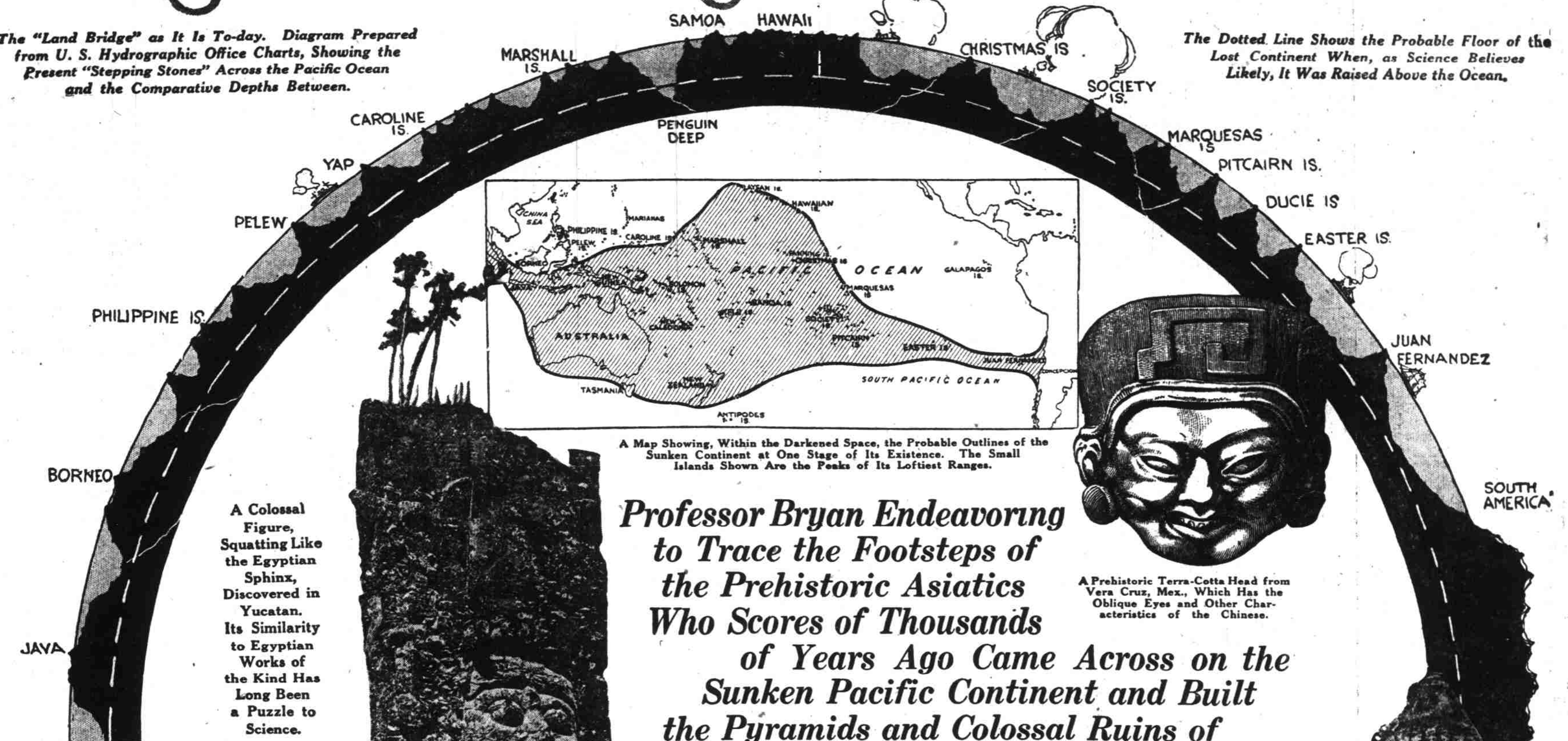


Tracing the Ancient Bridge Across the Pacific Ocean

The "Land Bridge" as It Is To-day. Diagram Prepared from U. S. Hydrographic Office Charts, Showing the Present "Stepping Stones" Across the Pacific Ocean and the Comparative Depths Between.

The Dotted Line Shows the Probable Floor of the Lost Continent When, as Science Believes Likely, It Was Raised Above the Ocean.



A Map Showing, Within the Darkened Space, the Probable Outlines of the Sunken Continent at One Stage of Its Existence. The Small Islands Shown Are the Peaks of Its Loftiest Ranges.

Professor Bryan Endeavoring to Trace the Footsteps of the Prehistoric Asiatics Who Scores of Thousands of Years Ago Came Across on the Sunken Pacific Continent and Built the Pyramids and Colossal Ruins of South and Central America

By Dr. W. H. Ballou.

AS there in far distant prehistoric times a vast continent where now is the Pacific Ocean—a continent covered with great forests, threaded by deep rivers, studded with tremendous mountain peaks and dotted over with stone cities, the homes of the people of this lost land?

Professor William A. Bryan, who holds the chair of zoology and geology in the College of Hawaii, believes he has found evidence of the existence of such a continent in the shape of little fresh-water molluscs which he discovered on the island of Juan Fernandez, just off the west coast of South America.

Juan Fernandez is the island made famous by Robinson Crusoe. That worthy was never more surprised to see the footprint in the sands than Professor Bryan was to see these molluscs. They closely resembled species found upon Hawaii—but how had they crossed the thousands of miles of sea between the two places?

The islands of the South Pacific are, of course, but the summits of submerged mountains.

There is, however, no unassailable evidence that the mountains whose peaks are the islands were once all above the surface—forming a continuous and continental land mass.

Yet if the molluscs found by Professor Bryan turn out to be the identical species as those on Hawaii they form very convincing evidence indeed of such a condition. For there are no means by which they could have found their way from Hawaii to Juan Fernandez or vice versa than along the courses of rivers! And if there were rivers there must have been land for the rivers to flow through—land, that is to say, extending from Hawaii to the coast of what is now South America.

And if such a bridge is proved one of the most baffling mysteries of the world will be in a fair way of being solved—the riddle of the pyramids and ruins both of Central America and South America, so like those of Egypt, their legends so like the Northern African and Asiatic, and a civilization with such striking similarities to that of Asia that it has seemed impossible not to have been in some manner connected with it.

The continental mass, if it existed, probably ran from Southeastern Asia, taking in Australia, New Zealand, Java and a portion of what is now the Malay archipelago. It extended further north than the Hawaiian Islands. It is probable that at that time there were no Andes Mountains. The subsidence which carried this lost land beneath the waters of the Pacific at the same time raised the great western South American mountain chain and perhaps our own Rockies. The subsidence, Darwin proved, was gradual. Even after the main land mass disappeared it is probable that a tremendous bridge extended for a time clear across the ocean. The United States hydrographic charts show a strip of shallow water still running all the way from Hawaii to Midway Islands, thence southwest to the Marshall Islands, west to the Caroline Islands and Yap and south-west again to the Malay Archipelago.

There is evidence also of ancient shallows from Hawaii southeast all the way to the lower west coast of South America, and taking in the island of Juan Fernandez. Still another shelf runs eastward across lower Polynesia.

It may have been that on the submerged continent originated both the Asian and the South and Central American civilizations—that the same human stock, fleeing from the cataclysm, was split, developing through the ages on opposite sides of the dividing waters. But it is more likely that human stocks originating in Asia made their way in latter times over the still existent bridge or bridges.

For lack of a better theory, it has long been accepted as fact that the New World was originally peopled by Asiatics who crossed by way of Bering Strait. The Strait, being only forty miles wide, and frozen over in winter, this idea was undeniably plausible. But there have been serious objections. If that theory were correct, how explain the fact that in pre-Columbian days there was no civilization worthy of the name north of Mexico, whereas in the latter country, in Central America, and in Peru there were peoples with highly developed arts, industries, and even literature?

How explain the fact that these advanced peoples had traditions and customs wholly different from those of the North American Indians?

All the evidence points to the conclusion that their ethnic stocks were derived from sources not the same as those from which came the North American tribes. Their culture resembled very strikingly the cultures of southern Asia and northern Africa, the likeness being especially striking in their architecture, their sculptures, and their forms of religious worship. It extended even to their gods.

To suppose that the prehistoric ancestors of these peoples came all the way from northern Africa to southern Asia by way of Bering Strait, and thence made their way southward to Central and South America, without leaving behind them anywhere north of Mexico the slightest trace of their civilization, seems on the face of it an absurdity.

If, on the other hand, the former existence of a trans-Pacific land bridge be accepted, all of the mystery is cleared up. We can then recognize the Incas of Peru, the Mayas, the Toltecs and the Aztecs as peoples transplanted from the equatorial regions of the Old World to the equatorial regions of the New World.

Says Professor W. H. Holmes, Chief Anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution:

"As we pass to the south (in America) the works of man take forms so diversified and extraordinary that the inquiry is frequently raised whether the Arctic gateway has been the only means of admission to ancient America."

"Diversified and remarkable are the correspondences existing between the architectural and sculptural remains of middle America and those of southeastern Asia. In both regions the chief structures of the ancient cities are pyramids ascended by four steep stairways of stone bordered by serpent balustrades and surmounted by temples."

"The snouted masks of the Maya sculptures have an insinuating way of suggesting the trunk of the elephant, and the upturned jaw of the mythical serpent is equally reminiscent of the treatment of the cobra jaw in the Far East. Temple walls

are surmounted by roof-crests and cupolas of pagoda-like design.

"It has often been remarked that the faces of modeled and sculptured figures in southern Mexico have a suggestive Mongolian cast, and the eyes in many cases are decidedly oblique."

In Yucatan (the eastern peninsula of Mexico, as in Cambodia, in southeastern Asia, are found in prehistoric ruins many stone tables and balustrades supported by sculptured figures of whiskered men.

The Mayas of ancient Mexico were the greatest pyramid builders the world ever saw. Where the Babylonians and Egyptians of old erected scores of pyramids, those prehistoric Americans built thousands. Sometimes they converted entire hills into pyramids, with support and reinforcement of masonry, crowning them with temples. The latter usually had walled sanctuaries which were places of human sacrifice, and wall and pillars were adorned with countless sculptured human heads.

The pyramids of Yucatan are mostly step pyramids, like those of ancient Babylon. Some of them, however, had the spaces between the steps filled in with dressed stone after the Egyptian fashion, so as to make a smooth slant. But always there were staircases for reaching the temple at the top. The famous Tower of Babel is understood to have been designed on this pattern. It was rebuilt three times—once by Nebuchadnezzar—and was so wonderful that the tongues of men were confounded in trying to describe its marvels.

The best preserved of all the Yucatan pyramids is El Castillo, or The Castle, at Chichen-Itza. It is 230 by 190 feet at the base, 80 feet high, 60 feet square at the summit, and was crowned by a temple 48 by 44 feet and 24 feet high. The platform at the top was reached by four stairways, each of which had ninety-two steps, guarded by balustrades in the form of huge sculptured serpents, whose heads and protruding tongues rested on the ground, while the bodies and tails extended upward to the top of the pyramid.

If the former existence of a land bridge be assumed, it may explain the monkeys in tropical America. They could make their way across from Southern Asia, as did human beings. Other animals likewise, of course. The bears of South America are nearly related to those of Southern Asia, and the jaguar of South America is very like the leopard of the Old World.

Considering that part of the supposed bridge which joined South America with Hawaii, we find its two terminal "piers" represented by great volcanic formations. The Hawaiian Islands are the exposed tops of huge volcanoes, and, as everybody knows, a tremendous plutonic activity is still manifested there.

Half way between the west coast of

South America and Hawaii is Oceania Bank—discovered in 1891. The depth there is less than 400 feet, but on all sides of this shoal the bottom drops precipitously to more than three miles. It is a "drowned mountain"—an extinct volcano that does not rise quite high enough to emerge above the surface of the ocean.

Dr. J. W. Gregory, professor of geology at the University of Glasgow, in his book on the making of the earth, has this to say:

"Along the western coasts in Chili and Peru there are some very ancient rocks exposed at the foot of the Andes, and they, with the sedimentary materials to the east of them, indicate the former extension of the land westward into the Pacific. For some of the sedimentary rocks in the Andes near the western coast consist of beds of pebbles, which become smaller and pass into sands further to the east, showing that the source of these materials was land to the west of the present coast of Chili."

"The Mediterranean and the seas of the West Indies are the last remnants from an ancient ocean called Tethys. The original basin had been greatly diminished in size, but the Tethys has gained in return by giving birth to the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic has been formed by two gulfs which extended north and south from the Tethys, and they by repeated enlargements, due to a foundering of the coastlands have developed into the Atlantic."

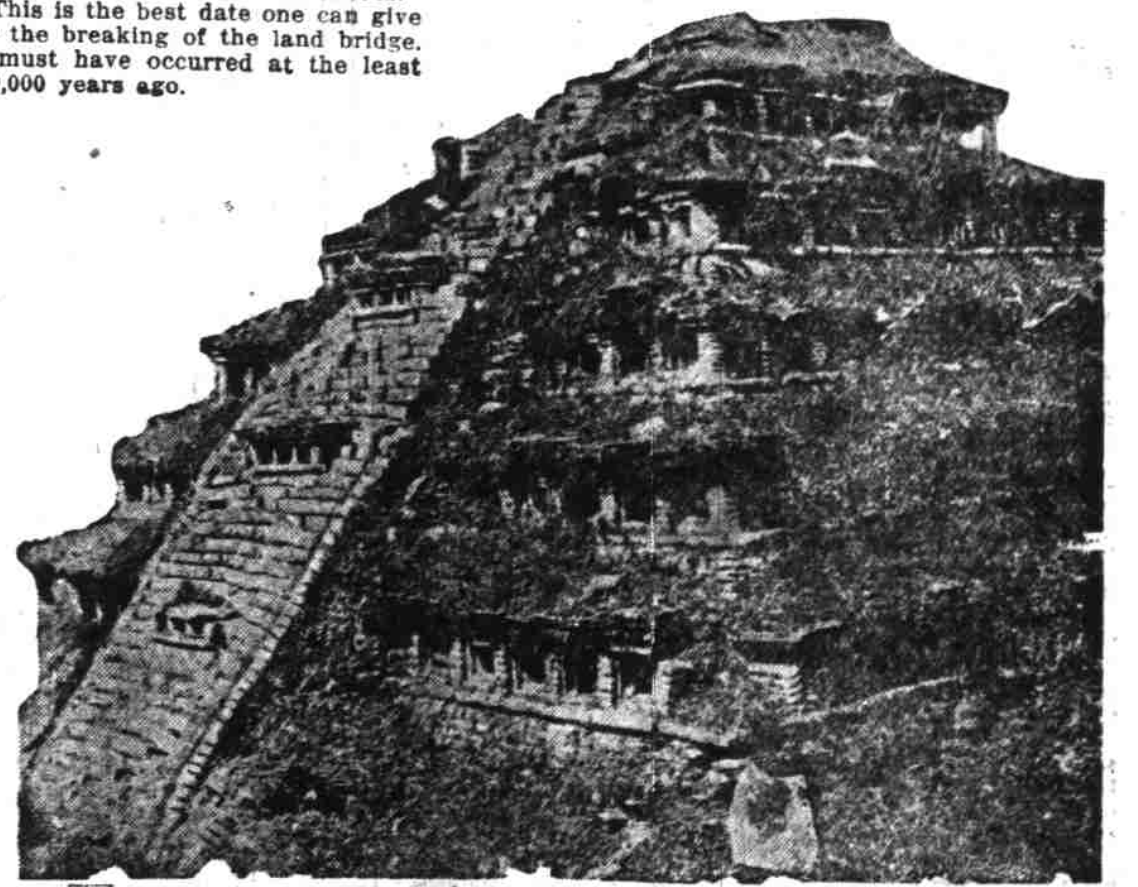
"The age of the Pacific is much less certain. The widespread range of marine rocks of the age of our new red sandstone suggest that the Pacific may date from the Tuas, but its close connection with the circum-Pacific mountains, which are of Kainozoic age, suggests that it has existed in its present form only from the date of the elevation of the mountain chains that rise around its shores."

This is the best date one can give for the breaking of the land bridge. It must have occurred at the least 100,000 years ago.

A Peruvian Indian, Member of a Race Whose Perplexing Asiatic Resemblances is Explained by the Bryan Theory of a Bridge Across the Pacific.



A Prehistoric Terra-Cotta Head from Vera Cruz, Mex., Which Has the Oblique Eyes and Other Characteristics of the Chinese.



A Gigantic Prehistoric Structure at Palenque, Yucatan, Which is a Combination of the Egyptian Pyramid and the Chinese Pagoda Forms. Above It is a Chinese Building, Strikingly and Strangely Similar in Its Circling Terrace.