
De: Romeo Hristov [rhristov@inadiscover.com]
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Para: Domingos Cunha
Assunto: Projeto de Resolucao No. 27/X

Exmo. Senhor Presidente de Comissao de Assuntos Sociais,

During the first week of April, 2013 a group of Portuguese scholars kindly invited me to participate in the archaeological reconnaissance of several apparent archaeological sites located in Monte Brazil and Grota do Medo (Terceira.) It must be clearly stated that, at the present, there are not available any reliable dating and/or artifact(s) to support the hypotheses of pre-XV century origin of the sites. However, several petroglyphs, a find of re-used stone with seemingly Roman inscription and several construction details decidedly are pointing toward the possibility of Late Bronze origin of the structures. In my opinion, a few test excavations (and datings, if a material for such is found) are a justified approach to look for some legitimate, scholarly answers of the puzzle. Without such data any further discussion on the sites will continue to resemble more a domestic argument than a scientific polemic.

With proper planning (such as use of volunteers, etc.) the mentioned excavations can be carried out at very low cost, and provide an unique opportunity to find new data related to the early (and possibly the earliest) known navigation westward in the Atlantic. Therefore, I hope that the request of my Portuguese colleagues for more detailed research of the sites will receive a thoughtful consideration by the Honorable Comissao de Assuntos Sociais.

Respectfully,

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Romeo H. Hristov
Visiting Scholar
University of Texas at Austin-LLILAS
SRH 1.310
2300 Red River Street D0800
Austin, TX 78712
USA

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