

The Newport Tower: Another Viewpoint

By William Smith



3D image program available at
(http://www.photospherix.com/flash_client.asp?id=np_0000_out)

Who

Henry the Navigator founded the school for navigation in 1419 in Portugal. He became the highest order of The Knights of Christ and is said to have been a knight during the crusades at an early age. Much technological advancement that originated in Arabia was brought to his school. Among these were the skills and tools to measure magnetic declination with a lodestone compass, the design of the caravel ship and the v rock formation to catch fish at low tide. One of many students that learned navigation at Henry's School was Joao Vaz Corte Real.

In 1472 Joao Vaz Corte Real, a Portuguese nobleman with nautical skills and experience in the cod fishing industry and holding a high office in The Knights of Christ met with King Alfonso VI of Portugal and Danish King Christian I of Denmark in the city of Sagres, Portugal for a joint treaty to explore the unclaimed lands to the west as far as the eye could see (90 degrees to the west), in the name of Portugal and establish a joint venture in the cod fishing industry. The Kings mothers were sisters from the house of Lancaster of England.



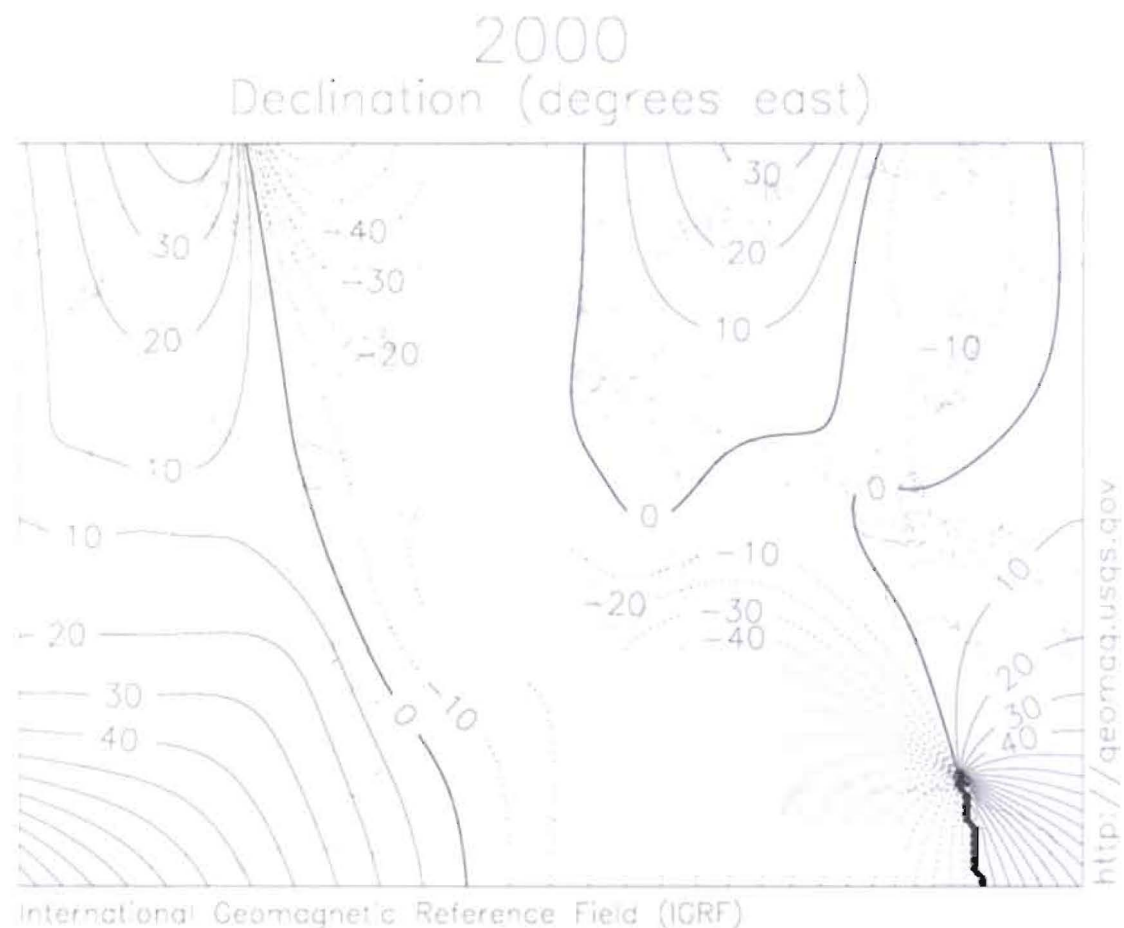
Rose wheel and sun dial in Portugal at the school of Henry the Navigator. The location of this school in 1419 was near the zero magnetic declination line. 42 spokes in the wheel could represent 36 longitude lines, 4 direction lines and 2 agonic lines.

Who (cont.)

Three Danish ships whose pilots were two Germans, Pining and Pothorst and one Norwegian, Johan Scolp were to be led by Joao Vaz Corte Real.

After their return in the same year 1472, Pining was made Governor of Iceland, Pothorst was made Governor of Frisian Islands, Johan Scolp became a noted geographer and Joao Vaz Corte Real was given Governorship of Terceira in the Azores. The Regal Treaty made in Sagres, Portugal also gave Joao Vaz Corte Real Governorship of all new unclaimed lands to the west as far as the eye could see.

Note: 90 Degrees west of Sagres, Portugal is the magnetic declination line that goes from Kensington, Minn. To Kansas City, Mo. Then on to Heavener, Oklahoma.



Magnetic declination lines drift to the east about 50 miles per 100 years. This allows the use of a magnetic declination calculator to estimate the age of ancient sites that were located using this technology.

Where? (Terra do Bacalhau) (Wikipedia)

(Land of The Cod)

When the Native Narragansett Indians were asked of their first encounter with Europeans they replied as follows.

They came up Narragansett bay on the backs of large white birds that seem to have one wing held high in the air.

The early Caravel ship of the Portuguese design was designed to sail into the wind. Its width to length was a one to three ratio. It had an average crew of 22 and designed to carry maximum cargo of 30 Ton, at the maximum speed.



http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Caravel_Boa_Esperanca_Portugal.jpg

Courtesy of The Brazillian Navy



The best location that meets the needs of the cod fisherman must have A safe harbor, Fresh water, Food, Building materials, and cod fish.

Touro Park in Newport, Rhode Island

(WHAT) - Building The Newport Tower



2008 photo ws1 (looking north)

All measurements are reported in inches, The builder likely used the Scottish or Dutch EL. One yard is equal to the distance from the nose to the outstretched index finger. 37.25 in.

Tower height - 28 ft. or 9 EL

Tower dia. (see note) 24.5 ft. or 8 EL

Note: The east west dia. Is about one ft. longer than the north south dia. On the outside and just the opposite on the inside. This makes the east and west walls thicker in order to support the upper structure load and adjust for the longer day at the latitude of 41 degrees for the clock function of the sun light entering the south window and showing time of day on the inner north wall.

Tower circumference - 76.93 ft. or 25 EL

Tower average wall thickness (3ft at bottom, 1 ft. at top) or 2 ft.

Tower cu. ft. of stone (28x75.36x2) 4,220 cu. ft

Est. Stone weight in the tower 253,000 lbs.

Est Load on each column is 31,625 lbs.

Est ground load is 31.08 lbs/sq.in.

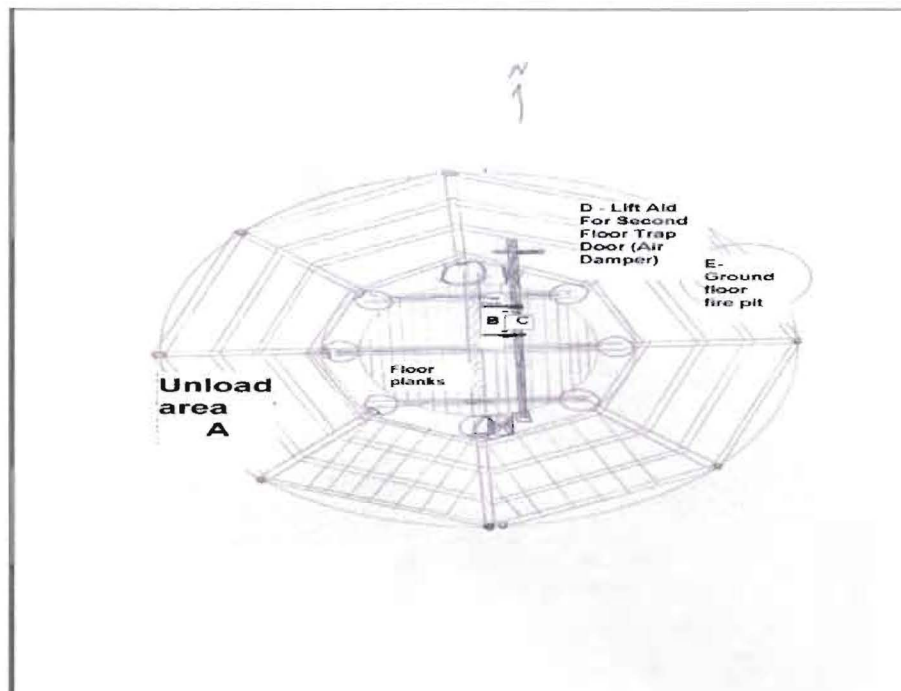
This supports the large base stones under each column

The orientation of the columns in relation to true north indicate the north column is 3 degrees west of true north. I feel this was pre-planned to allow the sun light entering the south window and cast its light at mid day through a north south opening in the second story floor and onto the ground surface. This would function as a calendar as the light moved from the center of the tower on the longest day of the year and to the exterior about 9 ft. north of the tower on the shortest day of the year. William Penhallow brought this to my attention in 2008.

(WHAT) - Building The Newport Tower cont.

After the 8 column base stones were in place each column was built to a height of 7 ft. where a cap stone was installed to generate a ledge on the column exterior for support of an outward roof beam of an atrium to be added later. Above this same column capstones are the eight pockets to support the floor Joyce for the second floor. The north and south column floor pockets are lower by 10 in. than the other six floor beam pockets which indicate the north south floor beam was under the three east west floor beams. The top of the east west beams place the floor planks of the second story 4 EL's or (12 ft 6 in.) from the ground and running in a north south alignment.

Once the floor beams for the second story floor were in place the archways were added that connect each column. The top of each of the eight archways are below the second story floor, however above the outer ledge supports for the atrium roof which is a key in the central heating of the finished tower by allowing an open air gap below each archway to exhaust residual smoke.



The fire pit at the north east could have generated central heating for the entire structure. Living area inside the Atrium is about 1200 sq. ft. (not including inside of tower)

A soil sample tested at Michigan State University indicated a significant difference in salt content at the unload area A outside the tower where barrels of processed fish were likely sealed with fresh water and excess cod liver oil soaked the ground. Test for salt readings pts/000 (Area A 0.19, Area north 0.38, Area east 0.36, Area south 0.39). It is likely cod liver oil removed the salt from the ground at area A.

(WHAT) - Building The Newport Tower cont.

This conception includes items reported by The Chronognostic Research Foundation; however it is not to imply they are in agreement with all items in this report. In 2008 the foundation reported two 14 in. wooden post located about 12 ft. from two of the eight columns. These posts were about 2.5 ft. into the ground. During excavation of one of the holes at a depth of 2 ft. a small stone was found that when tested was very high in iron content and appeared to have been exposed to heat on one side. This stone was analyzed at the University of Arizona and said to be native of the R.I. area. In addition a large area toward the north east contained evidence of a fire pit.

This stone may have been used in a lodestone compass for alignment during construction and the ground level fire pit used for central heating.

The atrium roof supports would rest on the column ledges and on top of 14 in. diameter post located 12 ft. from each column. The height of the inside of the Atrium would be about 7 ft. The roof of the atrium would make an exterior work access to operations on the second floor.

The upper stone walls of the tower contain many features that may explain the activities of the second and third story areas. These are listed below.

- 1- A beam four feet above the floor running from the small pocket east and below the south window ran to the north and extended through the north wall. This beam could have provided a mechanical lift aid for opening and closing two trap doors in the floor running north and south. These doors could have been operated from the inner platform on the north wall or from the outer atrium roof north of the tower. In addition to allowing access to the second floor, they could control air circulation.
- 2- A shallow fire place 3 ft. above the second story floor on the east side of the tower has two flu's which can be controlled from the outside atrium roof, allowing the fireplace to generate smoke inside the upper area.
- 3- The south window is to allow sun light into the room for working at the table west of the window. This window also allows light to function as a clock on the north wall or a calendar at mid day when it would shine through the trap doors to the ground floor.
- 4- The east window allows access to the fireplace during smoking operations and has evidence of grooves that supported a sliding door.
- 5- The west window is the unload window and it's upper sill is designed as an arch to spread the load generated by a lift aid beam that was located near the top of the tower. This beam ran from a small opening on the north east side of the tower and extended over the atrium at the west window.
- 6- The grooves in the south and north walls two feet above the second and third floor could be to hold one end of rods for processing produce for shipment.
- 7- The upper 4 beam pockets would support a loft running in the east west direction. This area could have been used for additional processing capacity.
- 8- A small window at the south east top of the tower allows sun light to shine on the inner oval keystone located in the north west archway (confirmation as to what day

(WHAT) - Building The Newport Tower cont.

and time this occurs is still under study) Until confirmed we will use this window for an oil lamp to guide the returning cod fisherman home.

9- A recess area next to fireplace could have stored wood chips for burning or fire starting tools. (Many pieces of flint were found at the tower).

10- Other nooks in the walls could have been used to store hand tools, tobacco, oil lamps or other needs for the operation of this facility.

11- The walls were plastered with mortar for improved sanitary and air movement.

12- Stones with rune letters and holes exist in this area, the tool marks and runes are similar to the markings on the Kensington Rune Stone,

13- Salt ponds and stone V shape fish traps are near the Tower.

14- A Portuguese rock shooting canon of the mid 1300s was found near this site.

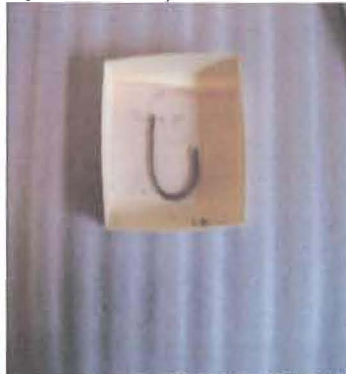
15- The roof of this tower likely had 15 roof trusses extending beyond the tower walls to form a lunar clock with 30 windows for determining the position of the moon and its effect on the 2 ft. high and low tides for tending the fish traps.

16- The est. building time of the tower would take 17 men 78 days at 10hrs/day. This includes the wood atrium.

Artifacts below are from the 1948 Godfrey dig at the tower (Maintained by The Newport Local Historical Society Museum)



Compass Needle



Fish Hook



Jar Lid? Compass Body



Knife 1 of 5



Cleaver



Barrel stay tool

(WHAT) - Building The Newport Tower cont.



Fisk Bones



Cod fish (Wikipedia)



Magnus 1555-1447

WHEN – Was the Tower Built



The small triangle stone located at the top of the exterior of the tower 17 degrees or 3.5 ft. west of true north may be the signature of the builder. It may represent trinity and one of the strong beliefs of the Knights of Christ.

Its location of 17 degrees west of true north may be another way to date the construction of the tower using magnetic declination.

Today the magnetic declination at the Newport Tower located at latitude 41.29 N and longitude 71.18 W is 14.42W

If the 17 degrees was reading of the magnetic declination at the time of the towers construction and the magnetic deflection lines move east at a rate of 50 miles per 100 years. We need to use a magnetic declination calculator and at the same latitude of 41.29 go east until we find 17 degrees magnetic declination. This distance divided by 50 X100 gives us an estimated age of the tower of 1472.

The 1996 report by Heinemeier and Junger shows 3 carbon test dates that average 1463 and 3 that average 1663. All testing was of mortar from the tower. Note: the tower was repaired due to a powder explosion during the colonial period.

The Process

- The cod fish would have been caught in the ancient fish traps made of stone V structures that still exist in Narragansett Bay by netting them at low tide.
- The fish would have been field dressed, saving the waste for use as trap chum, the cod liver oil for paint additive, especially on the canvas sails, medical use and a sealant for the smoked fish.
- The meat of the cod would be placed on rods about eight feet long and attached by penetrating the vertebra of the fillet. (5 to 6 fish per rod)
- At the smoke house the fish would be dipped into a solution of hot salt water and cod liver oil over a fire located on the east side of the tower at ground level. (This fire also provided central heat for the tower)
- The rod of fish would have been lifted through the trap door to the second floor smoking area by the aid of the lift aid and placed in position for smoking. (note: one end of the rod would be placed in the 2 in. wall groove still present on the inner walls about 2 ft. above floor level)
- A smoldering wood chip fire would be made in the second floor shallow fire place with hot wood chips covered with green wood chips to avoid an open flame.
- The door and windows would be closed, allowing the smoke to crystallize the cod liver oil and salt water on the fish in order to seal the meat. The smoking process would take about 10 hours at (less than 90 F).
- After smoking, the windows opened and room clear of smoke, the fish fillet would be stripped from the rod and placed in a wooden barrel at the stripping table. The barrel of fish was moved out the west window to the ground with the aid of the overhead lift.
- On the ground the barrel of fish would be filled with fresh water and capped. It would remain in this staging area until the wood expanded and sealed the barrel for shipment or storage.
- The consumer would place the fish in warm water, allowing the cod liver oil to liquefy and float to the surface. The fish would be removed from the water and prepared in the same manner as fresh fish at the choosing of the cook.
- Special thanks to THOR members.
 - Dr. Manual DaSilva (Author - Columbus was Portuguese)
 - Dr. Richard Nielsen (Author, Engineer and researcher)
- William Smith

Summary

This report is an engineer's explanation of the five Ws of the Newport Tower located in Touro Park in Newport, Rhode Island, USA.

Who – It was likely built by the Portuguese (Goths) and Dutch (Norwegians), many of which were skilled Masons or members of The Knights of Christ. Led by (Joao Vaz Corte Real)

Where – It was built on the 41.30 latitude north and 71.20 longitude west on the east coast of Vin-Land. Today known as Touro Park, off Bellevue Avenue in Newport Rhode Island. Thanks to the City of Newport and the Newport Historical Society we are able to enjoy the beauty and mystery of this ancient structure

What - It was constructed using materials from the local area which consisted of stone, wood and mortar made of sea shell sand and oil mix. It was constructed with proven technology and alignment skills understood by the builders. It would require 17 men working 78 days to complete the structure. It was built using the Scottish Ell (37.25 in./unit).

When – It was likely built in 1472 at the same time the builders were making land claim identified in the (Regal Treaty) to their new discovered Vin-Land. This land claim was identified as all the unclaimed land as far as the eye could see (90 degrees west of Segres, Portugal).

WHY - To provide living quarters for the fisherman in the cod fishing industry as well as processing fish, telling time of day, function as a calendar, predict the tides, base station for a lunar compass, light house and even shows evidence of making clay pipes and drying tobacco.

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