

LIFE ON MARS



E-Magazine by M. J. Craig

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Dear Friend and Patron,

Welcome to the third 'Summer' issue of *Life on Mars Magazine*. It arrived later than I wanted it to, and this has caused me to re-assess my goal for this magazine. From now on it will be published only as an **occasional publication** - not as a regular bi-monthly, or seasonal issue. In fairness, my patrons will therefore need to decide if their support for my work is dependent upon receiving a regular magazine or not.

This reality-check dawned on me while I was engaged in prolonged work for my new book "Memories of Mars" that was requiring all of my time. On top of that, a bizarre craziness began crawling over the world in March 2020 - which I shall not name - which also required my full attention.

As a one-man band I have to accept that I can only do so much, and what I can do, I must do well and not compromise my effort. Therefore, for the foreseeable future, this magazine will now be produced as and when I can devote the time to do it justice.

So, on to this issue. Today, we take a close look at the very telling **promotional images used by the Chinese Space Agency**, prior to their Mars mission landing in May. Remarkably, **they show a collapsed, ancient building, I kid you not!**

I also give you a personally humbling tour of a Mars image I recently studied, to consider just what it takes to **identify a Martian technological artefact, from a piece of natural geology**. Lots of images to look at.

M. J. Craig

Tianwen-1 Mission: Have the Chinese Provoked NASA, by Suggesting Ancient Buildings Exist on Mars?



Fig.1 Tianwen-1 Mission: The Chinese Zhurong Rover landed on Mars, May 15th, 2021 in Utopia Planitia (Promotional image prior to mission launch)

Image credit: CNSA (China National Space Administration)

When the Chinese space agency landed a rover on Mars in May 2021, the political gauntlet had clearly been thrown down upon the dusty sands of the Red Planet. But perhaps in a much more challenging way than has been perceived.

It was while listening to the radio show "Other Side of Midnight" hosted by seasoned Martian warhorse, Richard C. Hoagland, that an intriguing perspective to the Chinese arrival on Mars came to light.

Prior to the launch of their mission, as is normal for most space missions, promotional images and videos were created for the benefit of the public and the media, to give them a visual taste of what the new mission was all about. Well, as will be seen in the following images and screenshots taken from this promotional imagery, a remarkable and pronounced repre-



www.secretmars.com

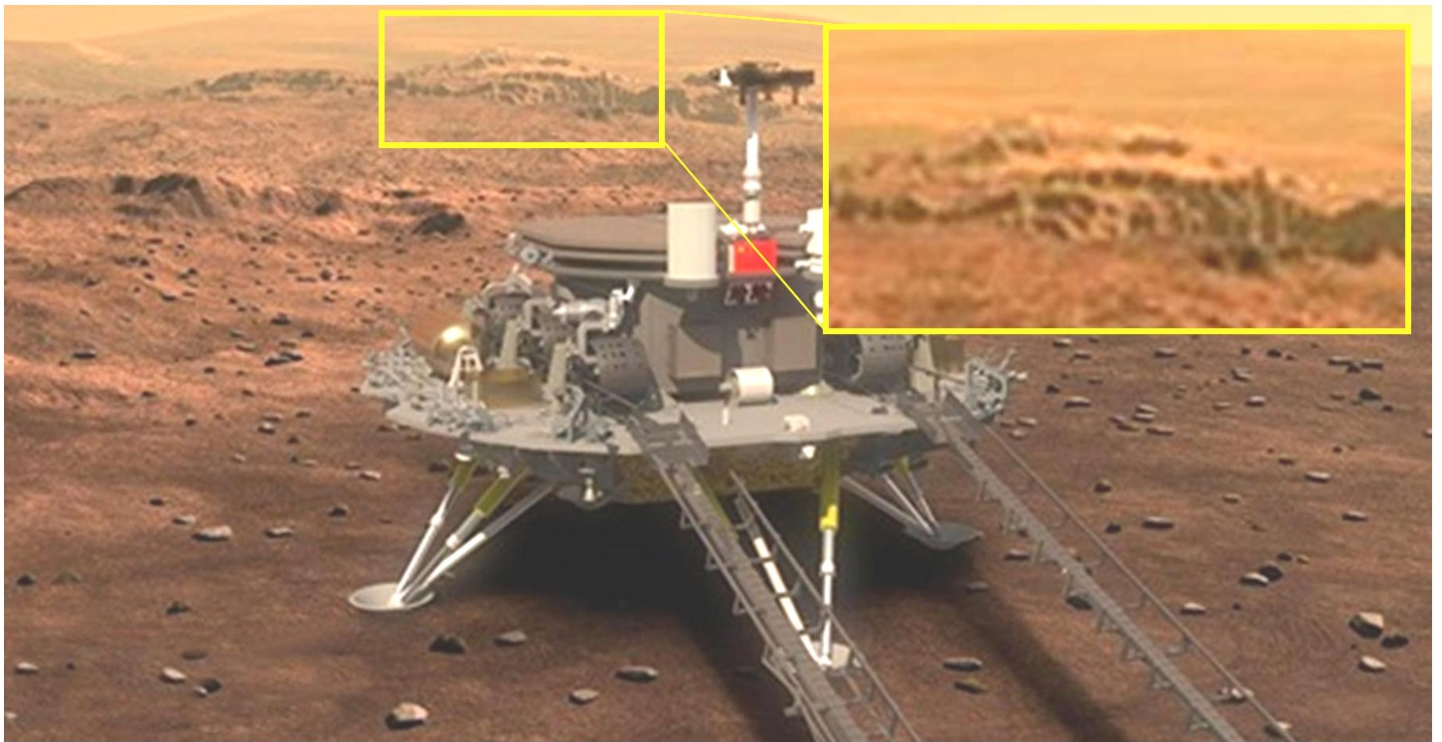


Fig. 2. A promotional image made prior to the Chinese Tianwen-1 mission, depicts their rover having landed very close to what appear to be archaeological ruins in the background

Image credit: CNSA (China National Space Administration)

Source: BBC.co.uk

sentation of something very unusual clearly sits in the background.



Fig. 3. More detail from Fig.2 of what appear to be structural ruins

Image credit: CNSA (China National Space Administration)

If we look at Fig.2., which was a stand-alone picture, the blow-up shows a structure dominating the background which has a distinctly non-geological character. Certainly, if the purpose of this artists' representation of the surface of Mars, was to present a conventional geological surface with no surprising or

unusual features, then the addition of this clearly anomalous feature was deliberately intended to provoke some enquiry.



Fig. 4. Examples of collapsed ruins of buildings from human civilization on the Earth

I expect the artist who put the image together did so by taking an original NASA image of Mars, and then blended in this additional feature, along with the Zhurong lander. The artist may well have had some creative freedom here, but as we are talking about the one

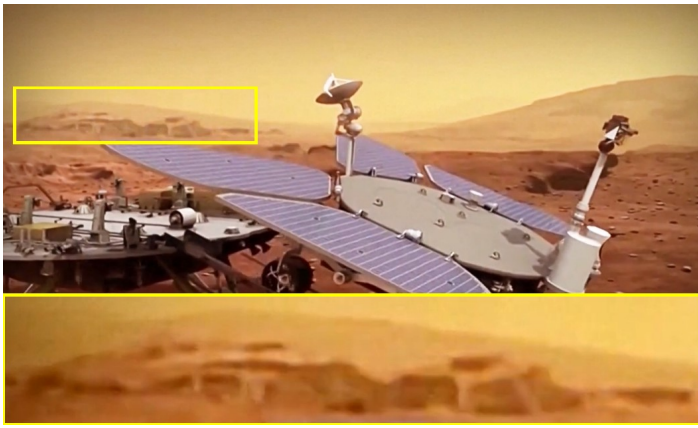


Fig. 5. A screenshot from a promotional video, shows a lower resolution view of the structure

Image credit: CNSA

Source: Space.com

party state of China, we should presume the artist was more likely following specific instructions.

So what would those instructions have been?

Well, what we can see in the unusual structure in the background behind the Chinese lander, is a distinct multi-cellular formation, reminding us of a crumpled building here on the Earth that has collapsed and 'pancaked', as shown in the examples (Fig. 4).

I think the similarities are obvious, and so the message to the artist must have been specific:

"Put some ruins on the picture. Don't make it look too obvious. No intact buildings, with straight walls and right angles. Just show clearly that it is a collapsed artificial structure. Something most people would recognise."

A video made of the rover moving off the lander and onto the surface of Mars, also included the anomalous structure, but in lower resolution which does not reveal the cellular pattern (Fig.5). When comparing this screenshot from the video, with two snapshots taken from individual images, a consistent artificial-looking structure remains consistent on all three images (Fig.6).

So, we might assume that this is a deliberate provocation to NASA by the Chinese Space Agency, saying in effect:

"We know what's there on Mars, and we know you are not telling the public about it. Do you want to work with us, or not?"

As to what was agreed, or not between the Chinese and Americans, is hard to say. It may just be a shout of "We want some of the action," such as access to recovered ancient Martian technology, or future and present claims over territory on Mars. Or, as Hoagland suggested, it may actually be a

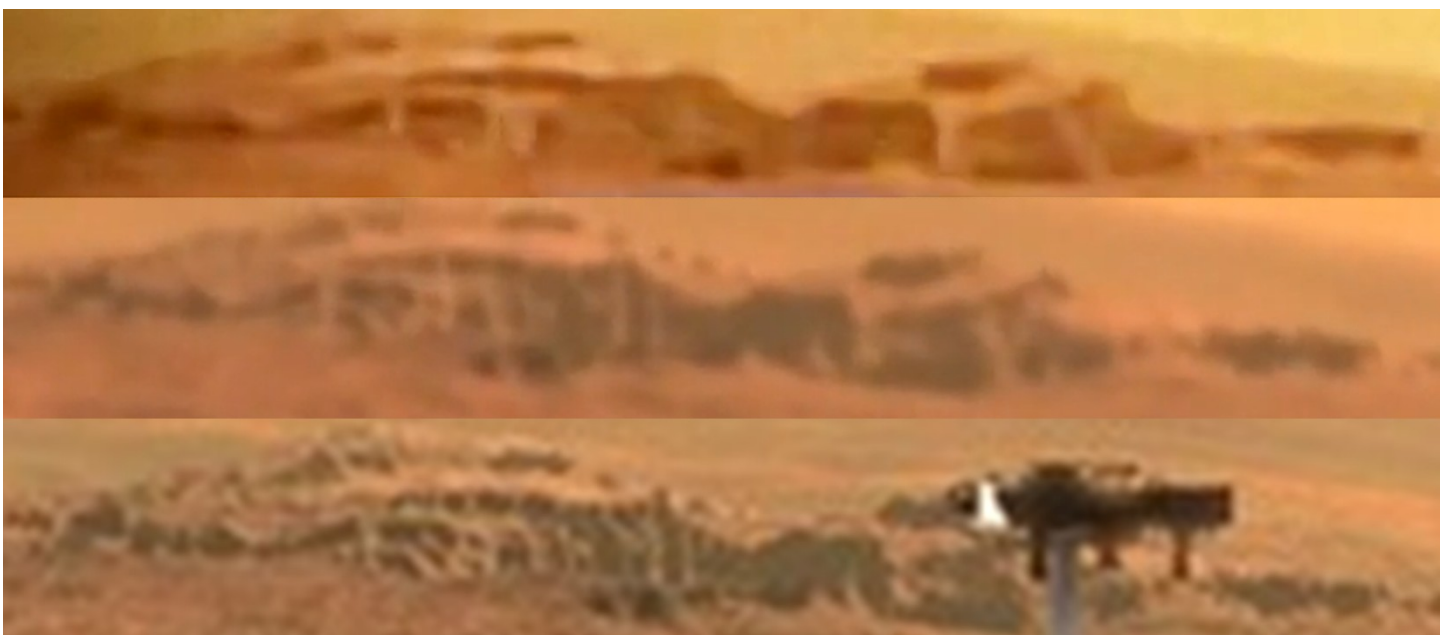


Fig. 6. Comparison of images showing the artificial structure. The top one is from the promotional video, the other two from individual still images

Image credit: CNSA (China National Space Administration)

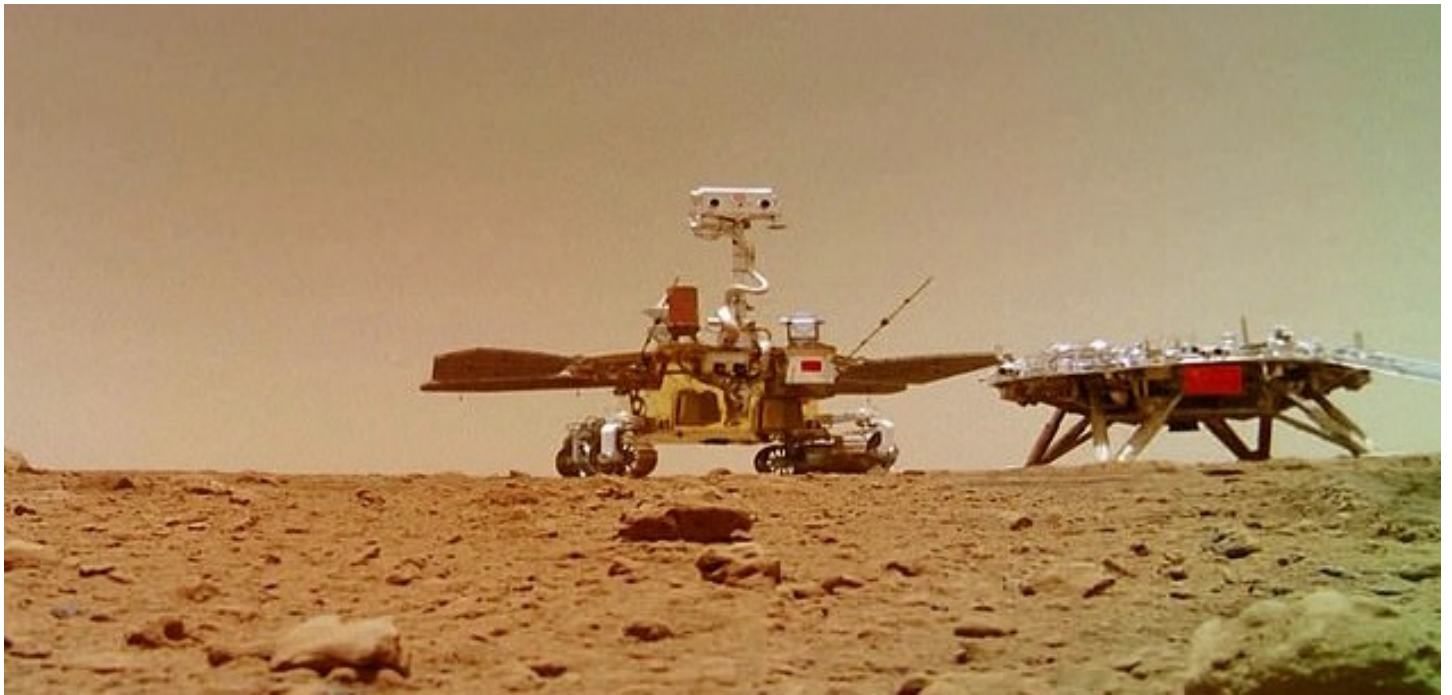


Fig. 7. Screenshot from the real video of the Zhurong rover driving on Mars
Image credit: CNSA (China National Space Administration)
Source: BBC.co.uk

joint agreement to disclose some truth about Martian history for the benefit of humanity.

Of the latter view, I would have some doubts. The Chinese have shown no interest whatsoever in educating the world as to what is true history, having rewritten and cancel-cultured their own. So I would read this ploy as more of a 'power and control' move over extraplanetary resources and perhaps international prestige.

So, have the Chinese seen an opportunity to embarrass the United States and their space agency NASA? I mean what would it say to the world if the Chinese, having only been on Mars for a few months, discover evidence of an ancient Martian civilization - in comparison to the Americans, who have been roaming about on Mars for twenty years with four rovers, and declared nothing as spectacular or world changing.

If such a discovery were made by the Zhurong Rover, it may be debatable whether the Chinese would be inclined to let the world know about it. A legitimate question often pointed at NASA due to their complete lack of curiosity regarding the many enigmatic objects seen

on Mars be their cameras. Have they been hiding a secret all along?

It is indeed a reasonable question to pose as to whether NASA are forbidden to discuss or investigate such objects because they have been deemed classified. It must remain a possibility that evidence of ancient Martians may have been discovered many years ago, with the 'authorities' having decided it's not the right time to disclose that truth to humanity.

Well, if the Chinese decided to tell the world about intelligent life on Mars before the Americans did, we can see how such a declaration might elevate China to a position of world respect at the expense of the United States - who would be seen as having simply sat on that knowledge and deprived humanity of a great discovery and understanding.

Personally speaking I wouldn't trust the motives of an authoritarian regime at all. It would nevertheless be an interesting drama for science, media and the world to behold, should this reality ever surface.

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Fig. 8. A compilation of images taken on Sol 2635, Jan 4th, 2020, by the Curiosity Rover

Image credit: *NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS*

Original source imagery: *'Gigapan' by Neville T. Thompson*

Martian 'Archaeology' or 'Geology'?: How to Identify a Potential Artefact in a Mars Rover image

The chief problem I personally face when considering whether or not an odd formation on Mars might be a potential Martian artefact, lays squarely on my lack of knowledge....of geology.

It can present a frustrating impasse when faced with an intriguing prospect that shows signs of artificiality - such as a geometric pattern - but which my reason then tells me it is more likely to be just a rock that has some geometric properties, or has eroded to look that way. For I often just don't have a knowledge base which I can confidently call upon to settle the question.

I am usually left instead, to examine the surrounding geology and its character, to try and locate similar rock types that might help me to correctly identify the object. Or, to go online and do a visual search of rock types with similar characteristics.

For my Mars research, I have built up a rough catalogue in my mind and in document form, of the kind of rock types that I have seen on countless Martian images, including shale sediments and mineral veins, and therefore consequently I am able to dismiss many objects that others would jump on immediately as a 'nailed-on artificial object'.

It does not by any means equate to a sound education in geology, but I like to think I'm

not too easily fooled these days into believing something that's not there. In looking for potential Martian archaeology therefore, I find it is imperative that one starts out foremost with the presumption that what you are looking at is a *rock*. And from there, try and come up with some solid observations that suggest it may not be.

True enough, when first scanning a rock strewn Martian landscape, such as the one we will be looking at today on Sol 2635 from Curiosity Rover imagery, it will at first be the odd and unusual that will attract your eye. Most often, it will be a trick of shadow or light, or rocks sitting on top of, or just behind each other, creating an illusion of 'solidity' and 'one structure'. But as soon as the eye has homed in on it, it's time to be both sceptical and bold.

So, what I'd like to do now is to take you through a typical scope of a Mars image and what kind of objects are worth looking at closer as we hunt for potential archaeological artefacts from ancient Martian history.

To aid this kind of research, there are several Mars enthusiasts who do outstanding work in creating panorama's from a group of still images. What they do is take a batch of images for one Martian day - such as Sol 2635 - and then, by using software, stitch them all together to form one large, seamless image, which is what we will be looking at today.

All the following images are taken from the 'Gigapan' made by Neville T. Thompson:

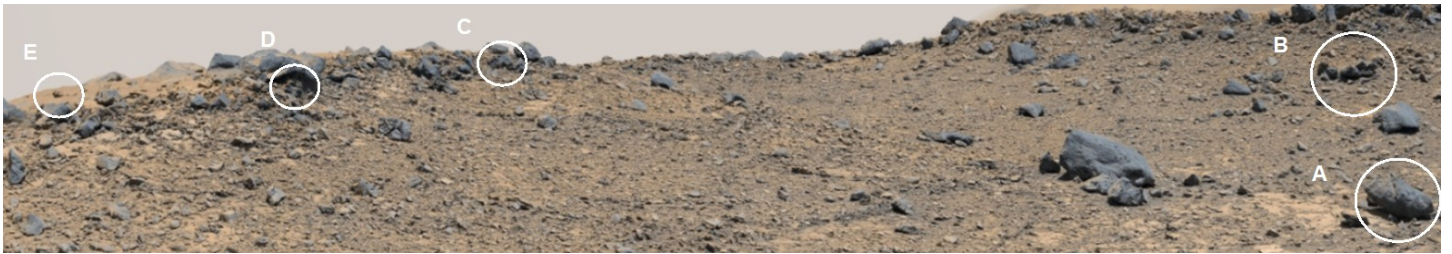


Fig. 9. Sites of potential anomalous objects from Sol 2635
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

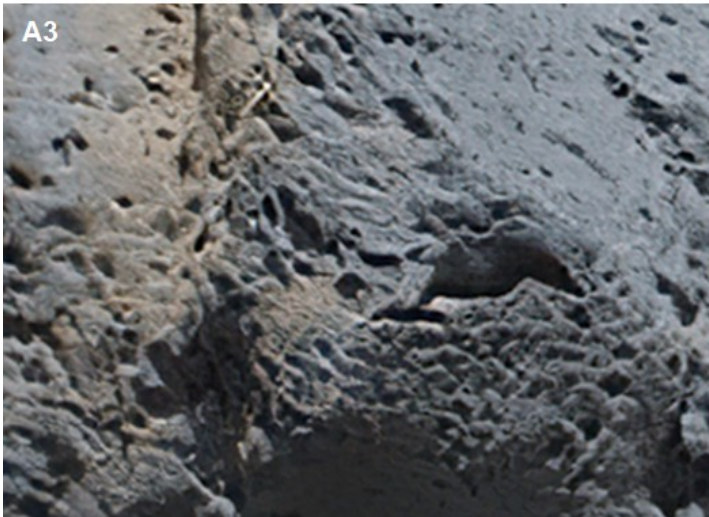


Fig. 10. Target Location A: A large variety of natural-looking blue-grey rocks show some interesting geometric patterns when viewed up close. But were they caused naturally or artificially?
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

When looking at this landscape, the first thing we notice are these blue-grey rocks and boulders scattered over the ground. It's a natural thing for the eye to do, to first focus on these larger objects, even though they look pretty natural and random in this setting and we should have no reason to suspect they might be anything unusual.

However, when we zoom in to one of these boulders, which we will label "Target Loca-

tion A" (Fig.10, A1), we quickly notice an interesting pitted, cellular, and geometric structure on the surface of this rock (Fig.10, A3). An imaginative mind might see hieroglyphic-type characters here, and perhaps even a suggestion of a technological layout akin to a circuit board!

The nature of this 'pitting' however appears to be of a vesicular nature, as seen on some volcanic rock types. Such cavities on the sur-

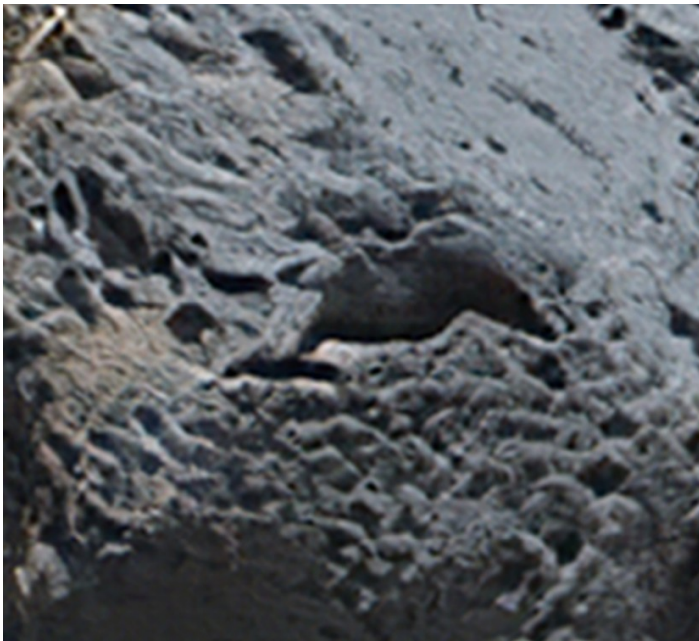


Fig. 11. Detail from A3 (Fig.9) - intricate detail gives the impression of ancient hieroglyphic script, or even a 'circuit board' pattern
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)



Fig. 12. Detail from A4 (Fig.9) - Squarish, rectangular indentations might suggest a damaged fragment of metal plating
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

face of the rock are caused by gas bubbles that appear after the rock has cooled and solidified. Dissolved gas bubbles however, are unlikely to form regular, squarish features and fissures. It's possible this pattern could also have resulted from countless millennia of erosion and cracking from freezing temperatures.



Fig. 13. Detail from A2 (Fig.9) - Geometric elements may suggest an artificial origin
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

I've sent the image to the ASU geology section to ask their opinion, and hopefully will receive an answer before this article is finished.

An odd-shaped fragment sits very close to this blue-grey rock (Fig.12). It could well have been either a part of the rock that has broken off, or is an eroded remnant from another rock. Just as likely, this whole area may be composed of similar rocks - some intact, some almost eroded to nothing - and with countless smaller pieces that are partially covered with ochre dust as this one is.

Again we have the same geometric pattern as we saw in the large blue-grey rock, suggesting they share a common origin. But there are two or three details on it that may justify asking the question that interests us the most here, which is:

"Could there be an artificial origin to this fragment?"

Without doubt if you were to come across such a fragment while walking through a wasteland of unremarkable rocks, it would automatically suggest something eroded and metallic, especially with its angular appearance and square/rectangular features and slots (Fig.12).

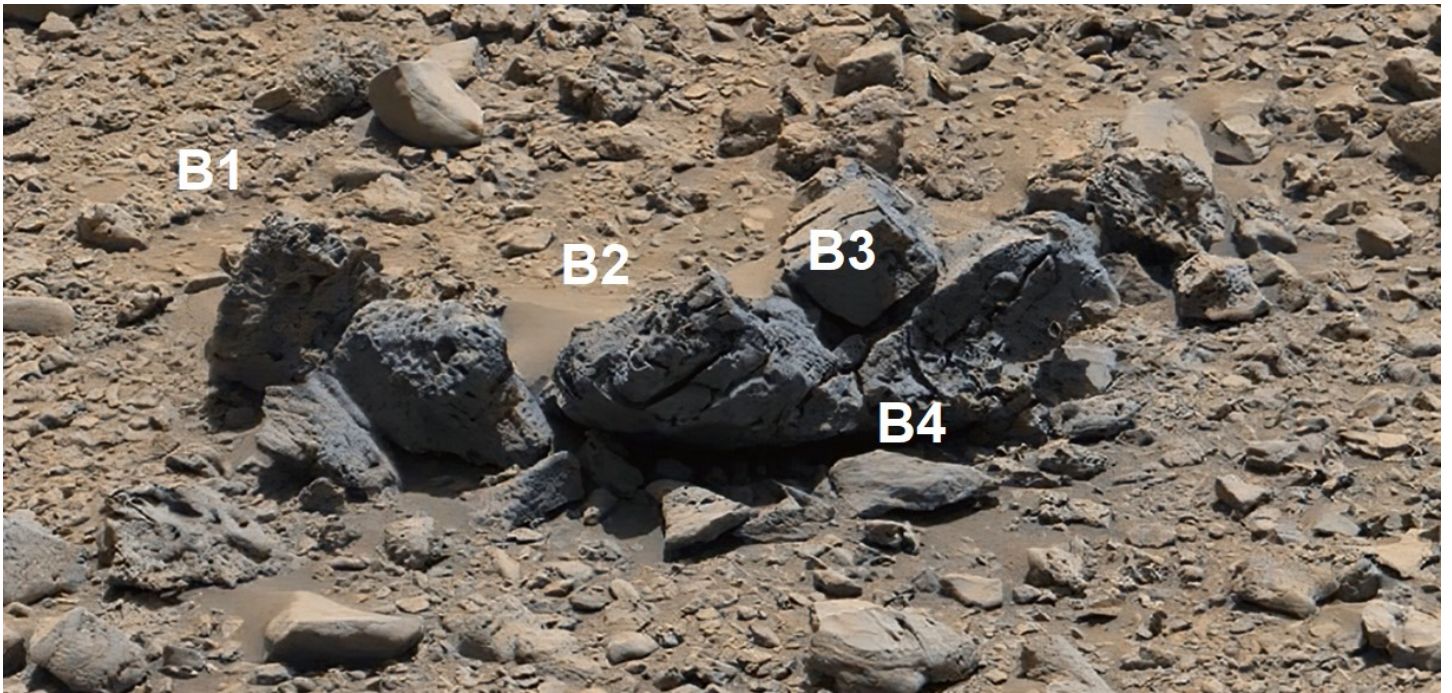


Fig. 14. Target Location B: a group of smaller rocks more eroded and damaged
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

At this point, with the question of a potential artefact now in our minds, we will have to go and look for some corroboration - to see if there is anything else in the vicinity that might support, or refute this possibility.

The competing argument is thus:

1. Geometric pattern, originating from eroded **natural rock formation**.
2. Geometric pattern originating from an **artificial mechanical object**.

At this point, I would say the odds stand at 'natural rock formation', 90%, to 'artificial object', 10%.

Evidence of Archaeological Artefacts?

To the north of the large blue-grey boulder, we find a group of five similar coloured rocks (Target Location B) that also have a pitted, vesicular external surface (Fig.14).

Some of these however, appear more degraded, or damaged, and a closer look reveals some very interesting interior detail. In Fig.15, we can see again the cellular pattern, but this time there is a preponderance of intricate, sharp and nodular protrusions, as if

they had been exposed by softer material eroding or fallen away (B1-B3).

It depends on the material makeup of these rocks and if they might be porous, or like cinder, and have a kind of honey-comb consistency which degrades like this after eons of exposure to the Martian weather.

At this point, because we have seen similar geometrical patterns featuring the same type of rocks in two locations, we must now ask could there be an artificial element to these patterns, and ask are these indeed rocks, or maybe something else?

The fact they look like random rocks, and there are quite a few of them in this location, would cast esteemed doubt as to the likelihood they are anything other than natural geological formations. However, playing devil's advocate, the abundance of intricate, curved, squared and geometrical elements embedded within these objects invites an alternative and certainly radical hypothesis.

Plasma physicist John E. Brandenburg, PhD, theorized that Mars was host to atmospheric thermonuclear detonations in the ancient past, and of such destructive intensity, that

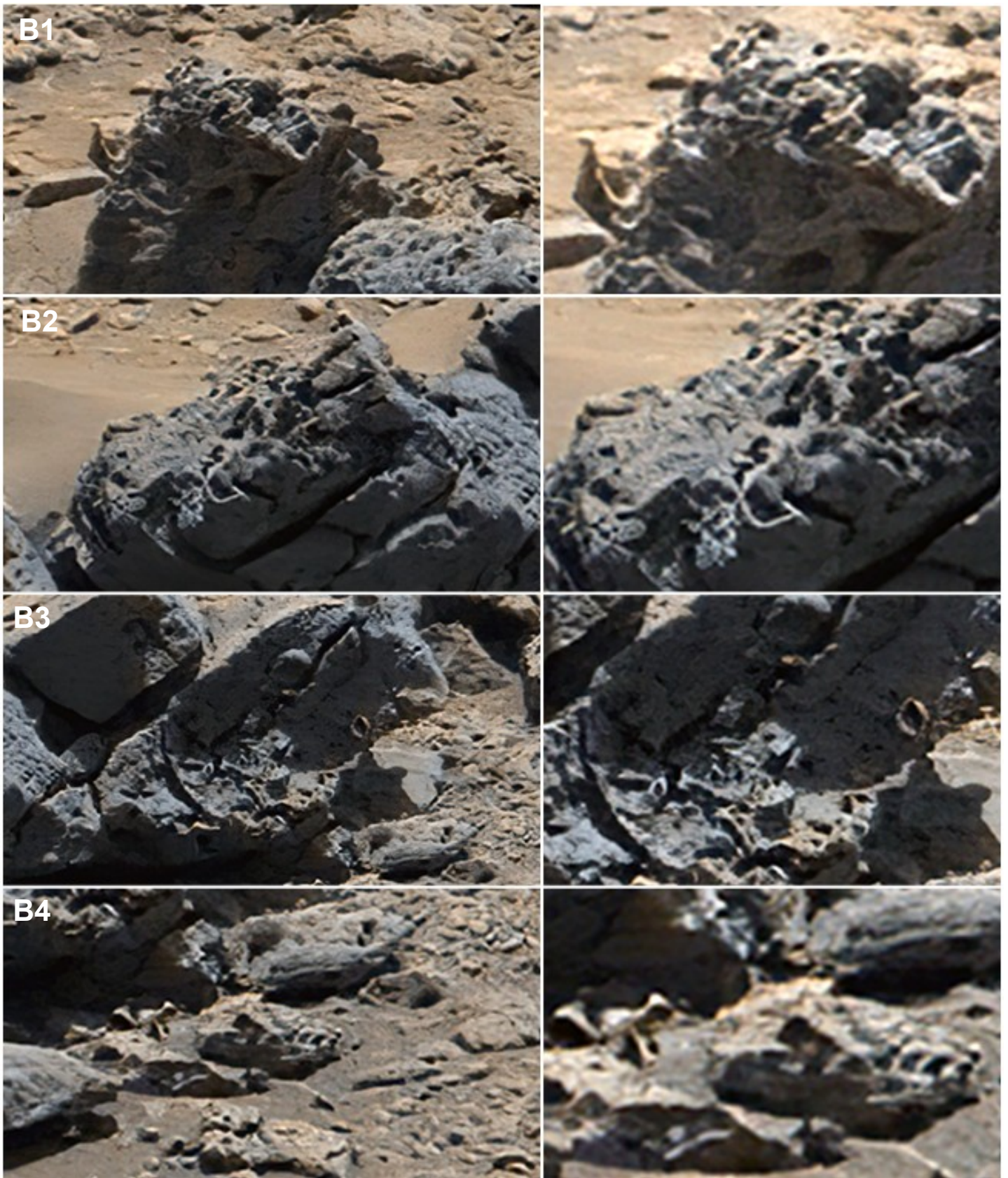


Fig. 15. Target Location B: close-up shots expose the inner structure
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

vast regions were utterly destroyed, incinerated, fused and melted. We are speaking of war and the destruction of a Martian civilization. Did Mars once have technological instal-

lations, vehicles and aircraft that were obliterated? And are there remnants of this devastation littered across the surface? Artefacts and machinery disintegrated, strewn and



Fig. 16. Target Location C: squarish, hollowed structures embedded in, or eroded from, blue-grey rock
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)



Fig. 17. Target Location D: hollowed parallel and grooved structures
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)



Fig. 18. Target Location E: 'metallic/tap-shaped' object protruding from rock with cavities
Image credit/source: (See Fig. 8)

shredded? And could it possibly be the case, that what appears to be eroded, blue-grey vesicular rocks, with geometric-shaped interiors, are in actual fact, the shattered remains of ancient Martian technology?

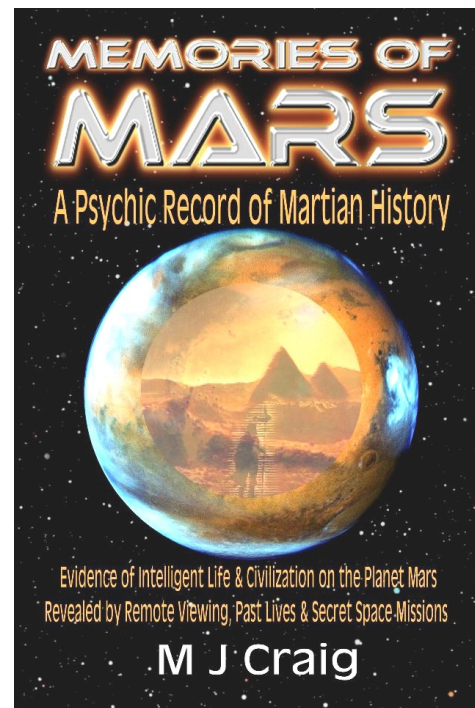
It is a contentious and difficult proposition to engage with and to provide evidence to support, without a firm grasp of what geology can offer in the way of rudimentary explanations for unusual objects. So, admittedly, because of this, I am very much out on a limb when it comes to offering up evidence to support the existence of a Martian civilization. To balance my lack of geological credentials, I tend instead to rely on applying reason, common-sense, objectivity and rational assessment to hone out credible evidence wherever I can, while being mindful of what secrets Mars may be withholding.

The exploration and analysis of this Martian landscape on Sol 2635, is a fair example of how I proceed with studying images from Mars and what I look out for. The other unusual observations I've made on this NASA image, at Locations C, D, and E (Figs. 16, 17, 18), leave the question open as far as I'm concerned, as to whether this is more evidence of a technological catastrophic past on Mars, or not. My judgement is that they are more likely to represent examples of a fractured type of natural rock erosion.

All told, I have concluded many of my image reports thus. Tantalising as some mysterious objects are, and tempted as the imagination is to speculate, as one must, the balance must ever remain cautious and firmly embedded in reason.

However, if the geologist I approached should reply to my query, and be somewhat unsure of what I've shown him, then my 'Reasonometer' will swing a few degrees the other way, to be sure...

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**NEW BOOK:
"MEMORIES OF MARS"
by M. J. Craig
Delayed!!....**

Work on my new book, originally planned for publication in May-June, has met with several delays and I now hope to be publishing late in October.

This past year has been very frustrating, and to be honest, has drained much of my time and energy. Like many people concerned about where we are going, I've been consumed with the very real threats posed to humanity by the overblown reaction of world governments, to you know what. For a while I had to step back and decide that "Mars" had to take a back seat for a spell, while I immersed myself in solutions and activity to counteract the insidious threat this all posed.

So, now I've done something about it, I feel more energised to get back to the Red Planet and finish "**Memories of Mars!**" Because, in the long run, I believe that revealing the deep mystery of Mars, will also serve as another tool to help free humanity.

MJC