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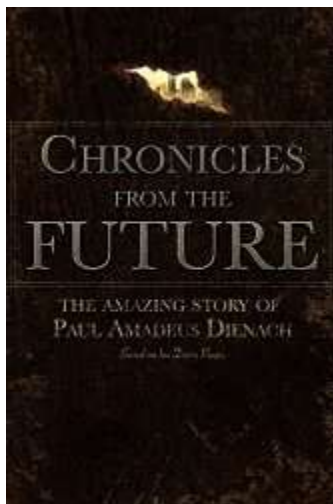
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25 AUGUST, 2014 - 23:59 APRIL HOLLOWAY

2,700-year-old Phoenician Shipwreck Discovered in Maltese Waters

A group of divers have discovered a Phoenician shipwreck dating

back to 700 BC off the coast of Gozo island in Malta, according to a news report in the **Times of Malta**. It is a unique and immensely important finding as it is the oldest known shipwreck in the central Mediterranean, it is among the oldest and most complete Phoenician ships ever recovered, and it will serve to shed light on inter-regional trade and exchange in antiquity.

The announcement was made by Malta's Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government, Owen Bonnici, who said the wreck was found in Maltese waters at a depth of 120 metres.

"This discovery is considered to be unique not only here but nationally as well because it is the oldest, or considered to be the oldest shipwreck in the central Mediterranean and it is in a fantastic state of preservation," Project Co-Director Dr Timmy Gambin told the Times of Malta.

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The Phoenician shipwreck was found one mile off the coast of Gozo in Malta

To date, researchers from France, the United States, and Malta have recovered 20 lava grinding stones, weighing some 35kg each, and 50 amphorae of seven different types, which suggests the ship had visited different harbours. Based on the cargo, scientists believe the ship was sailing from Sicily to Malta to sell its cargo when it sank.

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 Researchers found 50 amphorae scattered across the sea floor.
 Image source: screen capture taken from video released by the
Times of Malta.

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 The whole operation, which is being supervised by the
 Superintendent of National Heritage and explored by **GROplan**
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Project, is currently focused on piecing together over 8,000
 topographs to create a very high resolution and detailed 3D
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 model of the site. Following this, the results will be published and
 an international team will be working out how the site can be
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 enjoyed by the general public. It has already been added to the
 National Inventory of Cultural Property and steps are being taken
 to protect the site for its future preservation.

One of the project's researchers explained that the shipwreck is a
 classical Phoenician vessel which would have measured some 50
 feet long.



Phoenician ship carved on the face of a sarcophagus. 2nd



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century AD. Image source: [Wikipedia](#)

The Phoenician civilization, which lasted from 1550 BC to 300 BC, was based in present-day Tyre in Lebanon. They travelled across most of the Mediterranean, not as conquerors but as traders.

The strategic location of the Malta in the Mediterranean made the islands a safe refuge for the Phoenicians during their long sea voyages. By the 7th Century BC the Phoenician presence was part of the identity of the Maltese islands. They are also widely believed to have set the origins of the Maltese language.

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Shares The Phoenician civilization was eventually conquered by the Romans and then by the Greeks.

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Featured image: Top Left: Phoenician boat marble mosaic art (temporary). Remaining images: Screen captures of newly-discovered shipwreck taken from video released by the [Times of Malta](#).

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JA BOSWORTH WROTE ON 26 AUGUST, 2014 - 08:18 PERMALINK

The Phoenician civilisation - which had evolved into the Carthaginian civilisation - was not destroyed by the Persians or Greeks, but by the Romans, c.146 BC, after the Third Punic War. (Punic was Latin for Phoenician).

REPLY

NATHAN JAMES WROTE ON 30 AUGUST, 2014 - 01:49

The author did not say the Phoenicians **PERMALINK** where "destroyed" by the Persians or the Greeks. The exact word used was "conquered." To conquer a people does not imply their destruction. It means to subjugate, which in their home areas is exactly what happened to the Phoenicians. The Carthaginians were descended from Phoenicians, but by the time of their destruction by the Romans, were a distinct people.

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In what is sure to cause controversy, a researcher has claimed that the mysterious and ancient ruts which crisscross the Phrygian Valley of Turkey were caused by an unknown and intelligent race between 12 and 14 million years ago.

Exploration into why a rich Temple-building civilization died out on Malta



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The ancient Temple People civilization of Malta did not suffer invasions, widespread disease or famine, past research has shown. Why their culture died is a mystery.

A large team of researchers is carrying out studies to determine why the Temple People's civilization on the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Gozo ended. The Temple People had an incredibly rich culture with unique art, stone temples and structures, huge megalithic sites and advanced agriculture going back to 4000 BC and ending around 2900 BC.

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Hagar Qim, the Neolithic Temple Complex of Malta

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Hagar Qim is a megalithic temple complex on the island of Malta. This temple complex is said to belong to the Neolithic era, i.e. 3500 – 3200 BC. Although Hagar Qim is one of the main Neolithic temple complexes in Malta, it should be pointed out that it was the only one in the region. For instance, other temples include Xien and Skorba on Malta, and Ggantija and Xewkija on the nearby island of Gozo. Although Hagar Qim was first excavated in 1839, the temple complex itself had never really been completely buried.

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fourth most important cluster of such monuments in the Mediterranean Region following those of the Italy, Israel and of the Maghreb, of which its most prominent feature is its extensive concentration of subterranean burial grounds.

How Ancient People Marked the Equinox Around the World



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For those in the Northern Hemisphere, today marks the vernal, or spring equinox, while for those in the Southern Hemisphere, it is the time of the autumnal equinox. It marks the day when the sun rises over the celestial equator and the length of day and night are roughly equal, thus the word 'equinox', which means 'equal night' in Latin.

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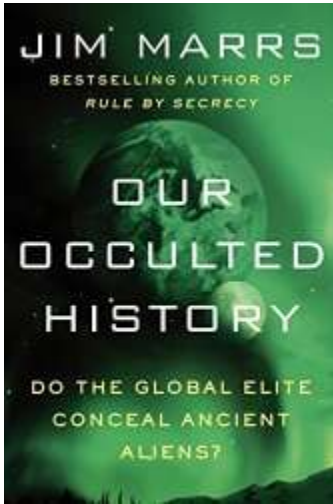
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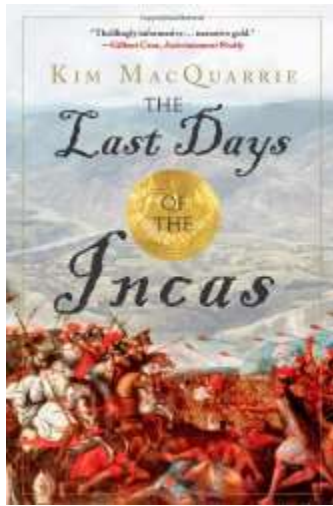
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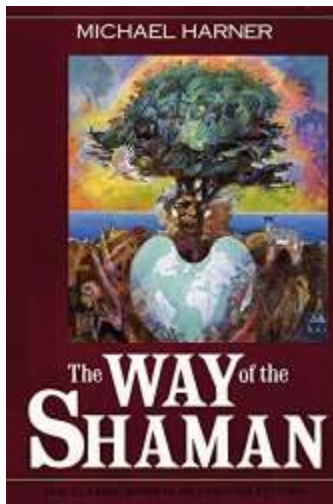


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While many believe that we already hold such knowledge, our view is that there still exists a multitude of anomalies and mysteries in humanity's past that deserve further examination.

We therefore wish to foster an open community that is dedicated to investigating, understanding

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and explaining the origins of our species on planet earth. To this end, we aim to organize, support and even finance efforts in this direction.

Our aim is to move beyond theories and to present a thorough examination of current research and evidence and to offer alternative viewpoints and explanations to those currently held by mainstream science and archaeology.

Come with us on a journey to explore lost civilisations, sacred writings, ancient places, unexplained artefacts and scientific mysteries while we seek to reconstruct and retell the story of our beginnings.



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