
Megalithic Civilization: Eternal Witnesses of Past Ages

by Dr. Heinrich Kruparz

Over twenty years ago I wrote the following as introduction in my South Seas book (*South Seas – Dream and Reality*, Steiger-Verlag, Innsbruck-Berwang, 1986): “To me the ‘Peaceful Ocean’, which with its constantly wind-tossed waves bears its name completely unjustified, is full of puzzles. Of course the experts know the answers to some Pacific problems, which nevertheless prove under critical consideration of the most basic questions to be nothing more than theories, which are supported till science accepts them as confirmed insights. I am referring above all to the still seemingly unsolved puzzle of the origin of the Polynesians.”

I came to these conclusions after a journey of almost two years in the South Seas, and they are just as true now as they were many years ago! Already then I believed in the former existence of a “continent” in the Pacific, which my professional colleagues countered with a superior smile, while one or the other ethnographer banished my South Sea book from their libraries, since I criticized their migration theories – that the Polynesian settlement took place starting from Indonesia. Even Th. Heyerdahl expressed his astonishment in an exchange of letters, that I as a geologist postulated a populated land mass in the Pacific instead of completely taking on his “Kon-Tiki Theory” – the Polynesians once immigrated from South America.

With regard to this continent “Pacifica” I concluded at that time (p. 223): “After the most recent discoveries in the Geosciences there can be no doubt that in the geological past of our planet there must have been a continent in the Pacific Ocean. This may have been broken up into pieces over an oceanic ridge of the same type as the “East

Pacific Ridge” (see picture page 135 and 138), whereupon fragments drifted apart from each other and collided with the continental crust of the Pacific coast. Particularly with regard to the area of South America, this crash caused the formation of the massive mountain ridges of the Andes, similarly to how the collision of the Indian Sub-continent with Central Asia caused the uprise of the Himalayas.”

This is how I already advanced the opinion, 25 years ago, that there existed a larger land mass in the Pacific in the most distant past, and now I will supplement this statement with the claim: This area was inhabited – primarily by the ancestors of the nowadays Polynesians. By the way, the Vedic writings know of – seven continents!

Now let us consider the greater area of the Pacific, in order to search out the cyclopean witnesses of past times. Here it seems advisable to follow a certain system in order to remain somewhat oriented in this 180 million square meter surface. Therefore I would like to maintain the following order, progressing from west to east (please note: the west of the Pacific corresponds to our Far East, while this ocean’s east coast corresponds to the American west!). Now the megalithic culture to be discussed in the Pacific and on its coasts (see inner book cover):

- off the shores of Japan;
- Nan Madol in the western Pacific;
- in the central Pacific, especially with regard to the Marquesas Islands;
- Pitcairn as “correspondent” to
- Easter Island (Rapa Nui);
- Hawaii;
- on the west coast of both Americas.

The explorer of megalithic structures encounters one of the countless puzzles of the Pacific Ocean in the island world which is located off the coast of Southeast Asia, namely in the drowning south Japanese Island-Arc of the Ryu-Kyu Islands, where at 123° East longitude and at the height of northern Taiwan, there is a tiny island with a surface extension of 10x4 km, called Yonaguni. In the 90’s, monumental complexes were discovered here by native divers, which were

constructed by an unknown civilization and now lay at a depth of up to 35 meters underwater. These are well-preserved stone buildings, which are explored by the nearest Japanese university in Okinawa according to standard academic procedures. Thankfully the director responsible for these underwater expeditions, Prof. Dr. Masa'aki Kimura, sent me an English summary of the research results, which are titled as follows and represent the status of their work on 12/22/2005: "Ancient Megalithic Construction Beneath the Sea off the Ryukyu Islands, Japan", published by the Dept. of Physics and Earth Sciences, Univ. of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan (see picture page 262).

The survey and the recovery of artefacts were concentrated on the southern coast of the aforementioned island, which is almost already in the coastal waters east of Taiwan. Once there was a land bridge in this area, which provided a connection to the East Asian continental shield. Two processes must have worked together to cause the flooding of the buildings discovered:

A) A sinking of the islands, caused by an "active subduction zone", during which the western edge of the Pacific plate was shoved under the Chinese mainland.

B) The rise of the sea level by around 40 m as a result of the variations in the contour line of the world's oceans during the Ice Age and warm intervals. The proof of this is provided by limestone caves with stalactites and stalagmites under water today, as we have already come to know from the Bermuda Triangle. These could only have formed above the waterline!

The artificial buildings discovered include a real city with a fortification system as well as a temple and other megalithic stone buildings, where all buildings were connected with each other by a paved network of roads. A ring road up to six meters wide ran parallel to a canal system. Special monumental buildings are the aforementioned fort, which could also be a temple complex, as well as a pyramid. The entire complex was cut out of a sandstone massif, as well as the pyramid, which raises itself from the sea floor in 25 meters of water to a height of 26 m, so that its top reaches one meter above sea level. I take the following details from the cited literature:

The measurements of the “temple” are: length 200 m, width 140 m, height 20 m. The fortress-like megalithic building includes numerous smaller temples, stepped pyramids, as well as a stadium on the sea floor at a depth of 35 meters, covering an area of 50x60 meters. There are tool marks on the worked surfaces as well as stone artefacts. Around 1.5 km east of the aforementioned pyramid a sculpture was recovered, which should especially wake the interest of the academic world, because it resembles the so-called “Moai”, the famous stone giants of Easter Island!

Japanese research also plays an important role in the megalithic complexes of Nan Madol, which are now to be considered. But the first knowledge of these islands, as tiny as grains of sand in the vastness of the ocean, we owe to the Europeans. The Portuguese Magalhães sighted the island(s) on one of his sea journeys named as the “first round the world sailing trip” (in 1520). A shipwrecked Irishman was able to save himself there in 1826, when he was neither gnawed on by sharks, nor eaten by Kanakas (as was still the ritual custom on some South Sea Islands at that time!). Quite to the contrary! The chieftain of the islands liked the (red-haired?) sailor so much, that he gave him his daughter as wife. After eleven hot years this J. O’Connell left the tropical island again and reported at home: Nan Madol shows architecture which has nothing in common with the recent construction methods of the island inhabitants!

After this romance let us now turn ourselves to the sober facts. The aforementioned location has the coordinates 6°59’ North and 158°12’ East; it is an “island swarm” in the conglomeration of states of Micronesia, known as the Caroline Islands group. Almost 50 years after the publication of the fact that the basaltic rocks of the island, framed by seam of coral-reefs, had an archaeological treasure to display, interest in the same began to awaken. The first knowledgeable expert who carried out excavations there was the German-Polish Joh. Stanislaus Kubary (1846–1896). In contrast to the happy end of the Irishman’s story, the outcome of the research life of this archaeologist is very sad, and refers not only to the person, but also to the results of his survey – it could be an example for the fate of any number of artefacts and sketches from any part of the world!

The named Pole carried out excavations at Nan Madol in 1870, which resulted in a collection of artefacts, descriptions and drawings. This scientific material was sent to Europe for further study. But the ship with the artifacts sank in the ocean. A rescued manuscript of the researcher burnt and Kubary committed suicide!

Nan Madol is an island around 800 m high, which owes its existence to a now-extinguished volcano. The coral reef surrounding it served as a platform for the construction of 92 artificial islands, whose monumental ruins can be found here off the southeast coast of the island with access to the sea. The construction material comes from a quarry far away and it would not have been possible for it to have been transported over the mountainous island's interior! These are very heavy basalt columns, which were used for this puzzling construction plan. Such columns represent a completely unique type of basalt lava formation, caused by particular cooling conditions during their solidification. This kind of natural column formation is known above all at the following locations:

- the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland;
- the west coast of Scotland, where they are underlaying an entire island
- the Sierra Nevada in the USA with heights of up to 20 meters;
- the La Gomera ("Los Organos") in the Canary Islands and
- the island of Flores in the Azores with the "Rocha dos Bordões" (as documented in my illustrated Azores book).

Such basalt columns, mostly pentagonal or hexagonal, are stacked on top of each other in Nan Madol in the way that a log house is built (see pictures page 263 and 264), where the height of the walls can reach ten meters and higher. The best-preserved artificial complex is the fortification of Nan Dowas, which according to its lateral length of 137 meters got to have required about 32,000 for the construction. Here we find a double set of a surrounding wall, forming a square and an outer breakwater. With a wall height of nine meters, it displays a breadth of almost three meters.

On average a single column has a length of 7.5 m and a cross section of 60 centimeters. If one assumes, for instance, a minimum weight of five tons each, the amount to be transported for the afore-

mentioned fortification alone comes to $32,000 \times 5 = 160,000$ tons. This weight is supposed to – according to the opinion of classical science – have been moved by canoe? The absurdity of such an idea: A South Seas outrigger canoe, loaded down with such five-ton hunks!³⁹

The puzzling aspect of this gigantomania in stone is even more astonishing under water. There are tunnel systems as well as port facilities, which today are found in 20 to 30 meters of water, framed with rows of vertically standing basalt columns which are between 5–10 m high and show around a meter in diameter. But the visitor who contents himself with seeing the constructions above the sea level should be advised to pay attention to the ocean's tidal rhythm: Nan Madol is known for its artificially created canal system, whose navigability is determined by flood and ebb tide, which was once controlled by stone sluice gates. The water ways gave this small South Seas kingdom its name: "Place of Gaps". Was it once the capital city of the motherland, Mu?

In summary it can be said: Every one of the artificial islands must likely have had a specific task, because the entire complex was well designed and had a highly developed infrastructure. Thus we are actually dealing with a well-ordered settlement center of a civilization which vanished long ago? I know of no better explanation!

The consideration of Nan Madol would be incomplete if I did not point to something even more confusing. Besides the Berlin South Seas Expedition (1908–1910), which was under the leadership of Dr. Paul Hambruch – who achieved the best results of his work which has ever been conducted on Nan Madol – there were also Japanese archaeologists active on the site.

³⁹ We find the best sailors of the world's oceans among the Micronesian population as well as in Polynesia. The sails were made from the woven leaves of the Pandanus or screw pine tree. The sight of a native boat with the triangle of the sail set at the top is typical. Outrigger boats for 3–6 people served for coastal sailing. The classic high seas sailboats were 20 to 30 meters long and offered space for up to 40 travelers. Such a journey was begun in darkness, since navigating under the starry South Seas skies offered the best possibilities for orientation.

Now in certain literature,⁴⁰ the report flits around that Japanese divers brought up metal objects from the shallows around Nan Madol which, believe it or not, proved to be creations of the precious

40 H. Rittlinger: *The Immeasurable Ocean*, Stuttgart, 1939, Munich, 1954 (p. 110-114).

Rittlinger's information dates back 70 years and proves to be quite interesting! He speaks of a possible cultural connection between Easter Island and the Indus culture via Nan Madol and writes: Maybe Lemuria lay here! – But back to Nan Madol: The "Mysterious South Seas city Mtolenim" (Nan Madol) is supposed to be very ancient, and the first nowadays island inhabitants came much later to Ponape (earlier name of the island Pohnpei). They had absolutely no connection to the sunken city! But their medicine men had much to tell: Long ago – countless millennia before present – Mtolenim is supposed to have been the magnificently shining center of a famous kingdom, and it was full of the most valuable treasures! Before the time of the Japanese mandate pearl divers still searched on the sea floor, and the sight of countless stone domes, columns and monoliths was bewildering. Carved and inscribed stone tablets were also found in some house ruins beside the streets. A report from the year 1939 says that Japanese deep sea divers brought platinum up from the sea floor. They broke open waterproof coffins made of this precious metal and sold the plundered fragments. At this time platinum was one of the main export products of the island! But at last two divers are supposed not to have appeared on the sea's surface again, whereupon this type of grave desecration met an abrupt end.

"But the platinum finds remain a highly real fact!", so Rittlinger (p. 112).

Let us allow the aforementioned to explain:

"Now this is the uniqueness: Every corpse lay in a waterproof platinum coffin! And it were these coffins which the Japanese divers found! From there they brought fragments of platinum day to day to the surface of the sea. Suddenly the main export of the island was no longer copra, vanilla, sago or mother-of-pearl, but platinum. No doubt: The Japanese must have discovered the "House of the Dead!" And further Rittlinger says (p. 114): "A whole belt of remarkable, mysterious cultures is noticeable on the southern hemisphere, which stretches from South Asia with its towering Indus culture through the island bridges of the South Seas to distant Easter Island to South America – above all Peru... What is more obvious than to connect this dead city of Mtolenim on Ponape (now Nan Madol; my note) with this cultural belt! ...Maybe Lemuria lay here, a legendary continent, which met with a natural catastrophe and is supposed to have sunk like Atlantis!" So much for the former South Seas traveler Herbert Rittlinger.

metal: of platinum!⁴¹ These costly objects are supposed to have even temporarily become an export item of the island! Whatever these “artifacts” may have been, I would like to very quickly make the following statement:

– In the Pacific itself, for geological reasons, there cannot be any metal deposits (of that type) apart from the manganese nodules on the deep sea floor at about 4,000 m depth.

– The only significant platinum deposits are found in South Africa, where they were first discovered after the settlement of the country by Europeans. But other occurrences of this precious metal, such as in the Urals or Colombia, are still far enough away to be responsible for the legendary supposed discoveries in the West Pacific.

– Processing platinum requires a technology which can melt this most precious of metals at 1,764° C.

And where to have all these treasures disappeared? To my knowledge, not even really plausible traces of them have been preserved!

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