

Current Events, Original Fiction & General Craziiness

- [HOME](#)
- [Current Events](#)
 - [Archaeology](#)
 - [Astronomy](#)
 - [Crime](#)
 - [Entertainment](#)
 - [Exercise](#)
 - [Fashion](#)
 - [Food](#)
 - [Idiot Politics](#)
 - [Inspirational](#)
 - [Medicine and Health](#)
 - [Nature/Environment](#)
 - [Physics](#)
 - [Science](#)
 - [Technology](#)
- [General Craziiness](#)
 - [Did you know...](#)
 - [Haiku](#)
 - [Is It Just Me?](#)
 - [Random Pictures](#)
 - [Random Videos](#)
 - [Stupid Man Tricks](#)
 - [Why Is This Not Awesome?!](#)
 - [You're doing it wrong](#)
- [Holiday](#)
- [Original Fiction](#)
 - [AnonymousU](#)
 - [Lines](#)
 - [Secrets of The Dark and Divine](#)
 - [The Dawn of Nanohives – afladybug](#)
- [Thoughts of the Day](#)
 - [Fun Historonics](#)
 - [Scenario](#)

Pagan Vikings: 1 Studied Science “Professionals”: 0

Rate This

And I would actually call Studied Scientists "intellectuals", but are they *really*?

They can be just as dumb about some things, can't they?

Take viking navigation by medieval sunstones for example.



You see, apparently there were these pagan, religious idiots (i.e. NOT Science Studied "Professionals") who, thanks to new findings, weren't *quite* as 'idiotic' as once thought...

BY the Science Studied "Professionals".

Now, of course, because science has figured out (*pssst*, it only took them a THOUSAND years cause, hello – THESE guys are smart!) that there might be some truth to that whole *crazy* sunstones concept after all.

Viking sagas may have been more truthful than we realised. Crystal "sunstones" could have helped Viking sailors to navigate even when cloud or fog hid the sun.

Vikings navigated using sundials calibrated to show the direction of the North Pole. While there is no physical evidence for the navigational techniques adopted on cloudy days, there are references in the Viking sagas to "sunstones" being used.



In 1967, Danish archaeologist [Thorkild Ramskou](#) suggested that sunstones may work by creating a pattern of light that revealed the hidden sun's location – although sceptics countered that the method is unwieldy, if not unworkable.

It is only within the last 10 years that Ramskou's theory has been put to the test, and the results, summarised in [Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B \(vol 366, p 772\)](#), **claim to demonstrate that the sunstone method does work in cloudy or foggy conditions.**

Sunstones – translucent crystals of minerals such as calcite – are potentially useful because both they, and the atmosphere, behave like natural [Polaroid filters](#). This means they polarise light, causing its photons to vibrate in only one plane. Crucially for this navigation technique, the atmosphere leaves sunlight polarised in a series of concentric rings centred on the sun.

Pinpoint the sun

It is this pattern that can be detected using a sunstone – at least in theory. **When the crystal is pointed skywards and rotated, the theory goes, the light passing through it progressively brightens and dims, depending on whether the crystal's direction of polarisation is aligned or misaligned with the polarisation rings in the atmosphere. When the two are aligned, the crystal appears at its brightest and points towards the sun – even if the sun is hidden.** Taking two readings at different points in the sky should enable a navigator to pinpoint the sun's position.

Once the position of the sun was established, Ramskou speculated, Viking navigators could hold a lighted torch in the correct position above their sundial, giving them the required shadow reading on the dial.

However, critics say that too little polarised light passes through clouds to take accurate readings using a sunstone. So to settle the dispute, [Gábor Horváth](#) at Eötvös University in Budapest, Hungary, and colleagues studied polarisation patterns under cloudy skies and foggy conditions in Hungary, Finland and within the Arctic circle.

Using a polarimeter, which determines light's angle of polarity, **Horváth's team found that the atmospheric polarity patterns can be detected even under cloudy skies or foggy conditions, suggesting that the Vikings could have made use of them.** The patterns are difficult to detect under completely overcast conditions, however. [[Read More](#)]



Share this:

Share

2011

02/02

POSTED BY

[anguishedrepose](#)

CATEGORY

[Nature/Environment](#)

[Science](#)

[Why Is This Not Awesome?!](#)

TAGS

[calcite](#)

[Crystal "sunstones"](#)

[Eötvös University](#)

[Gábor Horváth](#)

[light that revealed the hidden sun's location](#)

[navigational techniques](#)

[Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B](#)

[polarimeter](#)

[polarise light](#)

[Polaroid filters](#)

[sundials calibrated](#)

[Thorkild Ramskou](#)

[Viking sagas](#)

[Viking sailors](#)

[Write comment](#)

Like Be the first to like this post.

- [Write comment](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [Trackback \(0 \)](#)
- [Comments \(2 \)](#)



1.

- [afladybug](#)
- February 2nd, 2011
- [REPLY](#)
- [QUOTE](#)

They were more aligned with nature then we are and they had more insights into the nature of things that we have . We have better technology but that technology is based on the ancient knowledge . Love the post . I will have to read more tomorrow . 😊



- [anguishedrepose](#)
- February 2nd, 2011
- [REPLY](#)
- [QUOTE](#)

They had to make work what they needed with what they had...And it wasn't a whole lot. I wonder what the people existing will look back on our civilization now and be all like, "Pffft. That's not possible – How stupid could they be!"

Because with every big leap in advancements for civilizations...Its always something.

TrackBack URL

1. No trackbacks yet.

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

You may use these HTML tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <pre> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>



Notify me of follow-up comments via email.

Send me site updates

NO Lull Here!

Hate those lulls in the conversation that result once you've run out of interesting things to say to friends, family or co-workers? Read this blog and they will no longer be a problem! My mission? Is to scour the internet to find you the most interesting and unique things to discuss - Always! I may not be a top blogger on the internet, but I promise you this...I shall ever endeavor to be! That's a fact that can only work out to your benefit. ~ Enjoy!

[RSS FEED](#)



Blog Stats

- 125,315 hits

Nomenclature of Topics

- [Current Events](#) (1233)
 - [Archaeology](#) (14)
 - [Astronomy](#) (46)
 - [Crime](#) (117)
 - [Entertainment](#) (146)

- [Exercise](#) (14)
- [Fashion](#) (29)
- [Food](#) (50)
- [Idiot Politics](#) (80)
- [Inspirational](#) (78)
- [Medicine and Health](#) (37)
- [Nature/Environment](#) (222)
- [Physics](#) (75)
- [Science](#) (266)
- [Technology](#) (170)
- [General Craziiness](#) (1164)
 - [Did you know...](#) (89)
 - [Haiku](#) (2)
 - [Is It Just Me?](#) (63)
 - [Random Pictures](#) (46)
 - [Random Videos](#) (137)
 - [Stupid Man Tricks](#) (211)
 - [Why Is This Not Awesome?!](#) (322)
 - [You're doing it wrong](#) (13)
- [Holiday](#) (64)
- [Original Fiction](#) (24)
 - [AnonymousU](#) (6)
 - [Lines](#) (2)
 - [Secrets of The Dark and Divine](#) (12)
 - [The Dawn of Nanohives – afladybug](#) (2)
- [Thoughts of the Day](#) (109)
 - [Fun Historonics](#) (11)
 - [Scenario](#) (1)

History of Events

February 2011

M T W T F S S

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28

[« Jan](#)

Transformation of Consciousness

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

Intervals of Horrible Sanity



[afladybug](#) on [Amusement ride involving giant...](#)



[afladybug](#) on [“Come hither, because I won’t ...](#)



[anguishedrepose](#) on [A little bit faster now ...](#)



[anguishedrepose](#) on [Welcome to Ilha de Queimada Gr...](#)



[afladybug](#) on [What wouldn’t you d...](#)

Archives



Blog Subscription

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.



Anguished Videos



I say, I say this was NOT an unwarranted attack on his
02

Egypt - Total LACK of collective intelligence!
03

Elephant vs. Mouse - Who would win?
04

Follow me on Vodpod

powered by vodpod

Repose Tweets

- Amusement ride involving giant gators - What could go wrong?: <http://t.co/sZCoj4l> 1 day ago
- Dating is NOT what it used to be!: <http://t.co/JfxTBQe> 1 day ago
- 'The Dolphin Man' Sets Swimming Record!: <http://t.co/yIEpufT> 1 day ago
- "Come hither, because I won't kill you.": <http://t.co/7OgUODs> 1 day ago
- What wouldn't you download?: <http://t.co/Z7alCAe> 1 day ago

While you were sleeping...

- [Disclaimer](#)
- [I'm pretty easy...](#)

Blog Roll

- [Absolute Astronomy](#)
- [Big Hollywood](#)
- [Boing Boing](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [Cracked](#)

- [Daily Mail](#)
- [Daily Rotten](#)
- [Discover Magazine](#)
- [Drew Curtis' FARK.com](#)
- [Drudge Report](#)
- [e! Science News](#)
- [Geekologie](#)
- [Horror Master Classics](#)
- [Hot Air](#)
- [I Haiku](#)
- [InfoNIAC](#)
- [io9](#)
- [LiveScience](#)
- [Lumosity](#)
- [New Scientist](#)
- [newslite.tv](#)
- [Perez Hilton](#)
- [Philosophical Weblogs](#)
- [PhysOrg](#)
- [Popular Science](#)
- [Popurls – the genuine news aggregator](#)
- [RSOE EDIS – Emergency and Disaster Information Services](#)
- [SciCentral](#)
- [Science 2.0](#)
- [Science A GoGo](#)
- [Science News](#)
- [Scientific America](#)
- [Serial Drama](#)
- [Tech Review](#)
- [The Blaze](#)
- [The Literature Network](#)
- [The Onion](#)
- [The Web List](#)
- [The Writer's Journey](#)
- [UPI](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)

Reposed To Watch!

- [Albert Einstein](#)
- [Banned From the Bible I & II](#)
- [Bones](#)
- [Burn Notice](#)
- [Castle](#)

- [Chase](#)
- [Covert Affairs](#)
- [Deadliest Warrior](#)
- [Deadly Women](#)
- [Deranged](#)
- [Dexter](#)
- [Disappeared](#)
- [Fancast Online Videos](#)
- [Fatal Attractions](#)
- [Fringe](#)
- [Ghost Adventures](#)
- [Glee](#)
- [Grey's Anatomy](#)
- [Hardcover Mysteries](#)
- [House](#)
- [Hulu – Watch your favorites anytime](#)
- [Human Target](#)
- [I Love Lucy](#)
- [I Survived](#)
- [Into The Universe with Stephen Hawking](#)
- [Man v. Food](#)
- [Modern Family](#)
- [Most Evil](#)
- [Mythbusters](#)
- [Nikita](#)
- [No Ordinary Family](#)
- [One Life To Live](#)
- [Pinky and the Brain](#)
- [Rizzoli & Isles](#)
- [Sci Fi Science](#)
- [Sons of Anarchy](#)
- [South Park](#)
- [The Closer](#)
- [The Gates](#)
- [The Shift](#)
- [The Walking Dead](#)
- [True Blood](#)
- [Universal Dead](#)
- [Unusual Suspects](#)
- [Who the \(bleep\) Did I Marry?](#)
- [Wicked Attraction](#)

