

by Paul G. Bahn

Cave art provides a tantalizing glimpse of our ancient past and forms our most direct link to the beliefs and preoccupations of Paleolithic people.

Authoritative and wide-ranging, Journey Through the Ice Age uses the most advanced analytical techniques in archaeology to describe the varied backgrounds of the sites and to discuss the enigmas and mysteries surrounding them. Paul Bahn traces the study of Paleolithic art from its origins in the 19th century and brings the latest theories to bear on discoveries old and newincluding Russian caves (only recently accessible to foreign specialists) and caves in western Europe. Among the latter are the spectacular recent finds at Cosquer, Chauvet, and Covaciella. Bahn also explores portable art objects.

The unsurpassed photography of the late Jean Vertut takes us as close as most of us will ever get to the remarkable art of our ancestors.

University of California Press, 1997, 240 pages, 91/4" x 111/2", hardcover, \$39.95

The Complete Pyramids by Mark Lehner

Egyptologist Mark Lehner presents the first fully illustrated compendium of the major pyramids of ancient Egypt. In unprecedented detail, he illustrates the practical aspects—the quarries, ramps, and tools used in construction—as well as the conceptual-the iconography of the pyramids, their relation to cosmology, and the intriguing pyramid texts. In addi-

tion to providing accounts of builders, looters, explorers, and great expeditions, Lehner explains the rituals and mythology surrounding the death and burial of ancient Egyptian pharaohs. New computer reconstructions showing how the pyramids were built round out the volume.

Thames and Hudson, 1997, 256 pages, 7 3/4 x 10 1/4, hardcover, \$34.95.

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Science News Books

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Traces of the Past by Joseph Lambert Unraveling the Secrets of Archaeology Through Chemistry

Where did Stonehenge's giant blue stones come from? Was the fall of the Roman Empire hastened by lead poisoning? How did amber get from the Baltic to Belize?

In exploring these and other historical enigmas, Joseph Lambert brings the science of chemistry to bear on anthropology and archaeology.

Using scientific methods such as radiocarbon dating, DNA analysis, and elemental fingerprinting, Lambert expertly details rich insights into ancient life that chemistry alone can provide. In the process, he also shows how early humans were molecular transformers

Addison-Wesley, 1997, 319 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$30.00.

Secrets of Lost Empires Video Collection

To uncover the secrets of ancient engineering, NOVA sent teams of experts to five archaeological sites to actually test their building hypotheses—using traditional techniques.

In Pyramid, Egyptologist Mark Lehner, stonemason Roger Hopkins, and a team of Egyptian workers face a daunting task: construction of an 18-foot stone puramid in 3 weeks.

Obelisk again assigns Lehner and Hopkins, but this time, their mission is to show how a colossal obelisk could have been guarried, chiseled, shipped up the Nile, and erected on a base—using only stones, ropes, logs, dirt, and lots of human effort.

Colosseum travels to the famous Roman amphitheater where historian Rainer Graefe has to come up with a design for a giant canopy from the riggings of ancient sails. In Stonehenge, Hopkins joins archaeologist Julian Richards and engineer

Mark Whitby in an effort to reconstruct a Stonehengelike structure using only Stone Age tools.

In Inca, a team of experts chips away at some theories about the construction of the earthquake-enduring structures high in the Andes as local villagers construct a 100-foot suspension bridge using nothing but grass.

For centuries we have striven to understand the purpose of Stonehenge,

His discussion is tempered with meticulous analysis of ancient earth-

they were directed at the heavens in a scientific way, to the rising and

setting of the stars, the sun, and the moon. His implications also run

contrary to received wisdom: He argues that Stonehenge was dedicat-

WGBH, NOVA, 1997, 5 VHS videos run approx. 60 minutes each. Boxed set. \$69.95



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Stonehenge by John North

E-mail: snbooks@sciserv.org Fax: 202-785-1242

ed to observation not of the rising midsummer sun but of the setting midwinter sun. Free Press, 1997, 609 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$35.00.