

WHO REALLY DISCOVERED AMERICA?  
Gerry Biram

In the book, AMERICA, B. C., written in 1976 by Barry Fell, some astounding, interesting, and compelling evidence was presented that Europeans were living here as early as 800 B. C..

Fell hails from New Zealand and was a marine biologist at Harvard University. It is his theory that men and women from Europe were here working as miners, traders, and trappers at that time period in history. Fell studied Gaelic at the University of Edinburgh. He then went to Harvard in 1964 and spent the next eight years ransacking the Widener Library's collection of obscure languages. He acquired a working knowledge of half a dozen of these. They included Egyptian hieroglyphics, Punic which is Carthaginian script, and Ogam which was used by pre-Christian Celts.

Another historic investigator named James Whittall II worked with him. Whittall, an archeologist, had noted the similarity between numerous crude stone structures in New England and ruins in Spain and Portugal. Those in Europe had been identified as creations of the Celts who ruled that part of Europe during the Bronze Age from about 3500 B. C.

A stone found near Bourne, Massachusetts, about 1680, had writing on it that no one was able to decipher. Barry Fell was able to read it. The letters were a variation of the Punic alphabet found in ancient Spain for which Fell coined the word "Iberic". This stone recorded the annexation of a large part of present-day Massachusetts by Hanno, a prince of Carthage. Another site previously a mystery at North Salem, N. H. had inscribed triangular stones adjacent to a man-made wall. On these was a dedication to the Phoenician God, Baal. Students of ancient mythology had long believed that the Celtic sun god, Bel, and the Phoenician Baal, were identical. This verified their thinking.

On these triangular stones was the line in Ogram script, "dedicated to Bel." Within weeks of his deciphering the Ogam inscriptions, dozens more sites were found in central Vermont. Fell believes that ancient Celts built stone chambers as religious shrines and Carthaginian visitors were allowed to visit them and make their dedications in their own language to the Gods.

Whittall showed Fell a 1940 photograph of an inscription engraved on a cliff above Mount Hope Bay in Bristol, Rhode Island. The inscription in Tartessian Punic stated, "Voyagers from Tarshish this stone proclaims." Tarshish was a Biblical city on the southern coast of Spain. About 553 B. C. this city was destroyed by Carthaginians and its trade taken over by them. This was how the Iberian Celts and Carthaginians became partners in trade.

It is believed by Fell that a thriving trade existed between America and the Mediterranean countries at least 400 years before Christ. The chief products imported were furs and copper. There is early evidence of very early copper mining in Minnesota. The Carthaginians told others they got their furs from Gaul but

when the Romans invaded Gaul they found little evidence of a fur trade.

Fell also studied languages of the American Indians and discovered that the Algonquins were using hundreds of Egyptian words in their dialects.

Since this book was published in 1976, I have seen no further studies by others or by Fell. I have always hoped that more evidence would be presented to further substantiate the discoveries outlined in this first book.