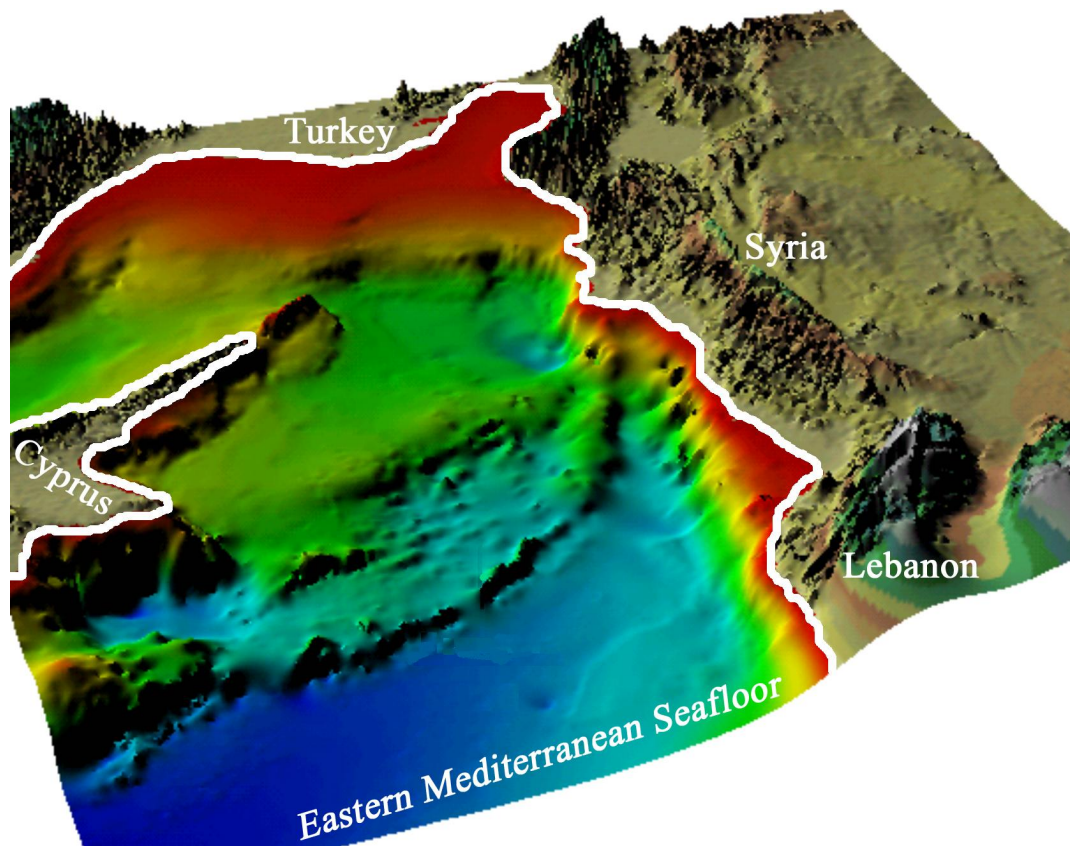


The Recently Discovered Archeological Site of Eden and Atlantis in the Eastern Mediterranean

By Commodore Robert Stanley Bates, USMM



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The quest for Atlantis has occupied adventurers for centuries, but the sophisticated archeological search for the famed island has had to wait for our time, with its digital technology and advanced underwater research capabilities. Recent effort to find Atlantis culminated in two exciting underwater surveys conducted in major expeditions staged in 2004 and 2006, both of which uncovered tantalizing evidence that merits additional inquiry. The general result of this effort is that our search for Atlantis, or what some call Eden, may now be narrowed to an underwater location—a virtual sunken continent that scientists located decades ago in the Eastern Mediterranean adjacent to the island of Cyprus. In recognition of the likely confluence of these two great legends, I call the ongoing research into this sunken land the “Eden-Atlantis Project.” This paper states that a proto-civilization that some call Eden and which others says is Atlantis preceded the known civilizations of the ancient Near East, including the Sumerians and the Egyptians, and may well have been their “mother” civilization.

According to the interpretation of the acquired data that I provide in this essay for the first time, the recent archeological research at this underwater site may have provided a major breakthrough. I played a part in both of these expeditions, and according to my new interpretation of the results based on over ten years of reflection, I believe we may have quite possibly uncovered infrastructure on a landmass that was submerged in the eastern Mediterranean at a very distant time. In particular, the data resulting from our 2006 sub-bottom profiler (SBP) survey yielded some very unexpected results: It points to the existence of at least two very large human built artifacts that were able to survive war, flooding, and violent tectonic plate activity in pre-historic times. As I hope to show, these new data significantly increased our knowledge about this sunken continent, and if my interpretation is correct, it points to the need for a third expedition to this site.

I am aware, of course, that for most observers the ideas of a Garden of Eden and a lost continent of Atlantis are no more than quaint mythic narratives inherited from ancient times. But what was once considered myth can become real history. For example, according to the authors of *The Tapestry of Culture*: “Approaches to the interpretation of myth are directly related to different theoretical frameworks. One approach would interpret this myth as literal history. People who use this approach view myths about great floods that inundated the world as based upon actual floods. Myths about the disappearance of the lost continent of Atlantis are seen as based upon the actual disappearance of a real civilization located on an island.”¹

In this essay I argue that what were once the myths of Eden and Atlantis are indeed different versions of a real primeval civilization located on an island or peninsula that sank beneath the sea in prehistoric times. What we previously perceived to be a mere myth seems now to have become a world-transforming historic fact.

The origin of the Atlantis story dates back to the accounts provided by Plato in the *Critias* and the *Timaeus*. As a subject of perennial fascination since ancient times, much has been written about the Atlantis myth in the last centuries. Modern titles include: *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* (1882) by Ignatius Donnelly; *Atlantis: The Truth Behind the Legend* (1969) by A.G. Galanopoulos and Edward Bacon; *Lost Atlantis: New Light on an Old Legend* (1969) by J.V. Luce; *Voyage to Atlantis* (1969) by James Watt Mavor; *Gateway to Atlantis* (2000) by Andrew Collins; *The Atlantis Blueprint* (2000) by Colin Wilson and Rand Flem-Ath; *The Atlantis Enigma* (1999) by Herbie Brennan; *Imagining Atlantis* (1998) by Richard Ellis; *Atlantis Destroyed* (1998) by Rodney Castledon; *Discovery of Atlantis: The Startling Case for the Island of Cyprus* (2003 & 2006) by Robert Sarmast.

Conversely, the best-known account of the Garden of Eden narrative first appeared in the biblical book of *Genesis*. Notably, a modern and far more realistic retelling of the story is provided in *The Urantia Book* (1955). Both sources were used to guide the research that led to this discovery, as I will show.

Some modern scholars trace both the Atlantis narrative and the First Garden of Eden story to a common source in ancient Egypt and before that, in Sumeria. These old narratives and their many interpretations left us with numerous unanswered questions about the exact location of this archaeological site. However, I believe the mystery finally has been solved.

The Ancient Origins of the Eden and Atlantis Myths

A thread of commonality between the Eden and Atlantis stories can be found if we conduct a general survey of the known written records of some of our planet's oldest cultures and religions that originated in the general vicinity of Mesopotamia; these traditions were in turn passed to the ancient Egyptians and from there to the Israelites and to the ancient Greeks.

In particular, *Enki and the World Order*, a lengthy 5,000 year old Sumerian narrative poem, is generally regarded as the oldest written version of the story of Adam and Eve. We also know that this story appears in later Egyptian records. These records and others from that era specifically describe an ancient civilization on a "continent" west of India, presumably located in or near the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, these ancient narratives state that this land mass was located in the mid-latitudes, existed about 36,500 years ago, and experienced devastating wars. Further, the remains of this civilization were burned, and it eventually sank into the sea.

According to Hebrew tradition, Moses was the author of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible which contain the story of Eden). Luke reminds us that Moses was trained in the “wisdom of the Egyptians” in *Acts 7:22*. While Moses was a member of the royal court of Egypt, he was well positioned to study available Egyptian records, manuscripts, and oral narratives that later became sources for the Pentateuch. The date of writing was probably during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness, which is thought to have been 1491-1451 B.C. Of course, *Genesis* does not disclose the physical location of the Garden of Eden, but if it existed, Eden presumably would not have been far from historic Egypt and Israel, the cultures that birthed this legend.

As mentioned, the author who is credited with initially popularizing the story of Atlantis is Plato (c. 427-347 B.C.). Plato states that he received the information from Solon (c. 638-559 B.C.), but indicates that Solon was not the originator of the myth. Plato tells us that Solon received the story from Egyptian priests but changed all the names to Greek versions of the names.² Plato’s account is somewhat problematic when it comes to the question of the time, size, and location of Atlantis. As a result, those issues have been the subject of much controversy in Atlantis literature. Plato wrote in the *Critias*: “Let me begin by observing first of all, that nine thousand was the sum of years which had elapsed since the war which was said to have taken place . . . [Atlantis] was an island greater in extent than Libya and Asia, and when afterwards sunk by an earthquake, became an impassable barrier . . .”³ Rodney Castledon offers an interpretation in his 1998 book, *Atlantis Destroyed*: “Solon’s original text may nevertheless have read not *μειζων* (greater) but *μεσση* (between), meaning a ‘middle point between Libya and Asia’ . . . Plato may have felt that the large dimensions Solon gave for Atlantis meant that the description ‘midway between Libya and Asia’ had to be a mistake and altered the text accordingly. Plato assumed that Solon’s pen had slipped.”⁴ I believe it makes more sense to believe that Plato made the mistake and that Atlantis was smaller than first believed and existed between those two locations.

In addition, a description of the so-called Acropolis Hill—features that are critical to my argument later in this essay—can be found in the *Critias* (114): “At the center of the island near the sea, was a plain, said to be the most beautiful and fertile of all plains, near the middle of this plain about fifty stades inland a hill of no great size.” The presumed condition of the Acropolis hill is also revealed in the *Critias* (112): “The layout of the city was as follows: The Acropolis was different from what it is now. Today it is quite bare of soil which was all washed away in one appalling night of flood, by a combination of earthquakes and the third terrible deluge . . . Before that, in earlier days . . . it was covered with soil and for the most part level.” Here Plato reports that there was a mound “of no great size” that was for the most part level at the top, but that the part covered (up) with soil, was eventually reduced by earthquakes and washed away by floods. I interpret his description as inferring there were mound-building activities on the Acropolis Hill. Finding such remnants will support the veracity of Plato’s account and help to identify the site to which he refers.

Even more specific information about the Eden-Atlantis site can be found in *The Urantia Book*, which names this as the site of the original Eden. (“Urantia” is an appellation for the planet “Earth”). This 2097-page text, now available in 17 languages, is a series of papers published in 1955 that provide an all-encompassing synopsis of human history and destiny, among many other topics. Most notably for our purposes, this work reveals the physical location of what it names as the “First Garden of Eden,” calling it: “. . . a long narrow peninsula—almost an island—projecting westward from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea.” (73.3.1) It continues: “The coast line of this land mass was considerably elevated, and the neck connecting with the mainland was only twenty-seven miles wide at the narrowest point. The great river that watered the Garden came down from the higher lands of the peninsula and flowed east through the peninsular neck to the mainland and thence across the lowlands of Mesopotamia to the sea beyond.” (73.5.1)

The Urantia text further states: “At the center of the Edenic peninsula was the exquisite stone temple of the Universal Father, the sacred shrine of the Garden.” Mention of a central hill (i.e., the location of this temple), as well as mound-building activity, is provided in the following narrative: “Adam and Eve were escorted to the formal reception on the great mound to the north of the temple. This natural hill had been enlarged and made ready for the installation of the world's new rulers.” (74.2.5) As we continue on, bear in mind the possibility of a link between this “central hill” and the Acropolis Hill mentioned by Plato.

The Urantia Book further states concerning the infrastructure of Eden: “The sanitary arrangements of the Garden were far in advance of anything that had been attempted theretofore on Urantia. The drinking water of Eden was kept wholesome by the strict observance of the sanitary regulations designed to conserve its purity. . .” (73.5.3) Most notable for our purposes is this statement: “Before the disruption of the Adamic regime a covered brick-conduit disposal system had been constructed which ran beneath the walls and emptied into the river of Eden almost a mile beyond the outer or lesser wall of the Garden.” (73.5.4) It is also worth noting that this site suffered a similar fate as that described in other narratives: “. . . in connection with the violent activity of the surrounding volcanoes and the submergence of the Sicilian land bridge to Africa, the eastern floor of the Mediterranean Sea sank, carrying down beneath the waters the whole of the Edenic peninsula.” (73.7.1)

Because of the detailed and verifiable information it provides, Robert Sarmast chose to explore the physical location given in *The Urantia Book* for his two historic expeditions in 2004 and 2006. This location was in the waters of the eastern Mediterranean Sea between Cyprus and Syria, to which we now turn.

I believe that the features reported not only by *The Urantia Book* and the Bible, but also by other ancient narratives such as Plato’s, point us toward the Eden-Atlantis site and the need for advanced archeological research in this area. According to my interpretation, this research will

take us back to a time when this “continent” was above water and habitable, and this would have to date sometime between Plato’s account, which dates back about 11,600 years ago, and an account based on the Egyptian Priest Manetho’s (c. 250 B.C.) so-called king-lists that date back to 36,525 years ago^{5,6}, plus the dating of the Urantia story that goes back to just over 37,000 years ago.

And indeed, recent archeological findings around the Mediterranean indicate that something happened in that epoch that left behind remarkable archeological evidence and lingering pools of genetics that depart from the previous views that only Cro-Magnon hunter-gatherers lived in the surrounding lands during that time frame.⁷ For example, in the June 2016 edition of *Discover* magazine, an article reported that: “About 100,000 years ago tall, long-limbed humans lived in the caves of Qafzeh, east of Nazareth, and Skhul, on Israel’s Mount Carmel. Their remains suggest a surprisingly sophisticated people defying the conventional timeline of *Homo sapiens*’ migration out of Africa.”⁸ In addition, a plethora of evidence from around the Mediterranean should be considered. This evidence includes what archeologists now know about islands such as Malta, Crete, and Santorini and unexplained cave drawings as far distant as Spain and France, as well as regions that bordered the eastern Mediterranean Sea in those prehistoric days—such as present-day Egypt and most notably the very remarkable findings at the Golbeki Tepi archaeological site in modern-day Turkey—all of which point to the likelihood of highly intelligent inhabitants of a local advanced civilization. Fortunately, scientists have discovered a sunken continent in that very neighborhood that is an excellent candidate for the location of the original source-civilization that branched out and blossomed around that region thousands of years before the times of Sumeria and Egypt.

Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent

A great deal of credit for what we now know about the eastern Mediterranean should go to the many marine geophysicists who have studied this region for decades. Of special note is the work of John K. Hall, PhD. In 1970, Hall became the first marine geophysicist to work for the Geological Survey of Israel. He founded the Israel National Bathymetric Survey to map the seas around Israel, and his work continued for 35 years. In the Introduction to *Part III – The Levantine Basin* - in the publication: *Geological Framework of the Levant* (2005),⁹ Hall recently alluded to Robert Sarmast’s research when he wrote:

The Levantine Basin is traditionally the deep basin at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. . . . Many investigators have studied the area. Some have returned again and again to this problematic place. Most propose models for its origins and history based on the findings of the particular tools employed, whether they be bathymetry, gravity, magnetics, seismic reflection, seismic refraction, teleseismic investigations, or submarine geology based on coring, drilling, and dredging. The region’s recent history also seems to beckon. From the pioneering study of our colleague Ya’akov Petrovitch

Malovitskiy¹⁰ (1978) who proposed on the basis of seismic investigations that the Levantine Basin was a sunken continent, we advance to recent extrapolations (www.discoverofatlantis.com – Sarmast, 2003) regarding the ‘finding’ of Atlantis at depths of ~1500m between the West Tartus Ridge and the Gelendzhik Rise, based upon computer analysis of the (Russian Research Vessel) *Strakhov*’s multibeam soundings.

What I will call “Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent” became the focus of study in the 1990s by the previously mentioned American explorer and author; Robert Sarmast. He wrote and lectured during the following years on his theories about Atlantis, postulating the existence of an extraordinary civilization at this location. As I mentioned, he also had in mind, but did not mention publicly, *The Urantia Book*’s location of Eden; the exact location of Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent. Note too: Rodney Castledon’s interpretation of Plato’s location of Atlantis in *Atlantis Destroyed*, which is also basically the same location as Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent.



Figure 1. Eastern Mediterranean basin with sea level lowered digitally one mile.
(Courtesy of Robert Sarmast, R/V *Strakhov*, NOAA, USGS and Scotia Group imagery)

In 2003 Sarmast published the book: *The Discovery of Atlantis: The Startling Case for the Island of Cyprus* (Origin Press)¹¹ making the case that Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent is the lost continent of Atlantis as seen in Figure 1. Sarmast mounted a privately funded exploratory expedition in 2004 to support his thesis using side-scan sonar. He expanded that edition of his

book in 2006 to include those results, and later led another widely publicized expedition in November 2006.

The Recent Expeditions

Initially, Sarmast planned the 2004 expedition based on bathymetric data that Hall published in 1994. Those data were acquired by the Russian R/V *Academik Nikolaj Strakhov* and used to generate the image in Figure 1. The *Strakhov's* expeditions used bathymetric multibeam scans that were completed in 1987 and 1990. But in 2003 the R/V *Le Suroît* from L'Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), surveyed the same area using bathymetric multibeam scans and acquired data that provided greater resolution of the ocean floor because of their use of the most sophisticated technology then available.¹² (*Bathymetric multibeam* technology uses a sonar device that emits fan-shaped pulses down toward the seafloor across a wide angle that is perpendicular to the path of a sensor through the water.)

In July of 2004, Sarmast contacted a principal investigator at IFREMER to be allowed access to their more definitive data (along with their much better navigational information), and requested data for an area fifteen nautical miles square around the mound in the center of Figure 2. His request used coordinates centered at 34° 51' N, 35° 01' E for the area he wanted to study.

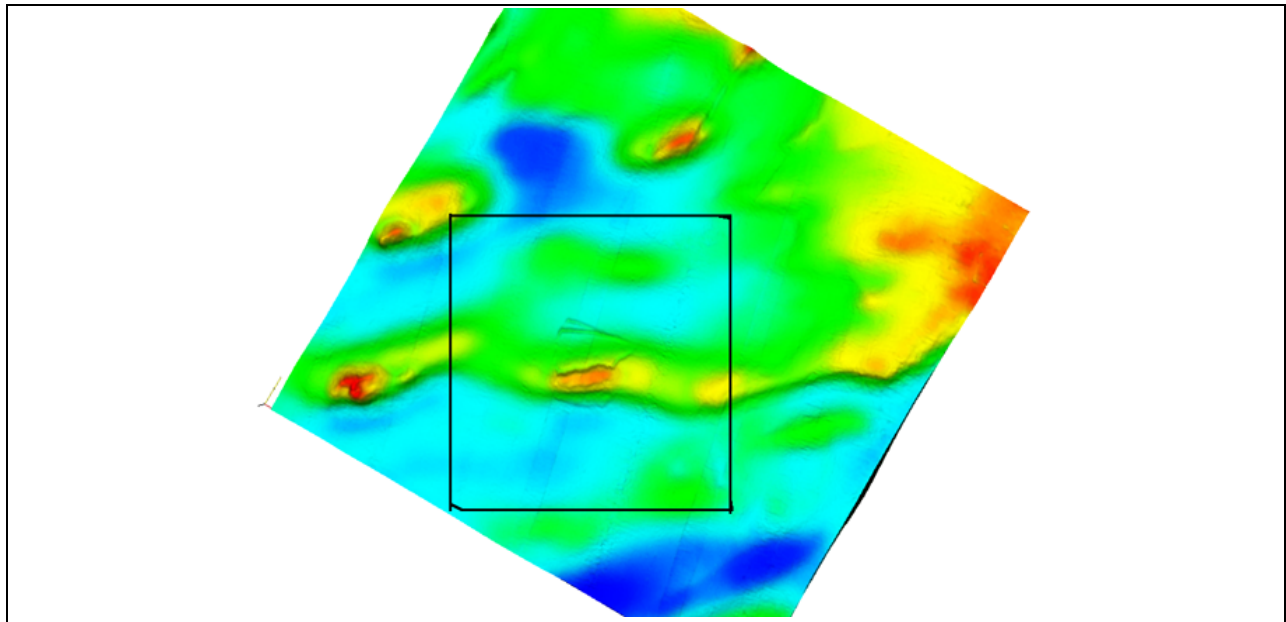


Figure 2. Central part of Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent.
(From IFREMER scan data and Scotia Group imagery)

The data he requested represented only a portion of the data taken from the bathymetric multibeam sonar survey by the R/V *Le Suroît* during its voyage in 2003. The acquisition of

bathymetry and acoustic reflectivity data was an integral part of IFREMER's research within an area bounded between latitudes 33°48'N and 35°54'N and between longitudes 034°36'E and 035°54'E. Since the request from Sarmast was specifically for marine archaeological research, and was not related to the commercial objectives of the IFREMER studies, his request was granted.

On September 1, 2004, Sarmast received the raw data he had requested from IFREMER, which he then sent for analysis to marine geophysicist Patrick Lowry at the Scotia Group in Dallas, Texas. Lowry returned 3-D graphic images that presented a fairly detailed map of Malovitskiy's sunken continent. Lowry's "computerized" lowering of the water level in that end of the Mediterranean Sea (using as a template the R/V *Strakhov* scans) allowed Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent to emerge. It became visible when the sea level was lowered 1500 meters, or about one mile, as seen in Figure 1. The well-defined ridges that appeared in the center (based on the IFREMER data) seemed to support Sarmast's claim that some sort of megalithic structures existed within the black square shown in Figure 2.

An enlarged 3-D graphical display of the ridges seen in Figure 3 provided what appears to be a 3700-meter-long, narrow, regular, linear Y-formation in the northern part of the area. In addition, just to the south was a 2800-meter-long irregular low tabular mound about 110 meters high and varying between 500 to 800 meters wide. Also in evidence are scarp-like features half way up the mound, leading off the eastern and western sides. (A *scarp* is a very steep bank or slope.) This general area became the primary target of both the 2004 and 2006 expeditions.

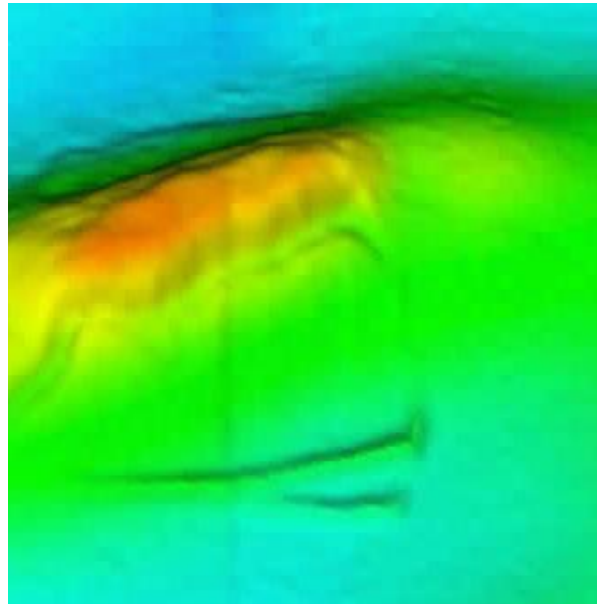


Figure 3. Scotia Group image, facing south, from IFREMER's multibeam data showing the central mound and a narrow, regular, linear Y-formation.

(Courtesy of Robert Sarmast with Scotia Group imagery from the IFREMER scans)

It should be noted that this 3-D representation exaggerates heights by a factor of ten for contrast because that was the way the IFREMER data were received. The information from the IFREMER's multibeam sonar scans provided excellent orientation for Sarmast's first expedition in November of 2004, offering accurate latitude and longitude coordinates for specific points on the major features to be studied. With accurate coordinates it was possible to obtain side-scan images of the central mound and the linear ridges. The ship used for this expedition was the 52-meter-long M/T *Flying Enterprise* operated by EDT Towage and Salvage Co., Ltd, of Limassol, Cyprus.

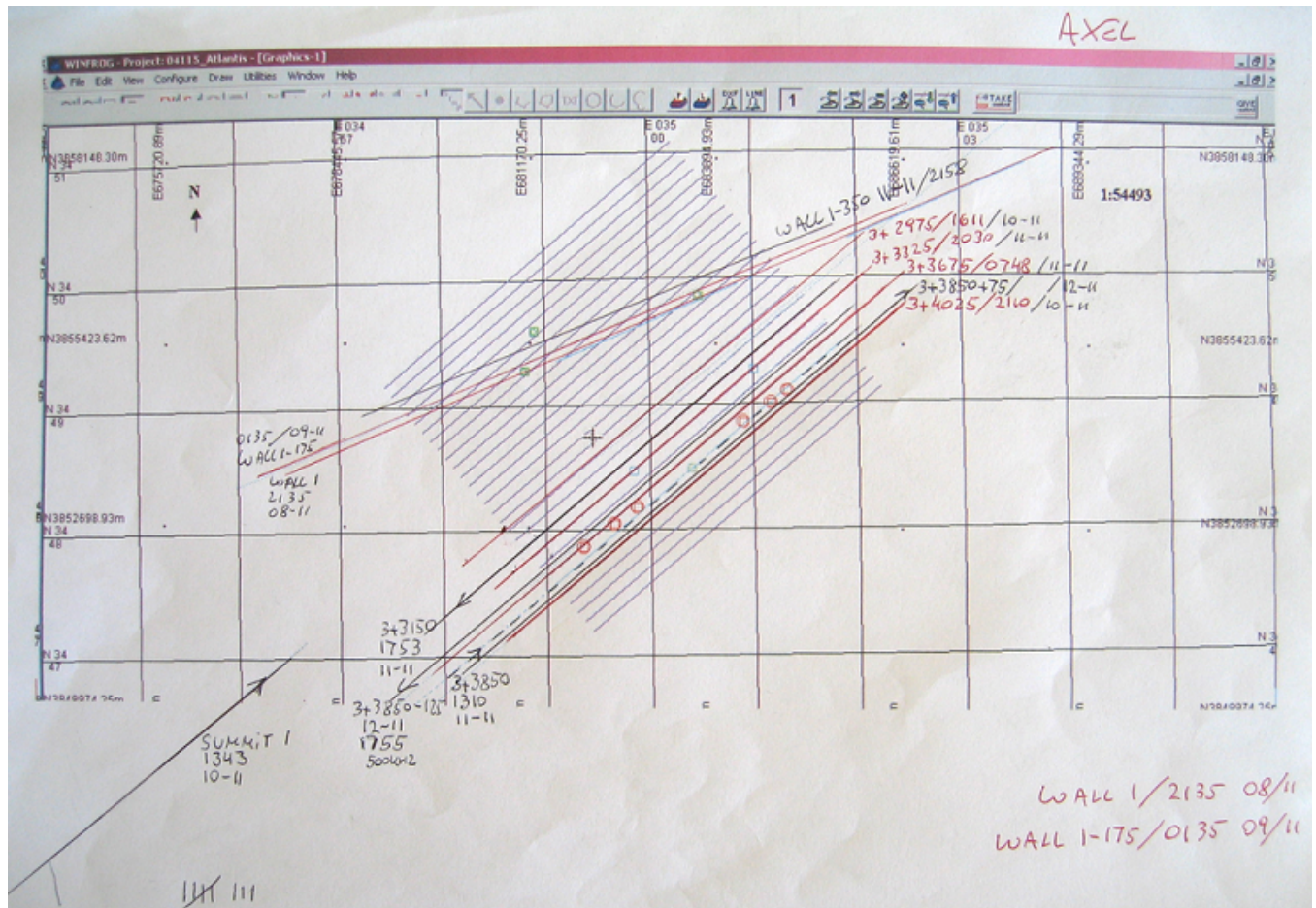


Figure 4. Tracks along which the side-scan traces were recorded.
(Courtesy of Axel Schoeller)

The side-scan sonar used for imaging in the 2004 expedition was the standard GeoAcoustics Dual Frequency Side-Scan Sonar 136s installed onto a remotely operated vehicle with a combined systems towfish. The tracks, along which the side-scan sonar traces were recorded over the ridges and central mound, were documented in Figure 4 by team member Axel

Schoeller. Schoeller first laid grid lines along an axis of the intended courses of 050°/230°, 175 meters apart on target number “3” (the central mound). The chart in Figure 4 was centered on the “+” at 34° 48.75’ N, 34 49.5’ E. The base line for the ridges was labeled “Wall 1” and a parallel scan line to the north was labeled “1-175” indicating it was 175 meters distant from the “Wall 1” line. The minus sign means “north of” Wall 1, while the plus sign for scans on the central mound indicates “south of” the center mark on the chart by the number of meters indicated by the numbers following the “3+.”

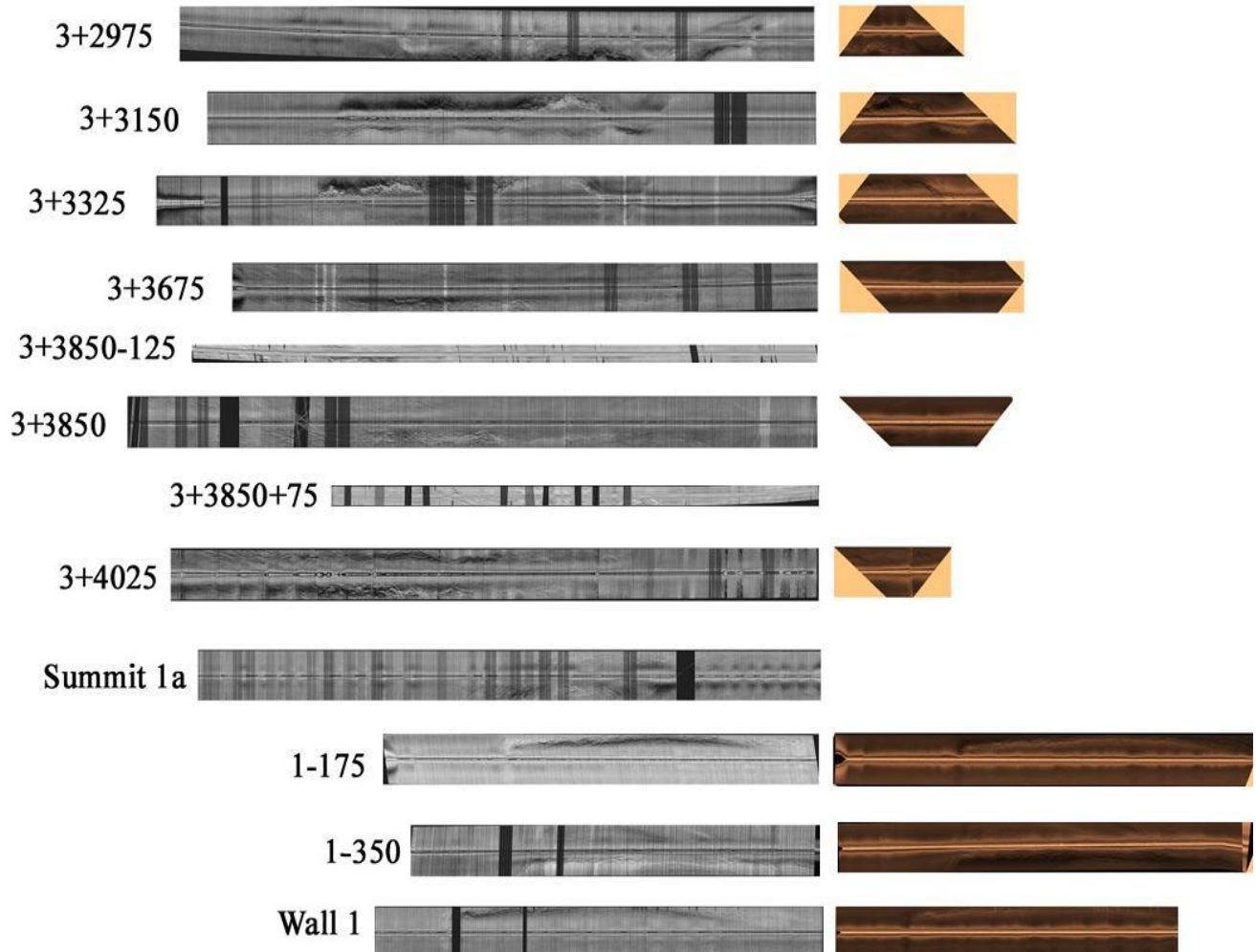
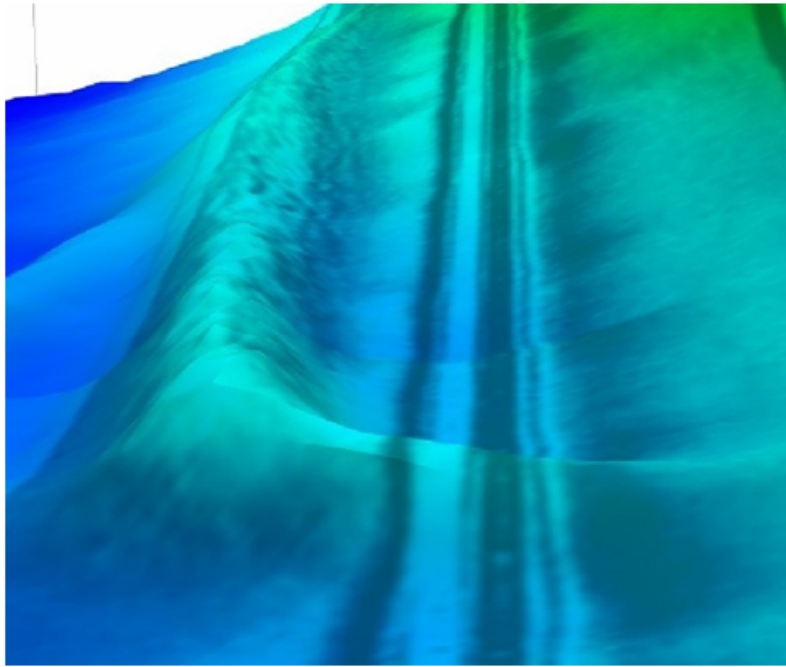


Figure 5. The side-scan traces as they appeared when recorded on the 2004 expedition.
(Courtesy of Robert Sarmast and Phoenix International)

The system offered high resolution, switch selectable, dual frequency operation (100/410 kHz), which when combined with multiplexed data transmission enabled the use of a low drag co-axial tow cable. The images from that expedition provided the first close look at the ridges.

It produced more accurate measurements of the ridges, showing a uniform width of approximately 30 meters and a fairly constant gradient from west to east, descending from a height of 10 meters to the surface as shown in Figure 6.



No other formations in the entire area resembled those of the two ridges.

Figure 6. A projection facing east utilizing side-scan data 1-175 that depicts one of the two narrow, regular, linear ridge formations closest to the central mound.

(Courtesy of Robert Sarmast)

Sarmast's first expedition caught the attention of media around the world, including favorable coverage in CNN, the BBC, and ABC News. As a result, the rights to a second expedition were purchased in 2006 by the History Channel. They funded and filmed an elaborate program that became part of Josh Bernstein's series called *Digging for the Truth*. The historic documentary about Sarmast's second expedition was entitled: *Atlantis—New Revelations*. History Channel personnel did exhaustive research for the two-hour documentary. They covered all the latest Atlantis theories in the program and disposed of those theories that had no merit regarding the location of Atlantis. The program first aired in January 2007 and it especially highlighted the work of Sarmast and his team.

The ship used for the 2006 expedition was the 41-meter-long M/T *EDT Argonaut* operated by EDT Towage and Salvage Co., Ltd, (Later EDT Offshore) of Limassol, Cyprus. During that expedition, Sarmast made use of a sub-bottom profiler (SBP), an instrument that uses echo sounding, like sonar, to map the strata for about 30 meters *below* the surface of the sea bed.¹³

The 3700-meter-long ridge formation first received attention from Lowry in early September 2004 when the data from the R/V *Le Suroît* were obtained from IFREMER and sent to him. Except for Sarmast, no one prior to that time reported any significance attached to that anomaly. At first, Lowry was of the opinion that the slump on the face of the associated mound and the transverse ridges at the foot of the mound fit the classical depiction of a natural slump¹⁴—that is, the accumulation of material from a landslide off the front side of the mound as seen in Figure 7.

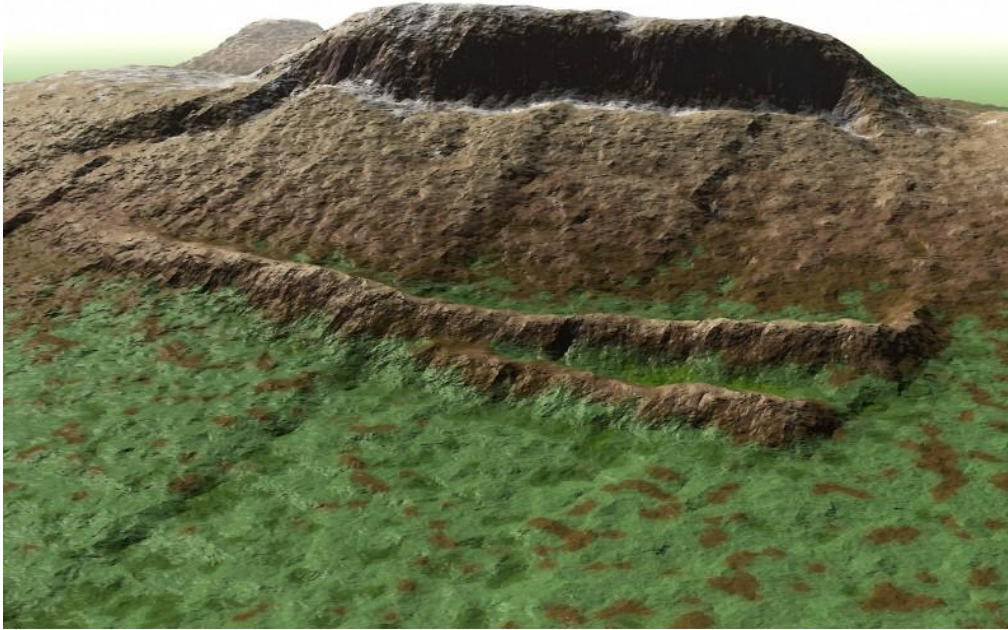
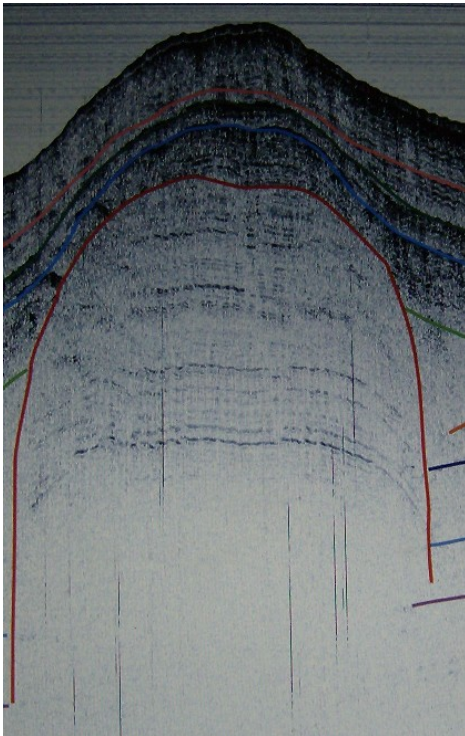


Figure 7. An enhanced colorized version of the central mound and ridges.
(A product of Vistapro from the images developed from IFREMER multibeam scans)



Clearly, the face of the mound with the obvious main and minor scarps and the visible transverse ridges gave the appearance of a natural slump or landslide. But significantly, Sarmast's second expedition in November 2006 dispelled that idea as a result of new sub-bottom profiler data. Those SBP images provided an excellent cross-sectional look at one of the ridges.

Figure 8. A cross-section of the linear ridge returned in 2006 by the SBP data. Shown also are the lines of continuous stratum of the ridge formation closest to the central mound, as drawn by marine geologist Patrick Lowry.

(Courtesy of Patrick Lowry)

When the images were received, Lowry drew in the lines of each continuous stratum in different colors as seen in

Figure 8. In his analysis, provided on site during the filming of the expedition, he concluded that the ridges were natural formations. He stated on camera in the History Channel documentary that the ridges were not influenced by man, and concluded that: “Those ridges are cored by something natural, not manmade.”¹⁵ His analysis seemed to set to rest the hypothesis that the ridges were the consequence of human engineering. Lowry’s conclusion has gone unchallenged until the new interpretation that I will now provide,

Questioning the Results of the 2006 Expedition

Lowry’s assessment that the linear ridges were only the result of a geological upward thrust still leaves us with crucial unanswered questions. This list of questions arises when one observes the previously obtained images of the targeted features:

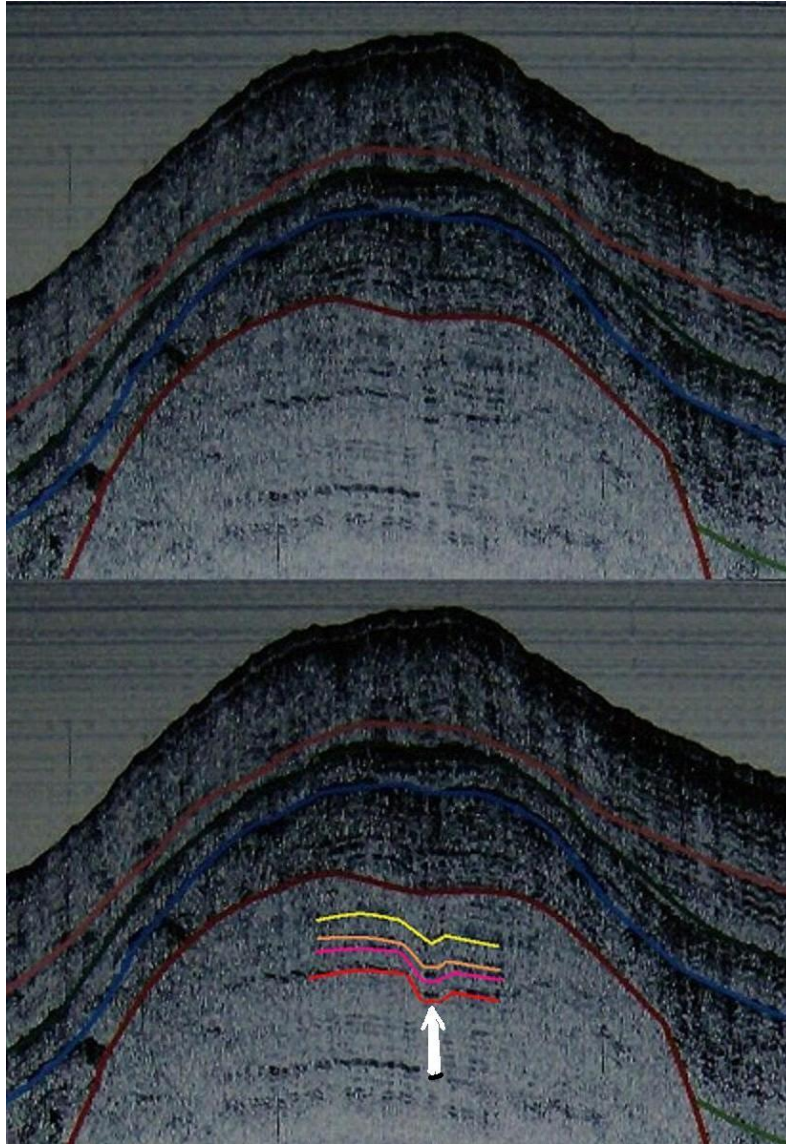
1. What combination of events and forces caused these up-thrust ridges to appear so uniformly linear over several thousand meters? Why are they so well-shaped, as if they had direction and purpose?
2. Further, why are these ridges so unique in this entire region?
3. Is there any evidence that their formation, now covered in silt, was ever influenced by man’s activities?
4. Is the slump on the face of the mound further evidence of manmade activities?

If we accept the estimate that Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent sank some time between 11,600 years (Plato) and 37,000 years ago (Manetho and *The Urantia Book*), the discovery of well-engineered and well-built structures would beg an explanation that could change myth to fact. If such artifacts were actually found, then one begins to wonder from all the literature available, whether or not Malovitskiy’s Sunken Continent fits any of the old myths about Atlantis or Eden.

The question here, then, is to decide if the ridges are purely the creation of nature according to Lowry, or if their formation were somehow influenced by whatever indigenous people occupied the land when it was a verdant peninsula. On the image returned by the SBP in Figure 8, some additional observations and analysis of that image yielded clues that suggest that the ridges emerged as a result of manmade activity. As noted, their appearance of continuity, gradient, linearity, and the lack of any other formations like them in the entire surrounding area, leads to the suspicion that man was involved in their creation. None of these inferences are sufficient proof by themselves, but they do point to the need for further analysis.

The Urantia text states: “. . .in connection with the violent activity of the surrounding volcanoes and the submergence of the Sicilian land bridge to Africa, the eastern floor of the

Mediterranean Sea sank, carrying down beneath the waters the whole of the Edenic peninsula.” When Malovitskiy’s continent sank to its present level, we can be sure that incalculable



subducting forces caused the catastrophic collapse and descent of the land. At the same time, it seems very likely that there existed resisting forces acting in the opposite direction.

According to Patrick Lowry, the ridges in the images in Figure 8 confirm the presence of strong up-thrusting forces, presumably during the sinking of the land, but conceivably also sometime after. In Figure 8, Lowry’s work shows how the strata welled up below the silt.

Figure 9. Deflected strata due to a well-defined impediment.

Here it is significant to note that there is a change in the direction of the concavity in Lowry’s colored strata lines near the center of the ridge (see Figure 8 and the top of Figure 9). It

should have alerted him to an unexpected anomaly. If the up-thrust forces were present only in an unimpeded natural seismic event, the strata lines probably would have been uniformly concave downward. But the direction of the strata changed from the expected concave downward everywhere, to concave upward near the center, and then returned to concave downward. This phenomenon is evident in Lowry’s red line in Figure 8 and the upper image in Figure 9. Had the strata that appeared immediately below the downward deflection been examined at the time, a pattern suggesting the reason for the deflection may have been apparent.

Now, let’s examine the bottom illustration of Figure 9. You’ll note that I have added four brighter strata lines below the deflected stratum drawn by Lowry and I have juxtaposed my new image with Lowry’s earlier work just above it. These additional lines reveal a telltale anomaly:

They clearly indicate a well-defined impediment to the rising ridge. These additional lines show the location, size, and implied resistance to the up-thrust at the white arrow. Also note that it appears about 15 meters below the top of the silt-covered ridge. This is significant, because according to Hall's report cited earlier: ". . . the probing since the 1970s has shown that the basin is filled with a great quantity of sediments (12m or more) . . ." These observations lead to a new hypothesis about the nature of the impediment and how it can be interpreted within the context of a discussion of the purpose, direction, position, length, breadth, and height of the ridges.

A Revealing New Interpretation of the Ridges

If indeed this land were inhabited by an advanced civilization, a new theory I now propose, which involves some basic engineering, may explain the appearance of these ridges. The explanation starts with the aforementioned fact that there is no other natural formation of this type in the area and that this Y-formation of ridges is unnaturally straight and narrow. With that in mind, it follows that these ridges could very well be the result of man's participation in its creation and that this construction must have been undertaken to satisfy the needs of the existing community. In particular, it seems reasonable to believe that the regular width and diminishing height of the ridges point to a manmade "surgical" removal of the earth's crust along the ridges' path. The amount of earth removed must have been sufficient to permit the up-thrust forces to break through the crust and erupt into their present state. The simplest form of construction to accommodate that effect is a uniformly dug ditch of sufficient width and depth to enable the up-thrust forces to break through the earth's crust. Finally, the nature of the impediment involves the reason for the ditch and the presence of material of sufficient mass and density to cause such a pronounced deflection of the lines of continuous strata in the up-thrust. The explanation that fits this interpretation best leads me believe that it is the presence of a subterranean brick or stone conduit that created the deflection. Most probably, it was created for the health and welfare of the population, probably as a drainage system. This interpretation of course refers to the aforementioned "covered brick-conduit disposal system" that the Urantia text describes as part of the infrastructure of the Edenic civilization on the sunken continent.

We can infer that the construction of such a conduit system required some sophisticated civil engineering. In order to prepare for building a subterranean conduit, not only would a ditch would have to be dug but also a footing would have to be created. The ditch would have to be of sufficient depth and width to accommodate a brick or stone structure with working room for its construction. At first glance, it would probably look as if these ancient residents were building a canal, but unlike a canal, it would have to be constructed with sufficient gradient to permit a flow from its origins to its terminus. The width and depth of this canal-like ditch would likely be uniform, and one can only imagine the primitive way that earth was removed to create such a major undertaking. The significant point is that there would be just enough etching of the earth's crust by the uniformly dug ditches to permit an upward release of material caused by up-

thrusting subterranean forces. The upwelling along sections of this excavation may have continued until the energy dissipated or the conduit disappeared sufficiently below the surface due to its gradient. In either event, there is no visible indication that the up-thrust continued farther to the east or the west.

Once the work of digging canal-like ditches was in progress, we can speculate that the fabrication of bricks was a primary requirement, whether chiseled out of a quarry or manufactured somewhere in the area. Possible quarry sites have been identified on the sunken continent at various stages of this study.

The two visually striking branches of the system that we see in Figure 7 rising from the basin's surface come together in a "Y" formation at the base of the mound. The two ridges meet at an acute angle in the "Y" formation in such a way that, I believe, the effluent could commingle and flow easily toward a terminus.

During the sinking process of the floor and the upward heaving of material through the ditches, it may be that the conduit was crushed. But even if some of it were crushed, the deflection of Lowry's lines of strata in Figures 8 and 9 nevertheless would be unaffected because the building material would have been much denser than that of the surrounding dirt.

To further support this observation, there is additional evidence in the images from the SBP. The black line at the bottom of the ditch, collinear with the bright red line located at the tip of the white arrow in the bottom image of Figure 9, reveals the location of the base of the conduit system. It is of such dense material that the energy from the probing sonic beam was unable to completely penetrate and record the strata immediately below. There appears to be a notable attenuation of the SBP signal below the bright red stratum line representing the solid bottom or crushed remains of the conduit. Also note that below that line, the strata are fairly uniformly concave downward in the up-thrust.

The nature of the images of the ridges in the 2003 IFREMÉR scans and the cross sectional images from the SBP in 2006 alone combine to make a *prima facie* case for the existence of the conduit system. If these are, indeed, identifiable archaeological features on Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent, the Eden-Atlantis legend may finally have a venue in prehistory on which to base future research. Unfortunately, the venue is not on dry land as we wish it could be. Nevertheless, the 2006 expedition substantially provided the evidence to consider the ridges to be a conduit system. Specifically, by combining data and images from all the expeditions, including the 3-D graphic imaging software derived from the IFREMÉR data and the side-scan and SBP imagery we have acquired—and when we combine this material with other informational sources—I believe the case can be made for the true nature of this discovery: working subterranean conduits. This engineered artifact could very well be the oldest major

remnant of any civilization on earth. But there is, of course, more work to be done in further probing this feature to prove what I think is a compelling explanation.

A Revealing New Interpretation of the Mound

The case for the engineered subterranean conduit system alone could well be enough evidence to support the hypothesis that an advanced civilization lived on the surface of Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent when it was a dry peninsula. But the mound can offer even more evidence of human involvement.

Recall that after Lowry examined the IFREMER bathymetric scans of the mound in 2004, he was of the opinion that the slump on the face of the mound and the transverse ridges at the foot of the mound, when taken together, fit the classical depiction of a natural slump—a landslide. He gave no explanation of the slump at the end of the 2006 expedition, notwithstanding contradicting evidence that the ridges proved *not* to be the transverse ridges composed of landslide material. I believe that the phenomenon of the ridges' seismic up-thrusts allows us to logically separate the ridges and the slump into two distinct features that are independent of each other. That separation between the two features is the key I needed to unlock the true nature of the mound. A closer look at the slump on the face of the mound as seen in Figures 3 and 7 reveals that, not only does it not have the characteristic transverse ridges of a landslide, but it is also lacking other parts of a classic landslide as well. There is no crown, there is no foot, there are no cracks, and it is doubtful that there is a discernible surface of rupture or separation other than that of the preexisting surface of the hill. The only visible parts of this slump are the head, the main scarp and the two minor scarps. (See the image in Footnote 14 for nomenclature.)

I submit an alternative explanation: that this feature is evidence of a ceremonial mound. Archaeologists have long known that the building of ceremonial mounds by indigenous people all over the world often entails some form of earthwork enhancement of natural hills—and in more advanced versions, actual pyramids. This enhancement is intended to give them a desired shape and expanded area for holding gatherings and rituals or as elaborate burial sites. With sufficient material and an abundance of labor, an ordinary hill can be turned into a perfect platform by squaring up the sides and extending the length in one or both directions. As millennia go by, seismic events or flooding and erosion can lead to the disintegration of an enhanced ceremonial mound, and it is understandable that the earthwork enlargement of the mound would be among the first of its features to falter. Further, consider the likelihood that the volume of material would be significantly less in an earthworks slump than in a natural landslide and the characteristics generally associated with a landslide would be greatly diminished or missing as evidenced in Figures 3 and 7.

Because both the ridges and the slump appear to be the result of two distinct manmade features, it is probable that this land was inhabited by an intelligent populace. In order for these

people to enlarge this hill for their ritual purposes, I surmise that the northern and southern face of the mound had earthwork enhancement. In addition, more scrutiny of the eastern and western ends suggests a lengthening of the mound on both ends. Recalling that the *height* of all the 3-D images shown here is exaggerated by a factor of 10, the actual amount of material involved is considerably less than suggested by those images. The slump on this hill appears to be hardly more than a crumbled manmade dirt façade, the remnants of mound building activity—a result to which Plato alluded in the *Critias* (112), to which *The Urantia Book* refers in Paper 73, both discussed previously.

There are some other curiosities found on the central mound as follows: The IFREMER bathymetric scans suggest there are three coplanar, collinear, circular segments found on what would have been the enlarged platform. Significantly, this appearance differentiates the central mound from the mud volcanoes that dot this landscape. Mud volcanoes in the area have a single depression in the center of their cones. In addition, they do not cluster in groups to form uniformly continuous tabular mounds as shown here in Figure 10.

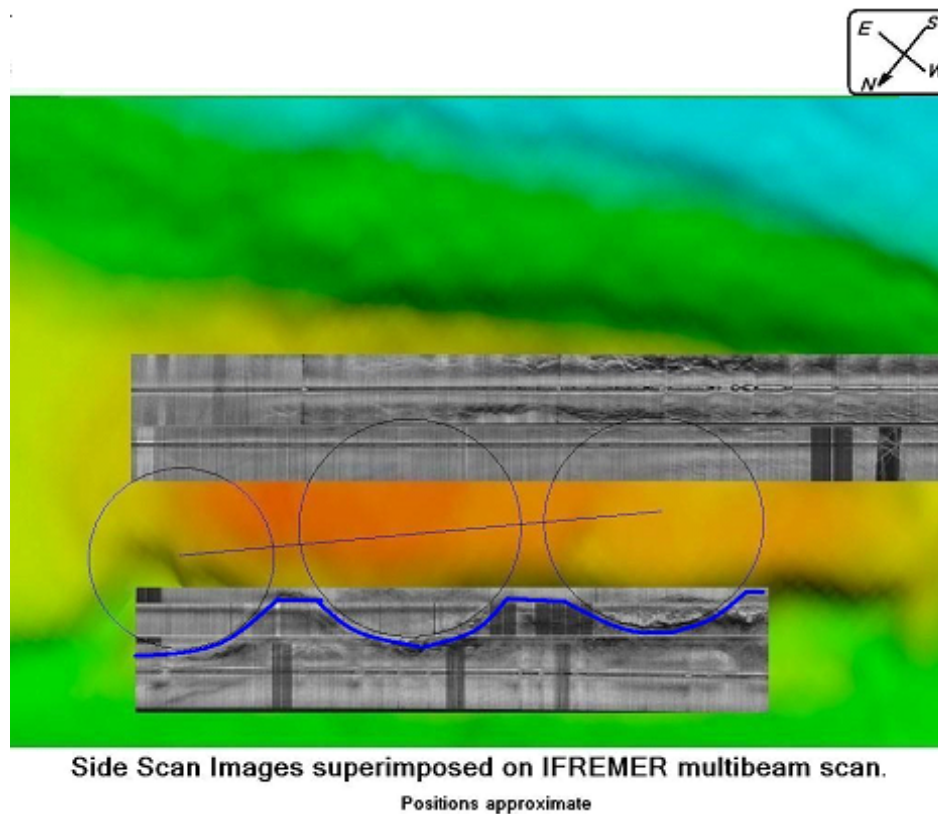


Figure 10. IREMER multibeam image (color) with an overlay of side-scan images (B&W) combine to show physical circular segments when looking down on the summit of the mound.
(Courtesy of Robert Sarmast and IFREMER. Composite by author)

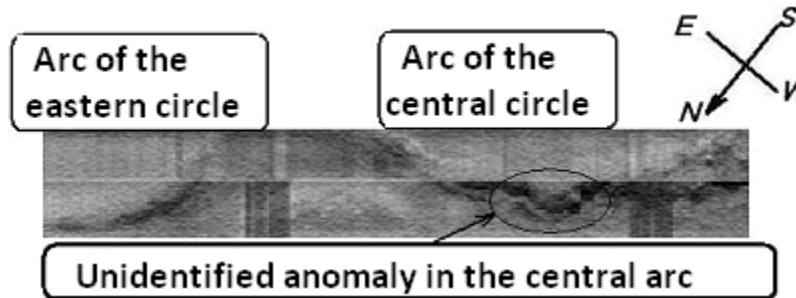


Figure 11. A closer look at combined side-scan images of the two easternmost (leftmost) circular arcs in Figure 10.
(Composite by author from side-scan images:3+2975, 3+3150 and 3+3325)

The side-scan sonar images from the 2004 expedition showed that the circular arcs around the top of the mound in the IFREMER scans, somewhat discernable in Figure 3, were due to actual physical circular features around the summit as seen in Figures 10 and 11. The regular appearance of those circular segments suggests that the mound may have been used for communal purposes. That the circumference of some of these circles extends beyond the remains of the platform in some places suggests that the platform was enlarged to accommodate each fully circular feature until the enhanced area fell away leaving only a scarp behind. Additional studies are essential to establish the true nature of these circular features. Certainly modern technology is poised to thoroughly investigate those features.

Final Thoughts and Conclusions

I have given considerable thought to the idea that the ridges, the visible evidence of the proposed conduit system, are only a small part of a larger network. A system with interconnected conduits may be in existence throughout Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent. A straight line drawn in a northeasterly direction in order to project an extrapolated path of the conduit suggests that the terminus might be miles away, somewhere near the Kabir River in Syria. (Such an extension is described in *The Urantia Book's* account.) If so, there is an abundance of work to be accomplished in order to find other segments and develop a map of the conduit's path. Extensive SBP surveys will be required.

There also has been a nagging question as to why the conduit system appears only at the foot of the mound. One explanation might be that the mass of the mound, during the sinking of the land, created an additional dynamic upward subterranean pressure in the immediate vicinity of the mound. As the mound settled deeper into the landscape, presumably there would be a somewhat greater up-thrust around its base. To illustrate: picture pushing your hand down in a pan full of mud with a steady pressure and observing the mud oozing between your fingers.

This land had devastating wars, by all accounts, in which the remains of the civilization were destroyed and eventually sank into the sea. It is unlikely that the invaders or inhabitants would

have taken the time, or made the effort, to tear up a drainage system or remove the earthworks of an enlarged central mound to simply conceal its history. In addition, we can expect that artifacts other than those two gross features will also be found that would not have been carried off by the warring parties or destroyed by seismic activity.

Even before the physical evidence described in this presentation was analyzed, Sarmast and others have suggested that Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent is the true location of Atlantis as described in Plato's dialogs in the *Critias* and the *Timaeus*. Following Sarmast's undisclosed source, I have also suggested that it is the land that was once the Garden of Eden as described in the Bible or the First Garden of Eden revealed in *The Urantia Book*. Others, such as the controversial Ignatius Donnelly, suggested it is both. Although it wasn't Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent that he had in mind when Ignatius Donnelly published his book in 1882: *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World*, he wrote: ". . . the conclusion becomes irresistible that Atlantis and the Garden of Eden were one and the same."¹⁶ He also stated that Atlantis "is not, as has been long supposed, fable, but veritable history."¹⁷ For the purposes of this paper suffice it to be called Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent—the likely original home of some or all these legends and myths.

Much to his credit, Robert Sarmast did initiate two expeditions and did an extensive study to justify why Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent is the only logical place for the origins of the Eden-Atlantis story. In both of his editions of *The Discovery of Atlantis*, he analyses a plethora of ancient writings and contemporary research to show a one-to-one correspondence between what was present in that area long ago with Plato's account of what was there. In fact, Sarmast identified nearly 50 "clues" offered by Plato about the characteristics of Atlantis and showed that almost all of them can be linked to Cyprus or to the sunken continent that we explored.

While on camera during the expedition in 2006, Sarmast and Lowry, unfortunately, were unable to make the case for the manmade remains of an extraordinary civilization. The analysis in this paper, taken together with the literary work of Sarmast and others, is intended to close that gap by giving a revised and more accurate geophysical study of Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent.

Plans for the third expedition include additional side-scan and SBP surveys, plus probing the area with a coring device to retrieve samples below the silt. The search for possible ruins on the tabular mound should also be under consideration for an expedition to this, which is quite possibly the oldest technological civilization on Earth. The plans for a new expedition also should include a submersible remote operating vehicle (ROV) to examine other sites on Malovitskiy's Sunken Continent with even more sophisticated equipment. So far, this location seems to be the best bet for the Edenic-Atlantean myths of old. Only through future expeditions will this hypothesis about an undiscovered archaeological treasure trove of this mythical land be validated, once and for all.

References

¹ Rosman, Abraham & Rubel, Paula G., *The Tapestry of Culture* (Newberry Award Record, Inc, 3rded., 1989), pp 207, 209.

² Plato, *The Critias*, Public Domain Trans. (Circa 1871) Tr. by Benjamin Jowett (1817 – 1893) See: http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/The_Critias.html . Plato admits to changing the proper names in his works: the *Critias* and the *Timaeus*. He wrote in the *Critias*: “Yet, before proceeding further in the narrative, I ought to warn you, that you must not be surprised if you should perhaps hear Hellenic names given to foreigners. I will tell you the reason of this: Solon, who was intending to use the tale for his poem, inquired into the meaning of the names, and found that the early Egyptians in writing them down had translated them into their own language, and he recovered the meaning of the several names and when copying them out again translated them into our language.”

³ Ibid.

⁴ Castleton, Rodney, *Atlantis Destroyed* (London: Rutledge, 1998)

⁵ See “Manetho’s Old Chronicle” at <http://www.atlantisquest.com/Manetho.html> for Manetho’s king-list: “The Egyptian historian and priest, Manetho of Sebennytyos, translated the Egyptian king lists around 250 BC. Other direct sources are the kings-list in the temple of Osiris at Abydos, the Palermo Stone (a Fifth Dynasty document) and the Turin Papyrus (a 19th Dynasty document). According to one translation of Manetho kings-list, the total number of years covered by all the king-lists equals 36,525, which purportedly goes back to the time of the Atlantean prototype civilization.” Other translations concerning the number of years vary widely.

⁶ Settegast, Mary, *Plato Prehistorian*, (Lindisfarne Press, 1990). Page 94 footnote: “For example, fragments from writings attributed to Manetho, an Egyptian priest of the Ptolemaic period, have proven generally reliable with respect the sequence of dynastic kings, but Manetho also claimed that prior to the time of the first mortal king, Egypt had been ruled by gods, demigods, and spirits of the dead for some 25,000 years (Frag. 1, Eusebius *Chronica*). Another reputable source, the Turin Papyrus, seems to record around 36,000 years of divine rule before Menes, the first mortal king: 23,200 years for reigns before the Shemsu-Hor and 13,420 years for the rulership of the Shemsu-Hor , usually translated as followers or worshipers of Horus presumably an older god than the more familiar, son of Osiris.”

⁷ Ibid , p 2. “Archaeologists are aware of the inadequacy of the existing framework of thought. For almost two decades prehistorians have been seeking a new paradigm, a wholly new way of looking at the early world that would accommodate the growing number of contradictions to the present point of view.”

⁸ Sutcliffe, Theodora, *When Neanderthals Replaced Us* (*Discover*, June 2016), pp 64-66.

⁹ Hall, John K.; Krašeninnikov, Valerij A.; Hirsch, Francis; Benjamini, Chaim; Flexer, Akiva: *Introduction to Part III - Geological Framework of the Levant* (Geological Survey Of Israel, 2005)

¹⁰ Ya'akov Petrovitch Malovitskiy (1932 – 2002) is eulogized in *Monologue of Ya'akov Malovitskiy, Scientist and (Wonderful) Man* by G. S. Struzhnok as a remarkable geologist of Russia and the Soviet Union who enriched our knowledge of the inner structure of the planet with expertise in geophysics, oceanography, mineralogy and other scientific disciplines. (Russian Geological Society: *Geologists in Russia*, 25th Edition, Moscow 2012, pp 340-351)

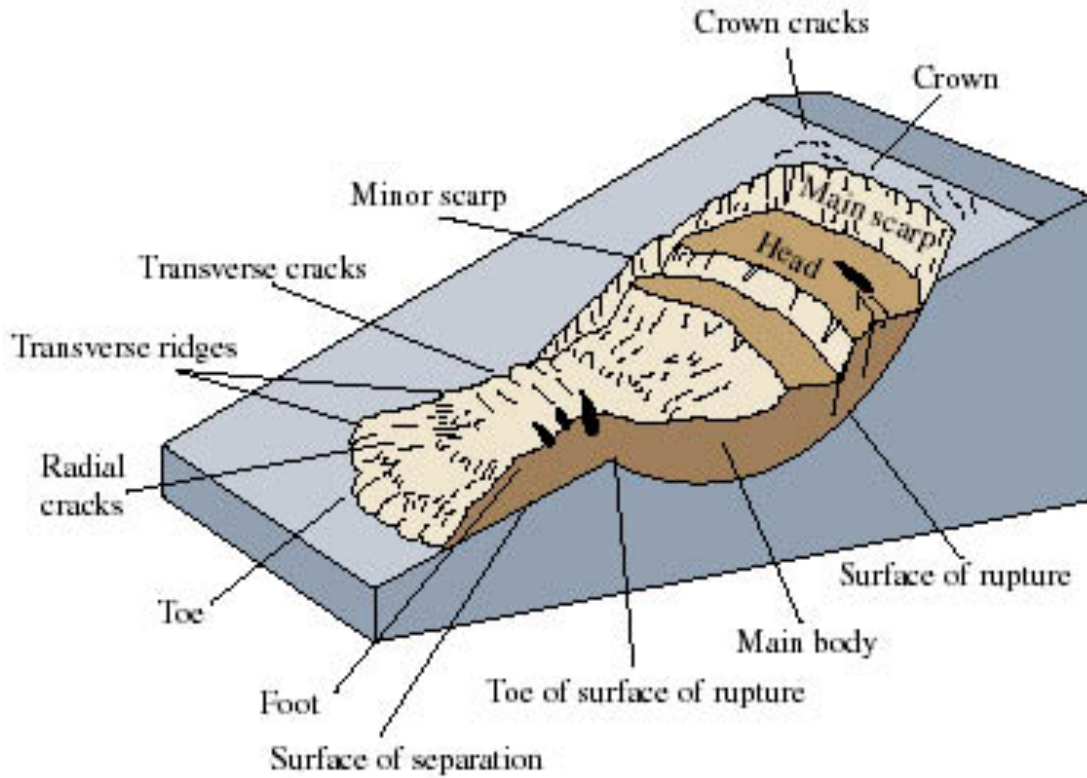
¹¹ Sarmast, Robert, *The Discovery of Atlantis: The Startling Case for the Island of Cyprus* (Origin Press 2003, and First Source Publications, 2006).

¹² The scientific equipment on R/V *Le Suroît* was as follows:

Multibeam echo-sounder EM300 - SIMRAD
 Multibeam echo-sounder EM1000 - SIMRAD (portable equipment with associated processing container)
 Sediment penetrator echo-sounder - ELICS (work in progress)
 Hydrographic echo-sounder EA500 - SIMRAD
 Doppler current meter 150 kHz BB - RDI
 Thermosalinograph SBE 21- SEABIRD
 Bathysonde SBE 19 - SEABIRD
 Bathythermograph MK12 - SIPPICAN
 Heading and attitude sensor HDMS - TSS
 Central clock Sofy M90 -ACEB
 Posidonia Ultra short base line - TMS
 Weather station BATOS - Météo France

¹³The scientific equipment on R/V *Argonaut* was as follows: The instrumentation consisted of the Edgetech Full Spectrum combined side-scan sonar/sub-bottom profiler (3,000 meter depth rated) with underwater full spectrum chirp processor, wide band dual frequency side-scan (120/410 KHz), wideband sub-bottom profiler (2-16KHz), with an Ultra Short Base Line (USBL) responder to locate the position of the towfish. Processing was initially available with a Coda DA200 Sonar Acquisition System combined with the Edgetech Interface, but was changed to the “Discover” system shortly before sailing. Also available was a DTS6000 deep water drop camera system which was used in the last hours of the expedition.

¹⁴ For landslide types, definitions and nomenclature see: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2004/3072/fs-2004-3072.html>



Graphics for Footnote Number 14.

¹⁵ *Atlantis—New Revelations*; History Channel documentary in Josh Bernstein's series: *Digging for the Truth* (JWM Productions, 2006).

¹⁶ Donnelly Ignatius, *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* (New York, Harper & Brothers, 1882) p 330. See www.sacred-texts.com/atl/ataw/index.htm for Public Domain copy.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, p 1.

About the Author

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Commodore Bates is a 1960 graduate from the United States Coast Guard Academy and has led a distinguished career as a career officer in the Coast Guard and the U.S. Merchant Marine which included a tour in Vietnam. In 1969, he earned a masters degree in mathematics at the University of Rhode Island and was elected to Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Honorary Mathematics Society.

Upon retirement from the Coast Guard in 1982, he sat for his unlimited master's license and commenced a second career in the U.S. Merchant Marine. In 2004, Bates was the expedition leader to the suspected site of the First Garden of Eden/Atlantis. In 2006 he was the consultant to the History Channel for the second expedition in their lead story for its "Digging for the Truth" series. He also served as captain on board the University of Rhode Island R/V *Endeavor*, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute R/V *Oceanus* for numerous other sub-sea projects and captain of the survey vessel USNS *Harkness* for bottom mapping in the Persian Gulf during "Desert Storm." Between tours at sea, he served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Connecticut - Avery Point Campus, the United States Coast Guard Academy and the STAR Center in Dania Beach, Florida.

Since 1988 he has authored numerous articles in a variety of periodicals. In 1995, he founded Batek Marine, a maritime consulting firm. In 2011, he published the book: *The Authority to Sail: The History of US Maritime Licenses and Documents*. Recently, he has published articles and lectured on the Eden-Atlantis expeditions.

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