



Can You Dig It? The Oak Island Money Pit

"And there will be things down there that you cannot imagine."

-- psychic Ray Nutt, on the Oak Island Money Pit (1976)

That seems unlikely, given what I (and several people rather more Nutt-like than I) have already imagined is down there. "Down there," of course, being at the bottom of the mysterious shaft on Oak Island, off Nova Scotia, known as the Money Pit. Not, necessarily, because there's money down there (although it's not impossible), but because millions of dollars (and six lives) have been spent trying to get down there where we can't imagine. There may not even be any "down there" down there, in fact, which means I, and the psychic Nutts, are free to dig deep and imagine whatever we like.

"I wish much I could have gone up the coast this summer and visited Oak Island and seen the work you are doing -- for I shall always be interested in that romantic spot. I hope that you will let me know how you have been getting on with modern methods . . ."

-- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, letter to Erwin H. Hamilton, August 31, 1938

The first person to imagine things about Oak Island was one Daniel McInnis (or McGuinness, or some variant). In 1795, he and two friends attempted to excavate a shallow depression where he said he'd seen a block and tackle hanging from a "burnt branch" on one of the oak trees that got the island's name changed from Gloucester Island 150 years ago. By 1805, although McInnis' group had discovered oak platforms and a flat inscribed stone (its code eventually translated as "Forty Feet Below Two Million Pounds Are Buried," the cipher stone itself conveniently disappeared), and dug 90 feet down, they had also somehow filled their shaft with seawater. Later attempts in 1849-1850, 1858, 1861-1862 (which succeeded in collapsing the original Money Pit, if such there was, into its own tunnel and caving everything in), 1866, 1891, 1897-1900 (this one including a young Franklin D. Roosevelt), 1922, 1934-1938, 1955, 1959-1960, 1965-1966, and 1970-1987 have yielded enigmatic artifacts such as watch-chain links and scraps of parchment, flooded and caved in the site beyond all recognition (one source puts the number of excavation shafts through the area at 37), and killed six people. For the thrilling details, see D'Arcy O'Connor's *The Big Dig*.

The most reasonable explanation (which, don't worry, we're going to abandon before we even get to the end of this paragraph, much less this column) is that the Money Pit is a natural sinkhole that youthful McInnis' imagination combined with legends of pirate treasure -- the "artifacts" can be easily explained as forgeries, as shipwreck fragments sucked into the sinkhole by tides, or (by now) as relics of previous excavations. The geology and stratigraphy of that part of Nova Scotia

contains plenty of other examples of shafts, wells, and caves all of which regularly flood with seawater with the tides and shifts in the water table. It's even barely possible that there was an actual cache there (buried, perhaps, 20 feet down where the boys dug through the first oak platform) at one time, and that the block and tackle showed that it had been removed. It's not even impossible that the British Navy dug a more elaborate shaft there, either as an ammunition dump or even as a holding station for the treasures of Havana, which Lord Albermarle captured for King George III in 1762 (and maybe kept a little extra out as a retirement fund).

It's highly unlikely that the various pirates associated with Oak Island in the mythology had the patience to dig all the elaborate traps and intersecting tunnels that later diggers have theorized, but if it makes you happy, there's no reason to insist that Captain Kidd didn't leave something there, once upon a time. After all, occult author Harold Wilkins produced a copy of "Captain Kidd's treasure map" which was an exact map of Oak Island, and contained cryptic instructions which actually described a series of stones in a triangle pointing to the treasure! Of course, when the excited excavator Gilbert Hedden finally confronted Wilkins, the author admitted that he'd made up the map, and its instructions, out of whole cloth after seeing an entirely different map somewhere else. Wilkins decided that he must be the reincarnation of Captain Kidd; Hedden decided Wilkins was crazy and went back to digging.

"We have large and deepe Caves of severall Depths: The deepest are sunke 600. Fathome . . . These Caves we call the Lower Region; and wee vse them for all . . . Conservations of Bodies."

- - Sir Francis Bacon, *The New Atlantis*

Of course Wilkins was crazy. Why be the reincarnation of Captain Kidd when you can be the reincarnation of [Sir Francis Bacon](#)? As part of Dee's occult imperialist circle, Bacon would have had access to the secret maps of Nova Scotia that circulated through Britain ahead of its "official" exploration by Samuel de Champlain from 1604 to 1607 - - possibly compiled by Sir Humphrey Gilbert (who "mysteriously disappeared" in the North Atlantic in 1582) or John Cabot (who "mysteriously disappeared" in the North Atlantic in 1498). Bacon could not only draw on the mining knowledge of figures like [Hariot and Raleigh](#) (who, as Warden of the Stannaries, commanded the most experienced miners in Cornwall) but his own not inconsiderable scientific genius. In both *The New Atlantis* and *Sylva Sylvarum* he describes means of digging chambers and tunnels, and then safeguarding them with floodshafts and concealing them beneath seemingly natural features. He also discusses preserving treasures (such as parchments) in mercury; mercury is one of the anomalous materials discovered in the Money Pit. (An ivory boatswain's whistle of Elizabethan manufacture has also turned up on the island.) In 1610, a royal charter granted Bacon "all the islands" from Oak Island to Newfoundland. "Kidd's Triangle" points to a compass deviation from north of 14 degrees - - which occurred in 1611, the year after Bacon's grant, and the year that Shakespeare (ha-ha!) wrote *The Tempest*, about a magical island and a "drowned book." In *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, in fact, Bacon explicitly puts "the new Atlantis" at 45 degrees of latitude, the same latitude as Oak Island. What did Bacon so desperately need to hide there? Well, his Rosicrucian treasures (which, according to Rosicrucian legend, are hidden in a buried tomb) of course, and his original first drafts of Shakespeare's plays. And, maybe, the Holy Grail.

"In one of these harbors, three to four leagues north of Poutrincourt Cape, we found a very old cross, all covered with moss, an unmistakable sign that formerly

Christians had been there."

-- Samuel de Champlain, on Nova Scotia (1607)

Assuming, of course, that the Templars didn't bury it there first. That, at least, is the argument (also buttressed by psychic dowsing, should you doubt its bona fides) in Michael Bradley's *Holy Grail Across the Atlantic*, presented more clearly, though with far less entertaining divagation and detail, in Steven Sora's *The Lost Treasure of the Knights Templar*. Both books make much of the secret maps, especially the 1545 Caspar Vopell illustration of Nova Scotia with a Templar knight, and the various 16th century maps placing a "Port of Refuge" roughly where Oak Island is today, and various stone crosses have emerged from the island, many with unmistakably Masonic inscriptions. (Another explanation for the mysterious tale of Lost Treasure may lie in the fact that virtually all the excavators of the Money Pit have been Freemasons and the tale may be a colorful pageant Making Manifest That Which Is Hidden.) Bottom line, however, the solid physical evidence for Templar visitation returns to these three facts: Oak Island had oaks older than 300 years on it in 1800, oaks are not native to North America, and acorns don't float across the Atlantic. (For those playing at home, the real answer is "Basque fishermen.") The rest all descends into those "Templars went to Scotland, Scots went to Nova Scotia and pestered the Micmac Indians, and they were all Masonic *Prieur?de Sion* pawns" theories I've covered in a [previous column](#).

"They may have been built by Vikings visiting the New World, or by the native Micmac people who lived in the region before the Europeans appeared. Perhaps they were built by an advanced civilization that we know nothing about. Indeed the flood tunnel trap built into the pit in some ways reminds one of the false doors and granite plugs found in Egyptian tombs to prevent grave robbing."

-- Lee Krystek, "The Mystery Pit of Oak Island"

Which leads us to the Micmac people of Nova Scotia who, as it turns out, had a hieroglyphic alphabet that, at least according to some Canadian scholars, predated French exploration. Better still, according to excitable pseudepigrapher Barry Fell in *America B.C.*, Micmac hieroglyphs are very closely cognate with ancient Egyptian hieratic script! (They do, in fact, predate Champollion's deciphering of hieroglyphs.) Now, we're getting somewhere. The script roughly indicates a date between 1400 and 800 B.C. To add to this exciting scenario, one Charles B. Thomas of Great Falls, Montana, managed to decipher the Great Pyramid of Cheops and discover that its exact duplicate is buried, upside down, beneath Oak Island, full of the [treasures of Jerusalem](#)! Which would, of course, include the Ark of the Covenant.

"Q: What is buried on Oak Island?

A: Regenerator.

Q: What is a regenerator?

A: Remolecularizer.

Q: Who put it there?

A: Lizard beings.

Q: When did they put it there?

A: 10,000 years ago, approximately."

-- channelled exchange (12/10/94) between Laura Knight-Jadczyk and the Cassiopaeans, *The Orion Archetype and the Destiny of Man*

Between the Ark and the Grail, the Money Pit is getting pretty full. Good thing it uses Reptoid-Atlantean remolecularizer technology. One Alexander Stang Fraser theorizes that the Money Pit is a sacred tomb of the last Sage-King of [Atlantis](#), which was

(apparently) the Grand Banks before they sank; the vast organic deposits of a dead city are what attract all those fish (and Basque fishermen). In that context, it's interesting to note that the current excavation company which owns the island is Triton Alliance, Ltd., the Tritons, of course, being the fish-men who served Poseidon - - lord of Atlantis. Could that be another Making Manifest of That Which is Hidden, putting the amphibian Nommo involvement (from whence we can go back down the Bloodline to the Templars and Bacon again) hidden, as it were, in plain sight? Does this somehow tie in with the fact that the "Kidd Triangle" has a rounded "crescent" below it, which together make not only the Masonic arc-and-compass rune, but the ancient symbol for the far North - - Thule? Could the Port of Refuge be the [Space-Nazi](#) Time-Refuge, a hidden gate to [Antarctica](#) built around a gravitic anomaly that causes all those sinkings and ghost-sightings and mysterious vanishings of British explorers? Is that the secret meaning of "Norumbega," the "Norman (Aryan) Fortress" mentioned by the crypto-Templar Verrazano before he, too, vanished? (Well, he died in the West Indies two years later. It's like vanishing.) Could this be why suspected Nazi agent Errol Flynn attempted to take control of Oak Island in 1940? Could it explain the UFO crash into nearby Shag Harbor on October 8, 1967? Could it, at the very least, be a heck of a thing to slap into your **GURPS *Illuminati-Places of Mystery*** game? The answers to all these questions [lie beneath](#) 200 years of sinkholes, traps, explosions, forgeries, and Masonic ritual just off the coast of Nova Scotia. Dig in.

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