



The Ahau Chronicles



Volume 26

May 23, 2011

Subscribers: 388



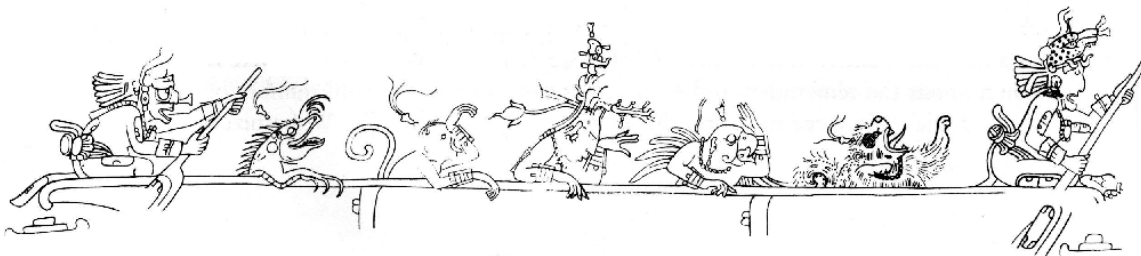
9 Ahau 8 Zip

Long Count: 12.19.18.7.0

**Countdown
to
2012**

Eclipse Expedition

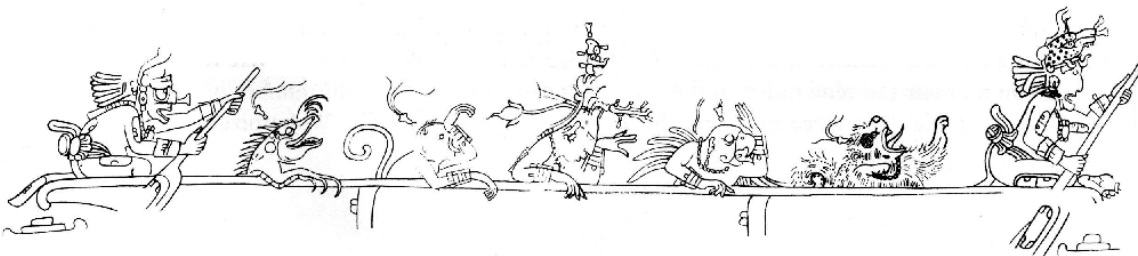
Friday the 13th of this month marked exactly a year-and-a-half to go until the November 13th, 2012 Total Solar Eclipse, the final Total Solar Eclipse of the Great Cycle of the Mayan Calendar which will be visible from the megalithic monument on Robinson Crusoe Island. In preparation for this awesome occasion a reconnaissance expedition is being organized. The two-part adventure will begin with a visit to the island monument this year on November 13th to make observations in anticipation of the 2012 eclipse and will end with a trip to Antarctica to witness the partial Solar Eclipse of November 25th, whose viewing circumstances closely match that of the 2012 eclipse. We are looking for a small group of intrepid travelers to join us on this journey of discovery.

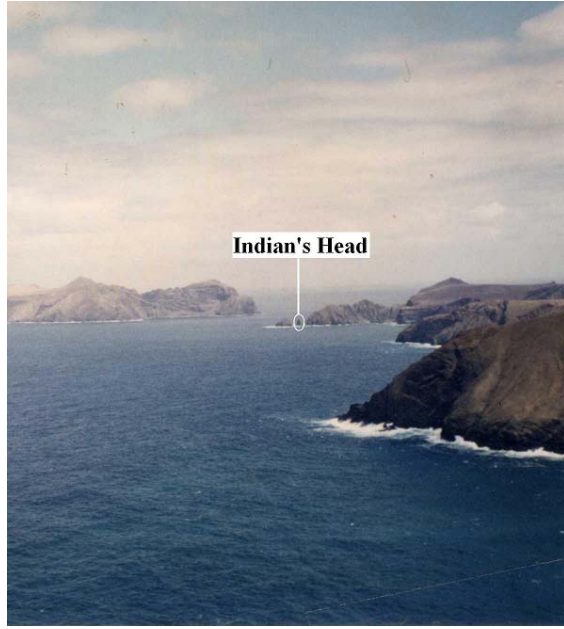


As with most trips to Robinson Crusoe Island, this one will begin with our arrival in Santiago, Chile. Planned for the second week of November, departure will be from Tobalaba airfield for the three-hour flight to the island. Depending on the weather and flight schedules, it would be ideal to arrive on the island by Thursday, November 10th to enjoy the Full Moon rising over Cumberland Bay. Accommodation would be arranged through Pedro Niada's recently reborn **Endemica Expediciones**. Pedro's tour operation was wiped out by the February 27th, 2010 tsunami but he has persevered and rebuilt on the original site. The photos below show the newly constructed building alongside the tranquil waters of the bay. It would be a celebration of Pedro's courage and determination to help him christen the new building with a Full Moon party!



The following days would be spent exploring the village and its surroundings. On the morning of Saturday November 12th we will depart from the village and begin the trek up the volcanic ridge toward El Mirador and the far side of the island where the Sun God monument is located. We will pass through a number of eco-zones where the vegetation changes as the elevation rises. By Saturday afternoon we will reach the Refugio in Villagra where our guides will begin to set up camp. After a short rest and refreshment we will continue trekking to the site of the monument overlooking the Planos del Yunque. Approaching from the jaguar side of the monument we will pause to explore the large fallen fragment of the Sun God face in the gully below before making our way up to the base of the monument. From here we will make our first observations.





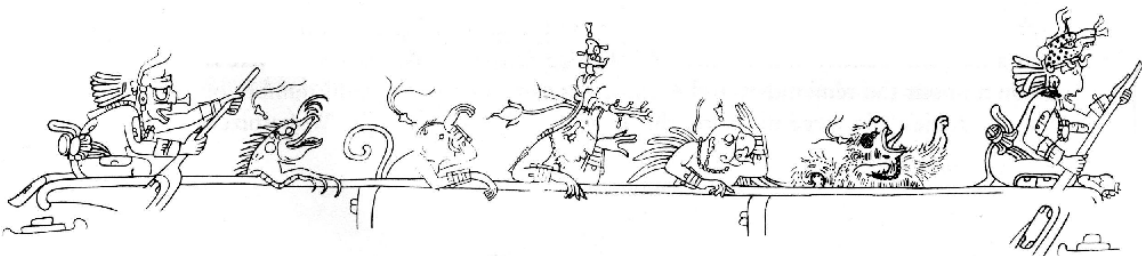
Both the Sun God tower and the jaguar face toward the western horizon in the direction of the setting sun. In the latter part of the year the sun is in its southernmost position on the horizon and sets over the water near the western tip of the island known as Punta O'Higgins. As witnessed from the monument, the extreme position of the sun, reached on the December solstice, sets directly above a curious rock formation known as the "Indian's Head". A 1970 government atlas describes a supposed natural rock formation in the shape of an "...Indian with his feather ornament". The entire island, with its enigmatic stone profiles and suspiciously shaped forms, seems to act as a giant device whose alignment to the heavens beyond reveals profound symbolic messages to the attuned viewer.

INDIAN'S HEAD.—THIS ROCK PRESENTS A SURPRISING SIGHT: THE CHEMICAL AND MECHANICAL ACTION OF ATMOSPHERIC AGENTS HAS ALTERED THE GEOLOGICAL TEXTURE OF THE ROCK, CARVING THIS PERFECT "SCULPTURE" WHICH REPRESENTS THE HEAD OF A RED-SKIN INDIAN WITH HIS FEATHER ORNAMENT.

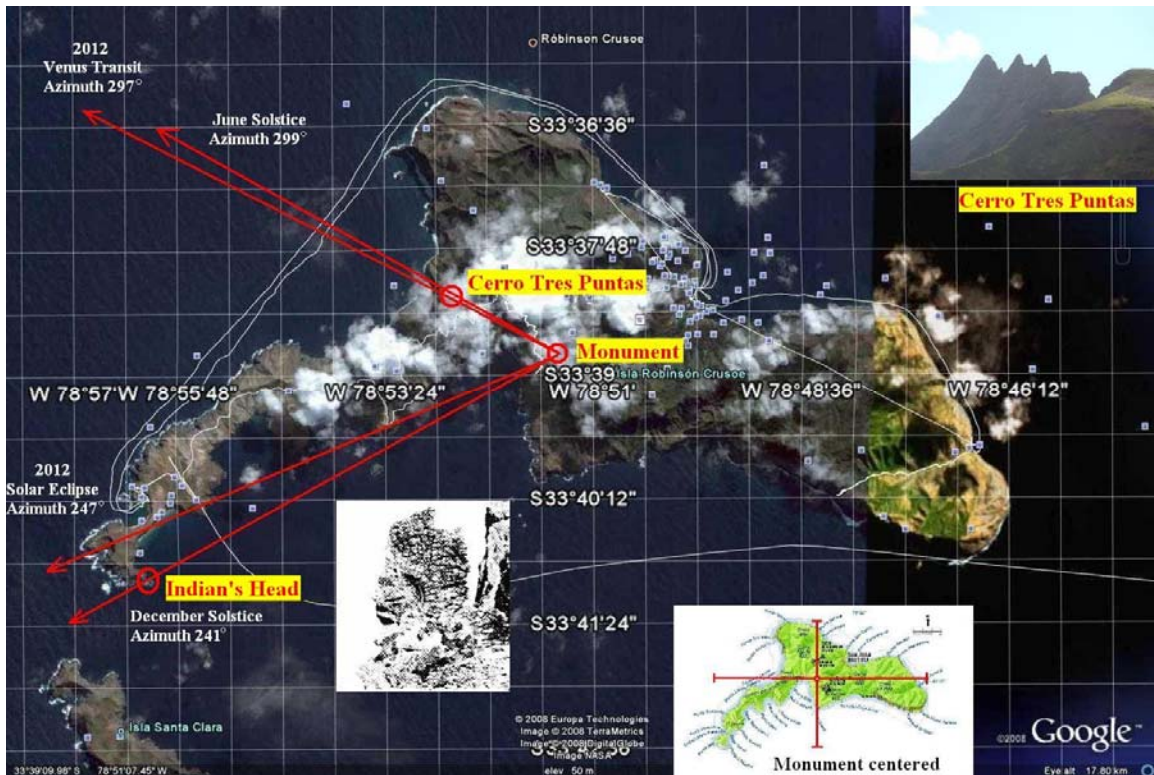
TÊTE D'INDIEN.—CE ROCHER PRÉSENTE UN ÉTONNANT SPECTACLE: L'ACTION CHIMIQUE ET MÉCANIQUE DES ÉLÉMENTS ATMOSPHERIQUES A DÉCOMPOSÉ LA TEXTURE BIOLGIQUE SUPERFICIELLE DE LA ROCHE, SCULPTANT CETTE TÊTE DE PEAU ROUGE AVEC SA COURONNE DE PLUMES.



(1970 Atlas, Insituto Geographico Militar)

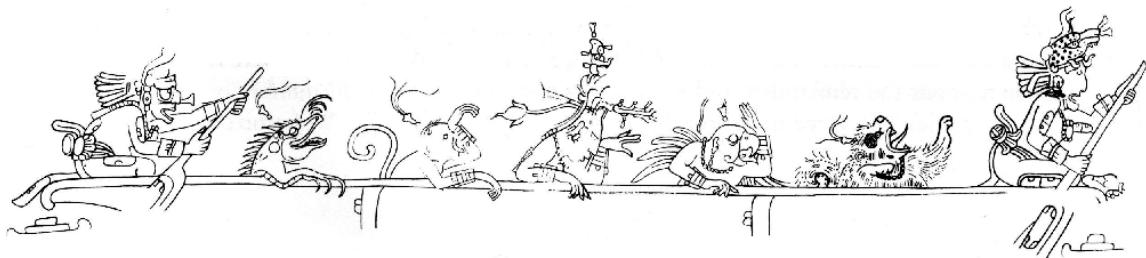


The primary purpose of visiting the island this November is to attempt a sneak peak into the future. By making observations there precisely one year before the 2012 Total Solar Eclipse, perhaps we will be able to glean information in advance that will help to inform the ultimate meaning of the cosmic events that are preordained to occur at the end of the Mayan Great Cycle. The upcoming year promises stellar spectacles that undoubtedly form the core of the sacred message encoded in stone and an early preview may help to prepare for the final countdown.



The Sun God monument, located at the geographic center of the island, witnesses the sun aligned with the suggestive Cerro Tres Puntas (“Three Point Hill”) during each June Solstice as well as the upcoming rare Transit of Venus on June 6, 2012. The monument also aligns with the Indian’s Head rock every December solstice, including the one bound to occur in 2012 at the end of the Mayan calendar. Certainly there must be additional alignments celebrating the ultimate Total Solar Eclipse of the 5,125-year cycle.

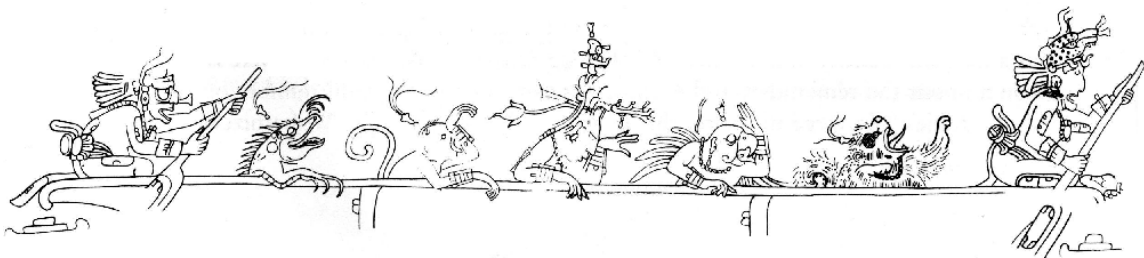
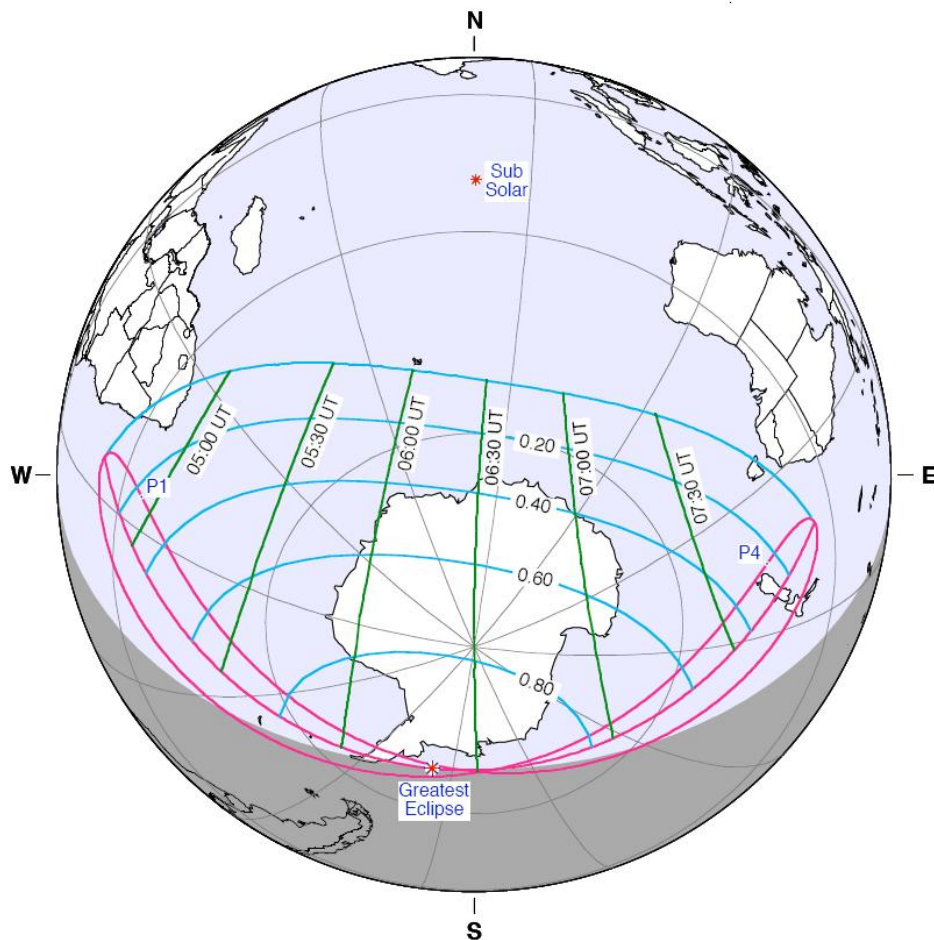
To discover these alignments and interpret them in light of the mythological legacy entrusted to us by these ancient magicians is certainly one of the most important endeavors we could ever hope to participate in within our lifetimes. Rather than sit back and be a spectator of the greatest mystery of our age, this expedition offers the opportunity to actively participate in this voyage of exploration and promises to lay the foundation for incredible revelations that will have global implications for human culture.

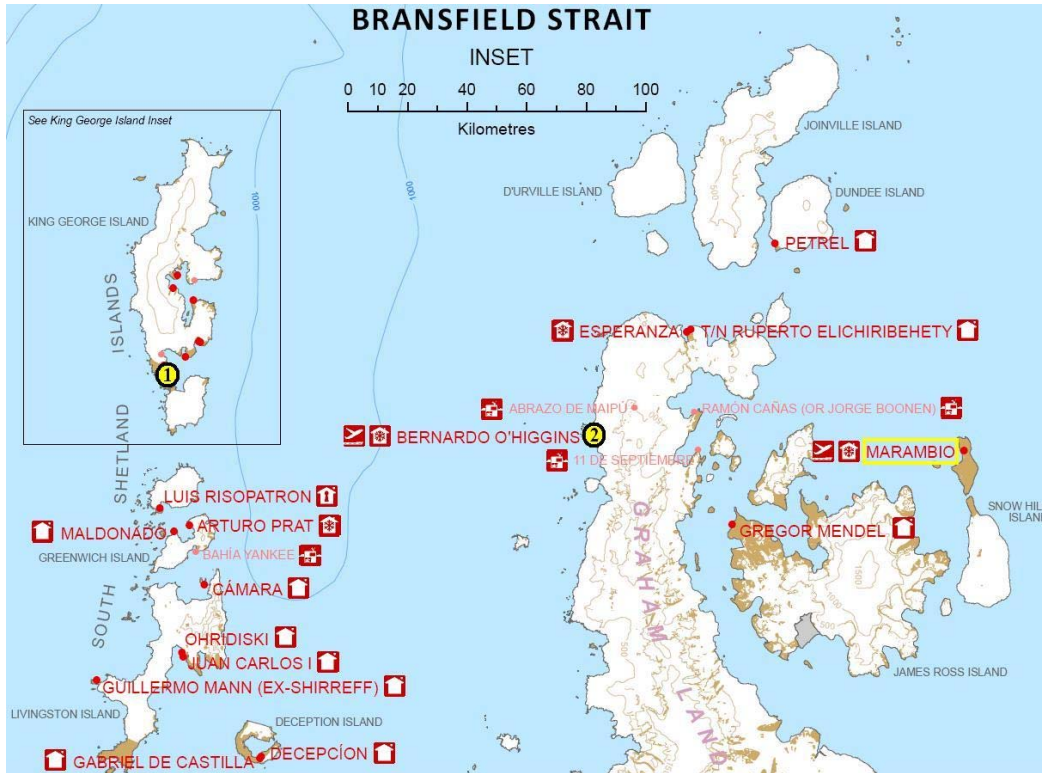


Before departing from the island we will be treated to the spectacle of the Leonids meteor shower, raining down fire from the sky in the late evening hours as the majestic constellation of Leo the Lion rises in the east over the village. Departing from the island on Friday, November 18th, we will arrive back in Santiago in time for me to publish a summary newsletter of our adventures the following day, the 19th, the sacred Ahau day of the Mayan calendar.

From there we will make our way to the bottom of the world where we will attempt to witness a partial eclipse of the sun from Antarctica. With a maximum eclipse of 90% and the sun low on the horizon over water, this eclipse will closely mimic the November 2012 eclipse as witnessed from the monument on Robinson Crusoe Island. But since we are in the Land of the Midnight Sun, the eclipse path moves below the South Pole and appears to move East-to-West, a highly unusual circumstance. Penguins and icebergs will accompany our group as we watch the moon drift in front of the sun.

Partial Solar Eclipse of 2011 Nov 25





Presently, Pedro Niada is at O'Higgins Base on the Antarctic Continent (#2 above and below) after flying in on a ski-plane from Frei Base on King George Island (#1). We are researching passage to Marambio Base further east which will provide the best conditions for viewing the November 25th eclipse. Details will be provided in future newsletters but please feel free to email to express your interest in joining the expedition.

