

the existence of EQ, the simpler the design and the more robust the equipment, the better is the result (Lin, 1984). For understanding the mechanism of EQ, our conventional frameworks of thinking and knowledge are too limited to produce designs that can increase our scientific understanding of qigong; at the same time, our current equipment and technical possibilities are too restrictive and incomplete.

Of course, an alternative to scientific qigong research is to personally experience the qigong state by practicing qigong with a qualified qigong master, and thereby gain an understanding of the qigong state and how qigong works freely with the intention of a well-trained practitioner experientially. This subjective experiential knowledge might then help to create objective research designs that account for yi as well as qi.

KEVIN CHEN

Department of Psychiatry

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

671 Hoes Lane, D453

Piscataway, NJ 08854

chenke@umdnj.edu

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Ancient Structures—Remarkable Pyramids, Forts, Towers, Stone Chambers, Cities, Complexes. A Catalog of Archeological Anomalies compiled by William R. Corliss. Glen Arm, Maryland: The Sourcebook Project, 2001. 331 pp., Hardback, B&W line illustrations (Price not on reviewer's copy). ISBN: 0-915554-35-6.

William Corliss' inspirational 30-year Sourcebook Project cataloguing reports of anomalies in various disciplines such as astronomy, biology, geology and geophysics is one of the great services to science, even though mainstream scientists hardly make use of it. On the other hand, those of us who see anomalies as potentially offering ways to extend our understanding in many areas of research are grateful for its existence.

Ancient Structures, distilled from Corliss' awesome archives of source material, deals with archaeological anomalies, and they are fairly comprehensively

listed in the subtitle. They are organised into eight chapters or categories such as “Ancient Astronomical Observatories”, “Miscellaneous Ancient Structures”, “Cities and Complexes”, “Anomalous Stone Chambers and Passage Graves” and suchlike. While the archaeological material presented in these chapters relates to sites around the world, including such famous monuments as the Egyptian Pyramids, Baalbec, and Great Zimbabwe, there is a slight emphasis on features in the ancient Americas. Each chapter is classified according to a letter-number system explained by Corliss in his introduction. The material in the chapters is numerically evaluated according to data quality (a four-point scale ranging from “many high-quality observations” to “unacceptable, poor-quality data”) combined with an anomaly value scale (four point, ranging from “anomaly cannot be explained by modifications of present laws” to “well-explained”). In addition, there are chapter summaries provided by Corliss which are commendable in their eschewing of the sort of sensationalistic claims embraced by the credulous while maintaining an openness to genuinely anomalous material. There are three indices: First-Author, Source, and Subject. The publication is, therefore, an exceedingly well-presented compilation in scholarly terms.

The chapters could not be expected to be fully comprehensive, and they are not. Rather, each is representative of the anomaly types it addresses. Nevertheless, some surprisingly obscure features are included, such as the pyramidal structures in northern Peru, often neglected even in more specialist literature. (Not mentioned is the fairly recent discovery of Caral in this general region, an important “anomaly” in that at *c.* 5,000 years of age is the most ancient city yet found in all the Americas—its omission here may be because its archaeological evaluation came too late for inclusion prior to publication.) Also, in “Anomalous Stone Chambers and Passage Graves”, Corliss manages to include recent acoustical investigations at British Neolithic chambered mounds, such as the research by Keating and Watson of Reading University, and research by Jahn and the present reviewer and colleagues from the International Consciousness Research Laboratories. It is a pity, though, that he didn’t create a broader category for acoustical phenomena to include Greek archaeological sites such as theatres and tholos tombs (although he does include the Hypogeum on Malta), musical stalactites (“lithophones”) in Palaeolithic painted caves, and the curious “ringing rocks” used in ancient Native American ritual, notably in southern California.

There are some features this reviewer feels do not justify inclusion in a catalogue of archaeological anomalies. For instance, “Ancient Astronomical Observatories” are well covered in the archaeological and archaeoastronomical literature: they are fascinating, certainly, yet are simply structures left by ancient peoples who made naked-eye observations of celestial phenomena and incorporated them into their religions and lore. Similarly, the Iron Age hillforts of the British Isles do not truly warrant inclusion in a list of archaeological anomalies, even if in some cases they were constructed

over ritual enclosures of earlier epochs. Also, the “mystery” of Scottish vitrified forts, an “old chestnut” of fringe archaeology, needs laying to rest now, for there is no doubt that the heat-fused walls at these sites were caused by the burning of interlaced timbers—this reviewer has held in his hand a vitrified lump of stonework that had the grain of a piece of wood impressed upon it while it was softened by intense heat (the wood itself was vaporised in the conflagration). True, in his summary, Corliss does steer firmly away from the more off-the-wall explanations for the vitrification—ancient spaceship exhausts and meteoric impacts or nuclear disasters in by-gone eras have all been proffered—and focuses instead on what is not known about who lit the fires and in what context. But, then, archaeology is bound to have gaps in its record of such events in prehistory and it is hardly worth making an issue of the matter.

By the same token, there are unexpected omissions. Where are the geometric earthworks and effigy mounds of the Upper Midwest states? Or the prehistoric geoglyphs (ground drawings) that range from northern Chile to Manitoba—the “Nazca lines” being merely the most famous? And the mysterious straight “roads” and causeways that occur as far south as the Amazon Basin, range through Central America and Mexico, criss-cross the American Southwest, and are now being discovered even as far north as Ohio? Abstracts on such features appear from time to time in the Sourcebook Project’s valuable newsletter, *Science Frontiers*, and isolated examples occur in other sourcebooks, yet are not included in this volume. Perhaps Corliss felt they do not justify being classed as “structures”, yet they are most definitely engineered artefacts. More crucially, they present true challenges to archaeology in that they reappear in diverse cultural, chronological and geographical contexts. In addition, there are no references in the compilation to anomalous dates that are now being reliably claimed for certain archaeological sites in the Americas—Dillehay’s obtaining of radiocarbon dates at various levels of the Monte Verde site in Chile, ranging between *c.* 13,000 and 33,000 b.p., springs to mind. Furthermore, this volume does not address the confusions surrounding the skeletons so far unearthed that date to before 8,000 b.p., some of which appear not to be ancestral to the American Indian, and around which considerable controversy rages. It may be that Corliss felt that skeletal mysteries more properly belong to a biological category, yet they can hardly be ignored in a compilation of archaeological anomalies. (This category-confusion is one of the problems arising now that archaeology is becoming increasingly multi-disciplinary.)

These omissions tend to give a few parts of the compilation a slightly dated feel, but this should not dissuade anyone from reading it, for there is a great deal of interest contained within it as a whole. One particularly haunting anomaly that was news to this reviewer is the presence of miniature buildings, very small entrances and tiny tunnels in some prehistoric Andean, pre-Mayan and Mayan structures and complexes. Even allowing for the smaller stature of

the natives of these parts, these features could hardly have been designed for human beings. The Maya, apparently, said they were for a diminutive people they called the “Alux”—but who were they? There are indeed revelations in *Ancient Structures* for even the informed reader, and what must appear as a mind-boggling array of them to the more general reader.

PAUL DEVEREUX
*1, Manchester Court
Moreton-in-Marsh
Gloucestershire GL56 0BY
U.K.*

Reviewer's Preface to the Following Three Reviews

In the late Neolithic and the early Bronze Age of northwestern Europe—roughly from 4500 BC to 1500 BC—tools were fashioned from stone and bone. The merest traces only of primitive dwellings have been found—circular shapes discovered in aerial photographs, remnants of post-holes identified in archaeological digs, a few subterranean constructions lined with stone. People are thought to have subsisted in scattered, family-size groups. There was no written language: these were prehistoric times.

Yet—a startling apparent anomaly—those cultures also planned and built massive, elaborate structures, often incorporating huge blocks and slabs of stone (“megalithic”) that needed the efforts of hundreds of workers over periods of years.

Various explanations for these anomalous constructions have been ventured over the centuries. In the 1960s and 1970s, such astronomers as Gerald Hawkins and Fred Hoyle claimed that very precise astronomical knowledge was incorporated into the design of Stonehenge and similar sites. But the experts did not arrive at any overarching consensus. Below, there are reviews of three fairly recent books which summarize the current state of knowledge about these things from informed, levelheaded but not hidebound perspectives. Aubrey Burl's survey of stone circles has a wealth of detailed information, and interpretations arrived at over decades by one of the leading scholars in the field. Clive Ruggles addresses archaeoastronomy, giving an overview of what interested observers as well as modern researchers should understand about archaeological and astronomical aspects of megalithic sites and about statistical approaches to interpreting the significance of these sites. Richard Bradley introduces a recently developed approach that focuses on natural features of the landscape as much, or even more, than on the monuments built on sites that were presumably chosen because of their inherent suitability for the planned construction—suitability not so much of an engineering sort as of a cult or religious or spiritual sort.