

# THE GREAT UNKNOWN

A Book of Romantic Mysteries

神秘的世界

A. 布拉姆·菲尔德



世界图书出版公司

The Great Unknown

# 神秘的世界

(附中文注释)

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## 内 容 简 介

本书收集了复活节岛上的人面石、喜马拉雅山上的雪人、神秘的金字塔、克里特岛的迷宫、尼斯湖里的怪兽等15篇令人神秘莫测的故事。内容引人入胜、语言浅近易懂、注释丰富详尽，足以令即使讨厌英语的学生也将视阅读英文为赏心乐事、易事，进而收到提高阅读能力之效，是一本难得的英语学习辅助材料。

The Great Unknown  
A. Bloomfield

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## 前 言

本书是 Anthony Bloomfield 的 *Shocks and Surprises — A Book of Incredible Mistakes* (Macmillan Language House, 1987) 的续集。《Shocks and Surprises》收集的是过去世界上实际发生的耸人听闻、轰动社会的事件，而这本 *The Great Unknown* 所收集的却是由世界各地的不可思议的事迹所构成的故事。这些事迹有的是俨然存在的历史遗迹，有的虽然是人所共知的事实；但其谜底却至今无法揭开。

例如，复活节岛是位于太平洋之中的一个小岛，其面积不过是日本佐渡岛的四分之一左右；但这里却存在着被称为“人面石”的巨大石像和未能破译的“朗戈·朗戈”文字的碑铭。由于无法理解这种文明会产生于这种人迹罕至的孤岛上，所以，有人认为，这个岛是一万二千年以前沉入太平洋的某大陆的一部分，而“人面石”也许是某族人在山上祭奠的圣像。

所谓“纳斯卡的地上画”也是这样。这是一种非常巨大的画，如果不乘飞机从空中俯瞰，就无法把握其整体轮廓。为什么会在地上画出这样巨大的画呢？人们莫名其妙，于是就产生了这种不无道理的推想：这也许是宇宙人为在地上着陆所建造的滑行道吧。

再如，当把金字塔的缩微模型置于与原物相同的方位，放入剃刀，则剃刀刃的利钝始终如新。或者，在金字塔型的容器里放入牛奶和桔子汁，则比放在其他形状的容器里能够更长久地保鲜，这是为什么？按照现代科学，至今无法作出解释。

此外，一种被称为“极鸟”的海鸥，夏天繁殖于北极，冬天飞往南极，它们既无指南针，也没有地图，是怎样始终正确地把握方向，飞过如此难以置信的漫长旅途呢？这也是不可思议的。或许远古时候的人类也可以在没有地图和磁石的情况下，边走边

找，直达遥远的目的地吧。

大概我们现代人过分醉心于现代科学文明之中，丧失了远古人类所具有的特异功能吧。就连天气这种事，明日如何之类问题，古人恐怕也比现代人有着更为敏锐的预测能力。特别是有关天灾地祸这样的大事，他们往往能够仅凭直觉而做出判断，从而做到“趋利避害”。

古人在缺乏高科技支持的情况下，建造了金字塔和万里长城这样的巨大建筑物，仅此已足令我们现代人叹为观止。对于没有科学文明就无法生存的我们而言，当作谜的事情可以说越来越多。而且，文明越发达，这种谜一般的事物、神秘的世界、奇异的景观反而越会受到人们的青睐和憧憬。

仅凭上面这些东西，我们就可以看出，被认为已探索殆尽的地球上仍然存在着许多未知的世界。甚至连占地球面积四分之三的海底也是人类未曾涉足的世界。谁也不知道，海底究竟潜藏着什么样的怪物，为什么在百慕大海域会有许多船只和飞机神秘地失踪。即便对陆地，我们也难以断言已经了如指掌了。现代人类以前的人类——被达尔文称为“the missing link”（缺失的环节）的猿与人之间的生物——也许正在喜马拉雅山中那现代人不能接近的秘密地带，不畏严寒地赤脚漫步于冰雪世界呢。

对于现代人而言，遇到超越现代人理解的神秘世界，不亚于遇到绝代佳人，胸中总会充满难以抑制的激动之情。我们也许是由于生活在“科学万能”的时代之故吧，反倒对那种神秘世界魂萦梦绕，总觉得有种浪漫情调。在喜马拉雅山探索雪人时丢掉性命的铃木纪夫就是千万个神往秘境 Shangri-La 者之一。

我们这两个编注者总是考虑编一本即使讨厌英语的学生也能欣然听课的讲义，使上英语课变成一种赏心乐事。出版社的编辑先生们也对这种考虑投入无限的热情，为编注者提供了大量的照片和插图。进而，编注者又受到这种热情的感染，只好尽其所能，在有限的篇幅内，加上密密麻麻、短小精悍、内容充实的注释，以略尽报答之意。在这里，我们恳请读者务必把注释和原文放在

一起，对照阅读。如果能由对内容的关心转向对英语的关心，那么，对编注者而言，可以说，没有什么能比这一点更大喜过望的了。编注者觉得，原作者和出版社大概也会有与编注者同样的心情。

**编注者**

1994年8月

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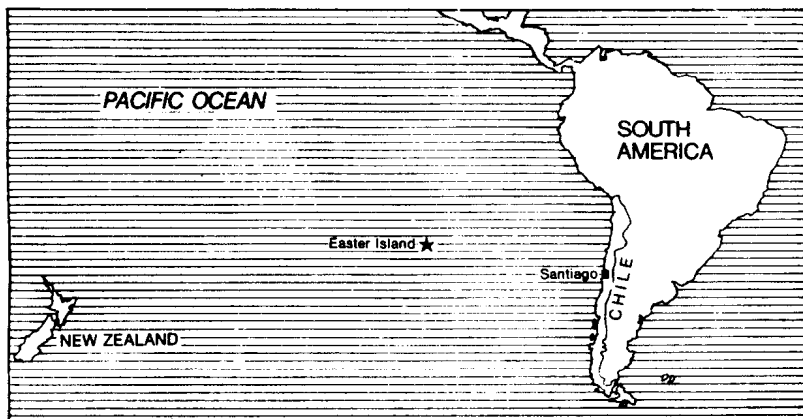
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# Sad Stone Faces

## THE STATUES OF EASTER ISLAND



On Easter Sunday, 1722, the Dutch Admiral Jacob Roggeveen discovered an island. This is appropriately called Easter Island, a small dot on the map in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 2,000 miles from the coast of northern Chile.

Today on this island (11 miles by 15 miles) sheep peacefully eat the grass. But long ago the people who lived here were obviously *not* just sheep farmers. For it is here that huge and mysterious stone statues stand. With their long faces looking sadly into the sky, we can only wonder why they were made and who carved them.

There is little evidence to tell modern archaeologists

anything. The only remains that have been found are the primitive tools that some ancient people used to shape these mighty rocks. But for what purpose, no one is exactly sure. Some believe that the statues were made  
5 by a decadent Polynesian race who simply faded away. Legend has it that there was a great battle between long-eared and short-eared men and that it is this that led to the collapse of the society.

Other experts simply believe that these stone statues  
10 are the faces of ancestors and were used in ceremonies to worship the gods. According to Roggeveen's notes, the people at the time he arrived still practiced strange reli-



gious rituals among the statues, although in 1863 the islanders became Catholic and these ceremonies quickly came to a halt.

But perhaps the most fascinating idea is that Easter Island was once part of a large continent that sank below the sea. The frightened people, watching their island disappear, carved these giant statues in images of themselves—sad and starving—looking helplessly upwards, possibly to appeal to their gods to save them.

Of course, the imagination has no barriers. Here are these immense men, 6 metres high, made of volcanic rock, many with large red-rock hats on. They are silent. Silent, that is, except for the mysterious writing scratched on their backs. A piece of writing that nobody can read. Strange signs and symbols. A language that holds all the answers.

Are these the faces of a lost civilisation? Did their kingdom sink below the waves?



*Did these sad eyes search the heavens for a god who never came? The mystery remains.*

25

**A. Choose the correct answers**

1. On the island there are:
  - a. no animals at all.
  - b. some sheep.
  - c. only giant lizards.
2. The stone statues are:
  - a. looking upwards into the sky.
  - b. lying face down on the ground.
  - c. without eyes.
3. When the Dutch Admiral came to the island:
  - a. there was no one on it.
  - b. he sailed away without landing.
  - c. he saw religious ceremonies among the statues.
4. After 1863 the islanders were:
  - a. Buddhists.
  - b. Catholics.
  - c. Muslims.
5. On the back of the statues is:
  - a. a coloured spot.
  - b. drawings of animals.
  - c. a mysterious language.

**B. True or false**

1. The island was discovered on Christmas Day. (F)
2. Primitive tools have been found. (T)
3. Legend has it that there was a battle between long-nosed and short-nosed men. (T)
4. Many of the statues have hats on. (F)
5. The statues are made of volcanic rock. (F)

# The Cosmic Circle

## WAITING FOR THE SUN AT STONEHENGE

As the first rays of sunlight appear over the distant horizon, a crowd of white-robed and hooded men and women shout their praise: "Arise, O Sun! Let the darkness of night fade before thy glorious light!"

These are today's modern Druids—a small religious group who stand on Midsummer Day every year within the great circle of stones on Salisbury Plain in England and await the rising sun. They believe these stones are their temple—a place where their ancestors worshipped and where they sat and studied the stars in the heavens above.

This, of course, is Stonehenge, the most famous circle of stones in Britain—a circle that has stood this way for thousands of years. It was built between 1800 and 1400 B.C. But by whom? No one knows. These stones are a complete mystery. Certainly they were not put there by the Druids because the Celtic people settled in





▲ *Modern Druids continue to celebrate an annual ritual.*

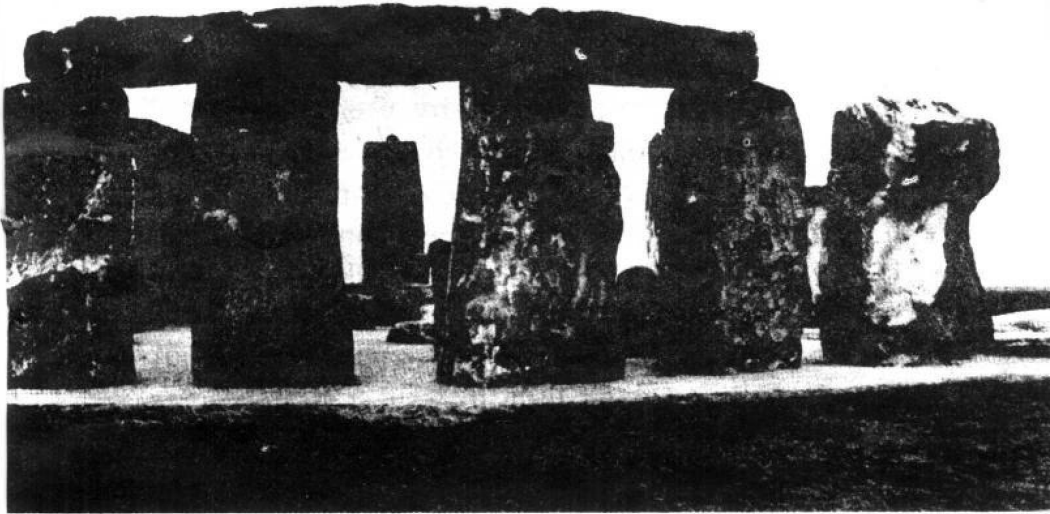


► *Stonehenge*

Britain much later. We know this because Julius Caesar wrote about them—how they studied the stars, measured the Earth and performed human sacrifices. But it is only a romantic and dramatic imagination that believes these same Druids were the builders of Stonehenge.

Originally it was thought that Stonehenge was a primitive temple, a meeting place or a market for Stone-Age people. But in 1960 the American astronomer Gerald Hawkins added a new dimension to its purpose. By studying the relationship between the sun, moon, stars and the various stones, he found that this circle is like a huge Stone-Age observatory, precisely positioned to watch the stars, measure the length of the day and map the planets. Even today, on Midsummer Day, when the Druids watch the sun come over the horizon, the light hits a 'Heel Stone' that was especially placed there to calculate the Earth's movements.

Were these primitive Stone-Age people much more



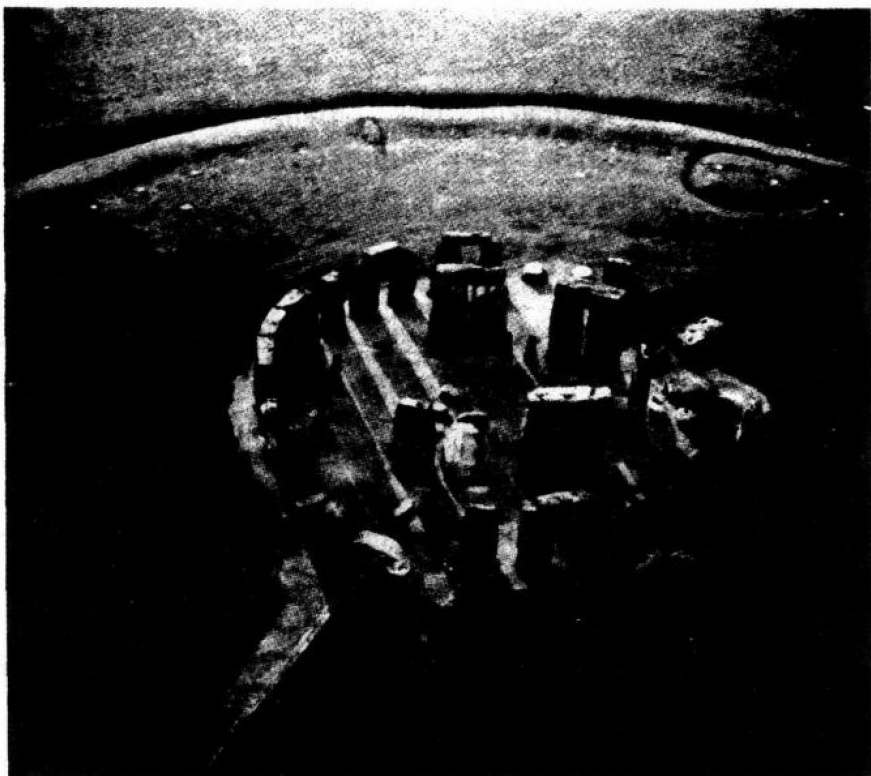
intelligent than we think? Certainly it would seem so. The transport of these giant stones (some weighing 50 tons) alone is an amazing task. Many of the largest stones were brought from hundreds of miles away. They were pulled across the land (there was no wheel at that time) by thousands of men; they were tied to boats and floated across the sea and guided down rivers; and they were put in place with only the most primitive of tools. The stones' journey was obviously a work of dedication.

Geoffrey de Monmouth in 1136 actually wrote that the stones had been moved by magic. He said King Arthur's magician, Merlin, had magically brought them from Ireland. But if this is hard to believe, at least one must marvel at the powers of Stone-Age man. How did he get his skills? Why did he work for hundreds of years to make a circle of stones? How was he able to build such a perfect observatory for the stars? Why do

all the stone circles in Europe have the same unit of measurement (the megalithic yard of 2.72 ft.)?

One thing is certain: Stonehenge was, and is, something special. It is 'special' because archaeologists can find nothing—no evidence of the people who built it. Nothing was dropped at this place. There is no litter. And as Professor Atkinson, an expert on Stonehenge, says: "The people who built this circle treated it like a church—and you don't drop litter in a church."

*An aerial view of Stonehenge*





**A. Choose the correct answers**

1. On midsummer's day the modern druids are dressed in:
  - a. black cloaks.
  - b. white robes.
  - c. jeans and T-shirts.
2. The Druids believe Stonehenge is:
  - a. their temple.
  - b. a burial ground.
  - c. a castle.
3. Stonehenge is like:
  - a. a funfair.
  - b. a prison.
  - c. an observatory.
4. Many of the largest stones:
  - a. were found near Stonehenge.
  - b. were brought from hundreds of miles away.
  - c. came from the Alps.
5. Archaeologists have found:
  - a. plenty of evidence about the people who built Stonehenge.
  - b. no evidence of the people who built it.
  - c. that the Druids actually built it.

**B. True or false**

1. The Druids lived in Britain before 1800 B.C. ( )
2. Caesar wrote about the Druids. ( )
3. When the sun comes over the horizon on midsummer's day it hits the Heel Stone. ( )
4. The wheel was used to carry the big stones. ( )
5. There are other stone circles in Europe. ( )