



FIGURE 1. Probable route of the Egyptian voyage in 232 B.C.

## A Voyage Around the World in the Third Century B.C.

A flotilla of ships set sail from Egypt around 232 B.C., during the reign of Ptolemy III, on a mission to circumnavigate the globe. The six ships sailed under the direction of Captain Rata and Navigator Maui, a friend of the astronomer Eratosthenes, who was head of the Alexandria library. The commander and navigator knew from Eratosthenes that the circumference of the Earth was 250,000 stades (approximately 28,000 miles), and they had state-of-the-art astronomical and navigational equipment. Although there is no record that the flotilla returned to Egypt, Maui and others left records of their voyage along the way.

The details of the expedition are known to us through written inscriptions and drawings left in caves, primarily in what are now called the "Caves of the Navigators" in northwest New Guinea (now Irian Jaya), near McCluer Bay; a cave near Santiago, Chile; and others from Pitcairn

Island and Fiji. The New Guinea inscriptions and drawings were discovered by a German exploratory expedition in 1937, led by Josef Röder of the Frobenius Institute of Goethe University in Frankfurt, and the Chilean inscription was found in 1885, by the Chilean-German engineer Karl Stolp, but they were not deciphered until the 1970's, when marine biologist and linguist Barry Fell figured out the connection between the Maori (Polynesian) language and a dialect of ancient Egyptian-Libyan [SEE Note on Decipherment, page 27]. Hundreds more ancient Maori inscriptions exist in the Polynesian islands, and, as Fell notes, there are also inscriptions in the ancient Egyptian-Libyan in North America.

### Barry Fell's Hypothesis

In the early 1970's, Fell was teaching marine biology at Harvard University. A native of New Zealand, Fell was an exceptional linguist, with a working

knowledge of scores of languages, modern and ancient, including Maori. His passion for translating ancient inscriptions and his ideas about pre-Columbian settlements in America made him a controversial figure in archeology, and led him to write three books on the subject, the best known of which is *America B.C.* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1976). The specific cave transcriptions discussed here appear only in the "Occasional Papers" of the Epigraphic Society, which Fell founded in 1974; they were not generally publicized.

Fell's supposition is that the expedition was sent out by Ptolemy III both to find new sources of gold for coins and to demonstrate Eratosthenes' "newly propounded doctrine." The flotilla of ships did reach South America, but never returned to Egypt. When the Egyptians did not find a navigable passageway through America, the supposition is that they turned back to return the way they

*Why did 1,723 years pass between the discovery of South America by the navigator Maui, and the similar voyage of exploration conducted by Columbus?*

had come, across the Pacific. One ship was apparently wrecked on Pitcairn Island.

Fell proposes that Rata, Maui, and the other members of the expedition became the founding fathers of Polynesia. In fact, he says, the actual names Rata and Maui appear in Polynesian legend. Further, he says, the ancient Maori-Libyan language, writing, and knowledge became the "initial heritage of Polynesia." Libyan inscriptions, according to Fell, were found in New Zealand "as late as A.D. 1450."

Later, geographer George F. Carter, Sr., recalled a cave inscription that had been copied by Karl Stolp, who had taken shelter in a cave near Santiago during a storm. Carter thought the script was similar to the Polynesian inscriptions. He was right: As Fell was able to translate it, the Santiago inscription gave the date as the "regnal year 16," which would have been 231 B.C., and also had Maui's name:

"Southern limit of the coast reached by Maui. This region is the southern limit of the mountainous land the commander claims, by written proclamation, in this land exulting. To this southern limit he steered the flotilla of ships. This land the navigator claims for the King of Egypt, for his Queen, and for their noble son, running a course of 4,000 miles, steep, mighty, mountainous, on high uplifted. August, day 5, regnal year 16."

—*Marjorie Mazel Hecht*

---

*Mr. LaRouche drew his remarks from his essay, "Scrapping the Usual Academic Frauds: 'Go With the Flow'—Why Scholars Lied about Ulysses' Transatlantic Crossing," which appeared in the Nov. 20, 1998 issue of Executive Intelligence Review (Vol. 25, No. 46). We have incorporated some of the supplementary material which accompanied this EIR feature.*

**T**he argument essentially is this: Sometimes, in the course of history or scientific investigation, one is presented with a very fascinating and very challenging pattern of evidence. But, it's not yet conclusive. It teases you, it tempts you, it draws you into the subject matter. But, you can not finally draw a conclusion which settles the argument. It's something like a dog lurking in your backyard—it's just there all the time. You don't know to whom it belongs, you just know it's there. And you wait for its master to come by and claim it one day, or something else to happen, so that you may identify to whom this dog belongs.

Such is the nature of the matter we're dealing with today.

We'll start with the overall map, and we'll refer to this repeatedly [SEE Figure 1 and Box, facing page]. Now, the subject, the apparent subject, which is extremely tempting, and is especially tempting because there is an "eye" in this right away in Jonathan's sense, to begin with, is that a group of mariners under Egyptian direction, from an area then of Egypt, now of Libya, called Cyrenaica, set sail in a flotilla of ships which went down the Nile River and out to the Red Sea through a famous canal, which at that time connected the Nile River to the Red Sea.

These people then sailed—this was in 232 B.C.—they sailed to a place known to them, which is in the area today of Indonesia, which we'll refer to again. There, the chief mariner, the navigator of the expedition, a man named Maui, recorded a comment, which is a well-known comment, and recorded also an eclipse, which is a well-known eclipse, and gave the dating for that observation in a report which was painted in a cave, which they went to commonly.

Now, these were very large ships on this occasion, these Egyptian ships. They were not jokes. They were not balsa rafts. They were very serious ships, and I'll come to that in a while.

From thence, from inference we know, the expedition continued its journey from this West Irian location, across the Pacific Ocean, to probably about Panama. (I'll tell you why, later.) It then explored the South American coast, trying to find a way through the Americas, into the Atlantic Ocean, so they could get back to Egypt by way of the Atlantic.

Finally, after completing the exploration of the coast of South America, approximately 231 or 230 B.C., the chief navigator of the expedition, Maui, went into a cave area outside of what today is Santiago, Chile, and there made a record of their arrival, of their exploration, and claimed all of South America for Egypt. So you see, there are some Spanish land-titles that aren't too good these days.

The expedition attempted to return, but never returned to Egypt, because of a shipwreck—including one which occurred, according to record, on Pitcairn Island, which is the island known for the