

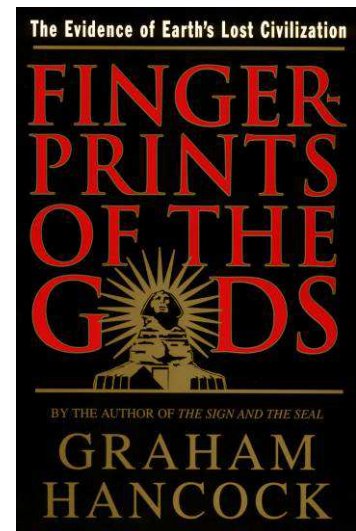
Museo Biblioteca Clarence Bicknell
Via Romana, 39, 18012 Bordighera, IM, Italia

The Bicknell Petroglyph Engravings in the 21st Century

Presented at the meeting of The Clarence Bicknell Group, May 9, 2016
By Christine M. Kulper

Advanced ancient civilizations have become a big topic of interest among researchers, historians, archaeologists, and scientists. There is a myriad of popular television documentaries on ancient cultures and every single year we are gifted with a mysterious archaeological find that has us questioning the origins of the human race and imagining the cultures which roamed the earth before us. We have found much evidence to suggest that there may have been civilizations in existence which were intellectually, and even technologically superior to our present day society.

However, this theory is still thought to be quite fantastical by the majority of academics. Despite all of the evidence which has been brought to light in recent years to support this notion, it is still largely ignored by the mainstream. If you are interested in looking at some of this evidence, a great place to start is with the British author Graham Hancock, in his book titled, *Fingerprints of the Gods*.



Prehistoric rock art or petroglyphs are of major importance to archaeology and all humanity, especially today as discoveries of all kinds are being made globally about our ancestors and our human origins. Granted many of these discoveries bring forth more questions than answers, but therein lies the beauty, to open even further doors for even more new discoveries and new theories of the past.

Much of what we think we know right now about ancient civilizations is actually based on old theories that have been presented to us as fact. For example a hot debate that began many years ago and is still raging today is the conservative, long accepted “fact” of the dating of the Egyptian Sphinx at Giza to roughly 2500 BC. However, since stone cannot be radio carbon dated and often surrounding organic materials are used for these dates, they are unreliable. Currently many archaeologists, anthropologists and geologists are finding evidence to push the date of the Sphinx and many other ancient structures much further back in time than was previously entertained.

In order to illustrate this point one of the most illustrious, yet controversial Egyptologists, John Anthony West, specifically called for the help of the highly respected geologist, Robert Schoch. Schoch was sought out to study and date the Sphinx based on his own inspection. Schoch gave the date of the Sphinx to at least 5000 to 7000 BC, based on his



The Great Sphinx at Giza. Watercolour by Clarence Bicknell 1889

extensive studies of water erosion on the stone itself. This is just one example of sites from all over the world from Puma Punku in Bolivia, to Cusco in Peru, to Gobekli Tepe in Turkey, where we are finding concrete evidence of advanced civilizations with advanced technologies, with dates much older than formerly presumed. To quote Schoch, *“If there is one thing that we should learn from the history of archaeology, it is that we have consistently underestimated the level of sophistication and antiquity of our forbears.”*

Recently, I was in Brittany, France to visit the ancient Carnac alignments. This is an amazing construction of over 3,000 megalithic standing stones placed into the earth, in straight lines, that continue over an area of more than 2 miles. Some of these individual stones weigh more than 350 tons! In the current mainstream literature you will find they are said to have been erected during the Neolithic Period from 4500BC to 2000BC. This is a time period we have been led to believe was inhabited by unsophisticated hunter-gatherers. However it seems obvious that the coordination of



this creation at Carnac was carried out with precision by an advanced society. It has also been discovered fairly recently that these stones carry a strong and measurable geomagnetic energy as do many of the world’s megalithic sites. So as you can see this opens up a whole new area of historical, energetic and spiritual research.

This brings us to the importance of Clarence Bicknell, (1842-1918), and his work of collecting 12,000 drawings, photographs and reliefs of petroglyphs. I have just recently been introduced to the work of Bicknell through the Museo Biblioteca Clarence Bicknell in Bordighera, Italy. Bicknell meticulously studied and catalogued the vast majority of the petroglyphs in the valleys of the Italian Maritime Alps on the French-Italian border.



Clarence Bicknell in about 1910 with a sheet of rubbings of petroglyphs

This is empirical data that may not even still be available today in situ as it is possible some of the original petroglyphs have been destroyed or become too weathered to see clearly and certainly most of these images are already off limits to the public.

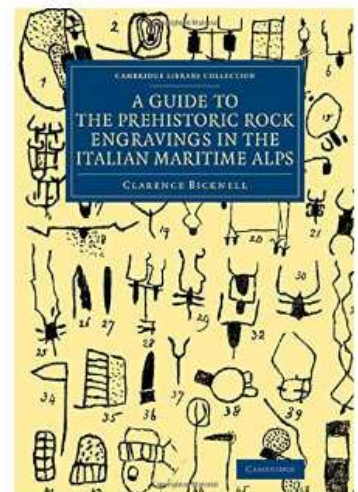


Ancient petroglyphs often get classified as Prehistoric Rock Art, with its connotations of simplicity, but our concept of what “prehistoric” art actually signifies are changing and being challenged today.

The study of archaeology is changing rapidly with more and more researchers finding evidence for backing the Diffusionist

Theory, which is the theory that ancient civilizations did not arise in isolation, but rather had interaction with each other globally. Therefore Bicknell’s research could prove invaluable to connecting the dots of some of these ancient civilizations.

I have recently read Bicknell’s book, *The Prehistoric Rock Engravings in the Italian Maritime Alps*, originally published in 1913. Thankfully, this book has recently been republished in a facsimile paperback format by Cambridge University Press, (2015, ISBN 978-1-108-08258-7). This valuable research has now been brought into the light and



made accessible to archaeologists, anthropologists as well as the general public worldwide. I invite everyone who is curious to have a look at this amazing material, now that it is readily available and help us conjoin the symbols and artistic endeavours of our ancient ancestors while hypothesizing on the array of possible meanings in these extensive figures.

As our current high-speed technological world speeds us into the future, I believe it is important that we keep in mind that we still have so much to learn from the past, and who knows what mysteries we may uncover from the past – still etched in stone and preserved by Clarence Bicknell in the Italian Maritime Alps.

Christine M. Kulper
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MA, Archaeology and Art History, Columbia Univ. NY, NY.

I invite your questions and comments related to this article.
Please write to: cmkulper@aol.com

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