

**Comments of leading scientists regarding the article Iconography, Science and Lightning Figures published in Australian Aboriginal Studies (AAS) December 2012.**

6 February 2013

Dear Dr. Ploum,

Thank you so much for kindly sending me a copy of your publication. (Given my discipline, it is unlikely I would have seen it otherwise!).

I find the results fascinating and thought provoking.

I recently gave a lecture on the history of sprite observation in which I recalled seeing a poster at an American Meteorological Society meeting about ten years ago in which an Australia scientist (I simply can't remember who it was) said they had searched for evidence of sprite sightings in aboriginal lore. They felt they did not find any.

I presume that was not your poster.

And I am very interested in you results.

I agree that in the very brightest sprites, in pre-industrial dark skies, could be noted by attentive observers. How they processed the observations, of course, is the big mystery.

BTW: You mentioned that sprites come in several colors: red, white, green, etc. The sprites are always red (with some blue in the tendrils.) They are, however, perceived in a variety of colors depending upon the observer. I have terrible eyesight, but see them in their true color. But associates of mine perceive them as white or green.

Note that elves are simply too brief to be detectable by the human eye. However, a new class of events, Gigantic Jets, are extremely visible and long lasting. These are quite distinct from blue jets. I suspect many visual sightings in Australia may also include Gigantic Jets.

And thank you referencing our web site. It is the route by which we are trying to alert many potential users of late-breaking scientific discoveries using video and imagery.

Regards,

Walter Lyons

Walter Lyons, Ph.D., CCM

FMA Research, Inc.

46050 County Road 13

Fort Collins, CO 80524

970-897-2690

[walt.lyons@FMA-Research.com](mailto:walt.lyons@FMA-Research.com)

[www.WeatherVideoHD.TV](http://www.WeatherVideoHD.TV)

.....  
Walter Lyons <walyons@frii.com>

Dear dr. Lyons, dear Walter

It has been a while since our last communication in which you wrote that you were very interested in my work.

I send you this e-mail with the concept of an article in which I argue that some of the known Barrier Canyon Style rock art as well as some aspects of the American thunderbird iconography are related to naked eye observations of some TLE's

I write this mail to you in order to hopefully hear your comments. If you think it is worthwhile to elaborate it for publication, would you please be so kind and give me green light at least for my TLE arguments.

I also send you this mail because I of the inspiration you gave me through your TLE pioneer research. I hope that one day, you and your institute are remembered as the ones who stood at the base of the deciphering of some enigmatic ancient American Indian Rock art.

I am open for ideas to cooperate with you and your institute in order to get the attention my work might deserve

Best regards

Albrecht Ploum

4 february 2013

Dear Albrecht Ploum,

thank you very much for the very interesting article. It is truly fascinating.

Torsten

Torsten Neubert,  
Head of Department of Solar System Physics National Space Institute, Technical University of  
Denmark (DTU Space) Elektrovej 327, 2800 Kongens Lyngby  
+45 4525 9731 office; +45 4525 9502 secretary; +45 4525 9575 fax

.....  
3 february 2013

-----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

Van: [Ray.Norris@csiro.au](mailto:Ray.Norris@csiro.au) [<mailto:Ray.Norris@csiro.au>]

Verzonden: zondag 3 februari 2013 23:25

Aan: [albrecht.ploum@gmail.com](mailto:albrecht.ploum@gmail.com)

Onderwerp: Re: publication AAS

Dear Albrecht

Many thanks for your mail and congratulations on getting your paper published in AAS. This is a valuable addition to the literature, with an interesting idea which is worth pursuing.

Thanks for your congratulations - now we start all the hard work!

Cheers

Ray

Ray Norris is well known for his work on Aboriginal Astronomy, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Dept. of Indigenous Studies at [Macquarie University](http://www.mq.edu.au) His work has featured in many radio and TV programs, including ABC TV's "Message Stick" and ABC Radio National's "The First Astronomers" In August 2009 he featured in a two-man *The First Astronomers* show with Wardaman elder Bill Yidumduma Harney at the Darwin Festival.

.....

29 January 2013

Dear Albrecht,

Thanks a lot for sending the wonderful article you wrote.

Yes, when I was young. We often stay outdoor to cool off during the hot summer nights. However, the location where I grew up did not have an open view to the horizon. Otherwise I may have witnessed a few sprites with my eyes. So it is not hard to imagine that the aboriginal people may have such encounters with these natural phenomena.

Again, thanks and with best regards.

Han-Tzong

-----  
Han-Tzong Su,  
Department of Physics & NCKU ISUAL Team National Cheng Kung University, Tainan 70101, Taiwan  
E-mail: [htsu@phys.ncku.edu.tw](mailto:htsu@phys.ncku.edu.tw)  
Web\_page: <http://www.phys.ncku.edu.tw/~htsu/>  
ISUAL\_home: <http://sprite.phys.ncku.edu.tw/>  
Phones: +886-6-2757575 ext. 65248  
FAX: +886-6-2096035

.....  
16 January 2013

Hoi Albrecht,

Dat is heel goed nieuws en het ziet er fantastisch goed uit! Ik ga het aan sommige collega's sturen die het interessant zullen vinden!

*In English: That's very good news and the article looks great! I'll forward it to some of my colleagues who will be interested.*

groeten!  
Oscar

~~~

Photography of Lightning & Sprites  
<http://www.lightningwizard.com>  
Convective Weather Maps  
<http://www.lightningwizard.com/maps>

European Storm Forecast Experiment  
<http://www.estofex.org>

Dr. Oscar van der Velde,  
Meteorologist, Electrical engineering department of the technical university of Catalonia, Spain.