
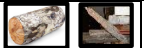










Gunnar Heinsohn (8 September 2014)

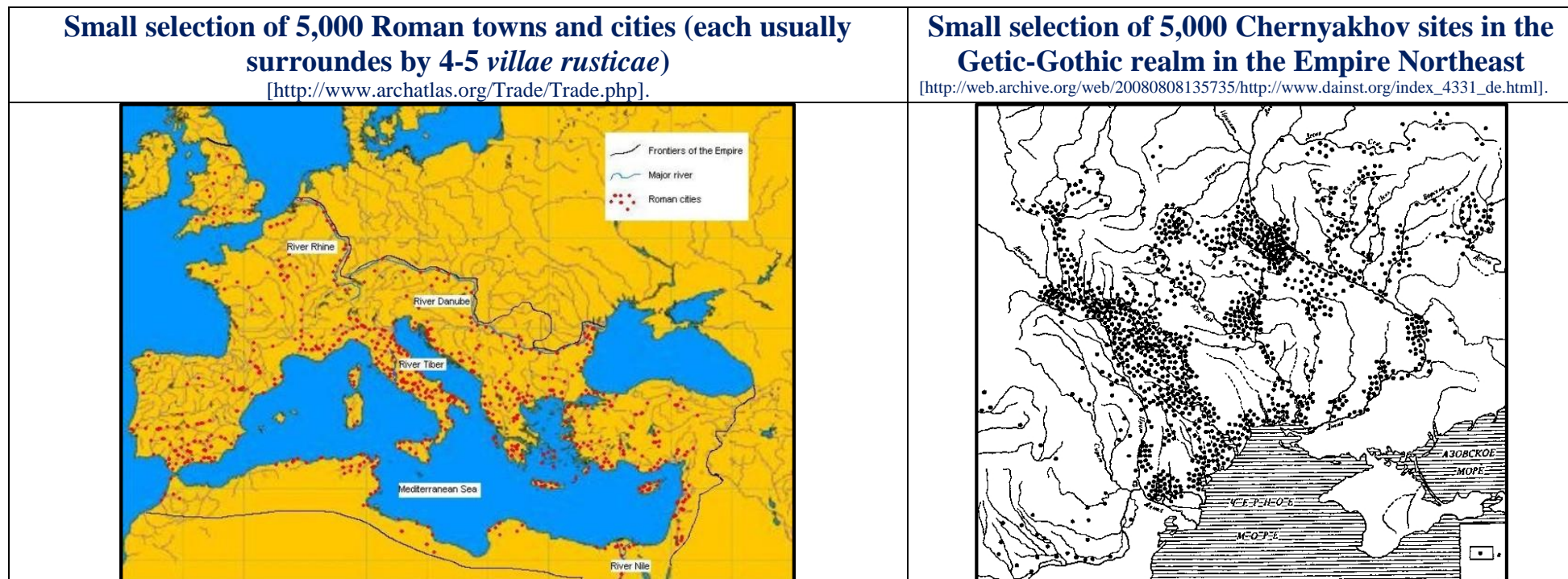
ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATA *VERSUS* BAILLIE’S TREE-RINGS: PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPERIMENT

Tree-ring-daters do not agree on the number of years that can be substantiated for the 1st millennium CE. The majority is convinced that they have 1,000 characteristic rings that prove the 1,000 years required for a millennium, confirmed down to the last second by C14 (see, e.g., Mike Baillie here: http://www.q-mag.org/_media/baillie-dendrochronology-gunnar.pdf). Therefore, they are convinced that scholars living after the year 1000 CE had all the instruments available to construct the chronology from 1-1000 CE as dendro-chronologists find them in their textbooks. The full 1,000 year time-span did not go unchallenged. A minority of painstakingly careful tree-ring-counters is convinced that there are only 782 years between 1 and 1000 CE that can reliably be proven by distinct tree rings (<http://www.cybis.se/forfun/dendro/>). Heribert Illig and his followers have settled for 703 years. Thus, there is no such thing as a dendro-chronological consensus.

First millennium CE site with building strata (with three major catastrophes) containing trees or beams from roofs, bridges, walls, boats etc. ideally required for dendro-chronology or carbon-dating to prove 1,000 or 782 years with on-site material.	
901-1000	 TRACES OF 930s CATAclySM
801-900	
701-800	
601-700	
501-600	 TRACES OF 530s CATAclySM
401-500	
301-400	
201-300	 TRACES OF 230s CATAclySM
101-200	
1-100	




Mainstream dendro-chronologists and dissidents alike, however, fail to inform the public that nowhere in the world has anyone ever discovered a single site that has building strata for a thousand years (intersected by three cataclysms) or for 782/703 years (intersected by at least two cataclysms) respectively, with remains of trees whose rings could be counted and sequenced, and whose organic substance could be carbon-dated. Ideally, the strata of such a site would look as in the table above. All that may be really found, however, are some 300 years with just one cataclysm each (after some 230 years of the 300 year period).

In Europe alone, although there are some 5,000 Roman sites (surrounded by some 20,000-25,000 *villae rusticae*) as well as some 5,000 Chernyakhov sites (of Goths and their allies) to choose from, there is not a single dendro-chronologist or C14-dater anywhere






who has ever put together a 1,000-year-tree-ring-sequence (with traces of cataclysms in the 230s, 530s and 930s) based on wooden material taken from one century after the other out of the same site. There is also no dendro-chronologist or C14-dater anywhere

who has ever put together a tree-ring-sequence of 782 (or 703) years (with traces of at least two of those cataclysms) based on wooden material taken from one century after the other out of the same site. Sites with stratum upon stratum for 703, 782, or even 1,000 thousand years, simply do not exist – not even in Rome, Byzantium or Memphis.

<p>The catastrophe traces (destruction, dark earth, mud, sand etc.) are dated, in different sites, to the 230s, the 520/30s or the 930s. Yet, where settlements continue at all, they are all directly super-imposed by 10th/11th c. ff. strata. Therefore, the preceding strata (ending 230s or 520s) are simultaneous with the strata ending in the 930s. i.e. all sites end catastrophically in the 930s. Therefore, some 700 years of the 1st millennium (230 to 930s) have neither strata nor tree samples for C14 or dendro-chronological dating.</p>		
<p>10th/11th C. STRATA DIRECTLY SUPER-IMPOSED ON 230s CATASTROPHE STRATUM.</p>	<p>10th/11th C. STRATA DIRECTLY SUPER-IMPOSED ON 520s CATASTROPHE STRATUM.</p>	<p>10th/11th C. STRATA DIRECTLY SUPER-IMPOSED ON 930s CATASTROPHE STRATUM.</p>
<p>No building strata 7th/8th c. to 930s</p>	<p>No building strata 7th/8th c. to 930s</p>	<p>7th/8th c. TO 930s STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)</p>  <p>Beginning of period is (unexpectedly) preceded by 1st BCE La Tène strata</p>
<p>No building strata 3rd/4th to 6th c.</p>	<p>3rd/4th TO 6th c. STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)</p>  <p>Beginning of period is (unexpectedly) preceded by 1st BCE La Tène strata</p>	<p>No building strata 3rd/4th to 6th c.</p>
<p>1st TO 3rd c. CE STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)</p>  <p>Beginning of period is (as expected) super-imposed on 1st BCE La Tène strata.</p>	<p>No building strata 1st to 3rd c. CE</p>	<p>No building strata 1st to 3rd c. CE</p>

Since, however, many of the available sites were abandoned for good after the conflagrations that wiped out the Roman Empire the number of cities continuing into the 10th/11th c. CE is considerably smaller. 1st millennium sites from Scandinavia to Mesopotamia that continue after the 930s have a maximum of 230 years (ended by just one cataclysm) between 1 and 930 CE that provide building strata and wooden material for dendro-chronological or carbon dating.

After 930s	All three chronological types of sites (if continuous at all) are contingent with new strata built upon the strata suffering a cataclysm in the 930s (=230s=520s).		
Ca. 700-930: Stratigraphy-based time-span for the three parallel periods separated to obey textbook chronology for the 1st millennium CE constructed by medieval writers with no expertise in geography and astronomy.	1-230s STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)	290s-520s STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)	700-930s STRATA WITH WOOD (END IN CATASTROPHE)
			
	Beginning of period is (as expected) super-imposed on 1st BCE La Tène strata.	Beginning of period is (unexpectedly) preceded by 1st BCE La Tène strata	Beginning of period is (unexpectedly) preceded by 1st BCE La Tène strata

Why, to this very day, have dendro-chronologists nowhere dated the 1,000 years required for the 1st millennium CE with wood material coming from the very site to which they apply their art? Because they cannot do with a human settlement's stratigraphy what they do with a forest's trees. Trees can be taken from many different places and their rings can be turned into sequences of hundreds or thousands of years, which may or may not be agreed upon by the dendro-chronologists' peers. There might even be more disagreement once dendro-chronologists have overcome their habit of behaving like secret sectarians who hide their piecemeal

sequences from the public. Yet, nobody can take strata, let us say, from Milano to fill missing centuries in Rome or vice versa. Such a procedure would, with all due right, be considered unscholarly.

Dendro-chronologists sweep under the carpet the fact that they have no sites anywhere with strata and wooden samples for a full 1,000 years during the 1st millennium CE. They also shelter the public (and themselves) from the most relevant insight that up to the 16th c. nobody could command the geographical and astronomical expertise to calculate a precise chronology for the years 1-1000 (or earlier). We do not have the name of a single scholar living, let us say, in the years 600, 700, 800, or 900 CE who could teach his fellow citizens why they were living in 600, 700, 800 or 900 but not in any other year.

This complete lack of scientific chronological knowledge does not prevent today's scholars from taking at face value the historical narratives filling 1,000 years that have been composed exactly in the time after 1000 CE when geographical and astronomical expertise and instruments were simply non-existent. Thus, dendro-chronologists – but all other daters, too – cannot explain how our textbook chronology, which they try to confirm with their median-building, wiggle-waggle and statistical polishing, was assembled in the first place. They do not comprehend that they are trying to prove as valid a chronology that was put together by medieval men totally lacking the skills to do such a job scientifically because their potential teachers and their laboratories had been wiped out, along with the sites that were destroyed in the conflagration of the 930s (=230s=520s).

Only in the age of excavations did it become obvious that the historical narratives pieced up (after setting a new year 1, labeled 1001) by poorly educated scribes who worked from scraps of evidence on their desks – to fill 1,000 years had much too little stratigraphy to substantiate them. From the 230s (=520s=930s) to 1551, more than 600, really accounted for, years passed before Europe's lost knowledge of how to construct a celestial globus had been regained by Renaissance scholars.

The science of geography had suffered the same abysmal regression before the new beginnings of cartography in the 15th c. CE. Without the ability to precisely locate a position on earth in relation to no less precisely registered movements of celestial bodies in the sky calculations, retro-calculations, and projections of eclipses – so important for a reliable chronology – are impossible.

Our textbook chronology, that modern historians defend like a gospel, was written by clergymen slowly moving out of profound ignorance – a helplessness that was not their fault but was the result of the utter destruction that had been inflicted on our planet. We are still in the process of moving out of that scholarly darkness.

The loss (for more than 600 years) of astronomical expertise in the 930s (=230s=530s) required to make astronomical retro-calculations.

Last known celestial globus of Roman antiquity (150-220 CE; 11 cm diameter)

[<http://www.astronomie-mainz.de/site/index.php?id=dermainzerglobus>].



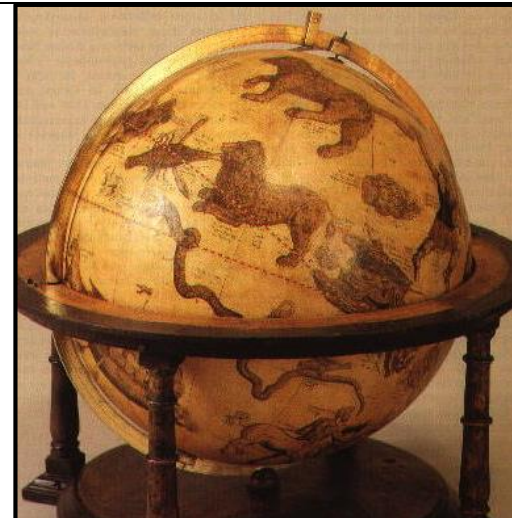
Illustrations on last known celestial globus of Roman antiquity (150-220 CE; 11 cm diameter)

[<http://www.astronomie-mainz.de/site/index.php?id=dermainzerglobus>].



First celestial globus after the Middle Ages (1551) by Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594)

(http://www.wilhelmkruecken.de/LebenWerk/Lw_loewe.htm).















Therefore, dendro-chronologists (1,000-year-mainstreamers and 782-year-dissidents alike) as well as 703-year Illigists would be well advised to introduce future analyses by admitting to their own – and everybody else's – blind spots:

- (1) We have no idea whatsoever how the chronologies for the periods preceding the year 1001 have been made up.
- (2) For the 1st millennium CE we have not a single site with strata for a thousand years that contain carbon-datable tree samples out which one could reconstruct a decade by decade on-site dendro-chronology from 1 to 1000 CE.

If, at the first glance, it may have appeared strange that Mike Baillie tries a rebuttal of a stratigraphical argument by not presenting a more convincing stratigraphical answer but by showing a curve (whose problems will be dealt with separately) completely disconnected from a peculiar human habitat one may better understand now that he could not possibly have come forward with a stratigraphy covering a thousand years because the missing strata I focus upon are, indeed, terribly difficult to come by.

Yet, it would be a pity to simply end the dialogue between strata and tree-rings for good because the elephant in the room (the missing stratigraphy) is strictly avoided by the critics. Therefore, I would like to propose an experiment to test the validity of scientific dating methods and the stratigraphic approach simultaneously. From, let us say, nine different sites (three with building strata textbook-dated 1st-3rd c., three with building strata textbook-dated 4th-6th c., and three with building strata textbook-dated 8th-10th c.) wooden samples can be secured for two points in time from each site (let us say, 1 and 200 CE, 300 and 500 CE, 700 and 900 CE) to be tested – separately, of course – by tree-ring counters and carbon-daters alike.

Experiment for dating (by C14 and dendro-chronology) wooden samples taken from 9 different sites to be given to laboratories whose scholars will be left in the dark as to where the samples came from and what textbook dates they had received.											
3 sites with building strata textbook-dated 1st-3rd c.				3 sites with building strata textbook-dated 4th-6th c.				3 sites with with building strata textbook-dated 8th-10th c.			
Year 200 samples				Year 500 samples				Year 900 samples			
Year 1 samples				Year 300 samples				Year 700 samples			

All participants, for sure, would have to date the specimens received with no idea where they came from or what textbook date was assigned to them. The more C14-labs and dendro-chronological measuring data involved in the test, the better will be its reliability. Such an experiment would be an absolute first in the history of dendro-chronology and C14-dating. Therefore, interested scholars might be eager to take part in it.

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