

The Megalithic Yard

And how our measurement systems came from it

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Alexander Thom first published his theory about the Megalithic Yard in 1955. In 2004, Christopher Knight and Alan Butler researched the Megalithic Yard and were quite amazed with their discoveries. They deduced that the ancient system of measurement was far more advanced than modern people realized, in many ways far more advanced than our own. They also discovered that the modern day measuring systems we use, the metric and royal systems, derive from the Megalithic Yard. Prepare to be amazed!

Introduction

Alexander Thom

The Megalithic Yard

Christopher Knight and Alan Butler

Ancient Measurement Systems

Imperial and Metric Systems Now

Conclusion

Introduction

Trading is a necessary part of any complex society. In order to facilitate trade, there has to be a way and means of measuring the traded items. This is especially true of fabrics, liquids, and grains. The people of ancient times and societies would trade items that they felt were of equal worth. Without this equal worth there would be no trade. This is how the ancient economic system was facilitated. The measurement system that developed from this trade, namely the Megalithic Yard, gave birth to a very complicated measurement system that incorporated space, time, weights and measures into one interrelated system. This was all part of one super system of measurement that has partly been lost in human knowledge but being rediscovered.

In 1955, Alexander Thom first published his theory about the Megalithic Yard. His journal entry was titled: *A Statistical Examination of the Megalithic Sites in Britain*. This was published by the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*. Thom's declaration about the Megalithic Yard created quite a stir in Archaeological circles. It caused many people to rethink what was believed prior to Thom's discovery, leading to a new science called Archaeoastronomy.

Two of the people who wanted to further learn about the Megalithic Yard phenomenon were Christopher Knight and Alan Butler. They had read many of the academic journals concerning the Megalithic Yard and wanted to build on what Alexander Thom had researched. They believed that Thom died too soon to finish researching the Megalithic Yard and felt that there was more to the Megalithic yard than what had been discovered. It seems they were right.

They discovered that the Megalithic Yard was part of an ancient system of weights and measures that our modern day measuring systems derive from. One of the ways that they discovered this was by making a weighted pendulum and observing the path of Venus. Knight and Butler go on to realize that within the Megalithic Yard lies an integrated measuring system that defined the 'exact' dimensions of the Earth. As Knight and Butler Say,

“This system was used to measure length, area, mass, volume, time and geometry in one complete and absolutely integrated way, creating a system far more advanced than anything in use today.”(Knight and Butler, 2004)

After this discovery Knight and Butler go on to further realize that the metric system is far older than previously thought. It was assumed that it was invented in the 18th Century during what was called the “Age of Reason”; but was in fact an ancient measuring system used in Sumeria. This discovery not only will make us all reevaluate time and what a second of arc really is, but also our view on physics.

The ancients were able to use the megalithic yard to measure the dimensions of the Earth. They understood the Earth’s spin. Our ancient ancestors were very astute at being able to measure. They were much more advanced than modern day people ever imagined or give them credit for.

What is the Megalithic Yard? Is the Megalithic yard real or is it just one man’s imagination? We will soon find out.

Alexander Thom

Alexander Thom (1894-1985) was born in Scotland. He worked for the British government during WWII but later became a professor of engineering at Oxford University. The Thom Building, which is part of the school of Engineering at Oxford University, is named after him. Thom's lifelong passion was the Megalithic structures found throughout Europe. Thom approached his study of the Megalithic structures with an engineer's mind. During Thom's investigation into the Megalithic structures, he hypothesized that the Megalithic structures were based upon an ancient standardized measurement unit: the Megalithic Yard. Thom's research into the Megalithic yard and structures lasted for 50 years, making it his lifelong endeavor.

His first publication of this topic, *A Statistical Examination of the Megalithic Sites in Britain* was published by the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*. In this journal article Thom states that,

"The study of a single megalithic site can only provide a little bit of information...we must examine many, and this makes it immediately necessary to provide statistical methods of analysis...From an examination of three of these problems it appears that three of these circles follows a certain geometric; that a universal measurement of length was used in setting these out on the ground and that many of the constructions carry indications of astronomical uses beyond those associated with the Sun. Existing statistical data allows us to be reasonably certain about the last two statements, but there seems to exist no method of attaching a value to the probability that the geometrical designs suggested were intentional." (Thom, 1955)

After further research, Thom wrote more of his findings, which were also published in the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*. These journal entries have caused a lot of

controversy and conversation within the archaeological circle. Some scientists agree with Thom's finding others disagree; either way it caused a revolution in the way people thought about our distant past and the ancients who were alive back then.

The Megalithic yard

The megalithic yard is a standard unit of measurement equal to 2.722 feet/82.966 centimeters. (18) Since this measurement was a few inches short of the standard yard, Thom gave it the name Megalithic Yard. Thom deduced that the Megalithic Yard had been used in multiples, including half and double forms as well as being divided into 40 sub-units that Thom called 'Megalithic Inches'. (Knight and Butler 2004) When Alexander's son Archie started to help him with his research they came up with a definitive length for the Megalithic yard which is 2.722 feet +/- 0.002 feet (82.96656cm +/- 0.061cm). (Thom and Thom 1978) (Quoted in Knight and Butler)

Thom was amazed at the finding, and even more amazed that this same unit of measurement was very consistent in all of the British Isles as well as in Scotland. Thom was perplexed by the findings of this consistency which caused him to write in *Megalithic remains in Britain and Brittany*,

"There must have been a headquarters from which standard rods were sent out...the lengths of rods in Scotland cannot have differed from that in England by more than 0.03 inches or 0.762 mm." (Thom, 1968)

The Thom's were utterly amazed at this finding and could not understand how this was possible. Knight and Butler did further research into the Megalithic Yard and discovered that the

builders of the Megalithic structures on the British Isles used a unit of length that was defined to one-ten thousandth of a millimeter. (Knight and Butler, 2004)

Christopher Knight and Alan Butler

Christopher Knight is a Scottish Freemason who has written many books about the history of Freemasonry whom he coauthored with Robert Lomas. The most famous of these books is the Hiram Key, which has sold millions of copies worldwide, and to date has been published in 37 languages. He is currently on the lecture circuit where he discusses his research into history and archaeology. His educational background is in Marketing and Advertising.

Alan Butler is an engineer by trade but an avid historian by hobby. He has written many books on the history of the Freemasons and Knights Templar. In addition, he heavily researches ancient cultures, Paganistic belief systems, and comparative religions. He is also on the lecture circuit discussing his works.

Knight and Butler met each other while on circuit and discussed Thom and the Megalithic Yard. They both were familiar with Thom's work and decided to further research his findings. As a result of their findings, they coauthored *Civilization One: The World Is Not As You Thought it was*. The results revealed in this book are amazing. They have discovered that not only does the Megalithic Yard hold the key to the origins of both the Metric and Royal measurement systems, but they also uncovered another ancient measurement system from Sumeria.

Ancient Measurement Systems

Knight and Butler wanted to expound on Thom's research so they experimented with a pendulum. Butler had done earlier research and found out that the Sumerians and Egyptians both used pendulums in their measurement system. He had also earlier hypothesized that the poles of the Earth, north and south, spun around 366 times a year. Butler wrote about this in his book: *Bronze Age Computer Disc*. With the hypothetical knowledge, these two sought out to see what Thom was missing.

Alan Butler deduced that, *"The ancients had subdivided each degree into units of minutes and seconds of arc, part of the circumference of the circle, just as we do today."* (Knight and Butler, 2004) Butler realized that they fixed upon 60 minutes to each degree of arc and 6 seconds to each minute of arc. This produced the following result:

Full circle of Earth = 48,221,838 MY

One degree (a 366th part) = 131,754 MY

One minute (a 60th part) = 2,196 MY

One second (a 6th part) = 366 MY

So according to this system of 366 degree geometry, each second of arc is a precise 366 second of length. This was indeed an amazing discovery according to Butler. (Knight and Butler, 2004)

With this number it is easy to put it into a mathematical equation of Thom's Megalithic Yard, what Butler referred to as a reverse engineering process. The math equation that they used is $366 \times 6 \times 60 \times 366 \times 0.8296556$ meters. I got an answer of 40,009.9 Meters. They got 40,010 Meters. Either way the numbers are very similar. The circumference of the planet is 40,008

Meters². This is very startling to both them and me. I am not sure what it means, but it is interesting.

Knight thought that perhaps if they observed Venus through the pendulum that they might be able to crack this code. He devised a plan in order to do this. He must first try and simulate the way the ancient astronomer-priests observed Venus. He made the pendulum and was able to accurately gauge the movement of Venus and further understand the Megalithic Yard. Thom said he did not quite understand what he was missing, but Knight seemed to have discovered it.

From the pendulum Knight and Butler was able to connect this ancient measurement system to the Minoan Phasistos disc that was a sort of ancient computer used to calculate Venus as she traveled through the sky using 366 glyphs. When the Minoan foot (0.03036m) is used in Conjunction with the Megalithic Degree, Knight found that one Megalithic second is equivalent to a thousand Minoan feet. (Knight and Butler, 2004)

Knight and Butler figured out that units of volume and mass came from this ancient swinging pendulum. They divided the pendulum by 20 Megalithic inches. They found out that pints, quarts, pounds, and other measurement systems all came from this system. For example, a cube with the sides of four Megalithic inches equals exactly one pint. Also, if this same pint sized cube is filled with a barley seed, it weighs exactly one pound. (Knight and Butler, 2004) This seems to be both the original source of the Royal and metric measurement systems. They were both part of this ancient system of measurement.

Metric and Royal Measurement Systems Now

There has been much debate as to why the United States is still using the Royal Unit of measure when the Metric System of measure is being used around the world. Canada recently has started using the Royal System as well as the Metric System, but the standard unit of measure remains the Metric Unit. So why hold on to this archaic system of measurement? After researching this paper and indeed seeing that these measurement systems are both potentially older than previously thought, they should both be kept in use. They both serve their functions. The United States has stubbornly held on to the use of the Royal System, largely in part due to the infatuation that Thomas Jefferson had with this measurement system. I do not see it as a conflict to use both, they both serve specific functions in maintain and preserving the knowledge of the ancient astronomer priests.

Conclusion

The Megalithic yard is legitimately an ancient unit of measure; with this I have no doubts. The accuracy in which the ancients were able to measure the circumference of the Earth was and is still astounding. The incredible nature of how our modern day measurement systems evolved from the knowledge of our planet and other celestial bodies and incorporates into one super science of measurement needs to be further researched. I read critiques of Thom's work, and these journals simply said that more research needs to be done, but that his diagrams and graphs of statistical data were convincing. (Thom, 1955) Civilization One is still a newer book and I was unable to find any critiques countering the claims of Butler and Knight.

So what does this mean? This means that whenever we use a measurement device it gives us a direct key to our ancient past, a direct connection to our ancestors. This super

knowledge that they possessed which was lost, maybe due to the destruction of Library of Alexandria or other conflicts, is being reincarnated. With the technology that humanity possesses now and our ability to research and preserve knowledge through writing, we can perhaps expound on this and learn even more about our ancestors. Trade was able to be made through measurement systems, which in turn led to urbanization and complex societies. It is true when they say that there truly is nothing new under the Sun.

Works Cited and Bibliography

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