

### About the Author



Previously Head of Department of *Coleg Ceredigion*, **Robin Heath** has a science degree and was previously a research and development engineer in the electronics industry, prior to a 15 year career as Senior Lecturer in Mathematics and Engineering. Now an internationally published author on the subject of ancient science, he is well known and widely respected on the UK lecture circuit and has recently been awarded an Honorary Research Fellowship within the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

An active researcher, the author also undertakes weekend site instruction in archaeoastronomy for *Sky & Landscape*, and has been consultant for several television documentaries and to Ouroboros Educational Trust.

This is his ninth book to date. Enjoy!

New Publication (June 2007)

## ALEXANDER THOM

### Cracking the Stone Age Code

by

Robin Heath

245 by 165mm, 256 pages, over 150 photographs & illustrations.  
Colour cover, softback. RRP £14.99.

ISBN 978-0-9526151-4-9

Availability: Through distributors, signed copies direct.

Professor Alexander Thom was one of the foremost scientists and engineers of the last century. Once Chair of Engineering Science at Brasenose College, Oxford, following an already distinguished career in both the academic and industrial world, during the War he had been Principal Scientific Officer for the design of the High Speed Wind Tunnel at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, and had assisted Sir Barnes Wallace in the design of the famous 'bouncing bomb' of Dambuster's fame.

From 1934, Thom became interested in the megalithic culture that had erected the stone circles, rows and other monuments in Neolithic and Bronze Age Britain. He began to accurately survey these sites, and in 1967 published *Megalithic Sites in Britain* (Oxford) where he claimed the builders had been skilled surveyors and astronomers, and had used an accurate unit of length to mark out their constructions throughout Britain, a length he called the Megalithic yard (2.72 feet or 0.829m). Thom also discovered that they were using a geometry based on right-angled 'Pythagorean' triangles, triangles whose sides were whole numbers of this same Megalithic yard, or subdivisions or multiples of it. He also proposed that they were observing both the sun and moon using precision alignments to identified sites or natural features on a distant horizon. He even showed that they could have predicted eclipses.

The book was described by archaeologist Professor Richard Atkinson as 'a well-constructed time-bomb dropped through the letterbox of archaeology', and it caused a huge rumpus within the profession. Thom had demonstrated that there was a huge missing component in our understanding of the Megalithic culture, one that archaeologists had totally missed, and that our model of prehistory was flawed and hopelessly inadequate.

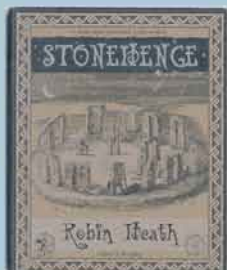
In 1970, The BBC made a full-length documentary about Thom under its flagship 'Chronicle' series. Magnus Magnusson amiably presented Thom's discoveries for the first time to a non-specialist audience. Once out in the open, the archaeologists increasingly closed ranks while the informed public were enthralled. Despite the top statistician of the day validating the Megalithic yard at the Royal Society and British Academy, and despite several leading archaeologists supporting Thom, he was increasingly marginalised, airbrushed from the subject and forgotten. Apart from the *Chronicle* documentary, Thom's story has never properly been told *until now*.

*Alexander Thom - Cracking the Stone Age Code* takes this fascinating subject beyond Thom's lifetime, the author showing how and why the archaeology profession missed a huge opportunity to embrace a remarkable aspect of our prehistoric past, one which carries huge implications for our modern culture.

## OTHER AVAILABLE BOOKS BY ROBIN HEATH

B  
L  
U  
E  
S  
T  
O  
N  
E  
  
P  
R  
E  
S  
S

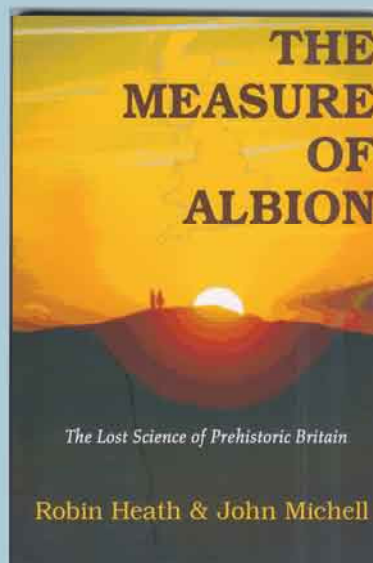
B  
L  
U  
E  
S  
T  
O  
N  
E  
  
P  
R  
E  
S  
S



£4.99



£4.99



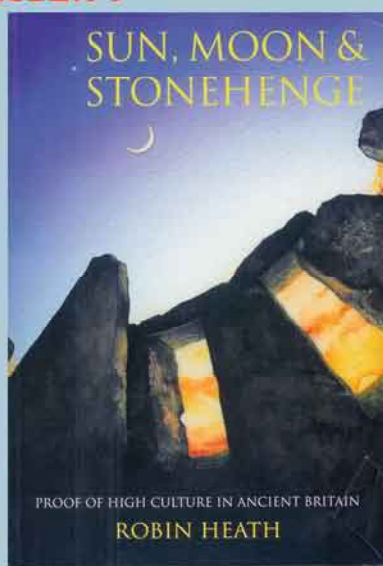
All these titles are available  
by post from this website  
or from our distributors:

£12.99

[www.skyandlandscape.com](http://www.skyandlandscape.com)

Megalithic weekends - site visits and workshops

£12.99



£9.95



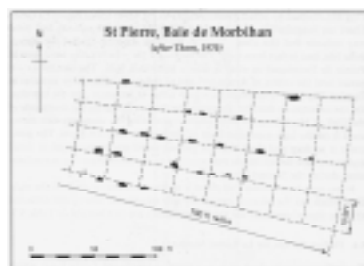
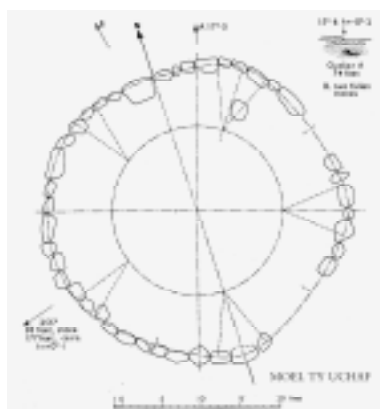
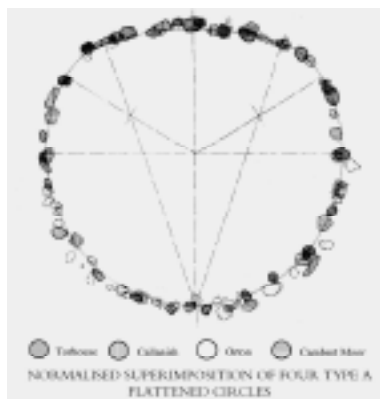
### Bibliography

- 1990 *Sun, Moon, Man, Woman* (Bluestone - out of print)
- 1993 *A Key to Stonehenge* (Bluestone -out of print)
- 1998 *Sun, Moon & Stonehenge* (Bluestone)
- 1999 *Stone Circles : A Beginner's Guide* (Hodder Headline)
- 1999 *Sun, Moon and Earth* (Wooden Books) - available in seven languages
- 2000 *Stonehenge* (Wooden Books) - available in five languages
- 2004 *The Measure of Albion* (coauthored with John Michell) (Bluestone)
- 2005 *Powerpoints* (Bluestone)
- 2007 *Alexander Thom - Cracking the Stone Age Code* (Bluestone)



# ALEXANDER THOM - CRACKING THE STONE AGE CODE

Alexander Thom  
(1894 - 2005)



- A Scot, born in Argyllshire  
Renowned Scientist and Engineer  
Adept Astronomer and Surveyor  
A Pioneer of Archaeoastronomy who;
- (a) Surveyed over 500 megalithic sites
  - (b) Discovered the *Megalithic yard*, the unit of length used to lay out the stone circles, including Stonehenge, Avebury & Callanish
  - (c) Found that the builders were using complex geometry based on 'Pythagorean' right-angled triangles (integral sides) to lay out ellipses, flattened circles, 'eggs' and compound structures,
  - (d) Showed that the builders were measuring the cycles of the Sun and Moon using precision observatories in order to establish an accurate synchronised calendar throughout Britain and Brittany before 2000 BC,
  - (e) Measured accurately over 100 cup and ring marks in order to establish that the megalithic yard had been subdivided into forty 'inches'.
  - (f) Discovered sites throughout Britain and Brittany where the extreme risings and setting of the Moon were being observed and where eclipses could thereby have been predicted in advance.
  - (g) Discovered sites adjacent to the lunar observatories that were 'computers' to calculate where the moon would rise and set.
  - (h) Undertook the first accurate surveys of Stonehenge, Avebury, the Carnac Alignments, Callanish and Castle Rigg,
  - (i) Discovered evidence that the megalithic builders had understood the concept of latitude and had built proof of this into some of their monuments, through their location and design,
  - (j) Created single-handedly almost the entire subject of modern archaeoastronomy.

In the extensive seven-year research undertaken for this book, Robin Heath was given full access to Thom's own family photographs and survey plans, thanks to the generosity of his surviving family members. Many of the photographs in the book have never before been published, and many of the plans appear in print for the first time, explained simply for the non-technical.

Here is Thom, the man; Thom's research, his plans and conclusions, placed alongside the objections made by his critics, who are extensively quoted through the journals of the time. An entire chapter is devoted to how and why the archaeological profession disposed of the evidence Thom had placed in front of them, a revealing account of how change cannot happen when careers are at stake, and dogma threatened.

Find out why this subject has disappeared off the radar, such that there is almost no educational information available at the leading prehistoric heritage sites of Britain concerning any astronomical or geometrical intent built into these monuments. A national scandal? Find out!

*"At last, the book that Professor Thom needed in his own lifetime - a clear explanation for the non-specialist reader of his remarkable academic work on the astronomy, geometry and metrology of prehistoric sites. This is an exceptional book that prepares the way for a revival of interest in the capabilities of the megalith builders."*

Irene Earis, MA in Cultural Astronomy  
Director - Sky & Landscape Tours

Despite the evidence and this impressive list of achievements, Thom is today derided, ignored and almost completely forgotten by Archaeologists.

**Cover-up, conspiracy or was Thom just Wrong?**

*'In the course we do not consider the work of Alexander Thom and its reassessment in any detail, partly because the subject is a very technical one and partly because many of the issues are no longer of archaeological interest.'*

From the prospectus of the sole undergraduate Archaeoastronomy course in the UK, at Leicester University, under Professor Clive Ruggles, Chair of Archaeoastronomy, who wrote, in his inaugural lecture in 1997,

*"In fact, the technical concepts underlying a great deal of archaeoastronomy are really very simple."*

Confusing? Find out why and how these conflicting messages continue to emerge from within the archaeology profession which, 22 years after Thom's death they remain in total denial of his work.