



MC4 arte

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A 90' documentary film directed by Alain Tixier

# THE MYSTERY OF ETHIOPIA'S PHALLIC STONES







# THE MYSTERY

## OF ETHIOPIA'S PHALLIC STONES

### Presentation

A team of European archeologists has updated a megalithic site ten times bigger than the site of Carnac in Brittany. In a steep constriction of the Rift Valley in the very heart of Ethiopia, there stand several thousand large monoliths in unmistakable phallic forms. Their origin appears to be all the more mysterious.

A multidisciplinary archaeological team is about to carry out excavations with a view to dating this remarkable megalithic legacy abandoned by a civilization that was totally unknown to historians... Archaeologists will try to find out how and why this huge army of stone phalluses was shaped and erected in such a remote region and, more importantly, who were the actors of this amazing achievement.

### A true mystery to science

These stone phalluses, some of which measuring up to 9 meters in height and weighing over ten tons, seem to have been strewn at random by the hands of a giant. They are scattered over broad valleys in this southern part of the Highlands rising up to 2,000 and 3,000 meters in altitude.

How long have they been there? Where are the quarries that created the volcanic rock from which they were carved? How were they moved and erected in such a mountainous area? What were their symbolic, social or religious functions? Finally, and most importantly, which people or civilization could have raised such an undisciplined army of monoliths worthy of a Stanley Kubrick film?

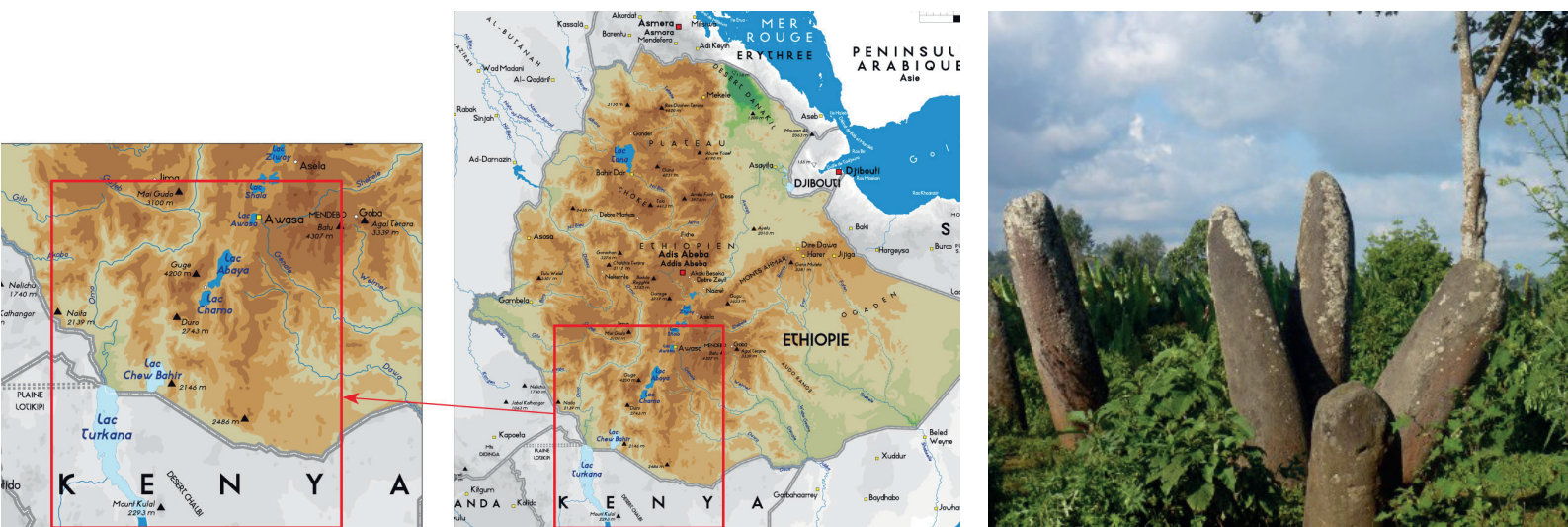
No one actually knows about it, it is a total mystery!



# The investigation

The purpose of this documentary is to carry out a comparative approach of the various assumptions with regards to the people or perhaps even the civilization who erected this monumental work, making Carnac and Stonehenge look like drafts projects in comparison.

According to the local population, only a giant could plant those huge stones. Their collective memory dates back to a few centuries only. Around 1530, a Muslim general called Mohammed Gragn (aka «The Left-handed») tried to use force to convert this part of Ethiopia to Islam. For reasons that remain unclear, he was the one who inspired this legend about the giant.



## For the scientist, two other assumptions remain open

On one hand, the Civilization of Aksum. The realm of the Queen of Sheba (1000 BCE) has been located in what is now northern Ethiopia in Aksum (where the ruins of her presumed palace have been found).

But there is another theory. Before the Aksumite kingdom, no other civilization is known to have thrived in this part of the Horn of Africa. Except, perhaps, that of Ancient Egypt! Could Egyptians have undertaken such journeys to erect or to have others erect monoliths that reminded them of the obelisks from their native land?

To unravel this mystery, an investigation led by archaeologists will take place on various sites along the Rift Valley and take us several thousand years back in time. We will follow Roger Joussaume and a team of scientists including historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and Neolithic experts during their excavations in the field.

The phallic Ethiopian stelae should reveal their secrets to the large-scale investigations conducted by Roger Joussaume's scientific teams. Throughout the process of filming, spectacular progress will be made in several fields of knowledge and allow us to shed light on the human history of one of the most beautiful countries in the world known as «The Land of Origins».





## The scientists & crew

The excavation campaign will take place from December 2017 to February 2018.

In a bid to unravel the mystery around the phallic stones of Sidamo, we will follow French and Ethiopian experts during the excavations and in their laboratories, including:



**Roger Joussaume** – prehistorian archaeologist specializing in megalithism. Mission leader for CNRS, a member of UNESCO, he has written several publications on megalithism in Ethiopia.

**Metassebia Bekele** – ethnologist, specializing in the traditions of the Konso people;

**Jean-Paul Cros** – physician and anthropologist specializing in excavations;

**Anne-Lise Goujon** – protohistorical archaeologist specializing in stelae;

**Sophie Corson** – archaeologist specializing in rock art;

**Clément Ménard** – archaeologist of the Neolithic period, specializing in the Rift Valley;

**Laurent Bruxelles** – geomorphologist specializing in stone architecture;

**Emmanuel Mens** – archaeologist specializing in environmental dating;

**Régis Bernard** – topographer;

**Jessie Cauliez** – ethno/archaeologist specializing in Neolithic pottery.



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WWW.TERRANOÀ.COM  
155 rue de Charonne - 75011 Paris - FRANCE  
contact@terranoa.com