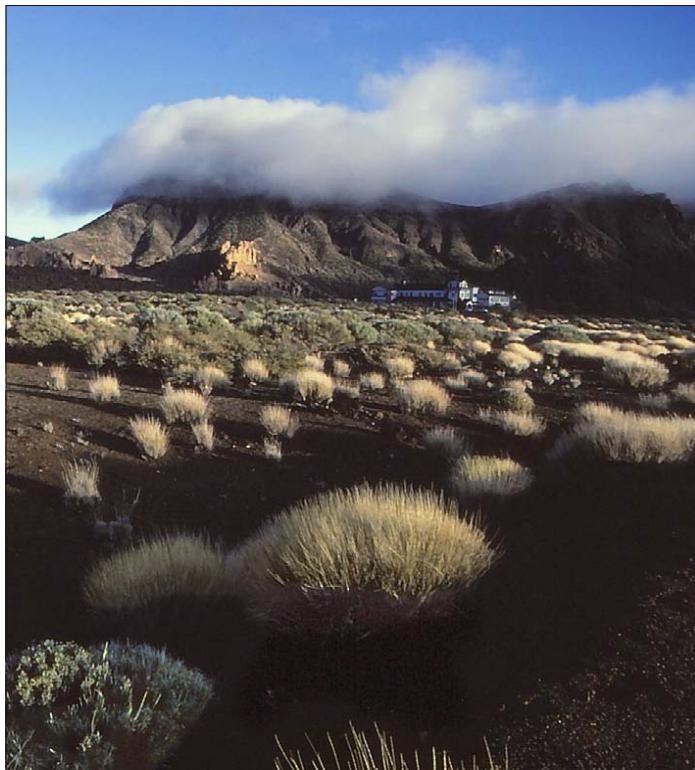


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Hans-Joachim Ulbrich

The geoglyphic spear-launcher examined (Rubicón, Lanzarote)

The Canary Island of Lanzarote – especially its Rubicón plain – is rich of geoglyphic monuments which can be attributed to the indigenous and partly to modern people of the last fifty years (Ulbrich 2013, 2017).

In the southern and eastern part of the Rubicón plain (Fig. 3) exist deeply in the ground cut structures which have in two cases an anthropomorphic character. Widely known in the vernacular and in the local press is the so called "spear-launcher" (Span. *lanzador*), the bigger specimen of these zigzag trench combinations. Its outstretched arms look like being just launching a spear [which one has to understand].

My first contact with this figure was a satellite photo (Fig.1) which I interpreted as being basically of natural origin (erosion), but "amended" by some creative modern folks (Ulbrich 2013: 74, 76-77). In 2017 I had the possibility to visit this site physically and I must say that I was deeply impressed by the size and execution of the trenches (Figs. 4-9). What looked from the air like slim lines were on ground trenches of up to 1,7 m depth and 2 m width. No modern tourist or no local jokester – even when working in a group – would have submitted himself to such a tremendous effort. The zigzags have a combined length of over 102 m after all! The trenches are not only cutting the soil (second layer) but also the hard volcanic rock beneath (first layer) (Figs. 6, 9). For the rocks one would have to employ a modern jackhammer ... a Maho (indigenous) had only primitive tools at hand, but he had the time on his side.

The head and the two feet are presented as round holes with a diameter of 3,3-3,7 m; the two hands are vaguely angular. Annoying is that modern weirdos have added lines of small stones which are not visible on older Google Earth photos. One curvy line near the "head" should probably simulate a headgear (Fig. 7), the one near the "crotch" a phallus (Fig. 6). Inexpert visitors could take this for old or original respectively.

I am now inclined to classify the spear-launcher as pre-Hispanic, what is supported by the fact that until 2000 there existed another one (Fig. 2) who was destroyed by building activities and bulldozing in the nearby village of Playa Blanca. I cannot imagine that recent constructors spoiled their idea and minimized the impact on journalists by building laboriously two spear-launchers. Erosion by rainfall was certainly not the trigger because the terrain is in both cases not sloping. Important is also that spear-launcher nr.1 is visible in all time-steps of the satellite-photos offered by Google Earth and other providers.

If indigenous, what was then the purpose of the two figures? I suppose the depiction of two nature spirits, similar to the volcanic *guayota* of Tenerife. Especially the choice of zigzags instead of straight lines could point to the brokenness and fury of volcanic activities.

Literature:

Ulbrich, Hans-Joachim (2013): Esoterik und Archäologie – eine unheilvolle Verknüpfung am Beispiel von Lanzarote (Kanarische Inseln).- IC-Nachrichten 95 (Institutum Canarium), Wien, 62-78 [online / update 2017]

Ulbrich, Hans-Joachim (2017): Neu auf alt getrimmt – weitere Fake-Monumente auf Lanzarote (Kanarische Inseln).- IC-Nachrichten 99 (Institutum Canarium), Wien, 21-58 [online]



Fig. 1 - Playa Mujeres hinterland, eastern Rubicón Plain (UTM 28RFS1798192827): Spear-launcher Nr. 1 with a maximal extension of 41,8 m. Google Earth January 2013 (version without added stones).

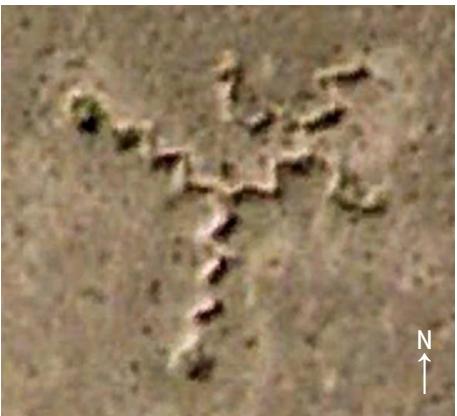


Fig. 2 - Playa Blanca hinterland, southern Rubicón Plain (UTM 28RFS1635993904): Spear-launcher Nr. 2 with a maximal extension of 40 m. Google Earth December 2000.



Fig. 3 - The characteristic stone desert of the eastern Rubicón Plain; in the background the Ajaches Mountains (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 4 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: part of the right "arm", as seen from the east
(Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 5 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: part of the left "arm", as seen from the west
(Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 6 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: the "crotch" with a fake phallus and



scrotum, as seen from the north (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 7 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: the "head" with the fake headgear or



horn, as seen from the south-east (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 8 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: the right "foot" (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).



Fig. 9 - Spear-launcher Nr.1: the left "foot" (Photo: Hans-Joachim Ulbrich).