

# What is the Situation of the Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes?

## **Did its work, AFTER THREE YEARS, promote the Atlantis PROBLEM?**

*The Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes enters its fourth year of activity. The last six months it went through a period of silence, of apparent sleep. It owes an explanation to its members and the listeners of its public conferences.*

*When a group of bibliophiles, refined persons and archaeologists met to found in June 1926 the **Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes**, our objective was to bring and keep the fabulous – and exciting – Atlantis problem into the area of historical review, as well as to unite, to share and to increase our documents, our books about Atlantis and our studies, finally to excite in the academic universe a curiosity and a spirit of competition, of which would profit the oldest history of the western civilizations.*

*Unfortunately (and logically, altogether) we encountered the opposition of fantasts, for whom the Atlantis problem is only a pretence for daydreams.*

*Things went so far, that during the last conference, which I personally held at the Sorbonne about the antiquities of Corsica, two „atlantomaniacs“ believed to have to spread tear gas in a full lecture hall, so quite seriously discommoding the listeners! ..*

*We contented ourselves to make an analysis of the relict of the flacon left behind by the two “demonstrators”.*

*We will not insist. We will not polemize. Those are inelegances which have nothing to do with our studies.*

[Page 94]

*But we owe to our listeners, to our friends, to our members this explanation about the undeniable discouragement (I would even say chagrin) which came over us, to see how our purely studious and scientific effort encountered such deplorable puerilities.*

*We wanted finally to take away by our silence all pretences from certain eccentrics to raise again a quarrel of bad nature with us, which would have only the result to discredit in the eyes of refined persons and academics the prehistoric problem which we tried to study.*

*Surely, the S.E.A. and those who take part in its work do not claim in any way to have a monopoly for studies of the Atlantis hypothesis. But the Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes thinks to have been the first academic society which publicly proclaimed an interest in this research, in the course of a constituting session, held at the Sorbonne in June 1926 under the presidency of Dr. René Verneau.*

*The necessity not to let believe that the Atlantis problem finally is accessible only to prophets and illuminates of two worlds seemed to us to be ready to be proclaimed after three years of public conferences and documentary publications.*

*The researchers who analyze the Atlantis problem „under control of diverse sciences which can conduct and increase this research“ [Art. 1 of the S.E.A.'s statutes] cannot be made responsible for certain eccentricities as the academic promoters of wireless telegraphy are not solidary to those who pretend to talk with the planets by using Hertz waves.*

*But while it is easy in an environment **on the verge of all rational research** to find the necessary material support which is necessary for every scholarly group, the S.E.A., which is exposed to the opposition and the malignity of a certain number of fantasts, encounters – by the excesses of the same said fantasts – the justified distrust of the academic world.*

*We thus find ourselves caught, – „clamped“ if you allow the word – between the cautious distrust of the true academics and the delirium of those, who – with an “Atlantean” (alas, yes) badge in the button hole – organize Atlantean picnics in a strange language confusion, where the kabbalah, boy scouts, free masonry, the Shroud of Turin, the celts, the Sacred Heart of Paray-le-Monial, White Horse Eagle, the roman knights, Buddha, Quetzalcoatl and Poseidon are composed*

*to a you do not know what intellectual carnival, which justifies the reluctance of honest and deliberate minds.*

*Is it this in what Atlantis research has to result?*

*Meanwhile learned and rich works are published and accumulate in Germany, England, Italy and America.*

*The Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes, which from the beginning did not ignore the risk and the danger which threaten its work, is preparing for the necessary putting its cause in perspective in the academic world.*

*May all who think that we are on the right, on the only reasonable way, help us, come to us, support us!*

*Roger DÉVIGNE*

Bibliographic data:

Roger Dévigne, Où en est la Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes? (editorial), in:

Les Études Atlantéennes – Bulletin de la Société d'Etudes Atlantéennes SEA, No. 8-9, February-March 1929; p. 93 f.

Translation: Thorwald C. Franke February 2008.