

Searching for Atlantis

by Charles Hughes

“The Search for Atlantis”

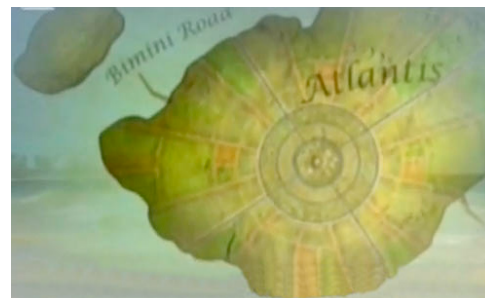
History Channel Program, Oct. 7, 2009
(Mystery Quest Series)
DVD number 210470, \$24.95
(Available from the History Channel,
1-800-933-6249)

I viewed this History Channel program on DVD upon the recommendation of William Donato, an explorer skin diver, who told me in a recent phone call about his work with Greg Little’s team of divers. Donato had helped to bring to light some very unusual and probably ancient traces of an unknown civilization on the sunken plateau of the Bahamas plateau. I check in with him from time to time to see what old ruins the divers have turned up in this area, particularly near the Bimini Islands and Andros Island. Donato said that there was some coverage of the divers’ findings in the History Channel production.

The DVD shows underwater movies of probable man-made constructions in two sites, one called the Bimini Road, and the other, a few miles away, called “the rectangles.” Both are near the island of North Bimini.

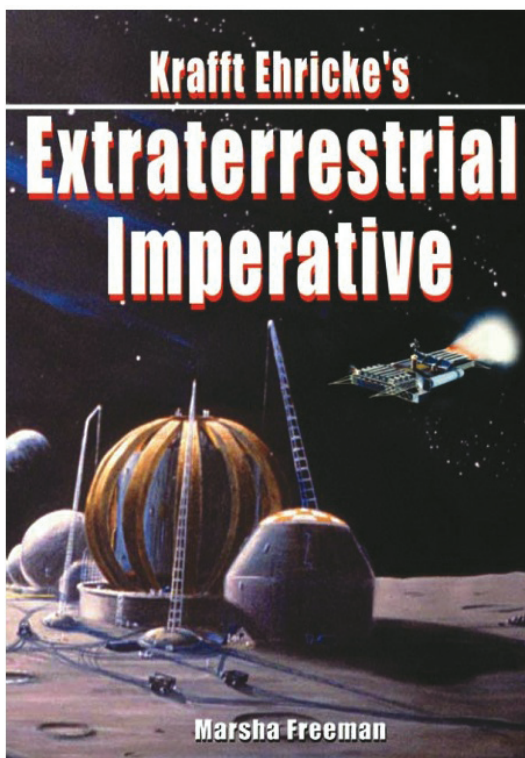
Also shown are important artifacts discovered on the Bimini Road: heavy anchor stones, which are square stone blocks with a hole in the center, presumably for a ship’s anchor cable. Such anchors have been found in the Mediterranean, associated with second millennium B.C. Phoenician ports.

One sequence shows the taking of a sample of limestone from the Bimini Road for a radiocarbon dating test. This test yielded a date of 1400 to 1700 B.C. The rock tested was taken from under a large, square Bimini Road block, and consisted of beach rock, a limey concrete



tion formed in shallow tropic seas, and not like common sedimentary limestone formed millions of years ago. Beach rock can be radiocarbon-dated because it contains the remains of ocean life, rich in calcium carbonate, which form very rapidly in the Bahamas.

The Bimini Road is a long regular series of very large square stones, some weighing tens of tons, extending for about 600 yards, with a sharp “J”-shaped turn at the end. The width is about 50 feet. Because of sea level changes, the construction that is now in 20 feet of water would have been at the water’s edge at about 4000 B.C., or possibly 7000 B.C. The most probable function for the road



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Lora Little

Bimini Road stones lying on top of each other.

was a dock, or a breakwater protecting a harbor for trading vessels.

Similar constructions are found in the Mediterranean, and were probably Phoenician or Minoan, from about 2000 B.C. Establishment archaeologists and geologists generally refuse to examine the Bimini Road, saying that it is just a natural formation! Apparently, these academics consider the possible discovery of an unknown sea peoples' civilization in the Bahamas, which is possibly older than Egypt, to be very threatening to their established notions about history.

The other site investigated by Greg Little's team is a few miles away, which Little has named "the rectangles." This site, also on North Bimini, a few miles from the Bimini Road, is considerably deeper, in 100 feet of water. It was located a year or so ago, by a search of the ocean bottom with side-scan sonar. This method of detecting objects underwater bounces sound waves off the bottom of the ocean, returning to a receiver in a boat floating over the area being examined. In this case, the sonar trace revealed objects of square shape, arranged in a grouping resembling buildings that were equally spaced from each other by 10 to 15 feet.

Divers went down to investigate. This was a difficult job, because a diver can only work for 20 minutes at 100 feet, and there was a strong and dangerous current pulling the diver out to very deep water. Piles of large stones were found below, which could not then be proven to consist of square block masonry, because of excessive crusting or coral growth.

The ocean bottom here would have been dry ground in 10,000 B.C., or, if these were man-made building ruins, in the period of the Ice Age. What civilization built these then? Who knows!

In the conversation with Mr. Donato referred to earlier, he surmised that the rectangles were too few to be a city, and that the site was more likely a seaport. The ruins, he thought, would be of storehouses for goods being shipped to and from Europe or Africa to America.

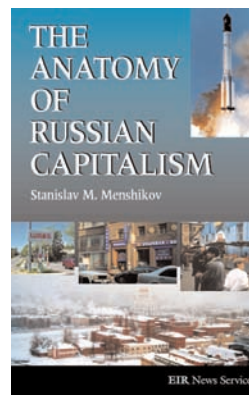
The Bimini Road is a later construction, most likely a Phoenician seaport, or made by descendants of the "rectangle" people, 8,000 years later.

It is a shame that the History Channel calls its program "The Search for Atlantis," and juxtaposes the Bahama finds to the Thera-Santorini volcano disaster, which wiped out the Minoans in 1400 B.C. This disaster is well-documented, and can not be connected to Plato's work in "Critias" and "Timaeus" of the existence of Atlantis, in spite of History Channel's attempt to spin history this way, and suggest that Plato was a liar.

As for the Bahamas, they could have been a far western outpost of Plato's Atlantic civilization, or a sea peoples civilization previously unknown to us. Little was attempting to get a permit to excavate the rectangle and another permit to issue a press release, as of November 2009.

I think some amazing discoveries are about to turn up in the Bahamas, which will give close-minded academics apoplexy. Let's hope so!

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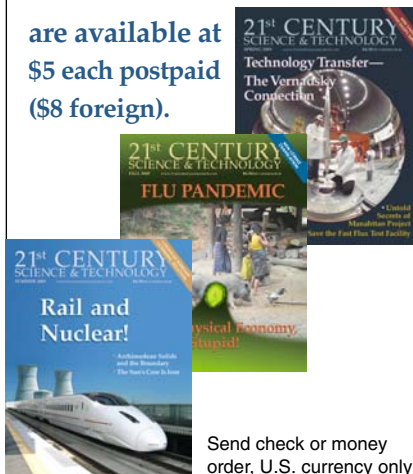
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