

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 69

Thor's Day, June 16, 2005

Contact email: info@runestone.com

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! They can do so by going to AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

ANCIENT EUROPE COMING OUT OF THE DARK

We face many obstacles when we try convincing people to take Germanic religion seriously. One of the greatest is the common impression that our pre-Christian ancestors were primitive, ignorant, or both. After all, how can we look to savages for guidance in spiritual issues or anything else?

Archeology constantly refutes this flawed argument, but science never quite seems to catch up with the lie: that advanced cultures originated only in the East, and gradually spread the gifts of civilization to Europe. This theory, once held by many scholars, is known as "ex oriente lux," or "light from the East."

While the media often promotes negative stereotypes of early Europeans, the game of demeaning anything produced by our northwest European, non-Christian ancestors is really a very old one. It was in full swing long before the first television set flickered into existence - or before the invention of moveable type, for that matter.

During the heyday of the Roman Empire, anything Roman was thought to be better than its equivalent in the Germanic or Celtic worlds. This bias applied to material products, philosophy, and language. High-born Britons went around giving the Roman salute and greeting each other with "Ave!" When the remnants of the Empire were taken over by the Christian church, this trend only intensified: Anything Christian, or better yet Christian and Roman, was good. The culture of the non-Christian lands of northwestern Europe was thought to be inferior.

This attitude continues, with minor modifications, down to the present. Students are taught that Western Civilization springs from the Greeks and Romans, modified by the Christian and Jewish religions. Europe north of the Alps was a barbarian wasteland and contributed nothing of importance to our cultural inheritance. Transalpine material

culture was crude, its manners uncouth - so, obviously, the spiritual conceptions of its inhabitants were likewise childish and brutal.

All of this should have changed when scientists recalibrated the Carbon 14 dating system in the late 1960's. Comparing very old tree ring records with Carbon 14 readings from the wood itself, they found that the native cultures of Europe were much older than previously thought. The dates for the construction of Stonehenge and other European megalithic structures, for example, were pushed thousands of years into the past. It turned out that they were older than similar sites in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The conclusion that advanced cultures had evolved independently in Europe rather than being derived from the "superior" cultures of the eastern Mediterranean was unavoidable.

All this is described in an article in the November, 1977 issue of National Geographic titled "Ancient Europe is Older Than We Thought."

Have the textbooks picked up this information, almost thirty years later? In a word, no. The textbook industry, usually so quick to reinforce the political and cultural ideology of the moment, has for some reason failed to report these findings. We - or rather, the host culture in which we are embedded - seem incapable of saying anything good about the peoples and cultures of northern Europe.

This bias has hurt our attempts to revive the faith and folkway of the Germanic peoples. Since our ancestors were obviously stupid, or at best merely ignorant, they have nothing to say to modern man. Their brains didn't work as well as the gray matter of those Mediterraneans and Middle Easterners. Truth and wisdom is found in Christianity and Judaism. (Islam, at the moment, is somewhat unpopular - but still acknowledged to have a higher level of development than those crude Germans and Celts.)

We ought to note the irony of this anti-European prejudice. Westerners are accused of denigrating the accomplishments of almost all other peoples - Africans, Asians, American Indians, anyone not like us. Yet this is exactly what we have done to our own ancestors! The scientifically bankrupt "ex oriente lux" ideology has "Third World-ized" the tribes and peoples north of the Mediterranean fringe. This is done with the full approval of a political and educational establishment that does not tolerate the mistreatment of other cultures. Clearly, there is a fairness issue here.

It is our duty to correct this situation, and to shine a deserving light of glory on our ancestral inheritance in both its material and spiritual manifestations.

The information contained in the next article can be an addition to our intellectual arsenal as we continue this battle.

EUROPE'S OLDEST CIVILIZATION?

News of Europe's oldest civilization has emerged from announcements in the press over the last few weeks.

Seven thousand years ago, two thousand years before Stonehenge or the pyramids, a network of huge religious complexes stretched across central Europe. More than 150 of these sites have been discovered, each characterized by massive earthworks stretching for up to half a mile in length. They are surrounded by longhouses up to 50 meters long, and the scope of the projects indicate a high level of social organization. They may be the product of pan-tribal alliances, or prototypical European states.

Chief archeologist for the three-year project defining this ancient culture was Harald Staeuble, of the Saxony state government heritage department.

Googling "Saxony" plus "Harald Staeuble" produced a handful of returns, including <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,1564,1611474,00.html>

Titled "Europe's Eastern German Cradle?" it begins with this sentence: "While Greece and Italy have so far laid claim to Europe's oldest civilizations, Germany's struggling eastern regions seem set to challenge this."

The truth is on our side. We need only spread the word

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO SAVE NORWAY'S WOLVES!

The AFA's project to help save the last of Norway's wolves is a battle for the wildness in our own souls.

Kimberley Remen, our representative in Norway, is at the front of that struggle. Since our last update, a volunteer has offered help on a web site to promote the project. Kimberley is working on an online petition, and it should be ready to post within a few days. Contacts with various Norwegian organizations continues.

We can use your help now! If you would be willing to sign a petition, send a letter, make a donation, or otherwise take action on behalf of Norway's desperately endangered wolves, please email Kimberley@troi.ws to find out how you can help.

RUNE AND LORE CLASSES

The AFA sponsors twice-monthly classes on the runes and on Eddic lore in the Sacramento area. Anyone interested in attending can contact us at afa@lanset.com.

AFA MEMBERSHIP

Do you want to make a difference?

The mission of the AFA is “to practice, promote, and further evolve the religion of Asatru, thus forging it into a powerful and effective tool for building a better world.” If that pretty much describes your own attitude, then AFA membership is a logical next step.

How can you sign up? One way is to read the relevant documents on the AFA website (<http://runestone.org>), download an application form, and send in your dues. Or if that doesn't work for you, write us and we will happily send you a membership packet by regular mail.

DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible.

ODIN LIVES!

The groundbreaking radio program Odin Lives! is broadcast every Thursday night at 8 PM Eastern Time on a frequency of 7.415 MHz. This broadcast is repeated the next Tuesday morning at 12:15 AM on the same frequency. You can learn more by going to their web site at <http://www.odinlives.org>.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 21 - Midsummer. This is the sun's moment of greatest glory, and the time of longest daylight. After today, the sun's decline begins. Decorate your house with sunwheels. Build a bonfire, or if that's not possible, burn a candle in honor of Sunna, the Sun.

July 9 - Day of Remembrance for Unn the Deep Minded. Unn was a strong-willed matriarch who established dynasties in the Orkneys, Faroes, and Iceland. Do something to make your own family line stronger and more permanent. Recall the deep-minded women of your clan today.

August 9 - Day of Remembrance for King Radbod. This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld our ancestral faith in his land, against great pressure. Pour a

libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, “Giver of Freedom” and declare yourself free from alien creeds.

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE UPDATES?
Please refer him or her to AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.runestone.org>.