

Cultures are like books, Lévi-Strauss once remarked, each a volume in the great library of humankind. in the sixteenth century, more books were burned than ever before or since. How many Homers vanished? How many Hesiods? What great works of painting, sculptures, architecture, and music vanished or never were created? Languages, prayers, dreams, habits, and hopes – all gone. And not once, but over and over again. (p.126)

FIFTEEN POETS
~ of the ~
AZTEC WORLD

Miguel León-Portilla



He goes his way singing, offering flowers
And his words rain down
Like jade and Quetzal plumes.
Is this what pleases the Giver of Life?
Is that the only truth on earth?

(p.139)

Peter Wilhelm Lund and the Lagoa Santa

1840 found thirty skeletons; a jumble of remains from people and big, extinct beasts.







Sérgio D.J. Pena

The most straightforward way to discover whether the Lagoa Santa people were related to modern Indians, would be to compare DNA from their skeletons with DNA from living Indians.

When that turned out to be unusable, he decided to look for Lagoa Santa DNA in the Botocudo.



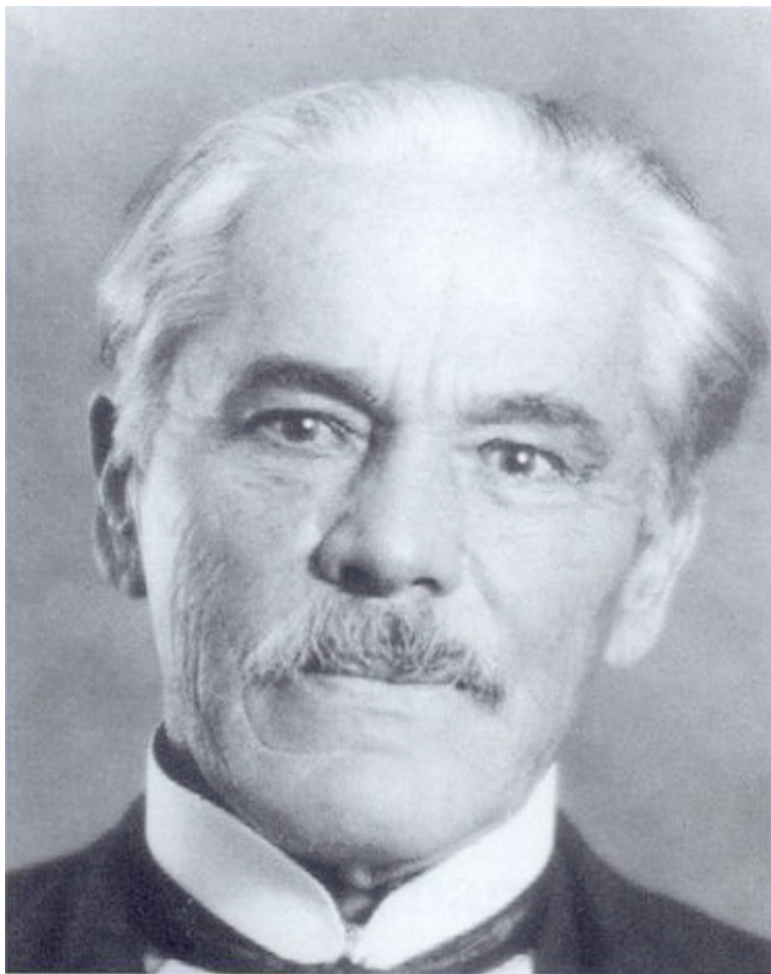


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Clovis first theory

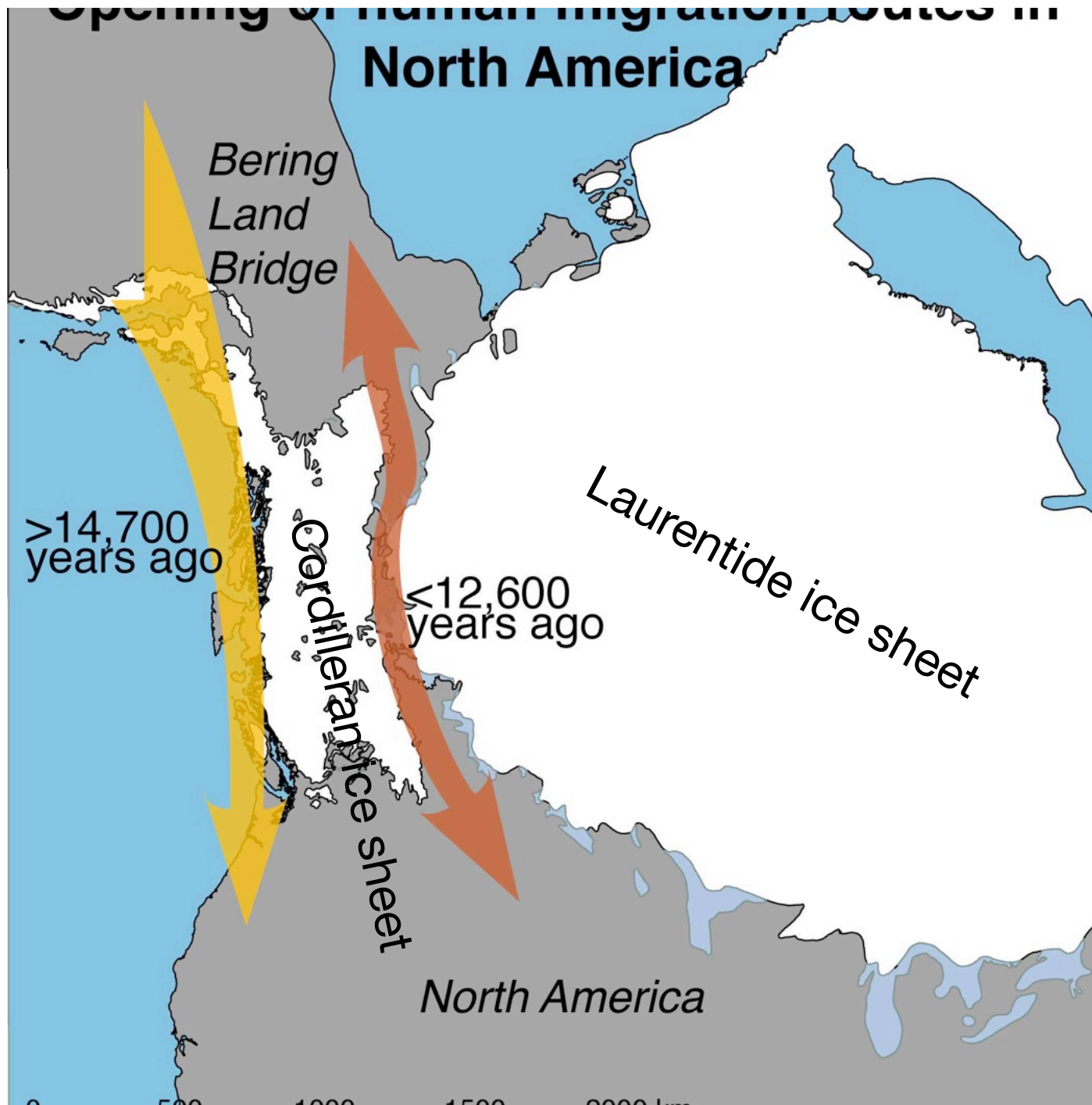
Clovis culture



In the early 1900s, Hrdlička became the chief advocate of the scholarly opinion that man had not lived in the Americas for longer than 3,000 years

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aleš_Hrdlička

With Blackwater Draw as a pattern, scientists knew exactly what to look for. During the next few decades, they discovered more than eighty large paleo-Indian sites throughout the United States, Mexico and southern Canada. All of them had either Folsom or Clovis points, which convinced many archaeologists that the Clovis people, the earlier of the two, must have been the original Americans. (p. 174)



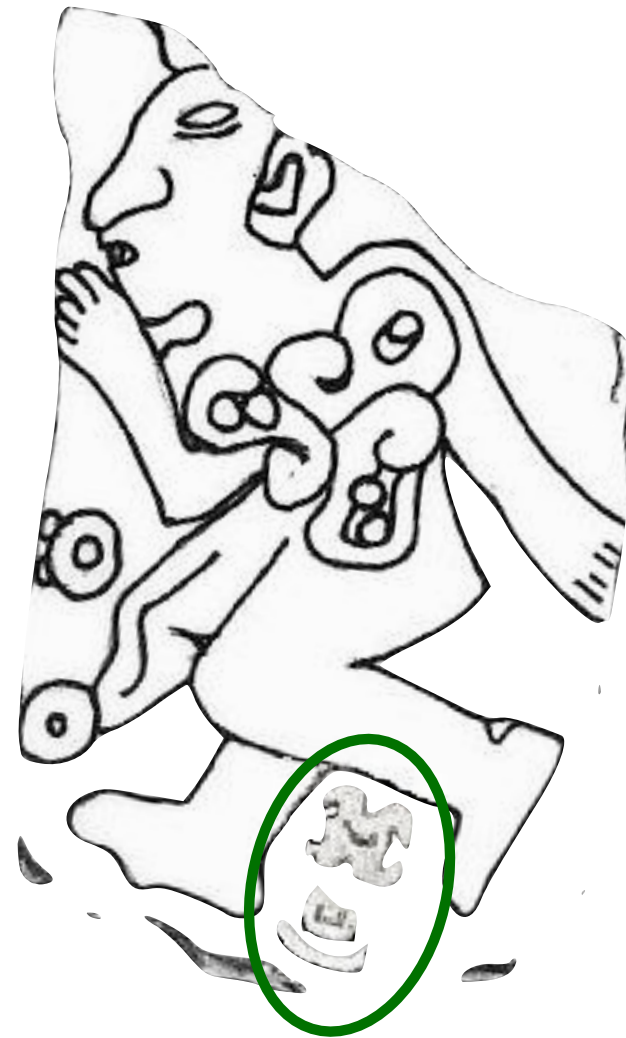
There's this perfect moment when the ice-free corridor magically appears just before the land bridge is covered by water. And the paleo-Indians, who are doing fine in Siberia, suddenly decide to *sprint* over to Alaska. And then they *sprint* through the corridor, which just in time for them has been replenished with game. And they keep sprinting so fast that they overrun the hemisphere even faster than the Europeans did – and this even though they didn't have horses, because they were so busy killing them all. And there are the same people who say traditional origin tales are improbable. (p.186)

THE MARITIME FOUNDATIONS OF ANDEAN CIVILIZATION: AN EVOLVING HYPOTHESIS

With the discovery of Caral, comes proof that the maritime foundations led to civilization much earlier than previously thought.

By Michael Moseley / January 24, 2005

The MFAC hypothesis was radical, its supporters conceded, but the supporting evidence could not be dismissed. Bone analyses show that late-Pleistocene coastal foragers got 90 percent of their protein from the sea – anchovies, sardines, shellfish and so on. The MFAC hypotheses can be summarised as follows: the incredibly rich ocean off this incredibly impoverished coast was the critical factor. (p.213)



Around 750 BC it was attacked and its temple razed in a fire so intense that the clay walls melted. It was quickly rebuilt and across the new threshold artisans laid a carved stone. Splayed across its face was a bas-relief of a naked, disemboweled male corpse. What matters most are two curious marks between the cadaver's feet. (p.242)



pp. 255ff.

Four types of states (Clifford Geertz):

Pluralist: the state is seen by its people as having moral legitimacy

Populist: the government is seen as an expression of the people's will

Great beast: the rulers' power depends on using force to keep the populace cowed

Great fraud: the elite uses smoke and mirrors to convince the people of its inherent authority

(p. 261)

Cerro Baul



The end came in about 800AD. As many as twenty high-ranking nobles and priests gathered in the Wari colony's biggest palace for a final feast at a great reception hall, thirty feed on a side. To judge from the scattered food remains, the goodbye party was a Rabelaisian affair, with platters of llama, alpaca, and seven types of fish, all washed down with fresh *chicha*. At the end the drunken crew staggered through the palace, smashing the crockery and setting the whole place afire.

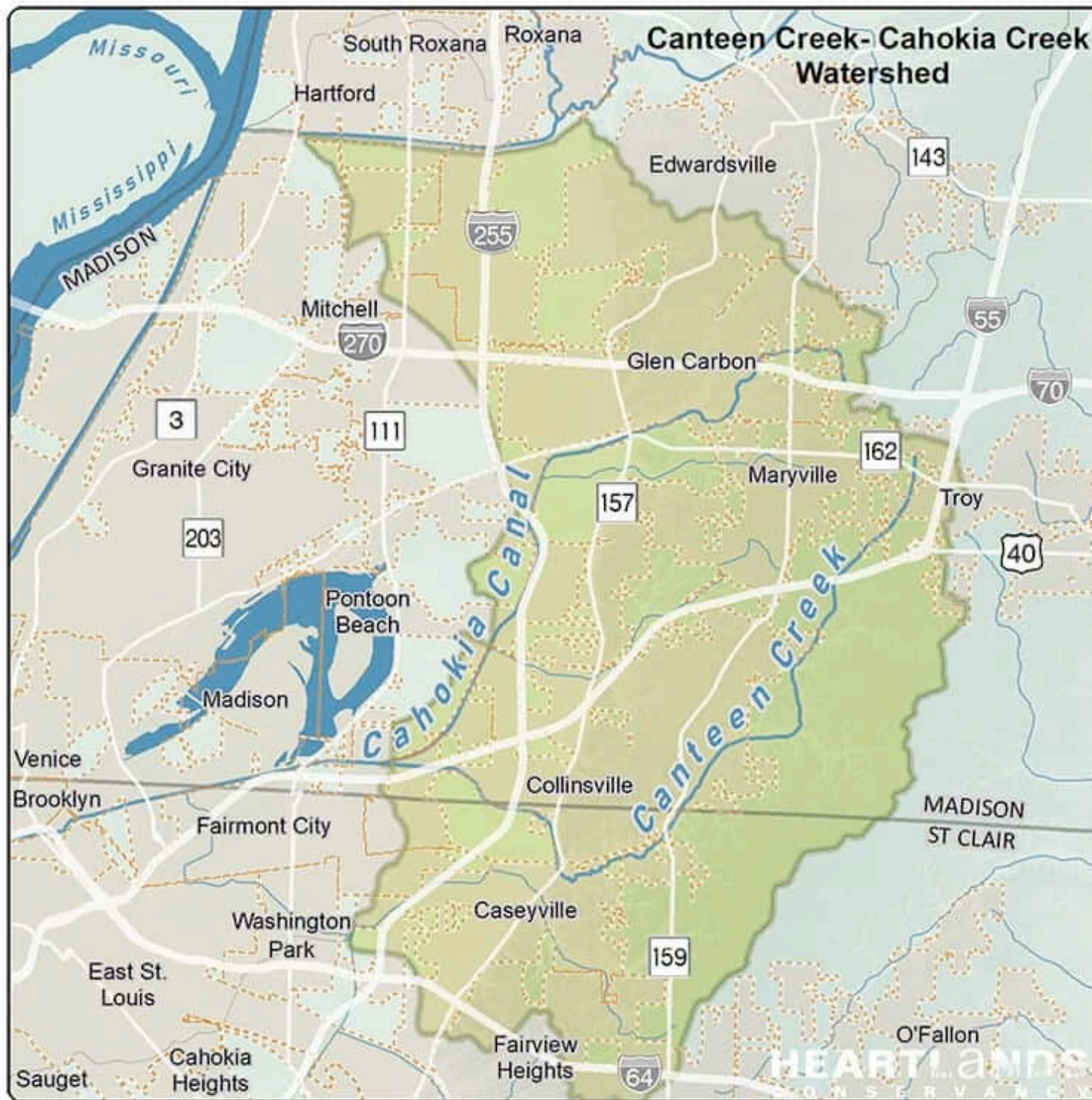
Later, when the embers had cooled, six necklaces of shell and stone were placed atop the ashes in a final act of reverence.

(p. 267)

Cahokia



<https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahokia>



<https://heartlandsconservancy.org/water/canteen-cahokia-creek-watershed/>

