

Report of the 2nd International Conference

Atlantis 2008

The Atlantis Hypothesis – Searching for a Lost Land

November 10.-11., 2008

National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens/Greece

<http://atlantis2008.conferences.gr/>

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Pre-Conference Tour

In the early morning of Sunday, November 09th, the tour guests gathered at the meeting points, where the bus picked them up. Already there first talks and contacts between conference participants were made in a welcoming, friendly and very interested atmosphere. It soon turned out, that regardless the ideas one had on Atlantis – as different and crazy they may be – all participants enjoyed the pleasant and agreeable company of one another.

After some problems with road barriers for the famous Athens marathon the bus managed to leave Athens and to pick up the last missing participant who escaped through the blocked streets of Athens by a quickly-organized taxi. The tour guests came from very different places: Greece, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Wisconsin/USA and last but not least Germany, which was the biggest fraction. This trip was a good opportunity to get to know some of the Greek organizers and inspirers of the conference: Michael Fytikas, Spyros Pavlides, Kostas Konstantinidis, and last but not least Antonis (Toni) Kontaratos.

When we reached Delphi the weather became quite fine and with the explanations of our well-informed guide we had a nice walk through the ruins of ancient Delphi. We also enjoyed the museum with its most important pieces of history and art. Then we went to the city of Delphi „by train“, where we had lunch and free time. On our way back to Athens everybody was looking forward to the first day of the conference.

Day 1

After the usual chaos of registration, technical problems and poster fixing to the walls the opening session of the conference started. Michael Fytikas and – of course! – Stavros Papamarinopoulos gave a warm welcome to all participants. Within the plenum there was a considerable number of known Atlantis researchers like Eberhard Zangger as well as known contributors from other disciplines like Nils-Axel (Niklas) Moerner and last but not least a highly interested audience of excited listeners.

After Spyros Pavlides held an introductory consideration on Atlantis and the Earth/Ge, the presentations started. Among the highlights of the first day were e.g. Erika Notti's linguistic research, Salvador Rovira's considerations on metallurgy in Spain, Niklas Moerner's vivid presentation on bronze age Sweden, Werner Wickboldt's Spain hypothesis, Stavros Papamarinopoulos' sophisticated considerations on various topics, Jim Allen's exciting photographs from his Atlantis in the Andes, and last but not least Toni Kontaratos' presentation of a Sea Peoples Atlantis in America at Poverty Point.

During the well-organized coffee breaks and during the very acceptable light lunch many interesting discussions took place in the lobby of the conference building. The presentation of a considerable number of posters added to the fascinating atmosphere.

Many presentators had the opportunity to make an interview with one or both of the two TV teams present at the conference. While a Greek TV station made interviews to insert them into a later broadcasted on-air session with the Greek organizers and inspirers of the conference, a Swedish TV team collected interviews for a teaser to get the funding for a documentation on Atlantis.

Day 2

On the next morning the conference continued without delay with presentations. Among the highlights of the second day were e.g. Gerald J. („Jerry“) Well's Atlantis south of the Atlas mountains, Elena Mitropetrou's demonstration of the invention hypothesis, Floyd W. McCoy's tsunami simulations, and Thorwald C. Franke's Sea Peoples Atlantis in Sicily, who could impress the audience with his interpretations on the background of Egyptology.

Again many discussions took place during the coffee breaks, at the poster walls or, e.g., at the exhibition of Manolis Lignos' private collection of books, magazines and even comic strips on Atlantis, who thankfully added books of conference participants to his collection.

After the last presentation and a longer coffee break the organizers held the final session in order to discuss how to proceed in the future. Among the suggestions was the wish for more contact between the researchers and the desire for more contributors from disciplines not present on the Atlantis conferences yet, like Egyptologists, mathematicians or musicians. The organizers announced that – different to the last conference – they will not take all contributions into the final book of proceedings, but will start to sort out. This corresponded to requests from the audience, e.g. from Niklas Moerner, who asked to keep some „frames“ of reasonability. The next conference was announced to be on the island of Santorini.

Conference Dinner

In the evening the Atlantis 2008 conference found a worthy end at the restaurant „Geysis Archaion“, i.e. „Taste of the Ancients“. With food cooked according to original recipes from ancient Greece along with a good red wine and a fine Santorini white wine called „Atlantis“, the conference participants again enjoyed each other's company and open discussions.

Toni Kontaratos acknowledged to have found the Greek spirit in contributors from other countries, too, whereas Niklas Moerner from Sweden rendered homage to the Greek way of life. After the Greeks enriched the atmosphere with some folk songs and Spyros Pavlides showed his dancing competence, the Germans (and Niklas from Sweden) were the last to leave the location at 02:00 a.m., happy and full of the best ideas.

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