

JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS

Anthony Blake



One of the briefs for the DuVersity is to embrace knowledge from all sources, times and places. In 2000, Karen approached John Anthony West to organise a DuVersity tour of ancient Egypt. John had been educated in the Fourth Way and was familiar with the work of John Bennett; he was the ideal person to guide us and was pleased to be with people 'who knew something'. Our next venture, the following year, was a complete contrast, engaging Joseph Rael to guide us through the land and ceremonies of his people (Ute and Pueblo) in the South West of the USA. Joseph was an old friend and also in harmony with Bennett's work. In 2003 we jumped continents again, this time to Peru and the Inca civilization, led by William Sullivan, a graduate of the fifth course at Sherborne. What was left? Well, of course, the vast continent of Asia! Actually, the continent is *Eurasia* and includes Europe. So, why not start from home, as it were (speaking for myself as an Englishman)? Britain contains monuments older than the pyramids and the landscape has long been spiritualised by shaping it to celestial design.

Thinking in this way I remembered a visit I made long ago to the most extraordinary megalithic site there is – outshining in its vast extent and complexity Britain's Stonehenge and Avebury - Carnac in Brittany, Northern France. At that time, I also visited Chartres cathedral and Mount St Michel. The thought crystallised in me to explore a marriage of Megalithic and Medieval constructions. It was about then that I became aware of research into 'lines of significance', straight lines of connection extending perhaps hundreds of miles, endowed with meaning by being marked out with edifices that were signs of a particular archetype. This new insight came in my direction from Richard Heath and it was only natural then that I should ask him to guide what we were then calling a 'LogoSafari' ¹ – a journey into meaning, a modern equivalent to pilgrimage – to the region I embraced by the words 'Enchanted Albion'. Albion was an old name of the British Isles but Britain was also long engaged with Northern France (the region of Carnac was colonised by the Welsh around the 6th century AD for instance). It was 'enchanted' because a 'spell' had been cast upon it over millennia endowing the landscape with a higher presence.

It turned out that Mont St Michel in Normandy was on a line with Mount St Michael in Cornwall and Skellig Michael off the coast of Ireland. This line is known as the Apollo-Michael one, linking the Greek god of harmony Apollo with the Christian angel Michael, and extending south through Italy and Greece to Israel. Across the south of England lay the Mary-Michael line extending from Mount St Michael through Avebury to Bury St Edmonds, but we could only traverse the mid-section of it in the time we had.² The final touch was to include a journey north via Edinburgh and Rosslyn chapel to the incredible stone circles of the Orkneys. We began our journey with a visit to one of the masterpieces of Medieval architecture, Chartres Cathedral; as if to ask the question 'Where did such marvels come from?'



Richard tells the story of how quite miraculously we met up with Howard Crowhurst, an expert on Carnac who had lived there for many years. The whole trip might have been designed just to make this meeting possible. But I remember a conversation or two with Richard in the Orkneys when it seemed to us that we had caught a glimpse of what the *Atlantean* civilization might have been. This was not, of course, the Atlantis of populist best sellers and the general public imagination. We were reeling under the impact of impressions which informed us of an intelligent interconnected culture which seemed to have been preparing the mind of future generations by transmitting know-how through the landscape itself, something that we saw in the evident continuity into Medieval times of principles of structure and placement. An enormous effort was put into building knowledge into the landscape through monuments almost as if the people were aware that future generations would forget it. It made a great impact on me to learn that the level of mathematics *declined* in Egypt after the building of the pyramids.

Our tour was like no other and will never be repeated. It was a genuine act of search that opened up a door. Strangely, John Bennett appears to have had little appreciation of the range and depth of the megalithic accomplishment.³ It is one of the many elements missing from his account of history. It was only by going there – and perhaps in such conditions of uncertainty – that the perception could have been made. We were most concerned not to fall into the common fantasies of ‘ancient wisdom’. As Richard recounts in his article he has gone on to develop new insights into the mathematics of megalithic times.

For myself, I wonder about the times before the Megalithic. It was electrifying to learn about the discoveries at Gobekli Tepe in southern Turkey in 1995, which have still hardly come into general awareness (but remember that hardly anyone knows about Carnac still!).⁴ The stone structures and carvings there date back 12,000 years! The place could well have been a ritual site for the birth of agriculture because not only is it situated in what was known as the Fertile Crescent but in just that region where the wheat first cultivated was found in the wild. And, of course, we have the history of cave paintings. Just this year Werner Herzog has released his 3-D movie of the caves of Chauvet – *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* - with paintings dating back 30,000 years that you and I will never see for ourselves. Herzog talks in terms of the ‘birth of the modern human soul’.⁵ It is more than interesting that the cave was discovered in 1994 just about the time that Gobekli was.

There was a famous USA TV series called ‘Roots’ about African Americans discovering where their ancestors came from. But we all came from there. Our ancestors came out of Africa perhaps 70,000 years ago.⁶ Blonde blue-eyed folk like me are mutants who evolved about 7,000 years ago.⁷ It is good to go back and find out what we can about how it all began and trace the drama of the human journey. This would make the ultimate tour!

Notes

1 The term 'logosafari' is due to Edward Matchett

2 See on line: <http://www.lundyisleofavalon.co.uk/places/stmiklyn/stmiklyn1.htm> and <http://www.lundyisleofavalon.co.uk/places/stmiklyn/stmiklyn2.htm> In book form: *The Sun and the Serpent* and *The Dance and the Dragon* by Paul Broadhurst and Hamish Miller; also *The St Michael-Apollo Axis* by Lucien Richer

3 In *The Dramatic Universe Vol 4* he attributes the megalithic culture to missionaries from the eastern Mediterranean and the Great Mother Neolithic culture.

4 <http://www.templestudy.com/2008/10/22/the-first-and-oldest-temple-in-the-world-gobekli-tepe/> gives an overall impression. In German there is *Sie bauten die ersten Tempel* by Klaus Schmidt. The only English reference is in *After the Ice: A Global Human History 20,000 – 5000 BC* by Steven Mithen

5 To be released March 2011

6 Still controversial, a theory is that just a few hundred made it across to Arabia. See *Out of Eden* by Stephen Oppenheimer.

7 It is also dated earlier to 11,000 years ago, certainly at the end of the Ice Age.

THE ENCHANTED ALBION TOUR LIVES ON . . .

Richard Heath



When the DuVersity Tour of 2004 went to France in its first leg (Chartres-Carnac-Mont St Michel), each location needed work to interpret it in a suitable way. Not having easy access, only the British leg could be researched through visiting some sites (Merryvale-Brentor-Avebury) especially relevant to the Megalithic aspect of the Tour, which sought links between that period of prehistory and the Medieval period and its Gothic buildings. It was especially difficult to know what to cover within a single day in the area of Carnac, the most extensive megalithic complex in Europe that probably dates to 4000 BCE or one thousand years before Stonehenge – also visited by the Tour.

Through good fortune, a connection was made through a local hotel to Howard Crowhurst, an Englishman who had been interpreting Carnac for 20 years and had been part of the AAK, a Gurdjieffian “work on ideas” group active there in the 1980s. He organised an exclusive trip to Gavrinis island where a chambered tomb has the most decorated sculptured walls in Europe. We then went up Tumulus St Michel, one of four artificial hills which he told us were built before most of the megalithic monuments as a geodetic grid using a 4 kilometre spacing. The tumulus overlooks the world-famous Alignments of Le Menec to the north, which we then visited, then to travel along its 12 long rows for which no adequate explanation exists. Beyond these are two further sets of alignments, those of Kermario and Kerlescan and reaching the end of these, our driver had run out of driving time and the group had to repair to a seaside hotel in Quiberon, a town on a long peninsular running south that itself forms a 3-4-5 triangle within an extensive set of interconnected megalithic sites that demonstrate the solstice alignments on the horizon which appear along the longest side of this first “perfect” triangle at this latitude. Long paragraph and an even bigger day!

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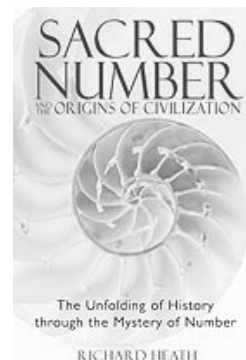
medieval, as we encountered the spiritual fortress of Mont St Michel, on the Michael Line a major theme of our tour being this “patron saint” of geodetic patterns across the landscape.



The tour of Carnac started with Gavrinis (left), moved onto Tumulus St Michel (middle) then began a tour of the Alignments starting with Le Menec (right)

Howard gave us all a talk in the hotel, after a local speciality seafood meal including the oysters and mussels for which the bay is renowned. He had acquired for me rare copies of the AAK journals from someone connected to the past group. Next day, our minds shifted into the medieval, as we encountered the spiritual fortress of Mont St Michel, on the Michael Line a major theme of our tour being this “patron saint” of geodetic patterns across the landscape.

After 10-11 days of such mayhem the tour ended and it was time to reflect, over months and years, on what it all meant. I already had a kitbag of themes I wanted to turn into a book that would present the techniques of measuring the earth and the symbolism of number as having created an invisible foundation for our civilisation of “the West”. The tour had laid down some deeper contacts, as had doing other tours of sites around Rosslyn Chapel (also visited by the group) and visiting Crete and the Pyrenees where my step-daughters lived. Slowly the order emerged that became *Sacred Number and the Origins of Civilization*, published in 2006, a Curate’s egg of earth mysteries that has become translated into a number of languages; Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, Greek and possibly Russian.



What made this book different from many others was its ability to touch on a spiritual geography that embraces both the places where these languages are spoken and the sense of history and spirituality that corresponds, in largely unforeseen ways, to many cultures. In this, the tour (like a single stroke of calligraphy) expressed a dynamic that was symbolic of a mood at that time towards questing and secret codes. Working with numbers through astronomy and metrology had given me a unique way of linking things together and this could supplement the linkages already found in myth, temple building and secret history which were the standard fare in the excitable climax of “Pluto in Sagittarius” and ending so precisely with the Credit Crunch.

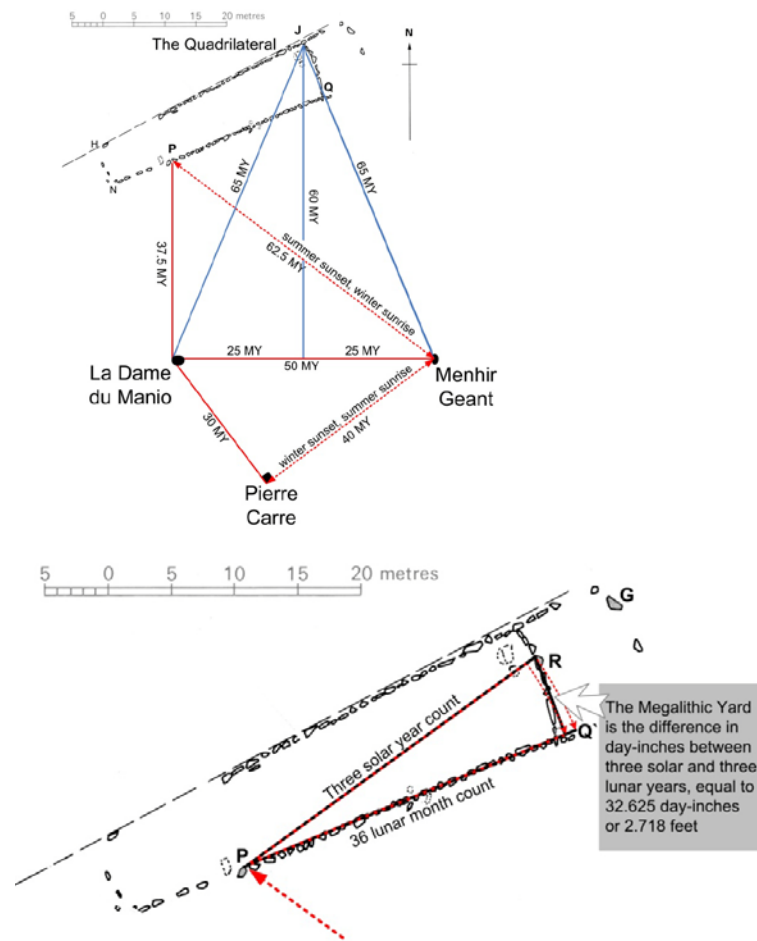
The Continuing Importance of Carnac

Of all the sites visited by the Enchanted Albion tour it is Carnac that has remained crucial as an area where active work with a high potential can be done. The unusual collaboration with my brother and the reuse of such research in *Sacred Number* and my new book *Precessional Time and the Evolution of Consciousness*, to tell “big stories” with it has worked really well.

During the 1990s, Robin and I were developing an interpretation of megalithic astronomy in which cosmic time constants could have been expressed by a prehistoric mathematics based upon a combination of metrology and geometry without any need for the mathematics of later ages. In Bennett’s language, this approach and our collaboration shows signs of being a coalescent structure that probably reflects the structure of megalithic thinking itself and holds out some hope of recovering what the ancient monuments meant to those that built them.

I was invited back to Carnac in 2007 for the midsummer solstice and a week-long mixture of tours and lectures in which my brother Robin gave many lectures and beach demonstrations of megalithic geometry. I took 10 copies of *Sacred Number* but books in English are not relevant to French-speakers. Howard Crowhurst was inspired to spend six weeks locked in his office in order to prepare his first book (in French), *Megalithes; Principes de la Premiere Architecture Monumentale du Monde*, in which he was able to sketch out what he had learnt of the overall layout of Carnac with some small help from my metrological expose of the metre as an ancient measure used in its construction. It was good to see the wide range sites impossible to see in a single day and hard to resolve as a pattern though the practice of filming allows experience to consolidate – as it had done through the filming of the Enchanted tour.

In 2009 I was writing my book about precession and Robin went without me to the Solstice event of that year. Whilst at the unique site at Le Manio, north of Kermario and east of Kerlescan alignments, Robin noticed a unique alignment of 14 degrees within the Quadrilateral that is the signature angle found between the lunar and solar year as lengths of time. The southern kerb of the quadrilateral has the special “gate” (P) and the solstice sunrise can be seen to rise at the 3-4-5 triangle angle to east so as to glance the edge of a dressed stone (R) in the eastern kerb and beyond this the sun shines through a small groove in a further stone (G) – three features directly pointing to the solsticial sun on the horizon.



Having learnt to use a theodolite after 2007's seminar on megalithic surveying, Howard Crowhurst initiated an ACEM survey of Le Manio which, when metres are translated into megalithic yards, shows a very coherent structure based on two types of perfect triangle, the solstice and east-west equinox alignments and the main aspects of the structure

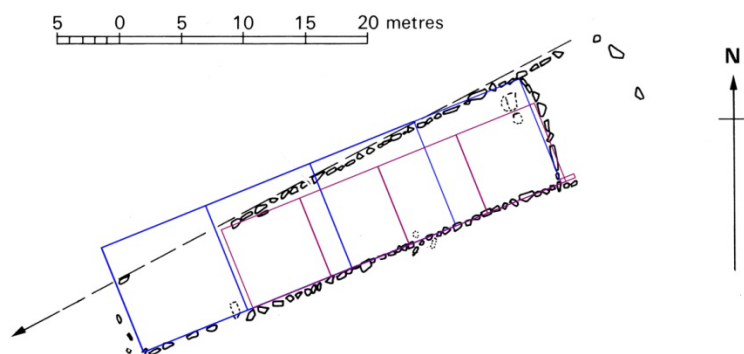
The relationship to the summer solstice sun to the sun gate P is to be found in its alignment to stones R and G. The length to R is three solar years in day-inches that would have been built over three years. Stone R then stands perpendicular to the point where a count of three lunar years would end. The difference in these lengths is the megalithic yard, used as above, and the triangle has the signature angle (14°) of any triangle that compares these two types of year

Such a triangle between the southern kerb and this alignment would be the first actual megalithic structure to manifest what had hitherto only been inferred and called the “Lunation Triangle” by Robin - a major plank of Robin’s work in Britain where such structures appear instead to have been built in units of one megalithic yard per month. Here the “coding” of time was day-counted, exactly 29.53 inches per month over a time period of three solar years. Synchronous with this discovery, I had been developing a new approach to megalithic astronomical constructions, where the earliest megalithic techniques were based upon using inches to count days, as day-inches. To achieve this, the period of three years would have been used since there is just over one extra month in three solar years over the 36 in three lunar years. The importance of this time period comes from the fact that the difference between these two types of year, over three years, then equals the **Megalithic Yard** subsequently used to build many of the monuments at Carnac, the rest of Brittany, Britain, Ireland and elsewhere.

I was suddenly able to relate my theoretical search, for the origins of the megalithic, with Robin’s discovery of a real exemplar monument. Not only is this feature of Le Manio a rare example or proof of day-counting, it may also be the very monument expressing the original breakthrough for megalithic astronomy. I therefore jumped aboard a further opportunity to go to the 2010 (spring) Equinox event so that Robin and I could perform a week long survey of the site using measuring tapes and a theodolite for establishing accurate alignments between the Quadrilateral’s stones and the rest of the Le Manio “hardware” that forms a network of 3-4-5 triangles relative to a large standing stone (menhir Geant or the giant) and goddess stone (La Dame), according to Howard Crowhurst and his new Association called ACEM.

Our survey confirmed the presence of day-inch counting over three years but also that the diagonal parallel to this count, between the corners of the Quadrilateral, were a four solar year count. Many other lessons were learnt including why metres as a unit of length could possibly be found at Carnac. It soon became apparent from the side lengths of the three and four year lengths that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the present metre equals the day-inch count for a single lunar month, as 29.527 inches.

It also became clear that the geometry of the right-angled triangle, formed by solar years on the longest side and lunar years on the base, was conceived as a rectangle made from four squares in which the diagonal becomes a very accurate day count for the solar year. The picture below shows the four squares geometry which could become a way of accurately generating the relationship between day-inch counts for solar and lunar years *without counting the days*. The metre is the best unit with which to build such a geometry because three metres are the day-inch count for four months so that one lunar year of twelve months is then nine metres long. The length of any number of solar years can then be generated as the diagonal of a simple geometry measured out in metres.



The geometry of the solar to lunar year can be expressed as four squares in which the diagonal yield a very accurate count when metres are used to build the squares, three metres to four months. The three year version is in red and the four year in blue, both superimposed upon the monument we call the Quadrilateral at Le Manio.

At the equinox of 2010 there was a meeting to see the sun rise over the menhir when viewed from La Dame, the large shallow stone directly west of it. The clouds had few breaks that morning and Robin was engaged with Howard and the ACEM members talking through what could not be seen but I had gone towards the menhir whereupon the sun started to appear. I took some pictures and a short film of this, only to discover that no-one else had even seen it, whilst I had felt a definite change take place that might reflect itself in how the creative energy could enter into human life through such moments and monuments, as if it could invisibly inform what was then able to take place.



The equinoctial sun breaks through behind the Menhir Geant in 2010

The Story Continues . . .

Later that week, during our survey, we discovered other features within the Le Manio site that opened a door on a sophisticated means to have studied the movements of the lunar nodes – the two points in the lunar orbit at which the moon crosses the path of the sun in the year to generate eclipses – in megalithic times. The following nine months were spent exploring the apparent fact, at first only an intuition, that the alignments at Le Manec were a detailed set of recordings of the moon on the horizon over the 18.6 year period taken by the lunar nodes to circumnavigate the heavens. This, and it appears, all megalithic monuments are not large for any other reason than the need to use metrology to record key astronomical facts in their most natural, geometrical form.

Thus it is that Robin and I will be returning to Carnac in 2011 to measure the Le Menec monument using a laser device kindly donated for the purpose, at which time work on other monuments are likely to consolidate this new approach to discovering the purpose of Carnac's monuments. This approach is currently dismissed by archaeologists because of the bundling of

most astro-archaeology as the wishful thinking of a “looney fringe” but I expect that some day our culture will again become receptive to the achievements of this advanced culture in prehistoric times from whom we have inherited the entire metrology we used into the historical period and still use today. Robin will be also helping to launch the French translation of his recent biographical tribute to Alexander Thom, the Scottish pioneer of megalithic surveying whose surveys have become crucial to further work whilst his discoveries, including the megalithic yard, have been “airbrushed out of history”. We have much to gain from recovering what must have been a crucial stage of development for humanity and from losing the idea that megalithic monuments were built to house religious functions. In fact, if a Bennettian creative energy was facilitated by these constructions, then our religious ideas appear to have been shaped by such interactions with sky events, in a fusion of art and science before civilisation increasingly separated these aspects of human experience.

Commitments to the Enchanted Albion tour in 2004 started something in which a radical reappraisal of the megalithic, and possibly our world, might come about.

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The Quadrilateral at Le Manio, from the north-east.