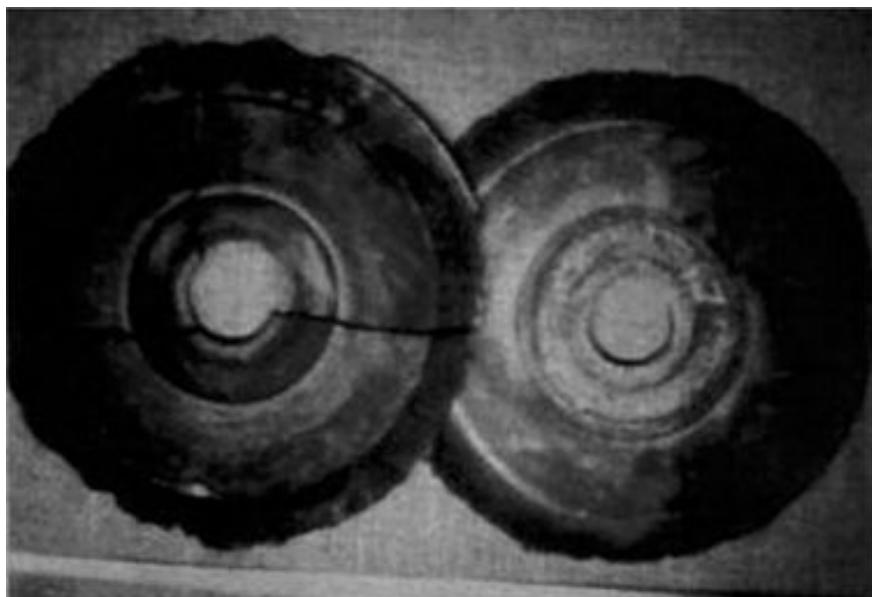


The Goldflyer is one of a series of scale models produced by a team of German enthusiasts who demonstrated that the “bees” found in the gold collections of many museums were actually planes, as von Däniken alleged.



The Chief Fetish appears to be a human male fetus, given to Mitchell-Hedges by a native tribe in Panama. But expert analysis revealed the formation of the skull to be a true anomaly, involving the eyelashes, the bones, and more. It

currently resides in the British Museum, and no research has been done at all toward exploring the mysteries of this object.

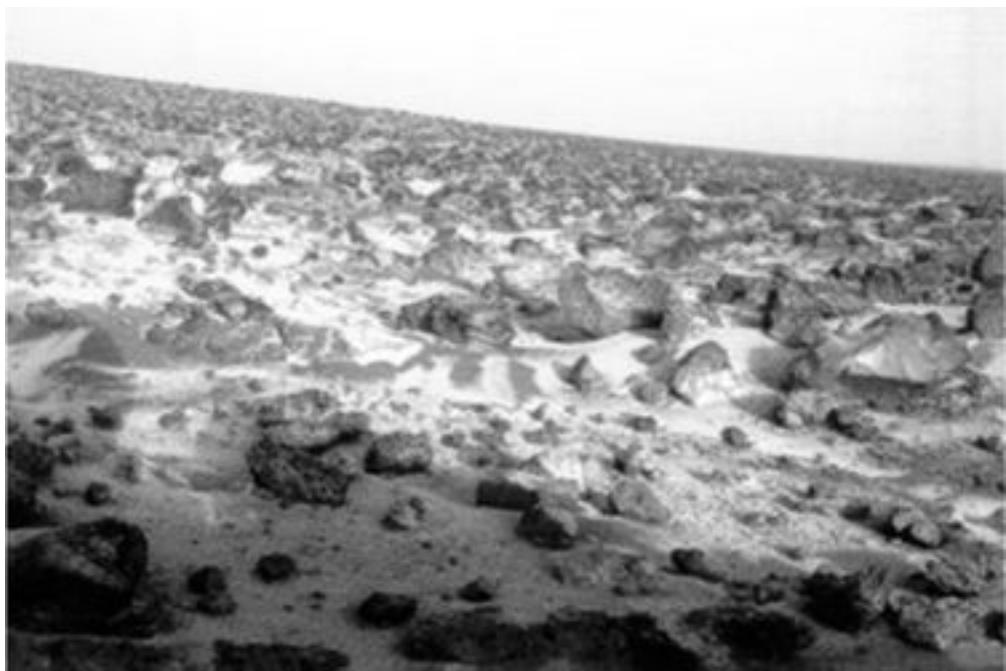


The so-called Dropa disks were rumored to contain information about a crashed alien spaceship in the Chinese mountain range of Baian-Kara-Ula. They are among the most controversial evidence that extraterrestrial beings once visited our planet.



Few images of the Dropa tribe exist, but the few that do show that the facial features of these people are quite extraordinary. Scientists have made various attempts to explain these features away, but could it be that they look the way

they do because their ancestors interbred with the survivors of a crashed spaceship, as the Dropa themselves believe?



When probes landed on Mars, early experiments apparently showed that there was no life on the Red Planet. But since then, those results have been questioned. Together with evidence from meteorites, images like these, which show frost on the Martian surface in the morning, indicate Mars once was home to living organisms.



In July 1976, the Viking space probe photographed something the camera suggested to be a face. For many years to come, until NASA sent another space probe to Mars and re-imaged that region, this image led to enormous speculation that a Martian civilization had been discovered.



In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Edward Leedskalnin, a Latvian immigrant with no formal education, built an elaborate stone complex in Homestead, Florida. He used no heavy equipment or machinery, and teenagers sneaking into the complex said they saw the stones float as if they were balloons.

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