

**PERSPECTIVES**



by Mckinley Burt

Well, last week I got your attention by writing about 'Black Pirates'. There was a method in my madness as I wished to draw attention to the fact that contrary to most contemporary white historians, there is a long and well-documented tradition of African seafarers-5000 year tradition. This had been a touchy subject, since roaming sailors and soldiers are known to leave quite visible evidence of their presence-vis a vis their genes.

We may begin our older citations with 'Queen Hatshepsut' (1390-1468 B.C.), the great Egyptian ruler of Ethiopian descent. The world's first 'Urban Planner', she built paved roads 3200 years before the United States (The 1794 Lancaster Turnpike which linked Philadelphia with Lancaster, Pennsylvania). This is the same Black queen whose seaborne expeditions to the 'Land of Punt' are described in the Bible (today's countries of Oman and Yemen.) From this Red Sea Coast of Arabia, many African Pharaohs brought back many shiploads of gum and resin-laden trees-the Biblical "frankincense and myrrh".

Queen Hatshepsut was succeeded by her brother, Thutmose III (Thutmose) whose seaborne expeditions of discovery and conquest ranged from the fastness of Asia Minor and the marshes of the Upper Euphrates to the swamps of Babylon and the islands of the Mediterranean. African voyage like these led the ancients to give to today's Persian Gulf its original name, The 'Ethiopian Sea'. Thutmose, a great builder of temples, also constructed two huge 'obelisks', stone towers similar to the Washington Monument. One has been brought to Central Park, New York City, and the British have set up the other on the Thames embankment in London England.

But even in earlier times the Bible tells us of the 'Reed boats of the Ethiopians' (Isaiah), boats exactly the same as found today on both coasts of Africa. They are also found throughout the Pacific Rim and Polynesia, including Easter Island, and on Lake Titicaca in South America's Andes Mountains. It was this knowledge of the proliferation of the fabled African craft that prompted the noted explorer, Thor Heyerdahl, to test the theory of prehistorical travels from Africa (of course, American Blacks already knew that the majority of the peoples of these lands look exactly like most of our ghetto population.

Heyerdahl, in his famous book, 'Kon-Tiki' (1950), also describes a 4000 mile voyage in a balsa wood and reed raft from South America to the South Pacific islands of Polynesia. Equally significant is his 'reed raft' expedition from the West Coast of Africa to the Americas-these vessels having been constructed by the Africans themselves and modeled to their ancient tradition. But, for the most concrete and compelling evidence we are indebted to the ancient African's demonstrated abilities in mathematics, astronomy and Map-making-and their history-preserving habit of writing in stone or sturdy papyrus. We have the following from p.136 of David Greenhood's book, Mapping:

"A cone is another round shape which can be unrolled to lie flat. It can fit a globe as nicely as a hat can fit a head. And the 'sweatband' will take an accurate print of everything it touches on that dome. Slit the cone from rim to point, roll it out, and you'll have a kind of fan. The ribs of the fan will be the meridians."

"This is a very old trick. About 1800 years ago, over in Egypt, a map-maker worked this trick and made a splendid map of the then known world. It extended from the longitude of Ireland to that of 'silkland' or China. On the right-hand edge he put figures showing the number of hours in the longest day of the year at each latitude".

Other, much older maps, indicate that the African's had accurately pinpointed specific sites in Russia, and even India. This is revealed by 4000 year old papyri and stone steles in European museums. Not too much of a "trick" if you are the one who taught the Greeks mathematics.

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