

## 19 Russell Burrows Cave Texts

Stuart L. Harris, October 2011

### Summary of Russell Burrows Cave Texts

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An artifact retrieved from Burrows Cave has a 7-letter inscription in Iberian. It cannot be faked because Iberian was unknown when the cave was discovered. The central figure is a young boy dressed as a warrior. He is Joba II, who transformed Carthage into the wealthiest province of the Roman Empire. The inscription reads that Joba will carry the ashes within of his deceased parent in a funeral ceremony

Two nearly identical steles from Burrows Cave and Cuenca, Ecuador, have an image of an elephant surmounted by a sun above an inscription in Old European that begins, "Sun Spirit grants Elephant a new land of peace"

### Russell Burrows Cave Discovery

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### Joba II and Cleopatra Selene

Joba II, Prince of Numidia (today's Libya) was born in 51 BC and died in 23 AD, the only child of King Joba I of Numidia and an unknown mother. Numidia at that time consisted of most of north Africa that had once been Carthage. Joba descended from the sister of Hannibal, and his family from Phoenicians a thousand years earlier.

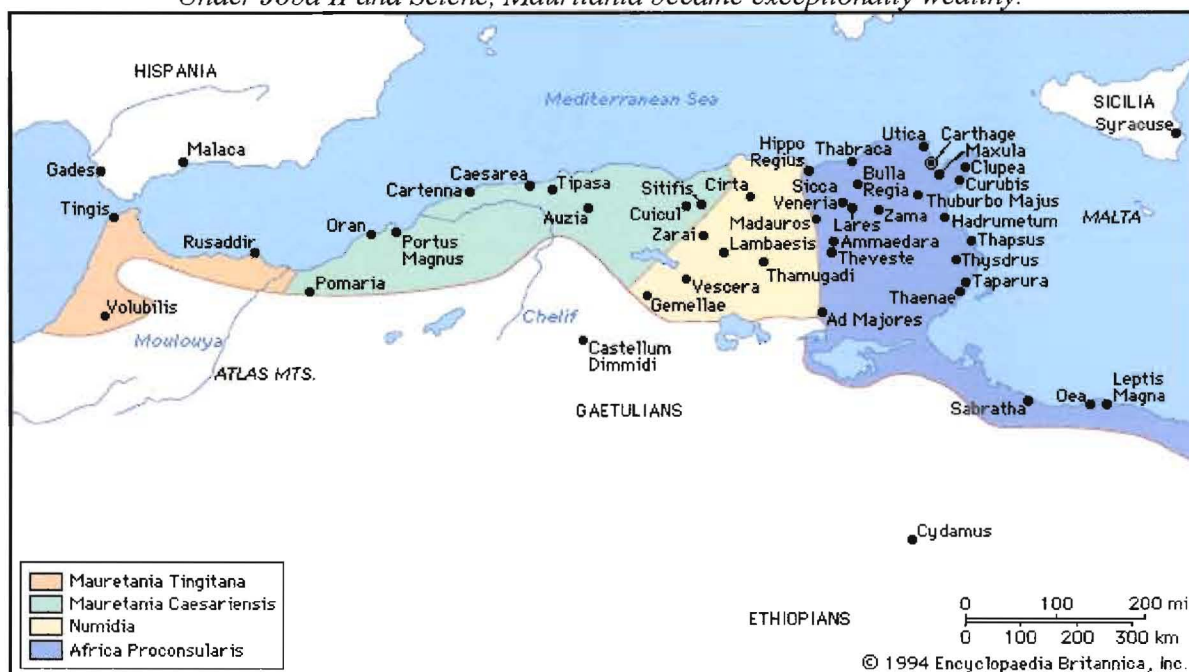
His father was an ally of the Roman General Pompey, thus an enemy of Julius Caesar. In 46 BC, when prince Joba was five, King Joba fought a losing battle against Julius Caesar at Thapsus, south of Carthage.

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<sup>1</sup> Frank Joseph, 2003, "The lost treasure of King Juba", Bear & Company, ISBN 1-59143-006-2 (paperback).

## Russell Burrows Cave Discovery

*Figure 1: Mauritania, from Numidia to south of Tangiers, with its capital at Caesarea. Under Juba II and Selene, Mauritania became exceptionally wealthy.*



His corps of war elephants had stampeded, throwing the Numidian infantry into disarray. After this crushing defeat, Juba sought refuge at Zama, near the sea, where he planned to join his wife and son. But he was turned out of the city by his own countrymen, who were disenchanted by his failed ambitions. Disgraced, he retired to a royal pavilion some distance away, where he feasted on a magnificent banquet with his handful of remaining followers. After this last supper, he fought a duel to the death with his chief general so that both men might die honorably. As the mortally wounded victor, Juba ordered a slave to finish him off. Thereafter, Numidia ceased to exist. Caesar formed it into a Roman province, Africa Nova.<sup>2</sup>

Julius Caesar took prince Juba to Rome where he took part in Caesar's triumphal procession. He decided to give the prince the best education possible, under the guidance of his own sister. Juba mastered everything. He was granted Roman citizenship and became a renowned scholar, perhaps the most well known of his time

Fluent in Numidian, Latin, Greek and Phoenician, he was something of a genius, publishing dozens of books on history, botany, geography, zoology, philosophy, poetry, grammar, painting, music, dance, sculpture and travel. His work on the history of theater alone comprised seven volumes.

Caesar Augustus was concerned that an excess of intellectualism so early in life was not good for the development of the young man's character, ..., and drafted him into the army for two years. He rose to become an officer in Spain, where he conducted operations against a rebellious Celtic tribe, the Cantabri. He distinguished himself as a coolly calculating

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

commander and administrator, just, merciful and efficient. These classical Roman qualities did much to endear him to the native Iberians under his sway.

Returning to the capital, ...., he became a researcher in Greek manuscripts at Rome's first public library, the Hall of the Goddess of Liberty. Juba became assistant to the head librarian, Gaius Julius Hegenus, and with Gaius's permission, selected certain highly literate Greek prisoners of war and organized them as educated copyists, the *servi literati*, at another library-museum, the Temple of Apollo.

Innovative actions such as these brought him to the attention of Marcus Terentius Varro, a poet, archaeologist, historian and grammarian, chosen by Caesar to expand the Roman library system. Together the two scholars were responsible for an upsurge in general literacy through their establishment of new branches throughout the city.<sup>3</sup>

*Figure 2: Bust of Joba II. Source Archaeological Museum, Rabat.*



Augustus appointed him to his homeland, the former Numidia, to rule as proconsul. Before leaving, Empress Livia introduced him to beautiful 15-year old Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Cleopatra and Mark Antony. They fell in love and married to great popular acclaim. In just two years they resurrected Africa Nova by rebuilding a thousand mile aqueduct ten feet high by twelve feet wide from the Ghat Oasis to the capital city of Garama, then revived irrigation agriculture with additional aqueducts. He mapped the country and rebuilt roads between cities.

Joba petitioned Caesar to return to Rome, but was sent further west to Mauritania, ancient home of the Phoenicians, which extended past the Pillars of Hercules and down the coast of Africa, about 800 miles of shoreline. He and Cleopatra Selene were to rule conjointly as King and Queen. He gained the support of the fractious tribes at a mass meeting by offering to honor and protect their gods, customs, languages and way of life. All he asked was peace and, if they so

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.



## Russell Burrows Cave Discovery

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inclined, cooperation. He would use the Roman Legions to end internal strife. Henceforth, disputes would be settled by the exercise of just and impartial laws. Banditry and outlawry by anyone would be ruthlessly punished.

Joba's transparent sincerity, almost naiveté, caused the suspicious Tuaregs, Berbers, Gaetuli, Mauri and remnant Carthaginians to pause for sullen consideration. He was unlike any leader they had ever seen, offering them friendly peace with one hand and iron justice with the other. The mood of uncertainty was dispelled when Joba unexpectedly leapt upon his horse and gave them a superior demonstration of his equestrian skill. The tribesmen, deeply proud of their horsemanship, roared their appreciation. Here indeed was a real man to lead them."

There followed unprecedented construction and growth. Juba began as he had in Numidia, this time building Africa's largest aqueduct, which ran from the Atlas Mountains to numerous cities and towns. He constructed roads linking every part of his realm. These measures, combined with improved agricultural practices, resulted in bumper wheat crops that eased grain shortages in Italy, Egypt and Spain and made handsome profits.

By studying ancient documents, he rediscovered how to make the luxuriant purple dye used to color the cloaks of the wealthiest rulers from rare mollusks that grew along the north Atlantic coast. .. It sold for \$28,000 per pound and consumed 60,000 snails. Regardless of the high prices, production of Mauritanian dyes could hardly keep up with demand from Rome. Not only members of the imperial family, but also senators and rich citizens wanted to display the narrow purple band on their togas. Joba built a purple dye factory on a small island in the area of Autololes, on the Gaetulian coast. Profiting enormously, the tribal Gaetuli discarded their former hostility to outsiders.<sup>4</sup>

Prospectors discovered gold, copper, marble, rubies and garnets in the Atlas Mountains. Joba sent elephants, lions and panthers to the Roman circus, introduced camels for transportation, and marketed locally bred, superior horses. To combat pirates, he built a powerful navy. With money flowing in, he rebuilt ports and modernized cities.

The prosperity in Nova Africa is clearly attested by the ruins of its numerous towns, which everywhere exhibit baths, theaters, triumphal arches, gorgeous tombs, and generally building of luxury of all kinds, often excessive in magnificence.<sup>5</sup>

Iol had a public hospital, several libraries, huge public baths, several theaters, olive groves, public parks with marble fountains, a zoo, vineyards and flower gardens. Villas made from yellow and rose marble had irrigation canals, shade trees, flower beds, fish ponds and lily pools.

Wealthy Romans flocked to Joba's kingdom. Many came to stay, retiring in opulent seaside mansions. Others sought to invest or speculate in the country's abundant grain production.

Augustus ... allowed the two regents to mint and issue their own coinage. Joba's profile often appeared on one side of these coins, his wife's on the reverse, the first queen in the Roman Empire to produce her own coins.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Theodor Mommsen, *The Provinces of the Roman Empire from Caesar to Diocletian*, v. 2, p 262, 1913, NY: Scribner's.

## **Russell Burrows Cave Discovery**

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In 39 AD, Caligula ran out of money to pay his Praetorian Guards for protection. Knowing that Joba's son Ptolemy still had the fortune that Joba had amassed, Caligula lured Ptolemy to Rome, framed him for conspiracy, and dispatched a fleet to sack the treasury.

But Ptolemy's adherents deployed their own navy to fight the Roman fleet as a delaying tactic to allow the citizens to spirit away the treasury. Caligula failed to obtain money to pay for protection, and died at the hand of his own Praetorian Guards in 41 AD. The Mauritanians fought a delaying war against a pursuing Roman army, crossed Africa to the west coast, used money from the treasury to build and buy ships, then sailed across the Atlantic in 41 AD. They split into two groups, some going south to Ecuador, others north to Illinois, where they hid the treasury in Burrows Cave and sealed the entrance.

In 1982, a feeble-minded veteran named Russell E. Burrows discovered a false wall in a shallow cave in Richard County, Illinois. Behind the wall a long tunnel led to the greatest treasure ever found in North America. Telling no one of the cave's location, he quietly removed pieces to show and sell. His limited resources and intellect prevented him from buying the land, convincing others of the nature of the treasure, or establishing some kind of national park to protect the contents. In frustration, he dynamited the entrance so no one could steal what he considered to be his treasure.

Source: Frank Joseph, "The Lost Treasure of King Juba".

## **Joba Cave Urn: 'These ashes the descendant of Joba will carry'**

An urn that Russell Burrows retrieved from the cave has a 7-letter inscription in Iberian. It cannot be faked because Iberian was unknown when the cave was discovered. The central figure is a young boy dressed as a warrior. He wears greaves and a close-fitting belted tunic with short sleeves, flared like a kilt, with leather reinforcements on the shoulders. He stands between two striped upright posts with small discs on top. His left hand holds a thick shepherd's crook, his right hand one or two objects I don't recognize. His hair is cut short in the back with bangs in the front, while his face has not yet grown a beard. On his head rests an S-shaped object. He is Joba II, who transformed Carthage into the wealthiest province of the Roman Empire.

This inscription informs the reader that Joba will carry the ashes within of his deceased parent in a funeral ceremony. The drawing shows young Joba dressed as a warrior, surrounded by symbols of his heritage. His name Joba comes from *joen väen* meaning 'people of the river'.

The parent in question would be his father Joba I, making Joba II five years old. If the ceremony were in Rome, the inscription would have been in Latin, not Iberian. So the ceremony occurred in Numidia before Caesar returned to Rome. The S-shaped object could be a symbol of Numidia.

### **Translation**

**Iberian:** TU HI-**LU** PO JO-**BO** VI.

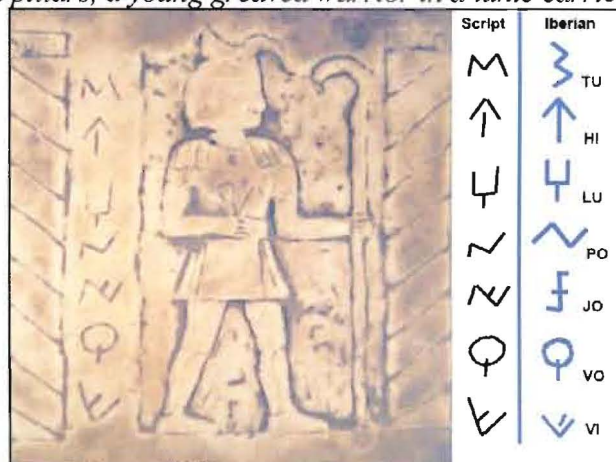
**Old Eur:** TU HI-**LO** PO JO-**VA** VI.

**Finnish:** Tuon hiilokse poian Jova vie.

**English:** These ashes the descendant of Joba will carry.

### **Image and Transcription**

*Figure 3: Burrows Cave young warrior image. Source Philip Coppens.  
Between two striped pillars, a young greaved warrior in a tunic carries a shepherd's crook.*



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### Notes on translation

*Changes to vowel sound of second syllable and consonants in Iberian.*

Iberian	A	E	I	O	U	B	D	G
Finnish	A	O	A	U	O	V,P	T	K

**TU** = *tuon* 'these'; K02.102 'he uttered **these** (*tuon*) words'

**HI-LU** < **HI-LO** < *hiilokse* 'ashes'; K23.785 "I moved my hands **to the ashes** (*hiilokselle*)"

**PO** = *poian* 'descendant'; K13.103 'by right skis of the Kaleva **descendant** (*poian*)'

**JO-BO** < **JO-VÄ** = *joen väen* 'river people'

K34.144 'to run along the bank **of a river** (*joen*)'

K25.662 'the comeliness **of the young people** (*väen*)'

**VI** = *vie* 'will take, carry, bring'; K24.489 "Who **will** now **take** (*vie*) us to the water?"



## **Burrows Cave Stele, 'Sun Spirit grants Elephant'**

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### **Burrows Cave Stele, 'Sun Spirit grants Elephant'**

Two nearly identical steles from Russell Burrows Cave and Cuenca, Ecuador, have an image of an elephant surmounted by a sun above an inscription in Old European.

The stele declares that Sun Spirit grants to Elephant this beautiful, bountiful country. Since two different continents have steles with identical wording, it may be a stock formula conferred upon any new land. Elephant may represent Mauritania, or Carthage before, or even Africa.

#### **Translation**

##### **Old European**

[Sun above elephant] U MA-NI LO,  
U-NI • PU, SÄ, VI, NE, A, HA, PI-VI.

##### **Finnish**

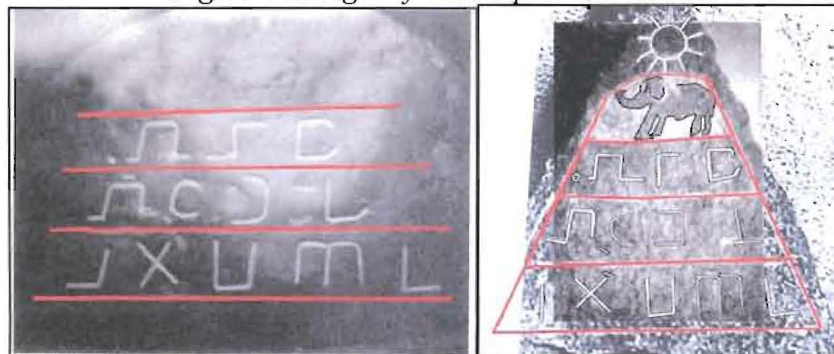
Päivätär anna norsu uuen määrä uuen maani loit;  
unia puien, sääät, viiat, neiet, ahot, ha'at, pilviä.

##### **English**

Sun Spirit grants Elephant my new country you created;  
a dream of trees, storms, maidens, clearings, pastures and clouds.

#### **Image**

*Figure 4: Images of two Elephant steles.<sup>6</sup>*



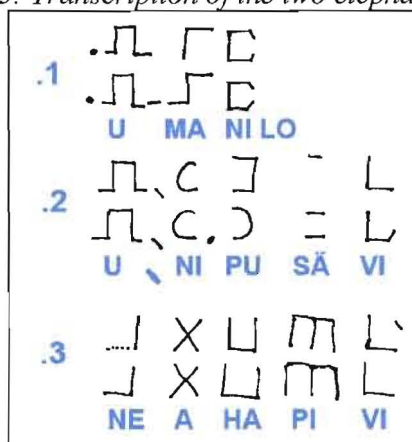
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<sup>6</sup> Left from Burrows Cave, Illinois. Source: Frank Joseph. Right from Ecuador, compiled from two photographs. Source: Crespi Collection, Cuenca.



## Transcription

Figure 5: Transcription of the two elephant steles.



## Notes on Translation

.0 The elephant symbolizes the Carthaginian war against Rome. By extension it symbolizes Mauritania and their battle against Rome. The name for elephant is *norsu*.

.0 Päivätär means Sun Spirit; K41.104 "Sun Spirit (*Päivätär*), competent maid"

.1 A breathing mark begins the text; this implies that the sun-elephant icon should be read as text.

.1 RO is the 'C', while LO is the two feet on the ends of RO.

a.0 **Sun above elephant** = *Päivätär anna norsu* 'Sun Spirit grants elephant'

a.1 -----

**U** = *uen* 'new'; K01.247 'while the **new** (*uen*) sun is glowing'

**MA-NI** = *maani* 'my country'; K29.373 'for the strawberries of **my own country** (*maani*)'

**LO** = *loit* 'you created'; K34.061 "as **you created** (*loit*) me, God"

a.2 -----

**U-NI** = *unia* 'a dream, dreams'; K12.057 "I do not believe in women's **dreams** (*unia*)"

**PU** = *puut* 'trees'; K02.033 'Trees (*puut*) began to tower aloft'

**SÄ** = *säät* 'storms'; K42.468 'violent **storms** (*säät*) to rage'

**VI** = *viia* 'groves'; K14.219 'blue-mantled old woman **of the grove** (*viian*)'

a.3 -----

**NE** = *neiet* 'maidens'; K11.134 'the **maidens** (*neiet*) of the headland answer'

**A** = *ahot* 'clearings'; K24.385 '**clearings** (*ahot*) for wild geese to live on'

**HA** = *ha'at* 'pastures' from *hakat*; not in K.

**PI-VI** = *pilviä* 'clouds'; K12.277 'who rules the **clouds** (*pilviä*)'

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about these or any other inscriptions at  
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