
This story from behind the curtain of modern science was posted to the 700+ members of the
"History of Astronomy Discussion Group" HASTRO-L@listserv.wvu.edu

By Rumén K. Kolev on June 14th 2011.

Everyone may be joyous!

I was away for long time.
But now I am back with some good stories!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me present you with:

KOCH JOHANNES, NABU & THE ASTROLABE

*** A story of Assyriology and stars from
'behind the curtain' of modern science ***

(The Argument on the Age of the Astrolabe in N.A.B.U. 2010.2 and 3.)

Part I

by Rumén K. Kolev, the 11th of Simanu, 2011 (14th of June)

WARNING: This is a story as told on the market by a story-teller. A hat waiting for donations is in the center of the circle. Anyone who stops by to hear the story may be asked for a contribution. (what will be the contribution will be revealed in the second Part of the story). copyright: The StoryTeller

It was in 2008 when rumours spread that astronomical information from 5,500 BC has been found in the path-positions of the Astrolabe stars.

A research presented by me on the Melammu VI symposium proved mathematically the very basis of the existence in Mesopotamia in prehistoric times of An Ancient Mesopotamian Philosophy (Weltanschauung , World-View) that the pan-Babylonians, like the great scholar in Mesopotamia Alfred Jeremias, strove to recreate.

(for more on this story, check and recheck these days and weeks at www.babylonianastrology.com as I will be soon uploading new materials. The MELAMMU VI volume is in print at Max Planck Institute in Berlin. May the spirits of the pan-Babylonians rejoice in their celestial abodes!)

So, for 2 years, the data and the full research on the 5,500 BC dating of the Astrolabe, was in the hands of virtually all 10 or 20 world specialists in the arcane field of Babylonian Astronomy...

It was in the spring of 2010 when finally, someone from among the well-known specialists in Babylonian Astronomy decided to say something!

It was Koch Johannes.

The 'German expert in Babylonian Astronomy' pronounced what he thought on the story of the 'Story-Teller' whom he, mistakenly so, several times called the 'Astrosoph aus Varna'.

And indeed, we should hear also the opinion of all other experts.....

Most of them, the 'Astrolabe-experts' like Wayne Horowitz, Herman Hunger or Maria Casaburi, for sure will pretend to know nothing until the very publication of my research in Melammu VI...

Then it will be the 'Reckoning Day' coming for many.

To return to our Koch Johannes, he published in NABU 2010.2 his First Article on the 5,500 BC dating of the path-positions of the stars in the Astrolabe.

He made a model with 3 stars and computed their path-positions.

These were Sirius, Alphard, and Antares.

This model Koch Johannes put up against my model with 2 stars (The Pleiades and Pollux).

Here, Koch made something that I do not quite understand.

He behaved as if he did not know about my model with 27 stars...!

And in fact it was in the fall of 2008 when I sent him my whole research that I presented on the Melammu VI symposium.

Why did Koch pretend as if he did not know nothing about this?

Why build a stupid model with 3 stars when we know what are the results of the 27-stars-model!?

I do not understand this.

It seems that I put too high hopes in his sincerity and scholarly manhood.

Koch should have accepted the inevitable mathematical fact.

Instead he decides to play mouse-and-cat with his model with 3 stars.

Who is the mouse, though, is quite known.

It is Koch!

Then I wrote my answer to the first article of Koch Johannes.
It was published in NABU 2010.3:

THE REAL AGE of THE BABYLONIAN ASTROLABE. In NABU.2010.2:46 pp. 53-56 Johannes Koch- a scholar from Rothenburg Germany, known for his publications regarding the Babylonian Astronomy and Astrology, attempts to refute the irrefutable, id est

Here I built a model with 8 stars.

I put together my 2 stars and the 3 stars of Koch- something that Koch should have done himself in his very first article- instead of opposing the results of two models with 2 and 3 stars !

(The STATISTICIAN will understand here the whole 'madness' of Koch. It is like taking out 5 fishes from the sea and separating them in 2 groups: One with 3 and another with 2.

Then measuring their average length and arguing against the result of the 2-fish sample !!! Lunacy !)

I put all 5 fishes in one group and then added 3 more...

(Sadalmelik, Altair and Procyon)

Then I computed their path-positions from 10 000 BC to 10 000 AD.

The data is in the article.

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In NABU 2010.3 THOUGH, KOCH JOHANNES came up with his second article on the Astrolabe.

The journal was late to be printed and - I think- came out in the end of 2010.

I was busy with things other than science and it was in the spring of 2011 when I learned that finally the so long awaited second article of Koch came out in light !

I immediately ordered it and it was the moment of Truth when I finally had it with trembling hands !

I wanted to see whether my conclusions will stand up to the intellectual titanic reasoning power of Koch.

(Koch has informed me with private email that his second article will be detailed and strong and runs contrary to my conclusions...)

Or has Koch noticed something that will really destroy all my conclusions for the 5,500 BC layer of information in the Astrolabe !?

I know Koch by his articles and books and I respect his mathematical abilities and his great age too. The guy went to first grade and started school when Hitler took power in 1933 and Koch has been 19 years old when Hitler pulled the trigger in his bunker in Berlin.

The guy definitely has sung songs dedicated to Hitler as I sang songs dedicated to Georgi Dimitrov and Lenin !

Koch is someone to count ! He is old and very smart. He does not care for career. He is not afraid.

In such mood I read his second article.

The big question for me was what has Koch found out since 2008 when he first read my research.

It was on the very first page of his second article that I noticed something strange.

Koch ascribed to me that I find the azimuths of the boundaries between the paths by the azimuths of the heliacally rising Pleiades and Pollux in around 3800 BC.

. Kolev wählt dazu die "Abgrenzung" ~70.3° - ~107.8°, gewonnen mit Pollux (β Gem) und Pleiades (η Tau) zum Zeitpunkt ihres periodischen "Wege"-Wechsels um 3800 v. Chr., Eridu."

This was not true !

I am using the azimuths of the RISING SUN on days +-45 from the EQUINOX.

I wrote this explicitly in my internet PDF 'The two stars mini-model of the Astrolabe'. I wrote this also in my answer to Koch, titled '*The Real Age of the Babylonian Astrolabe*', published in NABU 2010.3 (footnote 3 on p. 68). My computations give: azimuth 70° for Enlil-Anu and 109° for Anu-Ea. Another thing is that it is not even me who computed first these numbers! It was Koch-Westenholz.

Koch obviously has had a delirium.

But why should he talk such things when in his First article, it seemed he understood very well what I was doing !

When I read the whole article I laughed and laughed aloud for very long time.

KOCH SUDDENLY INVENTED A NEW THEORY OF THE 'PATHS' !.

It runs as follows: the boundaries between the three 'paths' have been determined by the ancient Babylonians by the azimuths (of the heliacal rise) of the stars Pollux and the Pleiades around 1500 BC and by the Pleiades and Sirius around 900 BC!

The heliacally rising Pleiades, according to Koch, in 1500 BC showed the boundary between the central and southern paths but between the northern and central paths in 900 BC! Very handy, because in this way we can gain any dating for any text!

This was the biggest nonsense I have heard in Assyriology lately!
No wonder that Koch invented this ridiculous theory now, after he learned what would be the dating of the Astrolabe with his own choice of a path-theory from 1989. (azimuthal of Pingree).....

I could not believe it!

Koch was going against All that he himself wrote on the 'paths'!
Koch was going against All that all scholars in Babylonian Astronomy wrote on the 'paths'!
But most importantly: Koch was going against All evidence- in texts and in recorded babylonian observations!

Comprehending the full extent of the absolute failure of Koch made me dive in deep thought, trying to grasp what was happening in his brain...

This was a step of total despair.

The super-scholar Koch johannes could not figure out anything against my 5,500 BC dating of the Astrolabe!

My elation and amazement lasted for a week!

Then I sat down to write a response.

***to be continued ***