

# The Colonization of North and South America by the Beaker People

Jay S. Wakefield

An interesting question has been bothering my friends in Archaeology. The mounds of the Midwest of America have been found to contain many giant skeletons, up to eight feet tall, with huge limbs and enormous skulls. They have been named the Adena People, the first potters, farmers, and mound builders in America. Who were these people? Where did they come from? I think we can now answer these questions.

Thirteen years ago (2002) I published *How the Sun God Reached America* (Ref.2). This book provides evidence that the megalithic Bronze Age monuments of Europe and America were intended to record and convey geographic information. The larger sites are walk-in stone maps, most often maps of the Atlantic Ocean. Also, thousands of small stone pendants made by the Bronze Age Beaker People of Iberia turned out to be stone maps of the ocean. Now, new artifacts have come to light (in this article) which strongly supplement this earlier material.

Five years ago (2010) I published a book entitled *Rocks & Rows* (Ref.3), which included an article "The Beaker People who Discovered America." That title was based on their pottery, found on both sides of the Atlantic, and their reputation for introducing copper to Britain. Photo 1, from this book, was taken in 1998 inside the Passage Grave of Fourknocks, Ireland. The photo shows my wife Suzy, with Reinoud De Jonge. You can see the repeating diamond pattern on the edge of a capstone, one of several examples of Beaker art on the huge stones in the chamber. These patterns are also seen on Beaker Pottery, such as the pot in Photo 2, which is a photo I took in the Devises Museum, in Devises, England, a small town just south of Avebury. These people were named for their pottery with elaborate zig-zag and diamond shaped geometric designs. The inset pot is an Adena pot, made in America about two thousand years later, also in a repeating diamond ("lozenge" motif (Ref.79). The pottery finds were concentrated in the fertile river valleys of Europe (Photo 3) (Ref.28).

These folks were the first farmers in Europe, the first potters, and used the first wristguards with archery. They raised livestock, barley and flax and brewed beer. Photo 4 shows a "typical round" Beaker skull (upper left), compared with a "typical long" skull (lower left) from Harrison's book *The Beaker Folk* (Ref.28). Harrison explains that early work suggested that "the men in particular were above average height, and more robust than was usual, and their skulls larger and rounder". The skulls on the right



Photo 1



Photo 2

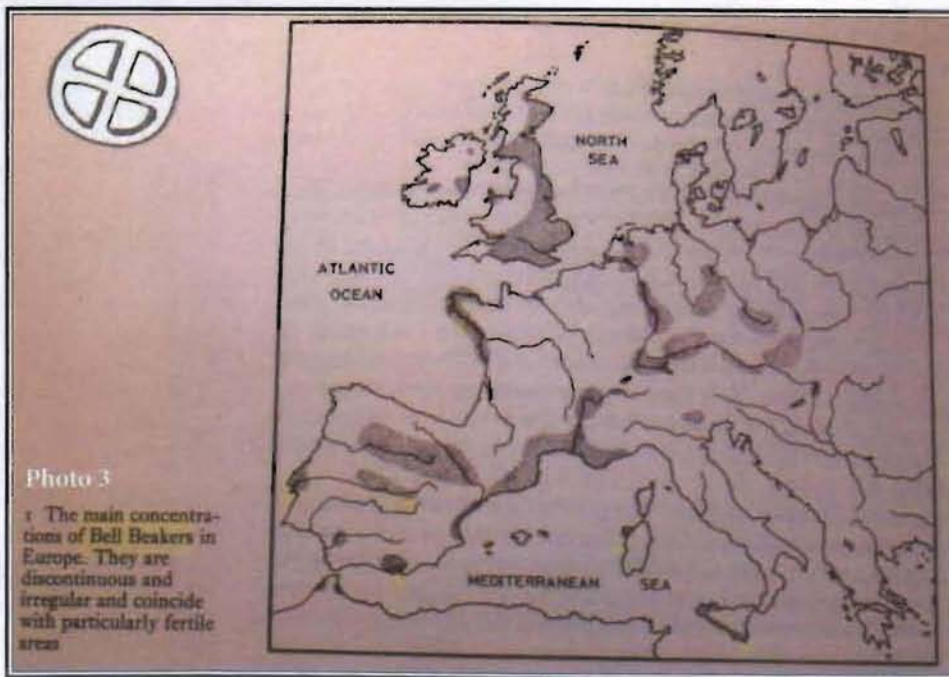


Photo 3

The main concentrations of Bell Beakers in Europe. They are discontinuous and irregular and coincide with particularly fertile areas

of multiple burials, and developed single burial mounds. They built Stonehenge, Avebury, and Silbury Hill. These people are known for being the seafaring folk who introduced copper and metals to the British Isles, starting in Cornwall, the south of England.

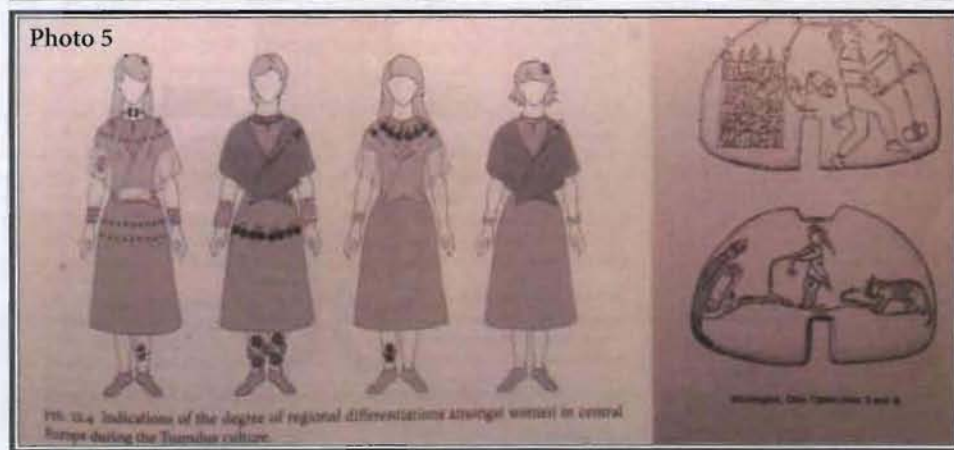
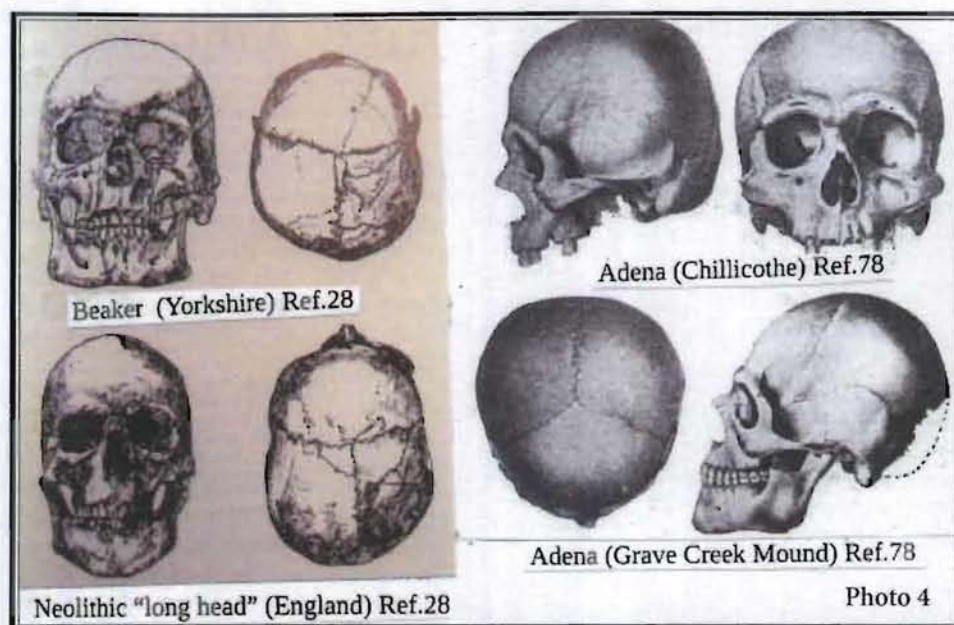
The clothing, too, leads us to think these Beaker People were American Mound Builders. Photo 5 shows Beaker clothing, in a huge new book *The Oxford Handbook of the European Bronze Age* published in 2013 (Ref.26). The book illustrates the woven woolen women's tunics and dresses of the Beaker People with pins and buttons. Adjacent to the four Beaker women, I have placed the dress and tunic images carved into the Wilmington Stone, found in an Ohio Adena mound called Spark's Mound. Unfortunately the National Park Service paintings at mound sites show the mound builders to be loin-clothed, ignoring this remarkable evidence. The blond and red-haired Urumci mummies found in northwestern China

are Adena skulls, one found on a mound in Chillicothe, Ohio, the other in the famous Grave Creek Mound in West Virginia (Refs.4,13,33,62, and 78). They were clean-shaven, with long hair. They lived along rivers, and along the coasts of Europe, a culture that developed for several thousand years (c.3500 BC-1200 BC). They had metal technology and engraving techniques. They featured the wheel-cross motif we find so often on petroglyphs and artifacts in America (see one added to the corner of Photo 3). They dropped the neolithic "Long Barrows"

wear brilliantly colored well-made textiles, showing the extent of the Beaker People explorations to the Far East (Ref.73).

Jim Guthrie, a researcher with the NEARA group (Ref.43) states that "the Basques shared physical characteristics with the maritime Bell-Beaker people, who were larger than most others... It seems likely to me that the Adena had a significant Bell-Beaker component..." He is not the only one to suspect the Beaker People were the ancestors of the Adena. The wide variety of "reel-shaped gorgets" (Ref.79) would lead





anyone to suspect a relationship with the earlier copper oxhide ingots, which were similarly shaped. Researcher Zena Halpern recently sent me a copy of an unpublished 82 page paper by Archaeology Professor and Mexican expert, Robert Chadwick (1930-2014). His wife had saved his unpublished papers and has made them available at Tulane University. The title of his work "Toward a Theory of Trans-Atlantic Diffusion" (Ref.44) is based upon two ceramic vessel forms, the "shoe-shaped pot and the stirrup-spouted vessel." He concludes that there were at least two trans-Atlantic incursions ... at 2000 BC and at 500 BC. We have shown that the Bell-Beaker cultures in the Old World are in some way ancestral...[to the Americas]."

We know from 25 years of studying Megalithic monuments of Europe, that these people were curious about what was on the backside of the Earth, and where the sun went each evening as it set. A jumping-off point for sailing explorations to the west was the base in the Orkney Islands (Refs.2,3). While exploring past Orkney, and then past the Faroes and Iceland, they found Greenland. Its south tip, Cape Farvel, was at 60 degrees north. They celebrated this discov-



ery by building the 60-stone Ring of Brodgar, on Mainland, the large island in the Orkneys. The site was on a neck of land that narrowed between two lakes, simulating

Greenland's southern Cape which narrows between two seas, so the site is another Megalithic "walk-in map."

Recent excavations on the Ness (neck) of Brodgar have revealed a walled building complex. Archaeologists have found it surprising that no bronze artifacts have been found in the excavations. However, we know that the copper of Michigan had not been discovered yet, so these Beaker People, (known for introducing copper to Britain) did not have the metal yet. Archaeologists were also surprised to find the "bones of 600 cows, all eaten in a great feast, and after it, the people moved on" (Refs.63,64,69). When new land, the home of the SunGod was discovered west of Greenland (by explorers sailing west at 67 degrees) there must have been a celebration, and a great stocking up of dried meat for their ships. One can imagine the excited farmers and sailors, closing up their farms, and loading their ships for the voyage to the new lands.

Photo 6 shows one of the petroglyphs in the passage grave of La Pierre's Plates, which is located at the mouth of the Gulf of Morbihan, on the coast of Brittany, France. The petroglyph on the inside of the passage wall stone is four feet tall. On the petroglyph there are four pairs of descending rings., described in the literature as "breasts". In their explorations westward, trying to see what might be on the backside of the Earth, they had discovered that the ocean to their west contained offshore islands. As explained in the Introduction of *How the SunGod Reached America* (Ref.2), the top circle on the right side of the petroglyph represents Iceland, the next, the Azores (open to the west, not explored there yet), the next, the Canary Islands (continuing to the East), and below, the Cape Verde Islands. The glyph has distance lines on both sides (from both coasts), and the usual southern tip of Greenland, coming down in the Ocean at the top of the glyph. They had not yet been to the backside of the Earth, but thought it reasonable to suppose there were also offshore islands there, so they show imaginary islands there in the left half of the petroglyph. This later turned out to be a good guess.

Photo 7 shows a Portuguese pendant, described as a "female plaque" when it was offered to me, sight unseen, by email. I was sure it would have multiple sets of engraved circles before I saw it, as it does. The pendant also shows descending island images, with their concentric distance lines. It is clear that the graphics of these two carvings are similar in concept and style, so are probably similar in age, making this "female plaque" a very early pendant. It is additional evidence that the peoples all along the Atlantic Coast of Europe shared a common "Atlantic Seafaring Culture" as claimed by Barry Cunliffe, the head of archaeology at Oxford University, in his book about the Beaker People, entitled *Facing the Ocean* (Ref.29).



I have recently been able to acquire an unusually long and narrow Beaker People Iberian pendant from a "Manhattan collection." I have noted an explanation of its features beside the stone in Photo 8. All of the pendants are unique, highly stylized, "one-offs." They are found in Passage Graves, accompanying the dead. This anthropomorphized pendant, with eyes of the Sungod, has the ocean wave motif. Like most of the thousands of pendants, the width of the Ocean is shown by three big triangles with half triangles at the sides, and its six vertical divisions show the 60 degrees from the equator to southern Greenland at 60 degrees north. This pendant is unusual in having three big upright "vees", which I think represent the three known best routes across the Ocean. As noted by Professor Lillios in her book *Heraldry for the Dead* (Ref.22), "the plaques all follow a rigorous set of rules, probably differentiate those who traveled, and were a medium for record-keeping and memorializing." These pendants warranted to the Sungod that the bearer deserved a hero's status, as they had braved the waters to the Underworld on the backside of the Earth.

The beautiful bone ocean pendant, Photo 9, which is called an "Idolos Oculi-

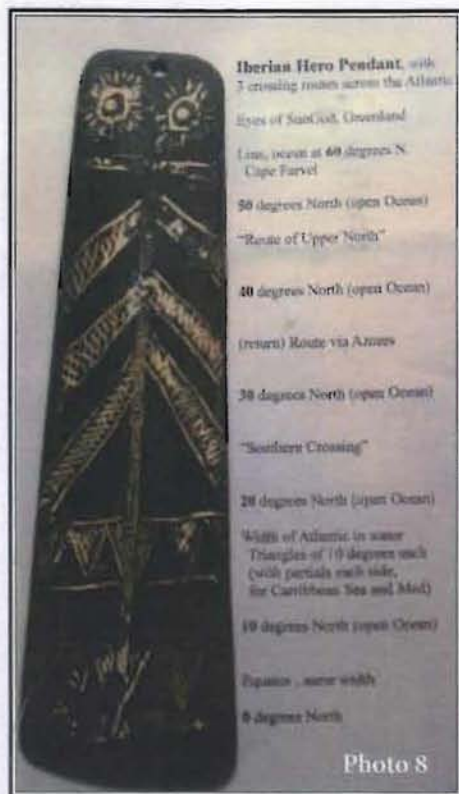


Photo 8

Bronze Age colonies there. Note that if you count the spaces (= distances) in the triangles, you find  $13+13+13$  for a total of 39. This is the latitude of Corvo, of the important West Azores, the first islands you reach when sailing east from North America at the 39 degree latitude line. This is, by the way, the sailing instruction given to modern sailors sailing to Europe from America. These numbers are not "plowmarks" or accidental. They were carefully carved by a sailor or navigator.

Photo 10 shows the most sophisticated, most carefully crafted, Bronze Age pendant I have ever seen. I call it "crossing pendant". It is a box-latitude sailing chart. It comes from the same cave dig near Valencia as the pendant discussed above. The eyes are carefully carved, with 32 rays from each eye. These ocean dimensions are not only shown by the 32dl, but again in the three triangles, and again by the four rows of 27 small boxes below of one degree of distance each direction in each box. (The earliest chart of the Atlantic, in latitude boxes, draped like a fishnet over a huge stone, is in the chamber of the Kercado Passage Grave, in Brittany c.2200 BC (Ref.2).)

The three triangles at the bottom are divided into segments of 8, 6 and 9, totaling 23, the declination of the

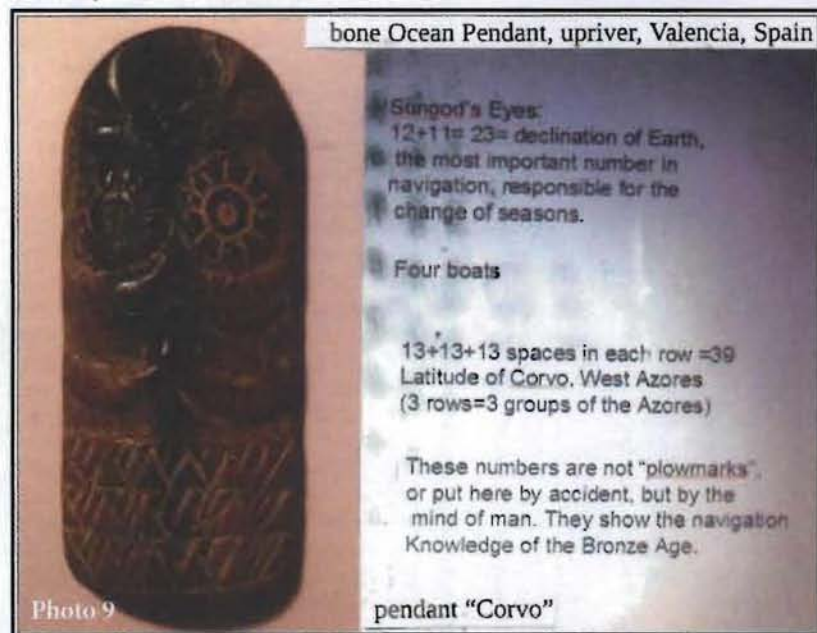


Photo 9

pendant "Corvo"

dos", an idol with eyes. This pendant was found with other bone amulets in an archaeological cave dig "in about 1977" near the river Turia, at Gandia, inland of Valencia, Spain. On this Mediterranean coast of Spain, there were not the outcroppings of slate, but obviously sailors from there were making pendants on bone, in a similar style to the slate pendants of western Iberia. The rays around the eyes are 12 and 11 in number, totaling 23. This is the declination, or tilt, of the Earth in its orbit. This tilt causes the summer/winter change of seasons. This number is described by Mixter (Ref.55), in his textbook on *Navigation*, as the "most im-

portant number in navigation." We find it very often in megalithic monuments and petroglyphs, including Stonehenge. This important latitude was clearly part of the scientific knowledge at the time.

Below the eyes (Photo 9), are carved four boats, and below them, are three rows of divided triangles. Three is very common in "megalithic art." In our books, we have shown many examples which lead us to conclude that these refer to the three island groups of the Azores, out in the Atlantic. In another article, I will illustrate the stone pyramids, trackways, balanced stones, stone structures, and petropots that remain of the

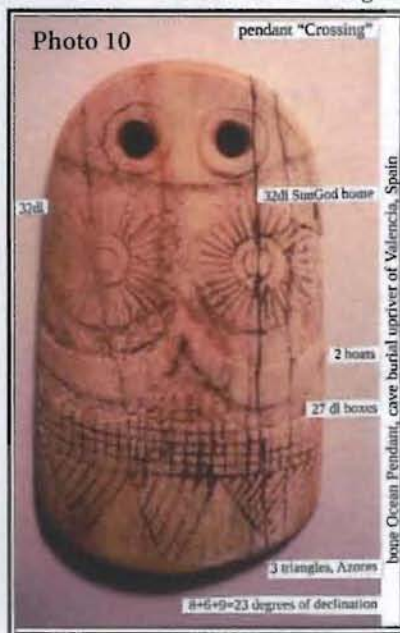


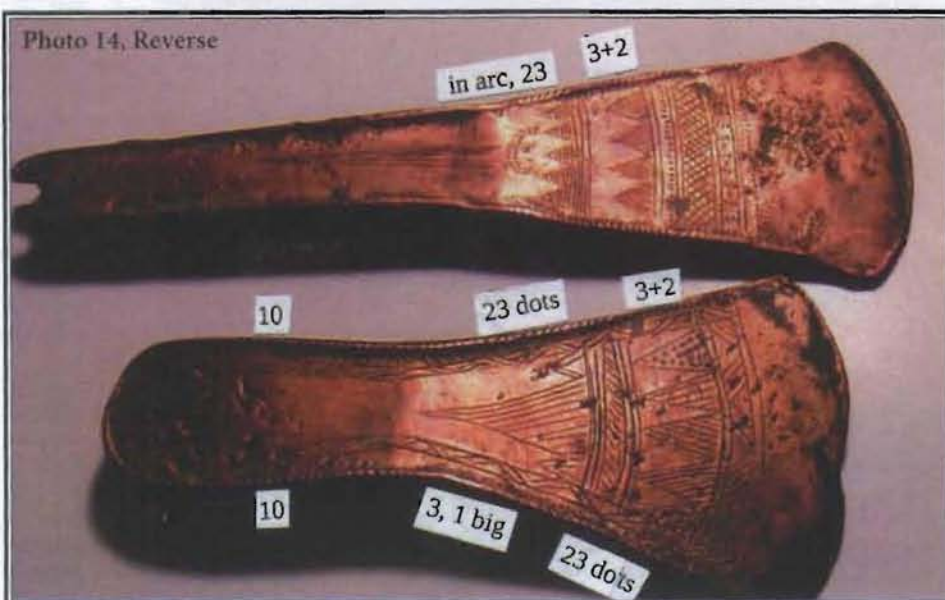
Photo 10

pendant "Crossing"

tating 23, the declination of the Earth. Of course, the width of the Ocean varies by the latitude where it is measured. The 32 Egyptian moira (degrees) of the eyes are reasonable, for a normal crossing, declaring that the residence of the SunGod is 32 moira west. However, the horizontal boxes were very finely carved, I think by a sailing captain or navigator. He or she is stating that with a two-ship voyage,

he found a route that was only 27 moira. There are 60 nautical miles in each degree (one degree = one megalithic Egyptian moira), so this is equal to  $60 \times 27$ , or 1,620 nautical miles. This is the shortest distance across the Atlantic, from the Cape Verde Islands to the coast of Brazil, as shown in Photo 11. This route is straight downwind. A coconut in the water will always follow this route. The big red triangles of Photo 11 and the map's vertical longitude lines with ten degree spacing, show the features found upon many petroglyphs and pendants. The three center triangles show the "open ocean" distance. The dotted triangles at each





side are often shown partially, on the edges, showing portions of the Ocean that contain islands, or showing extensions into the Caribbean, European coast, or the Mediterranean Sea. The red arrow shows the length of the 27 dl crossing accomplishment.

Photo 12 shows a Spanish cave painting of the Beaker People, associated with the Idolos Oculados (pendant images). The paintings are located in the Cueva de Laja Alta, a cave near Cadiz, in southern Spain. The panel in red and black ochre "is a naval scene of seven ships, considered one of the most valued historical documents of 1,000 BC" (Cadiz net.com). The Beaker People had not only the motive (find the home of the SunGod), but also the means (sailboats) and the ability (accurate navigational knowledge) to sail the oceans.

The use of latitudes in Central America at early dates is illustrated by the gold figurines in the book *Atlantis in America* by Costa Rican Professor Ivaar Zapp (Ref.57). These little gold figurines have knotted cords and small rectangles held in their mouths, illustrating the "Kamal," a term given by later Arab users of this instrument used to determine latitude. "These figurines have been found throughout the Diquis Delta region of Costa Rica," the area where most of the huge stone balls have been found. I have seen these balls also in the courtyard of the Departmental Museum in Quimper, and the outside yard of the Prehistoric Museum of Penmarch, both in Brittany, the homeland of the Beaker People. I have seen them also in Bosnia, another place reachable by the culture of the Beaker People. The gold figurines in Costa Rica, and probably all the balls, are a vestige of the navigational traditions of the culture which made the figurines and carved the balls. Researcher Jim Bailey said in his book *Sailing to Paradise* (Ref.56), that "according to the Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, the Atlas People (Bronze Age) were famous for teaching the "Doctrine of the Spheres." Remember that 1300 stone circles were constructed in the British Isles from 2500 to 1200 BC. The Adena are known for their "sacred circles" of "paired post-molds," some 95 feet in diameter, found in many Adena sites. Authors Webb and Snow (Ref.78) thought these were "generically related" to the circular structures in England.

Photos 13 and 14 show two remarkable copper or bronze axeheads of the Bronze Age. They are from the collection of Dr. Moog, in southern Germany. They were almost totally black before I recently polished them so they could be accurately studied. The detailed information on these Beaker axes is astonishing. The shorter one

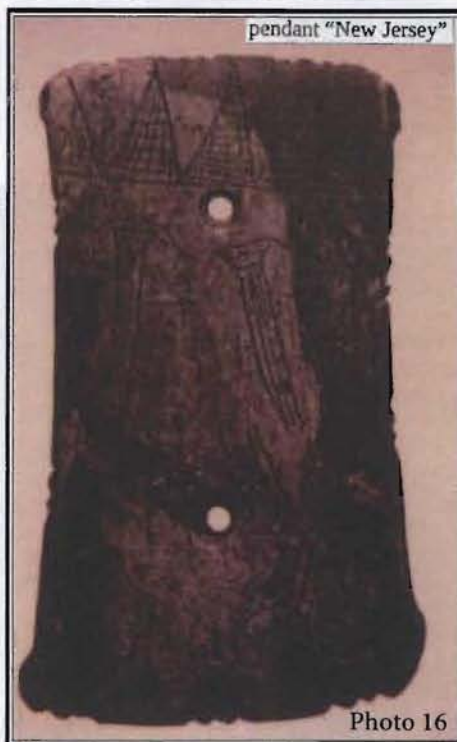
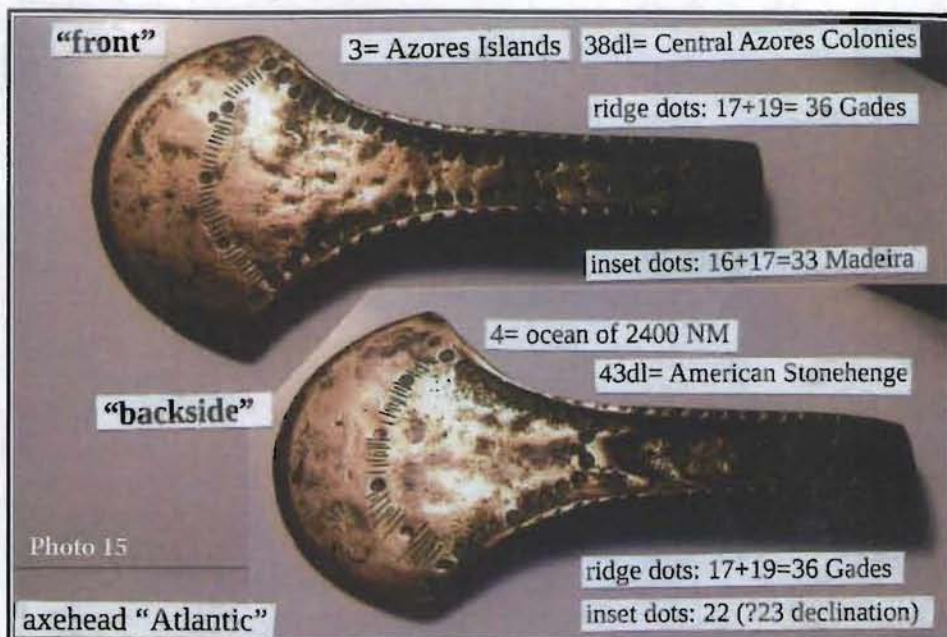


is nearly identical on its two sides. The longer one has two arcs of 23 dots on its backside and one oval glyph of 23 dots on the front. The "handle" end of the shorter axehead has exactly ten dots on each side, on both the front and back. Following arrival on the coast of South America, and turning to starboard up the coast, one would need to sail north ten degrees to enter the Caribbean Sea between Venezuela and the Windwards. The four tens, added to the four 23s, give 33, the latitude of Madeira four times.

The reverse side of the short axehead has 23 dots in its sides. Both sides have 3 prominent triangles, with the center one much larger. I think this reflects the importance of the colonies they had in the Central Azores (article in preparation). Note the three triangles below, with the dotted triangles on each side, and compare this with the triangles of Photo 11. These axes were made with much care and casting expertise. They carry the same data as the pendants of Iberia. They were exquisite possessions of the Beaker elite, and carry some of the navigational knowledge of their civilization.

Photo 15 shows both sides of another axehead from the collection of Dr. Frederick Moog, named "Atlantic." Again, it is thought he acquired it from an older southern German collection. The blade has a beautifully wide semicircular shape, with different patterns. By cleaning off the hard black patina, I could see the details well enough to count them accurately. Let us call the blade side with the three center dots the "front," and the side with the four center dots the "backside." To start, from 20 years of studying petroglyphs, I suspect the 3 dots on the "front" probably represent the three island groups of the Azores, because we have seen this so often. There are small lines between these dots. We have learned from other megalithic glyphs that they have a convention of using the spaces between the lines to represent open distances. The lines only divide the water into a number of distances, usually the distance of one moira, the Egyptian distance of one degree. In all, there are 34 lines, which give a distance of 38 spaces, or 38 degrees. This is the important latitude of the colonies in the Central Azores, on Pico and Terciera. So it seems the suspicion that the 3 dots were the Azores was correct. The large dots on the inside of the edges, total 16 on one side, and 17 on the other, so total 33, the latitude of the island of Madeira, stepping-stone to the Azores. The dots along the ridges total 17 and 19, totaling the latitude of their homeport of Tartessos, near the entrance to the Mediterranean.

The "backside" is even more interesting. The outer ridge dots are again 17 and 19, so total 36, confirming Tartessos again. The inner horseshoe of large dots only total 22. I suppose this was intended to be 23, the



declination. There are four blade dots, maybe the width of the Atlantic Ocean in DL (big dl) of ten degrees each. This would produce an Ocean width of  $4 \times 10 \times 60$  NM/degree, equal to 2400 Nautical Miles. Between these dots are 38 lines, making 43 spaces. At 43 degrees north is located the monument of American Stonehenge, built at about the same time as Stonehenge in England, for the teaching of navigation (Ref.2). Sailing to Europe in the Bronze Age required traveling to 43 degrees north on the American coast to American Stonehenge, making your sacrifices there, then sailing east to the West Azores, to be found at the latitude of 39 degrees north, with their colonies at 38 degrees north. So this "decorated" axehead shows

knowledge of the sailing route back across the Atlantic from west to east, from American Stonehenge to the Azores, Madeira, and Gades. Some of the data is duplicated on both sides, as we have also seen on the bone pendants. This is the most detailed and accurate navigational information ever found on a Bronze Age artifact.

The Beaker People actually left a colony of people called the "Guanaches" in the Canary Islands archipelago that was living in harmony when first visited by the Portuguese (Ref.21). The Guanaches were "robust" big fair-haired blue-eyed white people, who decorated burial caves filled with mummies of their forebears. You can Google their cave art, and see the Beaker-style geometric patterns in it, though the panels have been recently "reconditioned" with bright paint. Their pyramid complex on Tenerife is now part of the "Piramides de Guimar Ethnographic Park", established by Thor Heyerdahl and his friends. Unfortunately, the Guanaches were the first people to be wiped out by the Portuguese slave traders. The pyramids on Pico, in the Azores, remain from a similar colony. This does illustrate, though, a path of the Beaker People in the Ocean, during their nearly two thousand years of explorations.

We are now going to look at some American artifacts that show the presence of the Beaker People. Photo 16 shows a "bannerstone" pendant found in New Jersey with good provenance, having been described by archaeologist W.K. Moorhead, in 1917. Note the three central, and two edge triangles, the same pattern as on many Iberian pendants. Who was carrying this pendant in New Jersey? Where had they been, to carve classical stone columns on the pendant? Egypt probably.

Photo 17 is a "personal find" by Chris Peters, shown in the beautiful relic magazine *Prehistoric American*. Found in a Missouri streambed in the spring of 2014, it



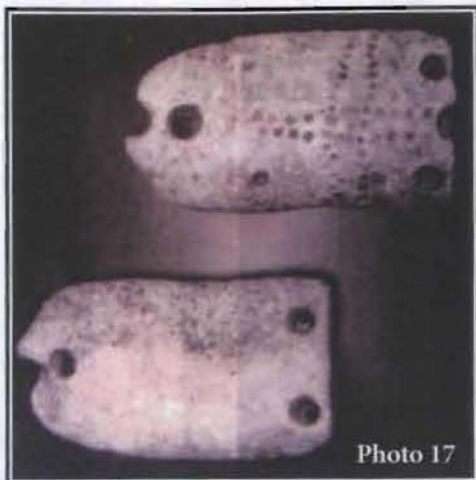


Photo 17

is described as a "stone gorget." It appears to be very worn, broken and re-drilled at the top. It is actually a Bronze Age digital latitude sailing chart, using the same methodology previously seen on the bronze German axes. The mouth of the Mississippi river is shown at the bottom (the slate pendants always have north at the top), with twelve dots representing degrees of latitude running up the river to Chicago (30 degrees at the river mouth, to 42 at Chicago). The ships carrying copper from Isle Royale could sail directly from the Great Lakes down the Chicago River during the Bronze Age (until 1200 BC) according to Dr. James Scherz, Ph.D (The Ship Petroglyph Ref.47).

**T**he Olmec cities were being built at the same time as the mounds at Poverty Point, Louisiana, around 1500 BC. They were located between the Bay of Campeche (18 degrees N - the upper horizontal row of 18 dots), and the Gulf of Tehuantepec (16 degrees N - the lower horizontal row of 16 dots). This pendant shows the location of the Olmec cities, and the length of the copper route up and down the Mississippi (two rows). This was created using the same methodology of one dot or one rock, for a distance at sea of one degree of latitude. This methodology had been used for at least a thousand years in Europe. The rows of Carnac, or the Lagatjar rows (both in Brittany), and many other sites use this methodology. It is the same methodology we have seen on the German bronze axes, and the Iberian pendants. So this pendant was made in the megalithic tradition, probably by a sailor of the Beaker Culture. It was lost, or intermittently saved as an interesting relic, before being lost again and being saved as an interesting relic by Mr. Peters.

Photo 18 is a slate plaque found in 1908 at a site called "Spanish Hill" in Pennsylvania (Ref.20). Called the "7-hole pendant", has the usual 3+ wavy horizontal line ocean wave motif (which means "water" in Egyptian hieroglyphics), with three spaces between four vertical longitude lines, showing the correct 30 degree width of the open Ocean, tapering to the top to Greenland. There is a diamond in the middle, common

on pendants and petroglyphs, showing the mid-ocean islands (Azores). The site is a large flat-topped glacial mound near the Susquehanna river on the New York / Pennsylvania border. The place was named "because of the fortifications found at this ceremonial hilltop enclosure." While clearly related to the Iberic pendants, this item alone does not prove Spanish Hill was an Iberian (Beaker) colony, but this is a piece of hard evidence that it might have been.

It should be mentioned that the later Adena (1000 BC) are noted for their intricate patterned tablets, which are about the size of the Iberian pendants. This hilltop enclosure of ten acres inside 7-8 foot earthen walls with a palisade atop (surveyed in 1878) was located on a major waterway connection between the mounds of the Ohio valley, and the stone chambers/colonies of the Hudson River valley. Other artifacts and petroglyphs have shown this to be a highly trafficked area, and perhaps thickly populated (Ref.2).

The long-term presence of the Beaker People in America is indicated by their pots as well as their pendants and the physical size and bone structure of their descendants. One exhibit in the museum of Poverty Point (Louisiana) is a pot that is a near-copy of one I photographed in England, as shown in Rocks&Rows (Ref.3). Mind you, Poverty Point is regarded as a pre-pottery "archaic" site. Pottery is regarded as a characteristic of "woodland" cultures, along with mounds and agriculture (which are also all Beaker Culture characteristics). The later local "indians" in the Poverty Point area, called the Caddo, made many pots with Beaker designs, shown beautifully in *The Art of the Caddo* (Ref.51). Surely, the Beaker People were seeking metals, and were miners of Michigan copper, along with the Minoans. The Minoan presence has been documented by copper oxide ingots and molds at the Smithsonian dig at Clinch River, Tennessee, and other evidence including bronze axes, pendants, and petroglyphs. The extent and location of the Beaker settlements during the thousand years of mining is still unclear. Myron Payne directed me to an internet article on the "Petaga Point Archaeological Site in Minnesota, where replicas of big Beaker pots are on display and the original shards under study (Ref. 65). The Lake Kegonsa 15-acre "Prehistoric Fort" was brought to my attention by Bob List. It is 7 miles south of Madison, Wisconsin. It is reported to have a village site outside its walls, with large skeletons, gorgets of slate, stone lined ovens, round molds, and various ores (Ref.72). Undoubtedly there are other sites.

The copper mining in Michigan ended during the 1200 BC 50-100 year period of cataclysms thought to have been caused by impactors from the breakup of comet Enecke. We still see remnant showers of it each Fall. This period is called the "Plenard period" by climatologists. All the reigning civilizations on Earth fell, including the



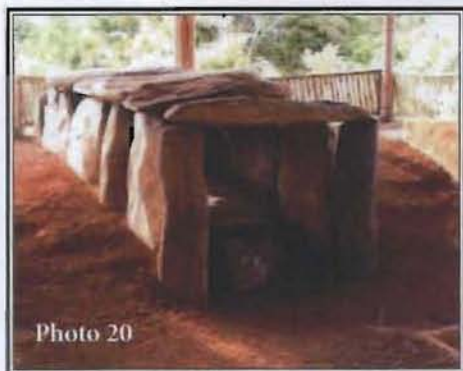
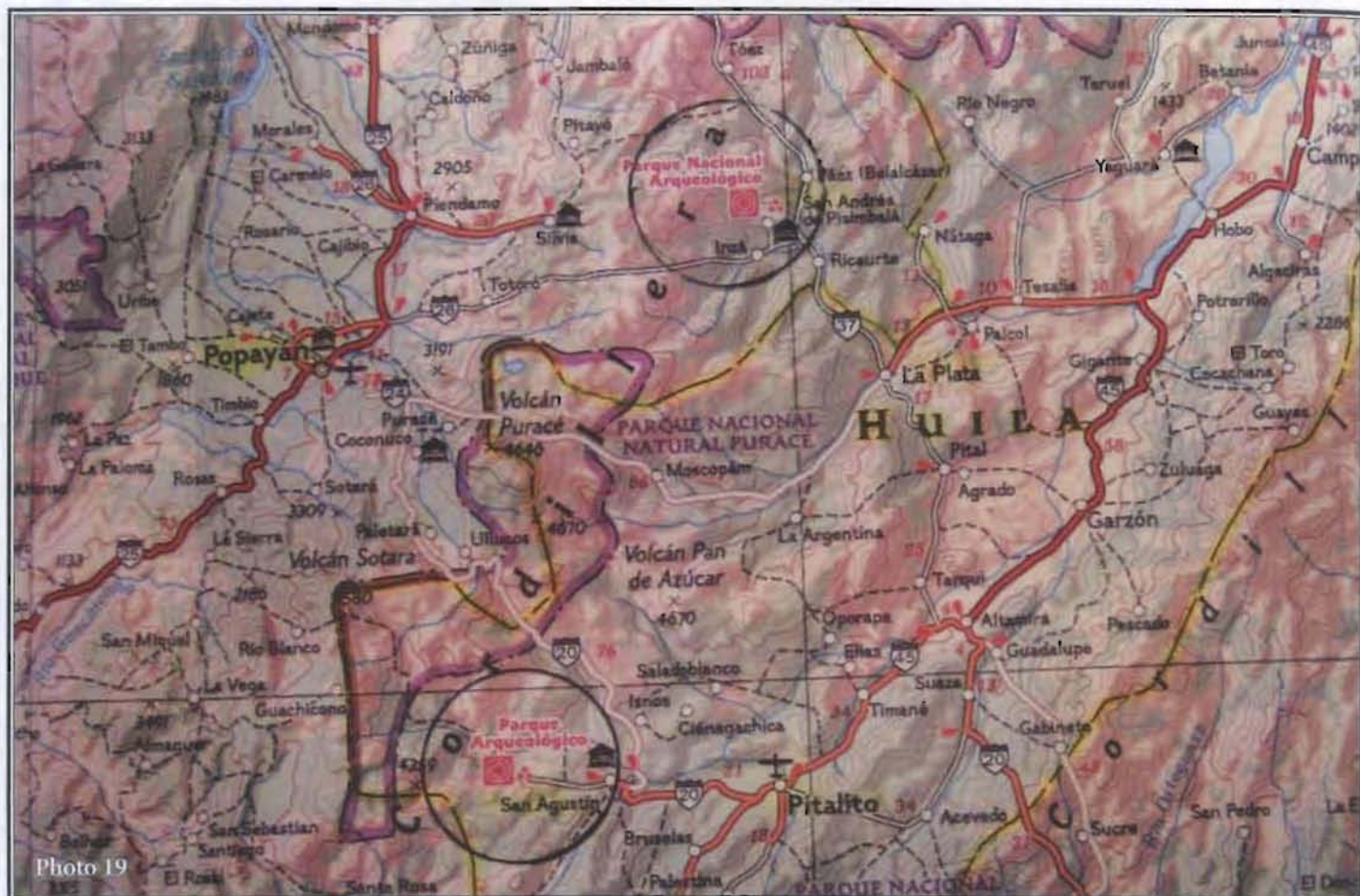
Photo 18

pendant "Spanish Hill"

Shang, the Hittite (Turkey), the Babylonian, the Egyptian, the Indus (India), the Trojan, and the Mycenaean. All these cultures and their economies suddenly ceased to exist. The Plenard Period was followed in North America by the "Adena," with giants among their elite, and in South America by the "Regional Classical" (to be discussed). I am proposing that the Beaker People were ancestral to both cultures. Bailey (Ref.56) correctly states "they provided a small ruling class to each society they took over."

Now we will look for evidence for Beaker People in South America. In her book *Heraldry for the Dead* (Refs.1 & 22), University of Iowa Professor Katina Lillios says that Argentine paleontologist Florentino Ameghino (1854-1911) included a discussion of the Portuguese plaques in his study of the history of La Plata, Argentina. He "saw clear parallels between the engravings on the Portuguese plaques and those on stone plaques from the Rio Negro region of Patagonia." "We find these signs to be absolutely identical to those found on some slate plaques of Portugal that the distinguished Portuguese geologist don Carlos Ribeiro has informed us about" (Ameghino, 1880; 273). Professor Lillios, who speaks Portuguese, emailed me that she has been unable to locate this report, or photos of the Argentine plaques. They might provide some hard evidence for a Beaker People transoceanic Bronze Age tin trade. Sailing south from their landfalls on the South American coast would have been a natural thing to do. The winds would have been favorable to Rio de La Plata. A big "stonehenge" is located north of the mouth of the Amazon, and fields of standing stones





can be seen in a number of locations (Refs. 11,81). Much evidence is still being unearthed at Tiahuanaco (Bolivia). The site now includes pyramids, Sumerian cuneiform writing, turbaned heads, and so on. This needs more research.

**T**he huge Rio Magdalena drains a big basin of northern Colombia between two ranges of the Cordillera of the Andes. It enters the Caribbean Sea near the city of Barranquilla, Colombia. Across a huge bay, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, are the mysterious ancient cities of Ciudad Antigua, and Ciudad Perdida. These sites, with huge staircases, and platforms in the jungle, take several days hiking to reach, but have been used in some movies. They were considered ancient by the Spanish Conquistadores. Like the Mississippi, this large

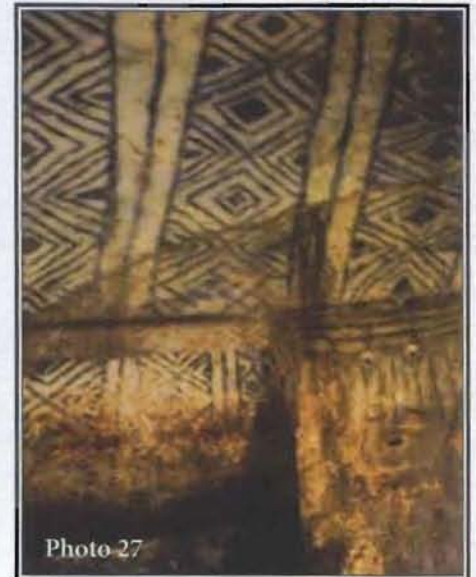
Rio Magdalena would have attracted early boaters, who themselves lived along rivers in their homelands. Paddling upriver would have been easy through the myriad lowland lakes and swamps of the lower Magdalena. The river course gradually rises into a huge highland valley in the Andes at just two degrees south.

At the headwaters of the Rio Magdalena are "archaeologic sites for 60 miles along the river," and sprawling over 2000 square kilometers, considered the largest pre-Columbian site, and oldest cultural site in South America. Though near the equator, the climate is described as "eternal spring." The Parque Arqueológico of San Agustín and Parque Nacional Arqueológico of Tierradentro (Photo 19) are United Nations World Heritage Sites, with "500 statues" and

tombs, including passage graves and hypogea. These passage graves with huge covers (Photos 20, 21, 22) would look at home on the coast of Europe, and are clearly the work of the Beaker People.

Archaeologists have defined an "archaic period" from 3300 BC to 600 BC. The first adventurers up the river found a beautiful and fruitful place to settle, and lived there a thousand years. The area has remained populated through cultural changes, for over 5300 years. Today the stone tombs of the early culture bringers survive at the lowest levels of these sites, with new sarcophagi, and huge statuary added inside and above the passage graves. The first colonizers of South America are officially "unknown," although those of us who have studied passage graves in Europe, like Hugh

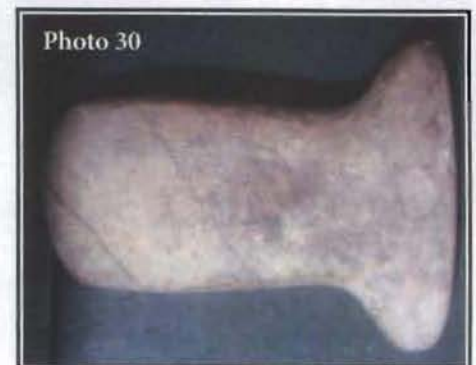
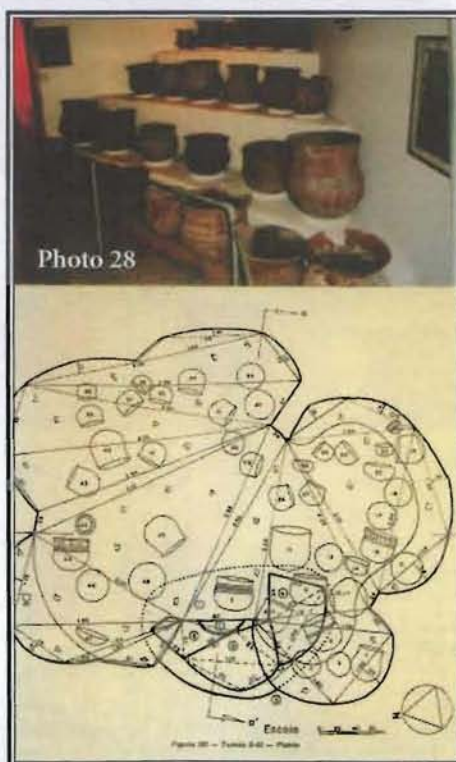




Newman (Ref.23) can see the Beaker People here.

Photo 23 shows what it is like to descend into one of the hypogea, or underground carved-out tombs of Tierradentro. In Photo 24, another tomb, note the scale of the stairs. To us, a normal step is six inches. The tallest step I saw was 32 inches. In Photo 25 you can see that the local park service has added small square intermediate steps to help the tourists. These hypogea were carved out, with all the rock hauled up the stairs. It appears we have found evidence for giants! Indeed, in the works of Wilkins (Ref. 15,16), it is reported that native legends tell of "giants" arriving from overseas, and reports of cave sites where giant skeletons have been found. Inca legends say that the god Viracocha created a race of giants, and the giants built Tiahuanaco (Ref.61).

Photos 26 shows the interior of the burial chamber at Alto del Aguacate, one of the Tierradentro Archaeological Park hypogea sites, and Photo 27 shows another. Note the repeating diamond patterns of the Beaker People. Photo 28 shows the Beaker pots found in one tomb. Many of the ridgetops in this mountainous area have these "Mesita" (man-flattened tops), with tombs on them, though those found outside the park, are said to have been looted. It is said that much of this culture remains to be found, "10% excavated." The reason given for so little archaeology is because of the rebels and violence that has plagued Colom-



bia for so long, which has discouraged tourists and archaeologists. Today, it is said that the rebels have been pushed into remote areas of the Amazon.

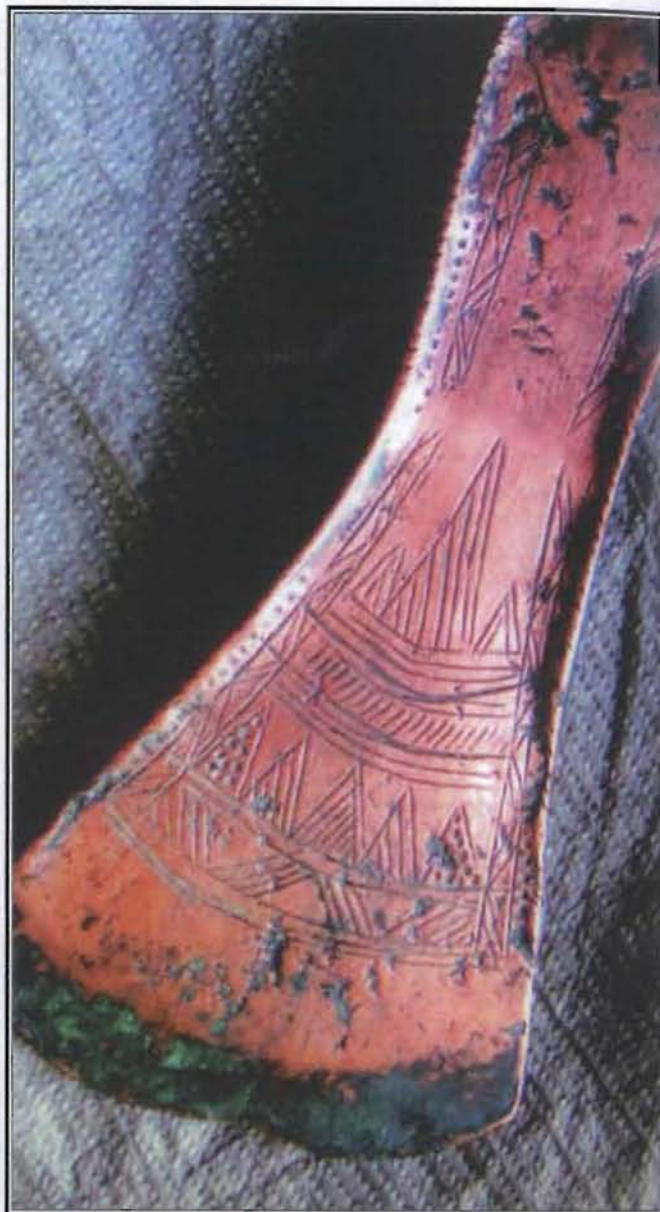
Photos 29 and 30, are stone axeheads in the San Agustín museums. They

are similar to the pre-dynastic axes of Egypt, and the three found on Isle Royale in Michigan, as discussed in *Ancient American* magazine recently (Ref.9). Another one was in a display case in the Convento Santa Cruz de la Popa in Cartagena. It was found when the



Spanish conquistadores were having the foundations of a convent dug in the sand. I have seen many of these axeheads on exhibit in the Gold Museum in Lima, Peru, an enormous collection and museum funded by an aristocrat there. I have also seen one in the Prehistoric Museum in Gdansk, Poland, among a Beaker exhibit that included beautiful Beaker pots. Since three of these axeheads were found on Isle Royale, it appears the Beaker People may have been the miners on Isle Royale (Ref.9).

The art and the technology of the Bronze Age Beaker People is found on their pottery, their stone circles, their hero pendants, and their tombs on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, and in both North and South America. Their huge physical size is found in Europe, Asia, the Canaries, Columbia, Michigan, and in the Adena elite. Clearly the Beaker People, a subset of the megalithic people, were a lot more than European potters, but exploring the world, gathering its resources, and colonizing it for thousands of years. Their navigational technology was up to the task. They deserve recognition for the important role they have played in history. ■



Correspondence address:

Jay Stuart Wakefield  
[jswakefield@comcast.net](mailto:jswakefield@comcast.net)