Ancient Lighthouses - Part 8: An Overview

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Abstract: This paper is a summary of seven other papers in this series about Ancient Lighthouses. A complete presentation of the work is available in the A4 hard-back volume entitled "Ancient Lighthouses - and Other Lighted Aids to Navigation" by Ken Trethewey, ISBN 978-0-9926573-7-6, published by Jazz-fusion Books at the above address.

"There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know." (Donald Rumsfeld, 2002)

Introduction

Donald Rumsfeld's comedic lines were given to the world in all seriousness, in the context of the USA going to war with Iraq. However, they are apt in many situations, not least of which is the subject of Ancient Lighthouses.

This study has embraced almost the entire span of humanity and it is a "known known" that we shall never be certain of the precise origins of lighthouses. However, this work has attempted to pencil in some of the details by consideration of current thinking amongst the community of scientists, historians, archaeologists and others, all of whom are contributing to pharology.

The rapid growth in understanding of human evolution has given us much better knowledge of the capabilities of the various species of *homo* and a more accurate time-line for their migration patterns. We are better equipped now to identify the epochs when humans first set out on water-borne journeys and their earliest use of fire. Social and cultural anthropologists have extensively studied the behaviours of different groups of peoples and we are much better able to correlate their activities with historical periods.

To make a precise statement about when and where the first lighthouse was built requires a clear agreement about the definition of a lighthouse. We have no such consensus today, a fact that introduces a layer of the "unknown" into our deliberations.

This work has presented a definition of a light-house and, in the fullness of time, it is up to other pharologists to decide upon its merits. In this final paper, I shall give an overview of what I believe to be the latest understanding of the origins of pharology. First, let us re-examine what we understand by the term, *lighthouse*.

What is a Lighthouse?

At a superficial level, it seems a very easy question to answer. Pharologists are frequently asked the question, "So how many lighthouses are there?" My own very hesitant response of, "Er, well, it depends..." could be taken as an indication of, "Ah, he doesn't know!" Consider for a moment that we are trying to precisely define a motor car. It seems so easy to give an answer, but we quickly realise that there are many forms of transport that could be called a motor car. For example, we cannot simply say it is a 4-wheeled form of transport, for motor cars can have both fewer and more wheels than 4. We *might* also decide that, to be a car, it *must* have four wheels.

A lighthouse (or a motor car) has both form and function - i.e. "What does it look like?" and "What does it do? Figures N01 and N02 were presented at the start of this book in order to clarify some of the issues, and these charts, known as Venn diagrams, will form part of this discussion. I have also resorted to what are popularly known as mind maps and which I call topic taxonomies. These make good summaries of properties and because of their tree-like structures, they bring together aspects of a subject in a clearer, diagrammatic way. However, their main disadvantage is that they do not provide the overlap that is offered by Venn diagrams. All human-related activities are "fuzzy" in nature and have no clear lines of demarcation. Thus a property shown in one part of a topic taxonomy may also be applicable in another. To show a truly complete schematic diagram such as this is clumsy and impractical and probably not useful. The two methods I have selected are useful in different contexts and both have their issues. The answer to the question, "What is a lighthouse?" is not to be given lightly.

A Top-Down Analysis

ig. 8-1 presents seven aspects of the study of ancient lighthouses, although you will recognize that there is a close parallel with modern lighthouses too. A top-down analysis is a logical way of describing a complex subject. It begins with these topics and drills down into each one.

Information

In Part 1, I attempted to summarize the information available to us from ancient sources. Fig. 8-2 summarizes the elements involved in the information about ancient lighthouses that is presently available to us. Knowing with certainty (a known known!) that our subject of study began before written records were made, we must rely on the protracted and determined studies of archaeologists. For much of the time through the 19th and early 20th centuries, archaeology was performed by enthusiastic amateurs or ill-disciplined professionals who, in the absence of precedent were defining their fields of study by trial and error. Modern practices have had to work with those past studies that were in some cases, performed with catastrophic and irreversible consequences

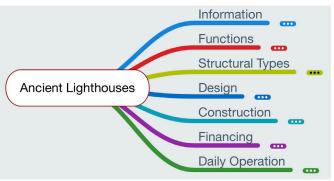


Fig. 8-1: Some considerations of the subject of ancient lighthouses

to some of our most precious sites, notably Troy. However, the field is now both mature and stable from an academic point of view, in the developed world, at least. Fortunately, with the help of the UN and other international organizations, the developed world has been able to provide both financial and logistical support to archaeological work in the under-developed countries, maximizing the outcomes there.

In terms of the global picture, archaeology is a discipline in which there is a great deal still to be discovered, especially underwater, close to the present shorelines because of significant sea level rises during the Holocene period. In this regard es-

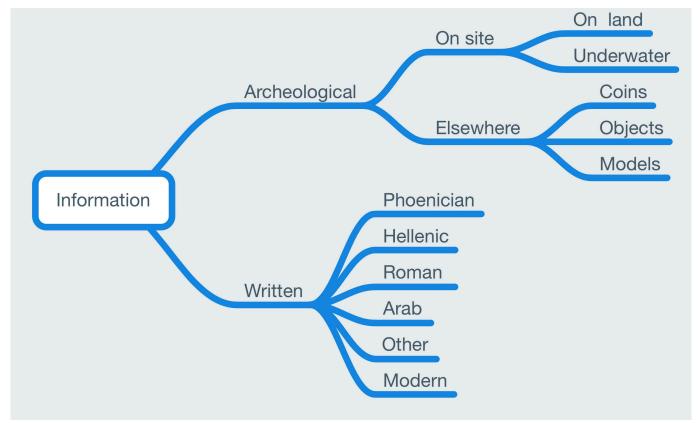


Fig. 8-2: Topics relevant to sources of information. For information before the time of writing, we must rely upon the work of archaeologists.

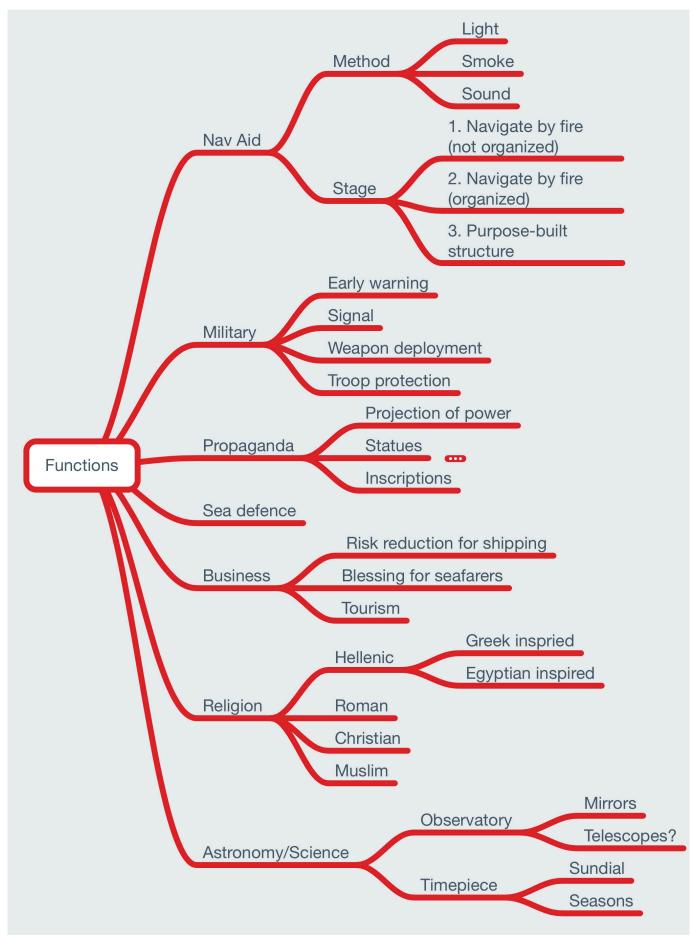


Fig. 8-3: Possible Functions of ancient lighthouses, with particular relevance to the Pharos of Alexandria.

pecially, pharology can expect to be rewarded with wonderful new finds in the foreseeable future, as long as there is not too much political interference in regions of instability, such as north Africa and the middle east.

Where written records are available, I have shown how much we can determine from them, albeit with serious limitations that affect the degree to which an unknown can be converted into a known. Phoenician written records are rare and those we do have irrelevant to our inquiries. Although Chinese written records date back to at least 1500 BCE, and early scripts from northwest India dating back even further are known but not yet deciphered, we have so far found no evidence that can add to the descriptions in this book.

Functions

The elucidation of the history of ancient lighthouses is probably easier to establish by considering the answer to the question, "What does it do?" or, perhaps, "What might it do?" Fig. 8-3 summarizes the possibilities. Clearly the scope for advantages to be gained from a lighthouse are far wider than merely to assist navigation. Furthermore, there will be a great variability of factors with time, as each waxes and wanes in importance through history. With this in mind, the chart has been compiled with the Pharos very much to the foreground because, remarkably, all of the properties are applicable to it - even tourism, for we have seen how many Arab visitors made the effort to visit the famous Pharos on their travels through Alexandria. If we consider the only candidate that offers a precedent to the Pharos - the small cylindrical structure on Thasos, shown in Fig. 3-8, then we see that there are few factors that apply to it. This casts doubt as to whether such a simple structure could possibly be thought of as a precedent. The Pharos was so extraordinary that it would seem to be our duty to regard it as the first lighthouse, a conclusion that satisfies our modern idea of a lighthouse, but not our logical analysis.

An easily overlooked property is the development stage, which has been defined in three levels in the section describing Conventions and Terms at the start of this book. Stage 1 is unlikely to be considered as a lighthouse, for an essential ingredient is that some structure - however basic - must be assembled by a human with the intent to

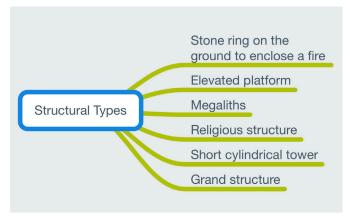


Fig. 8-4: Structural types that might have been used in ancient lighthouses.

assist navigation. This means that the undoubted (yet until now, unreported, making it an unknown known) use by mariners of lights shown for religious purposes at sanctuaries, temples and such like, should be assigned to Stage 2, whilst the Pharos - and the Thasos structure - should be allocated to Stage 3 and hence formally described as lighthouses. From the viewpoint of functional analysis, this is surely the essence of defining a lighthouse.

Structural Types

Fig. 8-4 shows the various types of structure that might be considered for the role of an ancient lighthouse. In the very beginning, our empirical concept of a navigational aid is any material arrangement configured by a human that purposefully shows a light at night and is of use to a navigator. This could be something as simple as a group of stones - or even just a hole in the ground - in which a fire could be lit at night. According to my proposed definition, it would be the purpose of the fire that determined whether we might consider it a lighthouse or not, i.e. it would conform to a stage 3 function. Any advancement of this idea, whether by building an elevated wooden or stone platform is irrelevant, as long as the purpose is clear.

I have discussed the problems of identifying lighthouses in the context where structures have been built for military signalling rather than navigational purposes, as was the case with Roman signal towers. In such case, it may have been true that both functions were employed, but this is a known unknown.

The idea that prehistoric megaliths might have been used as a very early kind of primitive light-

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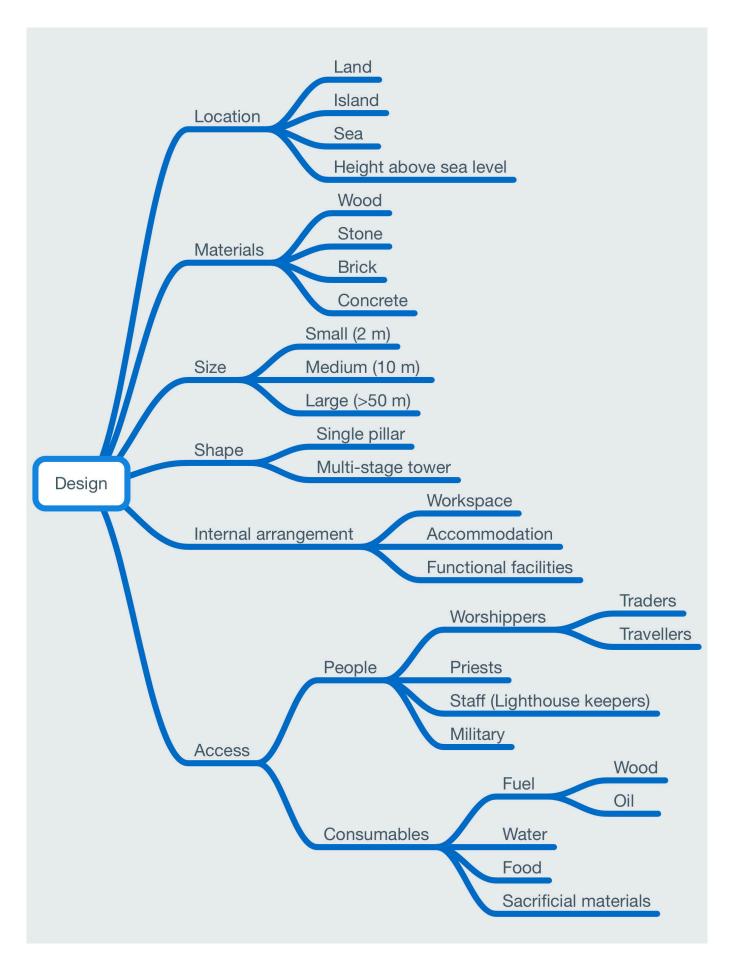


Fig. 8-5: A Topic Taxonomy of properties relevant to the design of ancient lighthouses.

houses is possible, sensible and tantalising. In my exposition on the Phoenician seafaring culture I reported the recent finding of megalithic structures in Sicily, used but not built by the Phoenicians, that could not only have acted as lighthouses by showing fires from specified places at night, but might even have performed the role of signposts pointing to distant destinations across the sea. Unfortunately the report is too new to attach more than a modicum of importance to it.

The opportunities for lights shown from religious installations are more than a possibility; indeed, they are most probable, as my studies of Greek and Phoenician seafaring cultures has shown in Parts 3 and 4. However, since their primary purpose was religious, it may be incorrect to describe them as lighthouses: the lights were not purposefully set to assist navigation.

In those cases where we can be confident of describing a structure as a lighthouse, we are on firmer ground. The difference between the short, cylindrical tower on Thasos and the grand structure of the Pharos is irrelevant in this context.

Design

It is a most unfortunate known unknown that there is so little information about the architects who designed (and perhaps built) ancient lighthouses, for we should admire these people far more than many others who were able to attract the limelight of history. Roman engineering was, in many ways, about fifteen centuries ahead of its time, and the Greek minds who had already established the principles of mathematics and mechanics upon which it was based lived in even earlier times. Of course, it was the community leaders who decided upon the requirements, but that was usually the easy part. The employment of incompetent people to implement the instructions must have resulted in many failures that we could classify as unknown unknowns.

The requirement was always defined by the location for it was necessary to position navigational aids where they would offer effective assistance to mariners. On land, this was usually at the entrance to a port, but it might also be in a more remote (high) position if it were more effective - perhaps when the light was used as a waypoint or landfall light, for example.

At first, ports and harbours were selected on

the basis of their natural geographical features - the Phoenicians were masters of this from the earliest times. Later, as harbours were developed for improved access, shelter from bad weather, and capacity, engineers added artificial structures to their designs. Islands, islets and man-made moles were used to carry lightstructures. We have even found at Portus Claudius at Ostia how a man-made island was created to form the foundation of a wonderful lighthouse - the first of its kind.

The height of the light above sea level was very important for in every situation, it was vital to consider the distance from which the light was intended to be seen by the navigator. This was a part, but not the entire reason for the extreme height of the Pharos, which was intended to impress as much as it was to assist.

The choice of materials was mostly driven by a combination of technology and availability. Wooden structures are always less permanent than stone. Bricks were a fundamental part of Roman structures above ground; stone and concrete were vital for foundations as well as to give extra strength in bulk. Even the choice of stone was an important consideration for there are types of hard stone that are selected for maximum resistance to wave impacts, and other softer types best suited for interiors and ornamentation where more difficult shapes are necessary.

The Thasos tower is approximately the size of a man and would sensibly be placed in the category of 'small'. The Pharos is clearly the opposite - in the extreme! We place it in the 'large' category (with a smile?) Many later lighthouses were 'medium' in size, although Part 6 suggests that there were many that were 'large' because local chiefs wanted to impress foreign visitors arriving in their ports.

Complications arise when the balance of properties is considered. For example, wooden platforms are cheaper, easier to make, and therefore easier to replace in view of the low durability of wood. However, there is a height restriction. Where a tower needs to be high, a short wooden tower could be built in an elevated location. Different arguments apply to stone.

We have also noted in Part 6 how much the form of the Pharos was copied; the multi-stage tower was a frequently selected design. This is a design feature that is relevant to the proposed height of the tower for taller structures are like-

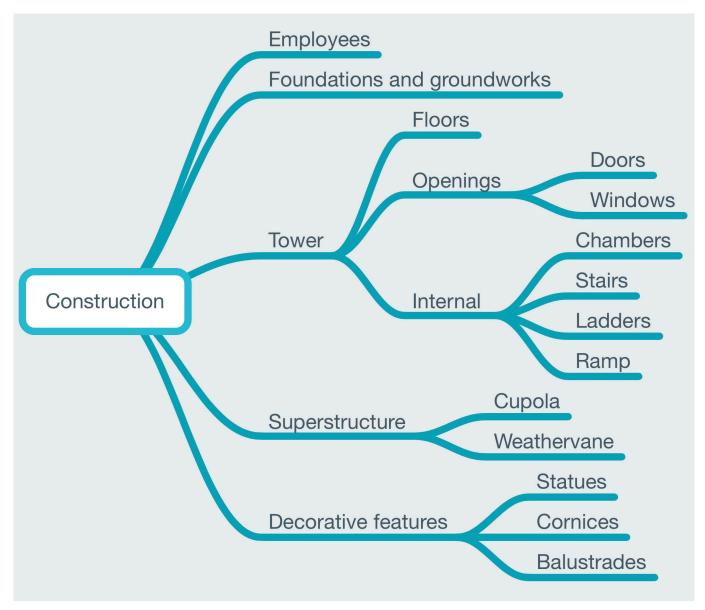


Fig. 8-6: Factors applicable to the construction of an ancient lighthouse.

ly to topple if they are of the same cross-section throughout their whole height. We noted how, for example, at Dubris and Gesoriacum, the tapering height was an important feature since greater stability is achieved.

Internal arrangements are important too for there were often many people to sustain in a large lighthouse, of whom keepers of the light were probably in the minority.

Finally, the access to the structure was a major decision to make. In general, the larger the tower and the more functions it was required to meet, the more access was required. At the Pharos site, we noted that what began as a small island ended with a land bridge created with huge infill of the sea. Clearly there were large demands to keep such a great structure working to its specification. Many different people were involved, not to men-

tion their matériel requirements to sustain their professional and personal activities. And as a lighthouse alone, the quantities of fuel needed for such a powerful light must have been extraordinary.

Construction

The initiation of the process that results in the building of any lighthouse is an identification of the need. Whilst it is navigators who make their needs known, we are well aware that they do not necessarily get what they want. Political considerations generally outweigh all else, but given the agreement of the politicians, there are plenty of other reasons why a project might not go ahead. Financing is always a potential show-stopper, but so too is the availability of suitable labour, not just the manual kind, but also the necessary engineer-

ing skills to produce a structure that will fulfill the requirements.

There has been much discussion about the designer of the Pharos. It has been agreed, almost universally, that Sostratus of Cnidus was the architect, but, even so, there are those who doubt this and assign him other roles in the project. Simply put, we do not have sufficient written and unambiguous material to be certain of it. Of all the reports of possible lighthouse sites listed in the catalogue, there are no other names of lighthouse architects than Sostratus. Even in the Roman era, it is, sadly, only the names of the commissioning emperors that have emerged as responsible for the many fine Roman lighthouses.

If we assume that the name of Sostratus is indeed a known known, then we must attribute a remarkable degree of engineering and scientific knowledge to this man, for we have seen how his brainchild was converted into one of the most remarkable engineering achievements in history. Not only was the lighthouse function completely fulfilled but so also were all of the other attributes listed in Fig. 8-3. Few engineers have the privilege of getting it right first time, and Sostratus was no exception. He clearly was unsuccessful in achieving the necessary degree of resistance to earthquake, but that is perhaps entirely forgivable in the circumstances. His design was so successful that it was copied many times, by Roman engineers in particular and the longevity of the basic structure was unparalleled throughout history.

The construction features were also completely successful and we are fortunate indeed to have a very clear picture of all aspects of the building processes, especially of the many modifications to the structure made during the long period when the Pharos came under Islamic control.

Financing

The financing of lighthouse projects in ancient times has been discussed in a very cases above. The remarkably large amount of money reportedly spent on the Pharos has been the only occasion when we have been given a stated amount - 800 talents. In the case of the Roman development of Ostia, I mentioned the considerations given by Claudius to the cost of the ambitious project, but unfortunately we know little more than this.

It is clear that the cost of a project needs to

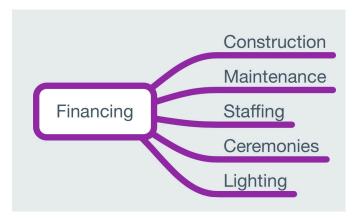


Fig. 8-7: Factors applicable to the Financing of ancient lighthouses

cover the topics shown in Fig. 8-7. Construction costs include materials, labour and architects fees, as well as the fittings, fixtures and, in the case of many towers, decorative features that were considered essential in those times. Installation of the lighting and other equipment was probably a small cost in comparison with the costs of running the lighthouse, where maintenance costs were also significant, especially after it had suffered damage from storms and earthquakes.

Probably the least expensive element was the wage bill, as we understand that most ordinary workers lived on subsistence money. Soldiers probably earned more, but were probably financed independently as part of the costs of keeping an army.

Daily Operation

It is in the subject area of daily operation of ancient lighthouses that we have virtually no firm knowledge other than what has already been reported in Part 5, the story of the Pharos, which is the lighthouse we know most about. It is a sad reflection upon our subject that so little was written about the lives of ordinary people who, of course, were those primarily involved with all aspects of ancient lighthouses. It could be said that the lives of individual citizens were of no consequence when it came to the value of official records. It was only with respect to large groups of individuals that events and the actions of leaders were considered important enough for scribes to record. Emperors, kings and pharaohs were interested in the likes of us when their own position was threatened. Naturally, this is an aspect of the development of civilization that was perpetuated through many centuries and still exists today in

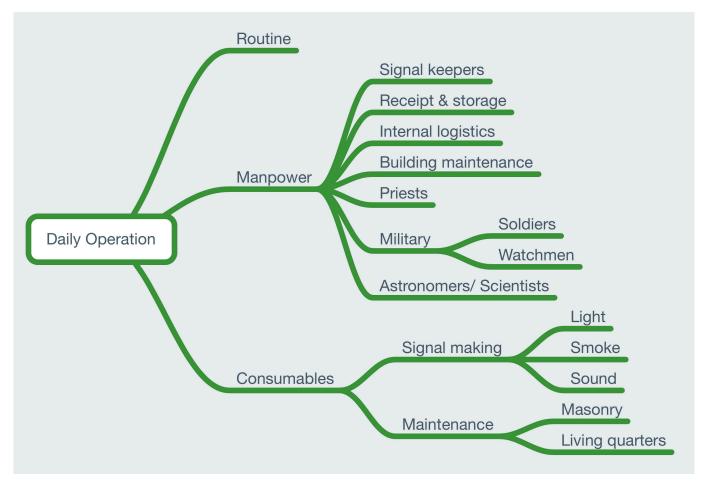


Fig. 8-8: Factors necessary for the day-to-day operation of an ancient lighthouse such as the Pharos.

many countries. Only since the days of mass media has it really become possible for the names and actions of ordinary citizens to be recorded for posterity, apart from such national recording systems as registers of births, marriages, deaths etc. which have purposes other than to massage the egos of 'unimportant' individuals. Unless an individual possessed sufficient education to be able to write, and enough resources to be able to make long-lasting records (such as stone tablets, papyrus, parchment, paper, writing tools etc.) the lives and activities of virtually all humans were eradicated with their deaths.

The Phoenician people have left us only a very tiny legacy of records, a sad fact that has reduced our knowledge of their culture more than almost all of the other major cultures. In contrast, Greek peoples are well known for their record-keeping and for individual authorship on a great variety of subjects including philosophy and science, as well as art, literature and poetry. Even here, there is a great paucity of literature in the areas of concern here. Despite the extensive knowledge we have

of ancient Greek history, some of which has been outlined in Part 3, we have nothing of substance on the actual activities necessary to provide navigational assistance to mariners. Only in our studies of the Pharos - constructed under the influence of the Hellenic culture - do we begin to find even the slightest attempts to describe what actually occurred inside the lighthouse walls. This deficiency continued under Roman leadership when it appears that any subject was fair game for a writer, except for the simple lives of lighthouse keepers and navigators. What we are left with is a frustratingly large number of known unknowns.

Final Words

At the end of this study that I hope has been exhaustive, but not exhausting, I wish to conclude with my considered responses to various claims regarding the earliest lighthouses.

There is no definitive evidence for a lightstructure earlier than the Pharos of Alexandria. However, there is much indirect evidence. Whether the story of Hero and Leander is myth or historical fact is irrelevant. The mythology of the ancient culture of the Greeks and the Trojans clearly refers to the idea of constructing navigational aids for those who use the sea. It is surely inconceivable that, given the prevalence of these ideas, no structures were built. There is unambiguous evidence linking the stories with recognizable places in the 21st century landscape. Thus, it is possible that the first lightstructure was indeed at Abydos on the Hellespont, a crucial crossing point between Europe and Asia. There is every possibility that the idea, expressed in a story of Hero showing a navigation light for Leander, had some element of truth, but we have no other evidence than the texts written in Roman times and we have no indication of a date.

The evidence at Troy is more positive. Troy was the earliest major population with a clear dependence upon sea-borne traffic that might have constructed artificial aids to navigation. We might conclude that it was the construction of a light-structure at Cape Sigeum on the southern side of the entrance to the Hellespont that began it all. Here was a most important and strategic waterway where the sheer amount of traffic justified the effort and expense of construction. Here also was the burial site of the greatest Greek warrior. We can place the time of this event as occurring somewhere during the long period of stability of Troy VI, i.e. from 1700 BCE to 1250 BCE.

We shall almost certainly never be able to verify the story of Hero and Leander. However, many of the ancient sites on Turkish soil remain unexcavated and there is every chance that archaeology will, in years to come, unearth a new structure that can be unambiguously interpreted as a lightstructure and dated to the same period, if not earlier.

The possibility that the Phoenicians built the first lightstructure at Cadiz cannot be ignored, but remains most unlikely, unless the Sigeum structure was never built. Although Cadiz was possibly

founded in 1110 BCE, it was argued above that a more likely date for the creation of a significant presence is some 300 years later. The extended discussion about the Phoenicians, their culture and their methods tends to render the argument unlikely. Even if it did exist, a lightstructure at Carthage would only qualify as the first lightstructure in the absence of others at Sigeum and Cadiz. If it can be shown that structures at Cadiz and Carthage were indeed built (although I am not convinced) it is far more likely that the Phoenicians, having seen the lightstructures on the Hellespont, adopted the idea for their own ports. There are no other sites where earlier lightstructures can be proposed, consistent with the ideas of their association with the development of civilization and culture.

Nothing lasts forever in history, and there were many times when lighted sites became dark. The structures became victims of frequent and violent battles and changing politics. Indeed, it is also possible that, because the great majority of sea journeys took place in summer months, ancient lightstructures were not lit in winter and thus only temporary. But the seed of the idea of a lighted aid to navigation, once sown, remained present in the roots of subsequent interacting cultures. Copied occasionally at first, the idea evolved in a number of forms around the Mediterranean between 1250 and 300 BCE, only to be celebrated in glorious style by the building of the great Pharos itself. The remaining and perhaps most curious question is why nothing relevant to previous structures seems to have been recorded.

As we look to the future there are two things that promise to reveal much about the past. The first is underwater archaeology. A very recent branch of study, the study of the coastal strips from earliest times that were used intensively by those peoples and which is now underwater, is a treasure trove of knowledge that we have only just opened, and which will take many decades – even centuries of detailed exploration to unravel.

The second is promised by the great and rapid strides being made in the understanding of genetics through DNA analysis. This promises to provide many new insights into the peoples of the earliest times, and we can only anticipate that there is great deal that is new and surprising still to be discovered using these techniques. Taken togeth-

er, these two methodologies could offer clearer answers to the questions posed in this book. Until then, I shall reiterate the original question of questions, "Who built the first lighthouse?" To which I reply:

The First Lighthouse Was Built By...

...Romans.

No, it was not. The Romans were responsible for the spread of lighthouse technology, but not its creation. All Roman structures were built post-Pharos.

...Greeks.

Probably. If we care to believe that the first lighthouse was the Pharos of Alexandria then it was Greek culture that built the Pharos. The Greeks who achieved it lived in Egypt at the time, so they may have considered themselves Egyptian, but they were certainly living in the Greek culture brought there by Alexander. If we settle on the use of temples and other sacred sites as being the providers of lights for navigational purposes, then it is also true that Greeks were responsible from around 700 BCE. If we choose to believe the first lighthouse was in the Troad or the Hellespont then it was again implemented within Greek culture around 1200 BCE.

...Phoenicians.

Possibly. Phoenician sailing practices seemed much less dependent upon these kinds of navigational aids, and more upon those provided by nature. However, there are clear instances, such as at Cadiz, where Phoenician temples provided navigational assistance to incoming ships. We might speculate that in Phoenicia this happened well before the Greeks adopted the practice, but it seems to me that the evidence is largely missing.

... Neolithic Peoples

Unlikely, but possible. Recent evidence suggests that Neolithic people set up megalithic signposts. These would have given assistance to navigators in daylight. If fires were lit on top of these (flat) stones then they may have been useful at night too. The use of fire might have been when ships were expected to arrive or depart. Unfortunately, this remains a new theory and much more research is necessary to enhance our understanding.

When we balance the known knowns against the known unknowns, the comparison is heavily weighted in favour of the latter. This is surely the reason for the lack of serious studies of the subject for so many years. Examples of the known unknowns include:

No firm knowledge of the fuels used, whether types or quantities. How efficient were they? How reliable? When they were used?

No knowledge of lighthouse architects, lighthouse engineers or lighthouse keepers. Who were they? What were their terms of reference? Were they supervised?

Few structures are left today, only meagre remains. Why is there so little to study, especially during the Roman period when much use was made of lighthouses? Where foundations can be seen, it is a matter of speculation whether or not they supported lighthouses.

We must rely upon the few relevant observations of ancient authors, many of whom were not actually present.

We know that the earliest Mariners used whatever they could find to help with their navigation. If they saw a light at night and they could recognize its source, then they used it as a beacon to find their direction. Besides the natural sources of light such as the moon, stars and perhaps volcanoes, there were the lights from human activity. Many were shown at random and with irregularity and were therefore useless. However those lights from permanent locations of human activity such as religious locations, temples, villages, and perhaps other fixed locations, could be used on a regular basis to identify the position of a ship at sea relative to the land. All of these light sources were secondary in nature and therefore we cannot truly record these as lighthouses. Having scoured the literature and Google maps for as-yet unidentified lighthouse sites, we must conclude that, before the Pharos was built, there were none. Yet we have just argued that this cannot be true. As far as the wider world is concerned, we must continue to present the case that the Pharos was indeed the first Lighthouse. The counter argument is just too hard to swallow in a journalistic world.

Conventions and Terms

Navigational Aids

For consistency, this series of papers will generally refer to navigational aids using the modern definitions given below and described in Figs. N01 and N02. However, so little is known about many of the structures discussed herein that any distinction between them is often very difficult. We note the following definitions:

Beacon: Any artifact, built or floating, visible or recognizable from a distance, whether by land or sea, that is specifically intended to provide a signal or warning for any purpose not exclusive to navigation.

Navigational aid: Any artifact set up, either in the sea or on land, whether built or floating, with the specific purpose, whether primary or otherwise, of assisting seamen in safe navigation. A navigational aid can be lit or unlit and may or may not have an audible signal. When floating, it is always moored in a fixed position.

Lighthouse: A fully or partially enclosed built structure bearing a light that is used as a navigational aid and that is capable of admitting at least one person who can operate or maintain the light entirely from within.

Lightstructure: A built structure bearing a light that is used as a navigational aid. All lighthouses are lightstructures.

Functional Analysis

Whilst accepting that the use of lighted aids to navigation may have developed incrementally, it is possible to identify three stages of development:

A waterborne craft steers at night towards a fire or other light that:

• IS NOT intended to act as an aid to navigation

(Stage 1);

• IS intended to act as an aid to navigation

(Stage 2);

• IS intended to act as an aid to navigation AND is set on a purposefully-built, elevated platform (Stage 3).

Stage 1:

Would have been possible from the times when fire was first used by hominins (today suggested as around 400 ka ago), together with the first use of waterborne craft. It was opportunistic on the part of the navigators and unplanned by those who lit the fires. This could have been available to any species of homo having fire and the capability of using water-borne transport.

Stage 2:

Could have occurred over a long period of transition after Stage 1. The deliberate maintenance of fires provided a guide to homecoming craft. There is a clear distinction between Stages 1 and 2, for Stage 2 requires a purposeful intent that may have been impossible for species of *homo* other than *homo sapiens*, although we cannot rule out its use by Neanderthals. It is therefore likely that Stage 2 was implemented at about the same time or soon after *homo sapiens* began to travel by water. In the English language, this would commonly be referred to as a beacon.

Stage 3:

Is the point at which the idea of a lighthouse finally emerged as a discrete, built, purposeful structure. It seems to have not occurred until a long time after Stage 2, probably in the second millennium BCE.

All of these significant events in human history remain vague and subject to change as new evidence comes to light. In particular, the placement of Stage 3 into the time-line of Fig. 2-1 is challenging, given the time gap that clearly exists since Stage 2. However, this analysis concludes that the Pharos of Alexandria was the first true lighthouse, rather than simply a Stage 2 lightstructure.

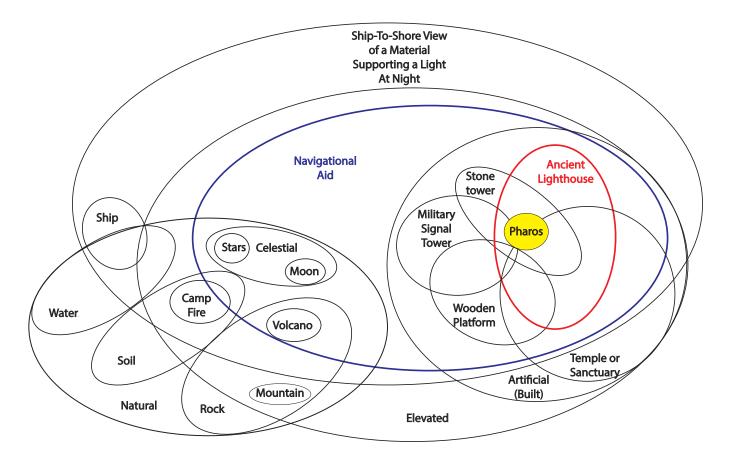


Fig. N01: Ship-To-Shore View at Night. This Venn Diagram illustrates the relevant visual and functional properties of lights viewed at night by mariners as aids to navigation. In particular, the diagram defines the world's first accepted ancient lighthouse.

The diagram applies to night; varying degrees of reflected moonlight have not been included.

Elevated is above ground level on the shore.

Sizes of ellipses and sectors have no significance. Overlap is a visual allusion to shared visual and functional properties.

A volcano is a navigational aid if it is visible at night.

A ship may carry a light but because it moves is not a navigational aid.

A camp or domestic fire can be a navigational aid if it helps a mariner to return to a place from where he departed.

A temple or sanctuary or other altar is by definition elevated and can be considered to be an ancient lighthouse as a secondary function.

The Pharos of Alexandria is the first artificial (built) stone tower that was used as a lighthouse for its primary function. It may also have been used for religious and military purposes, but these were secondary functions.

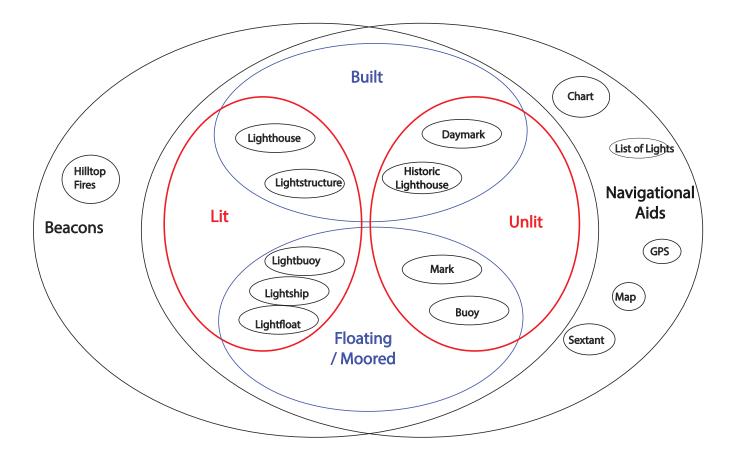


Fig. NO2: A Venn Diagram that considers modern navigational aids in terms of their visual properties.

Those structures that are both lit and built are lighthouses and lightstructures.

A historic lighthouse is unlit.

Time / Years

In these papers, we shall consider events that occurred a very long time ago. The use of BC has in recent years been replaced by the abbreviation BCE, meaning Before the Current Era, where the Current Era is defined as 0. However, if we measure time on a scale that goes backwards from today, the relevant symbol is BP (Before the Present). Whilst it may be more convenient for some readers, the present is undefined and, in print, loses its sense with the passage of time. I intend to use the more natural CE - Current Era - to denote dates that were once referred to as AD. I intend not to use a comma to denote thousands up to ten. Thus, I shall use 3000 BCE, not 3,000 BCE. However, beyond ten thousand I shall use the comma, thus 12,000 BCE.

I may attach BCE to dates that fall into this category, except where the number of years is so large as to make it simpler to use a second system. This method of defining dates complies with the unit of 'thousands of years before the present, where 'thousands of years' is represented by ka. The symbol kya stands for 'thousands of years ago'. Thus 6000 BCE is 8 kya. Dates having no indication of BCE or kya are assumed to be in the Current Era from 0 to 2018. All dates are necessarily approximate, but are in general agreement with current literature.

The Islamic Calendar

Part 5 is about the Pharos of Alexandria, which stood in various forms for some 1600 years. This series of papers covers the period up to around 400 CE, therefore much of the history of the Pharos extends beyond the period covered by this series, and during a period when Egypt was under Muslim government. Dates in the Islamic, Muslim or Hijri Calendar begin in 622 CE.

To Convert Hijri years (H) to Gregorian years (G) we use the formula:

G = H + 622 - (H/33)

This is still not a perfect formula, but is good enough for our purposes. We note also that when years in the Muslim Calendar are given in Gregorian by other authors, they can sometimes be subject to +/- 1. Without precise knowledge of the exact date of an event in history, this error margin must be accepted as inevitable.

Names of People and Places

A number of civilizations and cultures are covered by the contents of this series of papers and so the names of people and places can vary with context. Perfect precision requires a level of detail that becomes cumbersome and renders the text clumsy and difficult to read. I have tried to use a common-sense approach that, on the whole, uses the commonest form and gives alternatives where it seems sensible to do so. Since this is history, I use the ancient name in preference and give the modern name in parentheses. The catalogue of lighthouse and lightstructure sites gives all of the alternatives that I am aware of.

I have used italics for the names of ancient places or terms in non-English languages. Any inconsistency is unintended.

Bibliography

Conventions used

- 1. References are given in the usual format: Smith (2002), p123. Multiple citations having the same author and year are given the suffix a, b, c etc.
- 2. A reference given as Smith (online) has no date if it is continuously updated. Specific information downloaded from the Internet is given a date of download.
- 3. Entries in the Bibliography are considered relevant to the content of this book, but are not necessarily to be found in the references.
- 4. Entries are in alphabetical order of the first author's last name. Unnamed authors are assigned the usual 'Anon'.

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