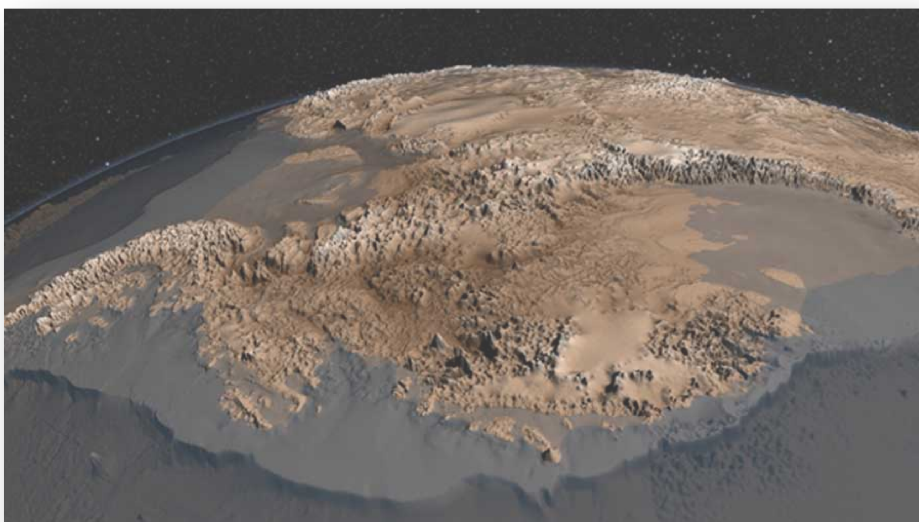


## Shifting Earth Crusts: Does the Ancient Piri Reis Map Pinpoint Atlantis?

*Jim Willis*

A master's degree post graduate from Harvard University, Charles Hapgood served on what would eventually become the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and was a liaison officer between the White House and the Secretary of War. He wrote a book about earth crustal displacement - that featured a Forward written by Albert Einstein - and possessed an open, inquiring mind that was suspect to mainstream academia. His Wikipedia biography says his ideas: "were never accepted as valid competing scientific hypotheses, yet [they] have found popularity in alternative circles."



The bedrock topography of Antarctica, critical to understand dynamic motion of the continental ice sheets  
(NASA/Public Domain)

## Continental Drifts Abound

While a professor at Springfield College, one of his students asked a question concerning the lost continent of Mu. He welcomed such inquiries and used the question as a springboard to talk about his Atlantis theory. When the class responded favorably, he decided to investigate the possibility of a historical catastrophe that might have occurred within the span of human life on the planet. By 1958 he had learned enough to write a book called *The Earth's Shifting Crust*. That was the book that eventually caught the attention of Albert Einstein. In it Hapgood questioned the theory of continental drift and instead proposed that at various times in the past the entire surface of the earth had shifted: "just as the peel of an orange might shift around the orange itself."

One of his arguments concerned the existence of ancient maps that show a world quite different from the one we know today. In 1966 he wrote *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age*, which he followed in 1968 with *The Path of the Pole*. The crux of Hapgood's argument is based on a series of maps that, at the very least, raise some interesting questions. One of them is called the Piri Reis map.

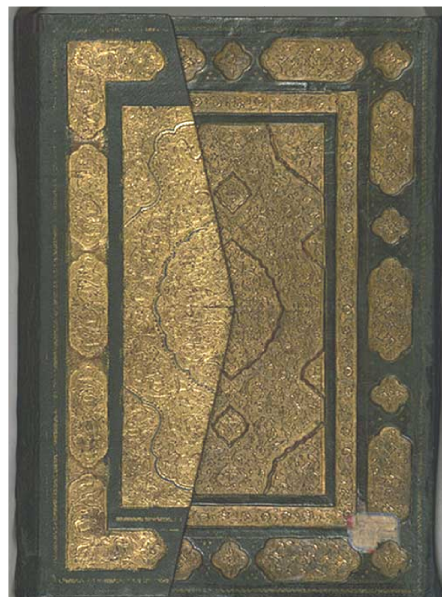


Surviving fragment of the Piri Reis map showing the Central and South American coast. The appended notes say "the map of the western lands drawn by Columbus" (Public Domain)

## The Piri Reis Map

Piri Reis was a Turkish admiral who lived between 1470 and 1554. Born in Gallipoli, which was a naval base of the Marmara Sea, he was a son of the pirate Kemal Reis, who somehow had reinvented himself as an admiral. In those days, such things were a lot easier than today. The two sailed together from 1487 to 1493. This was when Piri learned the art of naval warfare.

Kemal was killed in 1502. Piri gave up pirating and began a second career as a mapmaker. He was a stickler for detail, and in 1513 he created his famous map based on a chart captured from Christopher Columbus. It was standard practice in those days to throw charts overboard if your ship was captured and boarded. Columbus, or one of his captains, was not quite quick enough when he was boarded by the Turkish navy, and Reis later got hold of a crucial map at the Imperial Library at Constantinople, which was one of the great learning centers of his age.



Book on Navigation by Piri Reis (circa 1467 – circa 1554 )(Walters Art Museum)  
(Public Domain)

On February 27, 1932, an issue of the Illustrated London News featured an article entitled A Columbus Controversy: America - And Two Atlantic Charts." The article reveals that: "Columbus got little further than the mouth of the Orinoco, in Venezuela, in his voyage along the coast of South America in 1498, so that the stretches of the South American coast given in the Piri Reis chart must have been copied from other sources."



Statue of Piri Reis (CC BY-SA 4.0)

In August of 1956, Captain Arlington Mallery decided to look into the Piri Reis map to determine what its source might have been. His friend M.I. Walters initially drew his attention to something so revolutionary that at first he did not want to share it with the public. But, as he later explained, on a radio show sponsored by Georgetown University in which both he and Walters were interviewed, in 1954 at the Library of Congress, Walters had handed him:

*"... a copy of a map drawn by a Turkish naval officer ... After making an analysis of it, I took it back to him and requested that the officer check both the latitude and longitude and the projection. When they asked why, I said, "There is something in this map that no one is going to believe coming from me, and I don't know whether they will believe it coming from you." That was the fact that*



*Columbus had with him a map that showed accurately the Palmer Peninsula in the Antarctic continent."*

As reported by Rand and Rose Flem-Ath in their wonderful book, *Beneath the Ice: The Fate of the Lost Continent*, a transcript of the radio show is nothing less than shocking:

HOST: You say that these maps have been checked by the Hydrographic Office of the U.S. Navy?

WALTERS: Yes.

HOST: As far as you are concerned, are they accurate?

WALTERS: Yes, they are.

HOST: How old are the maps?

WALTERS: These maps go back 5,000 years and even earlier. But they contain data that go back many thousands of years previous to that."

Walters (then) remarked on the comparisons between the Piri Reis Map and the newly (1954) discovered sub-glacial features of the Queen Maud region of Antarctica: "We have taken the old charts and the new charts that the Hydrographic Office produces today and made comparisons of the soundings of salient peaks and mountains. We have found them to be in astounding agreement. In this way, we have checked the old work very closely. We put very much confidence in what Captain Mallery has disclosed."

HOST: Mr. Mallery, this must then lead to the conclusion that there were competent explorers and map makers along the coast of the Atlantic long before Columbus.

MALLERY: Several thousand years before. Not only explorers, but they must also have had a very competent and far-flung hydrographic organization, because you cannot map as large a continent as Antarctica as we know they did—probably 5,000 years ago. It can't be done by any single individual or small group of explorers. It means an aggregation of skilled scientists who are familiar with astronomy as well as the methods required for topographic surveying."



Christopher Columbus, on his ship, admonishes his men for their lack of courage (Wellcome Images)



## Antarctica Revealed

So Columbus had access to charts not only of the "new" world, but also of Antarctica! However it all came together, Reis managed to compile what is now recognized as one of the oldest maps known to exist. He drew it on a gazelle skin that has been dated to the year 1513. In the margins he wrote a series of notes in which he confessed that the map was a copy of a much older document, now lost. His map was filed away and not seen again until its discovery. It shows the western coast of Africa, the eastern coast of South America, and the northern coastline of Antarctica.

That is what makes this map so special. The continent of Antarctica was not discovered until 300 years after Reis drew his map. What is even more amazing is that Antarctica has been covered by glaciers for thousands of years. The area around what we now call Queen Maude Land, shown in complete detail in Reis' map, could not possibly have been ice-free for at least 6,000 years.

The question becomes obvious. How could anyone have charted a coast that is buried by a glacier, especially one that was not discovered until 300 years after it was mapped? Traditional science insists that the rest of the area illustrated by the map has been submerged by the polar ice cap for at least a few million years. But the Piri Reis Map shows topography in vivid detail. Only recently have our high-tech instruments mapped a land surface beneath the glacier.

Antarctica. An orthographic projection of NASA's Blue Marble data set (1 km resolution global satellite composite) (Dave Pape/Public Domain)



Traditionalists claim that our civilization arose in the Middle East about 5,000 years ago and that the continent of Antarctica has been buried by an ice sheet for at least the last 4,000 years, probably much more. So, who drew the map the Reis copied in Constantinople in the year 1513? When one of Hapgood's students told him about the radio show, he decided he needed to confirm all this information himself. The results were verified by the Cartographic staff of the Strategic Air Command, or the SAC. They sent him the following letter on July 6, 1960:

Dear Professor Hapgood,

Your request for evaluating certain unusual features of the Piri Reis World Map of 1513 by this organization has been reviewed.

The claim that the lower part of the map portrays the Princess Martha coast of Queen Maud Land, Antarctica, and the Palmer Peninsula is reasonable. We find this the most logical and in all probability the correct interpretation of the map.

The geographic detail shown in the lower part of the map agrees very remarkably with the results of the seismic profile made across the top of the ice cap by the Swedish-British-Norwegian Expedition of 1949.

This indicates the coast line had been mapped before it was covered by the ice cap.

The ice cap in this region is now about a mile thick. We have no idea how the data on this map can be reconciled with the supposed state of geographic knowledge in 1513.

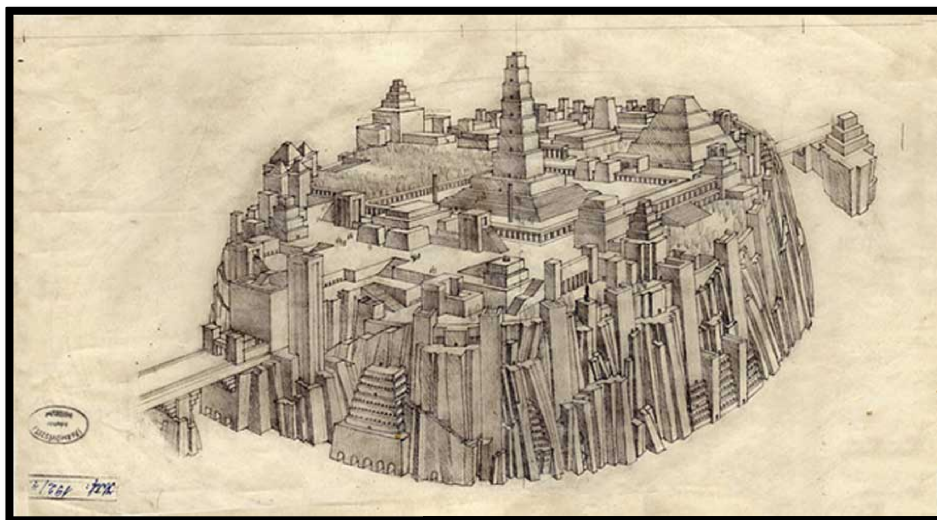
*HAROLD Z. OHLMEYER*

*Lt. Colonel, USAF*

*Commander*

### Was Antarctica Atlantis?

Hapgood came to believe that Antarctica had been charted by an ancient Ice Age civilization. But when those ancient explorers mapped it, it lay about 2,000 miles (321.8 kilometers) north of where it is now. It was then ice free. At some forgotten point in time an earth-crust shift occurred and it was sent very suddenly south into frigid latitudes, where it quickly developed the ice covering it sustains to this day. He went on to suggest that some of its inhabitants, who were probably out at sea at the time, witnessed the destruction of their homeland, and resigned themselves to spread out to various points on the earth where stone age cultures existed that might serve as a place to begin anew.



Géza Maróti's plan of Atlantis mock-up (Public Domain)

Hapgood called the lost civilization, Atlantis. Could it be that the mythical continent of Atlantis actually existed, and that it is now buried under a mile of ice in Antarctica? What about today? Is there any evidence except for old maps that a lost civilization once

existed where today there is only rapidly melting ice?

Beginning in 2016, claims have been coming and going on the Internet reporting that NASA photographs and Google Earth have photos identifying a massive underground feature that appears to be of human construction. Global warming has melted a lot of the ice that covers this area of the world, and pictures galore now show what appear to be pyramids and 14-mile-long (22.53 kilometers) structures, 'proving' all sorts of theories ranging from ancient aliens to governmental cover-ups. The most urgent is a video supposedly left behind, whatever that means, by a California TC crew who went missing and have not been seen since 2002. Many believe the Nazis knew about these claims and established a base there before World War II. UFO sightings abound. John Kerry, the former senator and secretary of state, recently visited Antarctica in what some claim to be a secret mission. As in all conspiracy scenarios, everyone from the Illuminati to almost every secret society ever invented knows about this.

All this speculation almost served to detract, rather than add, to the fact that there is something strange about the lost history of Antarctica. The fact is that there are ancient maps showing it ice free. How could that have happened? There is just no way of knowing right now. But with all the focused attention the place is now receiving, one cannot help but think that it is only a matter of time before something is revealed. When it is, it might just prove to be spectacular!

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