

Japan as the first colonizer of America

ANTHROPOLOGIST Leon Croizat, who has worked and studied in Venezuela for many years, says there is evidence that Japanese colonizers reached Central and South America as long ago as 5,000 to 7,000 years before the birth of Christ.

From this, in his studies of what he calls "the enigmatic origin of man in America," he reasons that descendants of the earliest Americans "should have some Japanese blood in their veins."

Croizat says the theory is not entirely new. He believes that not only Japanese but other early navigators from that part of the world, including Malaysia, reached the American continents.

"They were good navigators," he says, "possessed an advanced culture, and were apt colonizers."

He says comparisons of Japanese ceramics with artifacts found in the Valdivia area of Ecuador shows they are "an astonishing similarity. The face schemes are almost identical; lines are in equal projections."

Additionally, he told reporters recently, "the inspiration to do different stone works, textiles, pottery, plus the growth of the great political and religious organization of empires such as the Aztecs and Peruvians, could not have come from people other than those of an advanced culture, presumably from the other side of the Pacific."

Studies by Japanese scientists who have traveled widely in Venezuela, Croizat said,

have uncovered definite links between ancient American civilizations and those of Japan. He cited place names, folklore, Indian phonetics, ceremonial dances and traditions in addition to the similarities of handicraft.

Among places named whose origins are lost in antiquity he listed a number in Venezuela that had the look and sound of place names in Japan. Some of them: Aricagua in Venezuela, Arikawa in Japan; Ari in Venezuela, Ari in Japan; Taca in Venezuela, Taka in Japan — and many more of like comparison.

And the list of Indian words that are close to and have the same meaning as Japanese words is long, Croizat said. Listing the Indian phonetic word first, and the Japanese second, he gave these examples: Ava in Indian and Awa in Japanese, meaning water or foam; Ama and Ame, meaning rainwater; Fuya and Fuya, meaning winter; Hebi and Hebi, meaning snake; Jiji and Jiji, meaning grandfather; Koto and Koto, meaning corn bread; Kechin and Kechin, meaning marriage. He had many more.

In 1969, Croizat said, Japanese researchers found near the city of La Victoria, 50 miles from Caracas, a rock on which a steer was painted.

"It was an exact duplicate of a picture which was found in Japan and confirmed to be thousands of years old," Croizat said.

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