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The burial architecture of Bronze Age Lanzarote – in deep respect of Mother Earth

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Illustrations of the title page:
Two Bronze Age dolmens from Lanzarote,
one in the function as soul-hole, one as burial monument
(photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

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The burial architecture of Bronze Age Lanzarote – in deep respect of Mother Earth

A personal archaeological report
from voyages to Titerogaka

INSTITUTUM CANARIUM

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Some often used abbreviations and special terms in this book:

a.s.l.	=	above sea level
burial chamber	=	a small hidden funeral room (hollow) in Lanzarotian step-pyramids or larger tumuli. Normally restricted tightly to the place of a defunct; if this regards only a skeleton or a sarcophagus or a cist or a cremation (urn ?) is not investigated. See also "crypt".
c.	=	century
ch.	=	chapter
corpus	=	here the main structural body of a megalithic monument, mostly used for step-pyramids
crypt	=	here the optionally expanded burial chamber of Canarian step-pyramids, an accented internal part of the corpus. The hidden cavity constructed individually with a certain allowance regarding its height above and/or below the natural ground. (See also list of mentions regarding "crypt" on p. 188)
devotion chamber	=	a very small ritual room of a Canarian funeral monument with entrance (Bronze Age); it was used by the bereaved and the shamans for worshipping and consulting the goddess (perhaps in a given case also for dialogues with the defunct resp. his anima)
f.i.	=	for instance / e.g. = exempli gratia
GE	=	Google Earth
HSC	=	"Heel Shaped Cairn", a prehistoric, megalithic burial monument
ME	=	maximal horizontal extension of a monument or area
step-pyramid	=	here a burial or other cultic monument with one or more steps (Bronze Age); megalithic corpus with stone filling, rarely with soil-filling, supported by a stone wall; groundplan at will (round, oval, rectangular, polygonal, triangular, irregular etc.)
ROC	=	region of concern: Central Asia, Europe, the Near and Middle East, the Mediterranean, Northern Africa, Atlantic islands (Azores, Canaries, Madeiras, Selvagens etc.)
SE, NW (etc)	=	southeast, northwest (etc)
soul-hole	=	Bronze Age type of small openings or attached stone tools in/on burial monuments, constructed for transcendent communications
topstone	=	in this text especially placed stones on the top or crest of a megalithic monument, most likely to provoke the benediction of the building through the concerned numen
top-tumulus	=	a kind of stone tumulus placed on the uppermost platform or step of a pyramid
tubus	=	here a prolonged (horizontal or vertical) part of a soul-hole
tumulus	=	here a burial or other cultic monument out of stone and/or soil with different height, form and groundplan; no supporting wall
USM	=	proto- or prehistoric "U-shaped-monument" (incl. geoglyphic forms too)

For keywords and other verbalisations please use the search-function of this PDF.

Further on it is recommended to apply "Special lists of illustrations for the orientation of the reader" (p.188).

Abstract, Zusammenfassung, Resumen and Keywords on p. 190.

I wrote this text as an essay, not only to reach as much readers as possible, but also to let speak pictures and words in a balanced ratio. With convincing illustrations it is − in this introductional phase of the topic − easier for us to understand what happened thousands of years ago in the Canary Islands and especially in Lanzarote. Detailed papers with delimited subjects are planned.

Important for Canarian readers is also that it was not achievable to regard the hundreds of detected archaeological parallels from the other islands, especially not those from Fuerteventura − this would have made the book thrice as voluminous. Too this will be kept in mind for future projects.

And not to forget: It must be of course the Canarian specialists who have the mission, time and accuracy to generate a new picture of the pre- and protohistory of their islands.

Some critical reflections
(as a kind of foreword)

When the Genuese merchant and seafarer Lancelotto Malocello searched for his compatriots, the brothers Vivaldi, they were lost with less than vague traces in the waters between the northwest African coast and the Insulae Fortunatae. Malocello did not find the Vivaldis but he landed 1312 in Lanzarote where he could start trade connections with the native Mahos. Some years later these activities were rewarded when the island was named after him "Insula de lanzarotus marocelus" (Catalan Mappa Mundi 1339), using for such toponyms often a kind of colloquial Latin[1]. Today, over 710 years after Malocello's disembarkment, Lanzarote is a popular touristic hotspot.

I remember a Spanish hitchhiker on the way to Playa Blanca around 2000. When I told her that Lanzarote was occupied once by prehistoric people she first did not believe it, her modern western worldview commenced with the Middle Ages − if not later. In the same decade I met a German long-distance trucker who spent his holidays in the island; confronted with the statement "3000 years ago in Lanzarote ..." he meant that humans existed not yet at this point of time. What went wrong with their literacy? Or did they have problems to range in historic processes? Maybe our fast-moving daily life influences that. "Old" is in this context not only a dilatively used term, it is also an individual point of view.

Another minor experience in Lanzarote illustrates this too: When I measured out one of the many places where prehispanic "U-shaped monuments" occur (USMs / Ulbrich 2018) a local jogger passed me; I stopped him kindly and asked if he knew something about these non-agrarian dry-stone structures. It was a bit embarrassing for him to admit that he knew absolutely nothing about these. In fact he was aware of these never before and continued his run unconcerned.

My Lanzarote history started back in 1989 when I began − with the support of the Institutum Canarium and with my studies in history of art and media techniques − analyzing and describing the rock art of ancient "Titerogaka" as Lanzarote was called by the lichen collecting early Berbers (Libyco-Berber script ca. 300 BC-500 AD) [see also Ulbrich 2004b, 2015a]. It was clear quickly that other topics − like ethnology, proto- & prehistory, geography, native religion and epigraphy − had to follow to live up to this interesting pelagic microcosm.

To change now to a really important question of "early" or "recent" we have to deal with the western province of the archipelago: In 1987-1990 local researchers and journalists rediscovered and discussed anew old structures − mainly in rural Tenerife and La Palma − which looked like ancient step-pyramids (for details see Ulbrich 2016a[2]). A controversy between proponents of a pre-European origin and followers of a recent age developed immediately. Especially after an assailable excavation in Güímar, Tenerife (Jiménez Gómez & Navarro Mederos 1996), a modern construed origin of these buildings was continued. The main argument was − far away from logic − that Canarian farmers erected giant piles of cobble (Span. majanos[3]) to get rid of the field stones. That alone several of the *majanos*[3] of the Chacona ranch in Güímar have heights which top a common two-storeyed Canarian farmhouse by far and that their terrain covers over 50.000 m² − in one non-arable place − made some archaeologists neither perplex nor inquisitive enough to spend any other efforts. The proof that some of the Lanzarotian *majanos* (Fig.1) were undeniably native burial constructions surprisingly did not provoke a particular reaction in the Canary Islands (Ulbrich 2021a)[2].

Fig.1 - A L06-pyramid (Fig.14) with a platform. Incl. a soul-hole with a short, perhaps locked tubus (↓) at its foot. Found near Mala, Lanzarote (photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Genuine big pileups of field stones were differently used in the post-conquista Canaries; such stones were often applied for walls. Furthermore the first European settlers had not to construct many

[1] The part "aro" (two times) and not "elo" resp. "alo" in the translated family name *lanzarotus marocelus* apparently originates from the map maker Angelino Dulcert who made a rhotacism (l > r) when he inscribed this chart.

[2] I recommend to read first these two articles to better understand the aim of this book.

[3] *majano(s)* in italics means in this paper always that the word is used wrongly for indigenous buildings.

Fig. 2 - We see a big cluster of various types of native tumuli, step-pyramids and burial-towers in a pronounced wasteland between Arrecife and Güime, Lanzarote (photo: H.-J. Ulbrich). These monuments were at no time in the focus of Spanish farmers. Such and similar other terrains were most rarely cultivated by European settlers because they then had not to eliminate laboriously and time-consuming these strange buildings what inescapably would have stressed man (family), equipment (tools, barrows) and draught animals.

walls because the prehistoric (not the protohistoric) native people already had done this − out of agrarian reasons but also following their old cultic and religious motives which included geoglyphes. Such architectural efforts had a bigger impact on their daily life than the alimentation of the families. But for the archaeological and ethnological researches of the local government and the *cabildos* not older than protohistoric aspects played a role. In other words: The rural areas with their many thousands of monuments, which represent the times before the first Berbers were brought to the ancient Canarian shores, were only partially on the monitor of our days Canarian scholars.

It sounds unfair and overcritical but it is fact: Despite countless interesting books, papers and reports about the Canarian culture, published over the last centuries, historians and archaeologists blinded out a big variety of prehispanic holy places, including the burial monuments[4]. One can see this in the small number of different types described so far in the archipelago [4/5]. No wonder that the modern Canarians have neglected odd walls and strange buildings in the same manner like the scientists. Especially peasants avoid trouble with patrimonial offices. And: The domestic and international tourists do not know what to believe. Are the Canarian pyramids old or young?

Evidently one person can stand wide-eyed in front of an old-Canarian step-pyramid (which has the multiple height of his body) feeling the breath of the millenia, while another person − often a member of the learned Canarians − is absolutely unperceiving and unimpressed. The latter observation can only mean that the permanently wrong information made the local people obtuse and languid for this exceptional important topic.

In this context it is necessary to come to the defence of the Canarian farmers. It is hardly imaginable that a Lanzarotian peasant calls a group of strange multistorey buildings (Fig. 2) in a nearby savannah "majanos" because he knows that he or his ancestors did not construct them; he simply ignores them, respectively ploughs around a blocking monument. Up and on appearing statements that the great-grandfather of a rural family once was involved in the construction of a pyramid can only be validated as pomposity or as pure fiction (not meant here are some rustic edifices in La Palma looking a bit like *majanos* or "pyramids").

Two urgent questions arise: Why did not one author of the "recent" faction rectify the interpretational errors of the years 1996-2022 and why were most important investigations − regarding all islands − not on the to-do-list of the local universities, institutes and administrations? Apparently Canarian experts who visited for example Lanzarote must have seen compulsively the secular and sacral places of the indigenes without being aware of them and their importance − like the above mentioned jogger. Precious time which could have been used studying what the Institutum Canarium calls "Altkanarier" (old-Canarians) was lost − not to forget the testimonies which were

[4] One of the positive exceptions are the governmentally managed necropolises of Arteara & Maipés, Gran Canaria. Another really helpful information is the paper by Lecuona Viera & Atoche Peña (2008) about the situation regarding protohistoric Fuerteventura; but *majanos* are still not mentioned − dito not in a fine new publication by Benito Mateo (2020).

[5] Of course there are also to cite the ethnologic and archaeologic museums of the Canary Islands which do a good job; but they can only exhibit and describe what has been found and what priorily aroused the scientific interest.

Fig.3 - A longish L08 pyramid near Guinate, Lanzarote (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). One can see the heavily damaged wall, result of a millenia-long erosion.

Fig. 4a - Civilisational waste in and around this two-stepped pyramid at the outskirts of Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). Highly interesting is the bowed groundplan with its forecourt.

destroyed by erosion (Fig. 3), environmental influences and unaware inhabitants including tourists. Why this opaque disinterest? Especially the latter shows in the actual practice that Canarian townships, the administrations and the companies have no intentions to properly protect the monuments which are a precious gift which should have been passed from generation to generation. The modern construction waste found everywhere in the islands, often near monuments (Figs. 4 a/b/c), is diametral to this duty. The cultural damage is already too huge.

It is difficult to understand why hundreds of prehistoric burial tumuli and step-pyramids in Lanzarote unacquaintedly have a special soil filling (Fig. 12), unveiling the theory of *majanos* as absolute no-go. No post-*conquista* Canarian farmer fills such a monument with precious soil. Scientific explanations of these facts cannot be found in the local literature.

Another unbelievable case is the not realized existence of megalithic dolmen structures in the island; one of these is part of the Mirador del Rio in northern Lanzarote since 50 years (see photos on the title page and Figs. 18-23, p. 18-21).

Furthermore: Instead of neglecting countless pyramid clusters and necropolises the Canarian

Fig. 4b - Using a natural slope and the wall of a pyramid as gully to collect constructional waste, Puerto del Carmen / Lanzarote (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig. 4c - More waste with this gully-trick, gladly used by building firms (near Tias, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

archaeologists and historians should ask themselves why nearly no pre- and protohistoric graves or other monuments of this kind were found in Lanzarote. Where are all the skeletons of the indigenes who were not buried in caves? Such hollows usable for burials are anyway quite rare.

Strange too: Why was the internationally well-known use of megalithic "porthole-slabs" and "soul-holes" totally disregarded in the Canaries, practically unfamiliar? And why has nobody watched that numerous indigenous burial monuments of Lanzarote were built consciously on the top of hills and mountains? In an island which purportedly has no indigenous burial monuments (only a few tumuli like structures are mentioned in the descriptions and memoranda)!

A really new discovery are the pyramids with a cavity for the defunct; not meant here is the devotional chamber for the living visitors of the monument to be able to speak with their goddess.

In this context I have to establish the alarming fact that only 20-30 % of all pre-Hispanic monuments of the Canary Islands are beknown, not

[6] I fully respect the quality of numerous of the published archaeologic reports by the Canarian specialists in the last decades – but these papers are only a part of the story.

to speak of the then necessary in-depth investigations[6]. This means that thousands of indigenous monuments − including also cultic walls and other non-agrarian geoglyphs which are equally relevant for the knowledge of the regions in and around the Canaries − suffer a sleeping beauty slumber. Unfortunately we have to state that in nearby countries exists the same unsatisfactory exploratory situation when we think of the neighbours (Anrainer) in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, not to forget the Atlantic shores of continental Portugal*, Spain and Morocco (*the Azores are a positive exemption).

The book in hand was written to better the acceptance of a corrected heritage by todays people of the Canary Islands. Furthermore I have to emphasize that all new informations about the Canarian indigenes mentioned here show − far beyond of astronomical nexuses which currently are overrated − that the very first ancient colonists had a deep belief in the omniferous cult of "Mother Earth", whatever her special name may have been with certain ethnics [see also "Magna Mater Mediterranea" / Stumfohl 1986]. Her millennia-old care for the life cycles of man and nature will have a relevant place in this publication.

Finally some personal aspects:
My first scientific contact with Lanzarote took place when I found a book about the Canary Islands written by an author of the Institutum Canarium, offered at the reception of a hotel in Puerto del Carmen. Now, 34 years later, I am still in love with this island, with its people, with the volcanic scenery and of course with the impressive history which started 5000 years ago.

Hans-Joachim Ulbrich, March 2023

Fig. 5 - This cultic garden near Yé (Lanzarote), once built by the native members of the first Mediterranean wave in an extremely hazardous manner directly at the escarpment of the Riscos de Famara, includes some miniature tumuli whose function is not quite clear. But one of these interrupts the wall and features a classic triangular "soul-hole" (German "Seelenloch") which can be seen lefthand in the foreground. This points at least in this case to a funeral purpose which was pursued in a megalithic ambience of the Bronze Age. In the background the El Río strait and the island of La Graciosa with the volcanic Montaña Amarilla. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Content:

Fig. 6 (Adaptation by Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

1. Geographic, nature related and historical reflections on Lanzarote and the ancient travellers

Lanzarote and the minor "Archipiélago Chinijo" make up the northernmost part of the Canary Islands, an Eastern Atlantic string of pelagic volcanos with distinctly fertile regions (Fig.6, incl. km² etc.); the next continental coasts belong to Morocco (Northwest Africa). The Canary Islands (Spain) constitute together with the Azores, Madeiras, Ilhas Selvagens (all Portuguese) and the autonomous Cape Verde Islands the region of "[Greater] Macaronesia", mainly a botanical term which describes the natural relationships among these insular groups.

Meteorological aspects have to be considered too. Significant for instance are the tradewinds (German "Passat") blowing primarily from NE to SW, letting the clouds sail in the direction of the equator. In Lanzarote the Riscos de Famara function like a wind tunnel leading the winds to El Jable – once all indigenous land with settlements, a spirally arranged temple, rock art and caves in the nearby mountains.

For Lanzarote we have to notify a scenery easy to recognize in the map: Several rows of volcanos extend more or less from ENE to WSW forming geological "fault lines" (German "tektonische Bruchlinien"). These diminished partly the agrarian possibilities of the indigenes. One ancient granary was the region called "Timanfaya" which since 1730 is – with the exception of some small terrestrial "isletas" (Span.) – totally covered by lava, pyroclasts and ashes (western coast in the map, there also the homonymous National Park).

In all those marine destinations mentioned above exist hints that already in prehistoric times an intense long-distance seafaring took place (where possible using the tradewinds). The megalithic and Bronze Age aspects of practically every Canary Island − Alegranza, El Hierro, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, La Gomera, La Graciosa, La Palma, Lanzarote and Tenerife[7] − are evident. More details will be discussed in ch. 5.

It fits into this context that strikingly all Macaronesian Islands are volcanic and feature a floristic and faunistic ambience referring to this fact. But this means also that the Bronze Age colonists were acquainted with certain living conditions, searched for them in other parts of the giant Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic regions and apparently found them. It was surely important that these people − after landing at a promising foreign shore − immediately could use valid methods and reliable materials like stone and wood to build familiar accomodations and tools for the daily life and − not to forget − for the construction and care of burial monuments. Furthermore fertile soils should allow the growing of cereals, vegetables and fruits − volcanic floors are predestinated to deliver the required phosphor, potassium and calcium. Equivalently these deliberations regard also karst regions in Europe, the Mediterranean islands and Atlantic Morocco which apparently were also appreciated by these seafarers.

2. Prehistoric Canarian burial procedures and the problem of the missing dead

With the new findings about the Canarian Bronze Age the individual history of each Canary Island has to be written anew. Before we turn to Lanzarote it pays to have a look first at some aspects of Tenerife. The Venetian seafarer and exporter Alvise da Mosto (1432$^{ca.}$ – 1483), also known as "Cadamosto", estimated already an indigenous population of 15.000 for Tenerife in 1455. He learned this from people in La Gomera and/or El Hierro; it probably stays within reality. These Guanches mainly entombed their defunct − the corpses dried or mummified − in big volcanic caverns which partly had a capacity of up to 1000 dead according to old reports (Ulbrich 2002, 2020b); this number is doubted by modern scholars. I see it more on the possible side. Knowing that countless burial caverns are still not discovered I would estimate that the over-all number of native corpses reaches a rate way above da Mostos retrospection.

It is widely acknowledged that the Guanches[8] of Tenerife have proto-Berber origins (Ulbrich 2020b). But some important facts have to be considered carefully: **1.** They were not seafaring people; they only practised coastal fishing. **2.** Entrepreneurs of their time and of different regions (incl. Phoenicians and later also Romans), used them as cheap lichen collectors and settled them in Tenerife and other Canary Islands. **3.** It is said that some Guanches had blonde hair (slightly a strawberry blond tone). Such hair is also known from a group in the Moroccan Rif Mountains. When the first European colonists came to Tenerife the number of such blond natives, especially their lightish children, played absolutely no role. To speak of "blonde Guanches" in a generalizing manner would be totally exaggerated. **4.** The Guanches had a strange passion what reminds of similar customs in the Sahara: The Guanches stole cattle (caprides) from neighbouring clans and thus had always severe trouble ("rezzu"), often fatal with many deaths! Especially this fact is for me a clear ethnological proof for their North African, continental origin − but far away from any Mediterranean coasts. In other words: The Guanches were surely not the mysterious eastern Mediterranean seafarers who erected the megalithic Canarian monuments.

When the Guanches were entered first into Tenerife during the second half of the last millenium BC and when the European conquerors and colonists accessed Tenerife in the 15th century AD their natural judgement could not classify these strange buildings which we call today "step-pyramids" etc. The coeval minds, and subsequently the persons themselves, probably ignored these buildings because "they were always there and will always be there" − no need to spend any attention. This attitude led to the unfortunate narrative of the *majanos* which still spooks in some heads of modern scholars. Today we know it better: The Tinerfenian and the other Canarian pyramids are megalithic and date back to Bronze Age times (more details in ch. 8-9).

[7] No native traces were found so far in the Canarian islands Roque del Oeste (indeed only a small rock), Roque del Este and Montaña Clara.

[8] I reject strictly to name the natives from the other Canarian Islands also "Guanches"; this is apparently a non-cientific behaviour of some journalists, of a few inexact scholars and of some misled Canarian nationalists.

Fig. 7 - Megalithic burial pyramid with oval groundplan, four-stepped wall, soul-holes and a central staircase; the fourth "floor"contains the top-tumulus. Found near Chio, Tenerife (photo: piramidescanarias.tumblr.com). More details see Fig.49.

Regarding the use of these imposing buildings we do not know up to now how many defunct found their final resting place in one of these pyramids (Fig.7). Or was even the biggest pyramid constructed for only one person? This dark figure of unknown cases in Tenerife's past has to be added to the dead of the caves.

The situation in Lanzarote is totally different. The native Mahos (Ulbrich 2015a) were a similar people with proto-Berber roots but apparently they had a reduced burial culture − at least judging by the meagre amount of cientific data gathered in the last decades as Atoche Peña et al. (2008) regret.

In a highly interesting paper Soler Segura (2016) could verify that in all the years of modern research only 55 skeletons (incl. single bones) of the Mahos were found. This seems to be not only a problem of the neglected *majanos*. The many natural abris (rock shelters), caves and lava tunnels which were used by the natives are only explored more accidentally than methodically. Old eroded volcanos like the Montaña Tenezara (Tinajo) look in parts like a Swiss cheese, have an interesting archaeology and offer plenty of epigraphy (the latter of course only by the 2nd wave).

It is peculiar that in a press conference of the "Dirección General de Patrimonio Cultural del Gobierno de Canarias" held in Arrecife (25.7.2021) there were presented only nine protohistoric burial sites of the island − still neglecting the newly found megalithic burial monuments described so far for the Canaries (Hähnel 1996, Jantzon 2011, Ulbrich 2016a & 2021a, the latter in March 2021; Ulbrich 2022a was in 2021 still not published).

It is finally not the task of this book to analyse the simple Maho tumuli and some graves which could be of ancient or recent* Berber origin; we have to deal with more complex megalithic pyramids, soul-holes and step-buildings of the much older Bronze Age. [*Berber staff raped 1476 etc. in Morocco]

By the way: I am rather sure that the name "Majos / Mahos" was used only by the second native wave, the proto-Berber one; the first indigenous wave took place already in the Bronze Age using an unknown east Mediterranean or north-west Semitic name.

3. The situation in 2023 − motivations and general aspects

This introduction initializes the main descriptive chapters of this book (ch. 4-6). It reflects the work of the last eight years of roaming, photographing, analyzing and concluding − mainly the Lanzarotian burial architecture in mind (rock art and ethnology etc then only in second place). But proactive I included the countless native walls which in many cases had a relation to the monuments. Especially this measure showed that the

local research ignored not only the *majanos*, but also the prehistoric structures besides the tumuli and pyramids. It is absolutely evident that the European settlers (starting in the 15th c.) defined – up to now – lesser agrarian or cultic field boundaries than the natives of the first wave. In the context of the burial monuments I can deal with this topic only marginally, but it will be a big chapter in a forthcoming article or book.

Before we enter the chapters 4-5 and its subchapters it is worth it to learn about groups of edifices: Satellite views reveal that Lanzarote shows more clusters of burial monuments than lonely, free-standing ones. Such agglomerations of monuments can be found in a savannah between San Bartolomé, Güime and Arrecife, in and around Tias (incl. Pto. del Carmen, Pto. Calero & La Tegala), in the region of Máguez and also near the Peñas de Tao (western Malpaís de la Corona), finally also to a certain extent in the Guacía/Los Ancones[9] area (east of the Mña. Tinaguache). Of

[9] In this case it is not meant the petty village of Los Ancones ("small bays"), near the Costa Teguise, but more exactly the hinterland of this village where the same toponym is in use with the older meaning "solitary corner" (German "abgelegener Winkel / einsamer Ort").

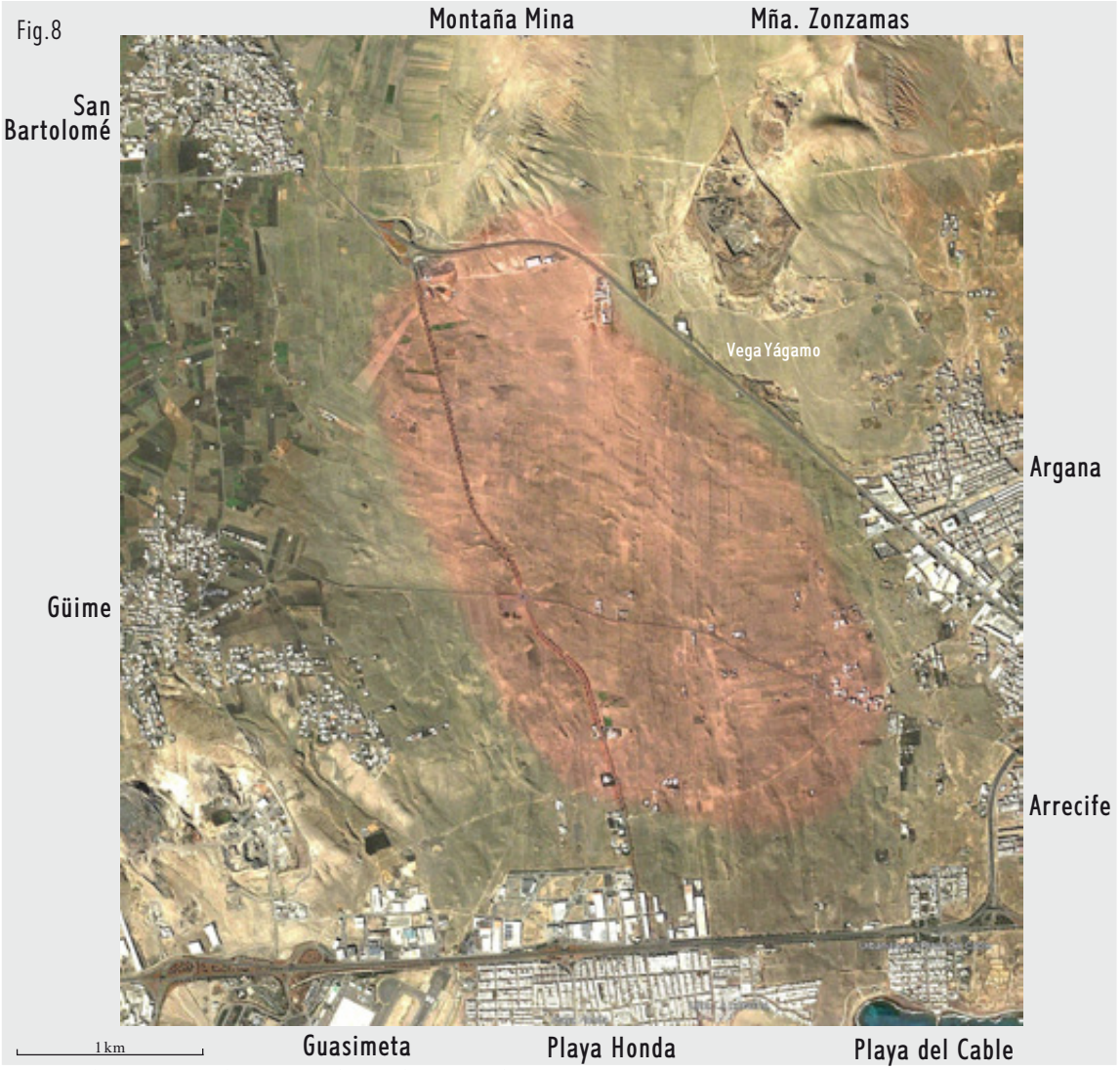


Fig. 8 - This satellite photo (GE) shows the region between San Bartolomé, Montaña Mina, Güime, Arrecife and Playa Honda; it is full of prehistoric, megalithic monuments – not only burial tumuli or pyramids, but also singular stone constructions like cultic wall patterns and geoglyphic lines. The complete area of the photo shows now and then such buildings, but the reddish colored savannah-like part indicates a considerably higher monument density. For the latter around 300 monuments were counted. In each hour several thousand car-drivers pass alone the roads LZ-301 and LZ-20 which cross the red part having no idea that 4000 years old stone testimonials accompany their way. In other words: Nobody cares. (Graphic: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig. 9 - It is obvious that in this savannah-like wasteland never any majanos (cobble pile-ups) existed. The Bronze Age erectors apparently liked it to place their burial monuments in rows, an architecture visible everywhere in Lanzarote. The two small pyramids in the foreground are connected by a line (a low wall) what also is found several times in other parts of the island (Fig.34 etc); the reason is unknown, perhaps family connections. At the end of the row (on the left) we can see a pyramid used as basis (pedestal) for a burial-tower. View N > S in the direction of the coast near Playa Honda (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich / see also Fig.2).

Fig. 10 - We see a group of seven monuments: three tumuli without supporting wall (one of these in the foreground) and four pyramids with walls. The upper pyramid has a topstone; the pyramid in the middle ground shows a soul-hole (rosette type), the pyramid right-hand in the background has two steps. Again no farmland is existing in this savannah. View E > W in the direction of Güime (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.11a/b - Several pyramids in the savannah south of the Montaña Mina are marked with a white cross; superstitious initiators regarding such signs were normally the natives. In rare cases a modern peasant flags a pyramid at his premises in this way because of planned administrative or constructional actions − or the farmer is superstitious himself. In the wall lefthand we see a four-stone soul-hole with a common quadratic tubus (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

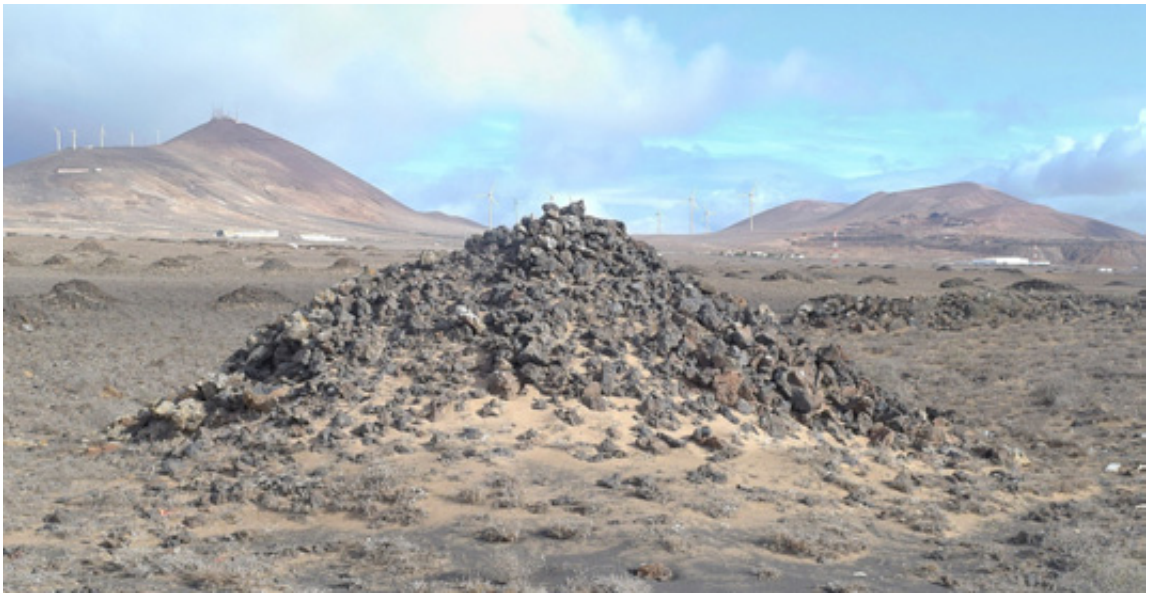


Fig. 12 - This conic tumulus has in its over 4000 years of existence passed through a constant process of erosion letting it "flow" downhill in the direction of the coast, revealing that it has a soil filling under a strong man-made layer of volcanic debris. One could suppose that this is a tumulus by the 2nd wave, the Mahos, but the soul-hole within the stone layer lefthand speaks another language. For the possible designs of soul-holes please read p.101 etc. In the background the Mña. Mina (left) and the Mña. Zonzamas (right). (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

course all Lanzarotian municipalities can boast more or less interesting monuments as we will see.

The area (Figs.8-12) east of Güime and northwest of Arrecife, which also can be described as "southeastern of the Mña. Mina", deserves our special interest. It is not only the sheer mass of burial and non-burial (but nevertheless cultic) monuments but also their different design and size. The Spanish vernacular uses in this savannah several times the originally French word "sable" (sand) in the Hispanized form "jable"; this material − more a mixture of sand and soil − was partly deployed by the erectors of the megalithic burial monuments for the charging of these under a layer of debris (see Fig. 12, read p.68). An opened section (modern vandals ?) of a soil-filled pyramid can be watched on p.166.

3.1 Megalithic and Bronze Age interactions

It is striking that the Canarian first wave buildings fit perfectly into the picture of an advanced megalithic culture: The constructions use not only "big stones" but extremely many of these in countless different monumental forms (e.g. in the bigger step-pyramids of Tenerife and La Palma) − a kind of enjoyment to express the connectedness of the world of the living with the world of the defunct. This being also a proof for a strongly embedded religion and a believe into afterlife. Architecture meets transcendence! Testimonials are not only the burial monuments (incl. dolmens) but also the existence of an ancestor cult and the dealing with cultic walls, geoglyphs and artificial scenic patterns. In this context it is obvious that many people of this time planned their burial monument in the neighbourhood of natural signs (rocks, caves etc) assigned to Mother Earth or even with the integration of such a sign into their personal funerary place (Figs. 99, 144).

Metallic artefacts by 2nd wave natives do practically not exist in the Canaries. Exploitable ore for weapons and tools was not available in the nature. But: According to a ca. 5000 years old capride bone (Zöller et.al. 2003) there were already people in Lanzarote during the Bronze Age (1st wave ca. 3000-1200 BC). Their daily use (all Canary Islands) of metallic tools and funerary goods most likely exhausted these. But countless Bronze Age burial monuments are still waiting for their exploration.

Indeed we can understand more indications of Bronze Age travellers: The new alloy out of copper and tin was a bestseller in the Middle East, the Levant[10] and the eastern Mediterranean, especially regarding weapons. Trade routes were intensified or expanded to other shores; people in Europe and

[10] "Levant" here the eastern Mediterranean coastal regions like Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, in a wider sense also Egypt, the Aegean, Cyprus etc. (not meant is the Levant in eastern Spain, the coast of Catalonia).

North Africa (Egypt) were highly interested. But parallely existed urging problems: Were it the regressive yields of agriculture, or combative neighbours and migrating extrinsic ethnics, or natural disasters? Howsoever can it be that these people elevated big megalithic buildings but then were content to leave behind all and to head for far off destinations like the Canary Islands and Azores?

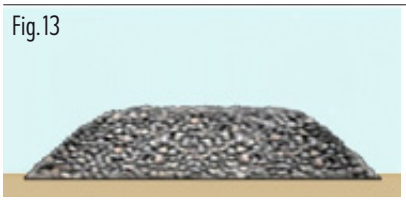
3.2 The relevance of tumuli and pyramids

The greatest part of the megalithic burial architecture of Lanzarote consists of simpler constructed tumuli (without wall) and more complex built pyramids (with wall). The following sketches of the three most common variants (Figs. 13-15) illustrate this.

The Figs. 13-17 and its legends are a kind of shortened introduction beforehand to the detailed information offered in the comprehensive anthological chapter 4. There the entire spectrum of Lanzarotian prehistoric burial monuments is considered in fulsome detail.

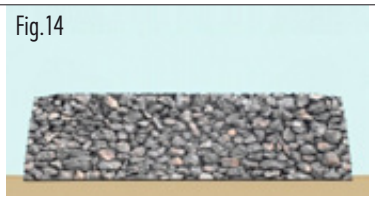
All three sketches by H.-J. Ulbrich

Fig.13



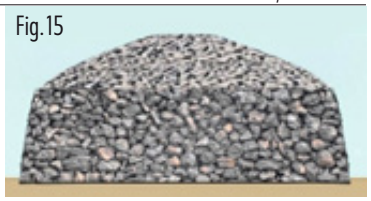
Tumulus
- Contour mostly irregular, rarely symmetric or otherwise designed
- Stones of different size, placed without pattern
- Small versions may also look like "graves"
- Can be used for burials
- May also be used as cultic monument (no defunct)
- Lanzarotian tumuli show often eye-catching big boulders on their crest and/or their slopes.
- Groundplans are oval, a rounded rectangle or more or less irregular.

Fig.14



Pyramid – one level
- Corpus surrounded by a stabilizing wall
- On top a more or less horizontal platform
- Wall mostly vertical or slightly conic
- Wall stones of different size, placed to stabilize each other; partly soul-holes
- Corpus (filling) with smaller stones, lapilli etc.
- Used for burials (special miniature variants for a small defunct - Fig.58)
- Groundplans can be oval, concentric round, oblong, polygonal, bowed, triangular etc.

Fig.15



Step pyramid – one ore more levels / floors (here only one step / two steps see Fig.70)
- Corpus surrounded by a stabilizing wall
- Wall mostly vertical or slightly skew
- Wall stones of different size, placed to fit to each other, stabilizing the entire construction
- Corpus (filling) with smaller stones, lapilli etc.
- On top a kind of aggradation in form of a tumulus
- Used for burials (often with a "soul-hole")
- Groundplans can be oval, concentric round, oblong, polygonal, bowed, triangular etc.

Fig.16 - In Fig.13 I mentioned the indigenous approach to use big stones for relatively small tumuli; in this picture we have such a case. The stone at the end of this tumulus has a max. extension of ca.70 cm (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). To move such heavy volcanic stones to the right place only by physical strength is respectable; nevertheless much bigger stones (boulders) are also in use – the term "megalithic" undeniably makes perfect sense. Reasonable is the question if this is a burial tumulus containing a defunct among the stones or placed in the natural ground below of it. Or no skeleton exists at all – then a mere cultic measure.

Fig.17 - The situation in this picture is similar to the one in Fig.16 regarding the big stones of the tumuli. Is it a fortuity that both boulders were placed at the end of the tumulus? Has it a special funeral meaning? Interesting is also that the stone in this photo is nearly white, a color which was used in many pre- and protohistoric cultures to emphasize an important place, sign, artefact or tool etc, especially in superstitious and religious contexts (like a soul-hole with semi-tubus righthand). Everywhere in the scenery of Lanzarote indigenous walls, small erected cairns and tumuli can be found marked with limestone; see also Fig.327. By the way, there can be seen not one acre European post-conquista farmland; all walls and tumuli are either native fields or cult areas. (Both photographs, Figs. 16-17, hinterland of El Golfo near Juan Perdomo, Lanzarote / photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

4. The different architectural solutions − step by step

Overview burial monuments (see also p. 20 with hints on more dolmen details):

L01	Burial dolmen (with proviso)	p. 18-21

Megalithic tomb, south Mediterranean type, one burial chamber, four orthostates built of irregular stones, capstone (max. ca. 1,5 m), a kind of mini-tumulus integrated, axis of pedestal WSW > ENE

Fig.18 - A megalithic dolmen and its pedestal placed in a slope of "La Batería", part of the "Mirador del Río" terrain, Lanzarote. In the background the northeasternmost cape of La Graciosa, the "Punta de la Sonda"; nearby the small settlement "Pedro Barba". View S > N. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

This dolmen is either one of the most daring archaeological fakes of modern history or the most embarrassing failure of the local authorities and scientists. The full story:

An outright touristic hotspot of Lanzarote is without doubt the fantastic "Mirador del Río", an observation platform (474 m) in the north of the Riscos de Famara near Yé. It allows an entire view of the "Archipiélago Chinijo" (see map on p. 10), overlooking at the foot of the *mirador* the "Salinas del Río" and the island of "La Graciosa".

Absolutely fantastic is also the narrative behind this platform which includes the well-known Lanzarotian artist César Manrique (1919-1992) and the Canarian geologist, archaeologist and zoologist Telesforo Bravo Expósito (1913-2002).

The latter is also known as discoverer (1953, 1960) of two of the so-called "Queseras" (Span.)[11] near the famous "Jameos del Agua" in the "Malpaís de la Corona" (NE Lanzarote, see map). In a letter to his friend Elías Serra Rafols (Bravo Expósito 1963 in Coello Bravo 2007) he speaks of burial tumuli and human bones[12] at the toponym "La Batería" (septentrional Riscos de Famara) used by the Spanish military. Bravo Expósito did then not mention a dolmen but he possibly subsumed it as another "*rectangular tumulus*" when he almost compulsory stood

[11] The three groups of Queseras (one was found by Agustín de la Hoz) which look like big plates used for the cheese production, offering a drain for the not used whey, are in fact artificial grooves in the rock for cultic libations, once constructed by the natives (probably the megalithic first wave). Telesforo Bravo intensively researched the Malpaís de la Corona and the northern cliffs of Famara.

[12] Apparently the importance of the information on these bones at "La Batería" was not recognized by recent Canarian anthropologists and archaeologists. (Read also p. 12, 37)

Fig.19 - A wide-angle lens photo by Pedro Martínez de Albornoz (taken from Galante Gómez 2000). The arrow marks the dolmen. This is the view which the visitors get when they walk on this terrace not focussed on the dolmen. But the architects and builders must have seen the dolmen when constructing the terrace and its low stone border. The builders must even have replaced some stones of the dolmen's pedestal − quite mysterious.

at the abrupt rim of the Riscos seeing it below him. Telesforo Bravo is therefore also the first person who, besides the military, knew in 1953 unconsciously the future place of the Mirador del Río.

A few years later in 1957 the Lanzarotian historian Agustín de la Hoz mentioned in the local press the idea to built an observation platform in the Riscos de Famara (Galante Gómez 2000: 43). ... In 1973 the "Mirador del Río" was inaugurated. Relevantly involved as architects and supervisors were César Manrique, Eduardo Cáceres, Jesús Soto and Luis Morales, whereby the artistic design vocabulary and the integration into the scenery was significantly the work of César Manrique.

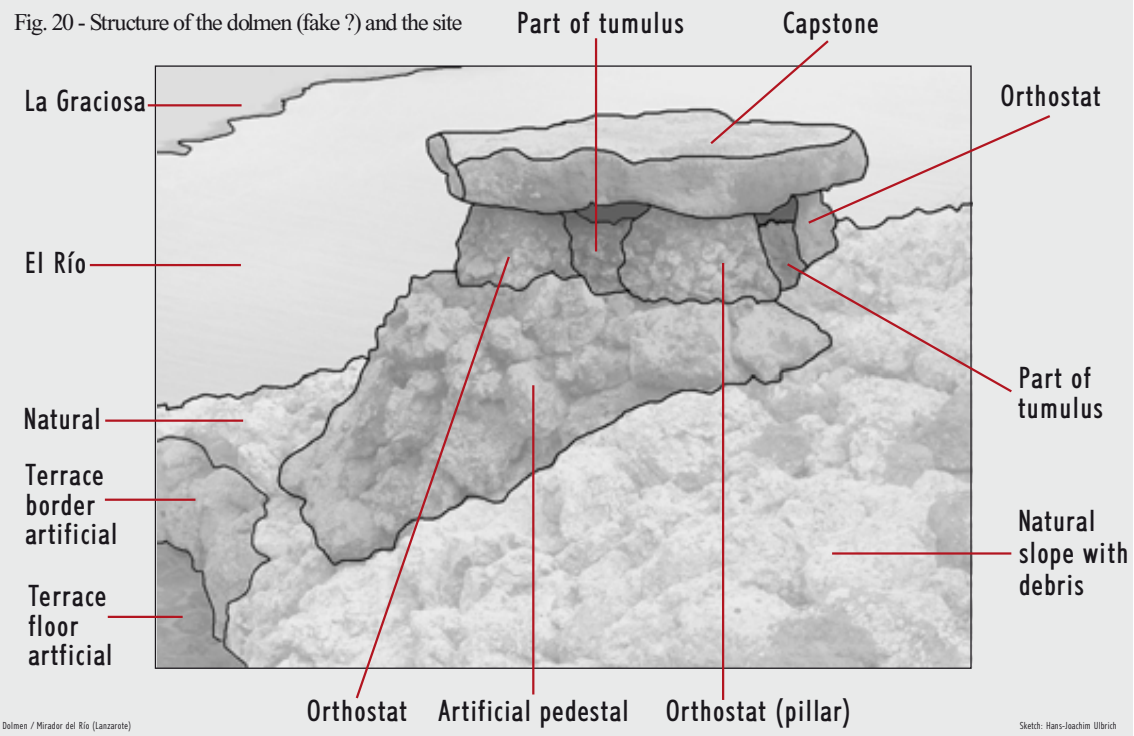
These persons − the erectors of the Mirador − and also F.J. Galante Gómez, the author of the book about it, made absolutely no words on the dolmen in Fig.18. Here some intruding aspects:

- Not only the aforementioned persons but also the actual personel of the mirador, the local authorities, the Cabildo (then president J. Ramírez Cerdá), the Canarian government, the provincial administration, the military neighbours, the scientific institutes and universities, the press, etc have most likely overlooked this building.
- The Mirador del Río is visited by around 3000 tourists per day and is opened the whole year − most likely not one has questioned this megalithic building although a few have photographed it.
- The Cabildo de Lanzarote as responsible operator of the mirador ignores the dolmen although it could mean a significant boost for the commercial success of the mirador and the island.

Or is it after all a real fake and the Cabildo does not want to lead too much attention to this object? Suspicious is the slope and its amount of debris in Figs.18-20 because the author of the Mirador book, Galante (2000: 54), mentioned that at the start of the mirador works an immense number of volcanic stones was needed (brought from the Malpaís de la Corona). Came the dolmen and its pedestal into being only around 1971 with this salient big-stone debris, visible in the photos?

Why it is perhaps not a fake:

- The dolmen of the mirador would not be the only one in Lanzarote (with and without burial function).
- This dolmen is constructed like similar ones which were found in the North African coastal regions − but it is not identical with these. Therefore the use of the term "south Mediterranean type" in p.18. Some dolmens found in northernmost Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia have orthostats (pillars) constructed from piled up flat stone plates whereas the pillars of the Mirador del Río dolmen consist of small more or less irregular roundish stones arranged conically (Figs.18, 20).
- To place a fake but nevertheless heavy capstone on the four fake pillars would have been quite



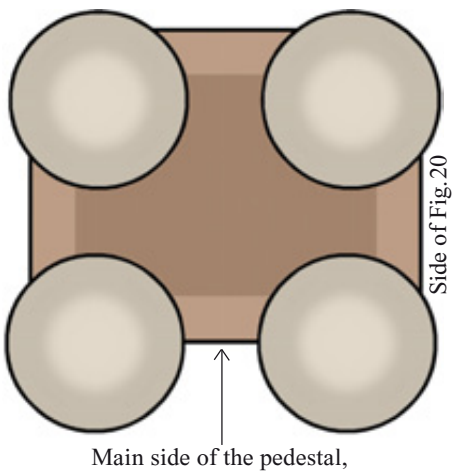


Fig. 21 - Simplified groundplan (without capstone) of the dolmen at "La Batería", Mirador del Río

- The dolmen has an estimated max. extension of 1 m without capstone (the latter ca. 1,5 m).
- The four orthostats (pillars) are conic; their structure uses small roundish stones without special pattern (similar dolmens in the northern Maghreb apply more vertically designed pillars consisting of flat stone plates).
- The room between the pillars is partly used by a rectangular tumulus, nearly as high as the pillars, displaying in its center a lower niveau (a trough ?).
- Some stones are treated with an indigenous pre-Hispanic luting or mortar called *téigue*, but this can be emulated up to our days.

Sketch: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich

complicated and expensive. A crane would have been needed to lift the capstone to the right place.

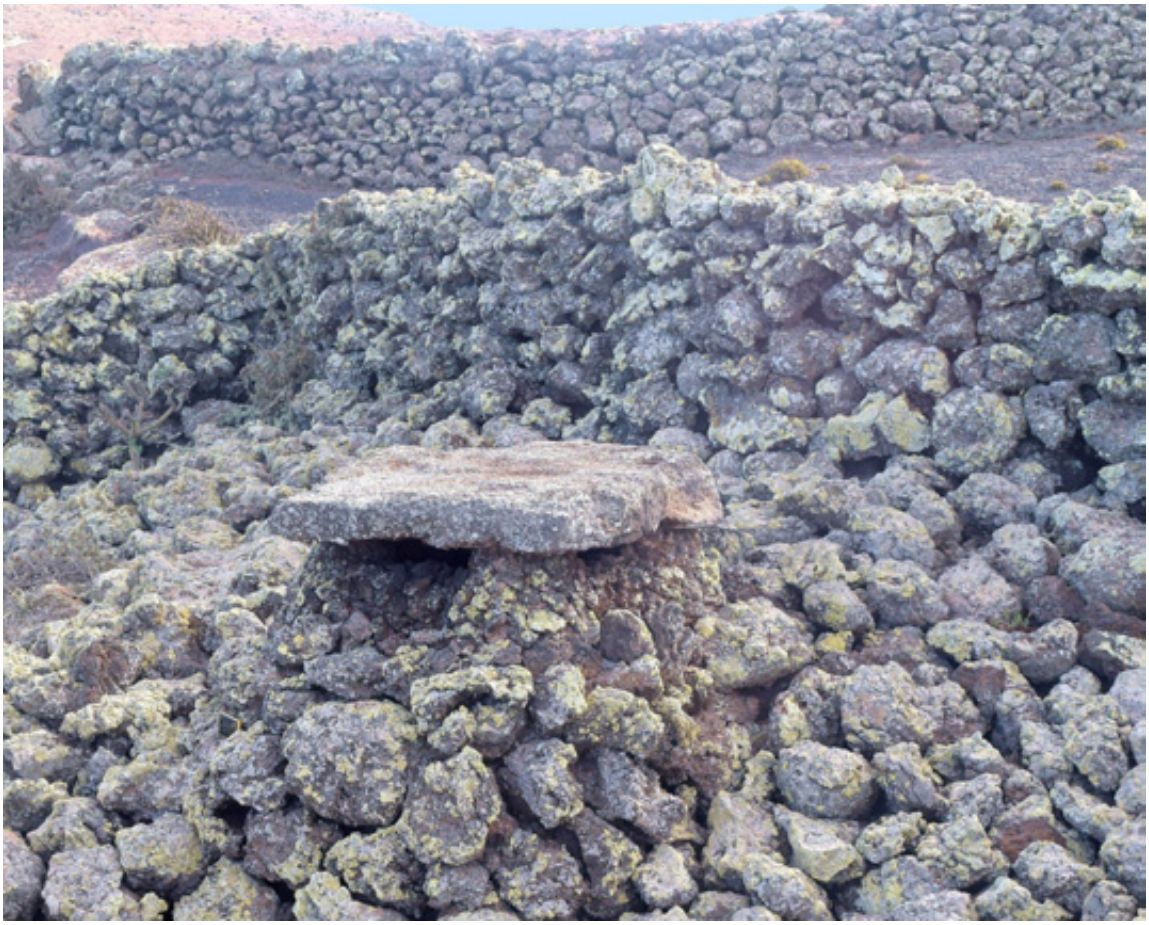
- The dolmen with its relatively small inner structure (Fig.21), perhaps a tub-like tumulus*, lets suppose the burial of a child. With this splendid location of the dolmen and this extraordinary view of the strait of El Río it must have been despite his young age an important person. Or it was the crouched inhumation of a very small adult. [*I have to remind that I logically had not the possibility to measure the dolmen exactly.]

If it is indeed not a fake why then can it be that such an important monument for the entire west Mediterranean and east Atlantic regions is ignored in such an unbelievable manner. Can it simply be that nobody awaits a megalithic construction like a dolmen in the Canary Islands? – To be honest: During my first visits to the Mirador del Río I overlooked the dolmen in this greyish sea of big volcanic stones overgrown by various species of lichens. The latter profit from the cliffs which let fog and low clouds dam up. See also Figs. 22-23.

The various forms and tasks of dolmens in Lanzarote can better be described in the particular context of the parallely used monuments, rites and devices. See therefore the table here on p.21.

◀ Fig. 22 - A view in the direction of the northern end of the Riscos de Famara and also of Lanzarote (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). We see some of the military facilities which neighbour on the Mirador del Río. The local geographical name "La Batería" reminds of the times when several bombards (cannons) were installed.

▼ Fig. 23 - In the foreground the dolmen (a fake?) and its pedestal east of the Mirador del Río buildings. The surrounding field of heavy debris and also the two walls in the background were most likely constructed by the architectural team (César Manrique et al.). Read also the legend of Fig. 21. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)



The different dolmen versions in Lanzarote (complete or reduced constructions)	
• Burial dolmen with chamber, small tumulus integrated (ground plate / possibly a fake)	p.18-21
• Reduced dolmen combined with a tumulus	p.22-24
• Reduced dolmen combined with a mini-cairn	p.25-26
• Miniature dolmen as horizontal soul-hole (part of the wall of a step-pyramid)	p.115-116
• Miniature dolmen as vertical soul-hole (part of the top-tumulus of a step-pyramid)	p.121-122
• Small complete dolmen as entrance of a tumulus or pyramid	p.50, 89, 115
• "Elementary" dolmens as sole monuments of a necropolis	paper sched.
• "Elementary" dolmen as part of a superstitious and worshipping action (no burial function)	paper sched.
• "Elementary" dolmen as worshipping of the rocks loving goddess ("lonely boulders"/no b.f.)	paper sched.
• Stand-alone dolmen as imitation and worshipping of the goddess ("skewed stones"/no b.f.)	paper sched.

L02	Dolmen-Cairn-Combination	p. 22-24

Megalithic tomb, integrating a more or less conic cairn with only the entrance of a reduced dolmen (capstone & two pillars), no chamber, total height up to 160 cm, unknown type of burial structure with soul-hole

Fig. 24 - An absolute novum for the Canary Islands is this small megalithic burial cairn (Malpaís de la Corona, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). This version of a "soul-hole" was normally used for certain pyramids.

In one of my earlier stays in Lanzarote I concentrated on the stone desert of the Malpaís de la Corona. East of the "Cueva de los Verdes" I found a small indigenous settlement (first wave) which boasts of one of the so called "casas hondas falsas" (Canarian Spanish) respectively (English) "false semi-subterranean houses", here both meant in an archaeological and geological sense. "False" because the natives used also slightly with walls extended volcanic bubbles as living room – a kind of cave or often a tube between the bubble ceiling and the former natural ground.

Fig. 25 - A small archaeological site near Los Ancones, in the background the hotel palaces of the Costa Teguise, Lanzarote (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). We see the mentioned spiral, some of the cairns (one or more of these fakes by tourists) and a few concentric stone rings behind the spiral. The additional dolmen-cairn-combinations of Los Ancones (Figs. 27, 28) are not in the array of the photo. I classify this site now to 70 % as genuine native (first wave).

"Casas hondas" however are native semi-subterranean huts which can be observed now and then in the eastern Canarian province (incl. Lanzarote). They were used first by the Berbers of the late 2nd wave, needing a not too hard soil for their construction (starting such huts around AD and using them ca. up to the late 15th century).

Near a fully lithic "casa honda falsa" I detected a cairn which did not arouse my further interest because in these days I was more in quest of rock art. Luckily I photographed it (Fig. 24). Years later I published a paper on fake indigenous monuments of Lanzarote; there I described a cairn (German "Steinmännchen") with a layed out name in front of it ("LEO") and a spiral of stone whose pre-Hispanic age I doubted[13] (Ulbrich 2017: 42-44). The reasons for this distrust were a.o. the fact that nearby one of the vastest holiday resorts of the Canaries was implemented, the "Costa Teguise". Quite a few joggers and roamers from all over the world use daily a path which runs across this archaeological site; some of these people willing to leave a new cairn for the posterity[13]. In 2017 I visited again this place near Los Ancones, but this time I recognized two special cairns some meters beside the path and immediately remembered the similar one in the Malpaís de la Corona.

The dolmen-cairn-combinations of Los Ancones show also dolmen-like soul-holes: one with a more quadratic (broader) tubus (Fig.27) and another one with a rectangular tubus (Fig.28 like Fig.24). Apparently it is the decision of the architect (patriarch or the terminally ill patient or the entire surviving family) how the tubus has to be designed.

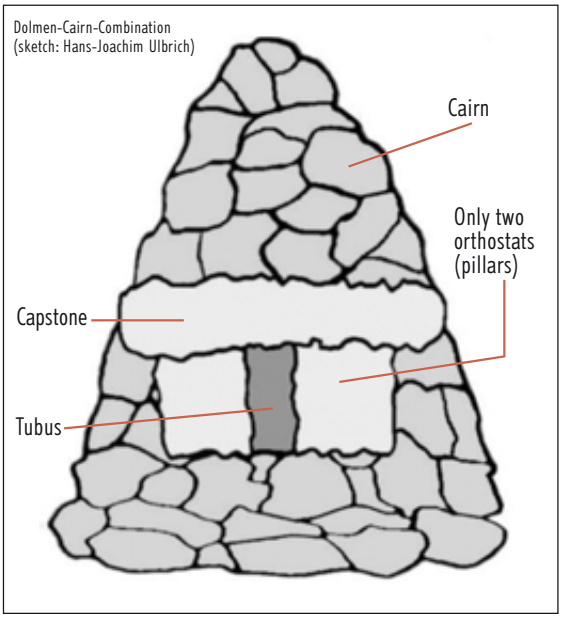


Fig. 26 - Cairn integrating a reduced dolmen as soul-hole, the latter with a rectangular or quadratic tubus (Lanzarote).

[13] Furthermore there seem to be local groups who see it as their hobby to create fake monuments like spirals and Cretan stone labyrinths to confuse, tutor and/or impress visitors of the island.

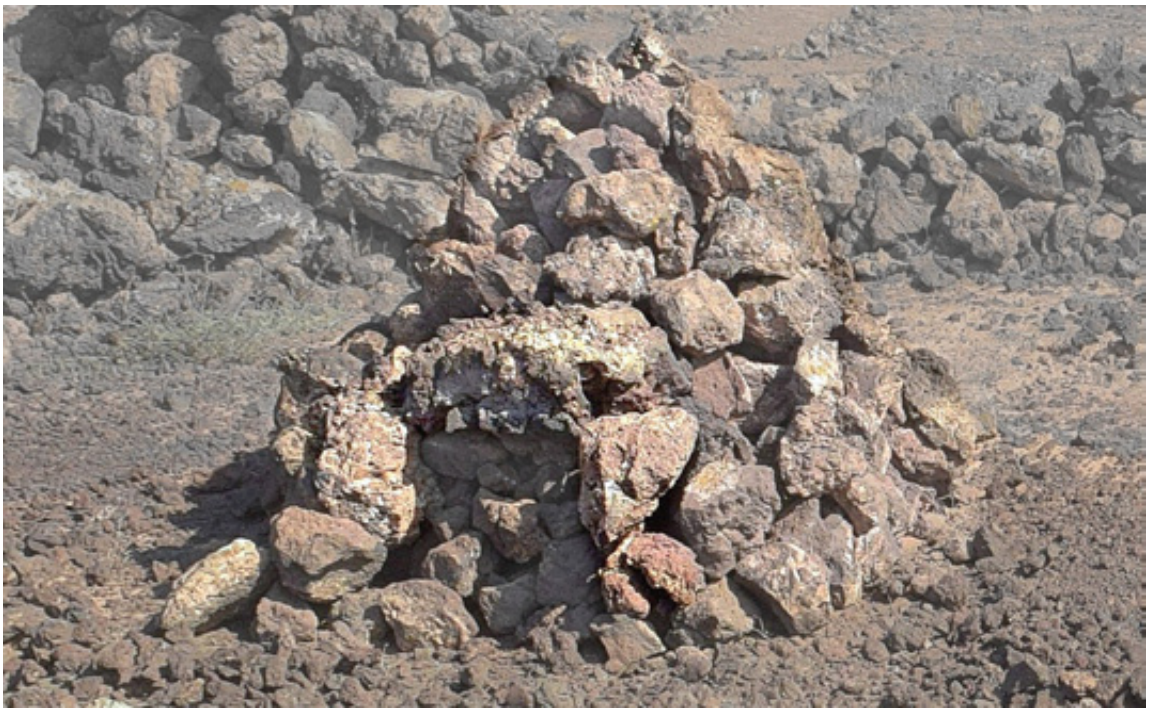


Fig. 27 - Another dolmen-cairn-combination from Lanzarote, this time part of an archaeologic site near Los Ancones (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich − see also footnote 9 / p.13 and Fig. 26). This cairn has a more explicit conic form than the one in Fig. 24. Yet the dolmen part is in contrast to Fig. 24 lesser accurat. The capstone and the two pillars are designed in a broader manner thus representing a bigger soul-hole.

Fig. 28 - I offer this picture as discussable variant of a possible second dolmen-cairn-combination from this small site near Los Ancones (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). The capstone is − if it is one − relatively small and its contour quite irregular. The tubus of the soul-hole may be described as more or less rectangular. Remarkable however is the fact that the three stones start directly from the ground what could be a happenstance or an intention − or the indication of a fake.

L03	Dolmen-Tumulus-Combination	p. 25-26

Megalithic tomb, integrating a tumulus with a distorted dolmen (no chamber, two or more orthostats in a row, one capstone), the dolmen used as soul-hole, the capstone is supported by the tumulus or in one case − more originally − by the orthostats/pillars too, a new type of Canarian burial structure

Fig. 29 - We see a tumulus which at the left side is damaged (stones of the corpus scattered), at the right side the tumulus ending is designed as a special two-orthostats dolmen (El Golfo hinterland / photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

The unusual, not to say weird utilization of a dolmen-tumulus-combination (dolmen distorted) and also the use of a dolmen-cairn-combination (dolmen reduced) has to my knowledge not been mentioned previously for the megalithic world. I interpret this − among other aspects − as strong evidence that the first wave of the old-Canarian and especially of the Lanzarotian prehistoric colonists had by no means a proto-Berber origin. This individual megalithic architecture finds no counterpart in the Atlas, in the Sahara or elsewhere in Africa.

By the way: Figs. 24/27 & 29/30 reveal unmistakeably that the special Lanzarotian dolmens used as soul-holes are in actual fact dolmens; they have an origin deep-rooted in more familiar prototypes known for instance from the British Isles and the European continent (see also p.101 etc. on established soul-hole types in the Canaries).

A dolmen with a capstone whose two pillars (Fig.29) do not really sustain the latter raises the question if the local architectural and religious rules allow this. If yes (what is apparently the case in Lanzarote), which meaning has it then that the capstone is supported at one side by the pillars and at the other side by the crest of the tumulus. Does the choice of only two pillars have any cultic significance? Has for instance the absence of a chamber been counterbalanced by the corpus of the tumulus (L03) or the cairn (L02)?

Even more complex is the situation regarding the dolmen-tumulus-combination in Fig. 31; it needs imagination to recognize a dolmen.

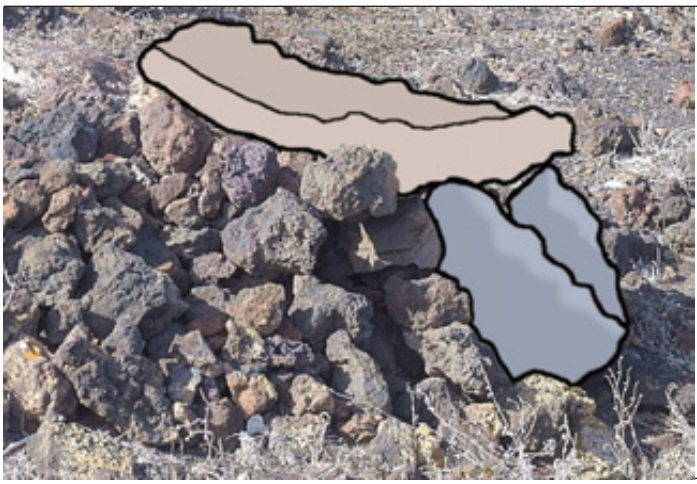


Fig. 30 - Dolmen-tumulus-combination (detail of fig. 29 / sketch H.-J. Ulbrich).

- The capstone has an estimated max. horizontal extension of 1,2 m
- The "orthostats" (pillars) consist of a pair or a short row with comparatively flat big stones, both with an irregular, slightly conic contour.
- The pillars are placed at the right end of the capstone, thus supporting it only in part. The capstone is stabilized at its left end by the highest point (top) of the tumulus (ca. 1,3 m).

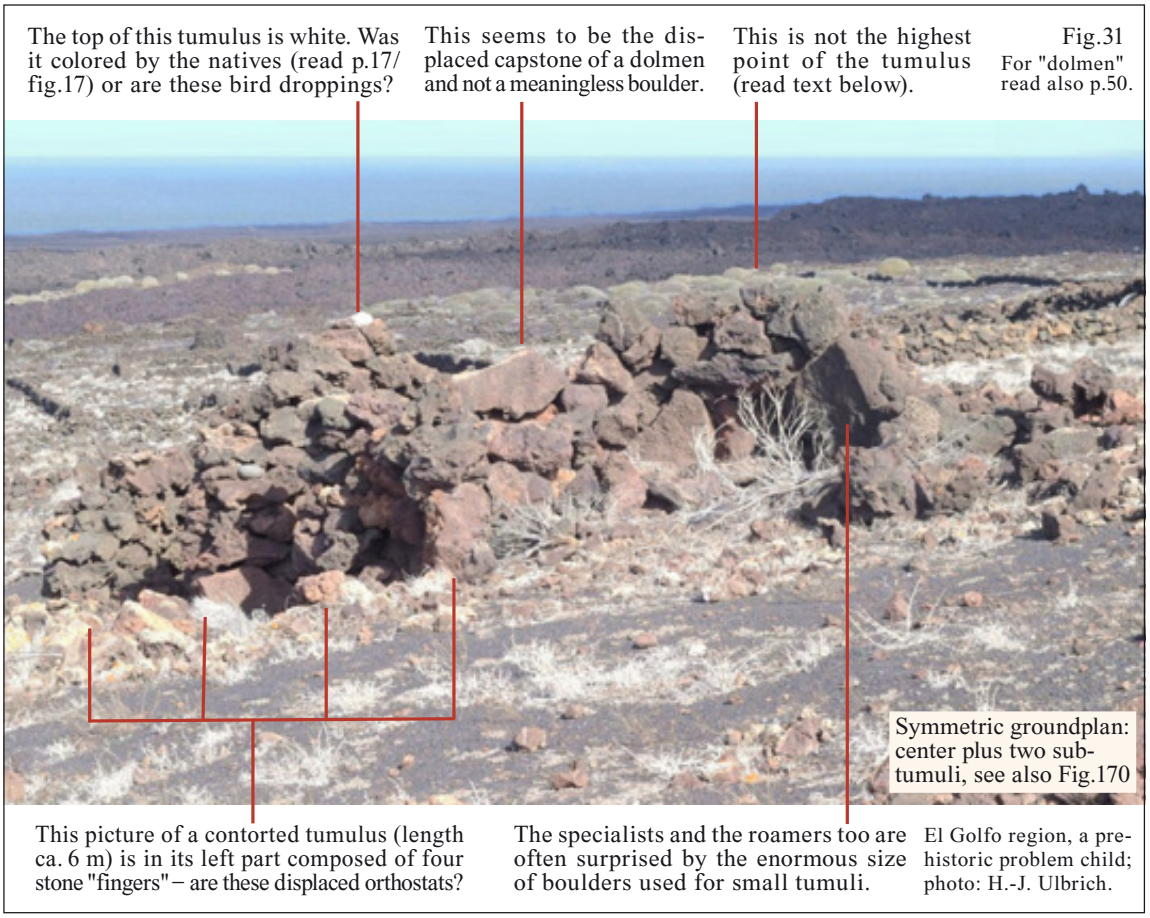


Fig.31
For "dolmen" read also p.50.

El Golfo region, a prehistoric problem child; photo: H.-J. Ulbrich.

Prehistoric Lanzarotian monuments are often built on slopes; then in some cases normally horizontal walls and rooms are also – consciously – leaving the horizontal and the vertical (see also p.160). Therefore the highest placed stone of the tumulus is not the one marked by the upper rightmost arrow (line) in Fig. 31. Apparently it could be the decision of the native architect to adjust the 90° angle, the verticality of a room etc, to the inclination of the slope (see p.172). Also quite interesting seems to be the existence of 2 or 4 imitated pillars ("fingers") in a row, detached from the capstone.

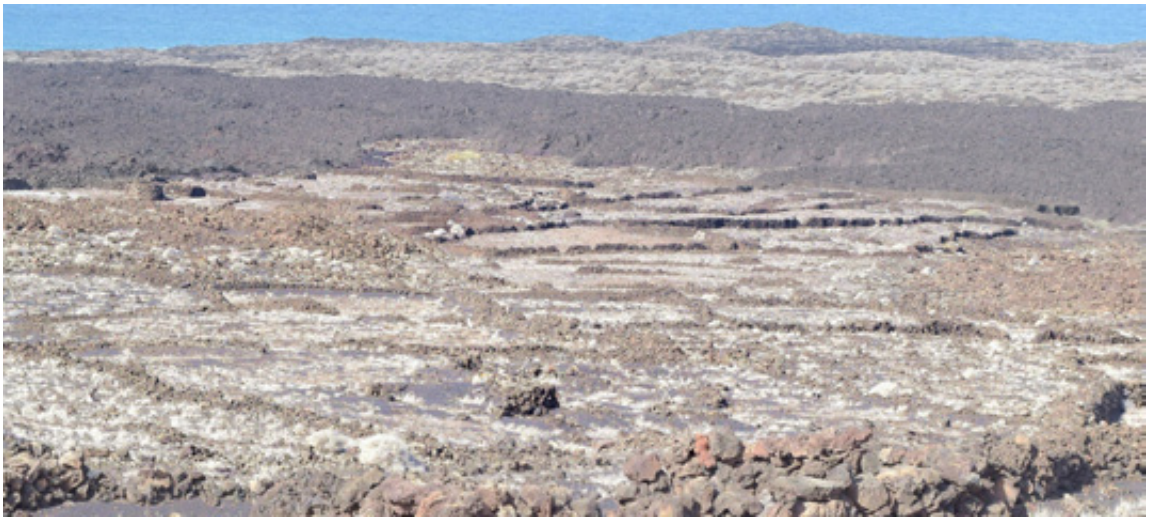


Fig. 32 - The photo shows with its various tumuli, pyramids and cultic walls a genuine megalithic landscape cultivated once by colonists of the first wave. In the background a volcanic stream of the 1730-1736 eruptions covering older lava fields near the western coast. (El Golfo hinterland – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L04	Burial-Tower	p. 27-32
Megalithic tomb erected aground (no pedestal), round or slightly oval groundplan, height of walls up to 2,5 m, walls may include cultic orifices, entrance partly with threshold, devotion room, no roof		

Fig. 33 - Burial-tower without pedestal, massive walls partly vertical or slightly conic, entrance leading to a devotion room, monument placed on the crest of an old volcano (Guinate, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

One of the most demanding and at the same time fascinating prehistoric buildings of Lanzarote are these tower-like constructions which in some details may have slightly different designs depending on the location. To use towers for tombs is not unusual for prehistoric, protohistoric and antique times (e.g. Near East, Arabia, Sicily) but these variants show quite a few diverging architectures and structures compared with Canarian ones. All Lanzarotian burial-towers (nearly 30) have strong transcendent and psychological tasks going far beyond funeral services otherwise initiated by not so mindful mourners. To such already architecturally appropriated measures belong "obligations" like to shelter a defunct, to allow the nearness of positive numens, to facilitate the communication with the living and to provide – last but not least – the deceased with enough chances and wit to prepare his/her reincarnation.

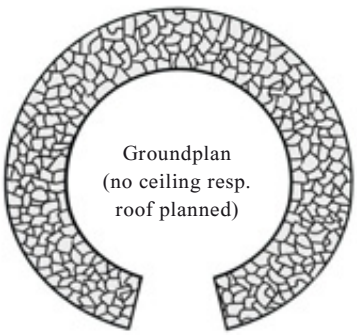
The following list of aspects and insights offers mainly findings of 2017 and 2021, all regarding Lanzarotian burial-towers:

- Especially in the Upper Paleolithic evolved a big variety of rock art thus producing among other signs the wide field of vulvae – the latter with simple graphics (circle, oval, triangle, rectangle) but astonishingly in many cases also with very complex forms. Through the millenia they had and still have their firm place within the petroglyphs. But we have to notice also the parallel genesis of geoglyphs. Regarding the enormous increase of cultic female geoglyphs in the Bronze Age we have to deal also with this phenomenon in terms of rectangular and roundish etc groundplans and consecutively of higher built ritual monuments too. I call this the constructional "discovery of verticality" for the formerly more or less flat geoglyphs. Certain megaliths in Lanzarote affirm an ongoing prehistoric progress which had a heyday in the Near East and rayed out to Central Asia, Europe, North Africa, Mediterranean regions and finally the eastern Atlantic islands. We may not forget that female deities are as part of the reincarnation belief responsible for a wide range of geoglyphs – so the circular

burial-towers, pyramids (when built round), stone rings and spirals of Lanzarote.

● The typic Lanzarotian burial-tower − without [L04] or with [L05] pedestal − has the groundplan (Fig. 34) of a ring (concentric round or slightly an oval or drop-like form) which has the same features as the other ones but then distinctly shaped regarding wall thickness, diameter, height, stone materials, entrance and annexes. I mention also some rare buildings with additional constructional differences, apparently variants of burial-towers (see p. 31-32).

Fig. 34 - Idealized burial-tower from Lanzarote, concentric construction (sketch: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Version on the ground (no pedestal), max. horizontal extension 6-9 m, max. height ca. 1,0-2,5 m, massive walls, entrance like a short corridor without threshold (rare variants found with an elevated threshold), one case with outside added stairs (attachment to the western wall in Fig.36).

● Such burial-towers intentionally have no roof and often make available small round openings in the wall(s) not qualified for windows or the surveillance of the vicinity − most likely a kind of soul-holes. A Lanzarotian burial-tower offers therefore the most possible chances for the defunct to communicate directly and successfully with the gods − only the sky between the petitioner and the merciful divinity. Even more near the sky are of course dead entombed in a burial-tower built on top of a hill (Figs.33, 44) or in a burial-tower with pedestal (Fig.45/46, p.34-35). In this context: I think that it is a logical explanation for the many stairways leading to the top of countless Canarian pyramids that the defunct wants to be even closer to the worshipped numen in the sky (see also here legends for Figs.7 & 36 and p.151 >). Obviously the small place on a single step is not suited for rites.

● In Ulbrich (2021a: 248) I first mentioned the existence of extra devotion chambers in some Lanzarotian pyramids which allow the bereaved

Fig.35 - Burial-tower, southern side with V-formed entrance and elevated threshold, massive walls (Guinate, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.36 - An indigenous staircase in the foreground leaning at the western side of a burial-tower; one can see that the upper penultimate step respectively the stone plate came loose − see arrow; an annex with boulders exists at the northern side = left side of the picture (Guinate, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

to "visit" the defunct or to use this room for a dialogue with the goddess in charge or (when requested) to practice certain rites with the help of a shaman. Having in this context burial-towers with entrance in mind (Figs.35, 38, 39, 41-43) it can then only mean that people and a numen (surviving dependants, priests, local nature spirits etc) are welcome in this retreated round place formed by a stone wall like the one in Fig.34. The existence of a relatively high threshold in rare cases may have the task to examine the proper intentions of the visitor − whether human or aethereal.

The burial-tower in Figs. 33, 35 & 36 shows once more that the people of the first wave strikingly liked places in a volcanic and elevated ambience whereas the members of the second wave preferred non-megalithic constructions in the plains.

Fig. 37 - Relatively high burial-tower (ruin ca. 2,5 m) as part of a much larger necropolis. Quite remarkable are the big boulders at the top and at the bottom of the tower whereas small stones were used in the middle what a Spanish settler would avoid. These boulders and the entire necropolis are anew an example of the laxness of the "advocates of 9-step *majanos* to get rid of cobble" in alleged agrarian fields, as a foreign critic formulated. (Tinajo, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.38 - Burial-tower with an annex of boulders* at the SW side, oval groundplan, elevated threshold* [not visible in this perspective], completely covered by lichens. (Western El Gayo, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) *Similar to the burial-tower in Fig. 36.

Fig.39 - Burial-tower, southern side with V-formed entrance and elevated threshold, soul-hole (clearly no window), massive walls (El Golfo hinterland, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.40 - By way of comparison: This is an "U-shaped-monument" (USM / Ulbrich 2018, 2020a), a kind of higher constructed geoglyph of a vulva not built for a burial and not featuring soul-holes; the form of the burial-tower in Fig.39 is also based on a vulva, but has as a funeral device more functions to support a reincarnation (El Golfo hinterland, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.41 - Lefthand more a small roundish burial-tower with open entrance (not appropriate to watch over cattle), in the background righthand a geoglyphic USM (Los Ancones[b], Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.42 - Probably a burial-tower with open entrance and an annex lefthand. A reduced dolmen integrated righthand. In the background a tumulus with amazing big boulders (southern Los Ancones[a], Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Practically unknown by local and Canarian archaeologists are the two rural regions Guacía and Los Ancones[a], both hilly outlands NW/N/NE of Los Ancones[b] [the modern village].[14] The scattered structures − walls, paths and geoglyphs − originate nearly totally from the indigenes and not from Spanish settlers (scarce ruins of isolated farms). Roamers can easily observe with binoculars that quite a few megalithic monuments were built on top of various hills or on unapproachable inclines; unfortunately no trustworthy tracks are detectable in many cases. With the help of a tele-photo lens I could produce some photographs. More details in chapter 6 "The consideration of high-altitude cult places", p. 151.

[14] Read also footnote 9 on p.13.

Fig.43 - In the foreground righthand a small burial-tower with open entrance and a soul-hole in the outer wall, integrated in a tumulus with enormous boulders; in the middleground lefthand an indigenous closed ring with annex, a type also known from Fuerteventura. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.44 - Finally on top of this hill a collapsed hollow pyramid or a burial-tower with no roof, therein a soul-hole. A Spanish watchtower can be excluded in this stone desert. The erected stones in the foreground seem to be a part of a family grave, featuring a "pentagon stone", p.95, p.141. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

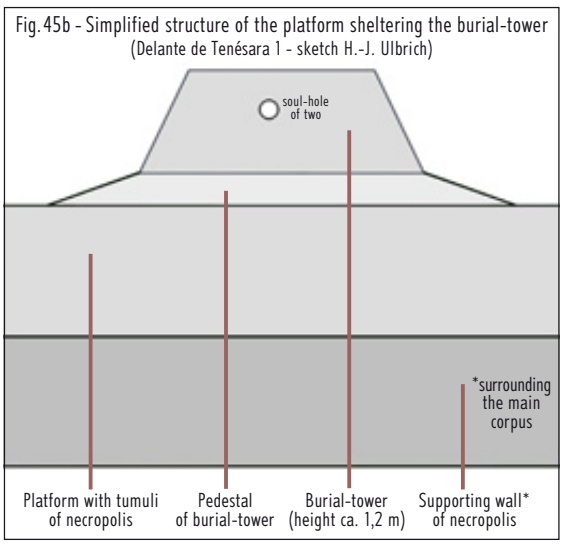
North of the village Los Ancones there can be found two cultic buildings, one a so-called USM (U-shaped-monument / Ulbrich 2020a) and the other one most likely a kind of burial-tower (both contained in Fig.41).

All these pictures (Figs. 39, 41-44) show more or less unknown types of religious monuments which most likely are variants of burial-towers. The terrain between the Mña. Téjida, the Barranco de Teguereste, Guacía/Los Ancones and the middle eastern coast belongs to the most interesting zones of Lanzarote − regarding flora and fauna as well as archaeology, ethnology and geology. Scientific literature is nearly obsolete or not existing (except of course the geographic material by GrafCan, offices in Gran Canaria & Tenerife).

L05	Burial-Tower with pedestal	p. 33-37

Megalithic tomb with artificial pedestal, round or slightly oval groundplan, height of walls up to 1,5 m, walls include a roundish soul-hole, skew vertical walls may have a double layer, no roof

Fig.45a - This is the northern side of a burial-tower placed on an artificial pedestal and this in turn on a generally elevated niveau (platform), which contains also the other tumuli of the necropolis; the latter supported by a surrounding wall (Tenezar south, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich). See here Fig.45b with a schematic sketch.



This megalithic burial-tower (Figs.45a/b/c) shows once more the constructional capabilities of the Bronze Age erectors. Although an intendedly skewed wall was partly damaged and therefore interrupted is the rest still standing after at least more than 3200 years. Alone this no longer supported wall with its daring incline is a masterly-achievement for its time (Fig.45c). Could it be a method using the indigenous mortar known as *téigue* (legend Fig.21)?

For other pedestals see Figs.18, 20, 23, 304 and of course here in Fig.45c, 46, 47.

Another burial-tower near this one (Fig.45) is situated in a distance of 1,1 km (Fig.46/47); it features the most highest horizontal pedestal of the island: ca. 1,5 m. Together with the tower (ca. 1 m) we can declare a max. height of around 2,5 m.

Fig.45c - This is the southern side of the burial-tower; probably a tremor has caused the stones of the left wall and the pedestal to slide down and damage therefore also the wall of the necropolis (Tenezar south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). Visible too are here the demolished devotion chamber and the pedestal with a special white threshold. The enormous skew of the right wall cannot be seen because of the perspective (see Fig. 45d).

Fig. 45d - From the south-western side we can see the damaged left wall of the devotion chamber, the rest of the pedestal and on firm ground the remains of the necropolis wall. Quite impressive and sheer lunatic is the skew of the right wall respectively what was left over – not a photographic distortion [see the vertical sterns of the plants and the silhouette in Fig. 45a]. (Tenezar south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.46 - This is the southwestern side of another burial-tower which belongs also to a necropolis (Tinajo, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich). Remarkable is the comparatively high pedestal (even higher artificial mounds are supposed). Total height ca. 2,5 m.

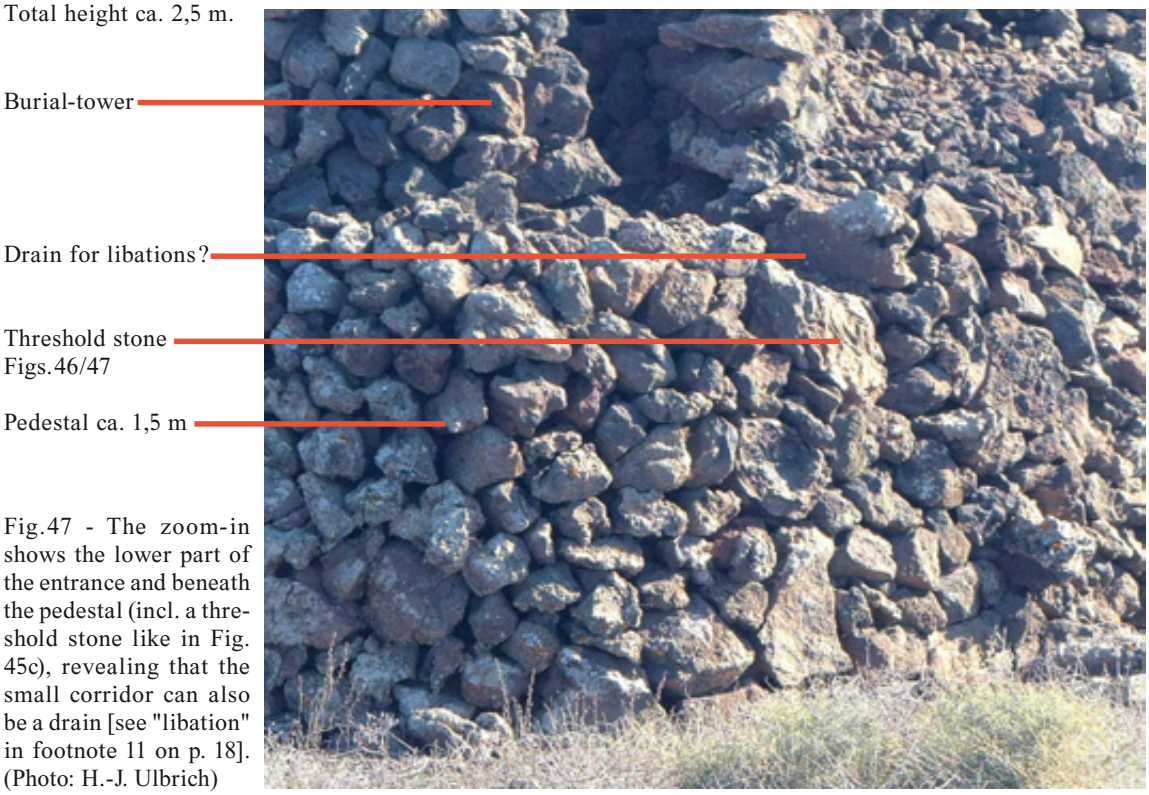


Fig.47 - The zoom-in shows the lower part of the entrance and beneath the pedestal (incl. a threshold stone like in Fig. 45c), revealing that the small corridor can also be a drain [see "libation" in footnote 11 on p. 18]. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

To complete the informations about burial-towers with a special kind of pedestal, here two examples where the top-tumulus of a step-pyramid was used as elevated place for a devotion chamber.

Fig.48 - This one-step pyramid (silhouette of the opposing side included in Fig.2) features on its crest the ruin of a burial-tower; its devotion chamber constructed vertically deeper than the silhouette lets suppose. The many clusters with tumuli and pyramids, dispersed all over the island, are full of variants where the crests or upper platforms host such cultic add-ons including also soul-holes. (Jable de Güime, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.49 - In Fig.7/p.12 we presented a 4-step pyramid from Chio, Tenerife; the same pyramid is shown here with a different perspective. This time emphasizing that the erectors not only regarded two or three soul-holes in the walls, but also led a staircase to a diminutive devotion chamber [entrance collapsed ?] in the uppermost part of the top-tumulus. There two miniature dolmens have the additional task to work like vertical soul-holes [see chapter 5.1.2, p.117 etc]. This L08 pyramid functions here quasi as "extremely elevated pedestal"; a crypt may be integrated. All these precautionary measures can only mean that the defunct was not only an important person but also a highly religious adept. (Photo: Santiago López Arencibia / found in Sánchez Romero 2021)

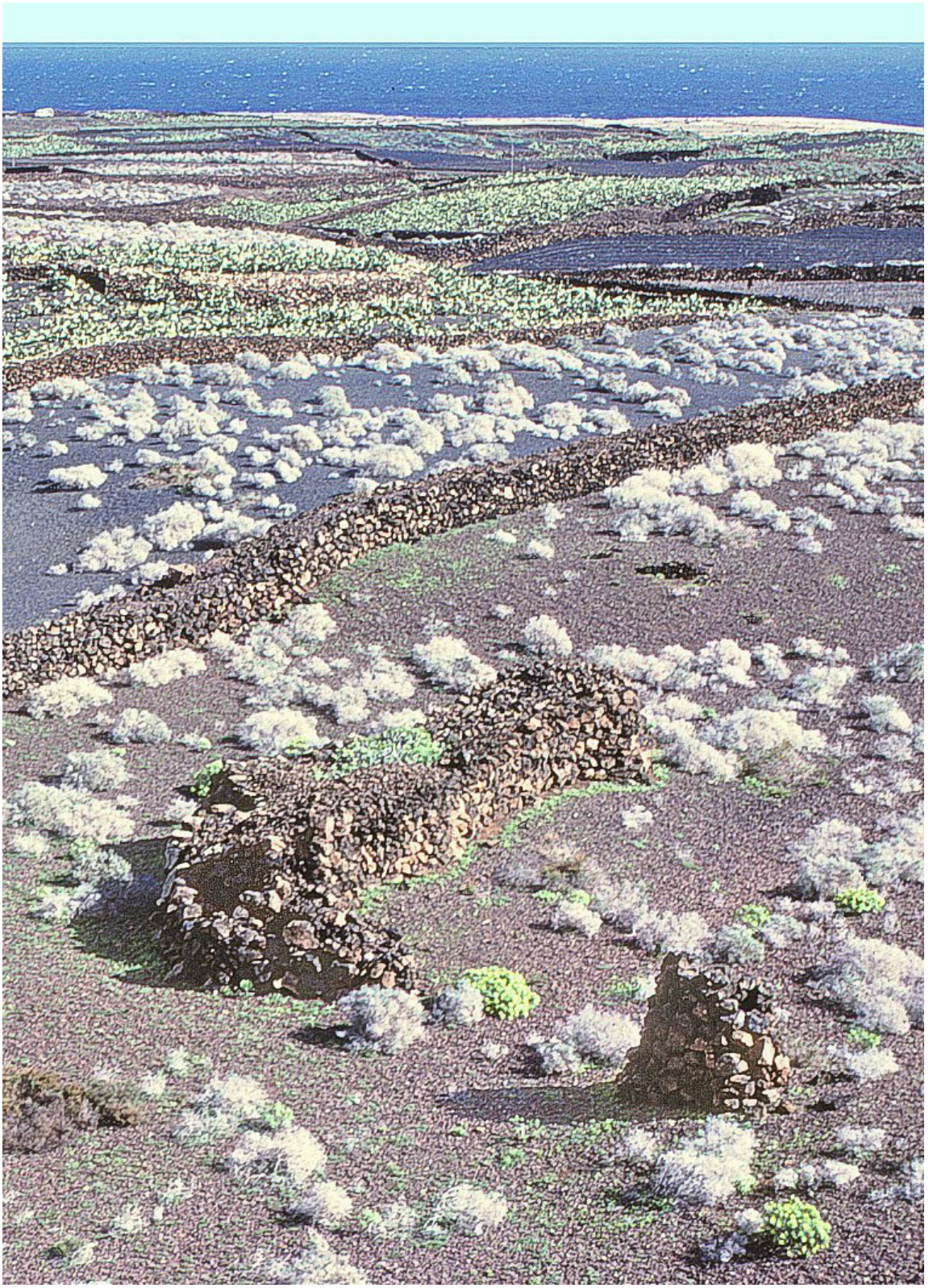


Fig.50 - In this aerial image we have the rare situation that a more or less intact L06 pyramid was used as pedestal for a nearly completely destroyed L05 burial-tower. But a few meters apart to the right we see another burial-tower ruin (stand-alone) which at least lets guess how this L04 version may have looked in better days. The region around Guatiza is still the center of the cochineal cultivation of *Dactylopius coccus* for cosmetics, but many fields are already abandoned. (East of Las Calderas − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also Fig. 48 with another L05 on a pyramid.

L06	Pyramid with one step and platform	p. 38-42

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; height of walls up to 2 m; walls may include a soul-hole; supporting walls vertical or slightly skewed; platform more or less flat (no tumulus); stone filling.

Fig.51 - This one-step pyramid (L06) with a rectangular platform (without top-tumulus) would be called *majano* by the opponents of genuine Canarian pyramids. But they would overlook that two soul-holes (or even more) are integrated in the walls: one with a rosette (left) and one with a triangular tubus (right), both common forms. Furthermore: The damaged corner reveals that there were used two layers for the platform, one with fine small stones (apparently lapilli) and one with big stones above. A learned peasant would never do that. And he would never want to have to plough around such a monument. That despite these rules a pyramid exists in this (meanwhile abandoned) field speaks for a wrongly interpreted *majano* and not for a proper cobble majano. (Mña. La Quemada, Máguez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) A few higher parts of the platform look like a flat top-tumulus (L08) but the overall impression rests more on the L06 side.

Although the one-step pyramid type (Fig.14) consists only of the supporting wall and the stone filling which contains the skeleton(s), it is quite interesting to examine the countless different groundplans which were designed for the individual likings and responsibilities of the architects, defunct, bereaved and of course the gods.

Rectangles and rings, closed and open. The most used groundplans in Lanzarote for L06/L08 monuments are the rectangular (Figs. 51, 270) and the roundish ones, the latter concentric round, oval, stretched oval, etc. Visiting pyramid accumulations reveals however that the walls of L06/L08 pyramids are more often angled than round types. Straight lines combined with four 90° corners can be constructed easier than correct circles.

But there are also other cultic aspects involved when we think of the widespread ∟-forms (Fig. 74) in groundplans of pyramids, walls and geoglyphs (in fact a vulva-like, more opened ∨-form or the half of a rectangular ⊔=∪). Such monuments were used especially in Bronze Age millennia, geographically focused in Central Asia, Europe, the Near and Middle East, the Mediterranean and Northern Africa. ⊔- and ∪-like rows with USMs for example were found near Albacete, La Mancha, in Spain (Ulbrich 2018).

Fig.52 - All three L06 types in Figs.51-53 are placed in fields which were abandoned before years (most likely rural exodus); one can predict that agrarian lapilli areas will then be recaptured gradually by weeds. This one-step pyramid with platform has a drop-like groundplan (triangle with rounded corners). A topstone was considered. In the background the Mña. Tenezara (369,8 m). (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.53 - This longish L06 pyramid (?) with a slim platform – nearly a crest – has more the look of a conic wall; but there seem to be three soul-holes. By the way: A professional farmer does not construct long walls with a height of over his own body tallness, because he wants to be able to see what is going on beyond the wall. (West of Tajaste/Guiguan — tele-photography: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.54 - This one-step pyramid with platform (arrow) has a slightly bowed groundplan and a conic supporting wall. On the "roof" a topstone. In the background righthand a comparatively big L08 pyramid obviously concatenated with a sloping "brother" (lefthand) featuring some unclear constructions within the top-tumulus. (Near Mala – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.55 - At the top of a small volcano we find this terraced "garden" with two bigger L06 pyramids in the foreground, one damaged (right) and the other one (left) with an irregular groundplan; a third one with a triangular groundplan exists in the upper part of the surrounding wall, as well as some smaller tumuli everywhere in the terrain. Remarkable are several very small compartments among the walls with no entrance; this lets suppose a cultic garden similar to the one in Fig. 5. The people wanted to be near their goddess, in life and in death. No agrarian fields surround this garden (Near Mña. Los Helechos north, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.56 - Another L06 pyramid (background) in an ambience of cultic walls (middle- and foreground) which look with its nested pattern not like an agrarian terrain; righthand a L08 pyramid on a slope. (Foot of Mña. Los Helechos, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.57 - Typical for Lanzarote are the burial monuments built in rows. Here two long strings with quite a few L06 pyramids. At the horizon three more pyramids of the L08 type; two covered by lichens and a third one nearly without these − at this place near the foggy Riscos de Famara an indication for a younger age of this building (all three pyramids having the same stone). Lichens (German "Flechten") are a symbiosis which combines fungi and algae. (La Cerca / Guinate, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.58 - A small pyramid of the L06 type, perhaps for not more than two defunct, combined with a cultic wall (background). The latter positioning can be found several times in Lanzarote. Also interesting are the quadrangular (conic) soul-hole righthand and the threepart topstone. More in the middle of this side we can see another possible soul-hole with a triangular tubus (see also Fig.5) consisting of only four stones. Several soul-holes in one pyramid are not uncommon. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.59 - Pyramids of the L06 type with round or oval groundplan can feature a specialty: The roundish form of the wall may up and on be interrupted by a small oriel and/or notch. See sketch Fig.60 and Fig.80. A wall can have one or two divergences or – like in Fig.59 – many. The cultic meaning is unknown, perhaps the multitude of changing forms in the nature is imitated. (Mala, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

The soul-hole in Fig.59 was placed directly on the ground (right part of the photo) and is a dolmen-like type with three different stones and a more or less rectangular tubus (perhaps an indication-stone too).

Fig.60 - Notice: Pyramids with extreme or even rectangular oriels or notches can be found in La Palma.▶

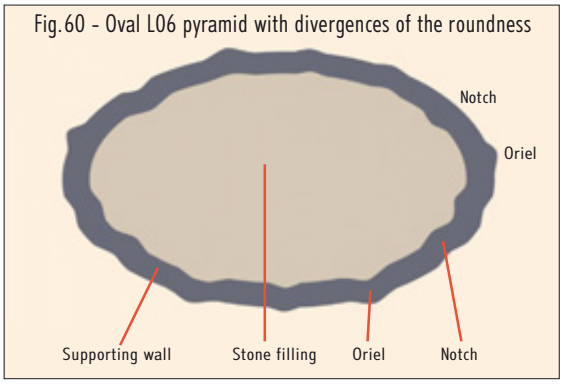


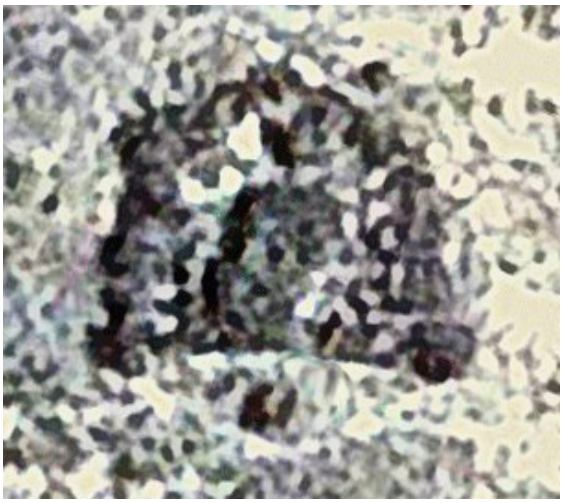
Fig.61 - In contrast to Fig.58/59 this relatively flat version of a round L06 pyramid has its parallels everywhere in the island (see Fig.62). That this is a pyramid and and not a *majano* can be seen in the small artificial cairn at the right side, quasi a topstone. (Mala, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also Fig.93 (Spain).

Fig.62 - Both pyramids, Fig.61 and 62, are the same type, but in the use of the stone material and in the progress of erosion there seem to be 1000 years between these buildings. In the middleground of the right picture side one can see a small "elementary" dolmen (list p.21). (Mosegue/Guasimeta, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.63 - The place of this bowed L06 pyramid is one of the most hazardous of the entire Riscos de Famara. One wrong step and the erector tumbles down the cliff (380 m). Although having to tug really big boulders, I am sure that the natives were perfect climbers and were absolutely free from vertigo. (Upper Valle del Rincón − photo H.-J. Ulbrich)

L07 − Heel-Shaped-Cairns (HSC). We know these megalithic burial monuments normally from Scotland. But Milburn (2022: 207) reported some examples from the Sahara and I can relate them now for Lanzarote. HSCs appear here at the end of the L06 pyramids subchapter because of their flat construction in Lanzarote: low supporting wall, low corpus with platform, no chamber (in the Canarian versions), slightly more stones at the top where the burial area can be supposed (regarding Fig. 68).

HSCs as burial place can also be found in the Near East (Fig.65), but as geoglyph or brick-work (only walls without built-over surface) they are more frequent (Fig.64). A detailed paper is planned. There are hints that HSCs are a subgroup of semi-circles, the latter more or less stretched.



▲ Fig.65 - Heel-shaped-cairn in Saudi Arabia (Medina Province). The building seems to be heavily eroded; in the inner part two small tumuli with perhaps two vertical soul-holes (photo: GE). Below probably an USM.

◀ Fig. 64 - Heel-shaped-cairn (Sicily, Italy) with short "arms" or "wings" more like the ones in Fig.66, not symmetric (photo: GE). The inner part is overgrown, therefore it is not clear if there is a burial like place considered. For extreme wings/arms see Fig. 68.

Fig.67 - Heel-shaped-cairn from Islesburgh, Shetland (sketch: J.E. Walkowitz).

Fig.66 - This heel-shaped-cairn (L07) has two short arms, one is partly covered by the L06 pyramid in the foreground, the other one can be seen with its tip at the left side. One flank of the monument is visible, perspectively abridged. Looking from right to left. (Charco del Palo west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.68a-With a base of 20 m (vertical in this photo) and a corpus of 5 m (horizontal in the photo) this heel-shaped-cairn has an exceptional broad, stretched form which has its origin in the two extra-long arms (see for comparison Fig.67).The "head" of the corpus (image edge righthand) seems to be the place of the burial; it is emphazised by a poorly identifiable soul-hole. A slope exists from right to left in the photo. Some boulders (ca. 15) seem to have slipped to the right side forming a "bulge". (Charco del Palo west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

I remember also that modern urban buildings were erected in the immediate neighbourhood of geoglyphic structures (Ulbrich 2021b: 261). A grand-geoglyph near Los Pocillos, Puerto del Carmen − visible with Google Earth −, shows most likely the contour of a heel-shaped-cairn.

A very special case is the heel-shaped-cairn in Yaiza, Lanzarote. Although it has the typic form like the Sottish version in Fig. 67 (without the long arms of Fig. 68) it features a completely built pyramid out of soil and sand, not of stone! More details in the subchapter for L11 on p. 68-72.

Fig.68b - To have the possibility to view a stretched heel-shaped-cairn (HSC) from above, quasi the "groundplan" look, is quite helpful. We see for example that one arm uses more stones (right side) and that the other arm (left side) is distinctly slimmer and more peaked. Interesting is also that the HSC in Fig.66 (here below the left arm of the big variant) is part of a concatenation. This means that the natives combined the smaller HSC with a bowed pyramid and the latter then with a rectangular type. Such constructions, common for Lanzarote, are properly speaking not a row. The idea of the ancient erectors is unclear. Family or clan or ship crew connections? Further to the south we see a small L08 pyramid with three steps. The two walls in the picture play absolutely no role in an agrarian sense and must have − for us unknown yet − a cultic relevance. (Aerial photo: GrafCan)

L08a	Pyramid with one or more steps, top-tumulus	p. 46-57

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; height of walls up to 2,6 m (tum. not counted); walls and crests may incl. soul-holes; supporting walls vertical or slightly skewed; top-tumulus (no platform); stone filling

Fig.69 - This rectangular L08 pyramid with top-tumulus is the equivalent to the L06 pyramid in Fig.1, there without this feature. Both exist at the foot of the Mña. del Mojón, in a savannah southeast of Mala. A white or whitened indication-stone in a black (volcanic) wall can often mean that a soul-hole is nearby; in this actual case most likely a triangular tubus. One of the two longer walls is heavily damaged. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) The two pyramids look quite identical; could it be that both were built by the same "architect" and/or the same family?

The absolutely most frequent pyramid variants in Lanzarote are the L08 ones with their top-tumuli. The use of soul-holes is predominating, in walls and on the crest of the tumuli. It is therefore highly recommended to parallely read chapters 5.1.-5.3. (p. 99-123) about the countless different forms of these cultic orifices and at the same time physical provisions.

L08 pyramids exist in a wide range of groundplans and step schemes (Fig.70, p.46). One- or two-stepped walls are common; the second step is usually lower. Some ultra-rare pyramids in Lanzarote can have four or five steps (see p.142, 146). The more horizontal surface a top-tumulus delivers, the more vertical soul-holes (p. 117) can be placed. Yet the area for rites and cultic tools is limited when only a narrow crest exists; then merely a small topstone, an elementary-dolmen or a mini-cairn etc has room. The top-tumulus can of course have a totally irregular silhouette. In this case is practically no vertical soul-hole possible – with one exception, the artificial "volcanic crater". The latter is "installed" quite often in smaller L08 pyramids or in tumuli on ground (L16).

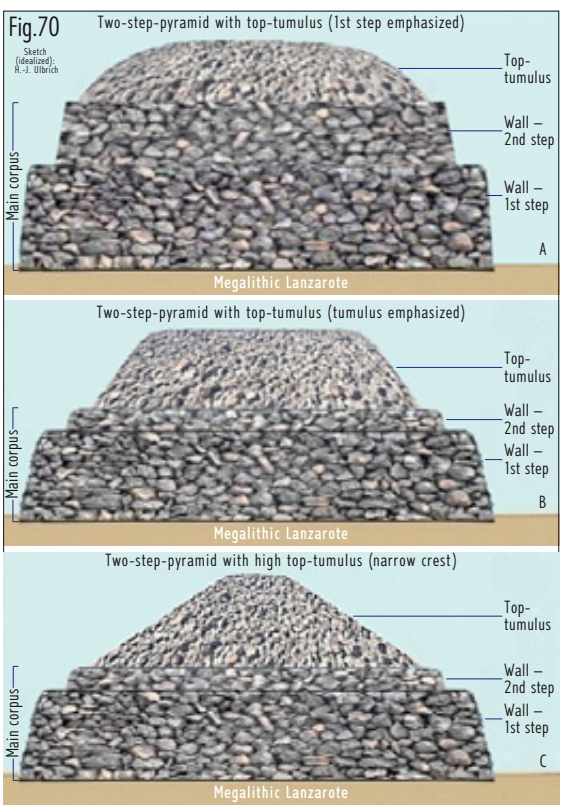


Fig.71 - This two-stepped, more terraced pyramid on the crest of an old volcano (view from above) features with its top-tumuli an interesting detail: Both steps use as filling not the widespread more than fist-sized (mostly bigger) stones, but a relatively fine-grained brash with averagely 2-6 cm per stone. Who produced it in this explicite form and transported it to the border of the crater? What was the purpose of this fine material? Most likely we have to look for a cultic background. (Guinate south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.72a - Quite unusual is this less than waist-high burial pyramid. It crosses two other walls in a 90° angle (Fig.72b), has only a low supporting wall and a low top-tumulus, features a mini-dolmen-like entrance (soul-hole function) with a short corridor and finally ends above a third wall at the left side of the photo (axis of the pyramid). There even exists a second, vertical soul-hole on the top-tumulus with triangular tubus. An acclivity comes in addition. Regarding the corridor I would in this case not speak of the special pyramids with forecourt (ch. 5.9.) because they offer distinctly more expanse. Another abnormality is the big boulder at the end of the pyramid, it reminds of the big end-boulders in Figs. 16 / 17. (Guinate south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

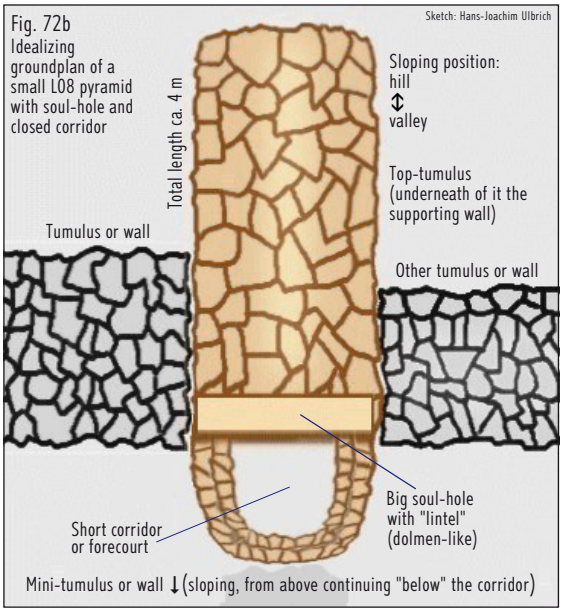


Fig. 72b
Idealizing groundplan of a small L08 pyramid with soul-hole and closed corridor

In the touristic strongholds Puerto del Carmen and Puerto Calero (Figs. 74-77) exists absolutely no interest in the native pyramids, neither with the local people who meanwhile belong not to the agrarian land users, nor with the visitors who know nothing about the prehistoric buildings because there is written not one word in their guidebooks. Is this disinterest a blessing? Perhaps yes if the Cabildo and the proprietors would at least spend a minimum of care (avoiding waste, destruction, etc).

Such comparatively big monuments, like the megalithic ones which Figs. 74-77 illustrate, causes us to muse about factors like efforts, time, perseverance, consensus, logistics etc. − all attributes of the first wave. Apparently the people of the second (Berber) wave were incapable to organize joint tasks in a bigger dimension.

Fig.73 - This is one of the irregular L08 pyramids with unsteady height regarding wall and top-tumulus. On one side (right) a big soul-hole needs space, on the other side (left) an artificial crater. (Jable de Güime − photo H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.74 - A really big longish L08 pyramid is this one (ME ca. 60 m) with several "oriels"; see Fig. 60. In the background we count twelve more pyramids and tumuli at the outskirts of Puerto Calero (photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.75 - The outskirts of Puerto del Carmen have meanwhile reached the former native land. The ∟-form pyramids (p.38, p.50), here more an "ice hockey stick", exist also with two steps and top-tumulus; the first step here has nearly lost its contour because stones from the top-tumulus were "picked up" (stopped) by its horizontal part (photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.76 - Puerto del Carmen west: The background righthand of this two-step pyramid with two round ends are since years these still unfinished and unsold apartment blocks. Both ruins of their way. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.77 - A rectangular L08 pyramid with two steps and one flawed top-tumulus, also one corner damaged. (Tias, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.78 - In the middleground we recognize another ∟-form pyramid with nearly a 90° angle (see also Fig. 75). Its second step is relatively high while the conic top-tumulus is not distinctive. In the foreground a L08 pyramid with one step and an irregular top-tumulus. The Canarian opuntiae were originally imported from Mexico (around 1800) and were then not known by the indigenous. (Mala south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.79 - Big pyramid (max. length 21 m) south of Tias; please read the text below (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

One of the strangest pyramids of Lanzarote is the one in Fig.79. The entire place deserves our attention. The one-step building is situated in a dell whose right side shows a vertical wall (height ca. 2,3 m) while the left end has a long sloping contour. Below the tip of the crest (top-tumulus) we can detect an enormous boulder; it was perhaps the topstone who slided down in the last millenia. A low tumulus in front of the same side features several unidentifiable constructions: Among these small compartements, some rectangular, one could be the ruin of a burial-tower. Quite interesting is also a small L08 pyramid at the left foreground, practically a parallel to Fig. 72 a/b; but here the lintel is more plainly the capstone of a genuine dolmen which is the entrance of this longish mini-pyramid with a triangular soul-hole in the wall. This begs the question if not some simple dolmens (Fig.79) can even be more simplified or reduced (see Figs. 16, 17, 24, 26-31, 42, 49, 72).

Fig.80 - This one-step pyramid with conic top-tumulus is another one with quite a few columnar oriels in its wall (see Fig.60, p.41). The task of this measure is unclear; an additional stabilization of the wall is apparently not necessary. (Tias, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.81 - This rare pyramid type has three more or less damaged steps and a low, unobtrusive top-tumulus. (Punta Mujeres northwest, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.82 - In all those years of roaming in Lanzarote I found only three native monuments with a staircase. This irregular pyramid is one of these (the steps became askew recently); see also Figs. 36, 306c. (La Tegala foot − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.83 - This chain of burial monuments – a genuine concatenation – features different makings. For example: The white arrow marks a rectangular L06 pyramid with platform (substantially damaged); the red arrow points to a rarity where all sides of a pyramid run from the ground to the tip as one conic form (walm design). See also Figs.77 & 143 and the legends on p.76-79. (La Santa southwest, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

The megalithic burial architecture of Lanzarote is full of "wonders". In Fig.9 we see a sequence of different pyramids combined as row but in Fig. 68b a form of concatenation was used. One can speak of a row when the monuments do not touch each other; the sequences in Figs.68b/83 are clear concatenations. The impressive chain in Fig.83 shows only the half of the sequence; this means that a very long special "wall of monuments" (ca. 700 m) exists in the landscape, ignored by everyone: the more or less interested roamer, the passing archaeologist, the unconcerned proprietor, the uninformed authorities etc.

I found other such concatenations in Lanzarote and I recognized that this method was also applied with certain cultic walls whose silhouettes were going up and down like a chain of sailing ships. Such combinations of pyramids or wall segments are also a sign of the perfect solidarity within the archipelago-wide Bronze Age community and within their religious observance. Territorial conflicts which were known from the Guanches and Mahos etc were most likely uncommon among the members of the first eastern Mediterranean colonial waves when they entered a new island; mutual help was obviously a normality then, a self-evident responsibility. When having to manage an island it is always better to follow an aim which unites.

Fig.84 - Another unicum is this bowed L08 pyramid where the corpus is only in parts covered by a top-tumulus. Rare is also the big soul-hole with a drop-like tubus. A collapsed part of the crest could point to a crypt. (Charco del Palo west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.85 - At first sight is this a nice but not sensational picture. We see a native pyramid and an alleged modern field. But this field was originally not prepared by a French[15] or Spanish peasant; he would never let a *majano* (pyramid) reach into the middle of his field. In fact it was the decision of the native "architect" to let the pyramid cross the geoglyphic field bordure (foreground) in an angle of 90°. Furthermore the big fig tree covers another building which is either an annex of the first one or it is a case of concatenation. The visible pyramid has a high wall, a low top-tumulus and a damaged end (righthand). The wall contains at least one soul-hole of the rosette type. The fig tree was already known by the indigenous old-Canarians of the second wave but it is not clear if the seafarers of the first Bronze Age wave had the valued fruit already in their luggage when they arrived in Lanzarote. Nevertheless it has to be seized on when we think of their route through the Mediterranean which − when having started in the Near East − included the knowledge of the fig tree. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.86 - Walking especially through pyramid clusters lets recognize that remarkably sparse monuments are noteworthy covered with weed (here a L08 pyramid with top-tumulus). Apparently the structure of the stone layers and the stone chemistry itself are not favourable for certain small plants. The lack of fertile soil in desert regions of the island allows often only some succulent plants like the endemic *Kleinia neriifolia* (Fig.87). (Tias, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.87 - *Kleinia neriifolia* on the top-tumulus of a pyramid (Mña. Corona foot − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich). See also Fig.99b.

[15] The first successful European settlers of the early 15th century in Lanzarote were the French, not the Spanish. (The Mallorcan attempts of 1352 started promisingly but ended abruptly in 1393 when a brutal Andalusian assault led to a massacre among the Mallorcan settlers by the Grancanarian natives.) See Ulbrich 1989: 114 >.

Fig.88a - A typic slope pyramid: starting at the hillside with the top-tumulus and ending at the valleyside with the supporting wall (main corpus). Fig.88b shows the presumed triangular three- or four-stone soul-hole. In the background the Mña. de la Tabaiba = Mña. del Cortijo. (Tinguatón south, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.89 - This small pyramid features two well distinguishable steps and the fine-grained filling (corpus & top-tumulus) which we know already from Fig.71. See also Fig.90 a/b. (Tinajo north, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.90a - This storybook pyramid belongs also to the group with fine-grained brash fillings regarding the corpus and the top-tumulus – like the ones in Figs.71 and 89. In comparison with Fig.90b one can see that the southern corner – constructed as oriel with an ornamental or cultic stone – is much more pronounced than the one in the aerial picture. The top-tumulus looks like a walm-roof (p.77). (Punta Mujeres NW, Lanzarote – photo 2017: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.90b - The satellite version of this photo is only approximate: The oriel and the following dent (right side) in Fig.90a are nearly not visible in Fig.90b; also not the sharp edge of the other end of the eastern side. Interesting is that the pyramid has a crest and a topstone, the latter has already slided down a bit. (Photo 2021: GrafCan)

At the end of this subchapter some remarks on the pyramids which were built on slopes. It is obvious that the erectors had no problems with such sites, in fact, they seem to have searched them or at least were not unhappy about this circumstance. The worship of the goddess of the first wave colonists included to accept what their mistress chose as worthy to live in scenery. As we will see in another chapter (p.160) this behaviour sometimes had really crazy aspects.

Fig.91 - This L08 pyramid with topstone starts horizontally at the right side and ends sloping at the left side. (Guasimeta, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.92 - Both L08 pyramids were placed on a slope. Their walls are extremely damaged. The example in the foreground shows a strange wavily limit line between the step (walls incl. the corpus) and the top-tumulus. (Guasimeta, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.93 - The small burial pyramid in this picture is only sloping slightly, but it serves as preparation for Fig.94. What we see here is an oval L08 type with top-tumulus and soul-hole − but this is not Lanzarote, it is the Extremadura, continental Spain. The megalithic style of Europe, the Near East and the Mediterranean islands and coasts is unmistakably visible. (Photo: 4.bp.blogspot.com)

Fig.94 - Both pyramid types − Figs.93 & 94 − were placed on a slope, have an oval groundplan, use soil for the top-tumulus and have a soul-hole. The Lanzarotian version is in addition concatenated with a pyramid on the hill; one can see the connecting cultic wall. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.95 - One of the most unknown regions of Lanzarote are the volcanic Capita Hills. On their slopes and in their valleys we can find a mixture of small tumuli and one-step pyramids. Righthand the abandoned fields of a once laborious agriculture where the natural plants reconquer their biosphere. (Puerto Calero north, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L08b	Pyramid (one or more steps), devotion chamber	p. 58-63

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; height of walls up to 2,6 m (tum. not counted); walls and crests may incl. soul-holes; support. walls vertical or slightly skewed; top-tumulus; stone filling; devotion chamber

Lanzarotian burial pyramids − in Ulbrich 2021a, before the classification in this book, I called them "tumuli" − can be divided in monuments with or without an integrated small chamber which can be used by the bereaved to communicate with the main local goddess exercising certain rites concerning also the defunct. But first some remarks on the architectural circumstances.

Pyramids with a devotion chamber must be planned from the first second, it is not possible to integrate it afterwards. The height and the width of such a room can be totally different: In some cases a person of 160 cm can stand erect and in other cases a person can only cower or creep.

The more or less horizontal ceiling is constructed with stones of different size which hold each other not by a cuneiform trimming (no arch brick or radial cove) but through the search of fitting irregular stones. I am not an architect but I can imagine this only when a small scaffold was used in the very first phase. The internal walls are more or less vertical, some with a transition to the horizontal upper parts (ceiling > Fig.352, p.170). The entrance can have a sort of distinct threshold.

Corbelled constructions were used already in the 5th millenium BC−but not alone (see Fig.100c). For "corbelled" or "non-corbelled" see also p. 84, 170.

I emphasize that I found not one devotion chamber where a corbelled vault was used. Renate Löbbecke (2012: 109 [Lanzarote 107-113]) − a specialist for corbelled vaults − visited a "stone depot" with integrated *taro* (entrance visible in her photo); in fact a funeral ∟-form pyramid with devotion chamber at the foot of the Mña. Tenezara. Apparently she did not enter the room. I describe the building here as out and out megalithic (p.60), concatenated with the neighbouring one-step pyramid with top-tumulus (Fig.183, p.98). It is quite astonishing that she − regarding her travel route through entire Lanzarote − did not one time use the word "megalithic", not to mention "Bronze Age"; she simply neglected or ignored this topic and apparently knew also not the *majano* problem.

To integrate specific chambers in tumuli − additional to the burial rooms − was practised by the Getules in Morocco and partly in Algeria (ca. 500

Fig.96a - Entrance of a devotion chamber. Colors emphasized to show that a rhombus was used. A lozenge (rhombus) is one of the oldest signs of mankind symbolizing the female genitals; to use this graphic form for the architecture of a devotion chamber dedicated to the goddess of reincarnation is surely appropriate. (Caldera Quemada north, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.96b - Part of the internal vertical wall of the devotion chamber photographed with the help of a flashlight. (Caldera Quemada north, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also Figs. 100c, 133.

Fig.97-A "normal" L08 pyramid with devotion chamber at the southern foot of the Mña. Tenezara; remarkable is the different construction of the two "doorposts". The topstone seems to be dislocated. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.98 - A pyramid with topstone and a low entrance of the devotion chamber. In the background Mala at the NE coast of Lanzarote. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

BC to 500 AD); the idea was to establish dream-contacts with deceased to get their advice and divinations. Gabriel Camps (1984: 561-572, Fig.3) described these "*tumuli à chapelle*" in depth. The extra devotion chamber in Lanzarotian pyramids is something totally different, although a few parallels exist: In old-Canarian megalithic devotion rooms the living users searched primarily contact to the goddess, and the small mostly rectangular rooms cannot be compared with the complex built chapels of the Getules. Furthermore the defunct in the pyramid can use soul-holes to communicate with both, the goddess and the bereaved.

A connection between a cultic room in a Lanzarotian pyramid and the involvement of an important deess can be observed in several details:

1. The erectors of a devotion chamber could consider quite a few versions, for example if the entrance or even the entire side of the room is combined with big natural rock formations. (Figs.99, 101a, 106, 107)

2. The members of the first wave show in all their actions a great respect for processes in the nature (e.g. volcanism and karst) and for the appropriate decisions of the responsible Earth Goddess. These people were most likely interested to find landscapes with acquainted holy geological conditions. We know for instance that a Sumerian goddess was described as "lady of the sacred mountain" (Ninhursag). The Turkish Mount Ida was linked with the Phrygian Cybele and was also personalised as "Ida" herself. As Dindymene/Dindymon (Δινδυμήνη = "hill, height") she was able to give birth to stones (Stumfohl 1990: 86).

3. Everywhere in the prehistoric Canary Islands the people demonstrated their obedience by the construction of certain walls, geoglyphs and monuments which are in a wider sense cultic and nature related but not necessarily connected alone with burials.

4. The local Earth Goddess is also the numen who facilitates the use of soil and stones and who provides three-dimensional areas to allow manmade constructions like tombs, crypts, devotion chambers, soul-holes etc.

5. In this context it will be necessary to clarify which defunct could have been buried above ground, for example in a pyramid or other sepulchral building, and which will find their final resting place below earth or in a crypt underneath the

Please continue reading on p.62.

◀ Fig.99a - A devotion chamber with one side out of natural rocks and the other side featuring a manmade wall. This cavern is used by the peasant for his old oil barrels, see also Fig.309e. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

▼ Fig.99b - A pyramid at the foot of the Mña. Los Llanos, Lanzarote. Corpus, top-tumulus and devotion chamber are relatively well-preserved. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

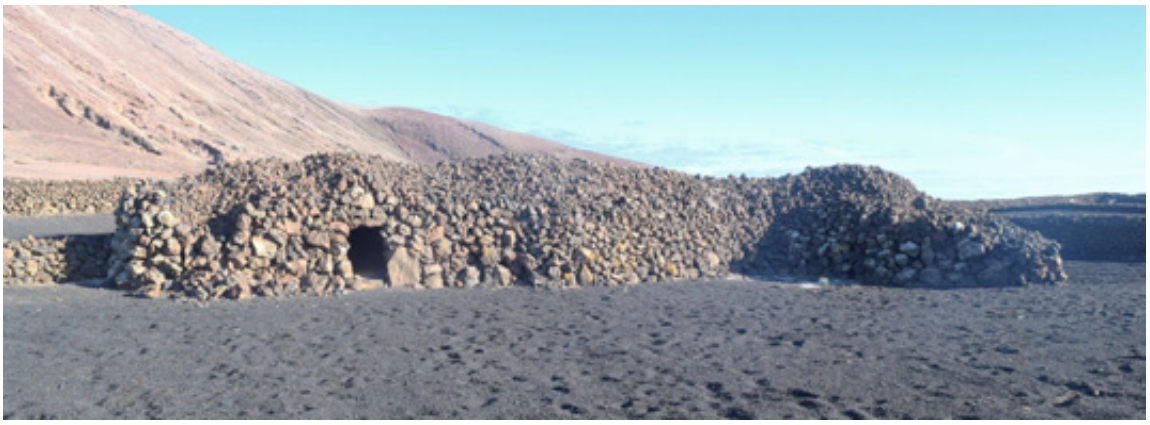


Fig.100a - This L08b pyramid (also visited by R. Löbbecke) is a quite interesting version: ∟-form groundplan*, concatenated with the adjacent pyramid (only a part of the connecting wall visible, middleground lefthand). The devotion chamber and its ceiling not constructed as a corbelled vault (see Fig.100c). (Mña. Tenezara foot, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) *More details on L-forms in Ulbrich 2021b.

Fig.100b - Entrance of the devotion chamber. (Mña. Tenezara foot, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) For the stele in front of the right doorpost see Fig. 302c, p. 141 > ⌂. The lintel problem (arrows) not recognized by R. Löbbecke.

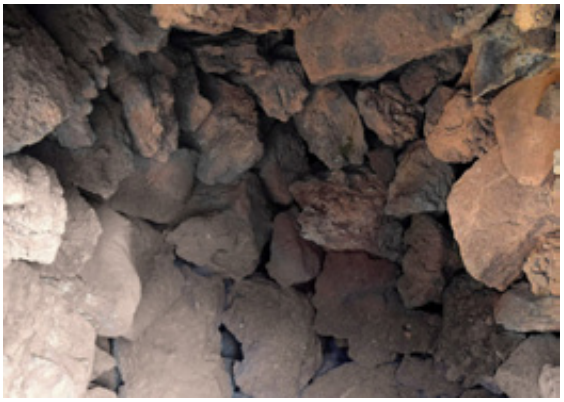


Fig.100c - Horizontal ceiling of the devotion chamber. Not corbelled! (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.101a - This long-stretched L08b pyramid with devotion chamber is another example of an integration with a natural rock formation – as much as 50%. (Mña. Corona southern foot, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.101b - Another eye-catching specialty is the enormous skew of the entrance. – parallel to the skew of the top-tumulus. A clear replication of a sloping mountain. (Mña. Corona southern foot, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.102 - This one-step pyramid with high walls and a low top-tumulus is something special: There was gathered a big number of extreme boulders, quasi a kind of hallway to impose the stone loving goddess. Furthermore the low entrance of the devotion chamber is constructed with enormous rocks, one of these is the impressive lintel. The left vertical wall is higher than the right one. (Valle de Juana Gutiérrez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.103 - Near the pyramid of Fig.102 exists a basalt block (covered by yellowish lichens) which features some rock art: The four carvings are interpreted as so-called linear style showing rain or a rain magic; the two V-signs (vulvae) are scraped. Discussable is the form ⊥ (middle of the photo) − is it a caprice of nature or something anthropomorphic? See also Fig.380, p.184. (Valle de Juana Gutiérrez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.104 - An intricated combination of two L08a pyramids with top-tumulus (righthand) and a L08b pyramid where the main corpus features a devotion chamber and a relatively low top-tumulus; the latter with a changing stone density respectively stone bigness. (Punta Mujeres northwest, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.105 - A slightly conic entrance of a devotion chamber; depth ca. 1 m before it bends to the left. (Máguez northwest, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.106 - A very low entrance (ca. 70 cm) of a devotion chamber, depth ca. 90 cm. (Guinate, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.107 - A L08b pyramid with devotion chamber and topstone. Please note also the limestone marking (white colour) on the left doorpost. With a collaps of the burial chamber (crypt). (Tias, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

pyramid (Fig.107). Can rites held in the devotion chamber influence the decisions of the bereaved and of the goddess?

Reduced Devotion Chambers. A subgroup of Lanzarotian devotion chambers provides only a kind of inlet (Figs.108, 109) at one side of the pyramid with a depth of 0,5-2 m. In some cases the inlet starts a few decimetres above ground (also known from Fuerteventura). The use of natural rocks is meant as a sign of worship.

Fig.108 - A pyramid with a "reduced devotion chamber" which has more the character of a corridor (nearly no ceiling), but the contact with the goddess is of course easily possible, especially with this integrated rock formation. Relatively high supporting wall with a very low top-tumulus. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.109 - In the background a pyramid with a "reduced devotion chamber" (the sight onto the orifice is disturbed by some opuntiae). In the foreground a soil-filled longish pyramid (see Fig.123); both monuments are concatenated. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L09	Pyramid (one or more steps), top-tumulus, forecourt	p. 64-66

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; walls and crests may include soul-holes; supporting walls vertical or slightly skew; top-tumulus; stone filling; height and form of forecourts different.

Up and on the pyramids are combined with a kind of forecourt which has apparently no agrarian purpose. In other words: It seems to be a cultic measure and is well known in the world of megaliths. The native wall constructions in Lanzarote can normally be described as not more than hip-high, but in some rare cases they can reach heights of up to two meters (Fig.115). In Figs.110-112 we see a vague dolmen like construction integrated in the wall. Quite different is also the expanse of the terrain: small annexes to the pyramid or big walled-in stretches of land.

Fig.110 - Pyramid with an oval forecourt. (La Cerca/Guinate south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.111 - Burial monument with an oval forecourt. From the same necropolis like Fig.110. The vacillation of the height of the walls is indistinct. (La Cerca/Guinate south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.112 - Two more pyramids with an oval forecourt. From the same burial site like Figs.110/111. The vacillation of the height of the walls is unclear (La Cerca/Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.113 - Big bowed pyramid with partly two steps, high supporting wall, top-tumulus and semi-circular forecourt. Used for modern construction waste; see also Fig.4a. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.114 - Damaged two-step pyramid with an interesting L-form forecourt. Used for modern construction waste. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

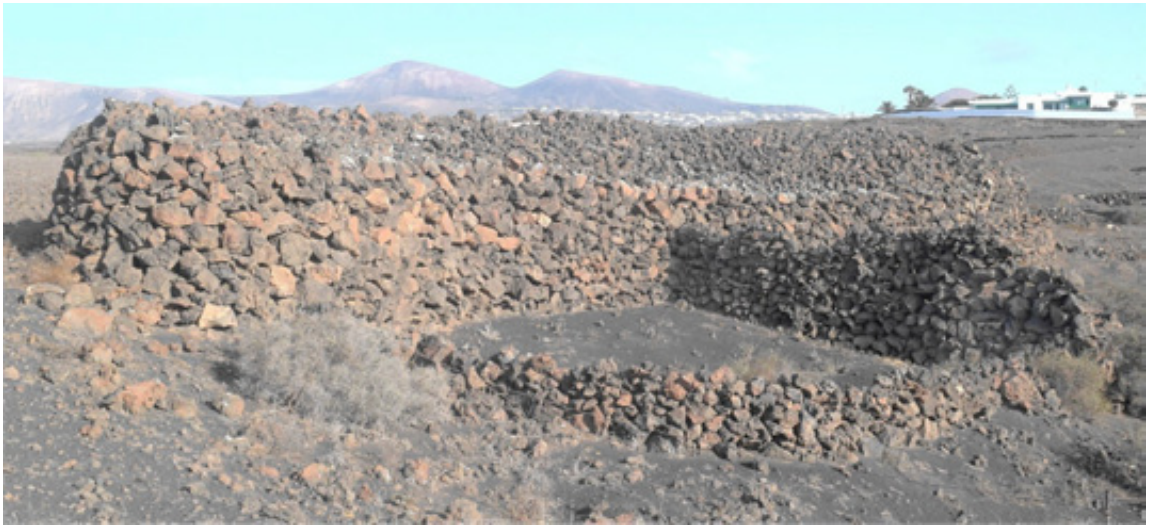


Fig.115 - Big bowed pyramid with partly two steps and a more or less triangular forecourt. The significant higher wall of the latter is constructed air-permeable; this could be a hint of a wind cult (seafaring people). Sloped position of the monument. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.116 - Big longish pyramid with a rectangular forecourt or annex. The walls of the annex are growing out of the supporting wall. One soul-hole visible. (Punta de Mujeres NW, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.117 - Why not enjoying a bottle of fresh beer in this weekend "forecourt"? The latter seems to be authentic old (most likely only the place cleaned). (Puerto del Carmen / western pyramid cluster, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L10	Pyramid, one step, top-tumulus, with compartments	p. 67

Megalithic tomb; groundplan longish; height of walls up to 1,2 m (top-tumuli not counted); walls and crests may incl. soul-holes; support. walls slightly skewed; top-tumulus; stone filling; sections rectangular

In the northern part of Lanzarote one can up and on realize a long stretched one-step pyramid with top-tumulus combined with more or less rectangular walls – quasi a row of short sections or "garden parcels" parallel to the pyramid (see sketch in Fig.118). The photo presented here (Fig.119) is the only one where the compartments are somehow identifiable; other similar constructions are even more damaged.

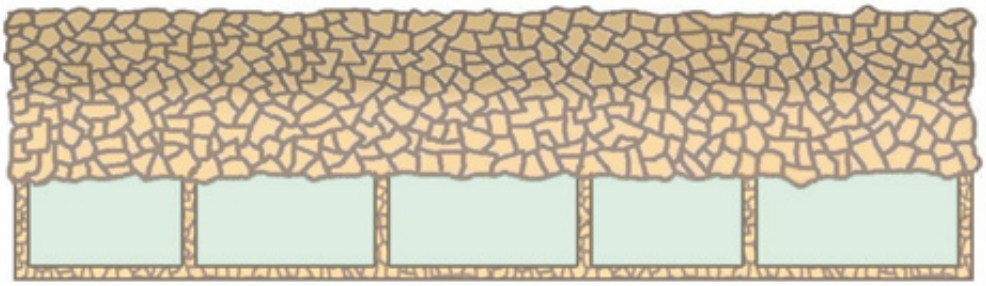


Fig.118 (idealized)

Pyramid with one step and top-tumulus

Two or more sections (Europe, Near East and Central Asia)

Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich

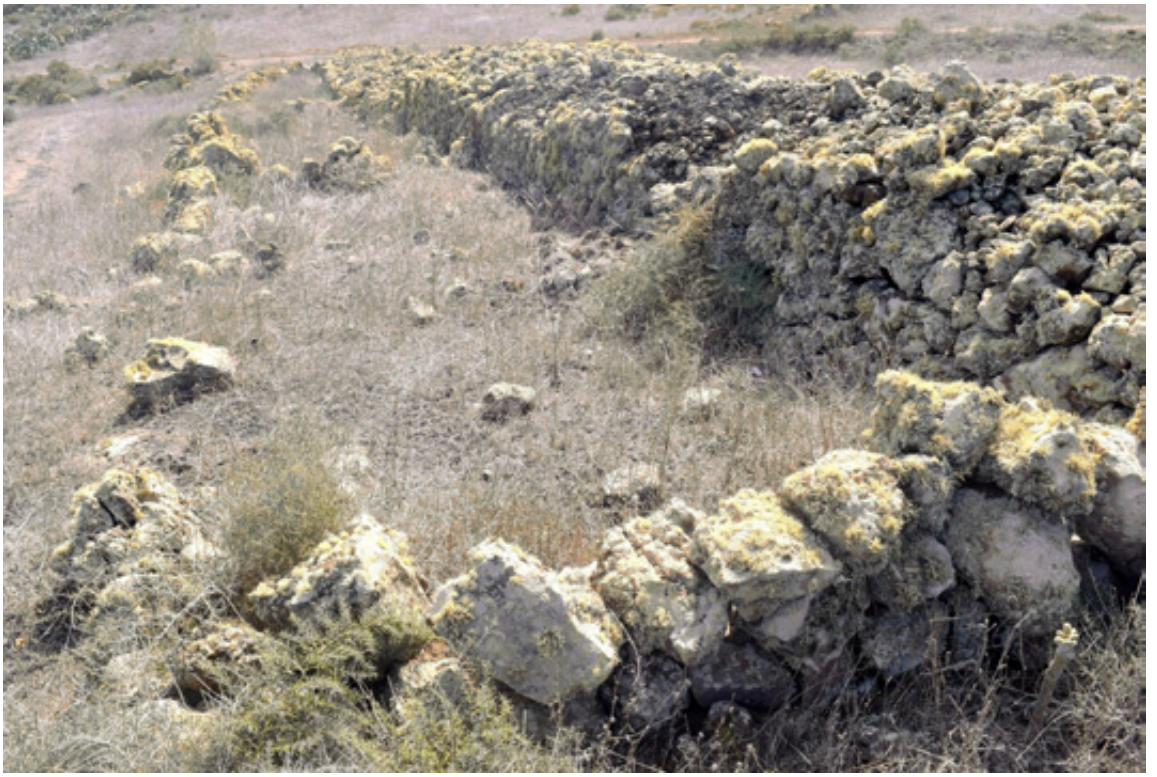


Fig.119a - Extremely long pyramid with multiple rectangular compartments (annexes) at the valleyside. The walls of the compartments are widely damaged because of the millenia old sloping position of the stones. One soul-hole visible. (La Quemada de Máguez, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

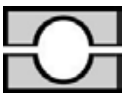


Fig.119b - A classic duplex version of this soul-hole type for pyramid walls; the two semi-circles here are quite small but the stones are prominent. In other cases – e.g. dolmens – gladly used for porthole-slabs. (La Quemada de Máguez, Lanzarote – photo and sketch: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L11	Pyramid (wall /one step) or tumulus (no wall), soil filling	p. 68-72

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; height of walls up to 2,4 m (top-tumuli not counted); tumuli (crests) and walls may include soul-holes; supporting walls are vertical or slightly skew; tumuli (up to 2,4 m) are hill-like conic; soil filling in all these constructions; no hollow versions (sometimes a casket assumed).

The mass of Lanzarotian burial monuments consists of stone, through and through − wether fine lapilli or huge boulders. But there are also cultic buildings − at least their main corpus − which below a thin layer of ashes and/or stones are totally filled with soil (fig.94); sometimes a mixture of soil and sand when the tomb is situated in a special "jable" (French *sable*) region, for example south of the Mña. Mina (Figs.8, 12).

The reason for this divergence from "normality" is most likely the fact that these soil types are meant to be welcomed by the goddess as well as the stone material. The yellowish, brownish or often reddish colors of the soil may also have a cultic meaning. Furthermore the soil/earth substance is easier to handle when planning small conic monuments without walls (Figs. 125, 126, 128, 129, 131).

Fig.120 - A fine example of a pyramid (wall + top-tumulus), this time not a stone corpus but − apparently − a soil filling of the corpus. One can see that the thin layer of small stones has slided down and the surface shows now the yellow soil material. (Punta Mujeres northwest, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.121 - Everywhere in the natural scenery of Lanzarote one can observe a kind of mini-pyramids which apparently were erected for one person of a lower social status (see also Fig.58). The lapilli layer here is damaged at some small points of the crest and lets show the soil filling. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.122 - This is one of the most biggest (broadest) pyramids of the entire island. The heavy down-slide of the stone layers reveals now that below the lapilli layer exists a soil corpus. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.123 - When the lapilli and stone layers fade then often the soil filling appears. One of the bigger pyramids shows that this soil material can reach a thickness thrice as high as the supporting wall. (Máguez east, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.124 - In the foreground a "normal" pyramid with stone filling (big boulders). In the middleground around 25 tumuli with a soil filling. In the background the foot of the Montaña Mina. (Mña. Mina southeast, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.125 (SW view) & Fig. 126 (SE view) - This relatively big burial tumulus (length 16 m, height ca. 2 m) is the parade example for a tumulus without wall and with consistent soil filling (containing also some natural stones). There exists even a vertical soul-hole, a pan, on the top of the monument. The groundplan lets suppose a HSC (inlet at the NNW side / here not visible). The lapilli layer was most likely augmented by the volcanic eruptions (1730-1736) in the nearby Timanfaya National Park. It is a wonder that the proprietor of the terrain did not bulldoze this valuable prehistoric monument; at the same time it demonstrates the impotence of the Canarian authorities regarding the *patrimonio*. (Yaiza outskirts / Valle Fenauso, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.127 - The plain SW of the Mña. Mina features these five tumuli with soil filling; one in the foreground, the rest as row in the middleground. (Near Güime, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Once erected most likely by natives of the first wave: Everywhere in Lanzarote one can observe these small tumuli with soil filling; they remind of miniature "Long Barrows" (GB). Why did a 2nd wave Berber and/or a 15th c. colonist not use such valuable material for his fields? Why did later Lanzarotians ignore it too? See Figs. 128-129.

Fig.128 - La Quemada de Máguez SE, Lanzarote (photo Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.129 - Guatifay southern foot, Lanzarote (photo Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.130 - An archaeological phenomenon is not only the existence of these Bronze Age tumuli with soil fillings (in the Canaries with or without a stone layer) but also the continents-wide ignorance of these monuments. In fact such multiple agglomerations at one place (German: Agglomeration, Anhäufung), misunderstood as depositions, can be found everywhere in Europe, in the Near East, in the Mediterranean and in Northern Africa; most likely they were not perceived by modern people because they look in many cases like forgotten industrial waste – especially in satellite photos. Of course these closely built or even touching groups (similar to mini-cairns) can also represent other geological materials. That every such tumulus contains a defunct is questionable and lets think more of a cultic geoglyphic pattern; nevertheless in some cases can such an agglomerated tumulus also be used as burial place. (Puerto del Carmen / in the background the local sports field – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.131 - In the middle of the photo we see an agglomeration of soil-filled tumuli with only a slim stone layer. All other tumuli and pyramids in the picture are completely stone-filled. Please read also the legend of Fig.130. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.132 - This well preserved two-step pyramid shows in some small parts of the triform top-tumulus that underneath the stone grain exists a soil-filling. Furthermore this top-tumulus appears like an agglomeration similar to the cases of soil-filling in Figs.130 & 131. The second step looks more like a decorational measure and not as an architectural necessity (a Spanish peasant would never do this). (Punta Mujeres northwest, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

L12	Pyramid, devotion chamber (optional), separate crypt	p. 73-75

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; top-tumulus; walls and crests may incl. soul-holes; supporting walls vertical or slightly skewed; stone filling; burial & devotion chambers separate and not corbelled.

My investigations in Lanzarote led me in 2021 to a small village in the north of the island. In its vicinity I visited again a medium pyramid (wall, top-tumulus, devotion chamber, oval groundplan, topstone). I was shocked when I realized that it was seriously damaged: Half of the corpus including the devotion chamber has collapsed (historic photo Fig. 133a). I shot the new photo to be published here (Fig.133b). One can see easily that this pyramid was constructed including a second hollow room: Besides the devotion chamber there was apparently a burial chamber for the defunct.

In fact I found hints that more prehistoric ruins in the northern and northwestern area of Lanzarote deserve a better interest regarding possible crypts (see Figs.134, 135). Both photos show damages of the floor in the respective rooms which do not look like animal activities.

Fig.133a - The undamaged pyramid in 2017, still with roof and devotion chamber (Lanzarote north – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.133b - A part of this pyramid collapsed 2021, showing unexpectedly a crypt (Lanz. north – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.134 - Small pyramid with two steps; roof and deepened crypt partly collapsed. (Northern Lanz. – H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.135 - Longish pyramid with devotion chamber; roof and partly the crypt collapsed. (Northern Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) It was to be foreseen that especially in necropolises appear collapsed tumuli and pyramids, revealing then the character of the monument as burial site with a crypt. See other examples in Fig. 295.

Keeping in mind the deep affinity and connectedness of the people (first wave) with stone and nature and especially with Mother Earth it can be assumed easily that burials took place also beneath the ground – as grave or as crypt. It is now the task and responsibility of the Canarian

universities and institutes to find out how many burial monuments have a crypt − and which criteria have to be developed to evaluate that!

Last but not least: Bones (which DNS ?) should be among the stones of such crypt ruins!

Sarcophagus or stone cist? It fits to this subject to add now some informations on pyramids which have most likely a special burial chamber within the corpus (above ground) − quasi a crypt without having to dig in the earth.

In the pyramid cluster west of Puerto del Carmen I found an oval one-step pyramid with conic top-tumulus (Fig.136a). Its soul-hole was relatively big (Fig.136b) what allowed to photograph "around the corner" and catch a part of the hollow space.

The photo shows (Fig.136c) that at the right side of the tubus exists an artificial edge which belongs to an unknown artefact − perhaps a kind of stone case. This is of course speculative.

Nevertheless a small "crypt above ground" cannot be denied − especially regarding the simple stone or soil tumuli on ground without wall (p.164). Please read also legend of Fig.107, p.62.

Fig.136a - A pyramid type like several hundred others in Lanzarote, but this one is nevertheless something special: The tubus of its big rectangular soul-hole leads to a small cavern which features an unknown stone object. Perhaps a sarcophagus? (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.136b - This pyramid is equipped with an exceptional big rectangular soul-hole. Please note also the use of white colour and the broad lintel. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.136c - This zoom into the tubus reveals that its depth is limited and that then begins a cavern with an obscure artificial object at the right side. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L13	Different pyramids with corridor (partly with walm-roof)	p.76-80

Megalithic tomb; similar groundplan*; devotion chamber; top-tumulus*; supporting walls are vertical or slightly skewed; walls may incl. soul-holes. *Special two-arms version exists with different groundplan.

In Ulbrich (2021) I described three newly discovered pyramid versions which all feature a more or less long corridor. The latter has to be seen as a cultic emphasizing of the entrance, quasi a kind of preparation for the things to come when the adept visitor enters the devotion chamber. There he (and sometimes an accompanying shaman) can perform rites of the community and he can get personal advice and commendation from the goddess, but of course the numen can also express criticism. More such observations on p.99-100.

The spiritual behaviour of the first wave comprised also the constructional measures. It was without doubt a common task to build the many pyramids in these forms which we find now: the

- use of steps for supporting walls;
- freedom of the groundplans;
- allowance of top-tumuli (for the nearness to the goddess and the imitation of her architectural likings);
- consideration of devotion chambers and horizontal and/or vertical soul-holes;
- combination with materials which the goddess supplies and prefers (rocks, earth/soil, sand, water of springs etc).

Apparently the erectors of a corridor were free to do so, but such a measure of a minority had always to be within the religious rules of the community.

Fig.137a - This megalithic monument is one of the most important pyramids of Lanzarote. The rare consideration of a corridor, combined with a devotion chamber, could mean that this type of pyramid is perhaps a more sophisticated building of later colonists − quasi "wave 1a+". Unfortunately it is seriously damaged: The southwestern wall is totally destroyed. Some contours on the top-tumulus remind vaguely of a hip-roof. (El Golfo hinterland − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

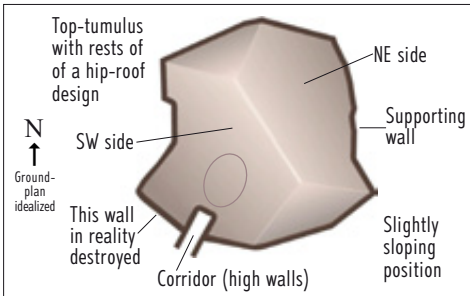


Fig.137b - The pyramid (max. extension ca. 9,5 m) features a one-step wall, a top-tumulus with (probably) four sides and a corridor. The latter leads to the devotion chamber. According to the satellite photo the devotion chamber has collapsed (I therefore avoided to enter the corridor / read also Ulbrich 2021a: 246-247); if the burial chamber was also hollow could not be evaluated. The immediate neighbourhood looks not like medieval or modern agrarian activities: Many fields have no entrance and some feature geoglyphic patterns which remind of trees and ribs. As I mentioned elsewhere: "pure indigenous land". (Sketch: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.138 - Fig.137, Fig.138 and Fig.141 represent the same type of pyramid with integrated corridor (similar to a "passage" of a passage tomb). But with this example we can see better that the high top-tumulus has indeed the contour of a hip-roof (German "Walmdach"); while Fig.137a was photographed at right angles (western corner), offers Fig.138 the full view of the front. The corridor with its two walls is filled with slided-down stones from the top-tumulus (first layer). To enter the devotion chamber is therefore not possible. Alongside the corridor there came loose some other stones (with fresher colours) which originate from a second layer. (Near Los Pedacitos/Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

At this place some open words on the difference of interpretation when using a camera horizontally in the landscape (perhaps with the help of a telephoto lens) or when a satellite offers totally other photographic data gained vertically. Regarding the pyramid in Fig.138 it could happen that it indeed shows contours of a hip-roof, but we do not see if other parts of the building continue behind this contour allowing other conclusions. To make it even more complicated: Unfortunately satellite photos are not always trustworthy (see the different "historic pictures" of the same place in Google Earth). With the next illustrations I will show that the hip- or better walm-roof[16] idea has its justification (Figs.139, 142-144).

I have hints that the walm-like pattern of the top-tumulus in Fig. 141b existed already before 3000 BC in the ROC. A typic younger example without walls shows Fig. 143 from Lanzarote.

Fig.139 - These two pyramids are concatenated; the right one features a devotion chamber and a fully skewed wall with walm design (having two gable ends). (Mña. de los Llanos, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

[16] Two longer sloping roofs (the eaves sides) and two shorter sloping roofs (the gable ends) form a rectangular "Walm" (Middle High German "walbe" > "gewölbt") – all four sides with the same length would build a quadratic pyramid. See also "Balm" = "overhanging rock" (Swiss, Austrian, Southg.). The biological term "hip" in this context is not helpful.

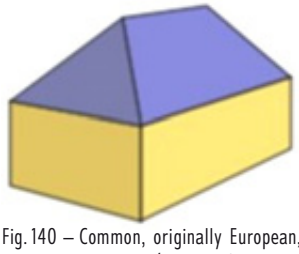


Fig. 140 – Common, originally European, hip- or walm-roof (sketch: Shannon/wikipedia). First used in the 10th century.

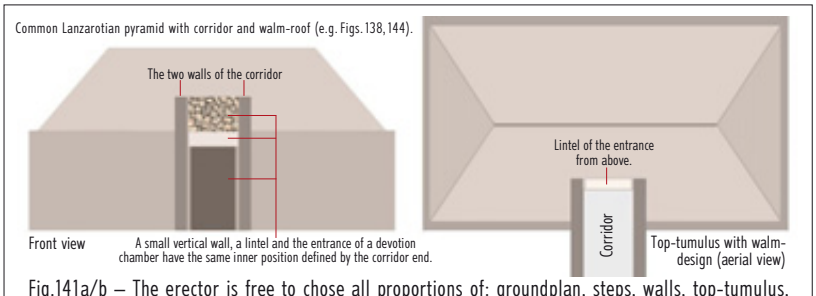


Fig.141a/b – The erector is free to chose all proportions of: groundplan, steps, walls, top-tumulus, walm-design, corridor, entrance/lintel, devotion chamber [and perhaps a crypt]. (Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.142a - Another special walm solution is this small pyramid: It features at the longer sides only two walls from ground to crest – no top-tumulus. The two smaller sides (gable ends) show irregular stone accumulations. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

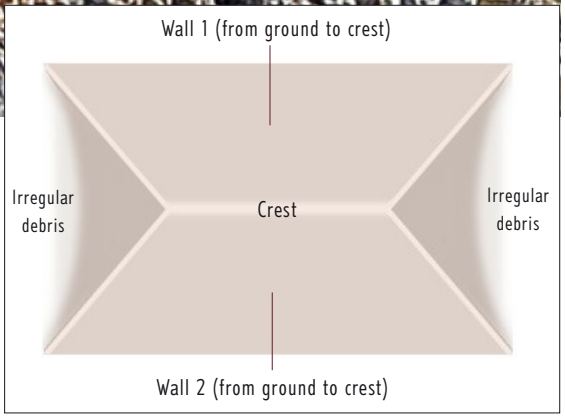


Fig.142b - A combination of two constructed walls and loose stones at the slightly indented gable ends (sketch groundplan: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). ▶

Fig.143 - This monument shows that four sides must not compulsory need four constructed supporting walls – a tumulus with walm design allows also higher solutions (Tias west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Back to the pyramids with corridor: The next four examples are quite different but nevertheless interesting too (see Figs. 144, 145, 146, 147).

Fig.144 - Although this is a pyramid with walls, top-tumulus, devotion chamber (entrance at the gable end) and walm design it is also a monument with corridor. The latter is higher than the entrance and its stones were used also for the construction above the lintel. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.145 - This pyramid − part of a necropolis − has a more or less quadrangular groundplan with a first step; a second step has an oval, drop-like form. The short corridor (walls ca. 80 cm long / see Ulbrich 2021a: 244-245) and the entrance to the devotion chamber can be found at the left side. In front of the monument exists a stony forecourt. A small L06 pyramid, most likely a single grave, lies in the foreground (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.146 - In the local vernacular is this a *taro*, an indigenous word of the 2nd wave with the meaning of "stone hut to live in", adapted later by the Spanish colonists (most likely a loanword originating from Roman "turris" = country home, tower). There are some hints that this was not a *taro*, but a small roundish pyramid from the first wave whose older appellation we do not know. No family would build or use a *taro* where 40% of the room are not usable because it is natural bedrock and because the thick walls take too much space of the groundplan; furthermore there is a corridor with two sloping walls, not appropriate as windbrake. The elevated position cannot mean that it was intended as watchtower because no windows exist. In fact I think of a cultic room, perhaps a devotion chamber, erected with the ambition to be near the goddess and to please her with the integration of the rocks into the building. Not corbelled. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.147 - In Ulbrich (2021a: 238-243 / Figs.1-6) and in Ulbrich (2022: 184 / Fig. 20) I described already this burial pyramid with devotion chamber and soul-hole. Here in this publication I want to emphasize that a megalithic corridor can have parallel walls or − like in this figure − may be represented by a geoglyphic, conic element of the groundplan. (Tinguatón east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also here Fig.96/p.58.

L14	Beehive monuments	p. 81-83

Megalithic tomb; groundplan round (more or less concentric); no designed wall or top-tumulus; the outer stone layer may include a soul-hole and/or an entrance for a small devotion chamber; the vertical contour a semi-circle.

To construct rural dry stone domes and vaults is not a new architectural idea and skill of mediaeval or modern times. Already in antiquity the Romans and Greeks were able to build simple and of course also advanced cupolas or vaults. Diving more into the direction of proto- and prehistory we find the celtic beehive huts of Scotland and Ireland. Much older are for example the South-Arabian beehive tombs (see the Bronze Age Hafit period of Oman & the U.A.E.). In all cases there were used naturally sized or trimmed stones of flat, plate-like proportions; these were joined by a well-known method, the corbelled vault (German "Krag-Gewölbe").

The Lanzarotian colonists of the first Bronze Age wave had not available such stone material, in fact they used a mixture of small and big, roundish/oval or edged stones of different geological origin (see the colours) [for non-corbelled techniques read p. 58/60 and p.170, Fig.352].

With their semi-circle silhouette they are an enrichment of the prehistoric Canarian architecture. I hope that the first attentive roamer will detect one in the near future in Fuerteventura etc.

Fig.148a - This beehive tomb has a minature devotion chamber with a hip-high entrance (see the lintel at the right side). The construction features a white coloured topstone. The beehive was positioned on a larger cultic platform which perhaps is an uneven L06 pyramid. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.148b - Most likely a classic triangular soul-hole on ground.

Fig.148c - This perspective shows that the entrance is not quite vertical – theoretically it could be intention when we think of Fig.332.(Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)►

Fig.149 - This beehive has a relatively big soul-hole with lintel (some of the lower stones seem to have rolled out). In the savannah several white colored stones. In the background the Montaña Blanca. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

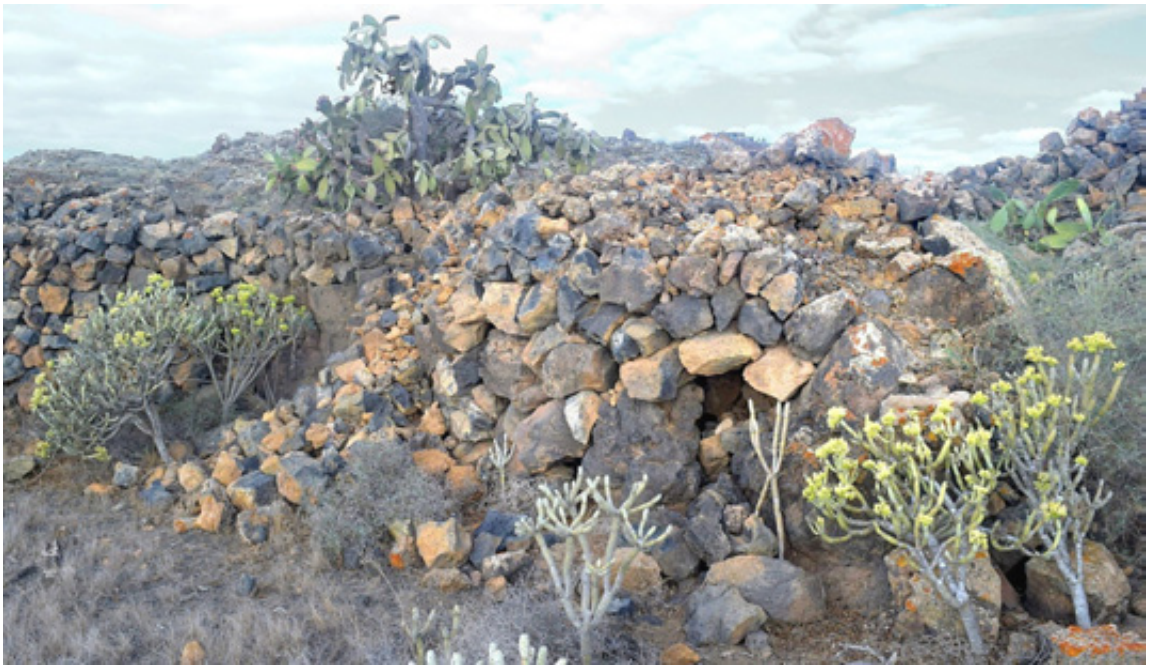


Fig.150 - This beehive is nearly the same construction as the one in Fig.149: the soul-hole with lintel at the same height. The upper layer of big stones has slided down on both sides. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.151 - This bigger beehive has most likely featured a high devotion chamber which has collapsed by the weight of the outer layer, some really huge boulders. Perhaps with corridor; reminds in parts of Southern Arabian versions with basic stone-ring. (Atalaya de Femés north, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.152 - This picture-book beehive with hemisphere silhouette (right side) has a smaller natural "brother" (left side): One can see that the natives recognized the similarity when they added some stones to let the rock look rounder – without doubt an action to please the goddess. Another candy for the goddess is the integration of the big boulder into the corpus of the beehive; this boulder then delivering an edge for the triangular soul-hole. (El Gayo Plateau, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L15	One-step pyramid with added top (vaulted, conic, elevated)	p.84-88

Megalithic tomb; all groundplans possible; walls may include soul-holes; supporting walls vertical or skewed; height of added top elements differing; when top-cairn then more or less conic; mostly with devotion chamber

One of the most used forms for minor dry-stone buildings (hut etc.) has a roundish groundplan for the corpus with vertical extensions on the roof like a small dome or a top-cairn − regarding both secular or sacral purposes. Such constructions were preferrably achieved by corbelling methods.

The sketches in Figs. 153, 154, 155, 156 regard throughout megalithic burial monuments (not protohistoric or modern living respectively agrarian *taros*) which were found in Lanzarote. An important characteristic of these is − as far as I could evaluate it − that all burial pyramids have non-corbelled internal walls and ceilings (p.58, p.60/ Fig.100c, p.73, p.170 / Figs. 351, 352). For more details see the respective illustrations and their legends (Figs. 157a/b/c, 158-163).

Bronze Age burial monuments in Lanzarote (devotion chambers with non-corbelled internal walls and ceilings)

(Sketches: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

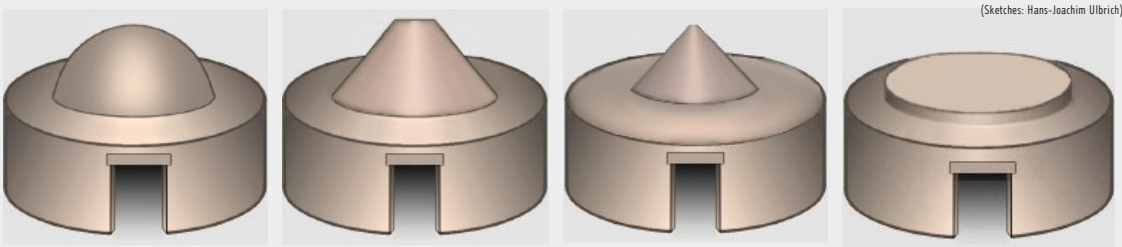


Fig.153
Lanzarote (only non-corbelled).
– Top-vault (dome) –

Fig.154
Lanzarote (only non-corbelled).
– Conic top-cairn –

Fig.155
Lanzarote (only non-corbelled).
– Reduced top-cairn –

Fig.156
Lanzarote (only non-corbelled).
– Top-tower,low or elevated –
(90°-verticality)

The groundplan (main corpus) often round or following all other feasable construction ideas, including rectangular.
If the top-tower (Fig.156) is high enough one can speak of a second step (in the sense of a step-pyramid, p.46, Fig.70).

Fig.157a - One can roughly describe the groundplan as rectangular monument with rounded corners (lefthand in the picture). The surrounding walls are all not of an agrarian origin; especially the rectangular longish wall in the southeast reminds of thousands of similar prehistoric variants in ROC (perhaps a geoglyphic phallus). More but still not studied other stone groups are in the vicinity of this pyramid (photo: GE).

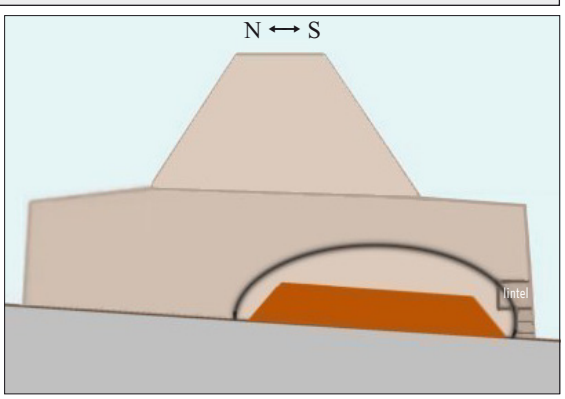


Fig.157b - The pyramid has a slightly sloping position. At the right side of the sketch we see the big soul-hole with the 2x3 stones of the doorposts and the solid lintel (see also Fig.157c). It is possible to feel out that already below the lintel a kind of small tumulus out of soil is raising into a cavern. What of course is total imagination are the following considerations and questions: Does this tumulus contain a defunct? How long is this tumulus and what is its form? Which volume does the cavern have and is it filling a greater part of the corpus, perhaps over 2 m of the 4 m total diameter? The top-cairn is conic and seems not to be hollow. The pyramid basically corresponds with Fig.154, the latter shows normally the entrance of a devotion chamber, but here it is a soul-hole; see "variant" p.85. (Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich)

The burial architecture of Gran Canaria (2nd wave) shows in its necropolises Arteara and Maipés the more simple construction forms of the Mediterranean/NorthAfrican region which existed already in the Bronze Age and were widely used up to the antiquity, also regarding monument types which remind of the Figs.153-156 (like Maipés). I have visited Maipés not yet, but I was quite astonished to see detailed photos of the site which – perhaps – may feature some walls with soul-holes.

Fig.157c - One can find this type of pyramid – corpus with conic top-cairn (Fig.154) – several times in Lanzarote. But this version with soul-hole instead of a devotion chamber is unique (∅ 4 m - view S → N). A big rectangular plate out of yellowish stone lies (lefthand in the photo) near the soul-hole; its purpose is unclear (no carvings noticeable). The western side of the pyramid (here not visible) shows a treatment with the native *teígue* mortar, perhaps an attempt to repair this front or an act of modern vandalism. (El Gayo, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.158 – In deep secludedness: Another pyramid with devotion chamber and top-cairn, the latter with the reduced form (Fig.155). Remarkable is also the existence of a short corridor (p.78-80) and the slightly skewed position. In the background the Montaña Corona. (Las Peñas de Cardos, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.159 - In the local vernacular and also in some guidebooks one can get the information that south of the Fundación César Manrique and more exact south of the LZ-34 exists a real *taro* (secular hut, read legend of Fig.146) built in the 18th c. after the volcanic catastrophe of 1730-1736. Proof would be the surrounding fresh lava. I see this different: 1. The aerial photo (GrafCan 2015, 2023) shows that the monument was constructed on a small elevation which the lava flowed around. 2. The corridor wall is skewing, no Spanish would build a windbreak which does not keep the wind away. 3. The low entrance looks more like an orifice for a devotion chamber. 4. There are no windows and one aperture lets suppose a soul-hole. 5. Some patterns of the stones in the walls point to native methods. 6. Who built this "taro" in putative modern times? – Is it possibly an indigenous tomb of much earlier days (Fig.141, 155, 158)? Perhaps a geologist has some clearance. (Tahiche, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.160a backside – We see a typical "Fig.156 variant" where the pyramid features an elevated top-region, practically a second step in this case. Not visible in this view is the devotion chamber (see Fig.160d). Part of the pyramid and of its adjacent walls are several unmistakable soul-holes (Figs.160 b/c). The high first storey contains most likely a crypt. (Mña. Corona SE, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.160b – A five-stone soul-hole including a threshold; tubus rectangular. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.160c – Two simplex-stones, one counter-stone in-between and one rectangular indication-stone above. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.160d – The entrance of the devotion chamber was later spackled and got a lockable door in the 18th-19th century. (Photo: HJU)

Fig.161 SW side – This cultic building by the natives, most likely a burial-tower, is concatenated with a pyramid in the background, includes natural rocks, has a second step ("Fig. 156 variant"), is sloping, is prolonged with a stone-filling, features a soul-hole at the northern side, has a devotion chamber, has no ceiling, reaches deep into the field, is called by Löbbecke (2012: 108) a "Reststumpf" of a higher dry-stone *taro*. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) The Spanish farmer was surely not the erector with this severe disadvantages. No Lanzarotian peasant would dissect his ploughing efficiency in such a way. Apropos: R. Löbbecke ignores completely the megalithic character of the island.

Fig.162 - This strange variant of a "Fig.156 type" has a skewing step (the top edge of the corpus). Therefore the top-area (or the very low top-turret) is sloping, quasi not horizontal. Both top-areas in Figs.162/163 have fine, nearly triturated stone fillings (see also Figs.71, 89, 90). The entrance of the devotion chamber respectively its lintel is also not horizontal. The groundplan (aerial view) reveals that the pyramid leans at the wall behind and features a "skewed" hemisphere too. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.163 - Another variant of a "Fig.156 type" is this two-step pyramid with a very small top-area. The entire building is already strongly eroded. Much stone material has slided down. The entrance to the devotion chamber is oval (rare) and has not only a short lintel but also a threshold. It is a favoured method to get additional structional stability when a pyramid is leaned at a wall. (Las Peñas de Cardos, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

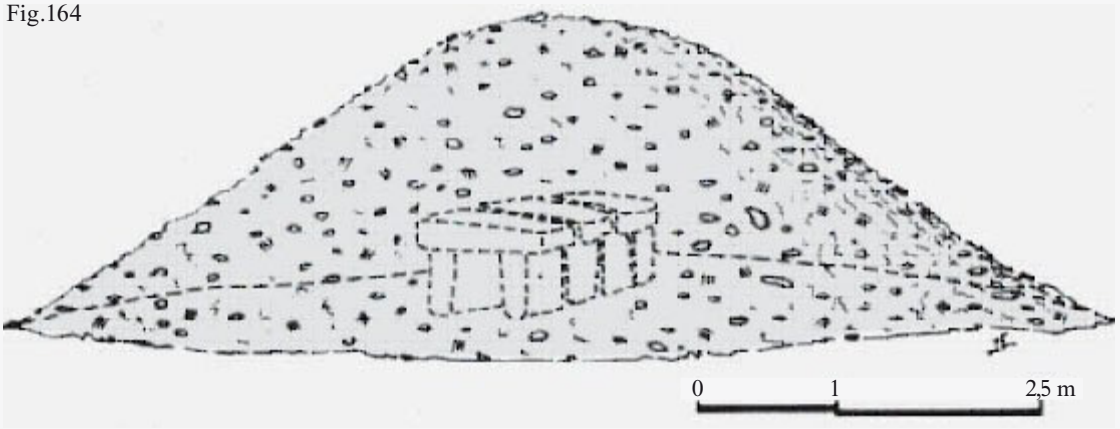
L16	Tumuli without supporting wall (no soil filling)	p. 89-91
Burial or cult site; all groundplans possible; height of elevations up to 2,2 m; crests may include soul-holes		

One of the most common proto- and prehistoric buildings in Lanzarote is of course the tumulus. Only when the groundplan gives some hints or when a cist or even a soul-hole exists do we have the chance to decide if the erectors belonged to the first (East Mediterranean) or to the second (North-west African) wave of colonists. If we would follow the apologists of the *majanos* we would not have the problem to speculate about burial tumuli.

With the help of a sketch by Souville (1959) we get an imagination:

Fig.165 - It would be a vapid tumulus if not a genuine dolmen was used as soul-hole. (Near Güime − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.164



"Tumulus à caisson de Lalla Mimouna" (G. Souville 1959) [Originally fig.3]

We see an oval or pointed oval tumulus (stones more or less brash size) with an integrated stone cist (Fr. "caisson", Ger. "Steinkiste") on ground, found in Morocco. Perhaps a big enough Lanzarotian proto-Berber burial tumulus looks like this too; if this design for the actual burial chamber is appropriate for the first wave colonists is a big question mark. Was an internal dolmen-like construction in vogue or a sarcophagus one, or both? I am awaiting eagerly the first excavations.

The many small and big tumuli in Lanzarote allow the question if all were used for burials or if some − or even the majority − were utilized for mere cultic purposes, without any defunct. The latter idea is not so irrelevant when we think of the affinity of the first wave people for stones, rocks and hills.

The following illustrations regarding tumuli without walls were already used in this book: Figs. 10, 13, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, 42, 43, 95, 143. More data on tumuli without walls on the next pages.

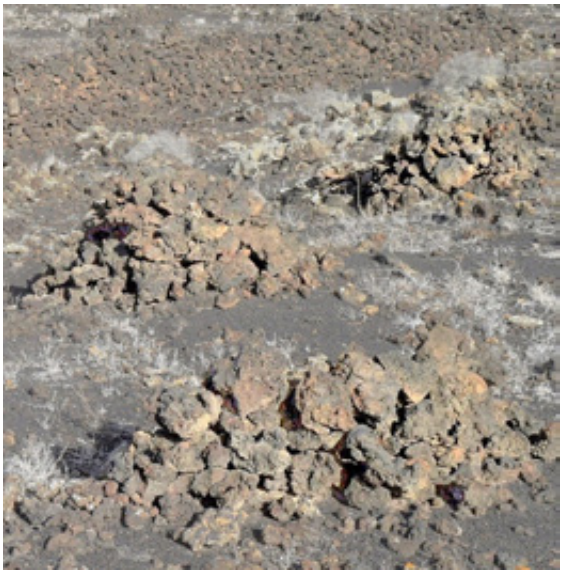


Fig.166 - Are this cairns or tumuli? To stay in my nomenclature I would say that these are mini-cairns without a burial function. They seem to be too short for a funeral action; soul-holes are also not noticeable. (El Golfo hinterland, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.167 - We see the savannah-like *jable* west of Argana and Arrecife, Lanzarote (Fig.8). This terrain was never utilized for agrarian purposes, but the people of the first wave estimated its wideness for their countless different burial monuments. In the foreground a typic tumulus with stone-filling and skewed ends. The pan or crater-like deepening can be interpreted as vertical soul-hole. Directly behind this monument a one-step pyramid with a strange rock constellation. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.168 - Near the western outskirts of Puerto del Carmen one can find this medium big tumulus. The monument features an interesting specialty: a horizontal soul-hole near the crest flanked by a short corridor (see arrow). See also Fig.265. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.169 - Not a modern rubble pile but a prehistoric tumulus. In the background lefthand some more tumuli and in the background righthand an interesting geoglyphic ground pattern. (Puerto del Carmen – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.170 - A real rarity is the groundplan of this symmetric tumulus (no supporting walls). At both ends there were constructed two arms which end each in a sub-tumulus with dolmen-like lintels. Such dolmen endings were described already in Figs.30, 31 and 42; architecturally not far away are also the two arms in Fig.147. The highest position has a topstone with a white marking. (El Golfo hinterland − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

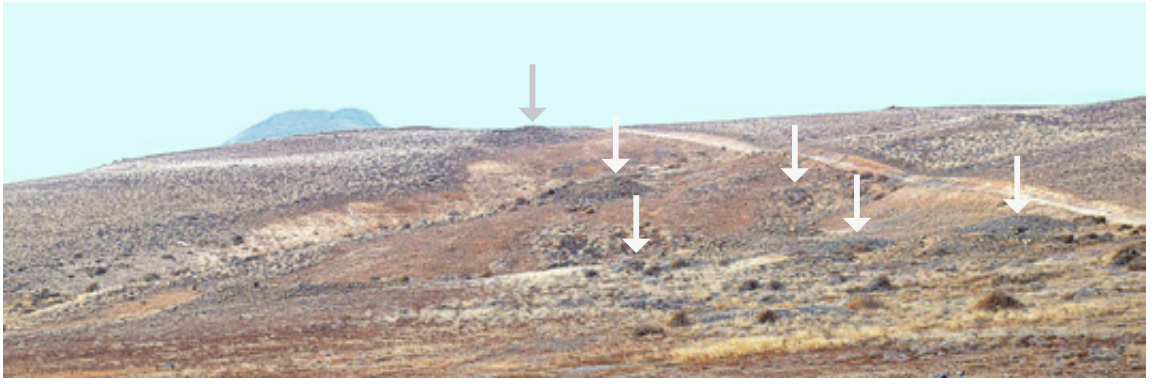


Fig.171 - I call this region west of the Barranco de la Pila and further to the Barranco del Agua (NW of Puerto Calero) the "land of tumuli". This area has little agriculture (often abandoned) and the local farmer would speak of wasteland. But the attentive roamer can find quite a few tumuli, small pyramids and other native wall constructions (Ulbrich 2016a: 25). See the arrows in the picture regarding some tumuli. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.172 - This is not brash of some roadmaking; in fact it is a concatenation of five tumuli with stone-fillings (read also legend of Fig.130). Such multiple agglomerations in the ROC exist for monuments with a soil-filling as well as in this case with a stone-filling. (Pico de la Tegala foot, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

L17	Artificial cave with devotion chamber	p.92-93
Megalithic tomb (?); the funeral purpose is unclear. Most likely a Bronze Age cult site.		

Near the small, scattered village of Guinate exists an old eroded volcano. Its former central vent looks since myriads of time like a harmless "promontory" where one can find walls, gardens and some unclear prehistoric constructions.

Apparently a group of Bronze Age colonists had the idea to not only adore the goddess by appreciating her rites, her natural signs (rocks, hills, springs), her holy buildings and the combination of burial pyramids with big stones and boulders, but to enter also the body of Mother Earth directly, wanting to be as near as possible to the numen (read also legend below on p.184 about Mother Earth as living being).

In the light of the rising sun one is astonished to find an entrance to a possible devotion chamber at the height of one third of a marked area of a circle (see photo). Interpreting the hypogean passage as devotion chamber leads to the question if there is another hidden cavern which is built further into the hill serving as burial chamber (then quasi a crypt). But that is quite speculative.

Fig.173a - An overview of the site: One can see that the "cleaned" area occupies two thirds of the hillside and that the entrance was not positioned in the center of the holy area. The height or diameter of the site is approximately 7 m. (Photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich 173a/b/c/d)

◄ Fig.173b/d - Some layed out stones in the upper part of the site seem to mark the area of a big circle. In the upper right corner another smaller circle.

▼ Fig.173c - Entrance to the devotion chamber, with corridor.

Fig.173d - A mysterious complex of a geoglyphic area and perhaps a devotion chamber. The stones above the entrance seem to be placed intentionally (for the goddess ?). A modern mining attempt is it surely not.

Fig.174 - In the same region exists another devotion chamber which is built with a few boulders and reaches then into the natural rock, quasi a cavern too. Noticeable is also the relatively big forecourt. A burial chamber may exist but is not detectable. The upper entrance looks like a double capstone (see Fig.282). (Guinate south, Lanz. − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

L18	Graves	p.94-97
Megalithic tombs; the funeral and/or honorable purpose seems to be obvious. Mostly Bronze Age variants.		

There are quite a few constructions in Lanzarote which could be identified as small graves; main criterion is the differentiation "above ground" (among stones) or "below ground" (in earth). The renunciation of a big, sophisticated burial monument like a tumulus or a pyramid and the abdication of extended rites seems to be a case of a lower social position − or a child was deceased.

In the north of the island I detected also a small plain, a flat bedrock surface with very few loose stones; there I found some graves and singular elementary dolmens which offer not the possibility for the people to bury someone (no digging achievable). Are these a kind of honour-graves, the corpse of the defunct existing elsewhere? What does this mean for the transcendent communicational capabilities of the dolmens? [Paper in preparation]

In some cases there seem to have been used special sepulcral stones (German "Grabsteine"), an unforeseen aspect of these seafarers (Figs.177, 178, 179). The use of stone-cists in Lanzarote is unclear because nobody has researched this topic.

Fig.175 - We see a geoglyphic "8" or two connected stone rings of different size in the savannah south of the Mña. Mina. The miniature dolmen ("elementary" type / p.21) in the foreground points to a burial purpose. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) A kind of dolmen cemetery existed near the Risco de Famara (see p.21, planned papers).

Fig.176 - A partly damaged and eroded grave. But the black dolmen has trouble-free survived the last millenia. The grave stones seem to include the big boulders in the background. (Mala north, Lanzarote − H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.177 - I call this tentatively a megalithic "string-grave", because a relatively short and slim string of stones (a mini tumulus) – at one end featuring a big boulder* and at the other end a cultic sculpture as a kind of gravestone – seems to have been constructed for only one defunct. The sculpture in the foreground is normally an exact hexagon or – when the sixth corner was damaged or knowingly cut – a hexagon-like pentagon. The contours then: ⬡ (partly in the ground) or ⌓. Similar plate designs exist up and on among religious steles [see p. 140-141]. In Lanzarote I found the prehistoric version several times, see the example of the Rincón de Guinate (Fig.178). (Mña. Mina southern savannah – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) [*Please remind also the huge end-boulders of the tumuli in Figs. 16, 17.]

◄ Fig.178 - Another "cut hexagon" or "special pentagon" from Guinate west. Astonishing is the exactitude of the stonemason (photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

Fig.179 - Most likely is this another "string-grave": A slim row of only a few stones with a single rock standing at the right side looking a bit like a cut-hexagon. Additionally there were placed two ornamental sculptures beside the tumulus – perhaps showing the silhouettes of ships. That the first-wave people were interested in art – including the laborious making of it – is not amazing. (La Santa east, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.180 - A small round monument, most likely a proto- or prehistoric grave of unclear origin, on the top of a low elevation. Nearby is a stone ring with a natural group of boulders in the center which looks like a place of first-wave people [adoration of rocks of the goddess]. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.181 - This terrain north of Mala is known for its many miniature dolmens which up and on form together with other stones some grave-like structures. But the flat brook bed combined with thunderstorms and intense rain lets at times flush away such constructions. In the photo we see that a three-stone dolmen has lost its cohesion and rests of the grave too − a common situation. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

A highly interesting artefact is this boulder placed on a rectangular plate which rests on a low pedestal of sand and soil (Fig.182). What looks like a miniature simplex soul-hole (righthand on the ground, ∧-form) may help us to identify this construction: It is most likely a grave, perhaps of a child.

Fig.182 - Megalithic variant of a very small grave (El Jable de Güime, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich).

5. More details on tumuli and pyramids

Before I start describing the soul-holes in ch. 5.1. I want to brush shortly the phenomenon of concatenated megalithic buildings. Already in Fig.83 I depicted a long row of different burial monuments forming an architectural and at the same time a religious chain, an intentional concatenation.

Here on p.98 we see two pyramids and one wall, while the two tumuli are combined by two walls.

Fig.183 - This satellite photo shows two concatenated pyramids. The northeastern one an L-form type with devotion chamber (Fig.100a), the southwestern one a ship-like, partly two-stepped pyramid without devotion chamber. It was the right decision of the farmer not to destroy laborously the two megalithic monuments, including the wall, and to plough around them. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote − photo: GrafCan)

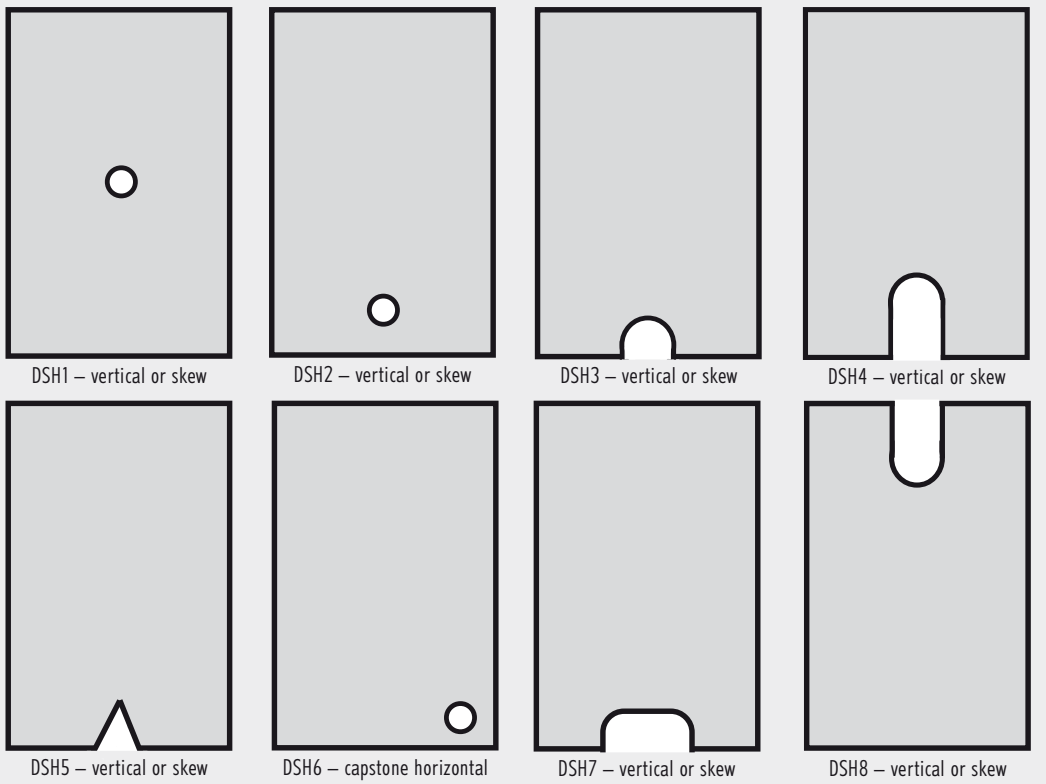
Fig.184 a/b - This tetragon is in fact a concatenation: One direction is formed by two parallel longish tumuli and the other direction by two parallel walls. Again the question: Was it a cultic decision to build like this or were there every-day-reasons? (Mña. Mina southeast, Lanzarote − photo & sketch: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

5.1. Soul-holes and analogous approaches

When dealing with megalithic monuments one can come across the term "port-hole". But why using a paraphrase? That in and around this orifice happens a complex spiritual process between a defunct and a numen (sometimes the living or bereaved are involved too) is better described by the at times unjustly dated term "soul-hole". Such openings in slabs of dolmens (Fig.185) or in graves, stone cists/coffins, ceramics, urns, steles etc indicate an important phase of the pre-/protohistory and history and play a manifold role in the Bronze Age and its daily life.

When Otto Höver wrote that delineation – coming perfectly to the point – he could not surmise that 70 years later there would be a vigorous debate about pyramids with soul-holes in the Canaries. Now in 2023 we can establish that the megalithic history of Lanzarote and the neighboring islands is an axiomatic fact. Dealing with this situation means to acknowledge a multitude of architectural possibilities regarding in particular the sector of burial monuments (ch.4) and the afterlife. The latter is now the central theme in ch. 5.1.: The soul-holes in Lanzarote have the same function

Fig. 185 - The positioning and form of soul-holes in orthostats/pillars and capstones used in megalithic dolmens (selection)



Expressive is the characterization of the soul-hole and its function by the German art historian, archaeologist and ethnologist Otto Höver (1889-1963 – 1949: 254): "... so erstand die Megalithik aus dem geistigen Bedürfnis und Willen des Bauern, dem Toten und seiner unsterblichen Seele eine ewige Existenz zu sichern. Megalithwerke sind wuchtschwere Bann-Gehäuse gegen die dämonische Macht des lebenden Leichnams und zugleich Sitze der abgeschiedenen Seelen, denen vorsorglich eine kleine Öffnung – das sogenannte Seelenloch – im Steingefüge belassen wurde, wo die *anima* heimlich ein- und ausschlüpfen konnte."

like everywhere in the megalithic world, to allow and ease the actions of the soul and to prevent and minimize the possible initiatives by demons and negative nature-spirits which may have taken over the corpse of the defunct.

To strengthen the will and the prospects of success of the soul to reach reincarnation the prehistoric people of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura (first wave !) built geoglyphic spirals and even spirally constructed temples [later also the natives of the 2nd wave who used the term *efequén*].

That Mother Earth not only delivered the stones for all kinds of buildings, for the ground to bury

someone, for the procedures of nature (growth, fertility, water), for the cycle of life of all beings etc. makes her the most important goddess at all. The later introduction (antiquity, Berber) of a male sun god in Lanzarote – 2nd wave term *magec* – led to a change in religious beliefs: While in times of the much older Mother Earth existed confidence, helpfulness and trust (devotion chambers) there was an atmosphere of inescapability and even fear (frequently abnormal heat, drought/famine, locust swarms) during the "reign" of Magec. It is a matter of logic that the 2nd-wave people were not the erectors of the Lanzarotian pyramids. The immense efforts of the 1st-wave people to act within the limits of their religious rules produced, especially with regard to the soul-holes, a wide field of ideas and an astonishing pool of solutions.

To construct soul-holes means not alone to deal with *tubus* variants in walls. Inventive and flexible as the eastern Mediterranean colonists were, they also used other familiar, analogous methods (dolmens, corridors, troughs, turrets etc) to fulfill the provision for a mechanism which allows to control the direction which the anima (in Egypt *ba* & *ka*) should take when it leaves the ban area of the burial building (more in ch. 5.1.1. and 5.1.2.).

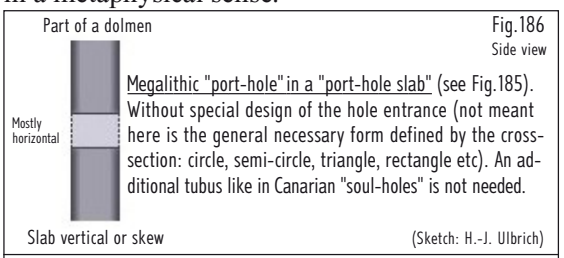
Before I start with the description of the many-faceted possibilities to apply soul-holes I want to refer to the illustrations shown already on the preceding pages: Figs. 1, 11b, 24, 26, 28, 39, 45a, 51, 58, 59, 72 a/b, 84, 88b, 93, 119b, 136 a/b/c, 148b, 149, 150, 157 b/c, 159, 165, 168.

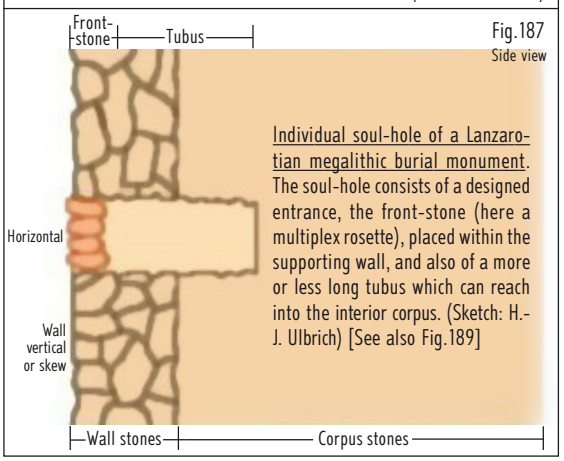
5.1.1. Horizontally placed (integrated in the wall)

The term "wall" is meant here for the vertical supporting stone constructions (one or more layers) which surround on all sides of the monument the mass of stones which constitutes the sacred precinct, the architectonic main corpus, where the corpse(s) is(are) placed. For the latter action a sarcophagus and/or a crypt may be provided.

The placing of the corpse automatically makes the edificial corpus and all its rooms (burial chamber, devotion chamber) to a holy and at the same time transcendent area. For the soul-hole(s), integrated in a wall, it means that the supporting wall is admittedly neutral but the "tunnel" forming the soul-hole has already transcendent qualities.

The soul – still in the corpse but desintegrated – can communicate via the soul-hole with positive numens (e.g. Mother Earth, trusted spirits of the clan etc) or it can even leave the monument to visit special numens, ancestors and other spheres (better beyond, paradise). That the Lanzarotian and other Canarian pyramids have a longer tubus (Fig.187) compared with the short soul-hole in dolmens etc (Fig.186) may be considered as an advantage for the soul regarding the transcendent strength of will and the reaching of certain directions in the neighborhood. To emphasize it: The tubus contains not only air but also other matters in a metaphysical sense.





For some Canarian soul-holes in pyramids certain prepared stones for the entrance of the construction were used whose form is derived from the round port-hole in slabs of dolmens (Fig.185):

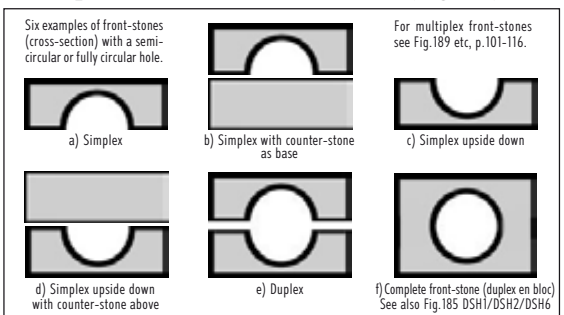


Fig.188 - Common front-stone types of Canarian soul-holes (Bronze Age). (Sketches: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

It is up to the erector to choose the design of the outer part of the soul-hole which will be placed in a vertical or skew wall of a burial building. The aperture can be situated somewhere in the middle of a wall or even at its lower end (ground). More cross-sections on p.101

The Canarian system with counter-stones – complementing the front-stone of a soul-hole – is more flexible because a simplex hole with semicircle (Fig.188) can be used everywhere in the middle of a pyramid wall, open to the counter-stone wether above or below.

Generally the inner and outer form of the soul-hole (cross-section), including the tubus, can be chosen by the erector whatever construction is manageable. In practice most likely clan leaders, shamans and the berieved will have had a voice – especially regarding the design of the front-stone (often a rosette arrangement with several stones ✲ or a simple four-stone solution ✜ / see p.14, Fig.11b).

Quite a few soul-holes are accompanied by one stone more, the "indication-stone" (Figs.189, 192, 200, 233, 235, 245 etc). Apparently it was its task within the wall to allow the defunct to "win home" easier and to support the berieved when a soul-hole is in need of a repair. This indication-stone has often a prominent colour and/or form (rectangular or conic).

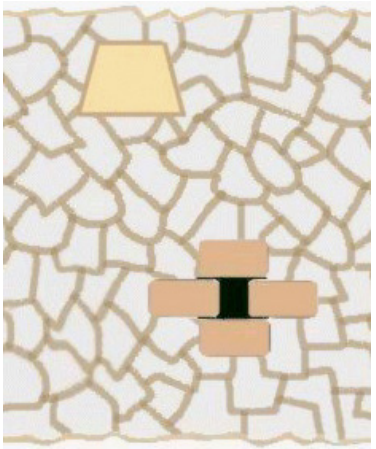


Fig.189 - Possible position of a soul-hole and a common indication-stone in a pyramid wall. (Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich) Attention: Some erectors use the conic form of the indication-stone also for the simplex soul-hole or the counter-stone (Figs.194, 216).
Swauger (1971: 254) reports a port-hole with rectangular and semicircular tubus (Jordan).

Here now a selection of interesting soul-holes (mostly from Lanzarote):

Fig.190 - Simplex soul-hole, counter-stone above, indication-stone righthand (L-Tinguatón - photo: HJU)

Fig.191 - Simplex soul-hole, counter-stone above (Lanz.-Tinguatón – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.192 -Triangular soul-hole, three stones incl. lintel, indication-stone above (L-Tinguatón – photo: HJU)

Fig.193 - Soul-hole with lintel and threshold, rectangular tubus (Lanz.-Tinguatón – photo: HJU)

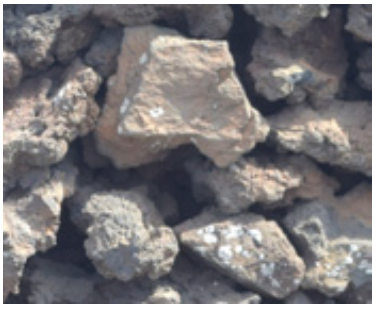


Fig.194 - Simplex soul-hole above, imitating a duplex solution (L-Puerto del Carmen – photo: HJU)

Fig.195- Three-stone soul-hole, triangular tubus, indication-stone below (L-Puerto del Carmen – photo: HJU)

Fig.196- Soul-hole with rosette design, more or less round tubus (L-Yaiza – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.197- Soul-hole with rosette design, more or less round tubus (L-Mala – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.198- Soul-hole with rosette design, more or less round tubus (L-Guinate – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.199 - Soul-hole with multiplex stone arrangement, rectangular tubus (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.200 - Simplex soul-hole, counter-stone below, indication-stone above (L-Pto. del Carmen – photo: HJU)

Fig.201 - Four-stone soul-hole, triangular tubus (Barranco del Quíquere, Lanzarote – photo: HJU)

Fig.202 - Dolmen-like soul-hole, four stones incl. lintel, indic. stone (Juan Perdomo, Lanzarote – photo: HJU)

Fig.203 - Classic simplex soul-hole on ground, triangular tubus, two stones (L-Quíquere – photo: HJU)

Fig.204 - Three-stone soul-hole, dolmen-like, rectangular tubus (L-Quíquere – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.205-Cavity, most likely a soul-hole with irregular tubus, six stones (L-Barr. del Quíquere – photo: HJU)

Fig.206 - Soul-hole with lintel/threshold, rectangular tubus, six stones (L-Tinajo – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.207 - Classic duplex soul-hole (Mña. Quemada, Máguez, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.208 - Soul-hole with rosette design incl. threshold, pentagonal tubus (L-Barr. del Quíquere – photo: HJU)

Fig.209- Soul-hole with partly an arch, lower part slided down (L-Tias – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.210-Big soul-hole, rosette with lintel (Atalaya de Femés-Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.211- Soul-hole on ground, rectangular tubus, only two stones (L-Femés – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.212 - Soul-hole with multiplex stone arrangement incl. lintel, rectangular tubus, nearly on ground (Pto. del Carmen, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.213 - Multiplex soul-hole with threshold, conic tubus (Mña. Tenezara south-Lanz. – photo: HJU)

Fig.214 - Three-stone soul-hole, triangular tubus, interesting bordure (L-Atal. de Femés – photo: HJU)

Fig.215 - Multiplex soul-hole with seven stones, four of them simplex versions! (Mala, Lanz. – photo: HJU)

Fig.216 - Small double soul-hole, simplex type, counter-stone above (Mala-Lanzarote – photo: HJU)

Fig.217 - Rosette type soul-hole, irregular tubus (Valle del Rincón, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.218-Classic soul-hole with counter-stone (base) below (Mña. Corona south, Lanz. – photo: HJU)

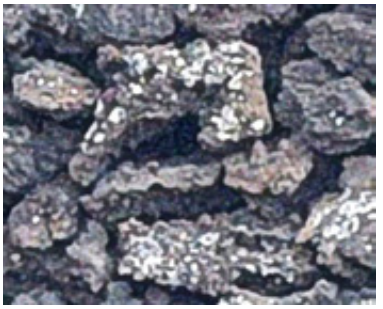


Fig.219 - Soul-hole with counter-stone, quadrangular tubus, indication-stone (L-Pto. del Carmen – photo: HJU)

Fig.220 - Classic simplex soul-hole, quadrangular tubus, 2 counter-stones (L-Máguez east – photo: HJU)

Fig.221 - Big soul-hole with three stones, triangular tubus, on ground (Máguez east-Lanz. – photo: HJU)

Fig.222 - Five-stone soul-hole, quadrangular tubus (Mña. Mina south-Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.223- Soul-hole with rosette incl. threshold, short tubus (Mña. Mina south-Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.224- Classic simplex soul-hole, triangular counter-stone above (Teguise-Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.225 - Soul-hole with rosette design, in the photo righthand near the peak of the pyramid (Etna south, Sicily, Italy – photo: G. Salvatini)

Fig.226 - Soul-hole with rotated L-design, in the third step of a roundish pyramid (Llanos de las Cuevas, La Palma, Islas Canarias – photo: Barbara Kupka)

Fig. 227 - In the foreground a pyramid with oriel and a soul-hole with rectangular tubus on ground (see arrow).
For the practised eye at least three more soul-holes are visible in this wall. (Llanos de las Cuevas, La Palma, Islas Canarias – photo: Barbara Kupka)

Fig. 228 - Five-step pyramid with top-tumulus: In the middle of the right edge we see a common type of soul-hole with a four-stone construction incl. a small threshold. Triangular tubus. Directly above there seems to be an indication-stone. (Cuatro Caminos/Icod, Tenerife – photo: piramidescanarias.tumblr.com)

Fig. 229 - One-step pyramid with conic top-tumulus: Soul-hole with four stones and a rectangular tubus. Although both pyramids (Figs. 229 & 232) have a distance of over 1300 km the erectors used the same tubus type for their soul-hole – megalithic ideas made it possible. (Extremadura, Spain – photo: Javier Aguas)

Fig. 230 - Simplex soul-hole, counter-stone above. (Mña. Corona south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig. 231 - Soul-hole with 5-stone rosette design. Tubus rectangular (L-Pico de la Tegala – photo: HJU)

Fig. 232 - Soul-hole with four stones, rectang. tubus, on ground (L-Los Helechos, Guinate – photo: HJU)

Fig.233 - Soul-hole with three stones and a rectangular tubus, on ground. Above all a really big indication-stone. The "architect" made it even more easy for the "travelling" defunct to return to his soul-hole because it was placed exactly at the corner of the pyramid. (Barranco del Quíquere, Lanzarote – photo: HJU)

Fig.234 - Triangular soul-hole with threshold, multiplex solution with seven stones (L-Guinate – photo: HJU)

Fig.235 - Simplex semi-circle with counter-stone as base, indication-stone above (L-Guinate – photo: HJU)

Fig.236 - Three-stone SH, rectang. tubus, broad counter-stone, conic indication-stone (L-M. Mina south – photo: HJU)

Fig.237 - Classic simplex soul-hole, counter-stone below, indication-stone above (L-Corona south – photo: HJU)

Fig.238 - Soul-hole with rosette design, round tubus, indication-stone below (L-Mala west – photo: HJU)

Fig.239 - Rare simplex soul-hole with a two-part counter-stone (L-Pto. del Carmen – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.240 - Simplex soul-hole, counter-stone below, conic indication-stone above (L-Tenezara south – photo: HJU)

Fig.241 - Right: Four-stone soul-hole incl. threshold. Triangular tubus. Left: White conic indication-stone (L-Tinguatón east – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.242 - Soul-hole with 4 stones incl. simplex; triang. tubus, near ground (Los Helechos, Guinate – photo: HJU)

On the last pages (Figs.190-242) we were confronted with a multitude of soul-hole variants, but – as imaginative and smartly the people of the first wave were – there exist even more astonishing solutions:

Could the soul travel and fly? At least the people of the Bronze Age seem to have thought that. One of the special features of some soul-holes is the extension of the lowermost, horizontal plate-like stone – mostly a kind of threshold – to a

Fig.243 - Soul-hole with four stones and a roundish tubus. The horizontal stone is perhaps a "landing strip" for the communicative and fond of travelling soul. An indication-stone was placed on ground. (Pico de la Tegala, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.244 - Multiplex soul-hole and triangular tubus. With "runway" for the soul. (L-Pico de la Tegala – photo: HJU)

Fig.245 - Simplex soul-hole with protruding counter-stone. Indication-stone. (L-Mña. Corona S – photo: HJU)

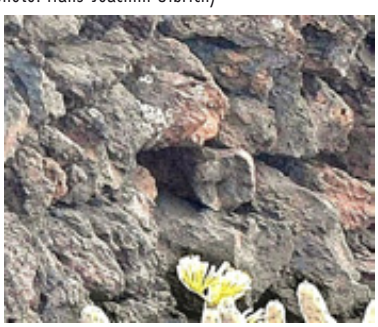


Fig.246 - Multiplex soul-hole with extreme massive threshold. (L-Barranco del Quíquere – photo: HJU)

Fig. 247 - Three-stone soul-hole with ponderous threshold and protruding lintel ("roofage"). (Barranco del Quíquere, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

"landing strip" for the outgoing or incoming soul; the berieved must have valued the soul as a very active, inventive and adventurous entity (see Figs. 200, 234, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247). Do I hear laughter? The landing process could and can be watched everywhere in the nature when a flying animal is involved! I am open for a discussion.

The worship of a vulva? What we see is basically a small L06-pyramid with a mini-cairn on the platform (Fig.248). But then appears also a longish artefact which without doubt was fabricated by a mason (photo lefthand). The stone work shows a V-form, but this time with the tip in the direction of the sky: Λ. Furthermore a smaller version of this symbol is integrated too. It seems to be a superimposed tunnel showing the mountainous landscape (Lanzarote) of the defunct, but also the current sphere of the goddess – apparently not the worship of a vulva but of a hill and stone loving numen. The use of art in this way is – as far as I know – unique in the world of megalithic burial monuments. The neighboring small dolmen, here in the function of a soul-hole (right of the artefact), assures the normal communication of the defunct. Furthermore there appears to be a second soul-hole in the pyramid wall.

By the way: The term "defunct" can only be used synonymic for "soul" when the corpse is not taken over by a hostile ghost or numen.

Bronze Age mason. Another case of skilful masonry is the partly astounding exactly cut out

Fig.249 - Three-stone soul-hole with a rectangular tubus. The small rectangular stone righthand shows at its right side another 90° angle. A big indication-stone was placed above. (Tinguatón east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) [See also 80° angle in Fig. 251]

rectangular tubus of a three-stone soul-hole (Fig.249). Which tools did the prehistoric mason use to gain a 90° angle? Up to which degree of hardness he was able to work? Was bronze fitted at all for metallic chisels? Did he deploy harder stones on softer ones? Was it a team effort?

Fig.248 - Dolmen-like soul-hole with an added artefact for the goddess featuring masonry. (Tinguatón east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.250 - Four-stone soul-hole including a threshold. Irregular tubus. Directly beside this soul-hole (lefthand) exists an extremely peaked stone of ca.25 cm height. Is it natural or artificial? Is it perhaps the work of a mason? Has it possibly a cultic connection to the soul-hole or to the stone-loving goddess? (Pico de la Tegala south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.251 - Nine-stone double soul-hole including two lintels in the lowermost row of this slope. One quadrilateral and one irregular tubus (the lower lintel with 80°incision). Perhaps more soul-holes in the neighbouring simple LO6-pyramids. (Valle del Ríncón west, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Unbelievable: a double soul-hole! The upper Valle del Rincón (Haría) is full of cultic walls and small sloped L06-pyramids. It is not quite clear if a certain percentage really hosts some burials. Nevertheless there are quite a few constructions which look like soul-holes. Especially one (Fig. 251) represents an unmistakable double soul-hole. Is the entire complex a big necropolis (see also the monumental burial place in Fig. 63)?

Complementary I add Fig.252 with a pyramid featuring at least three soul-holes in a row. This excites anew curiosity regarding the question if a pyramid can host more than one defunct.

A " security filter" for the soul? One of the most interesting photos of the entire soul-hole topic is Fig.253a. At a first glance we recognize a soul-hole with five stones and a long tubus. But our attention deserves the protruding entrance with an en bloc simplex design in two parts and an additional plate (sketch Fig.253b). Why this measure which looks like a triple filter for the leaving and later for the returning soul, testing if it really is the authorized one? Logically the berieved must bear in mind that "their pyramid" can be positioned in a cluster where hundreds of unpeaceful souls and ghosts make trouble. Did they think like that 4000 years ago?

Fig.252 - Simple L06-pyramid with three or four soul-holes. Is this evidence for a multiple burial in one relatively small monument? Or is this an "internet knot" which the berieved installed for different defunct which want to communicate? (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

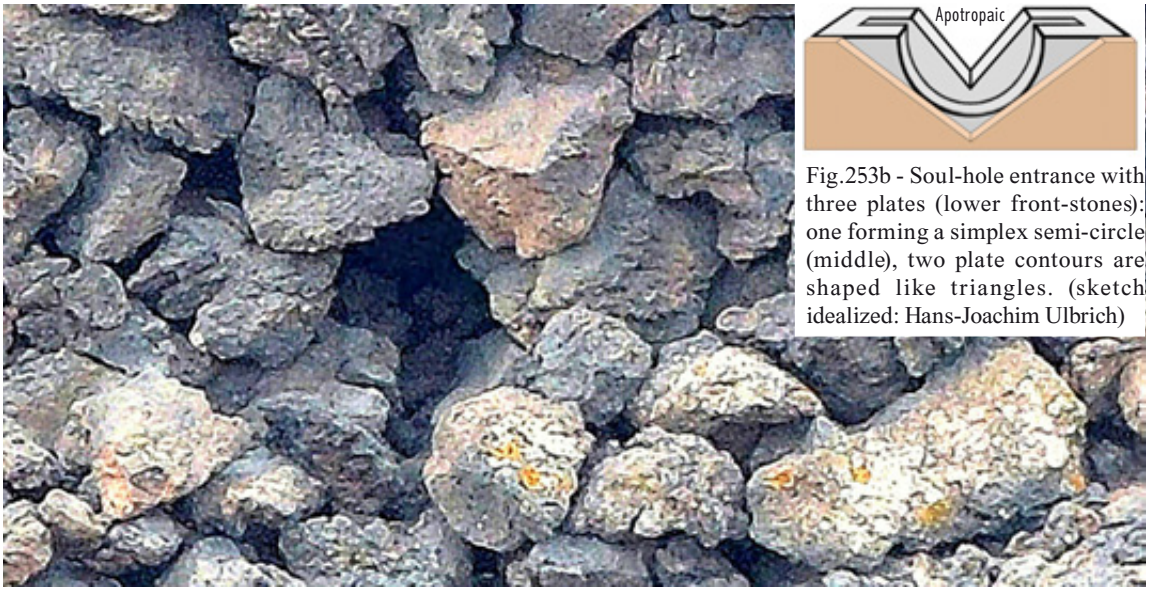


Fig.253b - Soul-hole entrance with three plates (lower front-stones): one forming a simplex semi-circle (middle), two plate contours are shaped like triangles. (sketch idealized: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.253a - A six-stone soul-hole with most likely three front-stones (see Fig.253b) and a distinct tubus – together nearly an artificial drain. The bright longish boulder (photo righthand) looks like an indication-stone. (Los Pocillos hinterland, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Mysterious soul-holes with center-stone. Up and on a pyramid attracts attention because of its comparatively big soul-hole opening. It becomes even opaque when the orifice features a marked stone in its middle. Why disturbing the transcendent flow of the anima through the soul-hole? Or is this stone a kind of honouring for the defunct? Another idea would be the special benediction to the goddess, letting her know that she is the canonical mistress of the mountains. See Figs. 254-257.

Fig.254 - A L06-pyramid with a big soul-hole presenting a cultic lava swirl. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.255 - L06-pyramid with two soul-holes; the right one highlights a rectangular stone in its middle (dolmen-like on ground). (Valle del Rincón, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.256 - L08-pyramid with big boulders in the top-tumulus. Two soul-holes, the upper one features a semicircular opening and a triangular stone in its middle. (Los Helechos, Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.257 - An extremely sloping pyramid, lefthand a classic five-stone rosette solution for the soul-hole. In the middle of the triangular tubus a cultic stone. (Tenezara south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Tubus with background design. Normally a soul-hole reveals not much of a tubus ending, but the two versions in this description show that the tubus can have a special designed background. In one case we see three artificially placed small stones (Fig.258) and in the other case a big orifice (Fig. 259) with a man-made walled rear. That some rare Lanzarotian soul-holes feature plates (Fig.1) instead of tubi, directly installed behind the front-stone(s), reminds of the "false doors" found in proto- and prehistoric burial monuments, in our context for example in Sicily, Egypt, Lycia (Tritsch 1943, and others).

▲ Fig.258 - A four-stone soul-hole with quadrangular tubus; the latter relatively short, feat. 3 placed stones. (Tias south, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.259 - Big multiplex soul-hole on ground. Tubus limited by a wall. For a devotion chamber distinctly too small. (Barranco del Quíquere, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

A pipe for the soul. The people of the Bronze Age were in many aspects familiar with the role of tubes (Lat. tubus / pl. tubi) in everyday life: bones and horns, plantal tools, architecture, music instruments etc. So it was not astonishing for me to find a pyramid displaying a soul-hole with a nearly exact round tubus (Figs.260a/b, see also title of Almogaren 53). But I was surprised even more that it was the only one in all the years and in all the regions of the island. Noteworthy is also the vertical concatenation of the two involved pyramids: The younger burial monument with the soul-hole was built on top of the older one. By the way: The GE satellite photo of this place is not helpful because all versions (years back) were imprecise and looked different in each version of the delivered data.

Fig.260a - A one-step pyramid with soul-hole and indication stone ("Fig.153" type without devotion chamber) "sits" on an older, significantly more eroded type. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.260b - One can see that the mason was anxious to reach a more or less round form of the tubus [on ground]. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.260c - Righthand the old tumulus, lefthand the younger pyramid ("Fig.153 variant"). In the middle of the photo the soul-hole with its longish tubus [practically "on ground"]. One can see also that both monuments were combined intentionally with some natural rocks. (Mña. de Los Llanos south-east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

A soul-hole with corridor. Most likely the family of the defunct was not satisfied with the unattractive simplex soul-hole the "architect" of the pyramid has provided. Therefore two short walls, a corridor, was added – presumably afterwards (Figs. 261a/b/c). Corridors for cultic geoglyphes and burial pyramids were used everywhere in Lanzarote; mainly with the task to prepare the visitor for important religious places like devotion chambers (Figs. 138, 141, 144, 145). Why not leading the defunct better to his – in this case – not so eye-catching soul-hole? A corridor without a door-like entrance reminds of the discussion of the "false doors" (p.112).

Fig.261a - Side view of a L08-pyramid. Lefthand the corridor is pointing to the simplex soul-hole in the upper middle of the picture (see arrow). The big stone righthand could be an indication-stone. (Tias south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.261b/c - Front view of the pyramid with corridor and simplex soul-hole. (Tias south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Dolmens as soul-holes in or added to pyramid walls. The megalithic character of countless buildings in Lanzarote shows primarily in burial monuments and their soul-holes. It is therefore not surprising that dolmens appear also as a part of the supporting pyramid walls (and in a later chapter also in vertical soul-holes on the crests) replacing the front-stone solutions (Fig.187).

Dolmens and their chambers are mainly places of transcendent procedures (besides human actions like burials); for this reason a miniature, reduced version of a dolmen can easily manage the communication needs of a soul and the berieved (Figs.262, 263). The small walls of the dolmen act then like the corridor in Fig.261: concentrating and sustaining the metaphysical streams.

Fig.262 - Dolmen in a pyramid wall: I do not think that it was an accident that the two stones (besides the capstone) look like a simplex soul-hole rotated by 90°, combined with an indication-stone. (Tias south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.263 - Dolmen (height ca. 40 cm) at the foot of a pyramid wall: The visitor can see that a tubus starts at the wall and reaches deep into the corpus. This lets come up ideas of a connection to a possible crypt. The small red simplex stone at the inner end of the dolmen is perhaps a security measure in case the dolmen is damaged or has collapsed. Two pairs of pillar-stones. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

A very special case is the small dolmen in Fig.264 which is attached to a simple tumulus: It is – so far – the only dolmen in Lanzarote featuring a duplex soul-hole (Fig.188e) with capstone. This conversational construction is most likely responsible for the soul in this burial monument.

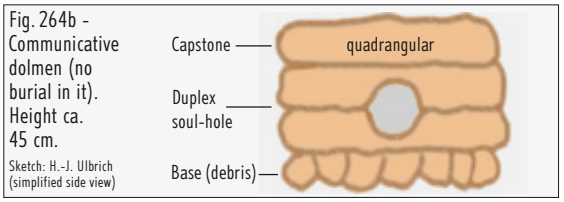


Fig. 264b - Communicative dolmen (no burial in it). Height ca. 45 cm.
Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich (simplified side view)

Fig.264a - Small dolmen combined with a tumulus. Soul-hole function. (Pico de la Tegala south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.265 - Tumulus with mini-dolmen as soul-hole (on ground) plus a simplex front-stone as another soul-hole, combined with a counter-stone (see arrows); apparently the erector wanted to keep transcendentally on the safe side. [See also Fig.165/p.89] (Arrecife west, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

5.1.2. Vertically placed (added to the platform or to the top-tumulus)

The descriptions in ch. 5.1.1. (p. 99-115) dealt with soul-holes integrated or attached to the walls of pyramids; in the forthcoming pages I delineate soul-hole solutions constructed for the platform or for the crest of pyramids.

The journalists and scientists of the "*majano*" faction overlooked (or neglected) the fact that the Canarian pyramids had up and on additional smaller buildings on their top (Ulbrich 2016a: 143, Table 1, Fig.8). In Lanzarote it is practically common that soul-holes can also be installed in a way which allows to send the transcendental streams to the sky (and not only in horizontal directions like in Figs.190-265), aiming an even more direct contact with the goddess. The following places and constructions were found:

- Artificial pans and craters in crests & top-tumuli
- Soul-holes at the top of pyramids, some vertical
- Turrets, ring-walls & USMs on pyramids. Common! Also rectangular or other groundplans.
- Mini-cairn on the crest of a pyramid
- Mini-pyramid in the crater-like top-tumulus
- Mini-dolmens on the peak of top-tumuli

Contours appreciating the goddess. The first wave people were attentive observers of nature and therefore also of the divine activities; due to that including pans and craters in tumuli and top-tumuli (of step pyramids) was an obviousness for the believers (Fig.266).

Fig.266 - This aerial photo of a heavily eroded heel-shaped-cairn features on the crest a still visible pan (arrow). [See also the photos of this soil-filled pyramid shot on ground / Figs.125, 126, p.70] (Yaiza south, Lanzarote – Photo: GE/GrafCan 2015)

Fig.267 - L08 pyramid with artificial crater. (Tias south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also "crater" in Fig.73, p.48.

Fig.268 - Another L08 pyramid with artificial crater. Walls damaged. (Pico de La Tegala south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).

General note: Only the legends of the chapters 5.1., 5.1.1., 5.1.2., 5.2. & 5.3. use a condensed font (typeface) to have more place for the many photos and sketches.

Fig.269 - A rare construction: a horizontal soul-hole near the crest* of a tumulus. Even a mini-corridor was added. (Pto. del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich). See full monument in Fig.168, p.90 (* Sicily [Fig. 225], Balearics too).

Fig.270a - This photo (2017) features a vertical soul-hole with a horizontal rosette design showing minimal damages of roundness; today (2023 / Fig. 270b) this orifice has further eroded. (Pico de La Tegala south, Lanz. – photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.270b – The erosion has progressed. The vertical tubus is well visible.

Fig.270c - This cemetery-like, more or less rectangular pyramid (larger side ca. 15 m) with damaged forecourt (lefthand/ the northern concatenation-wall is totally eroded) features a vertical soul-hole (arrow) with rosette design (Fig.270a). Southeast of the monument we can detect a geoglyphic pattern by the natives (parallel lines) which are by no means rests of modern agrarian activities by the Spanish. Fields by the latter would not show such unnaturally oversized ploughing furrows. (Pico de La Tegala south, Lanzarote – satellite photo: GE/GrafCan) For a vertical soul-hole see also Fig.185-DSH6.

The aim is the sky. In Lanzarote there were two methods to position soul-holes with more nearness to the numen: either to place horizontal versions in the top-regions of pyramids (Fig.269; see also Fig.228/Tenerife, Fig.225/Sicily, Fig.227/La Palma) or to construct soul-holes with vertical tubus (Fig.270 a/b/c). The latter lets once more suppose that it leads to a hollow room or crypt below this orifice (see also p.73,74).

In this context a few words on the height problem: The sheer mass of pyramids with a stepped contour should have made the proponents of the *majanos* incredulous against their own thesis – but nothing happened although it is the logically correct interpretation that monuments with a height of over two floors were not erected by peasants and other rural people of the Canary Islands. It is also not expectable that a Canarian farmer of the 15.-19. century thinks of an effortful hollow dome-like construction for the expansion of his simple *finca* or farm. Were *majanos* with more than two floors height (incl. crypts) logic in terms of the peasants?

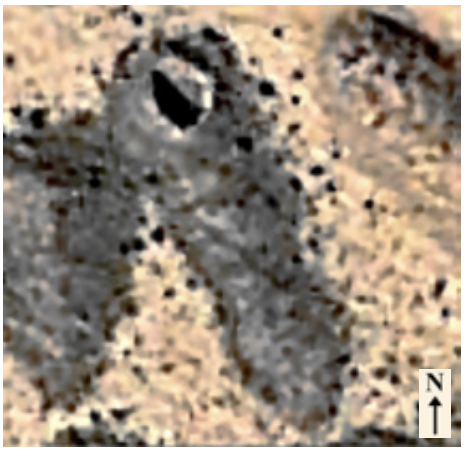


Fig.271 - A tumulus with oval pan as vertical soul-hole, the latter surrounded respectively emphasised by a stone ring. (El Mojón, Lanzarote – photo: GE/GrafCan)

Fig.272 - A stretched semi-circle pyramid with an USM on top as vertical soul-hole. The latter had a connection to the burial chamber (crypt) as one can see by the collapsed roof, occupied now by "internal" bushes. (Tajaste, Lanzarote – photo: GE/GrafCan)

By the way: Since decades publishes Google Earth (and later also GE together with GrafCan) aerial photos of the Canary islands showing hundreds of pyramids where the roofs or steps have crashed. In many cases this revealed the existence of crypts (like in Fig.272)! Why ignoring an information source which costs nothing?

Low turrets common on pyramids! Stone based constructions (rings, USMs, turrets) were apparently valued ideas for the design of vertical soul-holes on the crest of top-tumuli. Such a turret or USM means an elongation of the tubus (Fig. 273). Rectangular (etc.) groundplans were also used. Again the question why a *majano* can have a distinguished stone ring on its top?

Artificial mini-cairns play a big role in Lanzarote. One can meet small clusters everywhere in the scenery (Fig.166), but on the crest of L08 pyramids they are rare. Then they have the character of a vertical soul-hole (Fig.274, 275). As I mentioned already: "The aim is the sky". And a mountain-like mini-cairn should please the deess.

Fig.273 - A fine example of an USM on the roof of a pyramid (in the role of a vertical soul-hole). We see a burial monument with six steps on the valley side and an ME of 23 m. The top-tumulus is relatively flat and the USM (type with two wings and mound / Ulbrich 2016b) has no pan in the middle. A ramp in the southeast seems to have been built to pass into a (today damaged) staircase. The groundplan is more or less rectangular. (Chio, Tenerife – photo: GE/GrafCan) The idea (Sánchez Romero 2021:82) that the protohistoric Guanches (Tenerife) built "observatories" and altars on such pyramids is insupportable.

Fig.274 - In the background: an L-form pyramid with a mini-cairn (here as soul-hole) on its L06 platform. (Charco del Palo NW, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) See also the mini-cairn in Figs.61, 248.

Fig.275 - Mini-cairn as soul-hole on the crest of a L08 pyramid. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Hill (home of a goddess) or phallus? In symbol sciences the rising triangle is attested for male attributes like virility and ambitious force, but it is as well related to solar events and to fire and heat (Ulbrich 2004a: 189). See also "Magec", the solar god of the 2nd wave natives in Lanzarote (p.100).

Fig.276 - A small L06 pyramid with devotion chamber and soul-hole fills the deepening of a bigger L08 pyramid. Through the sloping of the L06 pyramid may arise a close internal contact with the top-tumulus (stone filling) which could be used as burial place, a secret chamber dedicated for the defunct. (Punta Mujeres northwest, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

A pyramid in the pyramid. One rare case exists in Lanzarote where a minor L06 pyramid – even with devotion chamber – was placed in the middle of a large L08 pyramid with a pan-like deepening of the top-tumulus (Fig.276).

Mini-dolmens, another "relay contact" to the otherworld. We know the transcendent tasks and abilities of dolmens in all regions of the world where megaliths are in use. The Bronze Age colonists of the first wave who reached Lanzarote

Fig.277 - A medium big tumulus presents on its crest a relatively big dolmen with the function of a soul-hole (ME ca. 1 x 0,9 m). See also title page. (Pico de La Tegala south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) Please note also that at one side (lefthand) the boulders are distinctly larger (Figs.16, 17).

Fig.278 - In the background we see a big tumulus with another dolmen on its crest (arrow). In the foreground of this tele-lens shot a construction which looks more like a stele and not like a mini-cairn (see also Fig.291d). (Matagorda hinterland, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.279 - On the crest of this L08 pyramid exists a miniature dolmen, partly coloured white. In the background another pyramid with a mini-dolmen, this time totally white. Although the first-wave natives were able to colour stones (*teígue* see legend of Fig.157c), I have the vague idea that these two prehistoric dolmens were embrued afterwards in our times. (Puerto Calero, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.280 - One of the grand-pyramids of Lanzarote (see p.145) features as vertical soul-hole a dolmen (concave capstone) on the top-tumulus. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – zoom-in photo by Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.281 - Gustavo Sánchez Romero (2021: 130-131, fig.G, northern Tenerife) misunderstood an unequivocal dolmen-like soul-hole as "concave" tool for the monitoring of the sun.

Fig.282 - This is a very special case of a tumulus add-on (height ca. 1,5 m): Is it an oversized soul-hole or a dolmen with two capstones? Or a merger? (Montaña Los Helechos, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

brought with them the knowledge that small dolmens can be deployed also as add-on for tumuli and pyramids, then working as a vertical and/or horizontal soul-hole (Figs. 277-282).

5.2. One step or several ones.

A measure to stabilize hollow buildings – wether prehistoric or recent – is often the use of corbelling; especially step constructions outwards are helpful when the inner part is a corbelled vault. In Bronze Age Lanzarote and the other Canary Islands the situation is totally different because the steps of local pyramids are a cultic action, following the "needs" of their goddess. Corbelling was therefore not used and not necessary (Fig. 100c, p. 60), vaults yet.

The soaring, aspiring in the nature plays an enormous role with the people of the first wave. They see everyday what them and the goddess delights. If necessary they build staircases up to the last recess, terrace or step (partly comparatively high pyramids in Tenerife, La Palma, Sicily, Pico/Azores, etc). And to be especially obedient they integrated natural rocks in their burial monument (Fig.99, grand-pyramid Fig.307 etc).

The most used step construction in Lanzarote is that with only one or two steps (Figs.15, 70, 283, etc). Rare are the three-stepped pyramids. In all the years I found only one four-stepped version (Fig.305) and – with retention – even a five (or more)-stepped variant (Fig.307, p.146-148).

5.3. Design of the platform or of the top-tumulus (crest).

A L06 pyramid looks like a variant of a L08 pyramid without a top-tumulus or an extremely

Fig.283 - This bigger L08 pyramid has a strange sloped structure: On the right side a normal two-step solution and on the left side an extremely low variant of a first step. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.284 - This grand-pyramid has an interesting buildup: strung-out (ME 63 m) with five steps and two staircases. Remarkable is the fact that the uppermost floor is not completely reserved for the debris of the low top-tumulus which uses only ca. 50% of the horizontal expanse. Please note also the skew, parallel walls connected with the pyramid by the natives. (Parque Etnográfico Pirámides de Güímar, Tenerife – photo: GE/GrafCan)

flat one. That the natives of the first wave observed this correlation can be seen in the southernmost pyramid of the private park terrain in Güímar (Tenerife). There this alleged four-step pyramid has a fifth storey where one can see some horizontal meters before the top-tumulus with its accumulations begins. Some multi-step pyramids in Güímar have no top-tumulus at all! Up to now (2023) I observed in Lanzarote generally speaking only L08 pyramids where the top-tumulus covers the uppermost storey more or less completely; excluded from this rule are some pyramids where the top-tumulus starts consciously only after the level edge of the wall, for instance when the wall includes a special horizontal constructive ornament for these few centimeters (see Figs.70, 90, 132, 296e).


Fig.285a
N
Attention: Some shadows of monuments or rocks may look like a wall.
50 m

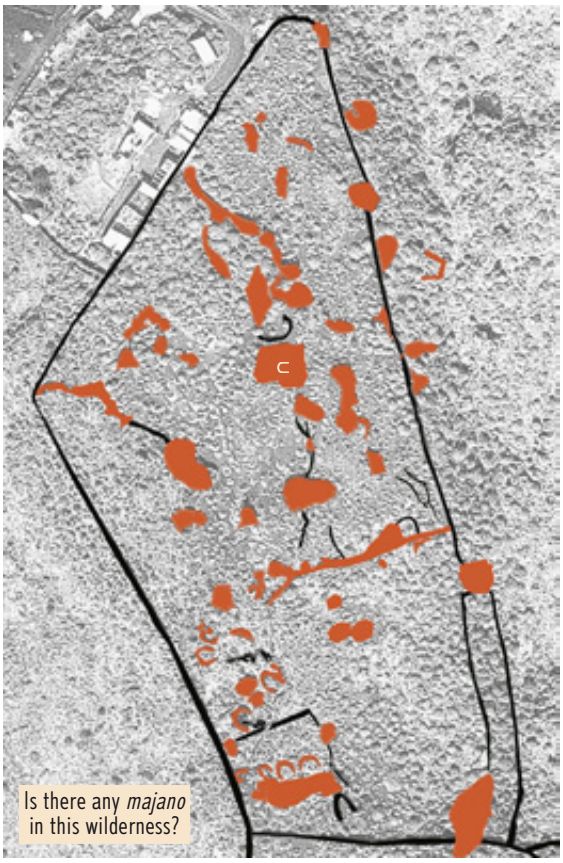


Fig.285b - Cluster shown as groundplans (emphasized) of the monuments. Quasi a funeral enclosure. (El Bailadero north, Haría – graphic: H.-J. Ulbrich)
◀ Fig.285a - First wave necropolis as enclosure. Pyramids, tumuli and USMs with different groundplans. Surrounding native walls without entrance. (El Bailadero north, Haría – photo: GE/GrafCan)

5.4. Tumuli, pyramids and their groundplans – a satellite view.

A treasure chest for ethnologists, geographers, archaeologists etc are the informations made available by balloons, airplanes and satellites. But not all archaeologists from the universities which should have to deal with local megalithic burial monuments in the eastern Atlantic and western Mediterranean areas (for example Catania/Sicily, Ponta Delgada/Azores, Funchal/Madeira, La Laguna/Tenerife, Las Palmas/Gran Canaria, Rabat/Morocco, Casablanca/Morocco, Montpellier/France, Sevilla/Spain, Badajoz/Extremadura, Faro/Algarve) seem to use these methods and tools. Alone the groundplan of a Canarian pyramid can deliver valuable data about architecture, religion, capabilities, value-based communities.

To demonstrate this I searched for a Lanzarotian pyramid cluster, not too big but still multifaceted, remote but as yet approachable. I found that in the north of the island where millenia old paths, walls and geoglyphs can be examined. Near the old toponym "El Bailadero" I detected a quadrangular terrain (Fig.285) which apparently was used as a necropolis or cemetery by the first wave people. With the place name El Bailadero (Span. "[outdoor] dance floor") is meant here not a Spanish or European facility but one of the 2nd-wave natives – then used in deep wilderness (the modern huts in the photo are 20th or 21st century / only two huts existed in 2000).

The buildings are pyramids (one or two steps), tumuli and USMs; also cultic walls, grooves and paths by the natives. (Fig.285)

Among monuments with irregular groundplan we see also some familiar forms:

- round, oval and roundish designs
- pyramids with three, four or six angles
- two so-called heel-shaped-cairns (HSC)
- two concatenations
- several semi-circles
- one bigger nearly rectangular pyramid with an USM and pan as soul-hole on the top-tumulus ("⊂" visible in both illustrations)

Fig.286 - This Turkish cluster respectively burial platform (shelter) looks with its tumuli, pyramids, walls and groundplans as many other Mediterranean and Canarian ones. We see oval, drop-like, round, triangular and HSC-like forms. ME 199 m. No agriculture present in the neighbourhood. Unfortunately it was demolished meanwhile by the construction of some pistes. (near Şanlıurfa, Turkey – photo: GE 2015)

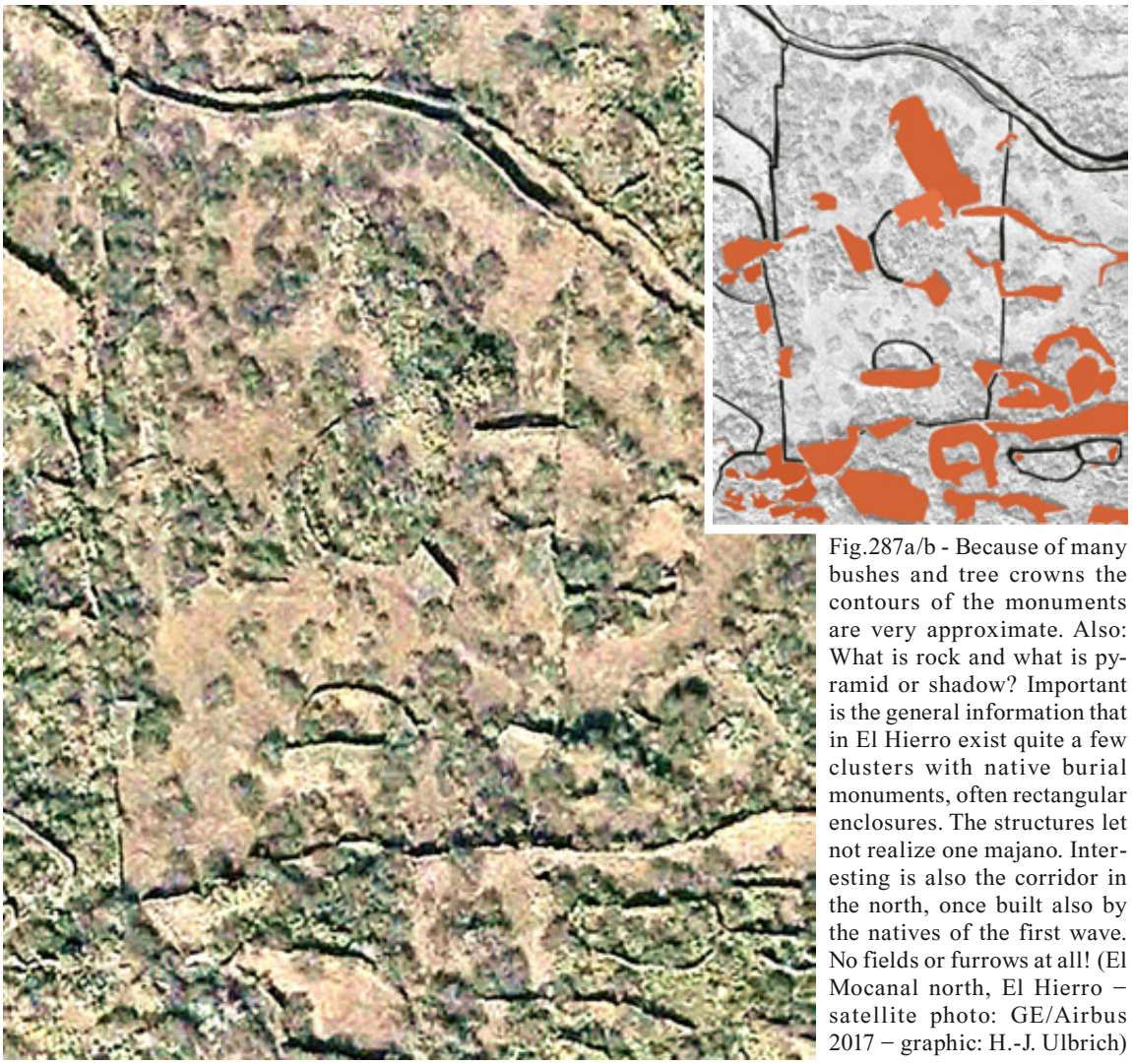


Fig.287a/b - Because of many bushes and tree crowns the contours of the monuments are very approximate. Also: What is rock and what is pyramid or shadow? Important is the general information that in El Hierro exist quite a few clusters with native burial monuments, often rectangular enclosures. The structures let not realize one majano. Interesting is also the corridor in the north, once built also by the natives of the first wave. No fields or furrows at all! (El Mocanal north, El Hierro – satellite photo: GE/Airbus 2017 – graphic: H.-J. Ulbrich)

• four pyramids are integrated in the surrounding wall; some more are "leaning" at the wall
• two nearly meandering constructions
• no explicit entrance (enclosure)
• an even bigger cluster is following directly southwards.

This entirely walled terrain was never used agriculturally, a farmer does not produce so many stone piles in such an uninteresting badland. So where in the photo (Fig.285) can one see a *majano* or *maroiço*? For me is this the ultimate proof that the *majano* theory is and was always totally wrong.

5.5. Description of certain necropolises and cemeteries.

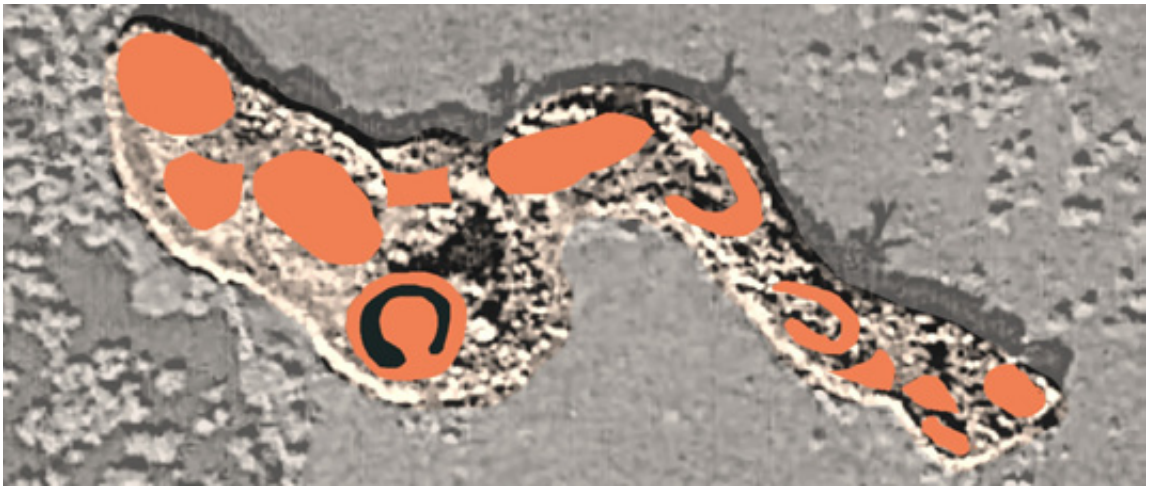
In 5.4. we described already a necropolis but there are many more when we check the rural and undeveloped regions of Lanzarote (first hints see Figs.37, 45, 46, 145). The burial monuments can be assembled in an enclosure on ground (Fig.285b) or as extravagant combination on a special platform (Fig.288). Even more quite different possibilities (ring-like, only dolmens, with crypts, park-like, including caves, with "wings", cemetery forms, perhaps 2nd wave origins, etc) are prepared to be introduced.

The contours of the monuments in the sketches are imprecise because not one version of the historic GE photos looks like the other ones (regarding one place). One method is it to use contours of different dates (of one place) for one graphic or map. The to be payed for satellite material cannot be discussed here.

Quite interesting is not only the monument of Fig.290 but also the surrounding wall with extra sheltering of soul-holes and miniature dolmens.

Generally we have no informations on how the defunct was finally entombed in Lanzarotian

Fig.288a - Small pyramids and tumuli on this funerary platform, as well as the ruin of a burial-tower. ME 45 m. Extra soul-holes in the corpus of the platform. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote − photo: GE/GrafCan)



◄ Fig. 288c - Big soul-hole (lefthand) with indication-stone (righthand) at the northern side of the platform. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

▲ Fig.288b - Practically all monuments are more or less damaged. Astonishingly the surrounding wall of the platform is in good preservation (except in Fig.288e). (Graphic: H.-J. Ulbrich)

pyramids and tumuli. On a layer of stone, in a stone cist, in a lavish sarcophagus (etc)? See also Fig. 136c on p.75. How happened the preparation of the body? Were men, women and children treated in the same way? Did the social position play a role? Which defunct got which pyramid type?

Fig. 289 - A few meters to the southeast we find this genuine USM. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.288d - The complete necropolis from NE. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.288e - The center of the necropolis from the south. One can see that this part of the burial-tower and its pedestal are damaged. The wall is also interrupted. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

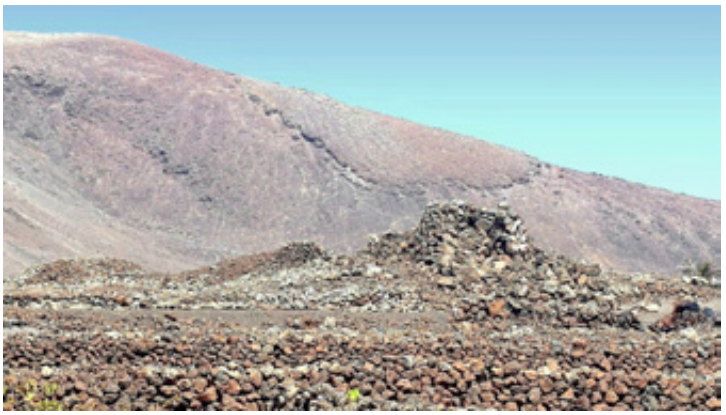


Fig.288f - The western end of the complete monument (see map Fig. 288 a/b). Please note the extreme skew of the walls of the burial-tower as seen from this side. In the background righthand the Mña. Tinache. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) More details on this burial-tower on p.33-34, Fig.45.

◄ Fig.288g - View on the necropolis from SW to NE. The platform was already in prehistoric times embedded in fields and walls. In the background a secondary crater of the Mña. Tenezar. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanz. – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Necropolis - Delante de Tenésara 2 (northwest of Guiguan)

Fig.290a - The platform is in a sloping position. Because of a wall which is running over the monument it is not a common pyramid (Fig.290b). Furthermore a special oval area (north) can be interpreted as elevated burial-tower. Probably in a later phase a small L06 pyramid was added (Fig.290c). The entire site (monuments, cultic walls, geoglyphs) is placed in a rectangular enclosure without any farming. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanz. − photo: GrafCan)

Fig.290b - Lefthand and righthand of the monument are meandering cultic walls or geoglyphs whose meaning is not clear (perhaps abstractions of plants). A slightly bowed wall, forming something like a forecourt, is leading to the burial-tower in the low ground. Another wall is reaching from the burial-tower to the other side of the monument, cutting it in two parts. The bigger part in the foreground features two basic cairns. On the SE side of the corpus the mentioned L06 burial pyramid (Fig.290c). At the same side one can find a soul-hole (Fig.290d). ME of the monument corpus 14 m. More about the supposed burial-tower in the legend of Fig.37, p.29. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.290c - This cubic construction with soul-hole and topstone is most likely a posterior funeral attachment to the main corpus. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.290d - The main soul-hole of the pyramid looks somehow twisted. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Necropolis - Delante de Tenésara 3 (northwest of Guiguan)

Fig.291a - One of the most astonishing and at the same time unknown monuments of Lanzarote is this burial-tower with two "arms". ME 64 m of the tower incl. the two annexes. No farming! In the background the city of Tinajo with righthand the volcano Mña. Tinache. (Delante de Tenésara, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.291b - All three necropolises south of the Mña. Tenezar are placed in quadrangular walls (Nr.1 is nowadays used partly as field). Such tetragons – the groundplan often skewed or rhombic – had in megalithic times the cultic task of a shelter for other monuments but were also built as solo construction. Here in Fig.291b we see that the center tower and the arms are accompanied by six plant-like wall designs (limb with sprouts). This plant-design, sometimes geoglyphic, can be found quite often in the Tinajo region. A big semicircular and elevated construction exists near the southeastern corner (discussion Fig.292). The burial zone around the tower is recognizable by the stronger width of the wall. (Delante de Tenésara 3, Lanzarote – photo: GrafCan) This impressive Bronze Age building is totally ignored by the archaeologists, the proprietor, the Cabildo and the municipal council of Tinajo.

◄ Fig.291c - Western end of the two-stepped wall (height partly up to 2,6 m). (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.291d - The western end of the monument seen from NW to SE. Please note this mini-cairn in the foreground righthand with a phallus-like contour. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) More details about the burial-tower (here in the middleground) are available on p.33, 35. [Originally this wall was in very strong cast shadows of the photo.]

Fig.291e - The eastern "wing" of the monument including the burial-tower (Fig.46, p.35). (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Generally I can determine that the people of the first wave saw walls not only as a limitation of an area, but in most cases also as a cultic action (inclusion of dolmens, steles etc.).

Fig.292 - This architecture is neighbouring the burial-tower within the sheltering tetragon (Fig.291b): It is not clear if this cultic monument is a rare version of a vertically extended USM or a semi-circular pyramid with an elevated and walled platform. (Delante de Tenésara, Guiguan − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.293a - In the foreground a species-poor badland and an abandoned field; in the middleground another field and the sloping necropolis, then in the background the foot of the ridge with mixed natural debris (different from the artificially placed boulders). The necropolises in Figs. 288, 290, 293 use as basis all a planar widened type of a L06 pyramid; this means that a solitary funeral monument can expand its burial chamber vertically deep into the corpus of the platform. Note also the zone with collapses. (Peñas de Cardos, Máguez – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Figs.293b/c - The necropolis (ME 58 m) is placed together with other monuments in a polygon. No modern farming in this part! Unsuspicious but highly interesting is the filling of the SE corner; one can find this cultic measure everywhere in the megalithic world. Also a global phenomenon is the emerging of megalithic monuments out of walls or the "leaning" of them against such cultic murals. (Peñas de Cardos, Máguez – photo: GE/GrafCan – graphic: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.293d - The photo shows an enormous big boulder which is placed directly on the surface of the platform; behind the stone runs a wall and one can see the ruin of (most likely) a burial-tower. This and other stones in the background prove that the boulder has not accidentally slided down the ridge but was "draped" intentionally. Furthermore the boulder is totally free of a white lichen which covers nearly all other stones of the inclination.This are enough hints to suppose the transport of this boulder from a different site. How did the first-wave people manage this? Seen palaeoethnobotanically the trees in Bronze Age Lanzarote (e.g. pine tree, dragon tree, laurel tree) could have been used for rollers and levers. (Peñas de Cardos, Máguez − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.293e - The landscape of Lanzarote features up and on distinct vertically oriented stones which could have been placed artificially out of cultic reasons (e.g. Ulbrich 2014b); but such reports are rare and sink in the flood of news. Now that we have to deal with megalithic monuments in the Canary Islands we should be more attentive regarding this topic. The example in the photo (arrow) of a menhir which is integrated into the surrounding wall (righthand) is conclusive. (Peñas de Cardos, Máguez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Necropolis - Los Pocillos hinterland (Puerto del Carmen)

Fig.294a - This pedestal (ME 51 m) hosts small pyramids at the corners while the inner area features more tumuli. Lefthand (background) the surrounding wall of the platform of this L06 pyramid has partly faded away; at this place also a cultic mural. (Los Pocillos, Puerto del Carmen − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.294b - The erector of this necropolis managed it to arrange three soul-holes in a row (lefthand); all of these three-stone solutions display a certain similarity to mini-dolmens (arrows pinkish). Two indication-stones below, one cubic, the other longish horizontal, the latter perhaps a counter-stone (arrows bluish). Possibly there exist more soul-holes in the right half of the photo. To the same monument belongs ditto the special soul-hole of Fig.253, p.110. Interesting is also Fig.252 with most likely four soul-holes side by side. (Los Pocillos, Puerto del Carmen − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) We can only speculate that the various decedents knew which soul-hole to use. To think of modern communication: Had each defunct of this necropolis only one dedicated "channel" or could an anima have more than one? Did the religious people of the Bronze Age have such considerations at all?

Fig.295a - In the foreground we see one of the most interesting necropolises of Lanzarote. In the middleground exists a rectangular enclosure sheltering two L06 pyramids which are concatenated. In the background begins the foot of the volcanic Montaña de los Linderos. The necropolis (ME 32 m) is indeed highly attractive for the archaeologist because its surface features at least five places where one can see that the burial chamber (crypt) has collapsed or sinked (more in Fig. 295b). (El Charco del Palo NW, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.295b - This zoom-in shows either the entrance of a small devotion chamber (crouched position for the visitor) whose floor has collapsed or it is – more likely – the ceiling of a crypt which has crashed. In both cases an artificial cavity is involved. A vague third explanation is imaginable when we think of a very big soul-hole (no crash), but then an intact tubus is needed. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Necropolis - northwest of El Morro de Orestes (Nazaret)

Fig.296a - Small necropolis between Teguise and Nazaret. (Satellite-photo: GE / GrafCan 5-2021)

Fig.296b - Small necropolis between Teguise and Nazaret. (Satellite-photo: GrafCan 5-2020)

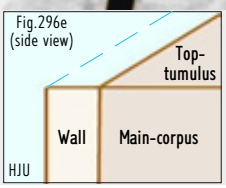
Fig.296c - Small necropolis between Teguise and Nazaret. (Satellite-photo: GE / GrafCan 12-2015)

I detected this necropolis, Fig.296, in a satellite-photo (I did not visit it personally). It is so far the only prehistoric complex in Lanzarote which can be determined as a cognisant coherent combination of burial or at least cultic monuments. The yellowish/slightly brownish material of the pyramids seems to originate from the locality (see piste); the accompanying dark brownish mo-

Fig.296d - Graphics (approximate): H.-J. Ulbrich

Brown	= darker stone material (pyramids, USMs etc)
Yellowish	= brighter stone material (pyramids, USMs etc)
Ochre	= bright geoglyphic bordures or bright supporting walls of some monuments
Black	= cultic wall

The here ochre coloured walls could belong to pyramids where the top-tumulus does not cover the horizontal upper part of the wall (see Figs. 296e and 306b).



numents may use other sources. It can be observed quite often that stones (debris etc.) were produced respectively used which had to be transported from or to a distant other place.

Funeral enclosure - El Morro Atravesado (Mña. del Islote de la Vieja)

Fig.297 - This enclosure features in the foreground the ruin of a burial-tower and then some minor tumuli and pyramids. The area is then limited by a relatively big bowed pyramid. In the background the volcanic Mña. del Islote de la Vieja. (El Morro Atravesado, T.M. de Yaiza, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Funeral enclosure - semi-circle of Las Peñas de Cardos east (Máguez)

Fig.298a - Really impressive: What looks like a protohistoric or antique fort is in fact the stretched semi-circle of a Bronze Age pyramid (see Fig.298b). It is one of the few ring-like monuments of this kind in Lanzarote with a max. height of ca. 2,8 m. Each of the two arms has a burial block on its top (Fig.298c). This view is the slightly sloped northwestern side. (Las Peñas de Cardos east, Máguez, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

◄ Fig.298b - It is not clear if the two arms were originally one; it is imaginable that in early French or Spanish times an entrance to the cultic garden was built post hoc. The low walls therein (USM-like or zigzag) seem to be native. The long SE wall is also native. (Satellite photo: GE/GrafCan 2023 / red groundplans HJU)

Fig.298c - The view from the northern side to the better preserved burial section. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.298d - The burial character of the entire building is proved by the respective soul-holes. Here one built with four stones, a quadrangular tubus and a bright indication-stone by a mason. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Where and how were buried the Berber people of the second wave who were brought to Lanzarote to collect lichens, transported and settled by entrepreneurs of the antiquity who navigated from both shores of the Strait of Gibraltar and also from more eastern Northafrican coasts? We do not know it. The first wave colonists left behind their distinct megalithic traces which included a richness of burial monuments. The Lanzarotian Berbers left − regarding buildings − only some *taros* (see legend of Fig.146, p.80) and *Casas Hondas* (p.23) which were used for the everyday living. Not one old-Berber cemetery with its typic unlabeled steles was found in the Canary Islands. The feeling of togetherness, the group identity was apparently reduced or lost. Did the fade away of lichen collecting worsen this effect?

Normally there should exist also family or clan oriented cemeteries, these considerably smaller than the above described necropolises − but the people of both waves have used such monuments differently. During my investigations I found several ones with the mentioned megalithic background but only one which could − perhaps − originate from a Berber family (Fig.303).

A convincing attribute for some megalithic first wave cemeteries is the "cut hexagon" = "special pentagon" (see legend of Fig.177, p.95, describing a ⌓), especially then when it features a soul-hole. This pentagon, a stone slab or wall, was always placed at one end of the cemetery, forming a kind of front side or gable end (Figs.299, 300).

The small cemetery SE of Guinate (Fig.303) has admittedly a wall and a front side but not exactly this "pentagon"; furthermore it has no soul-hole. Is it therefore a Berber construction? Perhaps yes! Old Berber cemeteries in Morocco (pre-islamic and islamic) indeed show in some cases a variant of a gravestone with a certain broad design: ⌓. One can also find narrow versions like ⌂ or the conic ⌂. See Figs.301, 302. These stele types seem to represent a consistent design line from early Megalithic times to the late antiquity or even to the Middle Ages in some regions of the ROC.

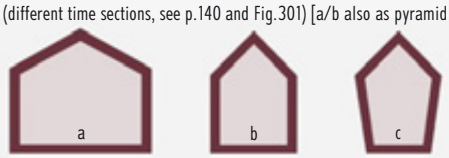
Fig.299 - In the foreground a cemetery with an oval groundplan and a "pentagon"-like front wall with a roundish soul-hole. ME ca. 12 m. Most likely for a family. (Atalaya de Femés north, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Ancient Moroccan gravestones of Berbers are either naturally grown steles or were more or less carved. A big variety of forms exists including unsymmetric and reverse conic ones. The latter was found in Lanzarote as a small variant near the Peña del Silvo, Mña. las Mesas (Ulbrich 2014).

Fig.300 - A cemetery for a smaller group with an irregular groundplan and a "pentagon"-like front wall with a round soul-hole. (El Gayo, Máguez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) The cemetery has a strong sloping position in the direction of the valley in the background − to show the front end with the soul-hole in a vertical manner the photo was rotated to the hill side = spectator (read also p.141).

Fig. 301 - It is quite remarkable that one can find the "special pentagon" in Lanzarote (megalithic ⌓, ⌂, ⌂), Morocco (antiquity ⌓, ⌂, ⌂), Orkney* (megalithic ⌂) and other regions in Europe, North Africa, Near East and Central Asia; having in certain cases a millenia long tradition. (*Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, Scotland – photo: Ralf Nowak / SWR) Please read and see also here p. 140, and the Figs. 177 and 178 on p. 95. See also grand-pyramid Figs. 306 b/c, p. 143.

Fig.302 (different time sections, see p.140 and Fig.301) [a/b also as pyramid contour]



Designs used for gravestones, pyramid groundplans & steles (graphics: H.-J. Ulbrich).

Fig.303 - Not a laborious burial pyramid but a simple miniature cemetery with a rectangular groundplan, most likely for maximal four decedents. Unclear is the design of the damaged front wall. Perhaps built around Christ's birth by early Berber people (no soul-hole). But a similar ornamentation (⌓) may have been used by the first Northwest African Arabs or Islamic Berbers. (Guinate, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) Without no excavations such structures remain of course in the zone of speculation. Furthermore: Tele-lens photos are often a workaround because in many cases the place stays unaccessible.

Synopsis: Bronze Age necropolises and cemeteries in Lanzarote

• **Necropolises:**	Platform type	Mounument type	With burial-tower	Page
Delante de Tenésara 1	L06 platform	Tumuli & pyramids	Burial-tower	127-128
Delante de Tenésara 2	L06 platform	Tumuli & pyramids	Burial-tower	129-130
Delante de Tenésara 3 - "Wings" structure	Pedestal	High walls	Burial-tower	131-132
Las Peñas de Cardos	L06 platform	Tumuli & pyramids	Burial-tower	133-134
Los Pocillos hinterland	L06 platform	Tumuli & pyramids		135
Mña. de los Linderos	L06 platform	Tumuli & pyramids		136
El Morro de Orestes	On ground	Tumuli & pyramids		137-138
• **Funeral enclosures:**				
El Morro Atravesado	Walled combination	Tumuli & pyramid	Burial-tower	138
Semi-circle of Las Peñas de Cardos east	Ring-like pyramid	Two top-tumuli		139
• **Family cemeteries:**				
Allocated all over Lanzarote	On ground	Walls with special front side		140-141
• See also Fig.302 / p.141, Fig.308 / p.147		• For singular graves see p. 94-97		

5.6. Some outstanding grand-pyramids.

In this chapter I summarize some burial monuments which either stand out by their
- magnitude (e.g. number of steps) &
- complexity;

and/or by their
- attractivity &
- grandeur.

All four examples are perfect in this sense.

When at the start of the 15th century French and Spanish colonists began to build small hamlets in Lanzarote they found already those strange ruins which they called "towers" (French "tour", Span. "torre", native "taro" / read p. 40, 80) because they often had a remarkable vertical component. Important: Already the native Berber people who were met by the European settlers called them "taro" like their own huts, not knowing their correct origin (Fig.304 first wave). So the Europeans who took over the fields from the natives everywhere in rural Lanzarote used also the word "tower", not *majano*. To use the latter word is most likely a disparaging, uninformed, arrogant and ignorant term of the 17th and 18th centuries when the hamlets had become bigger villages and even cities with patronising townsfolk; retrospections of humble peasants apparently played then no role.

The introduction to this chapter wants to show that different pyramid versions were no problem during the first years of contact (natives ↔ Europeans); only later when there was a literate urban culture which was not well informed about old rural ongoings started to spread wrong narratives. The pyramids presented here are special witnesses of their megalithic and Bronze Age origin.

Fig.304 - Non-cultic Bronze Age tower, with pedestal because of the sloping position. Of course the choice of this place has pleased the goddess. (La Majadita de Don Eusebio, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Grand-pyramid near the Peña Erguida, Máguez east (Lanzarote)

Fig.305a - This four-step pyramid is also one of the longer burial monuments of the island (ME 40 m). Unfortunately it is already damaged, visible especially at the left side. Not one step is completely preserved. This is perhaps a hint on the age of the pyramid. Could it be one of the first bigger pyramids erected by the initial wave? [Not considered here are several elongated wall constructions which look like L08 pyramids but are most likely cultic versions without burial function.] Not to forget: How were the big boulders of the top-tumulus of this pyramid transported to this level? In the background the Peñas del Chache with the radar station. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

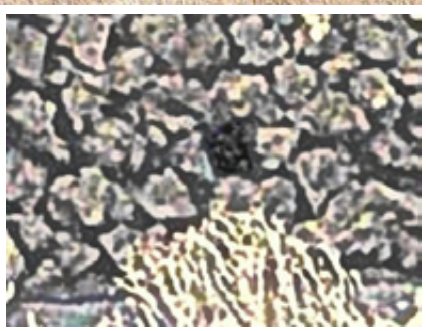


Fig.305b - One of the quadrangular soul-holes (photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) ►

Grand-pyramid in El Malpaís de Máguez (Lanzarote)

Fig.306a - Mainly the northern side with the entrance of the devotion chamber is illustrated. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich, shot in early 2012 before the satellite documented in 1/2013 the stoneslip)

▲ Fig.306b - The pyramid is placed between a vineyard and a field for vegetables, both already abandoned in 2012. (Máguez east, Lanzarote – satellite photo: GE/GrafCan 1/2013)

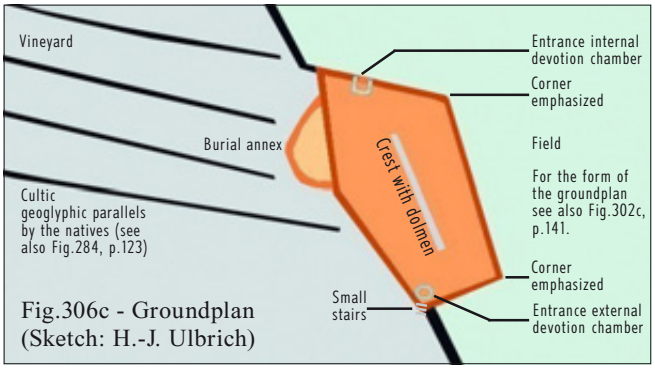


Fig.306c - Groundplan (Sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.306d - Ruin of the 2nd devotion chamber at the foot of the southern top-tumulus. (Photo: HJU)

Fig.306e - Southern wall with the ornamental southeastern corner. The right wall still intact. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)
Ertl (2019: 281) remarks with justification that a Canarian peasant does not embellish his majanos.

Fig.306f - Eastern wall with the two ornamental corners. The wall now damaged. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich 2021)

In Ulbrich (2016c: 154) I published the first photo (here Fig.306a) of a relatively big pyramid in Lanzarote. This illustration was immediately accepted by the Canarian press what I appreciated. Neither from local authorities nor from the two Canarian universities any reaction was reported − not up to now (2023).

This sublime one-step pyramid with a steep top-tumulus and a miniature dolmen as vertical soul-hole (Fig.280) has meanwhile eroded at the eastern supporting wall (Fig.306b/f). Is there anybody who wants to know the (pre-)historic details? Is there anybody interested in preserving the building for the coming generations?

The special construction, furnishing and configuration lets suppose an important person as defunct, perhaps a leader or priest:

- The toponym "Malpaís [badland] de Máguez" (GrafCan) is a valuable hint that the pyramid was built in the savannah east of Máguez and south of the Mña. de Los Llanos − in a time when absolutely no Spanish peasant had his fields there.
- The groundplan (ME 26 m) looks like the conic gravestone righthand in Fig.302c. This gravestone

Fig.306g - From a higher point of view: the southern and western side including the annex. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.306h - While the southern devotion chamber uses a common megalithic entrance with lintel the northern entrance was built with a non-corbelled horizontal construction using a keystone; the room behind is also not corbelled and has no special design. Who added the stones to the entrance, piled up in three layers, starting from the ground? Took it already place in the Bronze Age? We do not know it. But I could imagine that a person of our times wanted to close it, what ever the reasons were. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)
For such non-corbelled horizontal ceilings and entrances see also Figs. 100c, 306c, 329a, 352 and 367c (partly 342, 343, 358 too).

type exists several times in the Canaries as groundplan and as stele and groundplan in other countries/regions. The eastern wall of the pyramid points directly to the center of the crater of the Mña. La Corona in the north. Is this a happenstance or is it an homage to the goddess?

• The pyramid features two devotion chambers: one in the inner part of the building accessible via an entrance at the northern wall (see Figs.306a, 306h), and one in the south where the believer has to pass a low portal to reach a kind of small hut (this entrance is still existing while the ceiling of the hut has collapsed / Fig.306d). A short askew staircase (vineyard side) leads to the southern chamber.

• The main soul-hole seems to be the dolmen on the crest (Fig.280) but several others can be detected at the western side including the annex.

• The stoneslip at the eastern side of the top-tumulus (Fig. 306f), which infringed also the wall, was most likely provoked by a person in late 2012 who used the northern path to the crest. The southern path, which started near the devotion chamber, is hardly to identify meanwhile.

• The horizontal part of the supporting wall (not covered by the top-tumulus) shows a real specialty: It is throughout covered by a layer of more flat and bright stones (Fig.306e, dark red in Fig.306c). Megalithic art by the natives!

• The image intensification of the satellite photo (Fig.306b) reveals that the top-tumulus shows a kind of ancient terrassing. [Not to mistake as pyramid-steps! See p.148 / terraces.]

Fig.307a - One of the grand-pyramids: Its silhouette dominates the plain south of La Vegueta wherever a roamer stands. View to the western fields. ME 27 m, height ca. 6,7 m. Place 271 m a.s.l. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.307b - Satellite photo showing the oval groundplan of the pyramid. The top seems to feature a natural group of boulders what requires an internal volcanic vent higher than the pyramid. (Photo: GE/GrafCan)

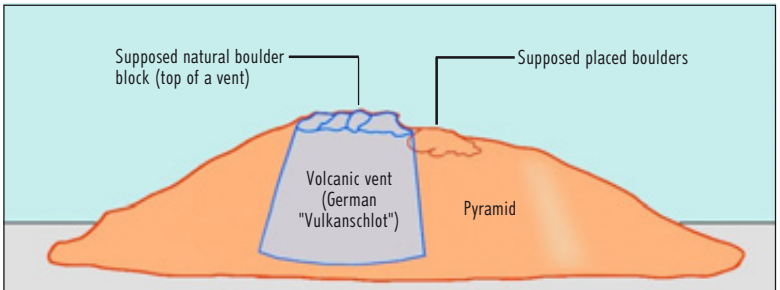


Fig.307c - Pyramid integrating most likely a natural volcanic vent [the latter not visible from the outside].
Graphic: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich. View SE to NW.

In this report we learned quite often about the connections to nature and especially to the nature loving goddess who the people of the first wave maintained when constructing burial architecture – always having deep respect of both. Could it be that they "decorated" the top of a big pyramid with a mixture of accumulated and naturally evolved boulder groups?

Fig.307d - Crest of the pyramid with the top-tumulus: righthand the supposed layed out boulders (how were these big stones transported to this level?), lefthand the together "grown" fitting boulders of the vent. In the background the village of La Vegueta and the foot of the Mña. Tinache. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.307e/f - Two of the soul-holes of this big pyramid − lefthand a rosette type with round tubus, righthand a four-stone type with quadrangular tubus. Both often used classic solutions. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.308 - Only a few meters away from the pyramid: in the foreground most likely a small family cemetery (first wave), in the background two dolmens. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

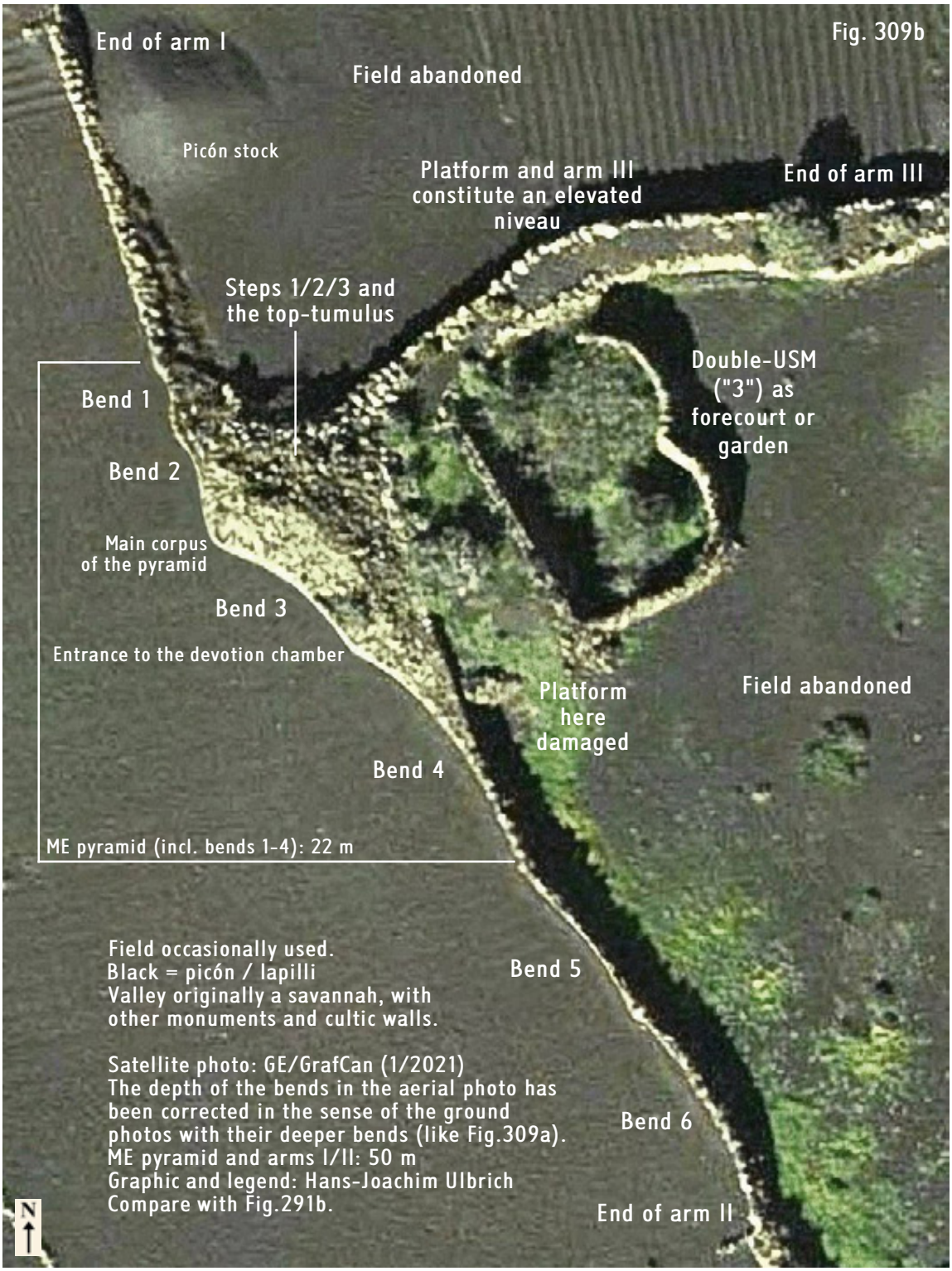
Fig.307g - View SW > NW: first the pyramid with its volcanic vent, then some houses of La Vegueta and Yuco and then the volcanic Mña. Timbaiba. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) Ca. in 2018 the entire more or less rectangular (private ?) terrain around the pyramid and other *majanos* was enclosed with a metallic grid fence, probably not because of the pyramid; rust and playing childred have meanwhile provided for various gaps. If someone plans a residential area the authorities should have an eye on this millenia old monument.

This pyramid (Fig.307b) is another case where image intensification (by GE/GrafCan) was used. One can see – especially at the SW and NE ends – that the building has/had at least five (if not more) steps and that above these a kind of terraces continues. The today visible first step still exists but only in parts; a bad state of the entire pyramid is obvious. Is this too a hint on its age (like Fig.304a)?

Grand-pyramid at La Quemada de Máguez SE (Lanzarote)

Fig.309a - This photo shows only 18 % of the relevant groundplan. We see a three-step pyramid with an entrance to the devotion chamber. Everywhere in the used terrain we can observe a diversity of curves, dents and bends. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

The most interesting and imaginative design of a Lanzarotian pyramid is this one found at the foot of the Mña. La Quemada near Máguez. The architect, or the later defunct himself, must have been a "star" among the Bronze Age colonists – an erector with rare ideas for a burial monument.



Some complementary observations:

• The entire construction of the pyramid and the cultic walls winds through the landscape like a creek with a tributary branch (arm III). The bends and notches remind of the pyramid groundplan in Fig. 60, p. 41, or of the waves of the sea.

• The task of the elevated platform (annex for rites ?) is unclear. It has a slightly conic, quadrilateral groundplan and leads to arm III. The latter runs for ca. 23 m and continues then as non-cultic wall.

• A pair of USMs was placed opposite the longer wall of the platform. Today the terrain between

Fig. 309c - A complete view from arm I to arm II. (La Quemada de Máguez SE, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.309d - The entrance to the devotion chamber features both, a lintel and a threshold. (La Quemada de Máguez SE, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) Not visible here is that the tunnel makes a sharp bend in the dark background, nearly a "L"-form to the left. Please note also the two special-pentagon stones, one above the lintel and one near the left doorpost.

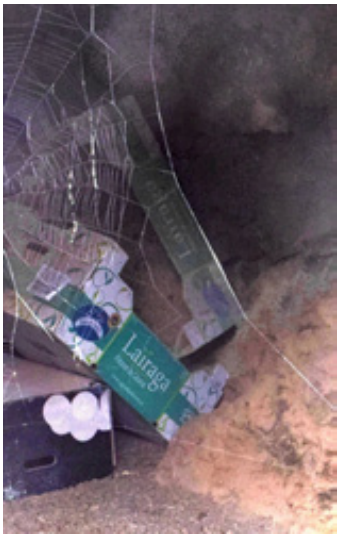


Fig.309e - This curve is used by the farmer to get rid of the boxes with which he once bought fruit and vegetables. As extra some really big spider webs. (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.309f - The backside of the complex: in the middleground the pyramid and the added platform; in the foreground the "garden" and the "arm" nr. III. In the background a big variety of other monuments. (La Quemada de Máguez SE, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) View NE > SW.

looks with its trees and bushes like a garden but this is most likely not the original state.

• The wall of the accessible forecourt has been enhanced by an attachment which was connected through the use of *teígue* (originally a native mortar). Did this happen in the Bronze Age, during the 2nd wave or in recent times? The big boulders in the attachment speak more for the first wave natives. But why this measure?

• Arm III starts more or less on ground and is therefore walkable up to the niveau of the platform. Is it therefore a part of a rite?

6. The consideration of high-altitude places for burials and other rites

Normally the places of Bronze Age burial monuments can be everywhere in Lanzarote. But there are exceptions. At this point of investigation we do not know if the "lady of the rocks and mountains", the Mother Earth of the first wave people, has also the aspect of a sky goddess or of an ancestress of a certain divine family in the sky or of the mistress of a pantheon. The wish of the erectors and users of particularly elevated construction places for their pyramids − to be more than others near the goddess − can be comprehended, but it must always accord to the established rites (f.i. regarding the available spheres and soul-holes for the trouble-free communication of the defunct).

Nevertheless elevated places especially for pyramids and burial-towers (in a wider sense also for similar cult sites) seem to have been well-liked, at least in circles of superior persons who could afford and/or demand it.

The relevant deliberations:

● There were used two methods to achieve an elevated position for a burial monument: to search a natural hill (preferably with a fitting peak or crest, e.g. Figs. 310, 311), or to construct first an artificial or semi-artificial base out of soil and small crushed stones before situating then only the one funeral building (paper in preparation).

● Possible and favoured places for elevated cultic monuments are also promontories and other abrupt edges of plateaus and tablelands (see Figs.63, 312, 315b) − this in the entire ROC!

● No small number of erectors seem also to appreciate places for their burial buildings (Figs.314-316) where an impressive scenery is offered. This reminds of mediaeval monasteries which regarded besides their defensive capabilities also the contemplative support for their mind through the local landscape.

● Some Lanzarotian city- or village-free regions like Guacía, Los Ancones (not the hamlet) and Los Ombligos, all east of the Mña. Tinaguache, consist throughout of a hilly scenery (local *morros*) raising not over 40 m above the common local 50 m a.s.l.; most of these morros feature first-wave cultic ruins on their top (Figs.311, 313, 314), not recognized by official examinations.

● For reflections about the "cosmic mountain" see Wiercinski (1977).

Fig.310 - In the foreground a vineyard and a one-step pyramid with devotion chamber. In the middleground a natural hill with a damaged three-step pyramid on top. A wall around the hill features a cubic annex. In the background the foot of the Mña. La Atalaya (de Haría). (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.311 - Righthand another stony ex-volcano with the ruin of a monument (burial-tower ?) on its top. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

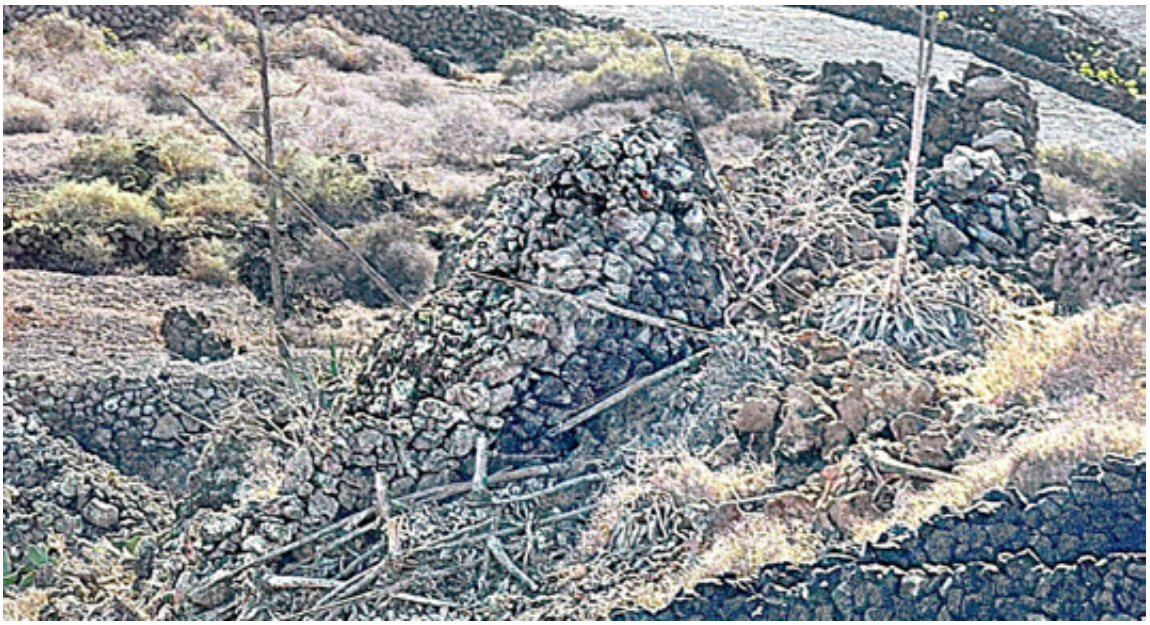


Fig.312 - On a steep promontory we see righthand this ruin of a collapsed pyramid or of a family cemetery (then no ceiling). An orifice can be interpreted as soul-hole. (Guiguan northwest, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Fig.313 - Two hills (morros) with two ruins each. The one lefthand could be a burial-tower. Functional buildings by the Spanish can undoubtedly be excluded. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.314 - In the middle of the illustration the ruin of a monument with soul-hole; rightwards of it a dolmen. In the background the Mña. Guenia and the Mña. Tinamala. (Guacía, Lanzarote − photo: H.- J. Ulbrich)

Fig.315a - This is the northeastern side of the Montaña de los Llanos (also "Mesa de los Llanos"), the only table mountain of Lanzarote. At this slope it features some burial monuments and on the mesa several cultic walls. In the context of this chapter it is worth mentioning that directly at the edge exists a further burial site – see Fig.315b. (Mña. de los Llanos, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.315b - The aerial photo shows that an exact semi-circular pyramid (ME 13 m) was erected at the declivity. A few meters to the east exists a small pyramid with topstone. (Mña. de los Llanos, Lanzarote – photo: GrafCan) See arrows.

Fig.315c - Megalithic semi-circle types used in walls, geoglyphs, groundplans, rock art etc.

Semi-circle/semi-ring stretched and/or skewed. See Figs. 162, 272, 298b, 320b, 347.

Semi-circle exactly symmetric. See Fig. 292, 315b.

Fig.316 - Another hill-top monument: Quite impressive is the place of this pyramid with devotion chamber and a small forecourt. A triangular enclosure extends from the valley to the top. A most likely funeral annex was built at the right (= northern) side. Ca. 2007 (?) the cultic wall in the valley was interrupted to be able to plough and harvest the terrain (occasionally). (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.317 - Halfway to the peak we see a sloping pyramid with a big quadrangular soul-hole. The left side of the top of the hill seems to be a ceiling-less burial tower. (Guinate south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.318 - Two volcanos, both with a prehistoric monument on the edge of the crater. Foreground El Morro Guarda (135 m a.s.l.), background La Mña. de Pedro Perico (256 m a.s.l.). (T.M. Yaiza, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

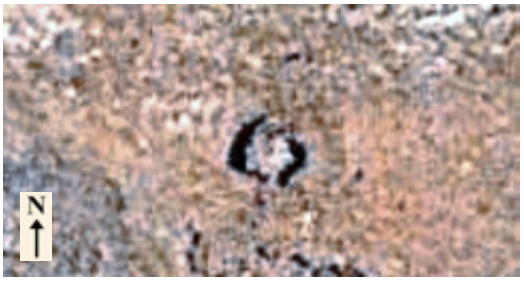


Fig.319a/b - Burial-tower with thick walls, threshold and an angular-shaped groundplan. ME 3,2 m. (El Morro Guarda − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich / aerial photo: GrafCan)

Fig.320a - Top area of the Montaña de Pedro Perico with an unknown monument. (Photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

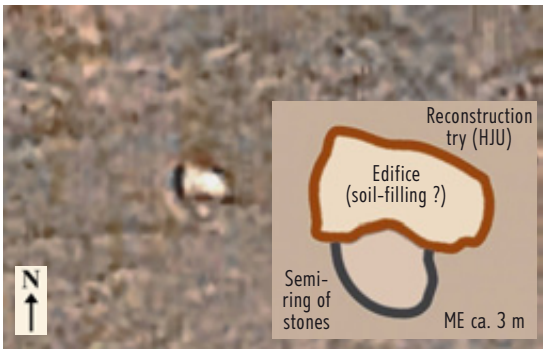


Fig.320b - Small tumulus (?) with an annex. (Mña. de Pedro Perico, Lanzarote − Aerial photo: GrafCan)

The geographers of GrafCan signal also in their topographic map an artificial object on the peak of the volcano.

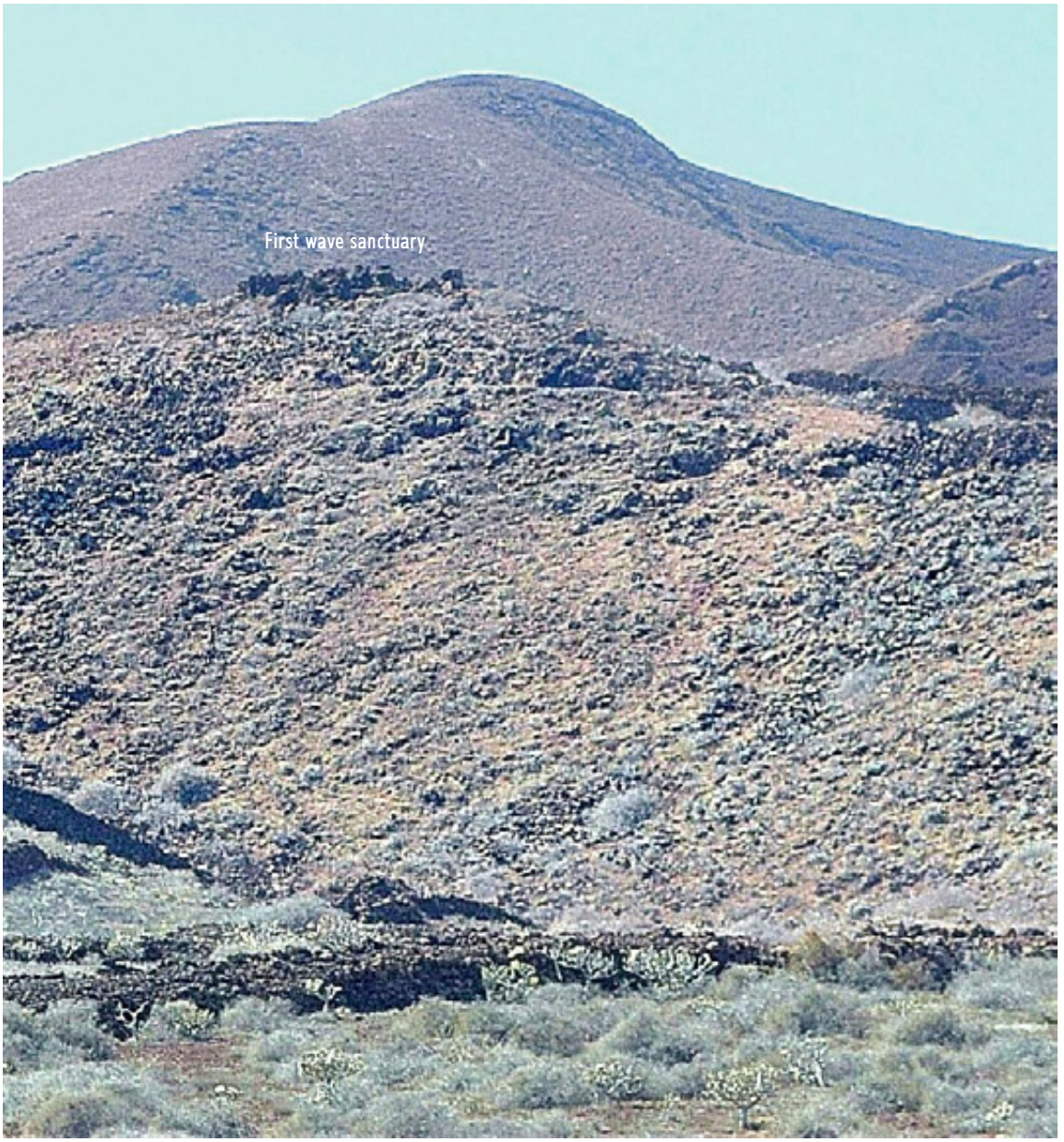


Fig.321 - A typic indigenous mountain sanctuary on the crest of the Montaña Colorada (middleground). In the foreground badlands with several pyramid types (L06, L08). (Mala south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

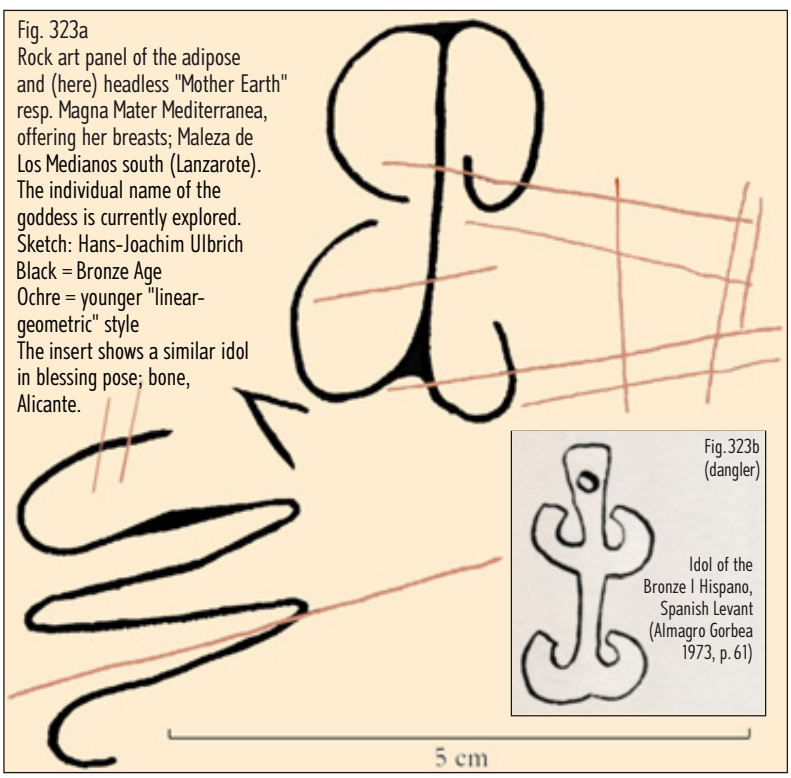
Fig.322 - The other side of the hill in Fig.317: A rare case where a sloping concentric stone ring with big cultic boulders was placed near the top. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

7. The religion of the constructors and users (defunct or living)

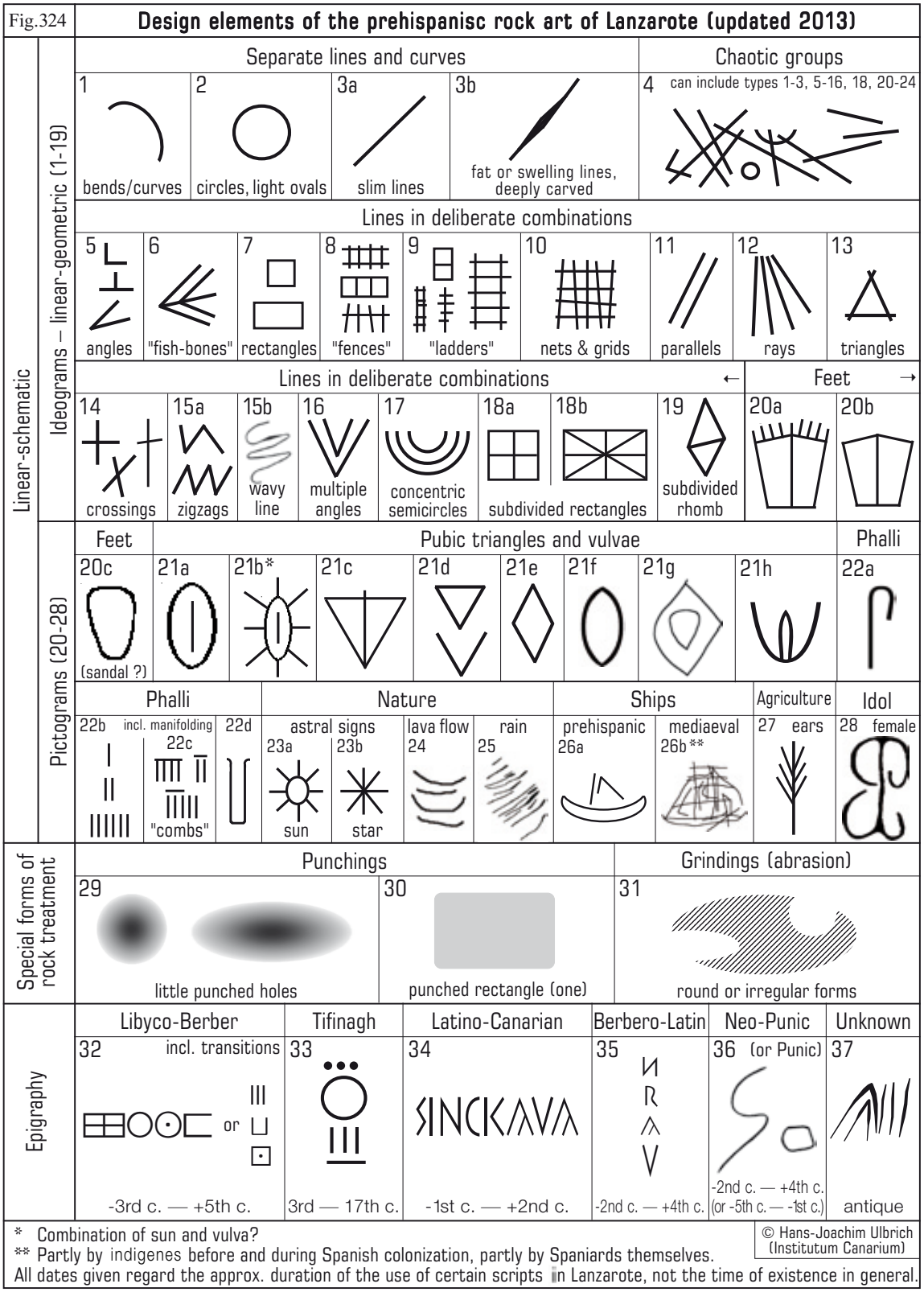
The investigating of prehistoric times and topics in the Canary Islands has always suffered from the fact that protohistoric results – in the Canaries not older than around 1000 BC – were recognised as the earliest possible conclusions. Especially the concentration on early Berbers led in many cases into the wrong directions. What meanwhile can be observed as "Bronze Age developments through Canarian eyes" opens highly interesting aspects – including more scientific inquisitiveness.

Are there any hints that the first wave colonists in Lanzarote adored a goddess whose physical appearance is already known by a statuette and/or by a rock art panel? There exist idols showing the corpulent and steatopygic type of Mother Earth in Canarian museums, but these with unclear chronology (around AD ?). Fortunately a Bronze Age rock art version has been found in Lanzarote (Ulbrich 2000: p.76-78, Fig.7/p.81), see here Fig. 323.

To become acquainted with a prehistoric island culture it is always helpful to have a look on the entirety of elements featured in its rock art (Fig. 324). On the "I Simposio de Manifestaciones Rupestres del Archipiélago Canario y Norte de Africa, Las Palmas 1995" I had the opportunity to describe the situation in Lanzarote. An update was later published in Ulbrich 2015 (Almogaren / Institutum Canarium; see here Literature).



Roaming near the south-eastern foot of the Mña. Tahiche and then through the Maleza de los Medianos (this region full of cultic non-agrarian walls) I found a group of rocks featuring panels of the Roman era engraved by the Berbers. But more interesting was another panel with figurative illustrations: a meander, a vulva and a simplified depiction of an idol (Fig.323a). All three themes fit perfectly to the situation of the first wave colonists and the Mediterranean Bronze Age cultures. De facto I suggested this panel as testimony for an earlier Bronze Age colonizing phase (Ulbrich 2000: 78). The head of the idol is not visible, most likely by damaging lichen growth effects.



The "tasks" and "activities" of Mother Earth show in all measures her regard for the first wave: water by rainfall and springs, permanence of births and reincarnations, sufficient milk and nutrition through goats and fields and last but not least the care of all sorts of nature processes which among others supply enough fertile soil for the seeds and the mercy to allow graves.

It is amazing that − with the exception of the ancient scripts (type 32-37) − all elements in the table of Fig.324 (type 1-31) fit roughly to the proto-Berber culture of Northwestern Africa, which at that time had no high seas navigators; but they fit with even broader hints to the Mediterranean and Black Sea sailors with their immense experience, especially regarding the big central islands, the Aegean Sea, the Near East and also the Caucasian coasts.

Now that we have to include the Bronze Age people with all insistent attention the question must be allowed if the Berber part is not overvalued regarding the prehistoric colonisation of the Canary Islands. It is absolutely necessary to check if design elements of the Canarian rock art were attributed correctly to the Berber people and not − more meaningful − to the Mediterranean seafarers.

Most of the pictograms and ideograms in Fig.324 have a religious or cultic relatedness. An example: We know element nr.17 from countless cultic engravings using concentric semi-circles,

Fig.325 - This stone labyrinth (ME 10 m) of the Cretan type was detected in northern Lanzarote but the authenticity is dubious. Theoretically it could be a round version of a rectangular labyrinth found on a small clay plate in Mycenae [ca. 1200 BC]. (Aerial photo: GrafCan)

but this graphic form is wellknown also from innumerable geoglyphs, walls, steles and groundplans (see f.i. the pyramids in Figs.162, 315b) regarding both Lanzarote and Fuerteventura.

The goddess cares for the life of her followers and the Bronze Age people in Lanzarote show their thankfulness by integrating big boulders of her in their pyramids (Figs.99, 101 etc). Another indication for the collaboration and team play with the deess is the existence of the devotion chambers in pyramids where apparently questions and petitions could be posed, but also the plea for devine advice.

A certain role in the religious life of the native islanders (both waves ?) plays the construction and use of spirals (becoming and passing away, rebirth) and labyrinths (contemplation, initiation); unfortunately these types of cultic buildings were faked in the last decades. A hint into the direction of the Bronze Age people may be the fact that more megalithic monuments than antique ones were found combined with spirals etc. (See a spiral in Fig.25 and a labyrinth in Fig.325.)

Fig.326 - An *efequén*, a spirally built temple, was erected in the El Jable region of Lanzarote [quite often also in Fuerteventura judging by the toponyms]. Its ruin was finally destroyed by a storm in the early 19th century. A female statue was originally placed in the center where the people could present sacrifices and ask for a benevolent reaction of the goddess regarding reincarnation wishes. The native term of the temple emanates from the second wave, the word used by the first wave − which initiated these places of worship − is unknown. The wall, not higher than the statue, had a very low entrance and exit, which the adept should pass creeping or bent over. The wall construction had no ceiling. All this a hint to a megalithic architecture. We should not question the observation skills of Leonardo Torriani − he was a capable fortress builder. (Illustration: Torriani 1590)

It may sound strange but some skewed monuments belong to the "religion" chapter. Observing roamers meet up and on pyramids, cultic walls and geoglyphs in Lanzarote which look like being distorted by an earthquake. But having a closer look reveals that the internal 90°-proportions (rectangularity of entrances and cubes, f.i. pyramid silhouettes) is maintained. This means that not a possible tremor made a monument skewed but intentionally the architect or erector (Figs. 329, 330, 331)! Why that? Apparently the up and down of mountains and valleys, the discovery of skewed but flat plains, the locating of natural but not vertical stone towers etc lets the first wave people think that Mother Earth has planned and designed

Fig.327 - This strange variant of a L08 pyramid is obviously a spiral; one can see it also by the triangular soul-hole which is placed at the inner side of the spiral. Please note also the white marked walls; see also Fig.11a. (Matagorda hinterland, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.328 - This spiral is one of the genuine old constructions. Proof for this categorisation is the fact that it is at one side − here not visible − sliding slowly due to erosion of the subsurface, this at least since one or more centuries. (Costa Teguise, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

it, in a manner which not always is understandable for the humans. Quasi a superordinate divine measure, a karma for men and nature which is – not irrevocably – predetermined in a secret chamber or sphere of the sky or of the netherworld, so perhaps the line of thinking of the first wave people. Apparently it was hoped, rather expected, that the appropriate activities of a soul can influence that positively. But: Is a skew pyramid the right idea?

For todays friends of nature it provokes surprise and reflectiveness to see a plant which interprets correctly the gravitational force (gravitropism) and grows vertically while nearby a manmade building is inexplicably skew – not by a catastrophe. See Figs. 329, 330.

Fig.329a - This longish pyramid (more stones and walls to the left) features near the right end a devotion chamber. The latter is curiously enough tilted in its entirety. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

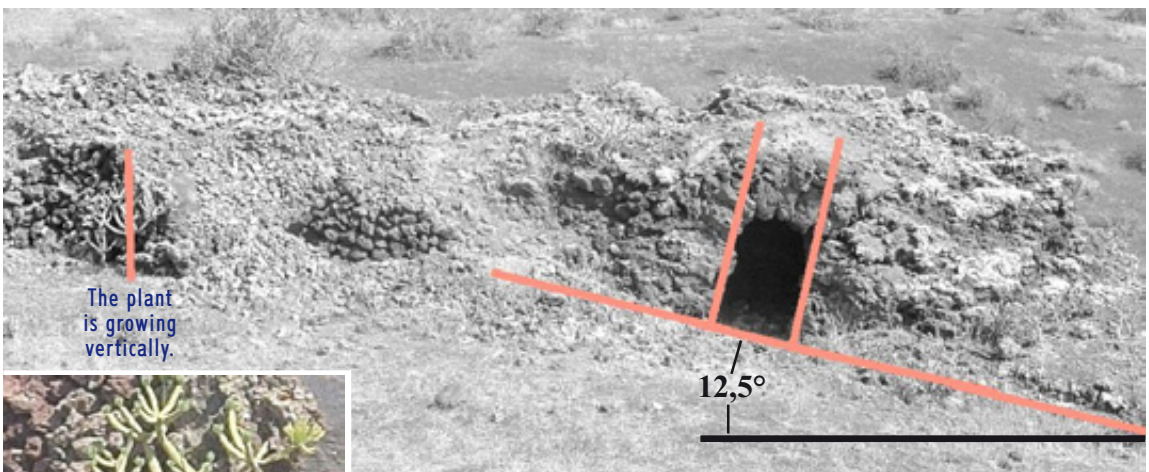


Fig.329b - The devotion chamber keeps its internal 90°-angles, the plant lefthand too. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – graphic: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.329c - The two Kleinia plants obscure the soul-hole of the pyramid. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.330 - This structure is most likely a big skew dolmen with a rectangular opening. It looks not natural that the capstone with its double slab has exactly the same skew like the edge of this old crater. For a capstone with double slab see also Fig.282. (Guinate south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.331 - On a hilltop with prehistoric funeral walls we see in the background a L06 pyramid which follows the sloping silhouette of the acclivity, keeping the symmetric conic form. (Mala, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

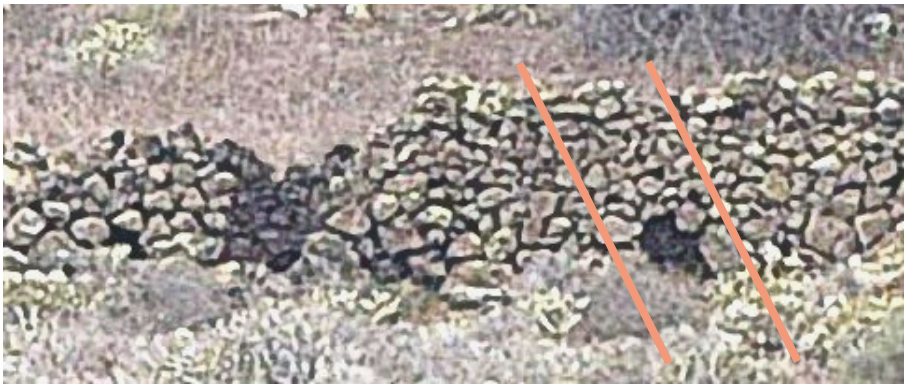


Fig.332 - Righthand in the photo a small entrance of a devotion chamber – apparently constructed intentionally skew. Lefthand the ruin of a vertical burial tower (Máguez east, Lanzarote – photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)

All five scenes photographed perfectly horizontal (Figs. 329-332).

8. Who and from where?

It is an immense problem to say something about the homeland of a Bronze Age seafaring people when not one word of their language is known, not even their name. Quite a few signs of the pseudo-hieroglyphic "Byblos script" (ca. 18th-14th c. BC) have amazing counterparts in various signs of the table in Fig.324 (p.157), but these are in most cases singular engravings, not combinations which could be interpreted as a text. Nevertheless it would be highly interesting for a specialist to have a closer look at the matter.

No single ancient author reported something about mysterious Mediterranean seafarers who in a noteworthy number settled on unknown islands in the "Sea of Atlas" south of Madeira. Lycians, Carians, Etruscans, Cretans, Greeks, Phoenicians – all are considered as having passed the "Pillars of Heracles" before the Romans, but none of their historians could deliver any convincing details. The departure of several ships all at once (wave 1a) should have provoked a special interest.

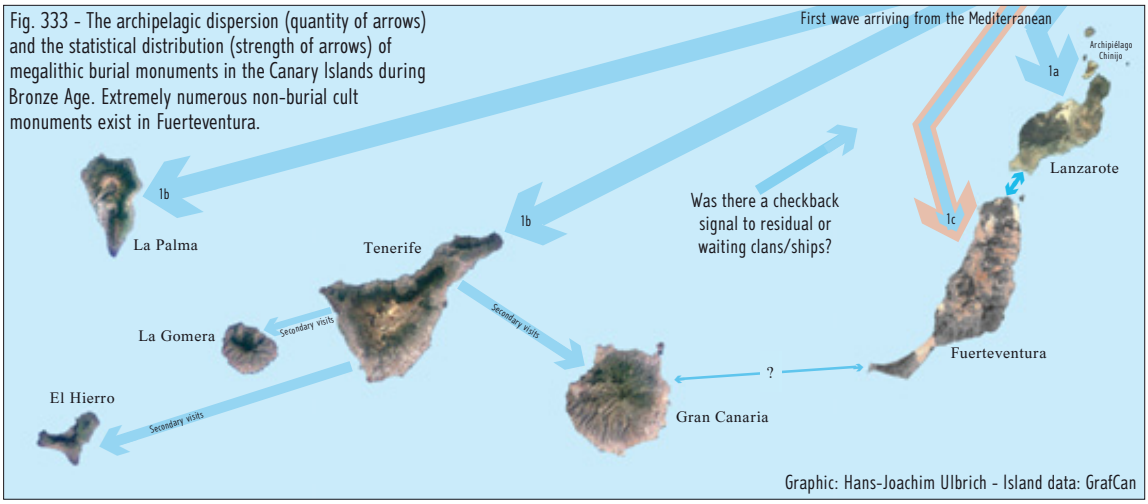
Generally an atmosphere of departure and a spirit of discovery developed at the Bronze Age shores. Seafaring became more venturous, accepting extremely long routes to legendary countries and islands. The Azores, Balearics and the Canary Islands were such aims. But as we know there existed also other reasons for such voyage eagerness: droughts and earthquakes and also social instability. Leaders were needed (aristocrats ?). Courage and organisational skills were challenged.

Were there travel sections with stations? The latter planned or more or less accidentally on the route? Did the seafarers of the first Canarian wave stop off Sicily? If yes, did they then saw the start of the pyramid constructing (especially around the Mount Etna) or were they witness of an already advanced pyramid culture (big Sicilian step-pyramids)?

I suppose that the first wave navigators indeed had knowledge of or contact with Sicilian pyramid constructors, but during an initial period when the buildings were not yet so big. This reflects in the burial architecture of Lanzarote **(Fig. 333: Phase 1a)**. Arriving in Lanzarote around 3000 BC the crews of the ships had their defined tasks.

Without doubt some expeditions were sent immediately to the neighbouring Fuerteventura, but the clan leaders will have recognized that the current man power available in Lanzarote has to manage enough in this northernmost island of the archipelago. Nevertheless some colonists were likely settled in the extreme north of Fuerteventura (there the strait of La Bocaina which separates Fuerteventura from Lanzarote). Perhaps a checkback signal was sent to remaining crews in one of the Mediterranean islands, informing them about a big interesting island (Fuerteventura) worth of colonizing.

It attracts attention that the pyramids in Tenerife and La Palma are not only greater and higher (more steps) but these larger monuments are also quite numerous. It could be that the pyramid constructing in the Mediterranean area meanwhile developed more extensively and technically advanced – especially in Sicily – what provoked further people of the (most likely seclusive) seafarer federation to head for the western islands of the Canarian archipelago **(Fig. 333: Phase 1b)** and



This map is basing on the informations and cognitions of 2023. The first map of this kind in Ulbrich (2016c:140) is therefore outdated; but the other arguments and criticisms are still valid.

to the Azores. Religious aspects always played a prominent role too − if not the deciding ones.

The minor appearance of pyramids in El Hierro and Gran Canaria seems to be a consequence of lesser expeditions and therefore of fewer colonists. The comparatively reduced occurrence of megalithic traces in La Gomera (rare pyramid clusters, see Fig.374) makes one curious; perhaps the clan leaders had no particular interest in this mountainous island. Not to forget: La Gomera is not a steppingstone for the ongoing journey − this is clearly the outer lying El Hierro!

The first ships with Bronze Age colonists must have arrived in Fuerteventura during the last quarter of the complete stay, therefore ca. 450 years of 1800 **(Fig. 333: Phase 1c)**. This can be judged by the immense efforts to erect countless cultic walls, geoglyphs and monuments whose designs seem to mirror forms which belong to the late phase of the megalithic era and which were used in not one of the other Canarian islands in such a multitude. On the other hand Fuerteventura has for an island of this extension a too little number of burial pyramids (L06 & L08); perhaps more tumuli, inhumations and caves were used which could have been eroded or collapsed (or were simply discovered not yet).

The high mountains of Fuerteventura allowed to recognise Gran Canaria − visible at the western or southwestern horizon. But with their own overwhelming scenery in Fuerteventura Bronze Age natives may not have been effusively interested in this neighbouring island ("?" in the map).

Apparently the entire first wave of colonists decided to leave Lanzarote and all other Canary Islands around 1300-1200 BC, allegedly without any traces (taking with them their bronze artefacts), however this not meaning in the sense of "lost" or "wiped out". The so-called "Bronze Age collapse" (ca. 1200-1150 BC) and the threats by the "Sea People" took place later.

There must have been a strong motor for all these evolutions and efforts and this was most likely a certain religion which we can only outline: the believe that the people and the earth − and of course the earth goddess howsoever her name reads [Ceres, Cybele, Demeter, Gaia, Rhea, Tanit, Tellus etc.] − deserve more care, diligence and sustainability, not to forget an ongoing confident worship of Mother Earth.

Finally it is worthwhile to have a look at the Canarian rock art with its proto- and prehistoric engravings of boats and ships. Already in Ulbrich (1999: 306) I presented a prehistoric ship with a remarkable decoration of its bow (Fig.334).

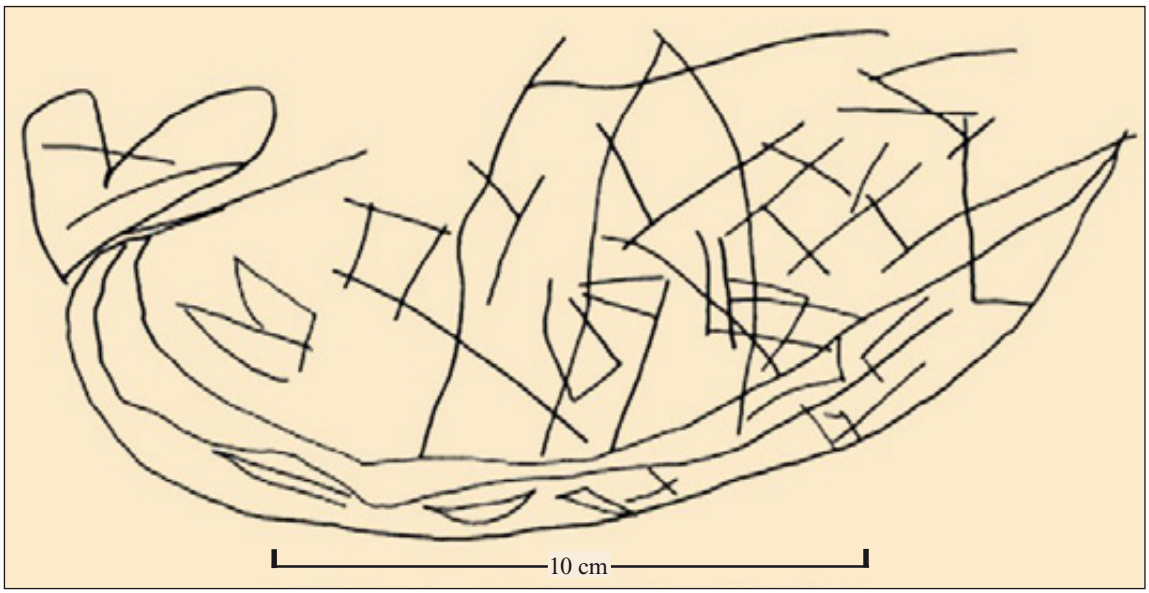


Fig.334 - A prehistoric sailing ship which reminds of similar types in the Aegean Sea during the Middle Minoan time. Characteristic is the use of a bow decoration (German "Bugverzierung") which − in this case − looks more like a fruit (not like a heart). The railing seems to feature some plates, perhaps identification marks. Interesting but extremely vague are some eroded signs which may be hieroglyphs. (Valle de Fuente Salada, Lanzarote − sketch from photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich / first published in Ulbrich 1999) This rock art panel was detected near the northernmost coast of the island where some natural anchorage places exist. Please allow me in this context some speculations: Now that we know that some Bronze Age seafarers came ashore in Lanzarote is it not too far-fetched that one of these scratched the contours of his boat into a rock. See also Fig.335.

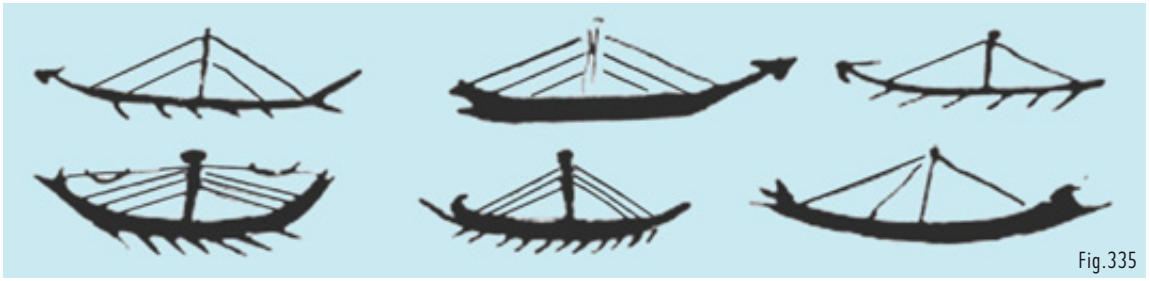


Fig.335 - When Sir Arthur Evans examined the Cretan clay seals he found numerous depictions of ships, powered by wind and/or by oarsmen (Middle Minoan culture, 2000-1500 BC). Quite common was apparently the ornamentation of the bow. (Illustrations: Evans 1909, 203) See also Fig. 334.

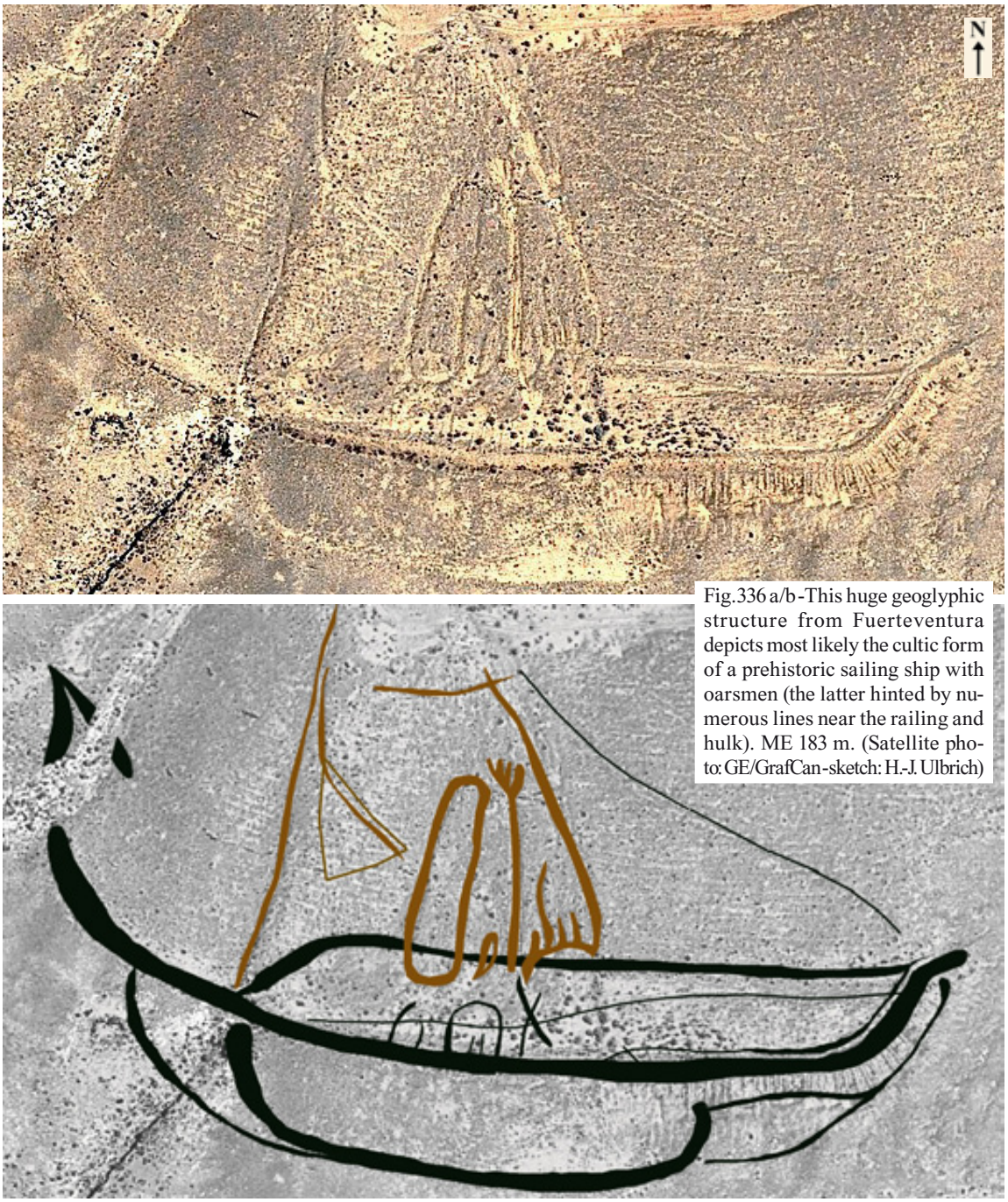


Fig.336 a/b - This huge geoglyphic structure from Fuerteventura depicts most likely the cultic form of a prehistoric sailing ship with oarsmen (the latter hinted by numerous lines near the railing and hulk). ME 183 m. (Satellite photo: GE/GrafCan - sketch: H.-J. Ulbrich)

Near the place of Fig.336 I detected three other geoglyphs of ships; see Figs. 337 and 338.

Fig.337 - Likely another prehistoric geoglyph of a boat, found in Fuerteventura. ME 50 m. (Satellite photo: GE/GrafCan)

Fig.338 - Fuerteventura: Two geoglyphs more with native ships. The bigger one seems to have a mast. ME 225 m respectively 55 m. (Satellite photo: GE/GrafCan)

As a rock art panel the ship in Fig.334 has more connections with the real world and with the clay seals illustrations while the ship versions in the

geoglyphs have the commission to promote a cultic situation. By the way: There is not one nautical geoglyph known in the Canary Islands originating from the second wave (Berber).

Do the ships in Figs. 334-338 concern the mission of a prehistoric faith community? Do they bear messages to other countries and people?

9. Local laypeople with unclear aims

I have only a vague idea that there are some unknown forces in Lanzarote which build and then destroy fake monuments. Are there perhaps two different groups at work?

Another strange observation are most likely artificially opened monuments which apparently were not modified by natural erosion. I put up this topic for discussion, more for the *patrimonio* authorities than for the Canarian archaeologists. Nevertheless I would be interested in an expertise if the pyramids in these two photos are really the outcome of an immense prehistoric age or of a more recent private inquisitiveness.

Fig.339a - This pyramid features not a forecourt but a fore-platform whose purpose is unclear (cultic actions ?). This annex has caught stones which were sliding down the top-tumulus and down the wall. It looks like a modern search for skeletons or artefacts (see also Fig.295b) or it is simply erosion. (Mña. La Quemada de Máguez, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.339b - Two pyramids above the northeastern coast of Lanzarote: My spontaneous impression was that someone dug recently in the pyramid (righthand), removing a quarter of the top-tumulus. One can see a small hole with unknown content. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) UTM coordinates can be supplied.

10. Understanding the past − planning the future

In this final chapter I want to describe some techniques and methods by the first wave people to be then able to arrange and refine the measures of the pending investigations. Also some already mentioned insights into the life of the natives were deepened with additional (new) examples.


Fig.340

● A wall is not simply a wall, especially not in prehistoric times. The walls in the photo (Fig.340) have throughout a cultic mission: to please the goddess. From left to right (see arrows): First a stone combination which is most likely an "elementary" three-part dolmen, then a boulder which has the quality of a menhir and finally at the right end another big boulder with a striking triangular form which reminds of a schematised mountain. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)


Fig.341

● Another wall system features Fig.341. The entire slope looks more like a cluster of tumuli which use predominantly cubic stones to construct soul-holes and miniature dolmens − quasi a necropolis. (Mña. Guatifay southern slope, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)


Fig.342


Fig.343

● Regarding Figs. 100b, 342, 343, 358: All four photos show a lintel stone which is stabilized only by the use of an additional 45°-element and by its own weight. For a first-wave member it apparently seems to be a normal architectural method (needing first a kind of scaffold but no mortar), however for a mediaeval or modern principal (German "Bauherr") it would be a hazardous horror solution. (Mña. Tenezara foot, Valle de Juana Gutiérrez & Guinate south, Lanzarote − photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)


Fig.344

● Fig. 344 is a fine example of a pyramid which is merging with a natural group of rocks (the latter the sphere of Mother Earth). Remarkable is the lintel of the entrance which meets the doorposts in an unusual angle of ca. 50°, tilted forward, only held by its own weight (no mortar). (Mña. La Corona southern foot, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

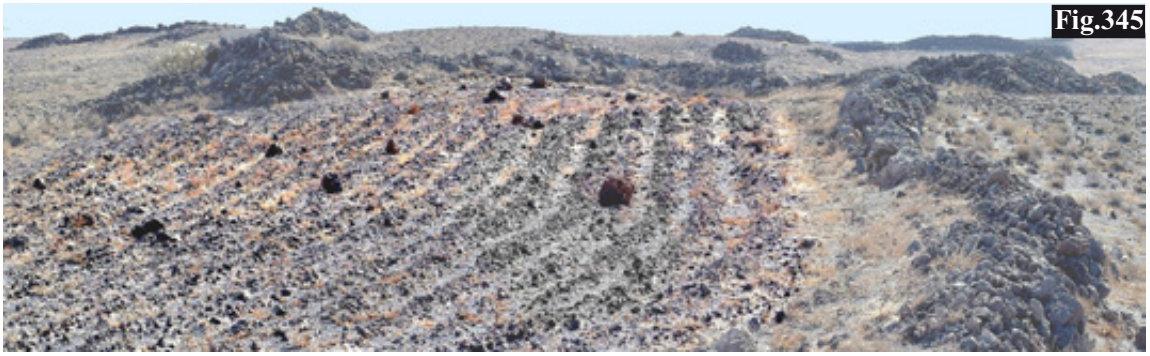


Fig.345

● The geoglyphic pattern in Fig. 345 is not an agrarian field by the Spanish colonists; one can easily see that the drills were made by the first wave people (throughout smaller and bigger stones / no soil in the clod [German "Klute, Scholle"]). Such geoglyphs are frequently combined with tumuli and pyramids within the frame of earth rites. (Mña. La Tegala southern foot, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)


Fig.346

Fig.347

● The monument in Figs. 346/347 is a two-step pyramid with a − putative − oval groundplan, the longer side pointing to the spectator. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich) But the photo by GrafCan shows that the "long" side is actually the short one. According to the satellite the pyramid has a ME of 23 m. Remarkable is that the top-tumulus has two levels. The basic form is a stretched semi-circle. All walls by the natives!

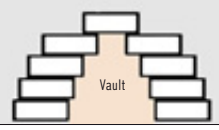
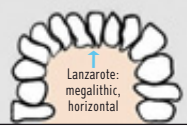

Fig.348

Fig.349

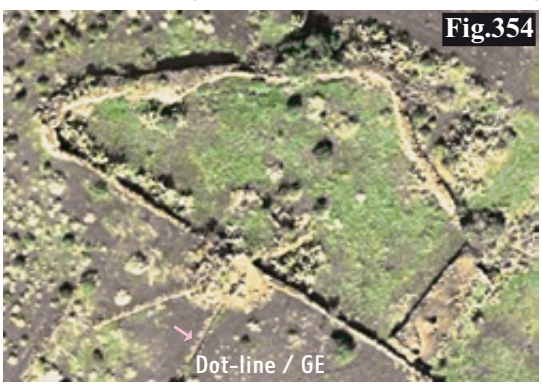
Fig.350

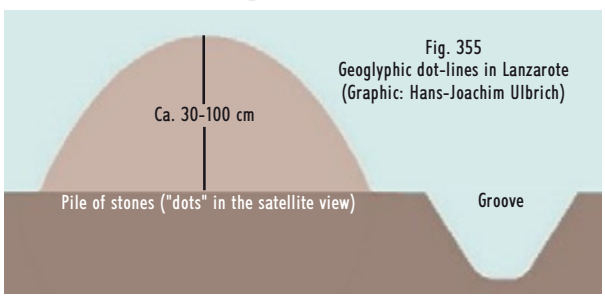
Fig.351

● Is it a happenstance or a method? In quite a few pyramids of Lanzarote (Figs. 344, 348, 349, 350, 351 etc.) we can observe that the entrance of the devotion chamber features at one side the broadest stone of the two doorposts. In two entrances we even see that this stone reaches into the doorway*. (*Mala, *Punta Mujeres, Lanzarote − photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) Interesting is the monument of Fig.348 (Mala − photo: Claudia Ehrmanntraut), a "Fig. 154 type" (p.84), similar to the burial monument in Fig.157 (p.85) which also features a conic top-cairn with a non-corbelled ceiling (more or less a horizontal pseudo-vault).

Dry stone ceiling of a chamber (not of the entire monument)	
Corbelled (horizontal slabs)	Non-corbelled (different stones)
	

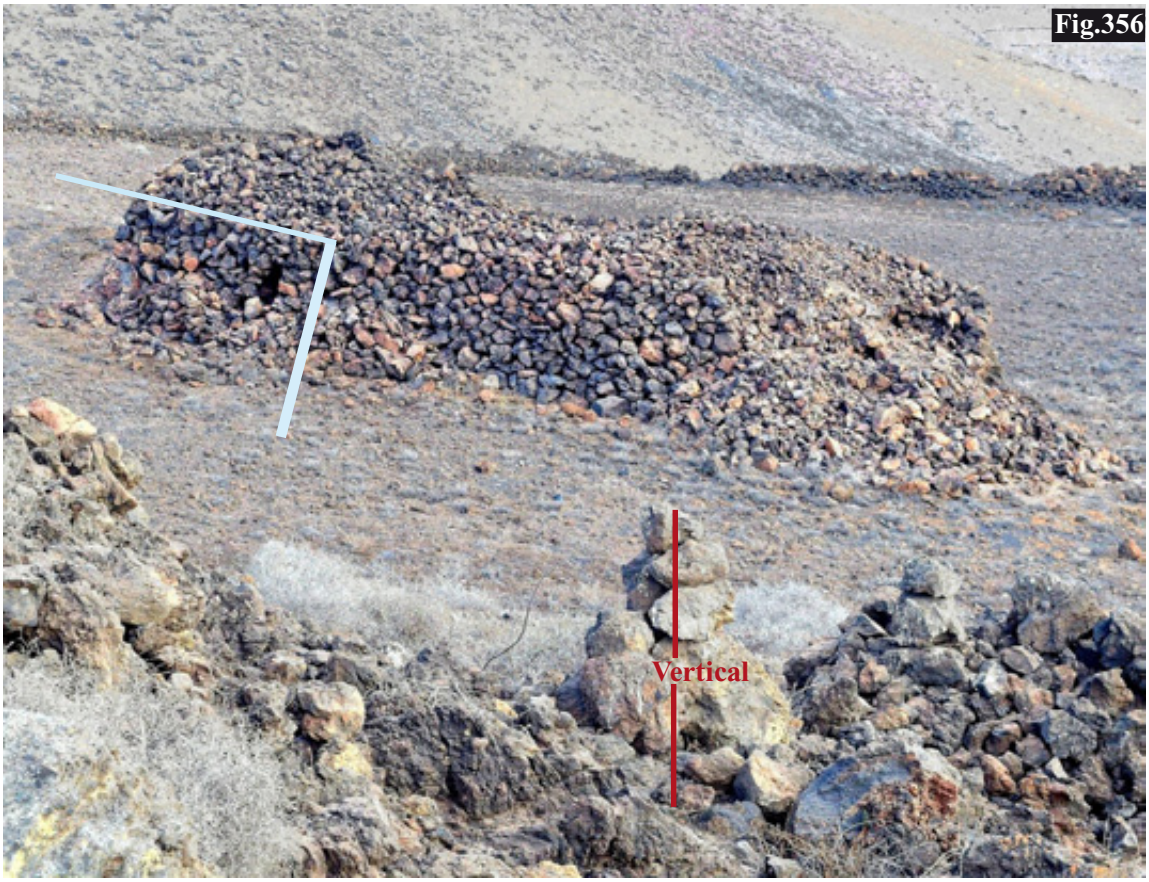
● The extreme case of a pyramid (one-step, partly two-steps, perhaps a forecourt) merging with a group of rocks is illustrated in these two photos (Figs.353 a/b). The upper picture shows the left part while the second photo represents the right part. In both illustrations one can see that the elevated top-tumulus has the same height like the natural rocks. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)





Please read text on p. 172 for Figs. 354 / 355 and Ulbrich (2022b) for "dot-lines" (round piles parallel to a groove).

● "Dot-lines" (Ulbrich 2022b) [.....] are Bronze Age geoglyphes which can be found everywhere in the ROC. They appear *stand-alone* or combined with other megalithic monuments. In Fig.354 we see a dot-line running to or leaving from a pyramid which is built in the southwest of an enclosure together with other burial monuments. (Máguez northwest, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich). Fig.355 shows the cross-section of a Lanzarotian dot-line, a type which exists several times in the island.



● This pyramid cluster in the hinterland of the Puerto del Carmen coast (Fig.356) belongs to one of the multi-variant regions of its kind. The pyramid in the foreground features two mini-cairns, both highlighted with white colour (limestone), keeping its verticality although situated on a slope. As opposed to this the pyramid in the background (two steps, two levels of the top-tumulus) takes over the 90°-angle of the slope; see the skew of the big soul-hole (blue line). The two mini-cairns of this pyramid are also skew (not symmetric) and are marked white too. The lower end is damaged. (La Tegala south, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

● The possible groundplans regarding prehistoric pyramids in Lanzarote are quite flexible: However a complete ring is rare (not meant here are cultic ring walls without burial function). This example (Fig. 357) is in fact a two-step ring pyramid with oriels. The surrounding and integrated wall patterns are throughout ritual; one can see this by the USM forms and by the continuation of walls coming from outside and ending within the ring – not a Spanish custom. (Satellite photo: GrafCan)

● In the foreground we see a monument (Fig.358) which looks like a devotion chamber without a burial chamber, but it is possible that room for the defunct is factored in by using a part of the broad bowed wall which the pyramid is leaning against. Furthermore the entrance is a construction where the lintel is not only held by one 45°-stone-element but by two − it looks quite adventurous (please read also p. 167-168).The monument in the background has a drop-like form which under the term "compass(-needle)" monument is also known among geoglyph specialists (detected in Saudi Arabia, Southern Spain, Sahara). Some elements in its wall let suppose a longish bright counterstone and two smaller stones forming a triangular soul-hole; this would then mean a Lanzarotian burial site. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)


Fig.360a

Fig.360b

● A really spacious pyramid (Fig.360): The ME reaches a total of 28 x 90 m in the satellite photo by GE/GrafCan; the pyramid corpus including the wall has a max. thickness of 3,8 m (top view). Regarding the groundplan we recognize a ⌜-form monument with several oriels and notches. At one point the pyramid wall is damaged (see Fig.360a). The top-tumulus features a number of extra miniature mounds (see blue arrows). The inner pattern with the straight and bowed walls lets suppose with some precision that all murals were cultic constructions by the first wave people. The completion (ending) of a stone row with a big boulder (white arrow) is typically native. In our times the Spanish proprietor planted only six grapevines per stone row (longitude ca. 18 m) what looks more like a quandary solution or hobby than a serious winemaking (meanwhile abandoned). Surely an area of cultivation was never planned originally − more a kind of megalithic forecourt when we think of the compartments in Fig.119a (L10 / p.67). With its elevated position we can already speak of "halfway to the peak" of the Montaña Corujo; this lets remind of the discussion about the use of high-altitude sacred places by the Bronze Age travellers (p.151-155). Some USMs (southern satellite photo) underline this. Finally a question: Does this pyramid contain one or more defunct? (Montaña Corujo, Lanzarote − ground photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)


Fig.361

● In all the years of roaming through Lanzarote is this the pyramid with the biggest boulders used for the supporting wall. We see a L08 version (Fig.361) with a relatively flat top-tumulus. Judging by the many rolled down wall stones the slightly sloping construction was either not adequate robust or very old or both. The height of the wall is achieved by only two or three layers. (Caldera Quemada de Máguez north, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)


Fig.362

● Another pyramid with extreme boulders (Fig.362): this time amazingly in the top region (see the similar situation in Fig.37, p.29). The surrounding wall is in most cases eroded. Two soul-holes are identifiable (see arrows). Several stones are marked with white colour, also on the peak. How were these stones transported and installed? (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: H.-J. Ulbrich)


Fig.363

● Two big boulders more (Fig.363): We see a relatively large tumulus with soil filling (L06), on its crest a devotional action meant for Mother Earth. Oversized topstones − normally a more architectural measure with ideas in the field of benediction of the building − can be excluded in this case. (Puerto del Carmen west, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.364

● There could have passed around 5000 years between the erection of this nice Lanzarotian country home and the L08 pyramid in front of it (Fig.364). The pyramid was built higher, has a big topstone, contains one or more defunct, follows a Γ-form groundplan and will exist some more millenia (if not a bulldozer appears). Does the modern mansion survive such a space of time? Regrettable the owner of the house has no idea about the relevance of this neighbourhood; nobody told him that, not in school, not in a university, not in the local press. A case of silentness or of disinterest and neglect? (Puerto Calero, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.365

● The same unsatisfying situation of Fig.364 exists in Fig.365: But here we even recognize a forecourt, a cubic annex, walls with oriels and notches and a partly collapsed tower. (Tias north, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.366

● This rare three-step pyramid suffers from several small stone slips. Righthand in the photo there is a kind of horizontally stretched three-stone soul-hole with an unusual triangular opening. From the field in the foreground up to the crest I estimate a height of around 4,5 m. (Máguez east, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.367a - Hexagonal front-stone (mason !), simplex type. Tubus semi-circular. Big counter-stone below.

Fig.367b - Classic four-stone solution, tubus more or less rectangular.

Fig.367a-i

Fig.367c - "Monster" soul-hole, rosette type, tubus more or less oval. Too small for a devotion chamber.

Fig.367d - Four-stone solution, tubus rectangular.

Fig.367e - Four-stone solution, tubus rectangular. Stone constellation perhaps natural resp. incidental.

Fig.367f - Classic three-stone solution on ground. Tubus more or less triangular.

Fig.367g - Three-stone solution, tubus triangular. Indication stone above.

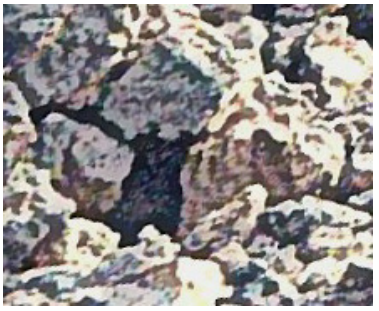


Fig.367h - Three-stone solution (dolmen-like), tubus rectangular.

Fig.367i - Classic simplex solution with semi-circular tubus. Counter-stone below.

● The upper pyramid in Fig.356 is worth a second visit (Fig.367 a/b/c/d/e/f/g/h/i): Apparently was either the architect, or the later defunct (as builder-owner) or the family or all together cautious and proactive regarding the proper functioning of the soul-holes. Not less than nine soul-holes were installed alone in the western wall. Is this a kind of overcaution or are there buried several defunct in this pyramid? (La Tegala, Lanzarote – all photos: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

Fig.368

● Another one-step pyramid with oriels (Fig. 368); practically exercising an irregular ground-plan. The intention is unclear. (Montaña de Los Helechos, Lanzarote – photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) See also the oriels in the next photo (Azores, Portugal).

Fig.369

● This eight-step pyramid from Pico/Azores [smaller versions in Fayal], features one oriel a time in six of these levels (as a megalithic architectural and − most likely − also cultic measure are oriels and notches common in the ROC). Some openings in the outer wall can perhaps be interpreted as soul-holes but detailed photos are not available. ME ca. 38 m; height ca. 13 m; groundplan quadrilateral. A cremation in this pyramid is supposed. A devotion chamber was apparently used in a nearby other pyramid.− Nevertheless we have the same problem in the Azores and in the Canaries: When was buried one defunct and when were buried several persons per pyramid? Are there crypts too? (Place of investigation: Madalena/Armão, Ilha do Pico, Açores, Portugal − photo: Nuno Ribeiro/APIA) See also Ribeiro et al. 2013.

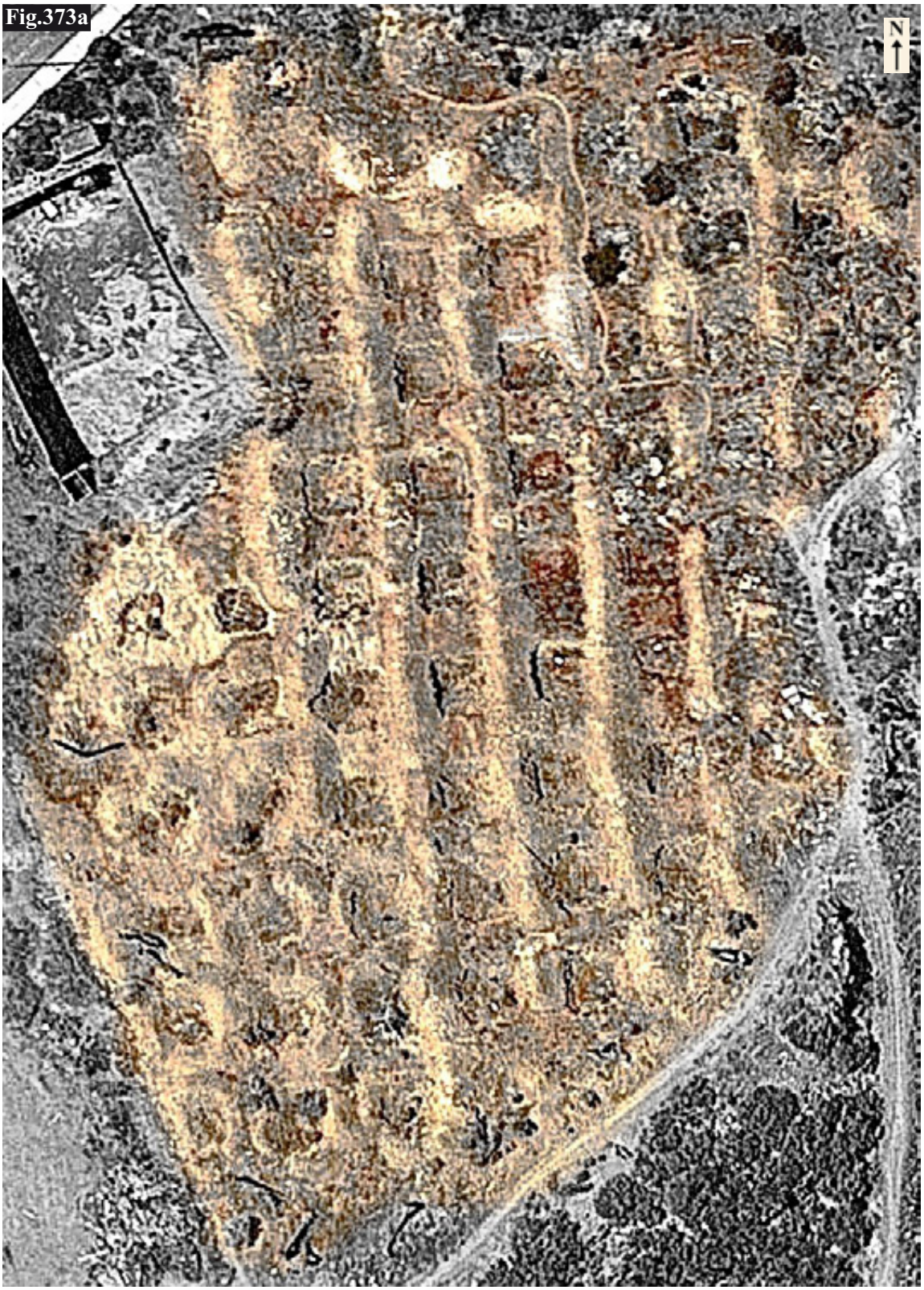
Fig.370

● Fig.370: In the foreground righthand we see a small stone ring. In the middleground there is a L06 pyramid with much coarser and bigger boulders than normally found in Lanzarote. The same rough style can be observed in Fig.361, p.175, and in other parts of the island. We can now speak of an own

type of pyramid − perhaps an earlier form by certain members of the colonists. In the background of Fig.370 we recognize a strange mixture of a sloping L06/L08 pyramid (different levels of height in one monument). Remarkable is a big flat natural (?) rock which concatenates both pyramids. Was this intentional or a happenstance of nature? I think that the natives had this linking in their mind. One rock (arrow) reminds of a soul-hole with a simplex front-stone showing perhaps a triangular tubus (please note also this enormous horizontal boulder then used as counter-stone). (Atalaya de Femés north, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich)

● A Mediterranaen contribution: The karst regions of the French "Maritime Alps" (German "Seealpen") − then part of the Bronze Age Ligurian culture − feature countless megalithic pyramid clusters (Fig.371 a/b). In one of these we find this two-step pyramid (see arrows and the zoom-in) showing a topstone and beside it an USM or a damaged stone ring as vertical soul-hole; a part of the crest is elevated and slightly bowed. The groundplan is more or less rectangular, the southern supporting wall seems to display some notches (the megalithic notch/oriel situation). The northern and especially the northeastern edge of the monument is sliding down by erosion (avalanches and stone slips ?). ME 22 m. (Vallon de la Grous, Cipieres, France − satellite photos: GE)

● Most likely also a building by the early Ligurians: This drop-like monument is either a L06 or L08 burial pyramid or a pure cultic construction − in both cases the groundplan imitates a womb with the slight accentuation of the genital area. ME 14 m. (Cap de Creus, Catalonia, Spain − satellite photo: GE) See also Figs. 286, 358, 359.



● Another indication for the willingness of the first wave colonists to participate in a pronounced community spirit and consent is the method to concatenate burial monuments (see Figs. 83, 183, 184). The next step in this cultic measures is the collocation of small tumuli and pyramids in a kind of pattern or net (Fig.373a: Telde northeast, Gran Canaria; GE) − the vertically arranged monuments are

Fig.373b

quasi combined with horizontally adjusted earthen gangplanks (German "Steg", "Verbindung"), together with low walls which in some cases can also run over the monument. See Fig.373b using a different satellite photo (GE). Some USMs were used in the southwestern part. A slim meandering wall by the natives can be observed in the northeast. ME 138 m. In the west an unknown type of a triangular monument.

● A pyramid cluster in a Canarian village (Fig. 374)! The terrassing is indigenous too. (Valle Gran Rey, La Gomera − satellite photo: GE)

● A similar pyramid cluster type in Jordan (Fig. 375) to the ones in the Canary Islands. And also the same groundplans with concatenations. And also the same entrances to cultic chambers. (Mountains near At-Taybeh, Southwestern Jordan − satellite photo: GE)

● We see several fields with small monuments, but the buildings in the tetragon are bigger and more sophisticated (Fig. 376). This has an explanation: The rectangle is not only a simple wall, it has the cultic task as a "shelter" (see also Ulbrich 2021b) − typically megalithic and Bronze Age. ME of the enclosure 159 m. (near al-Harisi, Syria − satellite photo: GE/Maxar)

● Dealing with Bronze Age pyramids in Syria means always to be aware of their concatenation (Fig.377). The erectors apparently liked this cultic and at the same time family-like architecture. In the photo we see two rows or groups, both linked. (Southeastern Syria − satellite photo: GE)

● Syria has many karst regions where the small tumuli have a heyday (Fig.378). But many walled areas show also pyramids with a largeness comparable to Canarian ones (arrows). (Near Umm Alrumman, Syria − satellite photo: GE)

● This cluster (Fig.379) with pyramids and tumuli, mini-cairns with white colouring, soul-holes and cultic walls reflects a typic savannah east of the Montaña Guatisea. No agriculture! (San Bartolomé south, Lanzarote − photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich) The old volcano features on its flanks some groove-like geoglyphs for liquid sacrifices,

Fig.374

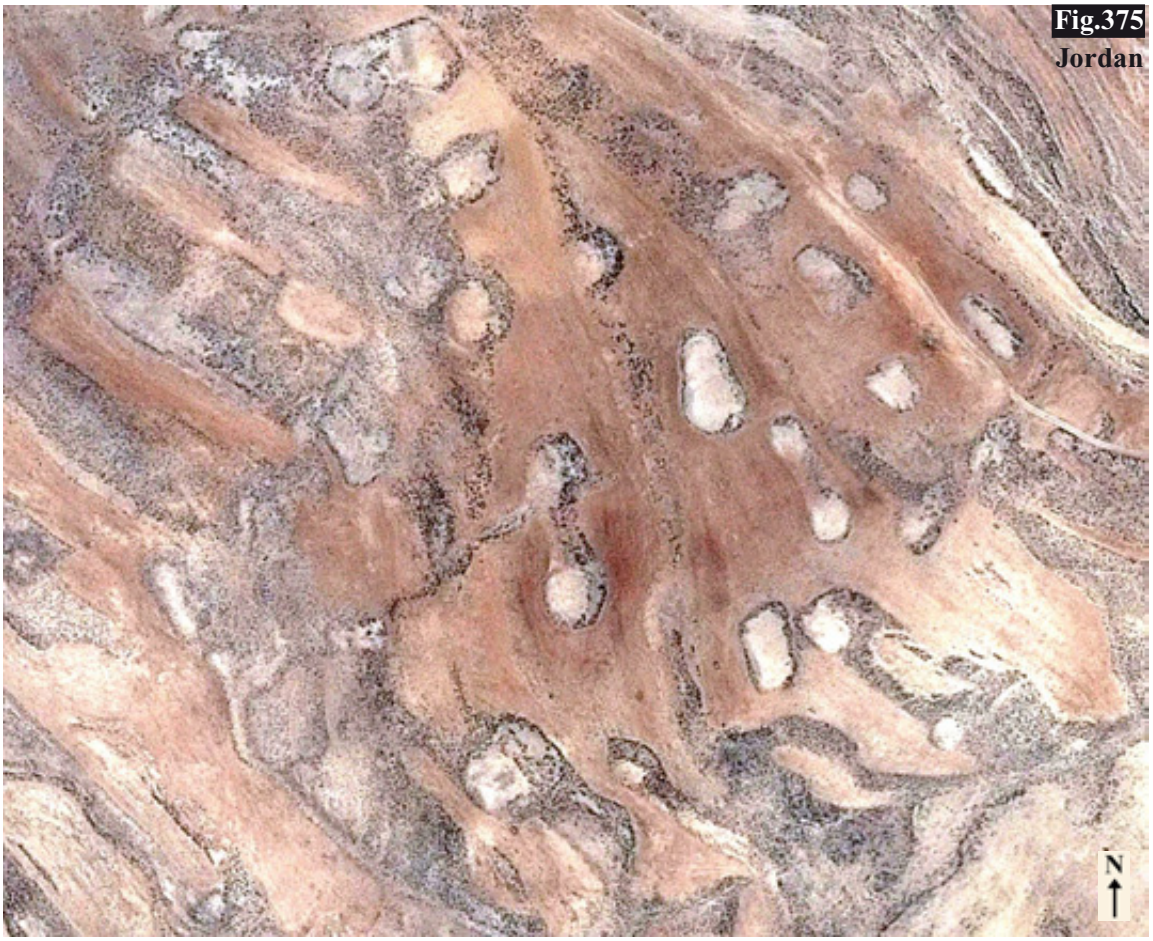


Fig.375
Jordan

Fig.376
Syria


Fig.377
Syria
N


Fig.378
Syria
N


Fig.379

similar to the "Queseras" described on page 18, footnote 11. In this context it is appropriate to point to the famous "cart ruts" of Malta which are in my eyes "wrinkles" in the face of Mother Earth; she was in the religions of the Bronze Age considered as a living being, not just as a stony planet (see p.92).

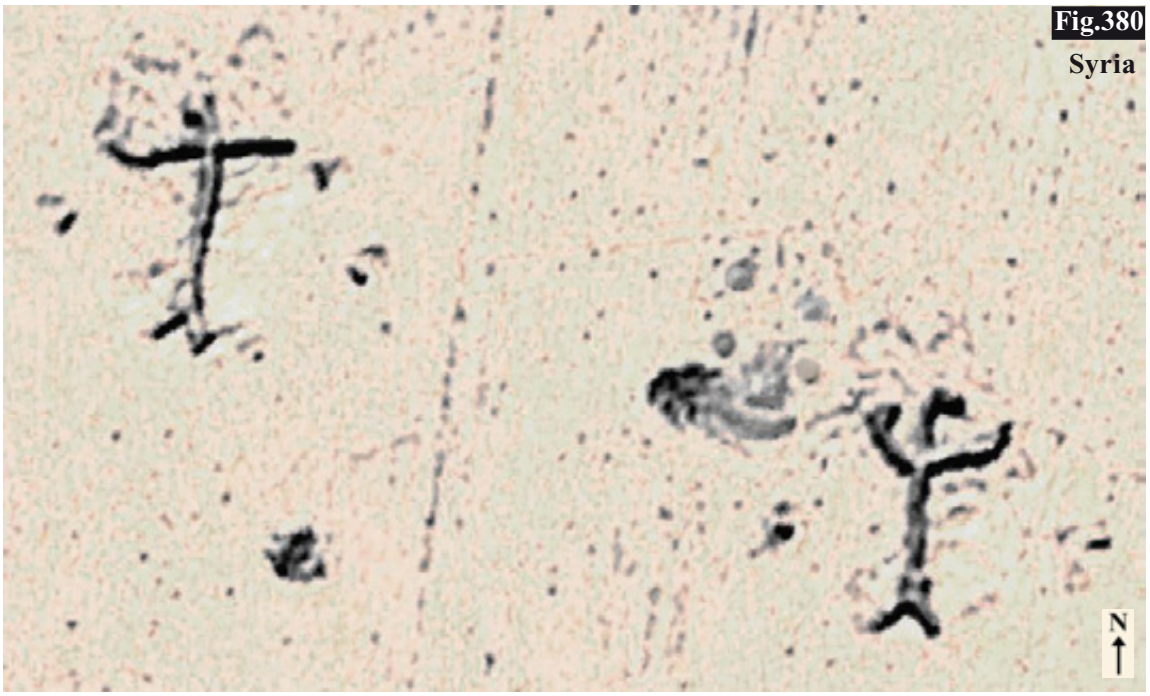


Fig.380
Syria

● In Syria I detected near tumuli and USMs some interesting (negative) geoglyphs which − with certain imagination − can be interpreted as anthropomorphic (Fig.380). The body posture (ME ca. 28 m each) reminds of two dancing humans. The schematic figurines seem to be a man and a woman; in one clearer GE photo perhaps showing testes resp. a vulva. (Near Dar'ā, Hauran region, Syria − satellite photo: GE) The age of these geoglyphs (grooves) is totally unclear; perhaps the Late Bronze Age. Nevertheless a speculation may be allowed: Was this graphic style to depict the twosome used in the same timeframe as some of the actions of our first wave seafarers? See also the supposed human contour in Fig.103, p. 61.

The initial part of this chapter again showed us the enormous diversity of the topic "Bronze Age colonists in Lanzarote". Some examples from the other Canarian islands and from other countries were added. It is now time for all concerned individuals to make the best out of it, to understand what these new informations mean for the Canary Islands and for the entire Mediterranean area. As a scientific writer I will not give advice to specialists of administration and school systems. I can only encourage all responsible and qualified persons to have the valour to transfer the gained knowledge adequately to the next generations.

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Fig, 381 - The capride bone which "started the ball rolling", found in a stratum near Guatiza, Lanzarote. (Zöller et al. 2003, 21: "fBt horizon > 5 ka old"). Photo: Zöller et al.

We recommend to have a look also on the following "administrational" chapter:
12. Special lists of illustrations for the orientation of the reader, p.188

List of pictorial mentions regarding the other islands of the Canarian archipelago:

El Hierro, Fig. 287a, p.126
Fuerteventura, Fig. 336a, p. 164
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Fuerteventura, Fig. 338, p. 165
Gran Canaria, Fig. 373a, p. 180; Fig. 373b, p. 181
La Gomera, Fig. 374, p. 181
La Graciosa (in the background), Fig. 5, p. 8
La Graciosa (in the background), Fig. 18, p. 18
La Palma, Fig. 226, p. 104
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List of pictorial mentions regarding other countries (including continental Spain):

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Dolmens, textual overview of versions, p. 21 [Additionally here an overview of dolmen mentions, often with illustration: p. 7, 18-26, 31, 36, 42, 46, 48, 50, 67, 89, 91, 94, 96, 99-100, 102, 111, 115-116, 121-122, 135, 145, 147, 152, 167, 177]
Monument types in Lanzarote, L01-L18, p. 17

List of technical, non-photographic illustrations (maps, graphics, sketches):

Fig. 6, Lanzarote & Canary Islands, maps p.10
Fig. 8, Eastern Central Lanzarote, map p. 13
Fig. 13-15, Basic tumulus and pyramid types, p. 16

Fig. 382 - The three "Majanos de Bolote" were destroyed ca. 2002 by the owner of the terrain in La Mancha, Spain. Nobody cared! These most likely Bronze Age pyramids would have been valuable witnesses of their time in the western Mediterranean region. (Photo: Juan José Fernández-Espartero G.-C.)

Fig. 383 - The Canary Islands have around 2.200.000 citizens. At least a few of these should have asked themselves why the majority of those strange *majanos* was not positioned at the edge of fields but in the nature, even on mountains? And why were many of these piled up so high that scaffolds or extremely long ladders had to be used when stones were needed? And why were so many artificial holes and even entrances integrated in the steps?* (Pyramid in La Palma − photo: Manfred Jantzon) *See the soul-holes in step one and step four in this photo (arrows).

Abstract:

In the Bronze Age certain people of the eastern Mediterranean region were most likely not satisfied with their life and with their reachable aims. Were it the declining yields of the fields or the pressure of aggressive neighbours and roaming ethnics, or disasters? Howsoever can it be that these people erected grand megalithic buildings (Aegean, Levant, Sicily etc) but then were content to leave behind all and to head for remote destinations like the Canary Islands? This first wave of colonists entering the "Sea of Atlas" went ashore initially in Lanzarote to expand then in the entire archipelago. Their partly nine-step burial monuments are still impressive. The Canary science misinterpreted them as cobble from the fields (*majanos*)! Also the secondary settlers, the protohistoric North African Berbers, were not able to get down to these pyramids. There are indicators that the restless first settlers continued their voyage already during the end of the second Millennium BC − like the pyramid constructors of the Azores too. Did they have the spirit of adventure in their blood? Or were they a kind of messengers?

Zusammenfassung:

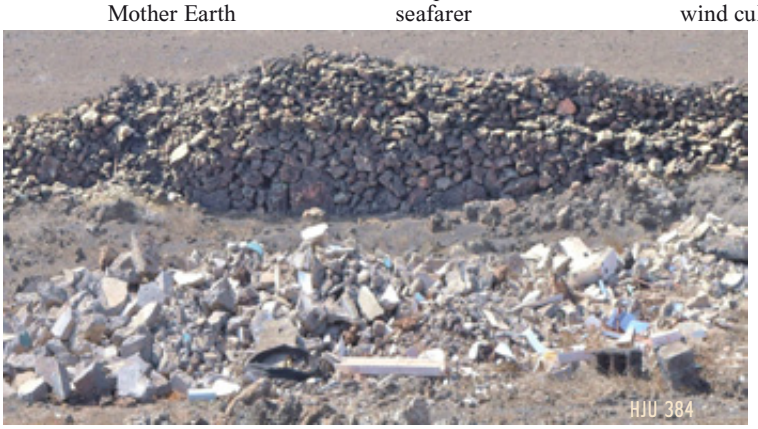
In der Bronzezeit müssen bestimmte Menschen des ostmediterranen Raumes mit ihrem Leben und ihren Lebenszielen nicht mehr zufrieden gewesen sein. Waren es die zurückgehenden Erträge ihrer Felder oder der Druck durch aggresive Nachbarn und wandernde Ethnien oder Katastrophen? Wie sonst kann es sein, dass diese Menschen megalithische Großbauten errichteten (Ägäis, Levante, Sizilien etc.) und dann aber bereit waren, alles zu verlassen und ferne Ziele wie die Kanarischen Inseln anzusteuern? Diese erste Welle von Kolonisten landete zunächst nur auf Lanzarote, um sich dann aber auf dem ganzen Archipel auszubreiten. Ihre zum Teil neunstufigen Grabbauten sind heute noch imposant. Von der kanarischen Wissenschaft wurden sie jedoch als Klaubhaufen (*majanos*) von den Feldern mißdeutet. Auch die protohistorischen Zweitbesiedler, die nordafrikanischen Berber, konnten mit diesen Pyramiden nichts anfangen. Es gibt Indizien, dass die rastlosen Erstbesiedler schon Ende des zweiten Jahrtausends vor Christus weitergezogen sind − wie übrigens auch jene Pyramidenbauer von den Azoren. Steckt in ihnen auch etwas Abenteuerlust im Blut? Oder hatten sie die Aufgabe von Boten?

Resumen:

En la Edad del Bronce, determinados grupos humanos del ámbito del Mediterráneo Oriental debieron de sentirse insatisfechos con sus circunstancias y objetivos vitales, acaso debido a una disminución en la producción de sus campos de cultivo o a la presión ejercida por vecinos agresivos y etnias migratorias o catástrofes. ¿Cómo se explicaría, si no, que aquellos hombres erigieran las grandes construcciones megalíticas (Egeo, Levante mediterráneo, Sicilia, etc.) y luego se mostraran dispuestos a abandonarlo todo y dirigirse a un nuevo y lejano destino como las Islas Canarias? La primera oleada de colonizadores llegó inicialmente solo a Lanzarote, para posteriormente extenderse por todo el Archipiélago. Sus construcciones funerarias, en algunos casos de hasta de nueve escalones, siguen siendo hoy día imponentes. Sin embargo, entre los investigadores canarios se las ha interpretado erróneamente como amontonamientos de piedras resultantes de una minuciosa limpieza de los campos (*majanos*). Tampoco los segundos colonizadores que llegaron después, los paleobereberes norteafricanos, supieron qué hacer con estas pirámides. Existen indicios de que aquellos infatigables primeros colonizadores migraron a otro lugar ya a finales del milenio II antes de Cristo − como también hicieron los constructores de pirámides de las Azores. ¿Llevaban acaso en la sangre el espíritu aventurero. O tal vez fueran también portadores de algún mensaje?

Keywords (you may use the PDF search-function)

45°
90°
Aegean Sea
agglomeration
agriculture
Albacete
Alt-Kanarier
Alvise da Mosto
Angelino Dulcert
annex
anthropomorph
apotropaic
Arabia
archaeology
Archipiélago Chinijo
Arrecife
Atlantic
Azores
Balearics
beehive monument
benediction
Berber
bereaved
blessing
body posture
breast offering
Bronze Age
burial
burial chamber
burial monument
burial-tower
Cabildo
cairn
Caldera
Canary Islands
Cap de Creus
Capita Hills
caprides
capstone
Catalonia
cave
cemetery
center-stone
Central Asia



One-step pyramid with top-tumulus, rosette soul-hole ←

Tumulus without supporting wall ←

Puerto del Carmen

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