CROSSING THE ATLANTIC IN EARLY TIMES

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Summary

In the Spanish cave, the "Cueva del Castillo", we can find to our surprise, an old sea-map of the Atlantic-Ocean. We can recognise different ships and the corresponding ocean-currents, beginning in the high north up to the south. Unexpectedly they knew the most dangerous points of the Atlantic – the coast of Brazil and the icebergs in the north-west. This realisation will be underpin through the Map of Piri Re'is (1513), the Turkish admiral. He drew an exact map about the west-coast of Africa, South America, the Carribean, the Antarctic and the Atlantic with the right longitudes and latitudes! These facts will be verified by new DNA-analysis. The haplogroup XmtDNA wandering took place from West-Asia/Europe to North-America 15.000 – 10.000 BC. That's the same time when the paintings of the "Cueva del Castillo" come into being. The "Odyssey" by Homer, which I have interpreted as an ancient circumnavigation of the globe, verifies us the different positions of the Atlantic-crossing. This voyage, 1.200 BC., realized by the Phoenicians, shows us, that the Atlantic has been crossed to remembering ever again!

This paper ought to show the possibility of crossing the Atlantic-Ocean in early times. For demonstrating this statement I will devide this article into different parts. It is necessary to beginn with my interpretation of the "Odyssey" by Homer.

The fundamental error in the interpretation of the „Odyssey" by Homer and "The Argonauts" by Apollonios of Rhodos was the assumption that the knowledge of the journeys came to us from the old Greeks. In fact the Greeks only recorded the journeys but did not know where they took place. As far as the Odyssey is concerned, the Phoenicians were the actual sailors, who were following the instructions of the old Egyptians. The highest priests and the Pharao were the only ones apt to write these down, to analyse them exactly and to comprehend the basic points. To the rest of the population, only a coded message was made known – the wanderings of Ulysses (1).

The voyage of Ulysses was given a Greek background, the search of Telemachos for his father Ulysses. Absolutely independent of this framework is the journey of Ulysses. It starts and ends in Egypt. Thus, the view of the world changed: The earth was not seen as a disk anymore, as most of the Greek did, but as a globe as was the Egyptian

understanding. The Phoenicians, therefore, were able to sail around the world in a westerly direction. They were the best mariners of their time, and their ships were more withstanding than the caravels of Columbus and Magellan. Magellan sailed the same route as Ulysses, and both needed two years actual sailing time, not counting the stops. The conditions for both were alike – they had to sail with the wind and the ocean currents.

The code of my paper on the Odyssey is the Phoenician concept of "og" – the concept of a circle of water surrounding the earth (2). In the voyage of Ulysses, this circle of water can be divided into four successive parts of the ocean:

1) The Grey Sea – the Mediterranean;
2) The Okeanos – the Atlantic;
3) The Violet-Sea of the Prophet Teiresias – the Pacific and half of the Indian Ocean as far as India;
4) The Red Sea (here you will find the wine- or redwine-coloured sea of the Odyssey) – the Erithraean Sea, the Red Sea of the old cultures, the ocean between India and Africa – the Arabian Sea.

Nowhere in the whole journey of Ulysses this principle is contradicted (3).

After this introduction, I wish to mention shortly the different stations of the wanderings of Ulysses (figure 5).

On the first station of his journey, Ulysses meets the Lotophages on the Libyan coast – North Africa. Some of his companions eat from the lotos-fruit – a narcotic. He brings his friends back to the ship by force and ties them up. In the old cultures, narcotics were known and taken (4).

On the next station, Ulysses encounters the Cyclopes. I place them in the south of Tunisia. The Cyclopes are the tallest and most beautiful people – Herodotus describes them as 2 to 2,30 meters tall (5).

On the third station, he meets the Lastrygones in Norway. I came to this conclusion on the basis of the exact description of the fjords and the specific position of the sun – long days and short nights. Moreover, the Lastrygones are giants like the Cyclopes (6).

Ulysses next destination is the Island Aiaia were Kirke is living. Judging from the proportion of light – polar days and polar nights – it can only be an island of the Lofotes off the shore of Norway (7).

Kirke sends Ulysses to the realm of death or the underworld – the geographic underworld, the world below of the world in which they are living, the other side of the globe – America (8). In the realm of death, Hades, the prophet Teiresias will give Ulysses directions on how to come home, he informs him about the decision of the Gods. America is also the empire of the death of the sun, here it dies and rises up again every day. It is logical, therefore, that Japan is the land of the rising sun.

At that time, the mariners of the old cultures were unable to sail against the Gulf Stream. The crossing of the Atlantic had, therefore, to take place in the high north, as described in the Odyssey. Ulysses arrives in the land of Kummeres – Labrador or Newfoundland – during the polar night. From there, he travels to the valley of the St. Lawrence River, which

is described very exactly both in the Odyssey and in the Argonauts. Among other things, world-wide the plane tree appears at winterly conditions in this region only (9).

At the confluence of the Pyriphlegeton and the Kokytos, two streams, a rock marks the entrance to the realm of death. I found out that at the point where the two rivers, the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, an arm of the Styx – the Niagara Falls, join, there is a rock, the Scout Royal in Montreal. Here is the entrance to the realm of death (10).

Of which way home does the prophet tell Ulysses? As seen from America, he has to cross the Violet-Sea to the island of Threnakria – India -, and from there to travel back home – but not across the Okeanos – the Atlantic! Ulysses returns to Kirke across the Atlantic, making use of the Gulf Stream. Kirke helps him to master the dangerous sea-route (11).

Ulysses travels along the European Coast in a southerly direction. Arriving in West Africa, he makes use of the ocean current of the Canarian basin in order to cross the Atlantic. After the crossing, he could have landed in Brazil but that's exactly what Kirke had warned him against. He has to sail along the Sirenes! Ulysses had been warned of the deadly cliffs (12).

The next station is the island under fire and smoke – Tierra de Fuego (13)! Kirke had instructed him to sail along the large rocks – the Andes. Making use of the South Passat Drift, Ulysses crosses the Pacific and lands at the small rocks – the inhabited islands – to take water and food on board (14). After passing the Violet Sea – the Pacific and the half of the Indian Ocean, Ulysses arrives at the island of Threnakria – the threecornered island – India (15).

From there, Ulysses sails across the Arabian Sea which is called the wine – or redwine-coloured sea – the Erythraean Sea of the old cultures. In the sultanate of Oman lives Calypso. Here Ulysses stays for seven years, until the Gods permit his home-coming (16).

The last part of his journey takes him through today's Red Sea to the Sinai peninsula, the native country of Alkinoos, the king of the Phaeaks – Egypt. Ulysses crosses the Red Sea to the island of the Phaeaks. The latter will sail him across the Grey Sea. The country where Ulysses landed also has to be located at the Red Sea and the Grey Sea – the Mediterranean. The circle of the ancient circumnavigation of the globe – in westerly direction – has been closed with the arrival in Egypt (17).

But what is the connection between my interpretation of the Odyssey and the "Cueva del Castillo"? The Cueva del Castillo is located close to the famous cave of Altamira in the NW of Spain, close to the Atlantic coast. This site is known for its rock paintings which mainly consist in representations of animals as well as of certain geometrical forms. These forms have been recognized by Dr. med. Michael Bujatti-Narbeshuber, Vienna, without difficulty as to be different types of ships. According to me the points on which these ships seem to sail can be considered as the correspondent ocean currents of the Atlantic! These currents led me to the same conclusion as my interpretation of the "Odyssey".

First we have to consider the point of time when these drawings were realized and that's around 15.000 – 10.000 BC. On figure 1 – 16.000 BC.- we can see an enormous sheet of ice covering England and Ireland, as well as the entire Iceland and Greenland - except a small part in the SE- Greenland, Iceland and Ireland lay on the sea.. This will be an important factor while interpreting the "Cueva del Castillo". In the following the sheet of ice extended from the south of Greenland in western direction to the south of the Canadian Sea plate. From this point of time down – 16.000 BC. –the final stadium of the Wurm ice time became significant. I would like to point out that in that period of time men had the opportunity to change continent in following the coast in the high north. These people had a particular connection to the sea due to the fact that it was their only source of food. Fishing permitted them to survive in these conditions and through this way humans were able to cross the Atlantic in early times!

Now let us have a look at the paintings of the "Cueva del Castillo" (figure 3 compared to figure 4). We can discern ships, three of them with sails. As we can see, there is no connection between the sails and the rest of the ship. The sail's function is to indicate the direction in which the ship has to sail. It is important to emphasize that the two biggest ships are sailing upon pointed lines. The nine parallel pointed lines represent the Gulf-Stream, the most powerful ocean current of the Atlantic, going from west to east. As well the five pointed lines in the south of the Gulf-stream have to be, as a logical consequence, the Canaren -Street and the North-Passat-Drift, which lead us to the Carribean-Sea. There the ship sails in western direction. In the area, where I locate the Carribean-Sea, the pointed lines are combined in form of an oval half circle to the Gulf-Stream. Under the sail of the ship above which is sailing along the Gulf-stream, we can detect two short pointed lines. The one in the north upwards the Gulf-Stream has to be discerned as the East-Greenland-Ocean-Current in the direction of east – west. We have to remember that 16.000 BC. the frontier of ice in the South of Greenland was exactly at that position. On the north-western part of the Atlantic we can detect two reversed boats. These boats have sunk. They express the danger of seafaring in the high north caused by fog, the enormous storms and icebergs in this region and are an advice and warning for mariners.

But now let us go to the south part of the Atlantic. The North-Passat-Drift leads us to South-America. One part of the current turns to the north, to the Carribean and Gulf-Stream, another goes into southerly direction along South-America and will be the Brazil-Current. But on that point, after crossing the Atlantic, when you meet the South-American-Continent, you can see a boat. But what had happened? The ship is sunk, the hull is above. But that factor is easy to declare. The riffs, which are laying before the Brazil coast, forbid boats to approach this part of the coast. Exactly that should be expressed by with this painting. We can compare these drawings with the description in the Odyssey. Kirke warns Ulysses for landing at the Sirenes, which are living on the same coast. That would bring the death for all. Also the seer Phineus in the epos of the Argonauts warns for the riffs! Here we find one of the most dangerous points for seafaring of the whole world –

also for today. Furthermore we can discern another ship sailing in southern direction along the South American coast on the Brazil-Current.

On the other side of South America, at the Pacific Coast another boat sails in northern direction (figure 2 in compared to figure 4). At the level of the equator we discern again pointed lines. One ocean current comes from the north, the Californian Current, one from the south, the Peru- or Humboldt Current, both are crossed by lines, which should represent the North- and South-Passat-Drift, with the Equatorial-Reverse-Current. From these facts you can come to the conclusion that the continent America was well known to some navigators at that time.

The major question we have to deal with is if it was possible to possess a sea-map of the Atlantic approximately 15.000 to 10.000 BC. At that point, I would like to point out Charles H. Hapgood's book entitled "The Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings". Charles Hapgood examined in his book the old sea-map of Piri Re'is. Piri Re'is, a Turkish admiral, had drawn this map 1513. He paid a lot of attention to the longitude and latitude of the West-African coast, the Carribean area and the coast of South-America and drew a pretty clear and exact map. Hapgood writes: "To sum up, our mapmaker was faced with the problem of indicating True North both for the Atlantic and for the Carribean area, which extends much farther west. Since the portolan projection is a rectangular projection and the earth is round, it is evident that you cannot extend it through many degrees of longitude without getting to a place where the meridians will not point north at all. The geometrical scheme of the portolan projection, with several possible Norths, was the only way to solve this problem. But there had to be mathematical calculations. Only by trigonometry could the correct angle for the Carribean prime meridian be found" (18).

"The peculiar projection for the Carribean area permits some conclusions as to the probable history of the map as a whole. In the first place it is clear that Piri Re'is could not have constructed this part of his world map. Such a thing as two Norths on the same map was unheard of in the Renaissance. To Piri Re'is, the idea of changing the direction of north in the middle of the ocean would be lunacy, and all the mapmakers of the age would have looked at the matter the same way. But even if he had the idea, even if he knew some trigonometry (of which there is no evidence) he still could not have drawn the map, because neither he nor, as far as is known, anyone else at that time had any information as to the longitudes of places in the Carribean" (19).

Hapgood describes many details of this old Atlantic map. Some few I will show. One important example is the Atrato-River. It's a map from the Golf of Venezuela to Yucatan, omitting about 7 degrees of coastline between the Gulf of Venezuela and the Peninsula of Paria. A point of considerable importance here is the shape of the Atrato-River. According to our grid, the river is shown for a distance of 300 miles from the sea, and it's eastward bend at about 5 degrees North Latitude corresponds to the geographical facts. This implies that somebody explored the river to its headwaters in the Western Cordillera of the Andes sometime before 1513. I have

found no record of such an early exploration. Yucatan supposedly had not been discovered in 1513" (20).

"It appears significant that Piri Re'is, who stuck names taken from explorers! Accounts on much of his map (making numerous errors), did not attempt to place any names on the southern part of this coast of South America. The reason offers itself: There were no explorers' accounts. That coast had not been explored by 1513. The Falkland Islands appear in this section of the map at the correct latitude relative to this lower east coast, but there is an error of about 5 degrees in longitude. The Falklands are supposed to have been discovered by John Davis in 1592, nearly eighty years after Piri Re'is made his map" (21).

And now we will come to the Antarctic on the Piri Re'is map: "There is in addition the comparison of the character of the Queen Maud Land coast, as shown on the ancient and on the modern map. It is plain, from the modern map, but this coast is a rugged one. Numerous mountains ranges and individual peaks show up above the present levels of the ice. The Piri Re'is Map shows the same type of coast, though without any ice. The numerous mountains are clearly indicated. By a convention of 16th Century mapmaking heavy shading of some of the islands indicates a mountainous terrain. Coming to greater detail, the chief argument was the striking agreement of the map with the seismic profile across Queen Maud Land. The reader will note that the profile shows a rugged terrain, a coastline with mountains behind the coast and high islands in front. The point of the profile below sea level coincide very well with the bays between the islands on the Piri Re'is Map. This amounts to additional confirmation. The identification of specific features of the coast appears further to strengthen the argument (22).

But when could this old map have been drawn? The last time, when the Antarctic was without ice, was 10.000 BC. And to this time or earlier the old sea-map is to date. But this conclusion shows us, that there had to exist an old high culture, which was able to go over the Atlantic to Africa, America, the different islands of the sea, and also to the Antarctic! Is there a map of the Atlantic existing, with longitudes and latitudes, they knew the exactly dimension of the Atlantic. And from this point of view it's not surprising, that we can find at the coast of Spain the Atlantic paintings of the "Cueva del Castillo". Here we find to the exact map of Piri Re'is the equivalent ocean currents! But the rock paintings have a speciality. The paintings are of red colour. In the oldest high culture we know, the Egyptian, the red colour has an especially meaning, it is the expression of magical craft. Is it possible that we can see in the "Cueva del Castillo" an art of church, where the captains of their ships, which crossed the Atlantic, prayed to their Gods? Perhaps they raised the magic for a good finish of their journey. To all times people prayed to their Gods, when they realized such a dangerous adventure.

Now we will return to the beginning of the Odyssey. Also here we find the description about crossing the Atlantic. But the time of Ulysses journey I will appoint with 1.200 BC. Much later than the paintings of the "Cueva del Castillo" and the Piri Re'is map. But we must know, that these journeys will be

described from generation to generation. Also we can find a characteristic in the Odyssey: the Gods. The Gods represent people of a high culture, who were spread all around the world. And these Gods know the dangers in crossing the sea. Kirke warns Ulysses of the danger on land and sea – and this of the whole world. These warnings show us, that the whole earth was known and it was known as a globe.

But we have also another possibility to trace the wandering of people in early times: the DNA-analysis. In the American Journal of Human Genetics 1998 we can read the following: "On the basis of comprehensive RFLP analysis, it has been inferred that ~ 97% of Native American mtDNAs belong to one of four major founding mtDNA lineages, designated haplogroups "A" – "D". It has been proposed that a fifth mtDNA haplogroup (haplogroup X) represents a minor founding lineage in Native Americans. Unlike haplogroups A-D, haplogroup X is also found at low frequencies in modern European population" (23).

"Our analysis confirmed that haplogroup X is present in both modern Native American and European populations. For the Native Americans, this haplogroup encompasses ~ 25% of the Ojibwa, 15% of the Sioux, 11% - 13% of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth, 7% of the Navajo and 5% of the Yakima. Thus, with the exception of the Na-Dene-speaking Navajo, the distribution of this haplogroup among the Native Americans appears to be restricted to northern Amerindian populations. In studies of Native American mtDNA diversity, the co-occurence of the same haplogroup at significant frequencies in both the modern Native American and European populations is unique. Recent european genetic admixture cannot explain the presence of haplogroup in the Amerindians. First, if the occurrence of haplogroup X were the result of female gen flow from Europeans, then other, more common European mtDNA haplogroups should also be present in the northern Native Americans, and they are not. Second, the Native American and European mtDNAs are very different and are connected only through an ancient common ancestor. Hence, Native American and European haplogroup XmtDNAs diverged long ago. Finally, Native American haplogroup XmtDNAs encompass substantial continent-specific diversity, implying an ancient arrival in America" (24).

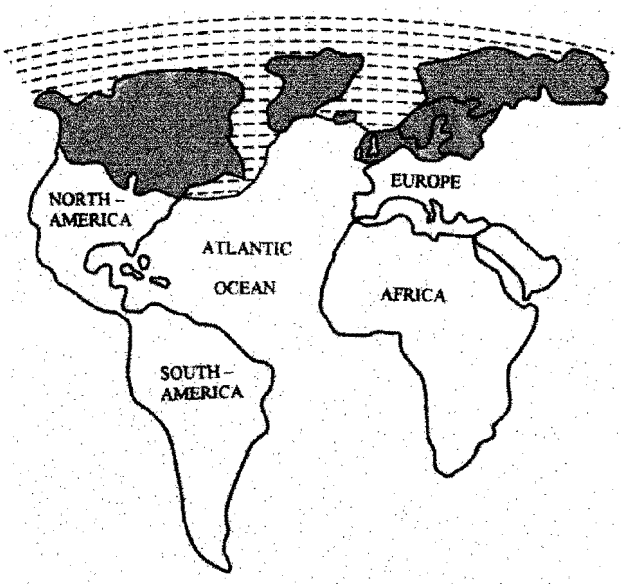
"A coalescence time of 23.000 – 36.000 years ago would suggest that haplogroup X arrived in the Americas during the initial major Amerindian migration 20.000 – 30.000 ago. A coalescence time of 12.000 – 17.000 years ago could be interpreted as a rapid reexpansion of haplogroup XmtDNAs near the time of the Na-Dene expansion, or, alternatively, as an independent and late arrival of haplogroup XmtDNAs into the Americas" (25).

"In conclusion, we had described the occurrence, variation within, and population distribution of haplogroup XmtDNAs in Native Americans. This haplogroup appears, on the basis of archaeological data, to be pre-Columbian and may have arrived in the Americas either 12.000 – 17.000 years ago. Haplogroup X is remarkable in that it has not been found in Asians, including Siberians, suggesting that it may have

come to the Americas via a Eurasian migrations" (26).

And now we can take all together: The old sea-map of the "Cueva del Castillo", which represents the Atlantic with all ocean-currents, even with their craft and the most dangerous areas for ships – the Brazil coast and the north-west of the Atlantic. Point of time: 15.000 to 10.000 BC. It is exactly the same time when the haplogroup XmtDNA expansion appears in North-America, the late arrival. 10.000 BC. is also the latest time for the origin of the Piri Re'is Map, where we could find the exactly description of the Alantic, West-Africa, South-America, the Carribean and the Antarctis with longitudes and latitudes.

This knowledge could only be understood by supposition to a high culture. And now we can close the circle with the epos of Homer, the Odyssey, by which we have begun. It is the same journey but many thousands of years later. The journey takes place 1.200 BC., carried out by the Phoenicians. And the Gods help them to overcome the whole voyage, the Gods, who are the descendants of yon high culture. This old first journeys, before 10.000 BC. were never forgotten, and they were ever realized – all the times.

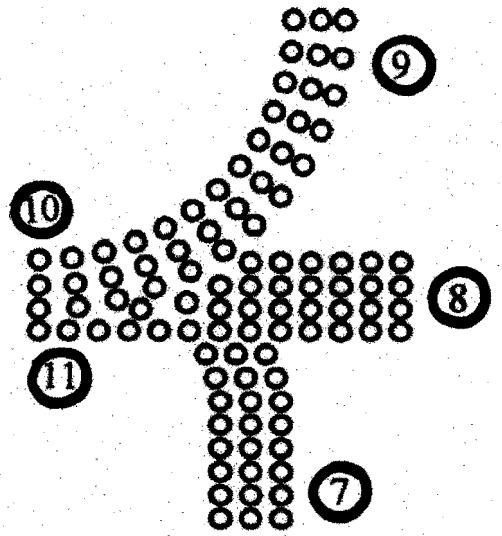


MAP: 16.000 B.C.

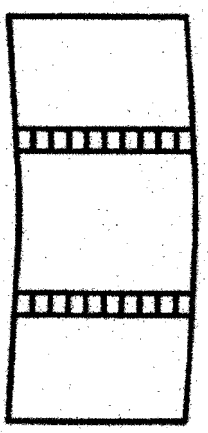
Dotted Line = Icedrift

Grey Zone = Icesheet

FIGURE 1

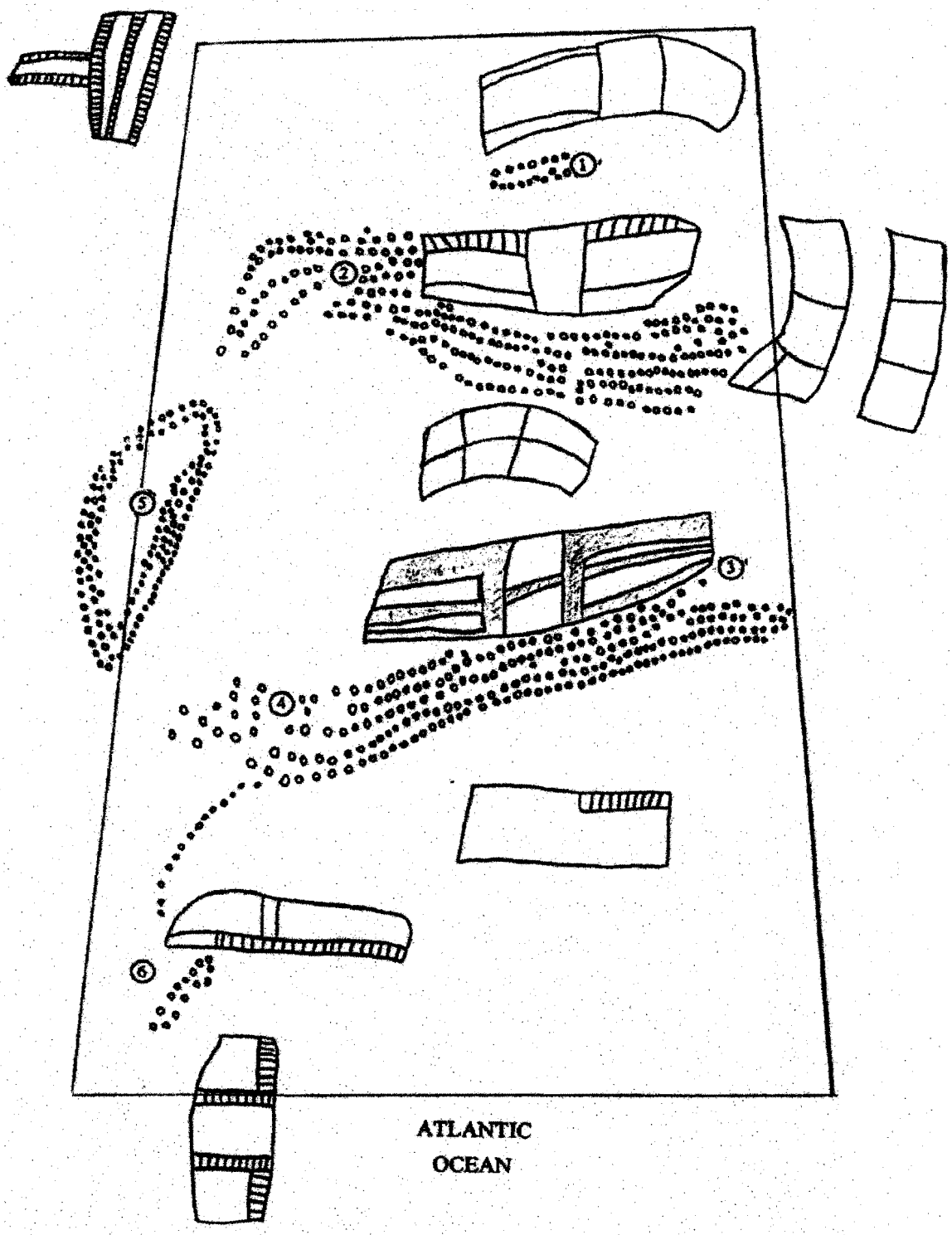


PACIFIC
OCEAN



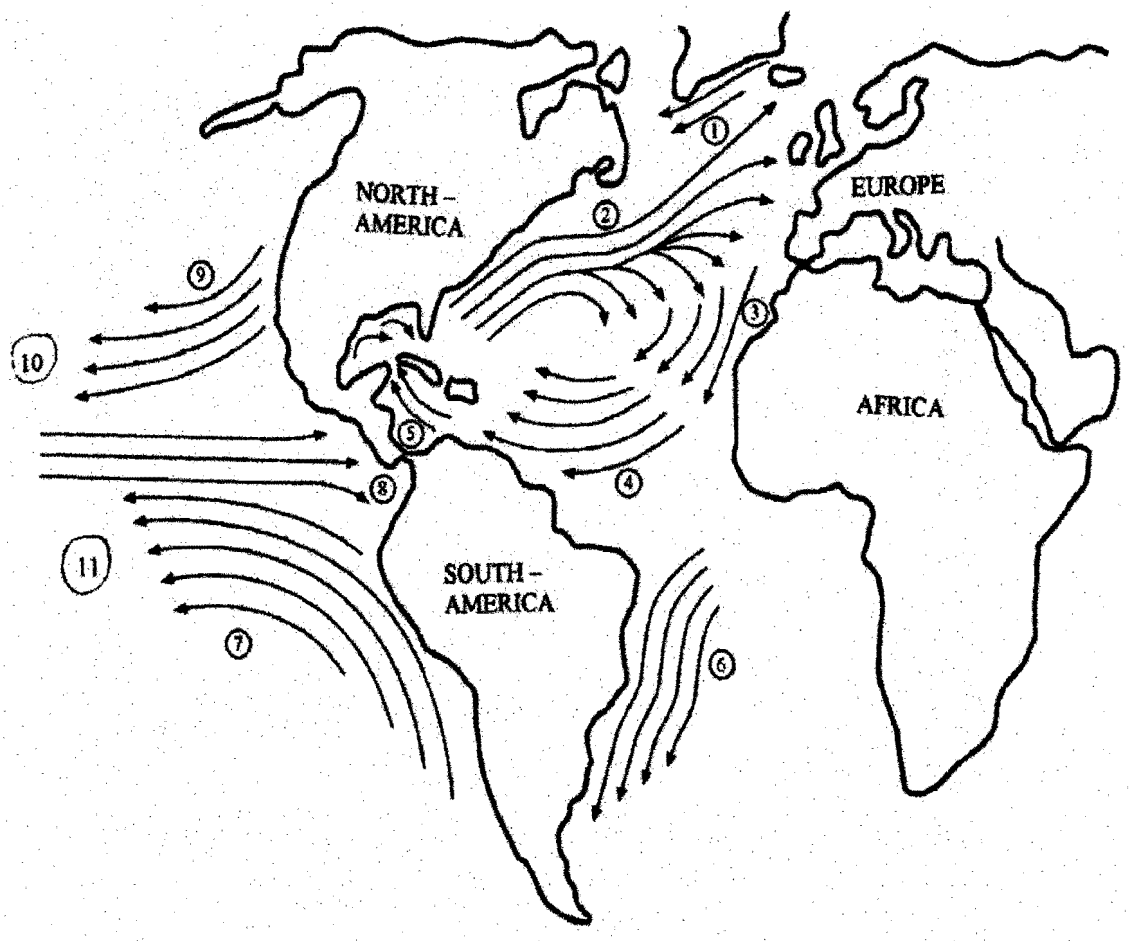
1) East Greenland Current
2) Gulf Stream
3) Canary Current
4) North Equatorial Current
5) Currents of the Caribbean
6) Brazil Current
7) Peru Current
8) Equatorial Counter Current
9) Californian Current
10) North Passat Drift
11) South Passat Drift

FIGURE 2



The inside of the square represents one photographic picture, the outside is connected from a total view filming material.

FIGURE 3



TODAY'S OCEAN CURRENTS

1) East Greenland Current
2) Gulf Stream
3) Canary Current
4) North Equatorial Current
5) Currents of the Caribbean
6) Brazil Current
7) Peru Current
8) Equatorial Counter Current
9) Californian Current
10) North Passat Drift
11) South Passat Drift

FIGURE 4

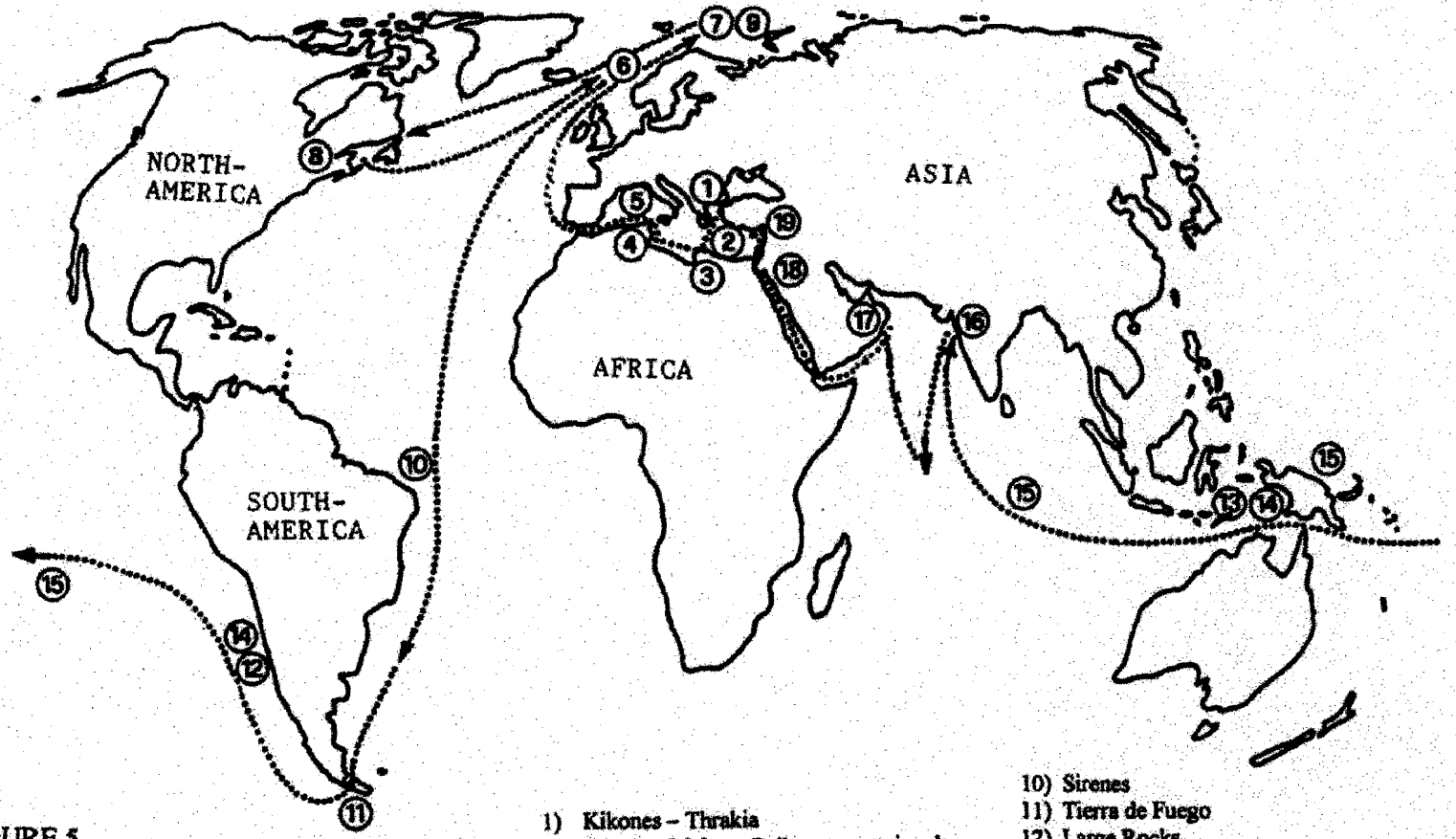


FIGURE 5

THE WANDERINGS OF ULYSSES

1) Kikones – Thrakia
2) Storm at Malea – Pellopones peninsula
3) Lotophages
4) Cyclopes
5) Aiolos
6) Lastrygones
7) Island Aiaia – Kirke
8) Underworld
9) Island Aiaia – Kirke
10) Sirenes
11) Tierra de Fuego
12) Large Rocks
13) Small Rocks
14) Skylla
15) Charybdis
16) Island Threnakria
17) Island Ogygia – Calypso
18) Island Scheria – Phaeaks
19) Phoenician

Zusammenfassung

Die Höhlenzeichnungen der „Cueva del Castillo“ in NW-Spanien bergen eine große Überraschung. Sie präsentieren eine Atlantikkarte für Seefahrer und das dargestellt 15.000 bis 10.000 v.Chr. Die bis jetzt als geometrische Formen aufgefaßten Zeichnungen können als Schiffe identifiziert werden, die punktierten Linien beschreiben die in den einzelnen Abschnitten des Atlantischen Ozeans vorherrschenden Meeresströmungen. Die Karte wurde mit einer derartigen Präzision dargestellt, daß sowohl auf die Stärke der jeweiligen Meeresströmungen bezug genommen wird, wie auch auf die seefahrtstechnisch gefährlichsten Abschnitte: die brasilianische Küste und die Eisberge im NW des Atlantik. Amerika muß zu diesem Zeitpunkt bekannt gewesen sein, da auch die Hauptmeeresströmungen des Pazifik verzeichnet sind. Da es zur Zeit nicht möglich ist, wegen Re- staurierungsarbeiten diesen Abschnitt der Höhle zu besuchen, kann nicht festgestellt werden, ob sich in der „Cueva del Castillo“ vielleicht sogar eine Weltkarte verbirgt.

Eine derartige Kenntnis der Erde steht nicht so einsam im Raum, wie der Leser vielleicht vermuten würde. Die Karte des türkischen Admirals Piri Re'is, 1513 fertiggestellt, stellt ebenfalls den Bereich des Atlantischen Ozeans kartographisch dar und läßt sogar die Präzision einer modernen Weltkarte erkennen. Charles Hapgood hat die Karte untersucht, die auf genauen Längengrad- und Breitengradangaben beruht. Wir finden eine sehr gute Darstellung der westafrikanischen und südamerikanischen Küste, der Karibik, wie auch der Antarktis. Letztere im eisfreien Zustand – was auf eine Zeit vor 10.000 v.Chr. schließen läßt. Der Atrato-River, zwischen dem Golf von Yukatan und der Halbinsel Paria ist von der Quelle bis zur Mündung gradgenau verzeichnet. Diese Tatsachen lassen den Schluß zu, daß vor 10.000 v.Chr. eine Hochkultur existiert haben muß, die zu derartig präzisen Angaben fähig war.

Auch die neuesten genetischen Untersuchungen weisen den Weg in diese Richtung. Die Haplogroup X einer DNA-Untersuchung bestätigt, daß eine erste Einwanderungswelle 30.000 – 20.000 v.Chr. von West-Asien über Europa nach Nordamerika gestoßen ist, gefolgt von einer zweiten zwischen 15.000 und 10.000 v.Chr. Genau jener Zeitpunkt, zu dem die Felszeichnungen in der „Cueva del Castillo“ entstehen. Die „Odyssee“ von Homer, die von der Autorin als eine Weltumsegelung der Phönizier um ungefähr 1.200 v.Chr. gedeutet wurde, zeigt uns in der Beschreibung des Atlantischen Ozeans die gleichen präzisen Angaben wie die spanische Höhlenzeichnung. Wohl ein Hinweis darauf, daß diese Atlantiküberquerungen über gewisse Zeiträume regelmäßig durchgeführt wurden. Was aber nicht heißen soll, daß diese Seereisen nicht auch über bestimmte Perioden eingestellt waren, z.B. wegen der vorherrschenden klimatischen Bedingungen, letztendlich aber niemals vergessen wurden, sondern in mündlichen oder schriftlichen Traditionen der Nachwelt immer erhalten blieben, um zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt wieder belebt werden zu können.

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