

About Don Stewart

Don Stewart is writing about current problems in the Middle East. His analysis revises the chronology of ancient Egyptian history. This revision reduces the dynasties from 26 (3000 BC to 500 BC) to about 8 or 9 (2400 BC to 500 BC). The dynasties come forward in time by 250 years (12th) to 600 years (e.g., 1st and 19th). The revision affects other national histories in the region. The magnitude is in itself a measure of the complexity of the problem. A dynasty placed 600 years outside its proper place within an historical period of 2000 years is an error of magnitude of 30%.

The famous 18th and 19th dynasties are removed from the 2nd to the 1st millennium BC. The 7th to 10th and 13th to 16th are dismissed altogether as being improper dynasties. The latter are based on personalities who left few records. They are better known as Hyksos chieftains that conquered, destroyed government and brought anarchy to Egypt and elsewhere in 1500 BC. They controlled much of the Middle East for nearly 500 years until the Jewish kings Saul and David broke their dominance around 1000 BC.

Today in the region, a similar chaotic situation to 1500-1000 BC exists.

Born in Woking in 1953, Don Stewart attended the Ripley Court Preparatory School. There he developed an interest in history, languages and the Bible. Reared on the history books of R.J. Unstead, Don continued to study the subject all through his professional career.

Taken to New Zealand in 1962, for which Ripley was not particularly preparatory, Don found the education system on the other side of the globe a world away from England's. However, after study at the University of Otago, and graduating in Economics, Federated Farmers of New Zealand invited Don to be their Dominion Dairy Section Officer. Once described as "the most powerful political lobby in New Zealand", the Federation gave Don a unique insight into politics of all kinds. During his stint there (1979-86) the dairy industry began to recover from several debilitating economic disasters. The Dairy Section of the Federation, comprised of hard-working and innovative dairy farmers, worked with the New Zealand Dairy Board and other organisations, to successfully raise the profile of dairying.

In 1986, the Agricultural Attaché of the United States Embassy in Wellington asked Don to help him monitor New Zealand's contribution to world agriculture for the United States' Department of Agriculture (USDA). This gave Don an insight into the workings of another system of Government and another perspective of the problems of world agriculture.

In 1992, partly because of problems with eczema which needed rest and treatment, Don took a sabbatical and travelled to Israel for the first time to investigate the aforementioned problem in ancient world history. After an encouraging meeting with Dr Rudolph Cohen, Deputy Director of the Israel Department of Antiquities, Don was convinced that the problems first raised by Dr Immanuel Velikovsky in the 1960's had to be exposed. However, with his political experience behind him, he realised that vested interests would impede any serious review of this false chronological framework of the Egyptologists.

In early 1993, Don returned to New Zealand. Policy Director Mike Doig, and later the Chief Scientist Don McGregor, contracted Don to work for the New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. His first project was to undertake a survey of policy measures to encourage innovation in a group of OECD countries. This led to work for APEC on the same subject and a second survey for that group of nations. Other projects for the Ministry included an analysis of submissions considering sustainable agriculture and a survey of departmental compliance with Cabinet Office rules to consult the Science Ministry on scientific content of advice to the Government. The latter proved to be controversial. The results revealed how poorly governments are advised on scientific matters, especially by individual government departments failing to properly peer-review their submissions. The process has not improved as current debates on Global Warming are proving.

In 1998, attracted by an interesting business idea and to do something a bit different, Don began to develop a small tourism venture which he continued for a couple of years until asked to take on the custodianship of the Jewish Community Centre. This opportunity arose out of his interest in the local Jewish Community which had a longstanding presence in the European city of Wellington from the very first days (1843).

In 2002, Don returned to Europe, Israel and the United States to promote his thesis that Queen Sheba was the famous Queen Hatshepsut of the 18th dynasty. Building on Dr Velikovsky's work, and comparing the construction of her temple with Biblical information about Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, Don realised that "Hatshepsut" translated as "The Sign of the Sheba of the South". He prepared a synopsis of two books that re-write the history of the 18th and 19th dynasties within the new chronology. However, after more obstruction from academics who refused to discuss the thesis, either citing the need to read "excavation reports" before commenting or saying the matter lay outside their areas of expertise, Don returned to New Zealand to re-evaluate his strategy. Visiting Dunedin, he stumbled across a set of William Flinders Petrie's excavation reports of Memphis (Egypt) 1908-14, in a stack at the University of Otago Library.

Studying the reports, Don realised that Petrie, without himself realising it, had actually discovered the twin cities of "Pithom and Raamses". In the Bible (Exodus 1:11), the ancient Israelites built them. By re-arranging syllables to reflect errors in the original transliterations which had inverted the hieroglyphic sounds for Pi-T-H-M (or Pithom) instead of M-P(i)-T_H (Semitic "Memphit" or Greek "Memphis"), Don realised "Memphis" was "Pithom". A dictionary of hieroglyphs revealed that *Heri P-Temai* had once been a "suburb" of Memphis, thus adding more evidence to this significant connection. More significantly, it seemed from a careful analysis of the Hebrew language and semantics, that the cities were not contemporaneous. Even more significantly, the excavations revealed two ancient cities separated by many centuries lying virtually one (the first city) on top of the other (or last city). Enslaved Israelites (Jews) built "Pithom" for the 12th dynasty pharaoh Amenemhat III (in 1500 BC). But *emigre* and refugee Jews built "Raamses" during the period of the Ramesside kings in the late 7th century BC. On these huge errors rest modern confusion about the Middle East. Correcting them is currently Don's main pre-occupation.

Don Stewart, London, January 2007.