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ANCIENT MYSTERIES  
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NEW AGE ADVENTURE

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# CONTENTS



LETTERS 6  
EARLY RAYS 10

## THE NEW HERETIC

*Infinite Energy* Editor Eugene Mallove Starts a  
Regular *Atlantis Rising* Column 17

## THE FORBIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGIST

A New Column from the author of  
*Forbidden Archaeology*: Michael Cremo 19



## FUEL FROM YOUR TAP?

Can a New Technology Solve the Energy Crisis? 23



## 'BIMINI' IN JAPAN?

What Do Underwater Discoveries  
in the Pacific Say about the Carribean? 24

## THE MOUND MATRIX MYSTERY

Is It Evidence of Ancient High Technology? 26

## AT THE EDGE OF THE FUTURE

Len Kasten Talks with Sean David Morton 30

## FIGHTING FOR ALIEN TECHNOLOGY

The Drama Intensifies for Embattled  
Computer Inventor Jack Shulman 32



## HOW AMERICA DISCOVERED YOGA

The Amazing Story of Paramahansa Yogananda 34

## BLUEPRINT FROM ATLANTIS

Excerpting Colin Wilson & Rand Flem-Ath's New Book 39



## ATLANTIS IN THE ANDES

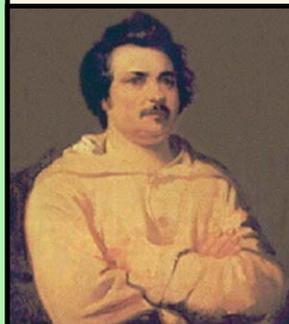
Tracking Plato to South America 42

## FENG SHUI

The Ancient Roots of the Current Fad 45

## BALZAC AND THE OCCULT

He Saw Dangers Where Others Did Not 46



Order  
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& MORE  
See Our Catalog  
Page 74

ASTROLOGY 48

VIDEOS 51

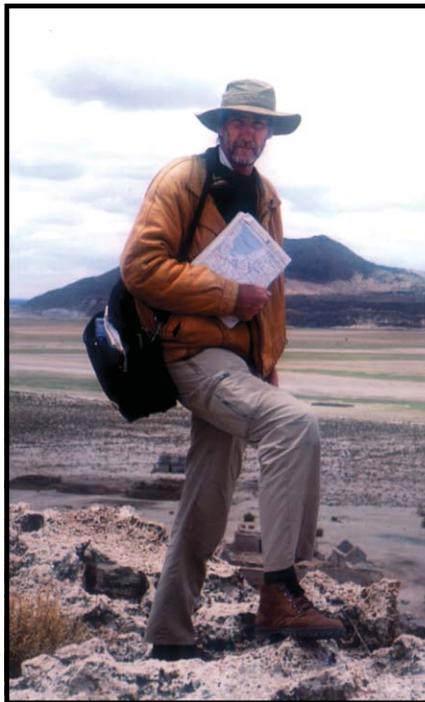
RECORDINGS 56

## DOCUMENTARY TO SEEK PLATO'S ATLANTIS IN BOLIVIA

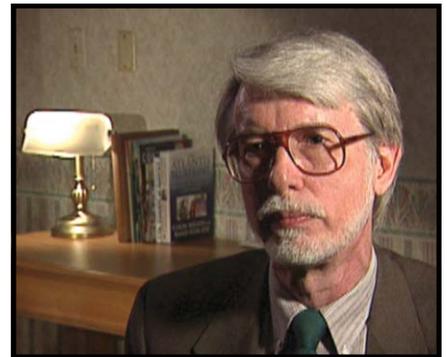
The possibility that when Plato spoke of Atlantis, he may have been referring to South America will be examined in an upcoming documentary—narrated by Lance Henriksen of Fox TV's *Millennium*—on The Learning Channel (TLC). Currently scheduled for Friday June 22 (consult local listings for time and channel), "Atlantis in the Andes" will feature the research of British explorer J. M. Allen, author of *Atlantis: the Andes Solution*.

Allen has made a strong case that the Bolivian Altiplano perfectly fits Plato's description of the rectangular Atlantean plain and, unlike some candidates for the spot—the Aegean island of Thera, for instance—has the correct Platonic dimensions. Allen even claims to have discovered the remains of a gigantic canal which Plato said encircled the plain. As for "sinking into the ocean," Allen says Plato was referring only to the city of Atlantis, which he says was built over a volcanic caldera whose location and dimensions still match Plato's description. The city, Allen says, was suddenly flooded by water from nearby Lake Poopo and sank. Even the word "Atlantis," he says is from the ancient language of the area and means copper water. According to Allen, the location, unlike any other in the world, possesses all of the unique characteristics described, including abundant sources of orichalcum, the reddish metal Plato said the Atlanteans used extensively.

The TLC documentary will not stop with Allen's theories but will include a



J. M. Allen stands on what he believes was the outer seawall of the city of Atlantis



Atlantis Rising editor J. Douglas Kenyon



Face in the wall at Tiahuanaco Temple near Lake Titicaca

wide-ranging discussion of many facets of the lost civilization and its impact on our world. *Atlantis Rising* editor, J. Douglas Kenyon, is among the many pundits whose views are included. Kenyon argues that whatever the physical location of Atlantis might ultimately prove to be, the important thing is that we have forgotten something great, albeit perhaps fatally

flawed, in our very ancient past, with which we must now reconcile, if we are to go forward in a whole and sane manner.

For Allen's intriguing tale of discovery in Bolivia and Peru and photos taken during the documentary filming expedition to Bolivia and Peru in December 2000, see the full article on page 42 in this issue. ■

## DISNEY'S ATLANTIS OPENS



Atlantis should be rising in June.

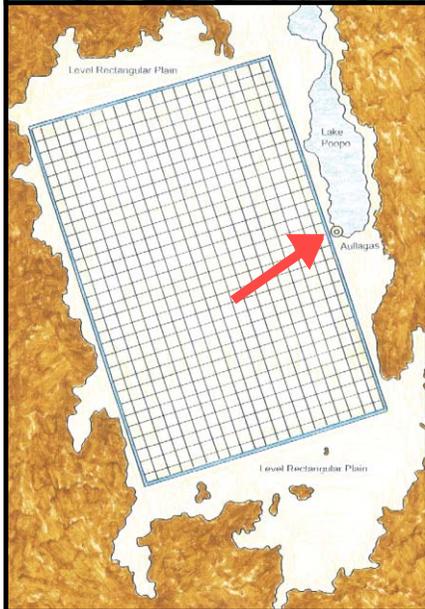
If nothing else, its public profile will be. By Easter, 2001, the giant media machine at Walt Disney Pictures was already churning out mass material to promote its forthcoming animated feature "Atlantis the Lost Empire." The accompanying video games from THQ for PCs and Game Boy were being readied for release, as were a host of corporate promotional tie-ins including Kellogg Cereals, Walgreen Drug Stores and others.

By opening date on June 15, you will have probably seen the word *Atlantis* just about everywhere.

In an unusually dramatic move, Disney ran a four-fold newspaper-size full color poster for the movie as an insert in the Easter Sunday *Parade Magazine*. *Parade* is part of the Sunday supplement for most U.S. newspapers.

"On June 15, be the first to discover Atlantis..." the ad beckoned, and then promised enticingly, "Atlantis is waiting..." It even quoted Plato "...in a single day and night of misfortune, the island of Atlantis disappeared into the depths of the sea."

Keep your trusty copies of *Atlantis Rising* handy. The next time the "A" word comes up, it could be from your unbelieving friends, and you may suddenly find a little live action documentation can come in handy. ■



## ANCIENT MYSTERIES

(Top) South America. Arrow indicates Bolivian altiplano. (Middle) Model of the Altiplano. Lake Titicaca at the top, Lake Poopo is the lower lake. (Bottom) Rectangular grid in dimensions described by Plato with surrounding canal. Arrow indicates Aullagas volcano in position attributed to the city of Atlantis.

**F**ilm producers appreciate lost cities. But a lost city which may lie beneath the ground or beneath the waters of a lake large enough to be an inland sea is of little use to them. Producers also like ruins—ruins that can be filmed, of course, as well as interesting local characters.

Thus it was that I came to the lost city or “enchanted” city (sometimes called “petrified” city) of Pumiri on the northern edge of the rectangular plain known as the Bolivian Altiplano.

I had come here with a film producer and researcher in advance of a forthcoming film about Atlantis due to air June 22 on The Learning Channel (consult your local listings) featuring my theory that Plato’s geographical description of the lost continent of Atlantis exactly fits the continent we presently call *South America*.

The theory which I had put forward in my book *Atlantis: the Andes solution* (Windrush Press) was that it was not the whole continent of Atlantis which had disappeared in the space of a single day and night, as Plato had reported, but only the city of the same name built on a volcanic island (typical of the Altiplano) which had disappeared beneath the waters of the large inland sea of Lake Poopo.

I had come to this conclusion because Plato said Atlantis was a continent as large as Libya and Asia combined and that it lay “at a distant point in the Atlantic Ocean opposite the Pillars of Hercules” (Strait of Gibraltar). It

■ BY J. M. ALLEN

**WATCH FOR**  
**“Atlantis in the Andes”**  
 on The Learning Channel

Friday Night, June 22  
 (consult your local listings for time and channel).



In December, 2000 author J. M. Allen (seen here in tan jacket) led a film crew to the Bolivian Altiplano. Here they photograph the remains of a gigantic ancient canal.



Lisa Hutchinson

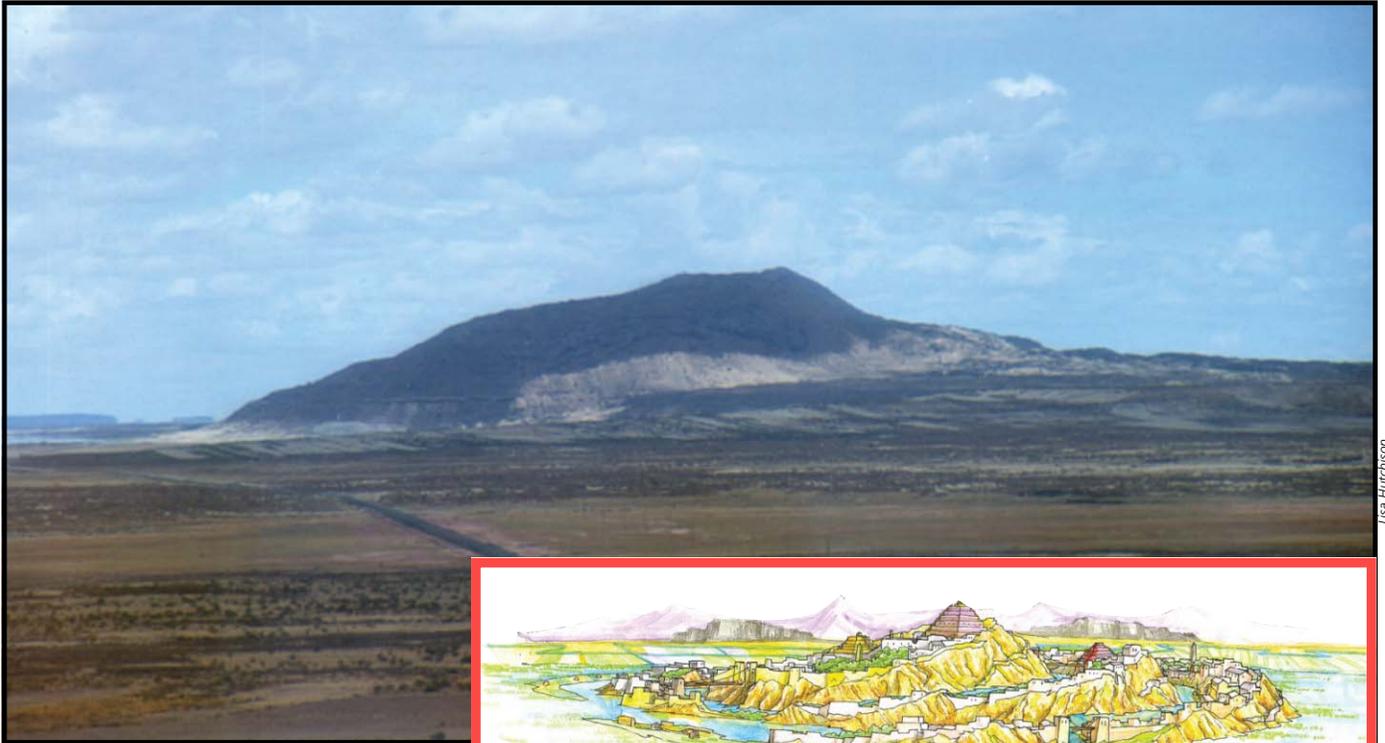
was possible to identify the exact location because he describes in great detail a perfectly level, rectangularly shaped plain which he said lay in the center of the continent next to the sea and midway along the longest side of the continent. The plain was high above the level of the ocean sea, enclosed by mountains on all sides, and furthermore the mountains contained the metals gold, silver, copper, tin and a mysterious metal called “orichalcum” (an alloy of gold and copper), which were used to plate the walls of the island city.

Satellite mapping, only available in the last twenty or thirty years, reveals that the level plain known as the Altiplano next to Lake Poopo, is of rectangular configuration as defined by the 13,000 ft. contour running around it and all the other factors mentioned above can also be found here.

Additionally the word *ATLANTIS* has its origin in America. In the Nahuatl language of the Aztecs “atl” means “water” and in Inca Quechua, “Antis” means “copper.” One of the

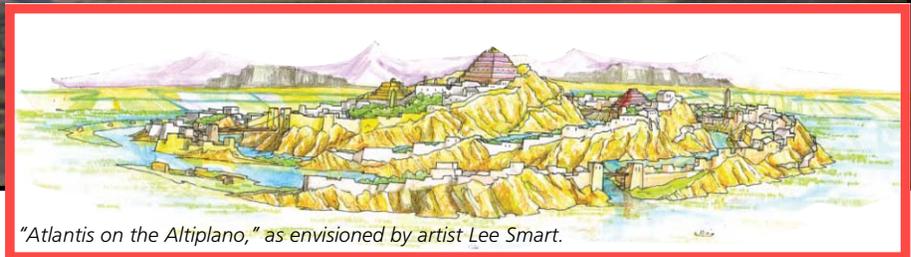
# Atlantis in the Andes?

*A Book and a New Television Documentary Track Plato’s Account to South America*



Lisa Hutchison

*Pampa Aullagas. In his book Atlantis: The Andes Solution, Author J.M. Allen argues that this was the site of the capital city of Atlantis.*



*"Atlantis on the Altiplano," as envisioned by artist Lee Smart.*

Quarters of the Inca empire was called "Antisuyo," the kingdom of the Antis, these being a nation of ferocious Indians still living on the eastern slopes of the Andes mountains in Inca times.

One feature short of finding the missing city itself, which would further confirm this location as Atlantis, would be any remains of a canal 1 stade (600 ft) wide, which Plato said ran right around the perimeter of the plain and discharged into the sea (lake). Such a canal would be perfectly possible on the rectangular Altiplano following the 12,000 ft. contour on the plain itself. And some time ago I located a possible section to the northwest of lake running for about a distance of 9 miles.

I first visited it in 1995; it was immensely wide, as Plato said: "it is incredible to believe that it should be as wide as the account states, but we must report what we heard." When I revisited the site in 1998 in the company of the Kota Mama expedition led by Col. John Blashford-Snell, their opinion was that it was a fault line and it was marked as such on the local geological maps. However, a year later I had the opportunity to interview Carlos Velasco Abecia, General Secretary of the Institute of Geology in Cochabamba, who was familiar with the area; and upon examining the aerial photos of the feature he stated most definitely that it was a canal and not a fault line.

The section I visited had a flat base and sloping sides: even in the height of

the dry season it carried water and the locals watered their flocks there.

So The Atlantis Trail, a route around the Altiplano which encompasses the canal, three volcanoes, one lost city, the village of the ancient Uru/Chipaya, the salt pans, hot and cold springs, a meteorite crater, etc., begins here at this canal in the remote desert.

A four-wheel-drive vehicle is necessary for the whole trip, also camping equipment, although sometimes it is possible to stay in one of the small village huts available for the occasional tourist, which makes a welcome break from the harsh winds and biting cold which prevail here at certain times of the year.

Starting point for any expedition is the large mining town of Oruro, itself former capital of the ancient Uru peoples and now folklore capital of Bolivia famous for its carnival of the devil. People from all over the country gather here for the immense procession of music and dancing with outlandish devil costumes, the devil being the patron of the mines in Bolivia. The ancient mine in Oruro, whose entrance is to be found *inside* the church, is also definitely worth a visit, said to have been excavated long before the arrival of the Spanish or even Inca times.

From Oruro the route heads southwest along the road to Chile, passing through Toledo and turning off somewhere near Corque on the road to Andamarca. After some six or seven miles it is then necessary to turn off this road

and head east into the bush, if necessary, leaving the vehicle to walk a short way on foot until one comes across the site of the canal. A GPS is advisable for the whole trip, and the most convenient map is the 1/500,000 air navigation chart available in advance from Stanfords of Long Acre, London. The canal is clearly marked on it as a ribbon of water and named on the 1/50,000 Bolivian maps as Laguna Janko Kkota.

The Trail then turns northwards to Volcan Columna, a circular ring of land in the north center of the level plain. I came within about six miles of it on my April 1998 expedition, and in the distance it looked like a broad, flat-topped mound. It scaled three miles in diameter from the aerial photos, comparable to the "mountain which was low on all sides" as Plato called it; however, it was only a single ring of land, whereas Plato said that two rings of land and three of sea originally surrounded the central island of the Atlantis complex. A nearby mining engineer said it was formed by the explosion of a gas bubble and this was the material which fell back to earth. The center contains a small lake, and the site proves that rings of land similar to Plato's description are possible on the Altiplano.

A few miles north of Volcan Columna and about 20 miles west of the village of Turco lies the mysterious city of Pumiri, hidden amongst spectacular rock formations weathered into jaguars,

**Continued on Page 70**

## ATLANTIS IN THE ANDES

### Continued from Page 43

pumas, condor-like shapes, etc. The site covers some 20 kms of cliff-like rocks on the edge of a dried-up river bed and conceals the ruins of perhaps three different civilizations. Discovered by one of the locals at Turco, its location was only revealed by the finder to his son on his death bed and remains one of the least explored sites in Bolivia or the world.

From Pumiri strike westwards in the direction of Sajama, considered the highest volcano in Bolivia, and this snow-stopped mountain, haven for climbers, acts like a navigational beacon for travelers all over the Altiplano since its gleaming white cone can be easily recognized from great distances. Revered locally as Pacha Mama, mother earth, and spiritual home of the Uru, it is now the center of a national park patrolled by wardens and can also be approached via a new highway running directly from La Paz. But instead of heading right into Sajama country, follow the road around the edge of the rectangular plain towards Volcan Quemado (the burnt volcano) and pass the night at the village of Sacabaya, one of the most beautiful locations on the entire plain.

A whole day is needed to climb and explore Volcan Quemado; the climb itself could take one or two hours, and the secret of the volcano is that its interior contains an "island" or cone inside a crater which is in turn contained within an outer crater—an arrangement similar to Plato's ringed city. Quemado is also on the active side of the Andes, and activity last took place some two or three thousand years ago when a new cone arose and grafted itself onto the northern face of the existing cone. Anyone living there would have had a hot time of it, and the inner site is littered with huge shattered stones ejected by the volcano.

From Quemado the trail follows the edge of the Plain past Bella Vista to Sabaya. Here I met a couple of cyclists proposing to cross the Salar de Coipasa and asked them to keep a lookout for any signs of a vast canal on the western edge of the plain near Llica. A letter arrived six weeks later in England saying they saw cuttings and had reports of remains of a canal not at Llica but a few miles to the east at Tres Cruces, but when I checked this out later on a geology map, the route linking the two salars was indeed through Llica al-

though now lifted by geological action to a height above the level of the surrounding plain.

From Sabaya it is worth a detour around the Salar de Coipasa to the village of Chipaya where the beehive huts of the Uru/Chipaya peoples are to be found. Some say these are the oldest inhabitants of South America, and their own legend says they are the people of the dawn, "the first people to emerge after the darkness." Formerly they lived on floating islands on Lakes Titicaca and Poopo and along the connecting River Desaguadero, their territory being known as "Umasuyo"—the kingdom of water.

From Chipaya the route heads along



*The Kalayasa at Tiahuanaco*

the edge of the salar towards Llica, passing through the connecting channel between Salar de Coipasa and Salar de Uyuni to Garcia Mendoza, a former stronghold of the Urus in the shadow of the towering Volcan Thunapa and on the edge of the glaring white expanse of salar.

Before visiting the next volcano at Santuario de Quillacas, the route passes an impressive meteorite crater about two miles wide.

Santuario de Quillacas is a perfectly circular, gently sloping volcanic cone exactly the diameter (2.1 miles) Plato gave for the city's rings of land, and when the sea floods it becomes an island surrounded by a ring of water. The site even contains a village on a mound in the center, flanked by two volcanic peaks, one to the north and one to the south, possibly remains of a circular central crater destroyed sometime in the past.

The site also contains red and black stones such as Plato mentioned, and these have even been built into a pattern on the piers of the church similar again to the variegated pattern of red and black stones Plato said adorned the buildings of Atlantis. The village is supplied by water from an underground spring.

But it is a nearby site called Pampa

Aullagas which corresponds most closely to the location Plato gave for the missing city of Atlantis, being in the center, lengthwise of the plain yet 50 stades (5 miles) from the edge of the sea (Lake Poopo).

This site contains red, black and white stone, it has the same name as the Bolivian legend of a sunken city. Part of the site has actually been sunk by earthquakes; it has circular sandy canals and the region around the site is subject to floods being where two rivers, Laca Jahuirra and Marquez, discharge into Lake Poopo. To prevent flooding, a circular wall could be built at the sea and continue in a circle around the site since this is what existed at the original city. If one makes the climb to the top of the peak, it is easy to see how the city could have existed as an ideal route center on the level plain and approached by a canal from the sea, which is seen a few miles away in the distance. Thus materials could have been brought here by boat from far-away Lake Titicaca and along the Desaguadero River to Lake Poopo, then (after transshipment) along the valley of the Rio Aguas Calientes (river of hot waters), which becomes the headwaters of the Pilcomayo river, passing the famous silver mountain at Potosi and thence to the river Parana and the ocean.

Returning by road along the eastern side of the lake, hot and cold springs such as Plato described can be seen at Poopo village, also at Pazna where there is even a modern swimming pool supplied by thermal waters—just as Plato said, they even had hot baths for the women.

Quillacas may be considered Bolivia's challenge to Thera, and Pampa Aullagas certainly dismisses the notion that Atlantis was ever in Thera or underneath the Atlantic Ocean, when all the features Plato described are found here on the rectangular Altiplano and nowhere else in the world. As a New-castle professor once put it on a radio interview, "if a site is to be considered as Atlantis, then it must at least correspond to the things that Plato said." Here then is Bolivia's challenge not only to Thera but to the world, if you want to see what Atlantis really was like, then come and see for yourselves.

Best time to go is in the dry season from August to November, flights to La Paz; allow some days for acclimatization to the altitude and take sorrocco pills for altitude sickness. Jeeps available for hire in La Paz and also in Oruro. ■