THE PASSAGE GRAVE OF KARLEBY

ENCODING THE ISLANDS DISCOVERED IN THE OCEAN (KARLEBY, FALBYGDEN, SWEDEN, c.2950 BC)

by

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Summary

The Passage Grave of Karleby is a T-shaped Megalithic tomb with religious and geographic encodings, dated c.2950 BC. The encodings relate to the Sunreligion and islands discovered in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Island of Jan Mayen is particularly well encoded, showing its discovery at this early date. These numeric encodings commemorate the history of Megalithic discoveries, even revealing their dates. They are typical for all early Megalithic monuments, and clearly demonstrate that the old Swedish stone constructions are a part of the Megalithic heritage of Europe.

Introduction

THE FALBYGDEN area is situated in the south part of Sweden, between the two big lakes Vättern and Vänern, around the town of Falköping (Refs.1,2). In this early farming region there are about 270 passage graves, gathered within a triangular area covering 50x50x30 km, and constituting 3/4 of all known passage tombs in Sweden. The tombs are situated close to each other, mostly at distances of less then half a kilometer. The megalithic monuments are made of up to 40 big stones (uprights and cover stones, local rocks), having typical sizes of about 2x1x0.5 meters (m). The stone structures are T-shaped, most of them originally covered by a mound of stone and earth. The passages are 4-10 m long, about 1 m wide, and 1 m high. The chambers, at right angles, are 5-17 m long, 1-4 m wide, and about 2 m high, significantly higher than the passages. The mounds can be as much as 40 meters in diameter, and up to 2 m high, equal to the height of the chambers.

Passage Graves: General Interpretation

The megalithic monuments of Falköping are located near the west coast of Western Europe, about 100 km from the Ocean. All the passage graves point with their important burial chamber to the west, with entrances on the east side. These were monuments of the Sunreligion, and the people who built them were interested in following the SunGod across the Ocean. They were built at this location because of the fertile farming lands.

However, also note that they are built at 58 degrees N, the latitude of the north coast of Scotland. From this coast, important discoveries were made in the ocean between c.3500 BC and 3100 BC. This was the time period of the great discoveries in the north of the Atlantic Ocean: the Faeroes (c.3400 BC), Iceland (c.3400 BC), and Greenland (c.3300 BC)(Refs.3,4). It was during this time period that the passage graves were built.

THE TOMBS are typically T-shaped, like the Passage Grave of Karleby. When comparing them with a map, the configuration of the passages resembles the crossing from Scotland via the Faeroes and Iceland to Greenland, and the burial chambers resemble the Island of Greenland, the westernmost land of the then known world. In general, the last coverstone of the passage (stone 5, Fig.1), locally known as the 'keystone', was special, often made of granite or gneiss. This stone in these passage graves symbolizes Cape Holm, Greenland, where Greenland was first discovered, at the Arctic Circle. It has religious meaning in the religion of the SunGod, because the Arctic Circle is the northernmost line where the Sun still shines at midwinter day (winter solstice). Then the Sun is at right angles above the Tropic of Capricorn. The slow southern movement of the Sun then turns northerly.

Therefore the burial chamber portions of these monuments represent Greenland, the western home of the SunGod. The southernmost portions of these chambers should be important, because they correspond to South Greenland. Here, at about 60 degrees N, the megalith builders gave up their efforts to cross the Ocean, c.3200 BC (Fig.2). In South Sweden, the belt of lands at the level of the north of Scotland (approx. 58 degrees N) is a holy area, with numerous passage graves, Bronze Age petroglyphs, and references to the SunGod. Some of the artifacts found in Sweden are shown in Fig.3. This area runs from the Island of Gotland (passage graves) in the East Sea, via Östergöt-land (petroglyphs) and Västergöt-land (Falbygden, passage graves), to Bohuslän and Goteborgslän in the west, famous for its rock petroglyphs of the Bronze Age (Refs.5,6). In Jutland, Denmark, there are a lot of megalithic monuments at this latitude, too. Note, that the important names of all these five areas contain the local word for "God".

The Passage Grave of Karleby

The four passage graves of Karleby are located 3 km ESE of the town of Falköping. The graves are built at the west side along a prehistoric NS road, about 100 m apart. Most of them have cup marks on the roofslabs. A groundplan exists of one of them (Fig.1)(Ref.1). It has a passage about 7 m long and 1.5 m wide. The chamber is also about 7 m long, but 3 m wide. The grave consists of a partly covered passage, with behind it at right angles an almost rectangular burial chamber. Note that the third upright stone at the north side of the passage is clearly missing (stone 26, in dots).
Sunreligion/Egypt

THE COVERED part of the passage grave has a total of 23 big stones (1 to 23 in Fig.1), corresponding to the Southern Egyptian Empire at the Tropic of Cancer, at 23 degrees N. This is also the center of the SunGod religion. The total number of big stones amount to 28 (1 to 28 in Fig.1), corresponding to the Nile Delta, the Northern Egyptian Empire, at 28 degrees below Karleby, at 58-28=30 degrees N. As can be seen in the encodings of megalithic sites, the latitude of the monument site itself is frequently used. In this case, the 58 degrees of the site, minus the total of 28 stones, leaves 30, encoding Heliopolis, the holy city of the SunGod, where the pyramids of Giza would soon be built.

The 23 stones of the covered part of the grave also correspond to the latitude where the Tropic of Cancer crosses the west coast of

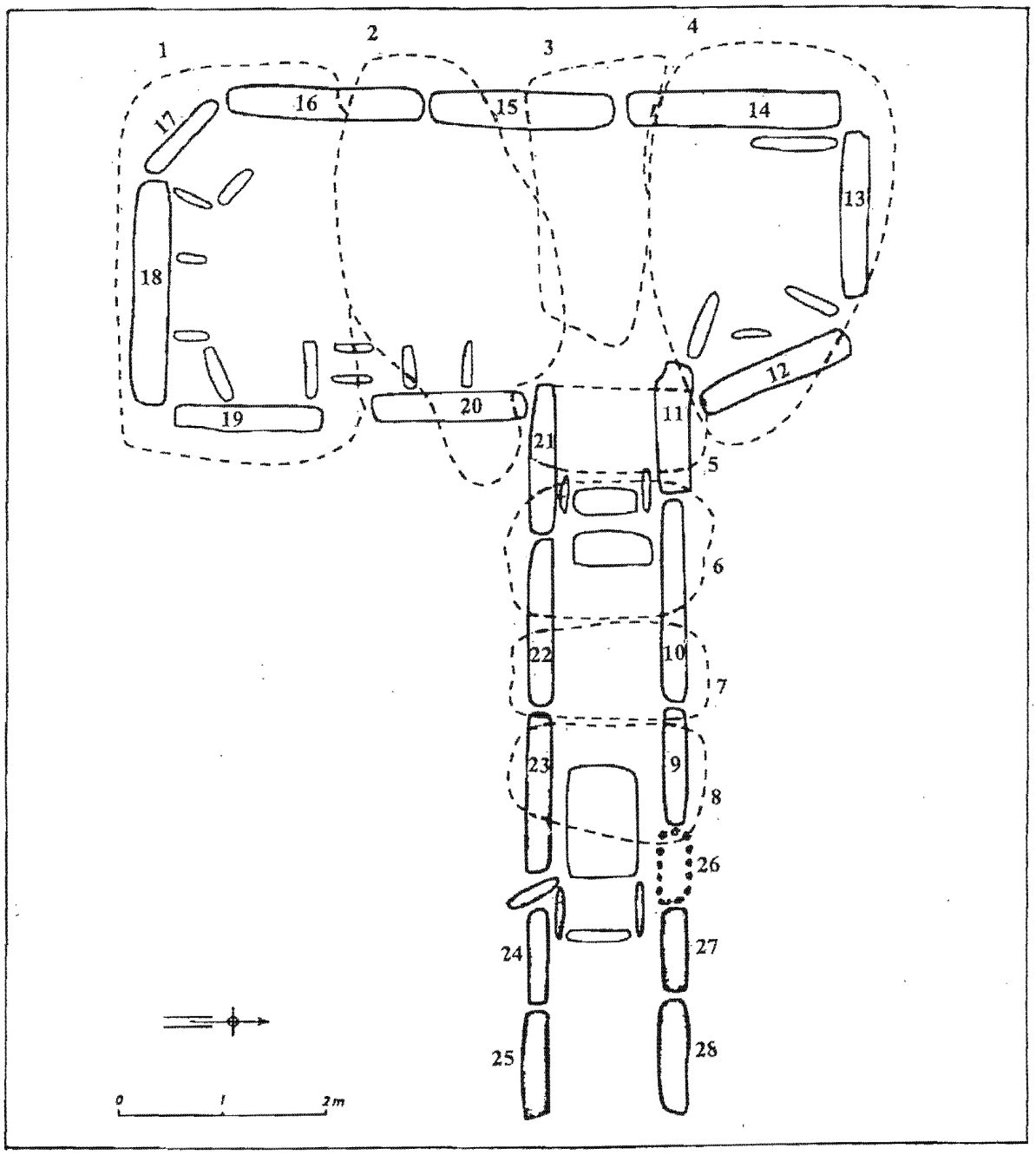


Fig.1 Groundplan of the passage tomb of Karleby (Ref.1), with uprights and coverstones numbered by the authors. The 28 stones show the geographical position of Karleby above the Nile Delta, at 30+28= 58 degrees N. The grave points with the important burial chamber exactly to the west, to the north coast of Scotland. . The passage symbolizes the crossing from Scotland to Cape Holm, Greenland, at the Arctic Circle. The grave chamber symbolizes the island of Greenland, the westernmost land of the then known world. (Karleby, Falbygden, Sweden, c.2950 BC)

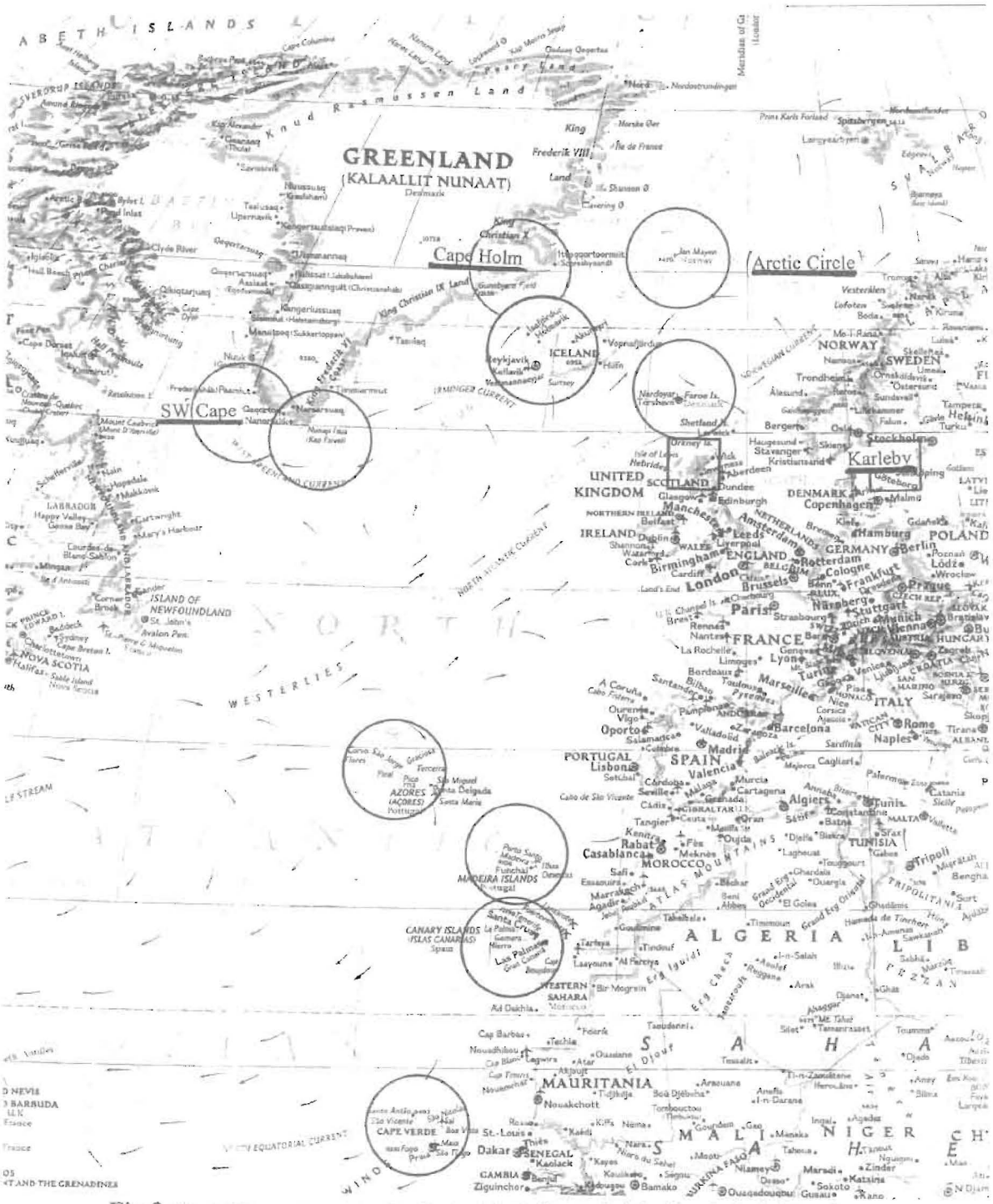
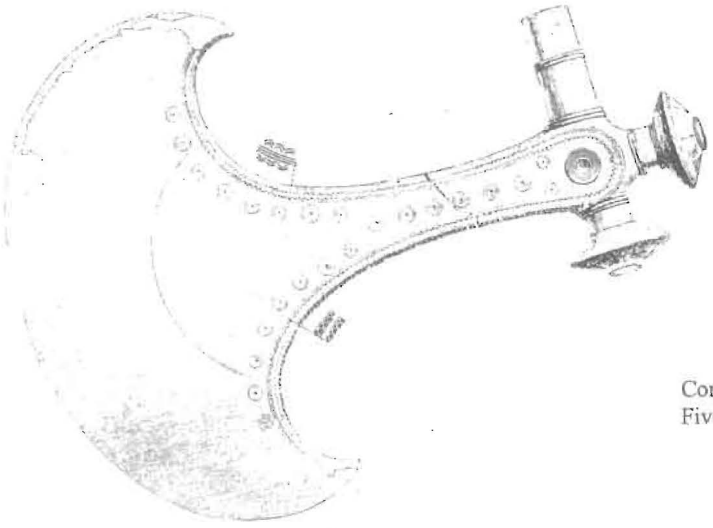
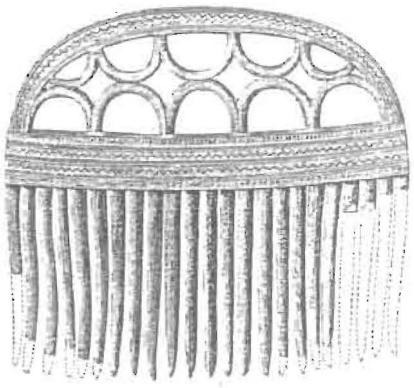


Fig.2 Chart of the eastern part of the North Atlantic Ocean (Ref.9). The circles indicate the islands discovered in the ocean (c.2950 BC).

Fig.3 Samples of much later Bronze Age encoded Swedish objects, that still show geographic latitudes and holy numbers of the Sunreligion (c.1500-500 BC, Montelius, Ref.8)

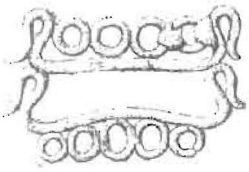


8+8 spirals= 16, latitude of Cape Verde Islands
8+8+8 spirals= 24, Tropic of Cancer

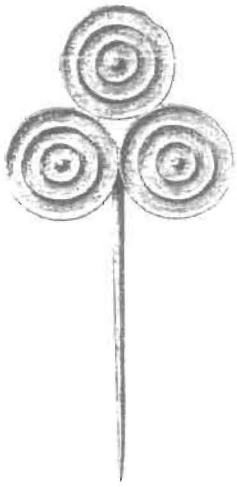


Comb with 23 pins, = latitude of Tropic of Cancer
Five bows= 5 DL crossing of Ocean

Comb with 9 pins= 9 islands of the Azores
On top, the SunGod emblem

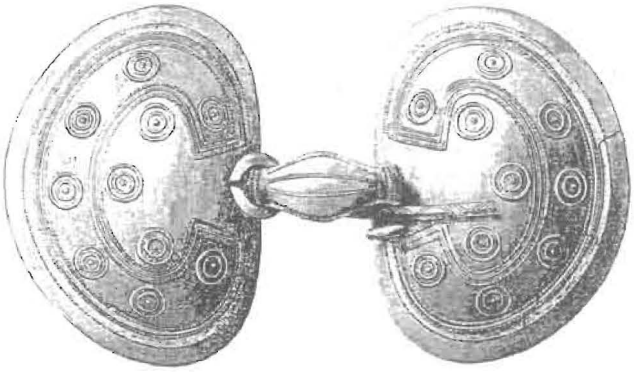


Two ships, 4+5= 9 circles= 9 islands of the Azores



3x3=9, the 3 island groups

of the 9 islands of the Azores



10+10= 20 circles, + center 3= 23= latitude of Tropic of Cancer

Africa, at 23 degrees N. In fact, at this latitude people wanted to cross the Atlantic Ocean in honor of the SunGod (Refs.3,4). One should not forget that this passage grave was built c.3000 BC, during the first dynasty of Egypt, and the pharaohs of Egypt were considered to be personifications of the SunGod Ra.

Explorations of the Upper North

THE PASSAGE grave of Karleby contains 28 stones, encoding its own latitude, 28 degrees above the Nile Delta, at 30+28= 58 degrees North. The burial chamber lies exactly to the west. This is the direction to the north coast of Scotland, also at 58 degrees N. The passage has 4 coverstones, encoding the sailing distance from Scotland to the Faeroes, 4dl= 4 degrees= 444km (1dl= 1 distance line= 1 degree). The Faeroes archipelago is situated at 58+4= 62 degrees N. Megalithic sites also show the use of complementary latitudes in the old latitude encoding system. The reason for this is because handling large numbers of large stones was difficult, so large numbers were easier to handle this way. The complementary number to the total number of stones in this monument is 90-28= 62, encoding these important Faeroe Islands, at 62 degrees N. This is the start of the voyage to the Realm of the Dead.

The chamber has 4 coverstones (1 to 4 in Fig.1), encoding the sailing distance from the Faeroes to the SE coast of Iceland, 4dl= 4 degrees= 444km. The north side of the passage has 6 stones (9 to 11, 26 to 28), encoding the latitude of SE Iceland at 58+6= 64 degrees N. From there one sails to the NW peninsula of Iceland. The north side of the whole monument has 6+2= 8 stones (add 12,13 to the above), corresponding to the latitude of the jump-off point for Cape Holm, at 58+8= 66 degrees N. The total number of 8 coverstones (1 to 8 in Fig.1), confirms the NW peninsula of Iceland, at 58+8= 66 degrees N. The Faeroes and Iceland were discovered by c.3400 BC (Refs.3,4).

The south side of the passage has 5 stones (21 to 25), encoding the sailing distance from Iceland to Cape Holm, Greenland, 5dl= 5 degrees= 555km. The 5 uncovered stones at the entry of the passage (24 to 28) confirm this distance. The grave chamber possesses 9 upright stones (12 to 20), corresponding to Cape Holm at the holy Arctic Circle, at 58+9= 67 degrees N. The 5 southern stones and the 4 coverstones of the passage confirm the latitude, at 58+5+4= 67 degrees N.

The 23 stones of the covered part of the passage grave confirm again the complementary latitude, 90-23= 67 degrees N. The whole passage represents the sailing route from Scotand to Cape Holm in a symbolic way. The last coverstone of the passage, the "keystone", represents this cape. The holy Arctic Circle, running from Scandinavia to Cape Holm, is the northernmost line where the Sun still shines at midwinter day (winter solstice). So, thanks to the SunGod, they reached Cape Holm, Greenland, by sailing at the Holy Latitude of 67 degrees. This big island had been discovered by c.3300 BC (Refs.3,4,7).

WHEN NOT including the 3 uncovered northern stones (26 to 28), the passage has 15-3= 12 stones, corresponding with Cape Brewster, the east cape of Greenland, at 58+12= 70 degrees N. The passage and the chamber both possess 4 coverstones, each encoding the sailing distance from Cape Brewster, or from North Iceland at the Arctic Circle, to the little island of Jan Mayen, 4dl= 4 degrees= 444km. In total the chamber possesses 13 large stones, corresponding to the latitude of Jan Mayen at the level of the North Cape of Scandinavia, at 58+13= 71 degrees N. Notice how clearly, and with big stones, this little island was encoded. Jan Mayen was the last discovery in the North Atlantic Ocean, c.2950 BC (Refs.3,4).

The 5 southern stones of the passage (21 to 25), and the next two stones of the chamber (19 and 20), form together 5+2= 7 units, corresponding to Cape Farvel, the south point of Greenland, 7 degrees below the Arctic Circle, at 67-7= 60 degrees N. The 7 upright western and southern stones of the chamber (14 to 20), forming the shape of South Greenland, confirm the latitude. The 2 southern stones of the chamber also confirm the latitude, at 58+2= 60 degrees N. It is the complementary latitude of the Nile Delta: 90-30= 60 degrees N. The chamber represents the island of Greenland, and the southernmost stone (18) is Cape Farvel. This is the largest upright menhir of the whole passage grave, because of the great importance of this place in their explorations.

The large southern coverstone of the chamber is supported by 3 SW stones (16,17,18), corresponding to the SW Cape of Greenland, at 58+3= 61 degrees N. The central SW stone (17) represents this cape, literally. The chamber possesses 3 western stones (14 to16), confirming this. At Cape Farvel and the SW Cape of Greenland the megalith builders gave up their efforts to cross the North Atlantic Ocean, c.3200 BC (Refs.3,4). North America could be reached most directly from the SW Cape. However, note that the small SW stone (17) confirms that the carbon date of the monument of c.3000 BC. This stone would not be small, if the monument were built after the discovery of America, c.2500 BC.

MADEIRA, Rockall, and the Azores The 2 uncovered southern stones of the passage (24,25) correspond with the 2 Islands of Madeira. The 3 uncovered northern stones (26,27,28) correspond to its latitude, 3 degrees above the Nile Delta, at 30+3= 33 degrees N. The 28 total stones minus these 3 = 25 stones, confirm the latitude, 25 degrees below Karleby, at 58-25= 33 degrees N. These islands had been discovered by c.4200 BC.

In the center of the chamber, opposite the passage, is one little coverstone, corresponding to the island of Rockall, at 58-1= 57 degrees N. The passage and the chamber both possess 4 coverstones, each encoding the sailing distance from the west coast of Scotland to the Islet of Rockall, at 4dl= 4 degrees= 444km. Rockall had been discovered by c.4100 BC.

THE GRAVE chamber has 3 western stones (14,15,16), encoding the 3 island groups of the Azores. It possesses 9 upright stones (12 to 20), corresponding to the 9 islands of the Azores. In total there are 8 coverstones (1 to 8), encoding the sailing distance from Madeira to the Azores, 8dl= 8 degrees= 888km. The 8 coverstones also correspond to the latitude of the Central Azores, 8 degrees above the Nile Delta, at 30+8= 38 degrees N. In total there are 20 upright stones in the monument, confirming the latitude, 20 degrees below Karleby, at 58-20= 38 degrees N. The passage contains 11 upright stones, corresponding to the 2+9= 11 islands of Madeira and the Azores. The Azores had been discovered c.3600 BC (Refs.3,4).

The chamber has 2 northern upright stones (12,13), corresponding to the 2 northernmost islands of the Azores, called the West Azores. In total the chamber has 9 upright stones, corresponding to its latitude, 9 degrees above the Nile Delta, at 30+9= 39 degrees N. The northern stones of the passage and all stones of the chamber form together 6+13= 19 units, confirming the West Azores, 19 degrees below Karleby, at 58-19= 39 degrees N. The total number of stones of the passage and the cover stones of the chamber form together 15+4= 19 stones, again confirming the important latitude of 39 degrees N. The West Azores were the the westernmost islands of the Ocean for about 300 years, until Greenland was found.

The Cape Verde Islands

CAPE VERDE is the westernmost point of all continental land. There are 5 southern stones in the passage (21 to 25), encoding the sailing distance from Cape Verde to the Cape Verde Islands, 5dl= 5 degrees= 555km. The covered part of the passage contains 6+4= 10 stones, corresponding to the 10 Cape Verde Islands. In total the passage contains 15 stones, corresponding to Cape Verde and the Southern Cape Verde Islands, at 15 degrees N. The 2 uncovered southern stones of the passage and the 13 stones of the chamber add together to 2+13= 15 stones, confirming the latitude, of 15 degrees N. The 3 uncovered northern stones of the passage and the 13 stones of the chamber form 3+13= 16 stones, corresponding to the Central Cape Verde Islands, at 16 degrees N. The 4 coverstones of the passage and the 13 stones of the chamber from together 4+13= 17 units, corresponding to the Northern Cape Verde Islands, at 17 degrees N. This archipelago had been discovered by c.4500 BC (Refs.3,4).

The Canary Islands

The 5 southern stones of the passage with the next 2 stones of the chamber (19 to 25) form together 5+2= 7 units, corresponding to the 7 Canary Islands. The 6 northern stones of the passage and the next stone of the chamber (9 to 12 + 26 to 28) add up to 6+1= 7 stones, confirming the 7 islands. The whole passage grave of Karleby possesses 28 stones, corresponding to the latitude of the Canaries, at 28 degrees N. The large groundstone of the passage encodes the sailing distance from the coast to the eastern Canaries, 1dl= 1 degree= 111km. These were the first islands discovered in the Ocean. The whole archipelago is located close to the continent of Africa, and had been discovered by c.5500 BC.

Dates

Most of the dates mentioned so far are based on Carbon-14 determinations of monuments elsewhere in Europe (Refs.3,4). However, we have the impression that dates may be encoded in this monument. The passage grave of Karleby was erected at the discovery of the Islet of Jan Mayen, c.2950 BC, because it is so prominently encoded, not seen before in these monuments. The 3.5 huge coverstones of the burial chamber suggest that Greenland was discovered 3.5 centuries earlier, in c.3300 BC. Stone 14, with a parallel slab inside, is the first one of the three westernmost stones. So, the discovery of Iceland was 1 century earlier, in c.3400 BC. The other 2 stones (15 and 16) determine the discovery of the Azores, 2 centuries earlier, in c.3600 BC. The other 6 uprights of the burial chamber determine the discoveries of Madeira and Rockall, 6 centuries earlier, in c.4200 BC. The 4 coverstones of the passage show the discovery of the Cape Verde Islands, 4 centuries earlier, in c.4600 BC. The remaining 11 uprights of the passage determine the discoveries of the Canaries, 11 centuries earlier, in c.5700 BC. The petroglyphs of Paredes, NW Spain, and of Dissignac, Brittany, show Madeira ad Rockall were discovered more or less at the same time (Refs.3,4).

Discussion

THE LAST PART of Table 1 shows the latitude encodings using the site location of Karleby, at 58 degrees N. It illustrates the beauty of the methodology they used to encode large numbers. Rather than building a huge, laborious monument, as was done in Carnac, Brittany, they used the latitude of the site to make the construction labor easier. Most of the numeric encodings of Karleby are based upon the 58 degree latitude of the site itself, as shown in the Table.

We have studied all the megalithic monuments and petroglyphs of Western Europe. Almost all the monuments have religious and geographic meanings. Most of the petroglyphs are primitive coastal maps. We have written two books about this subject (Refs.3,4). The passage grave of Karleby in Falbygden, Sweden, fits in this megalithic tradition. Perhaps some people are dismayed by the complexity of this monument. However, one should realize that Neolithic men had no opportunity to express themselves in writing. What we see here is the result of enormous efforts of the whole community, which had agreed to commemorate their religion and their history in monuments for the generations to come. This was accomplished by creating numerical encodings, as described in this article. This was only done until the end of the Bronze Age (see Fig.3). These encodings in Karleby are complicated, because the efforts to cross the Atlantic Ocean had been going on for 3000 years. The early monuments, such as Barnenez and Kercado in Brittany, dating from c.4500 BC, are much more simple. Both those monuments demonstrate the use of latitudes. With this article, added to our other work, we hope to demonstrate that Swedish monuments and petroglyphs are clearly a part of the megalithic heritage of Europe.

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TABLE 1

PASSAGE GRAVE OF KARLEBY

Principal Meaning of the Passage: the Sailing Route from Scotland to Cape Holm, Greenland

- 2 uncovered southern stones = 2 islands of Madeira
- 10 covered passage stones = 10 Cape Verde Islands
- 11 upright stones of the passage = 11 islands of Madeira and the Azores
- 15 stones of the passage = South Cape Verde Islands @ 15 degrees N
- keystone = Cape Holm

Principal Meaning of the Chamber: the continent of Greenland

- 3 western stones = 3 island groups of Azores
- 9 upright stones of chamber = 9 islands of Azores
- large southern stone of chamber = Cape Farvel, Greenland
- SW stone of chamber = SW Cape of Greenland

Principal Latitude Encodings:

- 23 stones, covered portion = Tropic of Cancer @ 23 degrees N
- 28 stones total = Canary Islands @ 28 degrees N
- 28 stones total +30 degrees of Nile Delta, Egypt = site latitude, Karleby @ 58 degrees N
- 90 degrees -23 stones, covered portion = Arctic Circle @ 67 degrees N

Latitude Encodings using Karleby, at 58 degrees North:

- -6 uprights, N side of passage -13 stones of chamber +58 = West Azores @ 39 degrees N
- -1 small coverstone over chamber ..... +58 = Rockall @ 57 degrees N
- 4 coverstones of passage ..... +58 = Faeroes @ 62 degrees N
- 6 uprights of N side of passage ..... +58 = SE Iceland @ 64 degrees N
- 8 uprights of N side of monument ..... + 58 = NW Iceland @ 66 degrees N
- So.2 uncovered +10 of covered portion of passage... + 58 = Cape Brewster @ 70 degrees N
- 9 uprights of chamber + 4 coverstones of chamber ... +58 = Jan Mayen @ 71 degrees N
- 2 southern stones of chamber ..... +58 = Cape Farvel @ 60 degrees N
- 3 SW stones of the chamber ..... +58 = SW Cape @ 61 degrees N

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