

## GLOZEL. NEW ARCHEOLOGICAL AND LINGUISTIC INTERPRETATIONS

All throughout antiquity and until quite recent times, man has chosen specific geographical locations in which to establish cult centres and to be in mystic communication with his deities. These centres, often near sources of water, forests or mountains, were places of veneration, divination and esoteric study which remained in use for many centuries. Such were Stonehenge, Delphi and Dodona, the Dictean Cave, to name only a few. Such, I believe, was Glozel. Populated since the Paleolithic, by a succession of highly creative ethnic groups, Glozel was ostensibly once a cult and worship centre of wide prestige, as evidenced by the nature of the finds made at this and surrounding sites. Beyond the stone statues, idols of Vinça type and engravings on bone...dating from the Magdalenian to the Dark Ages... there are the numerous, magnificent clay tablets, incised in a precise almost alphabetic script, as yet unsatisfactorily deciphered. In my opinion as an archeologist, prehistorian and linguist, a considerable part of the failure to unravel the mysteries of the Glozel Tablets is due to the fact that few scholars have combined various scientific disciplines such as comparative linguistics, paleoepigraphy, iconography and archeology in order to determine the precise origins, contexts and influences of Glozelian culture. No civilization is an isolated phenomenon. All cultural manifestations have origins and phases of development. These origins must be identified before we can hope to decipher and truly understand the Glozel Tablets.

Today, more and more specialists are becoming convinced that the birthplace of writing is EUROPE, not Sumer or Egypt. It is extremely important to reflect upon the fact that the most ancient writing systems are associated with cult places and sanctuaries, for example, Vinça, Tordos, Valcamonica, Glozel. The Glozel Tablets may be religious documents...perhaps among the oldest of their kind. Certainly, considering the setting of these tablets...inside a type of shrine, in which cult talismans from many different periods of time seem to have been carefully stored...we would not expect the Glozel Tablets to be scribal records, as at Mycenae, Pylos and the ancient Anatolian cities.

In 1999, following a lengthy period of research in the field, I presented a text called RECONSIDERING CHALCOLITHIC PREHISTORY, concerning the roots of writing in the Danubian region...the so-called OLD EUROPEAN or VINÇA/TORDOS scripts, which had direct offshoots in Lombardy (the Valcamonica petroglyphs) and the Aegean (Linear A and B). Since that time, my further research has revealed the links between the Danubian Linear script and many other ancient forms of writing, including that of Glozel. Now, I have previously demonstrated the existence of 2 principal script systems in the Danubian/Balkan areas, starting ca. 6000 B.C. These are the curvilinear type, common at Vinça and in Bulgaria, associated with PreIndoeuropean peoples, and the linear/angular type, prevalent in Romania and Hungary, representing almost certainly an Indoeuropean language. The first type soon became extinct, whereas the second was to have an exceptionally long life, eventually giving birth to the Minoan/Mycenaean and derived scripts, and a great many others, including the Valcamonica petroglyphs which bear a remarkable affinity. Now, if the original ProtoDanubian phonetic system was identical to that of Valcamonica, Mycenae, Glozel, then I believe we would have the key to deciphering quite a number of Danubian derived scripts. (I HAVE ALREADY TRANSLATED, IN PART, THE VALCAMONICA INSCRIPTIONS). At present, I am comparing ProtoDanubian and Glozel signs, applying ProtoDanubian phonology to these latter. If the words resulting from this transliteration prove to be consistently understandable in an Indoeuropean context, then we may safely assume that the language of the Glozel Tablets is IE, derived from the Danubian/Valcamonica/Mycenaean group which I have already shown to represent IE languages. Let it be understood, however, that the paleoepigraphic research which I am undertaking at this moment is still in its initial phases. Only a careful, intensive comparison and transliteration of all the Glozel Tablets can establish whether they are written in an IE language or not.