

September 25, 2010-What is the origin and purpose of the ancient Trident Geoglyph found along the Bay of Paracas in Peru?

Several decades ago while travelling in southern Peru I came across the well known rock carving in the shape of a 600 ft long trident geoglyph located on a sloping hill off of the Bay of Paracas. We were going by boat out to the view some Humboldt pelicans and also sea lions at the Paracas National Preserve. Here is a photo which I took of the Trident from our boat-

**PICTURE OF THE BAY OF PISCO TRIDENT TAKEN FROM
OUR BOAT DURING MY 1982 SUMMER VACATION**



Archeologist have tried for years to figure out what its meaning is and who put it there. The consensus is that it was carved out of the sandstone by pre-Incan Paracas culture about 200 BC. All kinds of non-scientific and pseudo scientific ideas have been proposed for its meaning. The early conquistadors thought it represented a trinity of crosses put there by God, others have proposed it was used as a seismograph, and the wildest of all theories proposed by Erich von Däniken in his book "Chariots of the Gods" is that it was a pointer for a spaceship landing strip at the Nazca plane several hundred miles away. **Clearly none of these speculations are realistic.** It must be realized that the people who constructed this figure were primitive Indians who were subsisting on a plentiful seafood supply available in the Paracas Bay due to the Humboldt current. The first thing I noticed on our boat trip out to the Ballestos Islands at the entrance to Paracas Bay were diving birds who, from a height of 100 foot or so, dove straight down to the water's surface to enter the water at high speed in order to catch fish. Their diving pattern was one of folded back wings as shown on the following photograph-

DIVING BIRDS SIMILAR TO THOSE SEEN AT THE BAY OF PARACAS, PERU (Note the folded back wings in order to minimize air and water drag)



Clearly the birds are there because of a plentiful supply of fish, just like the Paracas culture must have been. Since the surrounding land is essentially desert, the Paracas culture was very much dependent on this seafood present in the Bay and the diving birds were pointing toward this supply. Thus one can speculate that these birds would have become deified in the Paracas religion as harbingers of a food supply. **It is therefore my contention that the Trident is a symbolic representation of a diving bird put there by the Indians so as to guarantee a continued plentiful supply of seafood and as a thank you for this supply to their gods.**

Looking again at the above pictures of the Trident and the diving birds, one can see that the folded back wings form the two outer arms of the trident and the two horizontal triangles form the birds shoulder. The middle fork of the trident represents the bird's body with the tail on top. Looking carefully at the picture one can also see a rectangular shape forming either the bird head or the water surface located at the bottom of the trident. In South America the trident is referred to as the Candelabra of the Andes.