

Sailing to America: Latitude data for the Copper Trail to Isle Royale and Egypt recorded on Bronze Age Axeheads

Jay Stuart Wakefield

These "decorated" axeheads are from the collection of Dr. Frederick Moog, in Rhineland-Palatinate, west southwest Germany. He acquired large antiquities collections which had been collected much earlier. Dr. Moog died leaving no heirs. In 1996 the part of his collections upstairs went to local museums. My friend was asked to sell what remained. "The larger portion of his collection had been stored in the cellar, which was untouched, but damaged from flooding and covered with mold. From the various materials, the shapes, and a few pieces with labels or writing on them, it is probable these axes had been collected in south and southwestern Germany, and maybe border regions that were once part of Germany."

I have examined bronze axe collections in the museums of Brittany, Spain, Portugal, London, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Hallstat, and others, and have never seen a decorated axe like these on exhibit. Hopefully some will soon be found in museum basements or in private collections, to add to our knowledge. The remarkable Natural History Museum of Vienna has a huge bronze axe covered with decorative art, collected by a Hapsburg Emperor, who was a collector of antiquities, but not a smaller decorated axe like these.

I have bought twenty of the decorated axes of Dr. Moog, because upon cleaning the first one, I found four rows of 23 notches on the four sides. In study of megalithic monuments, the number 23 has come up many times. For example, at the Gavrinis passage grave on the coast of France, there are 23 highly decorated standing stones in the passage, while the 23rd stone is white quartz. At Stonehenge, England, the 4 station stones each lie at 23° from the center. In Bruce Cathie's 1997 book, he reports on his study of 3,000 stone circles and standing stones. He concludes that "every one is aligned to neighbors up to 20 miles away at an angle of 23 1/2° or a multiple of this angle". This is the Tropic of Cancer, the latitude the Sun reaches (overhead at noon) before it returns south again, turning Summer to Fall and then Winter. Clearly the axes had navigational data recorded on them in latitudes

No wooden Bronze Age vessels have been found intact, except two entombed in pieces next to the Great Pyramid in Cairo. PHOTO 1a shows a replica



PHOTO 1a: Uluburun was first discovered in 1982 by Mehmed Çakir, a local sponge diver, on a steep rocky slope at a depth of 44 to 52 metres, with artifacts scattered down to 61 metres. Excavating it was a mammoth task, and required eleven consecutive campaigns of three to four months, conducted by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, totalling 22,413 dives between 1984 and 1992.

The ship itself was 15 metres long and is the earliest known example of a ship constructed using the advanced mortise and tenon technique, where planks were joined by flat tongues of wood inserted into slots cut into the planks. The wood is Lebanese cedar, indigenous to the mountains of Lebanon, southern Turkey, and central Cyprus. The featured image is an accurate replica wreck of the Uluburun, showing how the ship would have once appeared. 12 AUGUST, 2014 - APRILHOLLOWAY, used with permission, <http://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-asia/uluburun-one-old-est-and-wealthiest-shipwrecks-ever-discovered-001962>

of the Ulu Burun shipwreck of 1300 BC as it would have appeared just after it sank. PHOTO 1b is a museum model of the Uluburun. PHOTO 2 is the actual wreck site. PHOTOS 3 a & b show an elegant axe "AS43", that is decorated, and now polished, on only one side. Its blade is damaged, indicating some hard use. Between the water symbols on the side are 42 marks. Counting the spaces, which represent the water, where the markings only divide the water, we have 43, or 43°. This axe records and celebrates the location of the largest and most important megalithic monument in the Americas, American Stonehenge, now in New Hampshire at 43°N. La Coruna, near Cape Finisterre (Spain), is at 43°N also. This axe connects the two sides of the ocean, both important in the megalithic culture.

PHOTOS 4 a & b are the front and back sides of another decorated axehead from

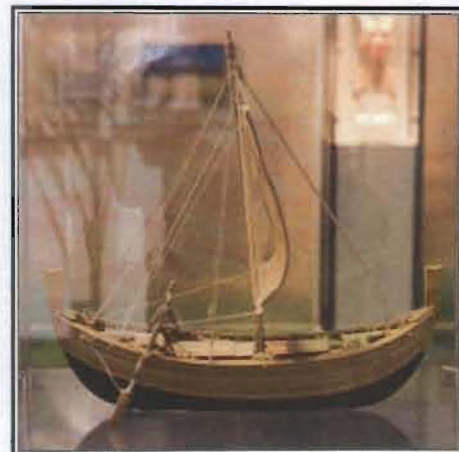
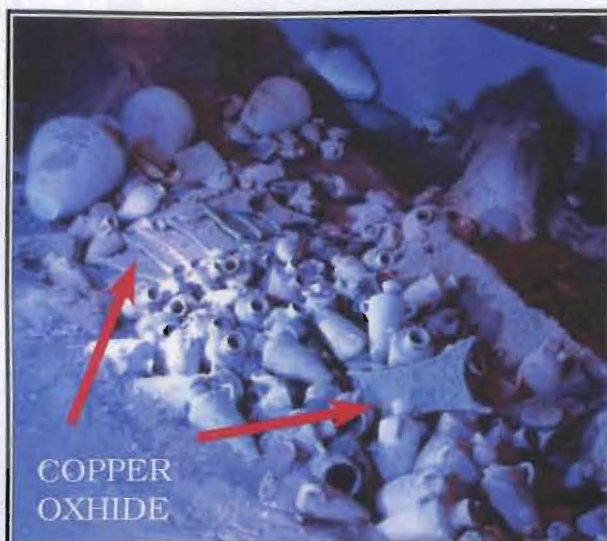


PHOTO 1b: Museum model depicting the Uluburun ship

Dr. Moog's collection. I call it "Azores rows" because of its similarity to the world's largest megalithic monument, the



Rows of Menec and Kermario in Carnac, Brittany, France. That monument is all about sailing to and from the Azores, with each of hundreds, if not thousands, of boulders representing each degree of latitude (www.rocksandrows.com). Looking at this 8 ½ inch axe from the handle end of the front side, we see lines extending to rows of dots. On the front side, there are four rows of these dots, extending across three sections to the blade of the axe. On the backside, there are five rows, extending in five complicated sections to the blade. Like the Carnac monument, this axe is designed around 4 & 5 = 9 rows. Note that in the second segment there is a column of nine dots, again the number of the Azores Islands.

The four notched edges of 39 are difficult to count accurately. Perhaps they were made too carelessly, or have suffered corrosion damage. Though some or all of the 39 counts are arguably off a digit or two, four 39s make sense, as this is the important latitude of the West Azores. This latitude had to be used to find the islands when sailing from the west along the routes illustrated on the axe. This lat-

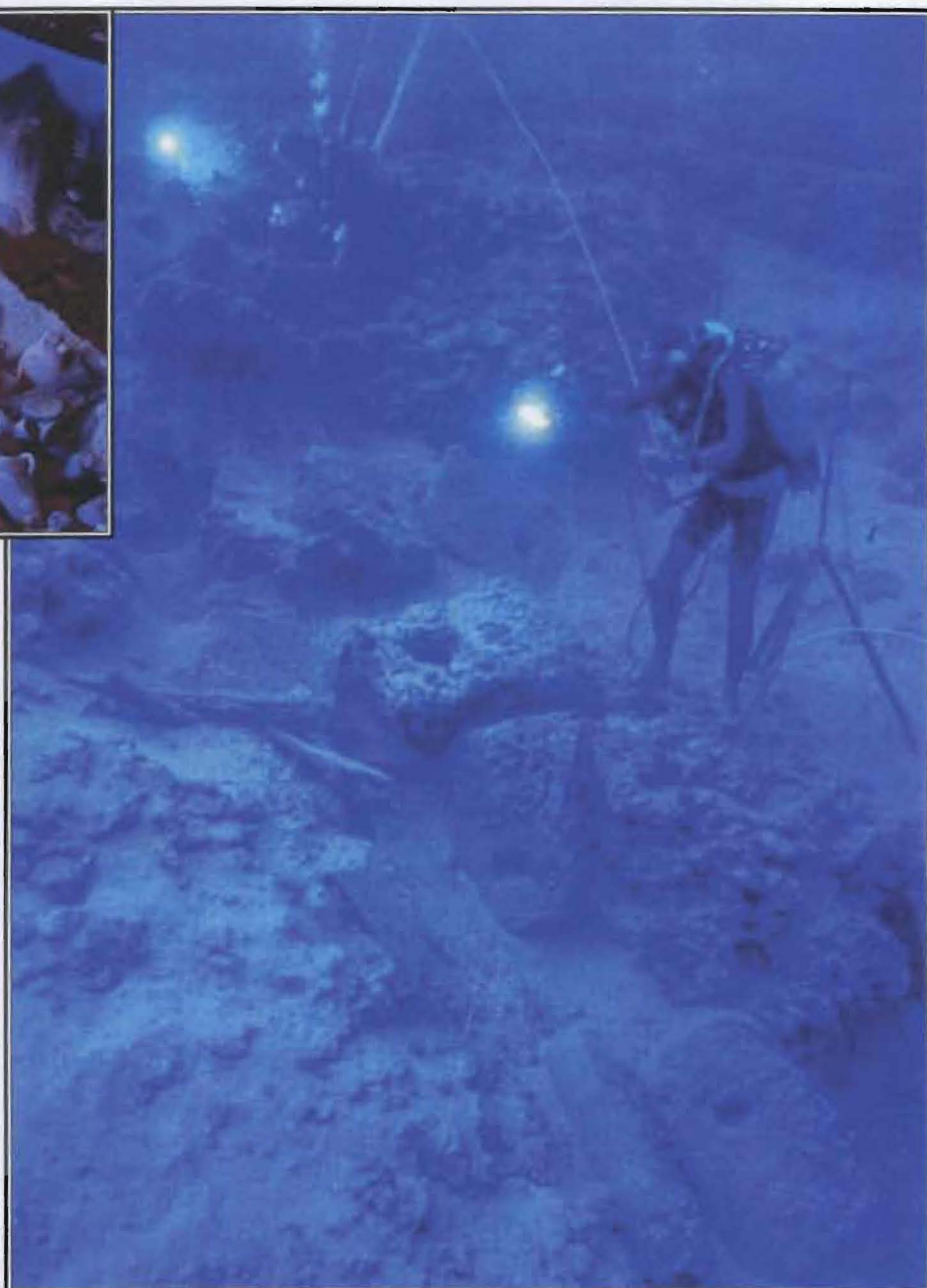


PHOTO 2: Top left; Some of the Cypriot ceramics and copper ingots found on the Uluburun (credit Image Source). The wreck site as viewed from the deeper end showing displaced anchors originally stowed near the bow (credit: INA).



PHOTO 3a: "Axe AS43" decorated only on one side, damage on the blade



PHOTO 3b: Side view, showing water symbols, and 43 spaces across the waters. This connects American Stonehenge at 43 degrees N, with La Coruna in Iberia, also at 43 degrees N.



PHOTO 4a: Four of 9 Azores rows, notched edges of 39, the latitude of the West Azores at 39°N. The first two sections hold 7 dots, the Central and E Azores. The blade has route data.



PHOTO 4b: Five of the 9 Azores rows, notched edges of 39, the latitude of the West Azores. The first two sections hold 7 dots, the Central and East Azores. Blade with route data of the American Coast around American Stonehenge.

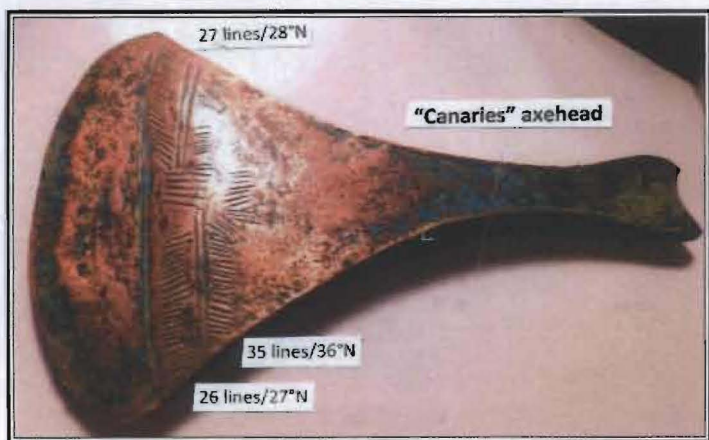


PHOTO 5: The "Canaries" axehead. The 5 Central, and 7 Canary Islands, with their latitudes of 28°N and 27°N, and the latitude of Gibraltar at 36°N.

itude is celebrated in the huge 3600 BC monument of Gavrinis, on the coast of France, made of 39 enormous blocks of stone.

On the front side, the two sections of dots hold rows of 7 dots, for the seven central and eastern Azores islands.

has too much corrosion to be read.

PHOTOS 6a & b are the front and back of another Moog decorated axehead, the "Island Groups" axehead. On the front, the axe seems to be focused on locating the landmark Pico volcano, on the Island of Pico in the Central Azores (the tall peak on the axehead). In the peak are 8 marks, the 9 spaces of the nine Azores. The left side of the axe shows 37 marks, 38 spaces, the correct latitude of PICO at 38°N. The back shows a count of 36 dots across the blade, the 37°N latitude of the East Azores. The 27 dots below the triangle show the 28°N latitude of the Canaries,

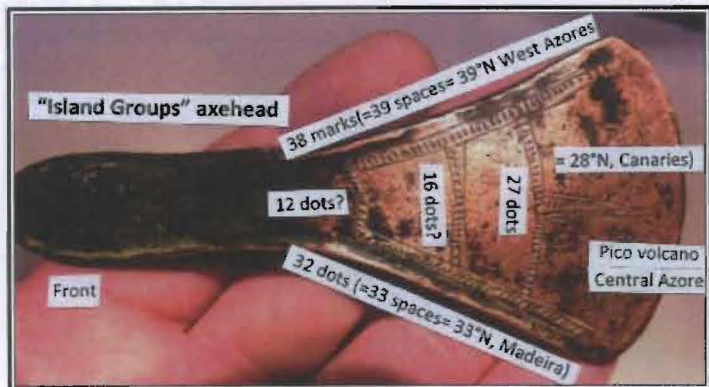


PHOTO 6a: The front side of this "Island Groups" axehead shows a tall central triangle volcano of Pico in the Central Azores, with nine spaces of the 9 Azores in the triangle. The upper side shows 38 marks, or 39 spaces, for the 39°N latitude of Corvo and Flores. The lower edge marks total 32, so 33 spaces=33°N, Madeira. 16=Cape Verde Island, 12=Latitude of Magdalena River Approach.



PHOTO 6b: The backside has 36 dots across the blade, the 37°N latitude of the East Azores.



PHOTO 7: "Traveler" necklace pendant, showing the bearer had traveled many routes in his life. Right: Shipping routes map

further south and east, off the coast of Morocco. Two of the three lower triangles show totals of 23, the holy number of the Sun-God's route across the ocean at 23°N, even further south. PHOTO 7 shows a "Traveler's" necklace pendant, showing that the bearer had traveled many routes during his life, and is proud of it. PHOTOS 8, Front and Back show the 21cm "Copper Trail" axehead of 2000-1700 BC. We first notice the "wave" zigzag patterns of the Bronze Age ocean motif, across both sides of the blade. The front pattern records a correct Atlantic Ocean width of 4 triangles, plus two partial triangles (=4DL = 40 Egyptian moira of one degree= 2,400 NM + 2 sides, so =5DL = 3,000 NM, with 60 Nautical Miles in one degree). The backside shows a smaller wave pattern, consisting of 23 bars (in the 11 1/2 triangles), encoding the important Tropic of Cancer.

The powerful and unique features of this axe are in the mid-section of the front side of the axehead. There are four very clear counts of 30, two along each side of the feather-shape in the center, and two along the rims beside the feather down each side. When repeated so much, something important is involved. To ancient people, thirty was a magic number in geography. It was the latitude of the mouth of the Nile, the center of the most important civilization on Earth, and also the latitude of the mouth of the huge Mississippi River, in the Western home of the Sun-God. This was the location of Poverty Point, and Cedarland and Claiborne, the places where copper oxides were made and obtained for shipment abroad. Pointing to the blade edge are approximately thirty long marks, again emphasizing the importance of the copper source and the customer in Egypt, both at 30°N.

Along the sides of the front side of the blade are dots that are a bit hard to read, but total seventeen on each side. When combined with 30, this encodes the important source of



copper at 47°N, Portage Lake on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Big boatload storage pits containing the corrosion products of ancient copper have been found along the shoreline of Portage Lake. Twenty-five dots stretch across the blade, inside the arrowpoint line. Given that the shipping of copper ingots across the Atlantic was a major undertaking, I suggest that rounding the peninsula of Florida at 25°N was of prime importance, and a landmark to be remembered.

On the backside, near the edge of the blade, there is emphasis shown about finding the volcanic peak of Pico in the 5 (five spaces in the peak) Central Azores Islands, where their colonies lay on the homebound route. The nine dots on each side

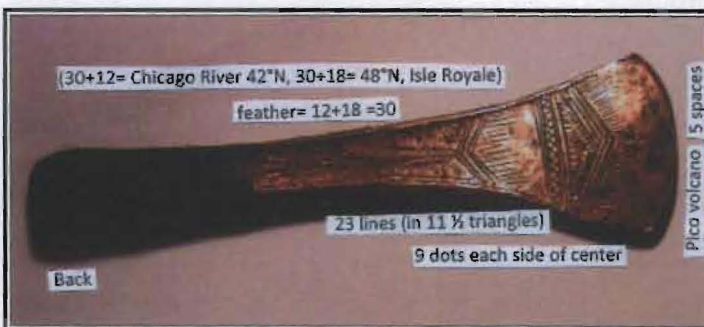


PHOTO 8 Front & Back: I call this the "Copper Trail" axehead, as it clearly records 30°N four times. This is the latitude of the Nile River and the Mississippi River, which is the latitude of the source of the copper oxides, and the latitude of the most important customer, the Egyptians. Also recorded is the 17 + 30 = 47°N latitude of the source of the copper at Portage Lake, on the Keweenaw Peninsula, the 48° latitude of Isle Royale, and the latitude of the Chicago River at 42°N.

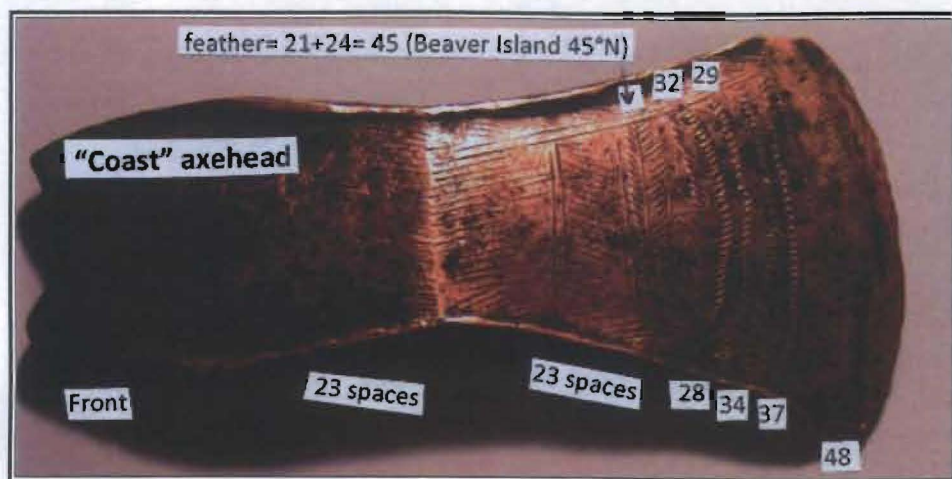


PHOTO 9 Front & Back: this small "Coast" axehead, apparently has a number of mid-latitudes recorded, probably important coastal sailing harbors. The "feather" glyphs show encoding of the likely colony on Beaver Island, and the entry to the Great Lakes at Chicago, where the Chicago river drained out of Lake Michigan during the Bronze Age.

twice repeat the nine islands of the Azores, a common motif. The central "feather" glyph has marks of 12 and 18, again totaling 30. Combining 12 plus 30 provides the latitude of the entry to the Great Lakes at 42°N, and 18+30 provides the latitude of Isle Royale at 48°N. These numbers are not plowmarks or accidents, but designed by the mind of man and very carefully crafted into the casting.

Photos 9, Front and Back show the small (10 ½ cm) enigmatic "Coast" axehead. On the Frontside, a bump is at the thicker center. There are a lot of thin faint lines. On the tail side of the bump, there are 23 spaces, and there are probably 23 spaces in the first box, toward the blade. It is not surprising to find repetition of this most popular number in Beaker Culture iconography, and most important number in navigation. The "feather" glyph has 21 and 24 marks, totaling 45, recording the latitude of the probable colony at Beaver Island at 45°N. There are six columns of small marks (28, 32, 29, 34, and 37) across the blade, and a column of 48 thin lines near the blade edge. On the backside, there is another "feather" with 19

marks on one side, and 23 marks on the other. These total 19+23= the latitude of the entry to the Great Lakes again at the latitude of the Chicago River, at 42°N. Note the two pairs of columns (21,23,30, &37), followed by 41 marks near the blade edge. I can only guess that these represent important places up the American coast that were important to them, such as the mouth of Chesapeake Bay (37°N), the mouth of the Hudson River (41°N), and perhaps American Stonehenge at 43°N, or the crossings of the Upper North route on both sides of Greenland at 67°N. I do not know if these decorated axes were just prestige items of the elite or actual tools, or neumonic devices. I do not know if the artisans carving the plugs for these castings were copying from important fragile master records, or recording commonly known information. In either case, we now know more about Bronze Age capabilities and achievements. I hope there are others who will want to study these artifacts. ■

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The Copper Trade

An aerial photograph showing the side of a large ship, likely a sailing vessel, with its complex rigging and masts visible. The ship is positioned over a body of water, with a rugged, rocky coastline in the background. The image has a vintage, slightly grainy quality.

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The Copper Trade

by Jay Stuart Wakefield

"Over and beyond mere living, the human Spirit adds and creates what is better than what was before" -R.Roefield



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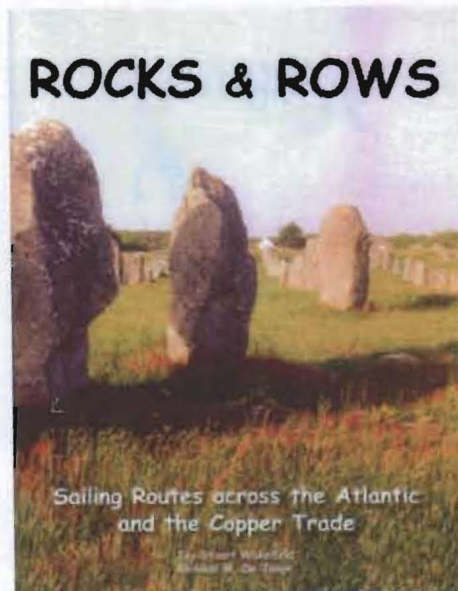
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Cover photo by Richard Holt Wakefield, Yacht Valhalla in Bahamian waters, 1946

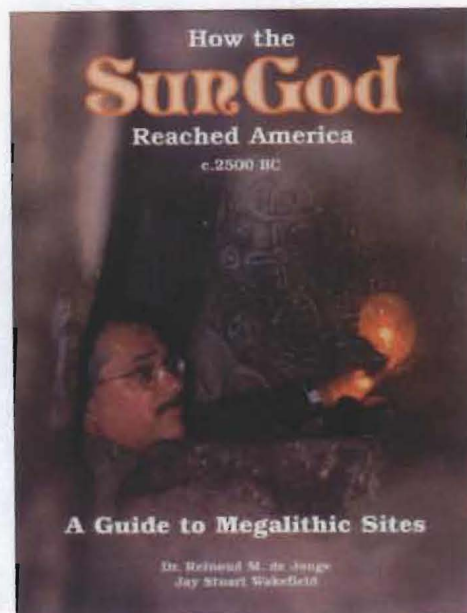
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