

# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY



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monopoly on the North Sea trade. Fishing grounds were all controlled by rivals, and of course fish were very important in the Middle Ages, when the Church forbade the consumption of meat during Lent and other numerous fast days.

Henry Sinclair could also have had accurate information on North America from his contact with Norway, including maps. One such map, included in the Zeno Narrative, was studied by map expert Arlington Mallery, and featured as a chapter in his book *The Rediscovery of Lost America* (Dutton, 1979). On the Zeno map of the North Atlantic, Greenland is shown correctly positioned as to longitude and latitude, and is shown without ice, consisting of three islands, a fact confirmed in modern times by seismic studies.

Mallery said that this must be a genuine map, predating the Middle Ages, of possibly Arab or Phoenician origin. He claims that a map can be the oldest writ-

ten record, and may precede knowledge of writing. So the Zeno map looks like it may be real, though anomalous, even if the text may not be reliable.

The Narrative relates that Prince Sinclair took a flotilla of ships and a large crew of at least 100 fighting men, whom Bradley assumes were Templar Knights. Sinclair may have been tired of supporting these people who, since they had been condemned by the Pope and the Inquisition, were best sent West to set up a colony.

Prince Henry returned to Scotland in 1399, and was killed in a battle that year. The majority of the colonists remained in Nova Scotia, the initial settlement being at The Cross near Halifax, or perhaps at a place called Green Oaks. The area that most fits the description of the Zeno Narrative is the modern town of Stellerton, Nova Scotia, which has an exposed oil spring and gold-bearing beach sands, both items mentioned in the Narrative. This spring is a good indi-

cation that the Narrative refers to Nova Scotia, because there are only two such oil springs in North America (the other is in Los Angeles).

Bradley says that the colony, or several colonies, kept moving west to avoid other Europeans after the 1500s. Were these Scottish Templar Knights finally wiped out by the expanding onslaught of the Iroquois? Bradley thinks so, and thinks that the final battles were fought in the Rochester, New York, area, and in the area around St. Catherine's Ontario, no later than 1570. The major battle took place, according to Bradley, right where the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) place the battle of Cumorah, near Palmyra, New York. Could the family of Joseph Smith, the Mormon founder, have been survivors of this battle, and picked up an account of it from his ancestors?

#### Notes

1. The "Zeno Narrative" can be found in the *New England Antiquities Research Association Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 2, Fall 1998.

## North American Evidence of Pre-Columbus Voyages

### Etruscan Explorers

by Warren W. Dexter

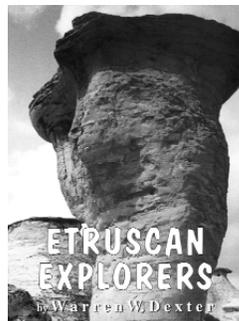
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Warren Dexter's passion has been to create a photographic record of ancient sites in America and other countries, to preserve these artifacts for future generations, at least in pictures. Now 95, Mr. Dexter has made a selection of his thousands of photos available to the general public in this small book, *Etruscan Explorers*.

As the dustjacket to his book quotes him, "I'm not a verbiage writer but a graphic specialist." The frontispiece reinforces this, proclaiming: "This book is a graphic story board of the records left behind by Ancient Explorers. This is *not* in an academic or literary format, but the pictures tell the story." And so they do.

Most spectacular is the subject of the cover photo and several inside photos, the Milk River sculptured heads located in Alberta, Canada, about 10 miles up the river from the U.S. border. Sadly, the Canadian government did not see fit to preserve this ancient site, and pieces of



it have fallen into the Milk River, so Dexter's photos, taken in 1982, take on an increased importance. Vandals also demolished one of the sculptured heads with bullet holes, using the sculpture as a target.

These tall pillars are located on a cliff about 65 feet above the river. The base of one pillar has Ogam writing inscribed in a circular pattern. Using a montage of Dexter's photographs, Dr. Barry Fell deciphered the vowel-less Ogam which tells of using the flight of migrating birds to prophesy the future. It describes the same divination procedure attributed to the ancient Etruscans.

That same pillar has a sculpted

Caucasian head, and next to it is another, smaller pillar with a sculpted Negro head, similar in style to the Olmec sculpted figures in Central America. (This is what you see clearly in the 1982 photos, although now both pillars are damaged.)

Dexter shows in his photos the only two places that the raised letter Ogam, spelling out the name of the god Baal, is found: in ancient (9th Century B.C.) Etruscan hut urns, used for cremated ashes, and on a Milk River dolmen monument, not far from the pillars described above. Hence the name of his book.

Among the other unique photographs are some of ancient Zulu artifacts. One of these is an ancient gold trading stone which has six different alphabets, including Ogam.

The author has written and contributed to other books about ancient America, including sites in his home state of Vermont. But there are thousands of unpublished photos in Warren Dexter's archive. It is hoped that enough people will be intrigued by this volume to support the publication of more of Mr. Dexter's photographs.

—Marjorie Mazel Hecht