

Dear Sir:

I would like to start by thanking you for your time and careful consideration.

With this letter, I would like to inform you that years of historical research have recently led to the identification of possible archaeological underwater sites which could be of great interest to history and marine sciences. In fact, they seem destined to change our present understanding of these disciplines on the Spanish coastline.

Last summer we organized an expedition to various locations on the coast of Cadiz province, from Gibraltar to Chipiona, with the purpose of gathering information which could either confirm or rule out the theory we've been working on for a decade. Such theory, controversial and difficult to accept by many, has received the acknowledgment of various distinguished Spanish academics, such as Dr. Antonio Morillas, from Barcelona University, and the late scientist and member of the Royal Academy of History in Cordoba, geologist Mr. Esteban Márquez Triguero, who also actively participated in the geological part of our investigations.

Other scientists and experts who are part of our expedition group are Juan Luis Naval, historian and official chronicler of Chipiona, Cadiz; Gema Tirado and María Fernández-Valmayor, researchers; Raúl Menasalvas, Director of the Historical Museum in Puertollano, Ciudad Real, and underwater archaeology expert; and Dr. Antonio Daza, expert in geology and geo-mining at Cordoba University.

Our objective was to register the information and, if there really existed archaeological remains, be able to photograph, film and locate them in a chart or a map. Though weather conditions and water visibility (especially near the Guadalquivir river's estuary) and other technical and human factors prevented us from filming and registering the most important sites, we were able, at least, to gather evidence about the casual findings of several archaeological artifacts (found earlier by local divers and fishermen). Fortunately, the little commercial value of these artifacts prevented them from falling into the hands of looters. But for our theory and the history of the Iberian peninsula and of old Mediterranean civilizations, these artifacts could have enormous historical value.

We are defenders of scientific archaeology. We feel these findings should be verified, investigated and protected by the corresponding scientific institutions, for they are the most competent scientific and judicial authorities on these matters. That is why we prepared a preliminary report, which we have already sent to scientific and government institutions, such as the Center of Underwater Archaeology (C.A.S.), belonging to the Andalusian Institute of Historic Heritage (I.A.P.H.) and the Cultural Section of UNESCO, with a copy to the Permanent Delegation of UNESCO in Spain.

We hope the "controversial" aspects of our theory do not constitute an obstacle to act decisively and rapidly on what could be one of the most important findings in the history of archaeology -even if, at the moment, it's only a preliminary hypothesis which will have to be confirmed by experts in underwater archaeology and marine geology, such as yourself.

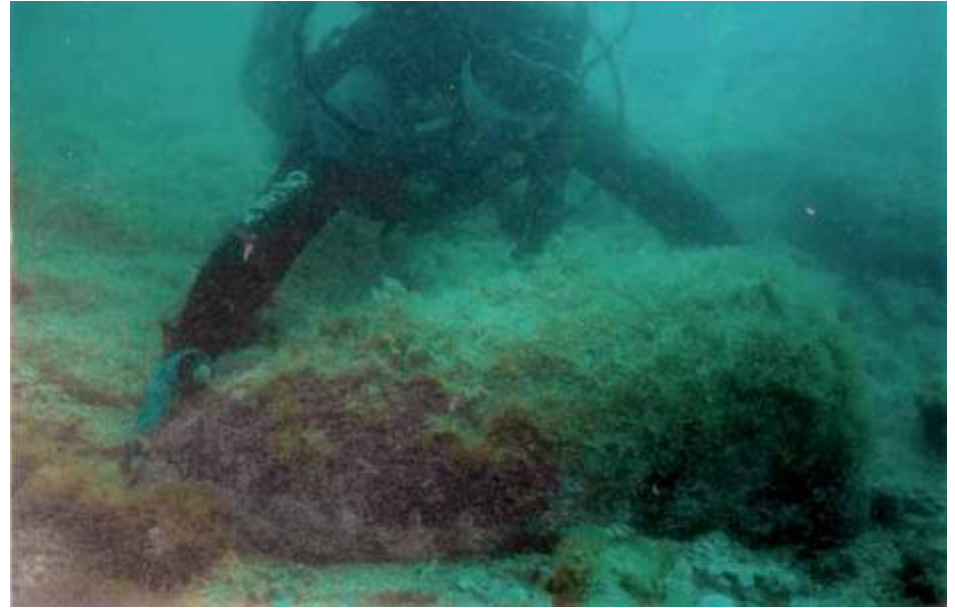
Regardless of what we may think this evidence is, or whatever others may think, what's really important is that, without a doubt, these artifacts were made by men-and they are not simple natural formations, as an archaeologist from Chipiona regrettably said when he was shown the first artifacts some years ago.

The nature of the findings, as well as the depths at which they are located, does not match well-studied archaeological theories. We consulted with various archaeologists specialized in underwater archaeology and Mediterranean civilizations, and they all confirmed that the most interesting remains (stone slabs and pillars) are quite atypical. Such artifacts do not seem Roman, neither Greek, nor Phoenician, nor Arab or Tartessic... This is to say, at first sight, they cannot be identified within any known technical or stylistic typology.

We are referring to flagstones “stone slabs” or “ashlar masonry”, of quadrangular and flat shape, with a rectangular, narrow hole at the center (see photos [1](#) and [2](#)), found between Conil de la Frontera and Trafalgar Cape. Several of these enigmatic flagstones have been found close together and associated to approximately one-and-a-half-meter long, bullet-shaped, monolithic pillars (see photos [3](#) and [4](#)). Their discoverer acted correctly and left them *in situ*. In fact, the only available pictures are the ones he took himself when he found the artifacts. We still don't know the exact place (only approximate location), but the diver who found them committed to return to the place and locate them with a GPS to facilitate their future scientific research. According to this diver, the artifacts are located between 10 and 12 meters underwater; if this is true, it could have very relevant implications for Andalusia's ancient history-and that of Iberia and the Old World, as we'll see further on. The discoverer never imagined they could be so important from an archaeological point of view, since these artifacts are not amphoras, anchors, cannons or any other typical element, but rather some strange stones, some perforated and others in a big bullet shape.



**Photo [1](#) y [2](#). Quadrangular flagstones or “stone slabs” with rectangular perforation at center.  
Conil de la Frontera -10 meters, +-2 m.**



**Photo [3](#) y [4](#). Bullet-shaped monolithic pillars. Conil de la Frontera -10 meters, +-2 m.**

In Tarifa, right in the Strait of Gibraltar, a couple of “millstones” (photo [6](#)), relatively near each other, and remains of a possible “wall”, still to be verified, have been found at a depth of almost 40 meters.

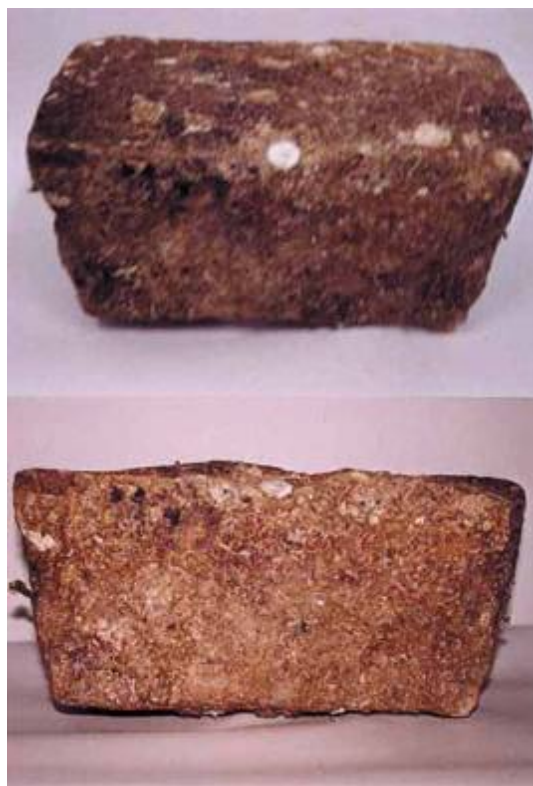


**Photo [6](#). A “millstone”. Tarifa, Gibraltar. Depth, 40 meters, +-2 m.**

Other evidence, equally interesting, has been found near Chipiona, in various sites between 9 and 17 meters underwater. These were also casual findings by several local divers during the last twenty years.

In Chipiona we’ve also been able to confirm the existence of several “paving stones” and “flagstones”, clearly man-made, found in various locations, between one and four kilometers off the coastline, on the way from the Guadalquivir estuary to near Rota. These “paving stones” were part of various stretches or walls described by the divers who found them as “city walls”. We’ve been able to confirm these “paving stones” are real, are man-made, and are composed of granite, a type of rock which cannot be found near the Cadiz coast.

It is difficult to accept that nature would make granite quadrangular “paving stones” and would then group them in the same location ([photo 7](#)). Further, at the sea bottom of Chipiona and Cadiz, “paving stones”, or any other granite formation, are not naturally found; they must have been moved by men, for granite is not part of the area’s geology.



**Photo 7. Granite “paving stones” found in a suspected “city wall”, at 9-meter depth, +-2 m.**

We could be talking about various archaeological sites which could pose new challenges for archaeology, history, oceanography and paleogeography. For, if the existence of these “city walls”-made up of granite blocks or “paving rocks”, at a depth of between 4 and 12 meters, far away from the coast-is confirmed, an explanation will have to be sought about the existence of these constructions. The most recent paleogeographic and paleoceanographic studies on paleocost and ancient sea levels state that, at that depth, the coastline was last exposed several thousand years before the arrival of the Phoenicians (see graphics [1](#), and [2](#)).

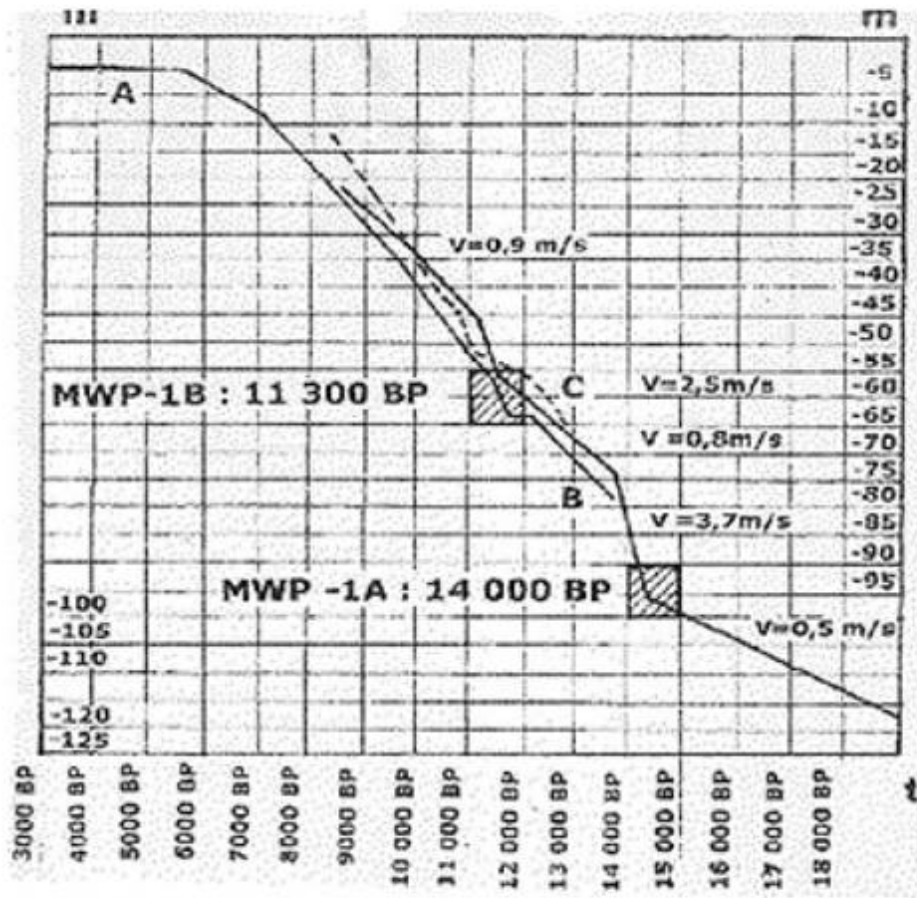
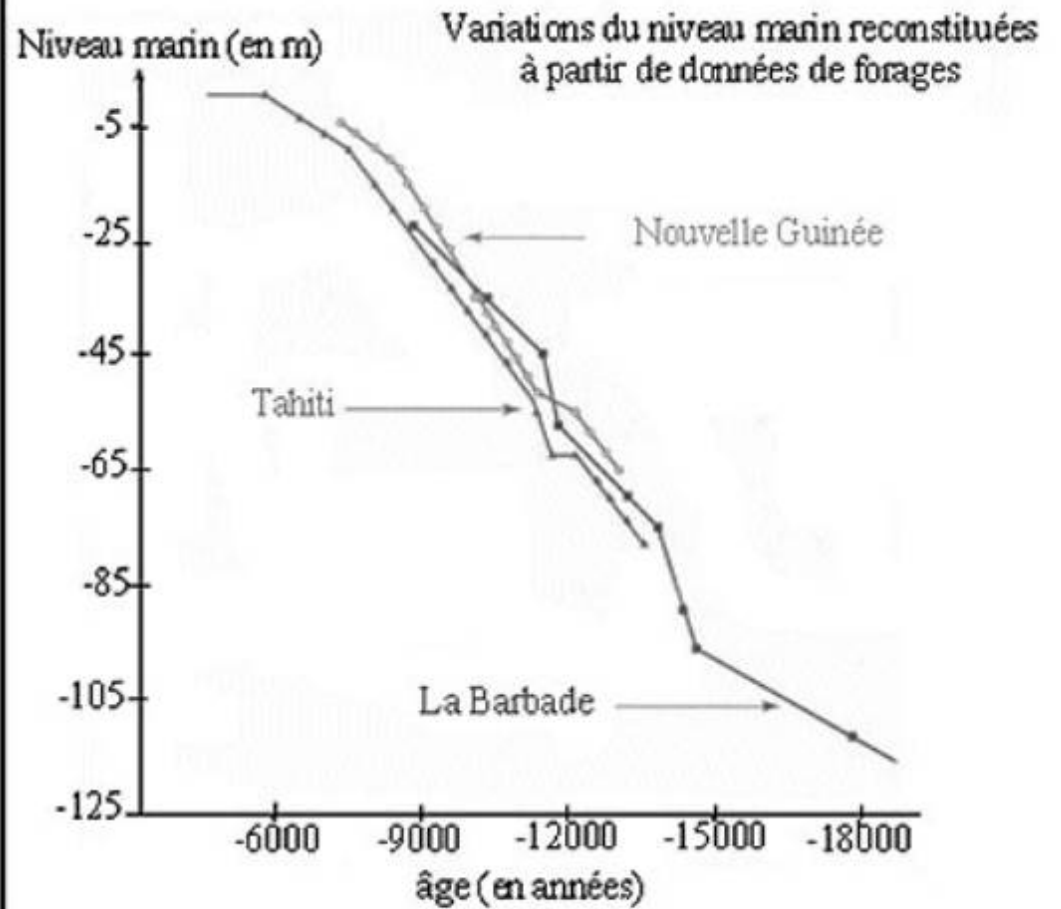


Figure 2. Courbes de remontée du niveau marin depuis 19 ka BP, dates calendaires (d'après [2-4], d'après trois forages en récifs coralliens (A : Tahiti ; B : Barbades ; C : Nouvelle-Guinée ; MWP-1A et B : phase de débâcles glaciaires (Meltwater pulse 1 A et B). V = vitesses de remontée par siècle, d'après [2].

J. Colliac Girard / C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Sciences de la Terre et des planètes  
 Earth and Planetary Sciences 333 (2001) 233-240



Reconstitution des variations du niveau marin à partir de l'étude d'un récif corallien de Tahiti. Démarche proposée par J.-M. Greffion, Lycée A. Thierry, Blois. Remerciements à Monsieur L. Montaggioni, UMR 6019 "Dynamique des récifs et des plates-formes carbonatées", CNRS, pour la documentation fournie.

Graphics 1 and 2. Evolution of sea levels during the last 18.000 years

Based on paleo-geographical data and the most recent reconstruction of old sea levels, carried out by Spanish, French, Cuban and American marine

geologists and oceanographers, these possible “walls” in Chipiona, and the possible architectonic structures found between Conil de la Frontera, Barbate and Zahara de los Atunes (see map), must have been built between 7,000 BP and 11,000 BP (before present). We’ve established this margin based on several updated bathymetric and paleoceanographic studies. While some propose that 7200 years ago the sea level in the Atlantic coast was below -10 meters, others say this was the case 9,000 years ago. For the coast level to have been below -17 meters, and up to -40 meters, the number of years goes back to between 8,000 and 11,000 BP.



Approximate geographic and chronological location of the findings, over an evolutionary chart of sea level changes.

From our point of view, and in the light of gathered data, we believe it necessary and urgent to organize a commission of international experts to evaluate these underwater findings. Maybe they are not archaeological sites and only “curious natural formations”; or maybe old vessels transporting architectonical elements wrecked in the area -an unlikely but not impossible hypothesis, which would make these elements, in any

case, equally revealing.

On the other hand, they could also possibly be remains of villages or industry from the Bronze Age or even the Neolithic, which would be a true archaeological revolution. They may even be the remains of the much sought after city of Tartessos (Tarschis) or of the Atlantis civilization that Plato so named and whose location he said was just in front of the Pillars of Hercules (Gibraltar) and near Gadeira (Gades or Cadiz), a theory which we have been defending since the year 2000 and that, since 2001, a French geologist, Jacques Collina-Girard, is also proposing.

The two hypotheses we are defending, Tartessos or Atlantis, are the conclusion of many years spent studying and translating the most antique texts in Greek and Latin of Plato's and other antique authors' conserved writings.

Of immediate importance is our need to verify the authenticity of artifacts we have located. Should they prove to be true archaeological remains, we must develop an urgent protection plan so they can be investigated and studied by qualified scientists such as yourself. Interested parties around the globe should then be informed of the important connotations these findings hold for the history of humanity.

Currently, we're working with a Spanish-American television production company, "Camino Media", which produces for prestigious international channels, such as National Geographic and Discovery Channel, among others (<http://www.caminomedia.com/www/video/index.htm>) They have shown interest in our findings and our theory and are considering the production of a documentary, which could facilitate both sponsorship funding and guarantee worldwide dissemination of our story.

But we need assistance to be able to adequately interpret archaeological evidence that is being found between -7 and -40 meters (most between -9 and -12 meters). You are an important world authority in underwater archaeology of antique civilizations. We need your help to correctly interpret these findings.

Should these remains originate from towns of the Bronze Age they could prove that Plato indeed described a civilization that existed, at that time, in the same area he pinpointed with great precision. The enigma of Atlantis could be definitively and scientifically solved, for the first time in history, and this would put an end to so much fantasy and speculation. On the other hand, these remains could shed light on some important mysteries of the time, such as the disappeared civilization and city of Tartessos or Tarschis, or on the decline of other civilizations at the end of the Bronze Age. In any case, whatever they are, they could be of great importance for the historical reconstruction of our past.

We need your help, and we hope you can cooperate with this important project. As I wrote at the beginning of this letter, we have already sent a preliminary archaeological report to UNESCO. We aim for this investigation to be carried out in the most correct, professional and scientific manner. That is why we turn to you; sadly, in Spain there are no specialists in underwater archaeology with experience in finding cities, ports or villages under the sea from the Bronze Age or the Neolithic.

As present project director and expedition coordinator, I would like to demonstrate my conviction of the findings. So sure I am that this will be an important discovery; that I'm willing to hand over my current position -if it were advisable to do so-to another, more qualified professional, such as

yourself, to complete the direction of this scientific investigation into possible underwater cities or ports from the Bronze Age or Neolithic period. Your expertise and participation would constitute a guarantee for our scientific project. If you cannot participate, we would appreciate both your interpretation of the findings thus far, and your recommendation of other specialists who would be interested in directing these investigations.

I am looking forward to your answer.

Sincerely,

Georgeos.

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