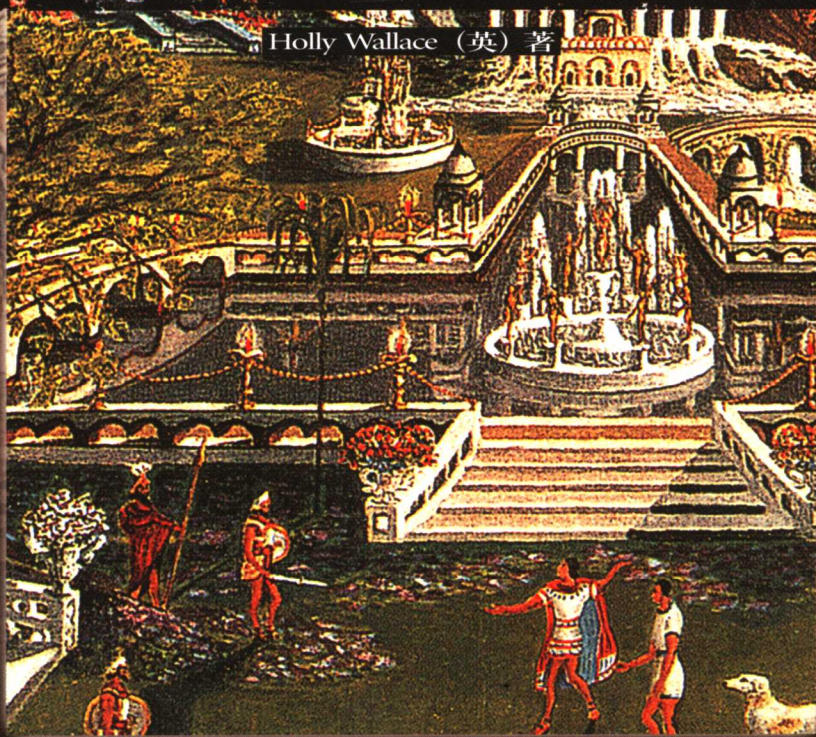


奥 秘 之 旅

The Mystery of Atlantis

亚特兰蒂斯之谜

Holly Wallace (英) 著



外语教学与研究出版社

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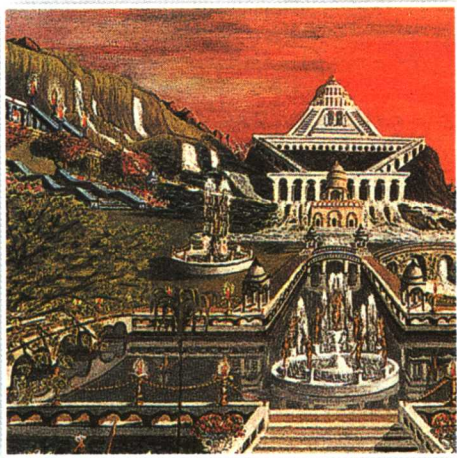
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Unsolved mysteries

未解之谜

For centuries, people have been puzzled¹ and fascinated² by mysterious places, creatures and events. Is there really a monster³ living in Loch Ness⁴? Are UFOs tricks of the light or actually vehicles⁵ from outer space⁶? Who is responsible⁷ for mysterious crop circle⁸ patterns—clever hoaxers⁹ or alien beings¹⁰? Did the lost land of Atlantis ever exist? Some of these mysteries have baffled¹¹ scientists, who have spent years trying to find the answer. But just how far can science go? Can it really explain the seemingly unexplainable? Are there some mysteries which science simply cannot solve? Read on, and make your own mind up...

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|------------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 1. puzzle | v. | 使迷惑 | 7. responsible | adj. | 承担责任的 |
| 2. fascinate | v. | 强烈地吸引 | 8. crop circle | | 麦田怪圈 |
| 3. monster | n. | 怪物 | 9. hoaxer | n. | 骗子 |
| 4. Loch Ness | | 尼斯湖 | 10. alien being | | 外星人 |
| 5. vehicle | n. | 飞行器 | 11. baffle | v. | 难住 |
| 6. outer space | | 宇宙空间; 外层空间 | | | |

This book tells you about the legendary¹ lost land of Atlantis, from the only account² that exists of the city, written by Plato³ in the 4th century BC, to later theories⁴ about its supposed location and the geographical, archaeological⁵ and historical theories about its existence⁶ and destruction⁷.

What was Atlantis?

According to legend, Atlantis was an ancient island civilization⁸ in the Atlantic Ocean which flourished⁹ about 12,000 years ago. Then, in the space of a night and a day, it sank without trace¹⁰ beneath the waves. It was a powerful¹¹ kingdom¹², whose army had conquered¹³ large parts of Africa and Europe, before being defeated¹⁴ by the Ancient Greeks. Its people enjoyed a privileged¹⁵ lifestyle, surrounded¹⁶ by fine things and beautiful palaces. Until one fateful¹⁷ day, that is, when their golden world came crashing¹⁸ down around them.

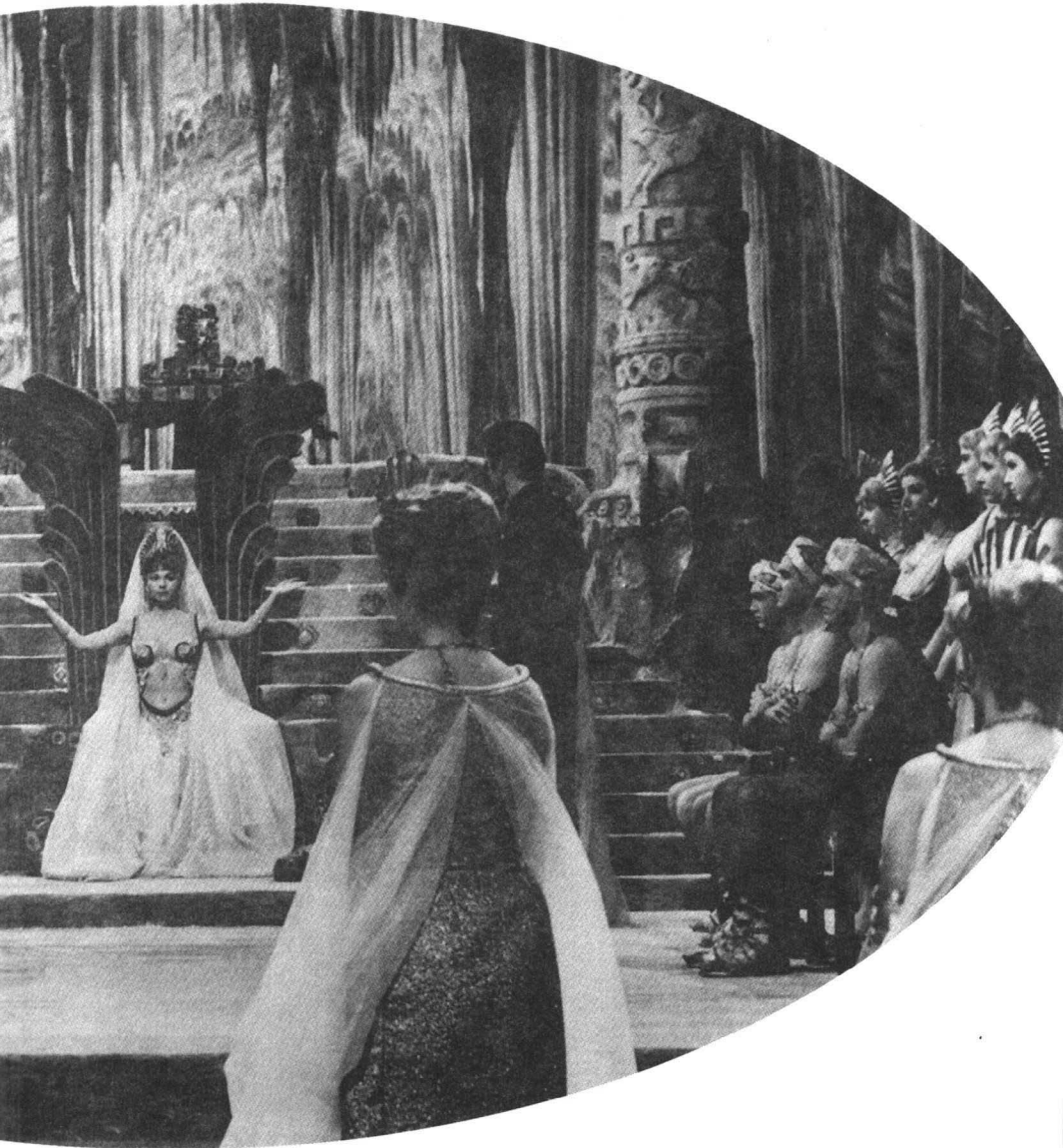
1. legendary	adj.	传说的	10. trace	n.	痕迹
2. account	n.	记述; 描述	11. powerful	adj.	强大的
3. Plato		柏拉图(古希腊哲学家)	12. kingdom	n.	王国
4. theory	n.	理论	13. conquer	v.	征服
5. archaeological	adj.	考古学的	14. defeat	v.	击败
6. existence	n.	存在	15. privileged	adj.	享有特权的
7. destruction	n.	毁灭	16. surround	v.	围绕; 环绕
8. civilization	n.	文明	17. fateful	adj.	灾难性的
9. flourish	v.	繁荣; 兴旺	18. crash	v.	轰然倒下



Many books and films have been based on the story of Atlantis, including this one, entitled⁶ *The Lost Kingdom*. This is a scene⁷ inside the fabulous⁸ royal⁹ palace of the Atlantean king.



But did Atlantis ever actually exist? We have no eyewitness¹ reports to go by. No ruins² have ever been found. Apart from one ancient account, later theories have often been based more in science fiction³ than in science fact. And if Atlantis did exist, two burning⁴ questions still remain—where was it located and how was it finally destroyed? Was it a natural disaster⁵ or an act of the gods? Is there anything science can do to solve one of the greatest mysteries of all?



1. eyewitness *n.* 目击者

2. ruin *n.* [~s] 废墟; 遗迹

3. science fiction 科学幻想小说

4. buring *adj.* 十分重要的;

热烈争论的

5. disaster *n.* 灾难

6. entitle *v.* 给(书、电影等)取名

7. scene *n.* 场景

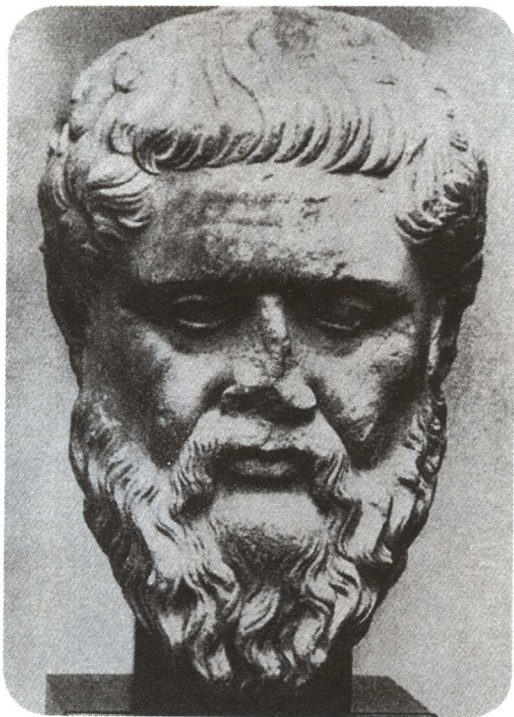
8. fabulous *adj.* 传奇式的; 神话般的

9. royal *adj.* 王室的

Beginnings of a mystery

玄奥由来

The first and only sources¹ we have for the mystery of Atlantis are two ancient accounts, written by the Greek philosopher² Plato in the 4th century BC. They are written as imaginary conversations which take place between the philosopher Socrates³ and three friends. The two accounts are called *Timaeus* and *Critias*, after their main characters⁴. Plato began to work on a third account but it was never completed.



Plato, the Greek philosopher, who lived from 427 BC–347 BC. The legend of Atlantis began with his ancient accounts. But were they historical fact or merely¹³ hearsay¹⁴? No one knows.

Two accounts

In his version⁵ of events, Plato puts the story of Atlantis into the mouth of the poet and historian Critias. He says that he heard the story as a child from his grandfather, who had heard it from his own father. He, in turn, had heard it from his friend Solon⁶ (c.640 BC–c.558 BC), a famous Greek politician⁷ from Athens⁸ who had been told the story by an elderly Egyptian⁹ priest¹⁰. By the priest's time, the story was already very old, recorded in the ancient temple¹¹ records. It tells how, about 9,000 years before Solon's birth, or about 12,000 years ago, Atlantis was a rich, powerful island in the Atlantic Ocean whose armies conquered many of the lands around the Mediterranean¹² until they were finally defeated by the Athenians. This is Plato's account of the Egyptian priest's words:



1. source *n.* 来源

2. philosopher *n.* 哲学家

3. Socrates 苏格拉底(古希腊哲学家)

4. character *n.* 人物; 角色

5. version *n.* 说法

6. Solon 梭伦(古雅典政治家、诗人)

7. politician *n.* 政治家

8. Athens 雅典

9. Egyptian *adj.* 埃及的

10. priest *n.* 祭司

11. temple *n.* 神殿

12. Mediterranean 地中海

13. merely *adv.* 仅仅; 只

14. hearsay *n.* 传闻

‘There was an island situated¹ in front of the straits which you call the Pillars of Hercules² (now called the Straits of Gibraltar³) and which was larger than Libya⁴ and Asia Minor⁵ (modern Turkey⁶) put together...Now on this island of Atlantis there was a great and wonderful empire⁷ which ruled over the whole island and several others, and over parts of the continent⁸, and controlled, within the straits, Libya as far as Egypt and Europe as far as Tyrrhenia (Italy). This vast power attempted⁹ to subdue¹⁰ both my country (Egypt) and yours (Greece) and the whole region¹¹ within the strait. Then, Solon, your country defeated the invaders¹² and saved us all from slavery¹³. But afterwards, there occurred¹⁴ violent¹⁵ earthquakes¹⁶ and floods, and in a single day and night, the island of Atlantis was swallowed up¹⁷ by the sea and disappeared...’

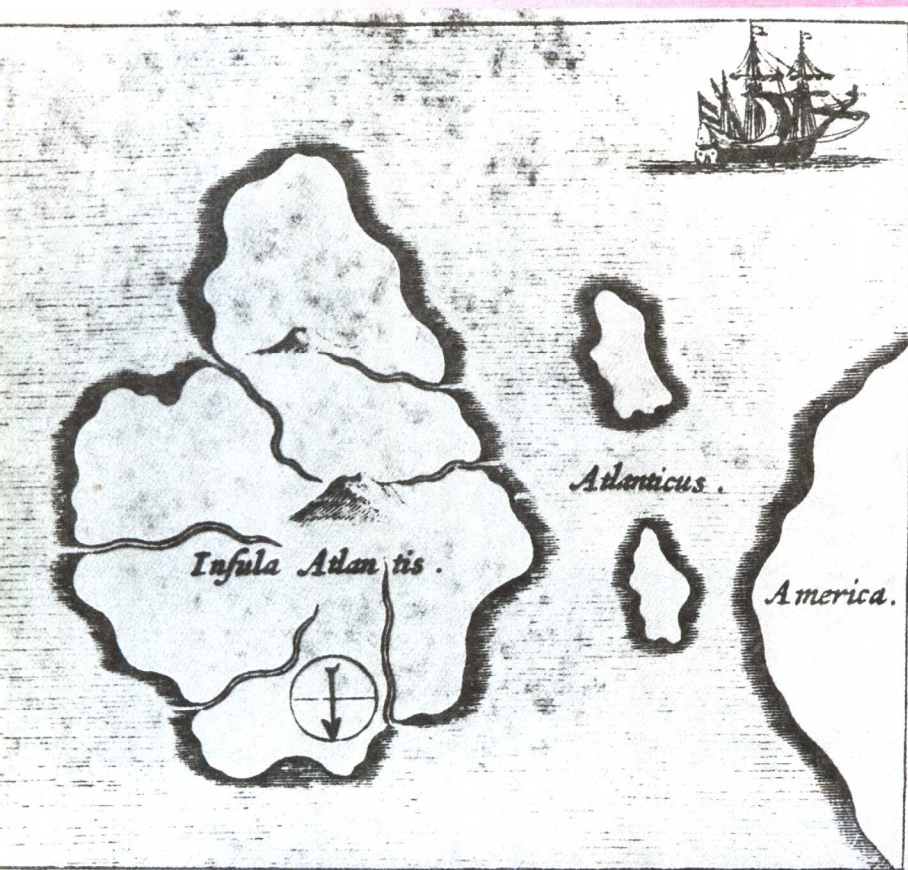


A map of Atlantis from the 1644 book, *Mundus Subterraneus* (*The Underground World*), by Dutch¹⁸ writer Athanasius Kircher. He based his guess at Atlantis' location on Plato's accounts.



1. situated *adj.* 位于……的
2. Pillars of Hercules 赫拉克勒斯之墩
(指直布罗陀海峡东端两岸的两个岬角)
3. Straits of Gibraltar 直布罗陀海峡
4. Libya 利比亚
5. Asia Minor 小亚细亚
6. Turkey 土耳其
7. empire *n.* 帝国
8. continent *n.* 洲; 大陆
9. attempt *v.* 企图

10. subdue *v.* 制服; 使顺从
11. region *n.* 地区
12. invader *n.* 侵略者
13. slavery *n.* 奴役
14. occur *v.* 发生
15. violent *adj.* 剧烈的
16. earthquake *n.* 地震
17. swallow up 吞没; 淹没
18. Dutch *adj.* 荷兰的




What was Atlantis like?

原貌如何?

In his second account, *Critias*, Plato described the history, geography and people of Atlantis in more detail. He tells how the kings of Atlantis were created by Poseidon¹, the Ancient Greek god of earthquakes and the sea. They were great architects² and engineers, building temples, palaces and harbours³. Their capital city was circular⁴ in shape and built on a hill, surrounded by alternate⁵ rings of land and water which were joined by huge bridges and tunnels. A huge canal⁶ connected the outermost⁷ ring of water to the sea. Behind the city was a great, fertile⁸ plain where farmers grew the city's food. The island was also rich in minerals⁹, timber¹⁰ and exotic¹¹ animals, including elephants.

1. Poseidon		波塞冬	8. fertile	adj.	肥沃的
		(希腊神话中的海神)	9. mineral	n.	矿物
2. architect	n.	建筑师	10. timber	n.	木材
3. harbour	n.	港口	11. exotic	adj.	奇异的
4. circular	adj.	圆形的	12. descend	v.	是……的后裔
5. alternate	adj.	交替的	13. giant	n.	巨人
6. canal	n.	运河	14. Atlas		阿特拉斯
7. outermost	adj.	最外面的			(希腊神话中以肩顶天的巨神)

 According to legend, the people of Atlantis were descended¹² from the sea god, Poseidon. Atlantis took its name from the giant¹³ Atlas¹⁴, one of Poseidon's sons.



A magnificent¹ palace

According to Plato, the priest told Solon how the King of Atlantis lived in a luxurious² palace on top of the hill. In the centre of the palace stood a temple to Poseidon. This is how Plato describes it:

‘The outside of the temple was covered in silver, apart from the pinnacles³. The pinnacles were covered in gold. Inside, the roof was made of ivory⁴, decorated⁵ with gold, silver and other precious metals⁶. All the other walls and pillars were lined with precious metals. In the temple they placed golden statues⁷—there was Poseidon himself standing in a chariot⁸ pulled by six winged horses, and of such a size that he touched the roof of the temple with his head...’



It seemed the Atlanteans had everything they could wish for. But, says Plato, they became greedy⁹ and corrupt¹⁰. Zeus¹¹, the king of the gods, decided to teach them a lesson and destroyed their golden land as punishment.

1. magnificent *adj.* 壮丽的; 宏伟的

2. luxurious *adj.* 奢华的

3. pinnacle *n.* (尤指哥特式建筑上的)小塔尖

4. ivory *n.* 象牙

5. decorate *v.* 装饰

6. precious metal 贵金属

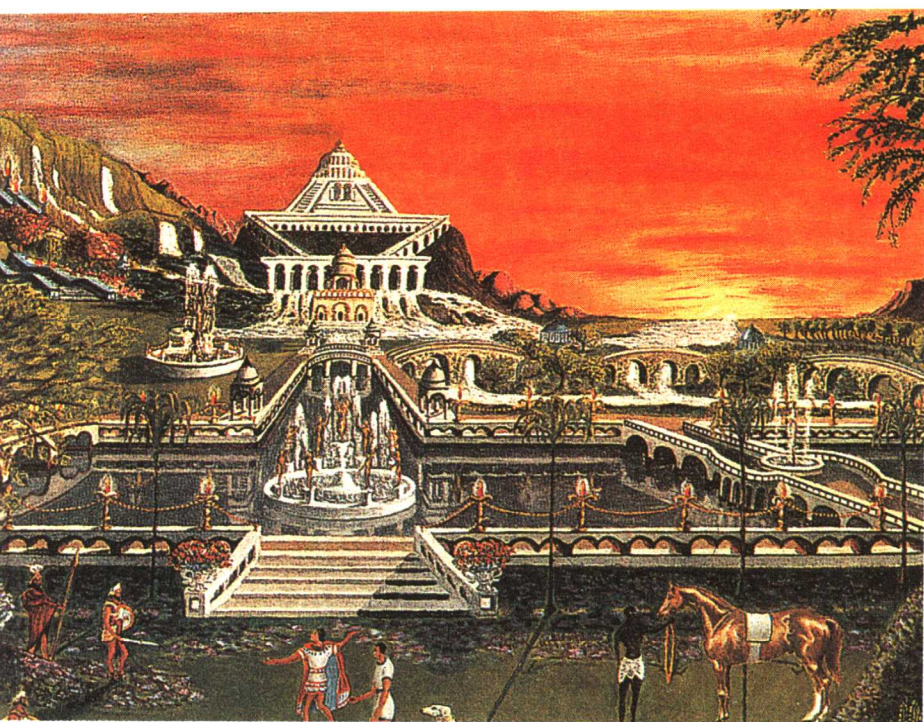
7. statue *n.* 雕像

8. chariot *n.* (古代的)双轮战车

9. greedy *adj.* 贪婪的

10. corrupt *adj.* 堕落的

11. Zeus 宙斯(希腊神话中的主神)



An artist's impression³ of the gardens of the magnificent palace of the King of Atlantis. But did it really exist?

But even 50 years after his death, doubts began over whether Plato's Atlantis was a real place. Had the story truly been passed down to him as he claimed¹, or had he invented it in order to discuss the politics of his own city, Athens? Was the account historical fact or hearsay? The debate² continues today.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|--------|---------------|----|----|
| 1. claim | v. | 声称; 主张 | 3. impression | n. | 印象 |
| 2. debate | n. | 争论 | | | |