

MONUMENTS ON MARS?

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In the editorial of Issue Number 80 (Spring 1997), we briefly examined the sort of New-age (a new name for the old occult) foolishness that makes for mass suicides such as the Rancho Sante Fé occurrence. We now look at another New-age dogma, involving ancient space men, pyramid power, and the wonders of pi.

In 1976 NASA held a press conference at which it presented a photo containing what appeared to be a face on Mars. At the time it was presented as an optical illusion, a trick of light and shadow. The face is roughly a mile square and some 1,500 feet high. It is located about 45 miles (70 kilometers) due north of the crater Apt, on a plateau called Cydonia Mensa in Mars's northern hemisphere (Figure 1). Over the intervening years the site has acquired a mystique of its own.

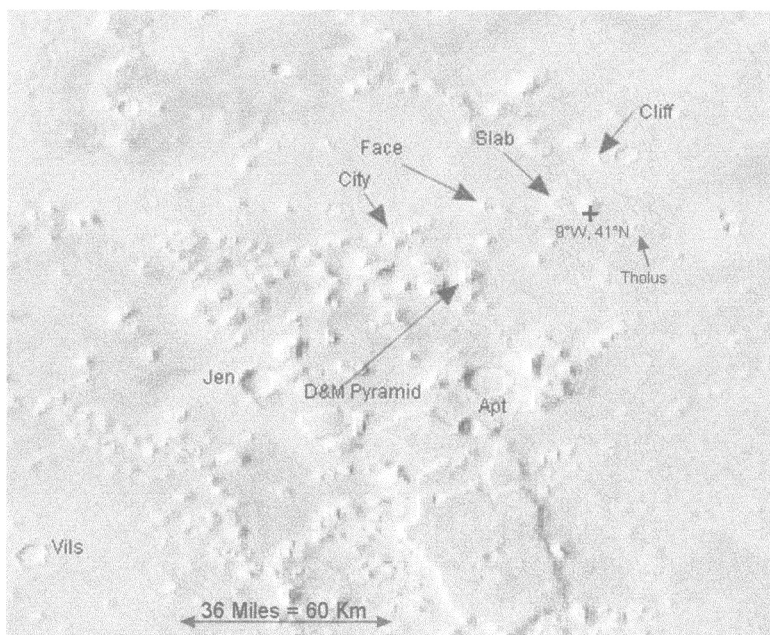


FIGURE 1: Cydonia Mensa area, Mars.

In 1979 Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar became fascinated by the face and searched for a second exposure among the 60,000 frames transmitted by the Viking 1 orbiter. From that they built a three-dimensional computer-enhanced image of the face (Figures 2 and 3). Mark Carlotto did further image enhancements and optimized those enhancements to the face. In 1983 Richard Hoagland, then a NASA consultant and now the head of a team of researchers called The Mars Mission, studied the area and came up with some correlations and alignments.

To Hoagland, one of the key features is a five-sided pyramid called the D&M, for DiPietro and Molenaar, and a set of other pyramid-like features called the City, about 15 miles to the northwest of D&M. Each side of the pentagonal base is about 1.2 miles long, the the peak rises 1.1 miles (1.7 km.) above the surrounding plain.

The key alignments are these: the "eyes" of the face are due to a valley in the mount (Figure 3). Roughly a half million years ago, Hoagland speculates, the sun would have arisen in the valley as seen from the city square. One of the vertices (a line running from the top point of the pyramid to a corner of the pentagonal base) points to the face (Figure 4). The Face, City and D&M form an equilateral triangle. The Cliff, Face, and City are in along the aforementioned sunrise line. From this starting point, Hoagland draws parallels with the pyramids of Egypt, (Giza in particular,) the Sphinx, Avebury stone circle and Silbury Hill in the United Kingdom. According to Hoagland this suggests that ancient astronauts, extraterrestrials, visited both earth and Mars, influenced our culture, and left the monuments on Mars for mankind, leaving therein valuable information awaiting the first men from earth to reach the site.

Christians and Jews, too, have been caught up in the mystique of the site. Although these do not go along with the idea of aliens visiting and directing the evolution of men on earth, they do advocate some form of interplanetary travel. One group thinks that men before Noah's flood had the ability to travel through space, and that it is these men who built the pyramids of Mars as well as some of the "architectural anomalies" on the moon. A few believe that the Nazis had mines on the moon and may have visited Mars during their 12-year reign of Germany, but as far as I know, none of them believes that Nazis built the monuments in question. Of the former group we may ask whether or not any antediluvians escaped the flood by being on Mars or the moon, and if so, whether the frozen pond at the moon's pole and the flood evidence on Mars are a result of God's judgment on them. (You see, I too, can speculate.)

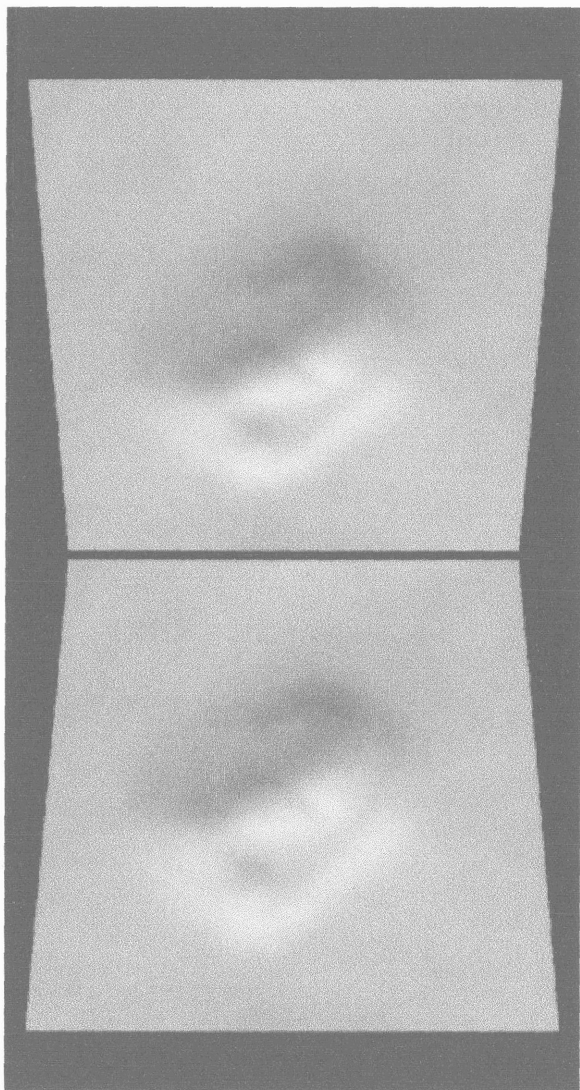


FIGURE 2: A stereo pair of the face on Mars. This pair can be viewed the same way one views an holusion, by "staring through the paper," that is, by training the left eye on the left image and the right eye on the right image. If the reader cannot get the hang of that technique, try placing an envelope edge-on along the black line separating the two pictures and placing the tip of one's nose and forehead against the other end of the envelope so that the left eye can only see the left picture and the right eye can only see the right image. The eyes should naturally merge the two images into one three-dimensional image.

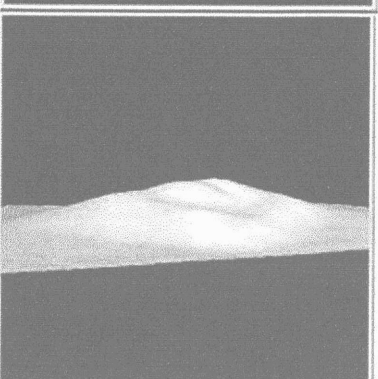
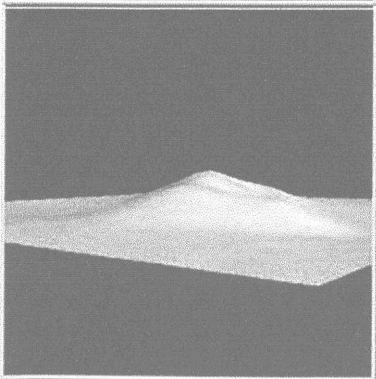
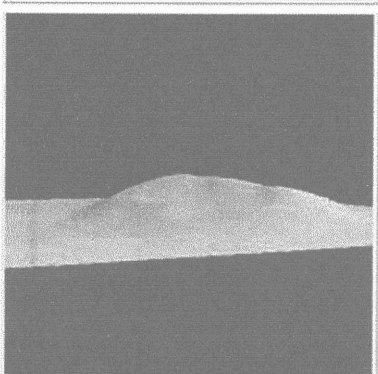
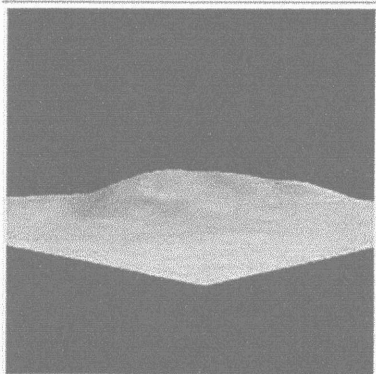
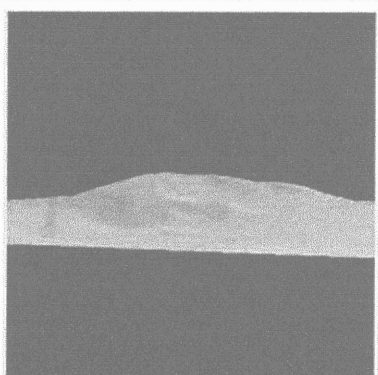
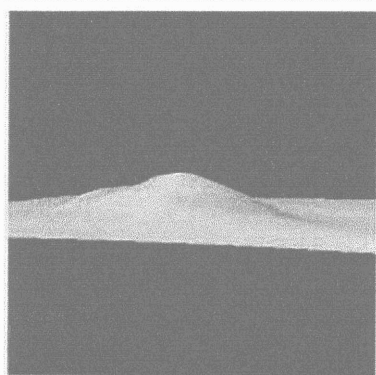
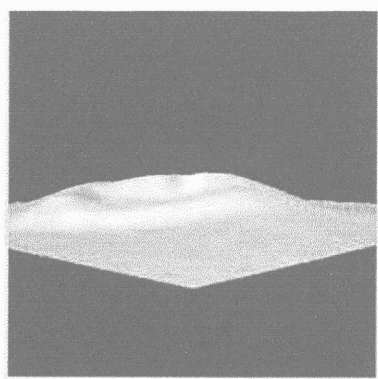
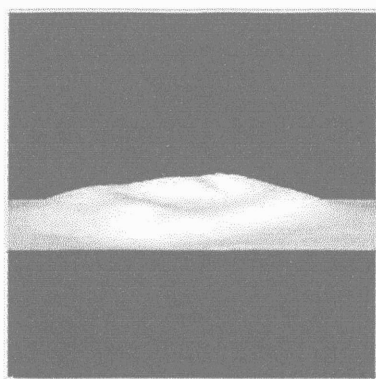


FIGURE 3: (at left) consists of eight frames from a computer-generated animation of a flight around the face. The cut in the middle of the mountain (1500 feet or 500 meters high) forms the nose and the gentle grey areas to the left form the eyes. The top left view is from the west, the top right is from the south-west, the third frame is from the south, etc. The last frame strongly suggests a volcano which had blown up one side of itself such as Mt. Saint Helen did in the early eighties.

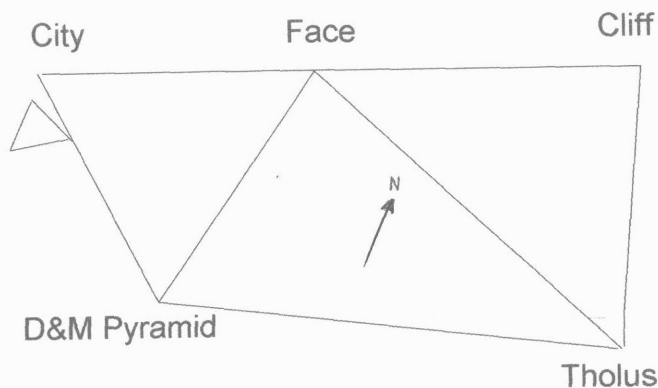


FIGURE 4: The major alignments according to Hoagland's Mars Mission group.

One intriguing aspect of Hoagland's speculations is his use of the angle 19.5° in analyzing the site. This led him to the discovery that if the apex of a tetrahedron is at the pole inside a sphere, then the three points of the base will touch the surface of the sphere 19.5° below the equator. From this he speculates that there is something special about that latitude and correlates it with the vulcanism of the Hawaiian Islands (actually, 19.5° is just south of Hilo), the Olympus Mons volcano on Mars, the Great Red Spot on Jupiter, and another large spot on Neptune. To this I may note that such is fine and well, but if the tetrahedron is the key form, then we should expect three major features to lie 120° apart on each 19.5° latitude: not just one spot but six in all for $\pm 19.5^\circ$. So far, no luck.

Figure 5 superimposes some of Hoagland's lines on a NASA composite of the site. Hoagland's main triangle is the one which goes from D&M (point 1) to the Face (F) to point K beyond the City (C) and back to D&M. A close examination of the D&M pyramid reveals that it is not a

regular polyhedron. At best, two of the sides are longer than the other three. Indeed, the vertices or edges may number 4, not 5. The only clear, linear edge is along line V in Fig. 5. The regular pentagonal rays are there labeled V, W, X, Y and Z; but in none of the photos is there definitive proof that edge Y exists. Indeed, in the highest resolution photos there appears to be a small pyramid in a valley where Y should be.

Figure 5 also points out a problem with the Mars Mission group's analysis. The edge (X) does not point to the face. It runs almost a mile to the west of the face. In order to fit his triangle in, Hoagland has to play loose with the edge of the pyramid but also with the tip of the triangle at K, where there is located no object. To cover that up, Hoagland uses large, colored angles of the size represented by the arc at K in Fig. 5. Yet he claims enough accuracy to detect angles to within half a degree ($19^{\circ}.5$ above). It would be reasonable to suppose that the K vertex should be at the pyramid south-west of the city C, where the "o" is located; but doing so gives a triangle which misses the face completely (short dashed lines).

Finally the margin of error in the alignment of the eyes of the face and the city is sketched by the two lines running out to the Cliff, C'. The error therein can hardly establish the claim that the sun would have risen in the cleft in the face as seen from the city at any time, half a million years ago or more.

In preparation for this article I reviewed all the photos in *Mars As Viewed By Mariner 9* (NASA, 1974. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.)¹ I saw several features which with less imagination than used by Hoagland could be interpreted as pyramids (e.g., p. 84, 44°N , 330°W ; IPL 1417/224259). Some crude alignments could be imagined, and a triangle is always possible, as long as the mounts are not

1. This was the only set of Mars pictures at hand and the book does not cover the face area, but that makes it a completely blind comparison. If I can find comparable pyramids in a random selection of photos, such as presented in this book, the pyramidal mountains might not be as rare as claimed. Indeed, I did find that the regions where I know them to be found have eroded mesas such as the Slab immediately west of point 6 in Figure 5. Just what the correlation is, I do not know. It may be related to successive melting and refreezing of the surface of permafrost.

collinear. This result weakens the uniqueness of the D&M feature.

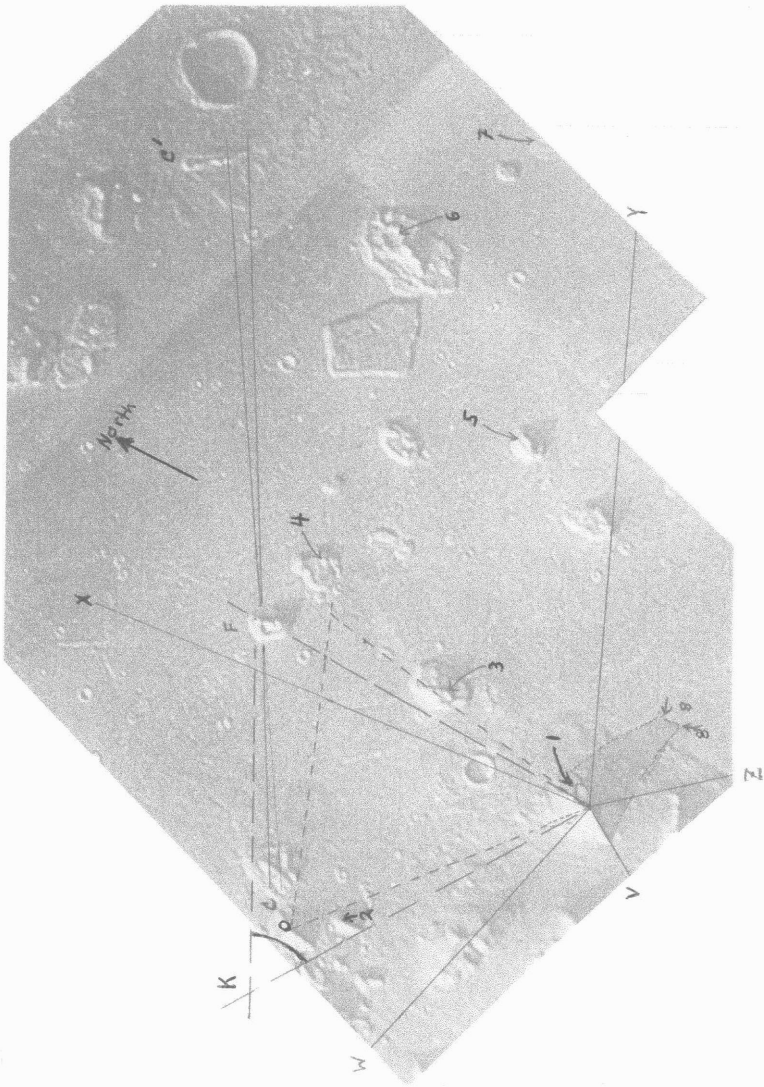


FIGURE 5: The true geometric alignments and features ignored by Hoagland et al.

The most telling features are pointed to by the numbers in Figure 5. Number 1 is near the peak of D&M. I've enhanced the outline in this figure, but the computer-enhanced photos have a definite hint of a crater at the top. This is not characteristic of pyramid builders but is characteristic of volcanic cinder cones. To emphasize the reality of the crater, note the shadow of D&M which I've also outlined. The two points marked 8 start and end the shadow of the crater. The points marked 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are all craters. Of these, 2 and 7 (Tholus) figure in the alignments proposed by the Mars Mission group as intelligently laid out. The cliff (C') also figures prominently in the mythos of the region, but the alignments claimed for it require some real fudging of the truth, particularly, instead of all alignments passing through one point on the face, as would be expected if intelligent design for our education was intended, Hoagland calls it a correlation if any region on the face is crossed by the line. It is interesting that the large six-sided "pyramid" (letter o), just to the southwest of the city C, does not figure at all in the Mars Mission alignments: even though it is the second largest of the pyramids and is the only one which comes to a sharp point (according to its shadow). The smallest and faintest of three tiny white spots (hills) just to the south of the second pyramid does figure prominently in the alignments, being the source for no fewer than four lines (to the northern crater on the cliff while crossing the center of the Face, to the southern tip of the cliff while crossing just below the Face, to the crater in Tholus — no. 7, Fig. 5, — and finally to the peak of D&M which line extends also to K). Only two of the tips on the small triangle at the far left in Fig. 4 match two mountains. There is no feature at the third, southernmost.

On the basis of the accurate measurements presented here, versus the "enhanced" forms presented by the Mars Mission group, and on the presence of craters at or near the peaks of most of the mounts, and on the basis of the three-dimensional scan of the face, as presented on page 8, we are forced to conclude that the so-called monuments on Mars are natural features. Why, then, one might ask, would otherwise intelligent men persist in their faith that extraterrestrials constructed an elaborate edifice on Mars just to "educate" mankind? The reasons are not too difficult to discover. First of all, education is seen by the world as its only hope for salvation. People have been told that so often that they believe it. But education offers no hope. Belief that education does offer hope only sets an individual up to brainwashing and slavery. We see this in the U.S.A. since God was kicked out of the schools and government in

1963. Education went out the window, as they say. Standardized test scores have declined steadily. They've dropped so low that the standards have been lowered twice since 1964. The last time, two or three years ago, the scores were reset to ca. 1965 levels, but the competence was still way, way, down. Of course, the government schools could now claim that scores were up, but they weren't really. Jesus Christ said "I am the way, the truth and the life." If he is not allowed in the schools then the schools will not allow truth, and, indeed, it is now taught that truth is nothing more than the opinion of the majority; that it is an absolute truth that there is no absolute truth. If Jesus Christ is not allowed in the schools, then they will not allow the way: of salvation in particular and the correct way of doing science, politics, sociology, morality, etc. in general. If God is kicked out of the schools, then they will only be left with death: kids killing other kids and teachers, the murder of babies (abortion on demand, tossing the newborn in the trash can at the senior prom, etc.), drugs overdoses and killings for drugs, etc. The schools will have nothing more to teach but sodomy, whose practitioners die at an average age of 43 years instead of the national average of heterosexuals 76.

Without God, it will happen in the U.S.A. what happened in atheistic and Catholic Central and South America, Philippines, Mexico, Spain, Angola, etc. that more people have been murdered by their governments this century than in all civil and international wars combined in the history of the world. It is clear that the only hope lies in God and no other; in the name of Jesus Christ, for there is no other name in heaven or earth whereby men can be saved. The Godless mess which promotes these things is called the New Age. It is nothing more than the Old Occult Satanism. The truth will not be believed. Do you dare to believe it, gentle reader? I trust so.

Figure 3 is based on an animation. The animation is an MPEG file and may be obtained from the ABA at cost for \$2.00 postpaid (USA and Canada, \$4 elsewhere) on a 3.5-inch IBM formatted diskette. We can send it free of charge by e-mail (see inside cover for particulars) to any who request it. This is the only way we can provide it to Macintosh and Unix users. Members may deduct \$1.00 from the cost.