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THE SKIES ABOVE NAZCA NEW THOUGHTS ON AN ANCIENT ENIGMA

Article by Laszlo Arvay

Preface by Herbert Eisengruber

PaleoSeti Magazine Issue number 2 talked about the Nazca Lines, one of the greatest archaeological enigmas of the world. Since their re-discovery in 1927 by the Peruvian archaeologist Toribio Mejía Xesspe, the Nazca Lines have puzzled generations of researchers and scholars. Some extraordinary minds have tried their best to crack this - what seems - uncrackable nut. Maria Reiche, a German mathematician even devoted the greater part of her adult life solely to solve this ancient mystery. The sheer number of researchers on the Nazca lines resulted in many theories and ideas about the lines over the years. Many of the theories that have been brought forward - some of them from highly educated academics - are so void of common sense, that the theory by itself creates a head scratcher. One of the best examples is the idea that Nazca was something like an ancient sports complex and pre-Incan runners had to run around the figures competitively. I'm not kidding! This theory was brought forward in 1980 by Georg A. Breunig [7, 8],

and repeated by the well know German Professor Hoimar von Ditfurth [9].

In popular culture, Nazca was put "on the map" when Erich von Däniken proposed that the lines were constructed in conjunction with extraterrestrial contacts in the past [10, 11]. This theory is still "hanging on" after all these years because it is logical and explains all the mysteries surrounding this enigmatic site. I strongly believe that the solution to the Nazca mystery lies within the Ancient Astronaut/PaleoSeti point of view. It has always been my strong conviction that many mysterious sites in the world can only be solved by applying modern views and technologies. If an ancient mystery can only be solved by technologies and wisdom that was not available to the ancient people, it would be the ultimate proof of interference by extraterrestrials. Here is one of those theories that would prove this, if it turns out to be correct:

New Thoughts on an Ancient Enigma by Laszlo Arvay

I started to be interested in the Nazca lines through my profession as an art teacher. I taught students classes on Peruvian art, pottery,

architecture, the Bolivian site of Puma Punku and the Nazca lines. This is why I was familiar with the Nazca lines, the shape of the known figures like the spider, the humming bird and others.

I've also always been interested in science, astronomy and space exploration, when I came across an article called "The Cosmic Hummingbird" or its official name ESO 593-IG 008 [1].

It presented an image of a deep space galaxy which resembles a humming bird. I was immediately reminded of the Nazca drawing also called the "Humming Bird".

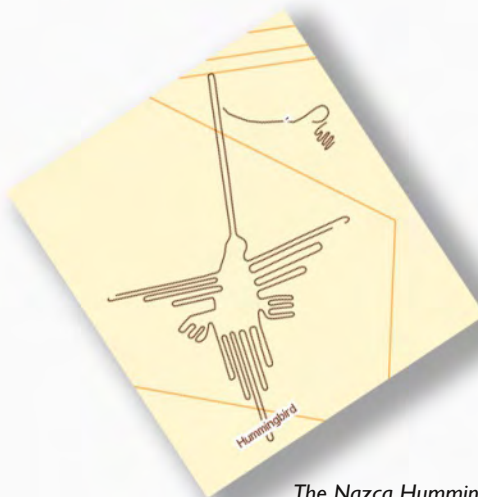
This gave me the idea of the Nazca lines and drawings, could perhaps be astronomical representations. Another time, a different drawing of

Nazca, the "Killer Whale" came across my desk. Out of curiosity, I started a search and found the "Killer Whale's" galactic counterpart, NGC 4631, amazingly enough also nicknamed the "Whale Galaxy" because of its distinct shape. What amazed me was the smaller dwarf galaxy NGC 4627, which also finds its counterpart in the Nazca "Killer Whale" drawing. This really sparked my interest! Could it really be that the Nazca lines and drawings are astronomical representations or is all of this just a coincidence?

Paul Kosok (1896 – 1959) is credited as the first serious researcher of the Nazca lines. Observing the Nazca Lines, he recognized that some patterns represented living creatures, and some lines are



The "Hummingbird Galaxy" ESO 593-IG008



The Nazca Hummingbird



The Nazca Whale



The "Whale galaxy" NGC 4631

related to astronomical events [12]. He and Maria Reiche, the German Mathematician, did ground-breaking research on the Nazca plane.

After Kosok left Nazca in 1948, after his second study period in Peru, Reiche continued the work and mapped the area. She used her background as a mathematician to analyze how the Nazca people may have created such huge-scale figures. She found these to have a mathematical precision that was highly sophisticated. Reiche theorized that the builders of the lines used them as a sun calendar and an observatory for astronomical cycles. [13]

Could it be that the lines in Nazca are far more sophisticated and have a far deeper astronomical connection than Kosok and Reiche could have imagined even in their wildest dreams?

I wanted to know more and a quest over many years began, which is still

not over to this day. But in order to do my research, I had to find satellite imagery and accurate maps of the area. Modern technology to the rescue. Over time, the tools of choice became Wikimapia [2], Sky-Map.org [3], Stellarium [4], the astronomy software Cartes du Ciel [5], and many more.

I was studying the archeological literature to see what archeologists and archaeoastronomers had to say, but the vast majority were of the opinion that the Nazca lines had little to no astronomical meaning. And since the ancient inhabitants of Nazca had no telescopes, how could they have known about deep sky objects that are not visible with the naked eye?

However, recent discoveries clearly show that the ancient Maya of Central America knew the phases of the planet Venus [6], which are only visible with a telescope! Facts that conventional science cannot solve as of yet.

Was it possible that the Nazca drawings correspond with star constellations and/or deep sky objects like

nebulae, galaxies and clusters?

To research that I had to start and overlay the Nazca drawings with star charts. But I did not randomly link constellations to Nazca drawings. I had a more methodical approach.

I knew that ESO 593-IG 008 (the Cosmic Humming Bird Galaxy) is located in what is known as the Sagittarius constellation. Then I checked if I would find lines and features within the constellation Sagittarius corresponding to the Nazca humming bird. [Image 3]

If my idea has merit, I would find a deep sky object



within the constellation similar to the shape on the other side.

<https://www.constellation-guide.com/constellation-list/sagittarius-constellation/> I think this object is Messier 17 also known as the Omega nebula. [Image 5]

When I saw this, I was quite amazed! Based on this, I

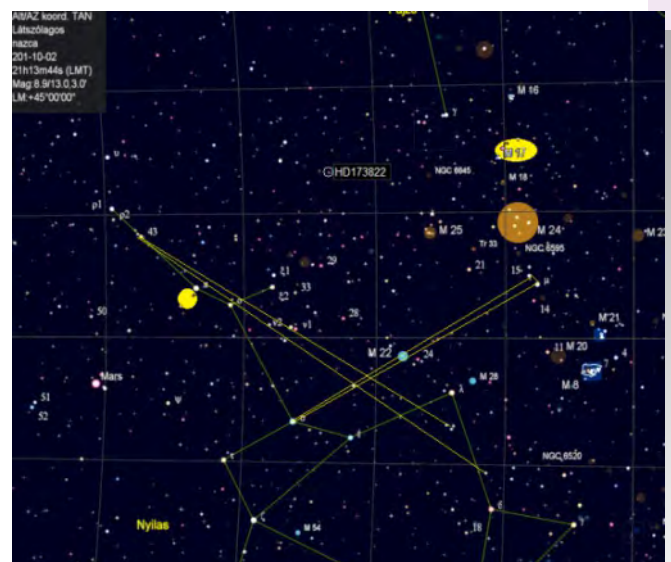


Image 5. M17 or Omega Nebula



found other constellations in relation of an overlay over what I call the Nazca "star map".

I was looking for a constellation with a bright star and another one in the red or orange spectrum. Why in these two colors?



Throughout my research, I developed the opinion that certain shapes of large lines when they form rectangles or trapezoids may indicate the color of stars. I think the long triangles with pointed angles indicate stars in the red or yellow spectrum. This figure shows Tarazed in the constellation Aquila. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamma_Aquilae)

Is it possible, that I discovered that the lines and

trapezoids etc. represent stars and constellations, while the pictorial drawings represent nebulae and other "deep sky" objects?

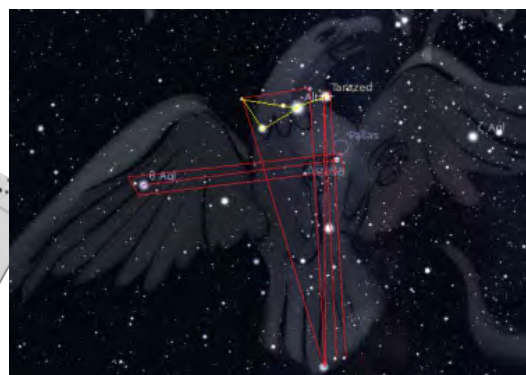
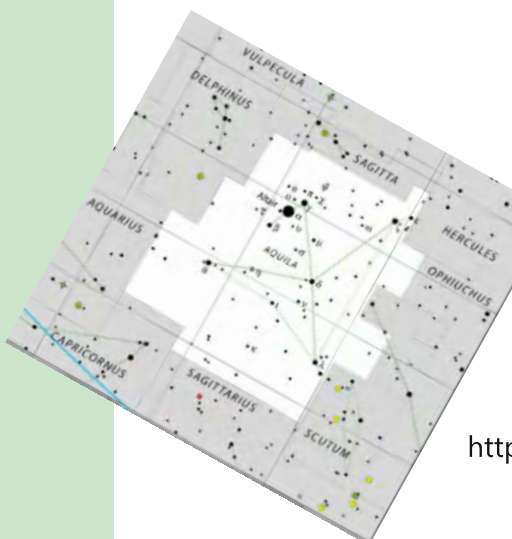
Did I stumble upon a giant jigsaw puzzle? Is the Nazca plateau and its drawings a giant star map, the largest astronomical atlas in the world?

I think in summary, the Nazca Plateau could be the largest astronomical atlas in the world. If that is so, Paul Kosok was right after all and on a much greater scale as he ever thought possible. What is important to note is that Kosok and others looked for astronomical alignments of the lines themselves, e.g. lines lining up with sunrises etc.. But no conclusive evidence for this has ever been found. "The astronomical alignment hypothesis was basically disproved in 1968 by the astronomer Gerald

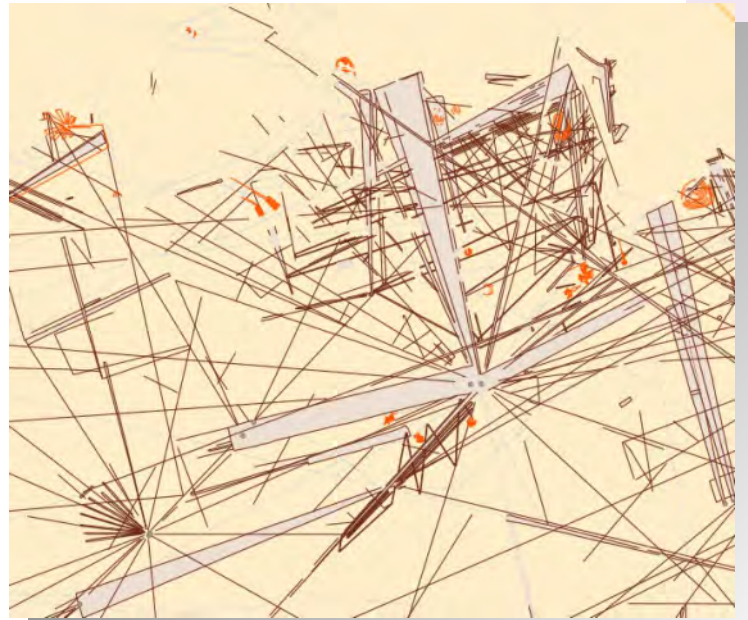
Hawkins. He plotted the lines and analyzed them by computer to see if they corresponded to any constellations. Hawkins had studied Stonehenge years before and had developed a technique that enabled him to find an astronomical key to the site. Using this same technique, Hawkins found that the Nazca lines he studied were random, and did

not correspond to any celestial bodies.

Something to note, for either of these view points, is that the scientists did not take into consideration which constellations were visible in South America, and whether they were different from those in the Northern Hemisphere. Also, little study has been done to discover which astronomical dates were important to the Nazcans to see if any of the events can be observed to correspond in some fashion to



<https://www.constellation-guide.com/constellation-list/aquila-constellation/>



Since it is impossible to present all of the findings of my research in the scope of this article, I would like to present some examples of my findings and leave it up to the reader to make up their own mind about them. First we have the area of the Nazca lines as taken from Wikimapia with the coordinates: 14.41'19"S -75.06'26"W (Bottom left)



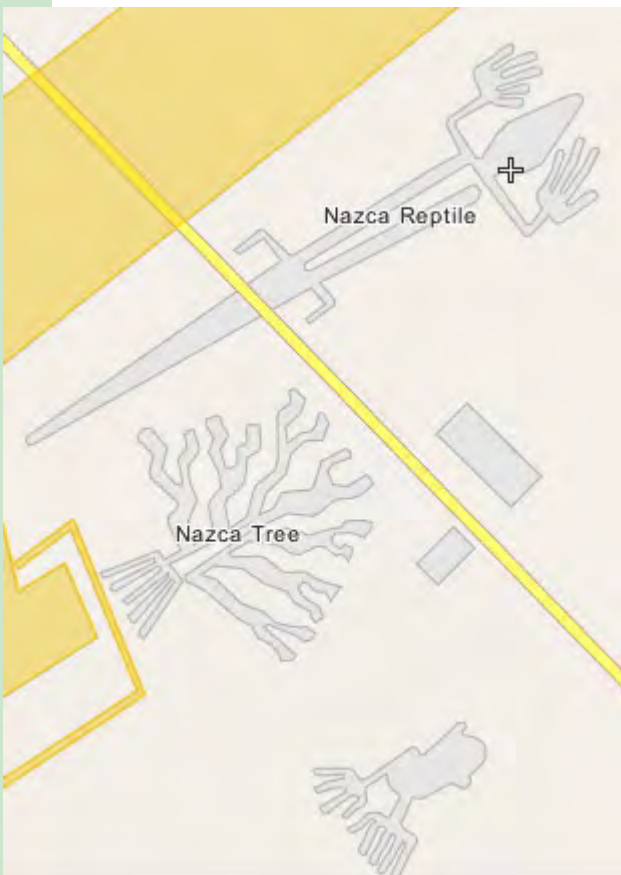
In my opinion this corresponds to the celestial region of the Centaurus, Crux and Corvus constellations. In yellow I highlighted the regions which I believe correspond to the Nazca lines. (See star map to the right).



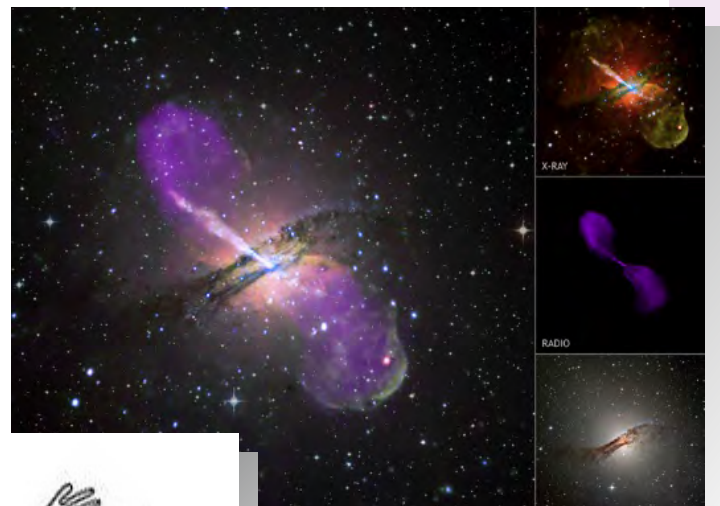
The drawings itself are the key to the mystery. Within this region in the Covus constellation we find deep sky object NGC 4038, which matches intriguingly with its stylized Nazca drawing counterpart:



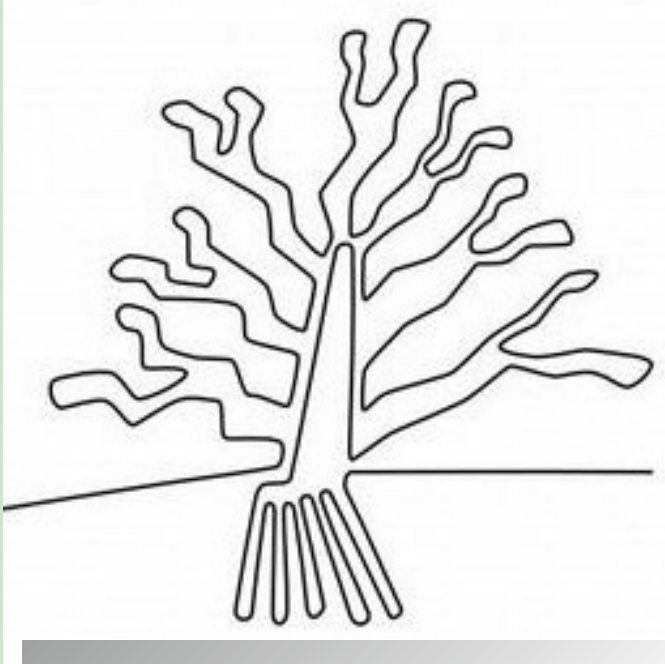
Not far from these drawings, we find these giant Nazca depictions:



And in the Centaurus constellation we find the matching deep sky object „Centaurus A“ or NGC 5128:

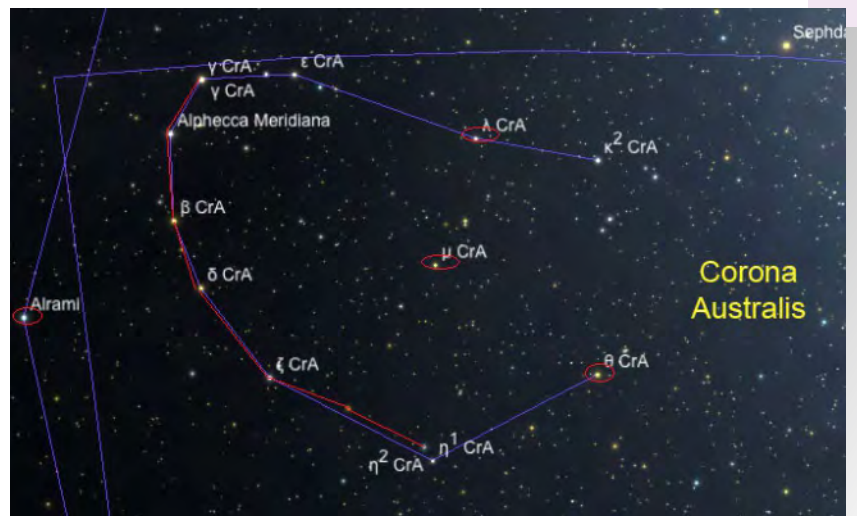


For the Nazca tree we find its celestial counterpart in the nearby Crux Constellation, the so called "Coal Sack Nebula":



Next up, something truly remarkable. At coordinates 14.42'42" S ..75.07'01"W on the Nazca plain, we find the following stone piles, arranged in a very peculiar way:

These stone piles (bottom left) directly correspond to the constellation of „Corona Australis“ (bottom right:



This by itself could be labeled as "coincidence". But next to the stone piles to the right at 14.42'38" S..75.06'45"W, we find this



most peculiar and enigmatic Nazca drawing that - to this day - steadfastly defied logical explanation (Image on the left), until now. If we have a closer look at the deep sky object NGC 6326 planetary nebula, also in the Corona Australis constellation.



Are you amazed? I am! Numerous and accurate examples like these can be found throughout the Nazca plateau.

The search continues...

Additional texts by Herbert Eisengruber, translations from Hungarian by Google Translate. Deep space objects photographs © NASA.

- [1] <https://www.csillagaszat.hu/hirek/extragalaktikus-csillagaszat-hirek/exg-kulonleges-galaxisok/kozmi-kolibri/>
- [2] <http://wikimapia.org/>
- [3] <http://sky-map.org/>
- [4] <https://stellarium.org/>
- [5] <https://www.ap-i.net/skychart/en/start>
- [6] <https://www.livescience.com/55837-mayan-astronomers-made-sophisticated-calculations.html>
- [7] Breunig, Georg A.; "Nazca: A pre-Columbian Olympic Site?"; "Interciencia" Vol.5, Nr. 4, 1980
- [8] Breunig, Georg A.; "Nazca: A gigantic sports arena? A new approach for explaining the origin of the desert markings in the basin of Rio Grande in Southern Peru."; University of Northern Colorado, Museum of Anthropology, o. J.
- [9] Ditfurth, Hoimar von; "Warum der Mensch zum Renner wurde"; "Geo" Magazine No. 12, December 1981.
- [10] Däniken, Erich von; "Chariots of the Gods?" Bantam Books 1970; First Published (In German) under the title - "Erinnerungen an die Zukunft", Econ Publishing 1969
- [11] Däniken, Erich von; "Arrival of the Gods: Revealing the Alien Landing Sites of Nazca" (Element, 1998)
- [12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Kosok
- [13] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Reiche#Nazca_lines
- [14] <https://www.archaeologyonline.net/artifacts/nazca-lines>