

How it Started: Hoopes's Snide Response to a Simple Question

Observers are aware of a “feud” between myself and John Hoopes, but are probably unaware of how it began. For years, I was tolerant and accepting of Hoopes’s disagreements and critiques of my work. But something happened in early 2008 that, at the time, I was unaware of. Hoopes and I had a debate about the World Age doctrine in Mesoamerican tradition (here: <http://alignment2012.com/Hoopes-JMJ-January2008.pdf>). He was clearly resistant to the evidence I was presenting to him. Simultaneous to our emails exchange (a one-week period in early January 2008), he began to craft his Mayanism construct on Wikipedia, which sought to frame 2012 and 2012 ideas as being a “mythology” invented by modern writers and the marketplace, being largely influenced by astrology, Blavatsky’s Theosophy, and any other handy pseudo-thingy. The timing of this is preserved in the Wikipedia back-pages for the Mayanism entry, which Geoff Stray brought to the surface in mid-2014: <http://update2012.com/Truth-Deniers-July2014.pdf>, pp 16-20.

In the comparison between his “sheep’s clothing” niceness with me in our exchange on the Lawrence, KS newspaper comments section, and what he was doing simultaneously behind the scenes on Wikipedia, we have the essence of Hoopes’s duplicity and dishonesty, his secretive strategies, and his pre-ordained agenda to craft mitigating narratives. Much of his behind-the-scenes chicanery has come to the surface only recently. A specific breakthrough in my awareness of Hoopes’s truly unprofessional and dishonest nature came in mid-2011, when I discovered, in July, his false and unsupported comments about my background in the pages of Carlson’s *Archaeoastronomy Journal*, Vol, XXII (released around April of 2011). I was still willing to give him the benefit of the doubt, and sent him this polite inquiry:

-----Original Message-----

From: John Major Jenkins [mailto:kahib@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 10:05 AM
To: Hoopes, John W
Subject: quick questions

John [Hoopes],

I hope you're having a good summer. There is a PDF of your review of the Aveni & Van Stone books from *Archaeoastronomy Journal*, on Van Stone's website. Is this the exact same version that was actually published in the *Archaeo* journal? It's copyrighted to 2009 but included a reference to the (August) 2010 Wayeb 34 essay. So, when was it actually completed, and how is it copyrighted to 2009? Appreciate your clarifications,

John Major Jenkins
<http://thecenterfor2012studies.com>

His response, as can clearly be seen, was snide and evasive and engaged a tactic of “turning the tables”:

----Original Message-----

From: "Hoopes, John W"

Sent: Jul 20, 2011 3:12 PM
To: John Major Jenkins
Subject: RE: quick questions

Hi John [Jenkins],

It's nice hearing from you. It's been a busy summer and one that is going by all too quickly.

I'd like to answer you but I'm disinclined to do so until you're willing to help me.

I still need copies of *Journey to the Mayan Underworld* (Four Ahau Press, Boulder, CO: 1989), *Mirror in the Sky* (Four Ahau Press, 1991), and *Mayan Sacred Science* (Four Ahau Press, Boulder, CO: 1994). They're cited in lots of different places but almost impossible to find.

One you tell me how I can obtain them (photocopies would be adequate), I'll be happy to help with other questions.

Saludos,
John [Hoopes]

I was quite surprised. This was the first time he used this odd request that I send him my previous writings, which became his reflexive *modus operandi*. I tried to accommodate:

From: John Major Jenkins <kahib@ix.netcom.com>
To: "Hoopes, John W" <hoopes@ku.edu>
Subject: RE: quick questions
Date: Jul 20, 2011 5:04 PM

John [Hoopes],

You have *Mayan Sacred Science*; it is the same book as Jaloj Kexoj and Phi-64 (1994), which as you previously told me John Carlson sent you an illegal photocopy of.

Journey to the Mayan Underworld (1989) will be serialized in the 18 monthly issues of Baktun newsletter, which you are welcome to subscribe to like everyone else. I will send you the link when it is ready in the next few weeks, and give you a 50% discount.

Mirror in the Sky, as I've previously mentioned, was a limited edition release and is currently out of print. I can arrange to have a service provide a copy of this rare book for \$350.

Those are the answers to your questions. Now, if you'd be so kind to please respond to my simple questions. I'm giving you the benefit of the doubt regarding what are a few glaring errors and libelous statements, as to whether these were corrected in the published version. I can easily find the answer by looking at the journal in the local library.

John Major Jenkins

The request for my early books was an evasive ruse that Hoopes has used repeatedly; even when he already possessed things he was requesting! I was asking a simple question about the PDF version of his review that I had in hand, giving him the benefit of the

doubt and wondering if it was representative of the published version. He wouldn't even respond to that simple first question! In any case, I was able to determine that the PDF I had was indeed the version as published. So I next asked:

Date: Jul 21, 2011 11:32 AM

John Hoopes,

Do you, at this time, represent as factually correct all your comments and citations in your Review-Essay of Aveni's 2009 book and Van Stone's 2010 book, which appeared in the *Archaeoastronomy* journal (University of Texas Press)? And can you provide proof for your statements about me? I'm concerned with determining whether your statements are intentionally defamatory or are merely the result of poor research.

John Major Jenkins

He must have sent an email, as I allude to his comment (in my next email to him, below) that I was "offended".

To: "Hoopes,John W" <hoopes@ku.edu>

Subject: Your baseless statements

Date: Jul 22, 2011 10:54 AM

John Hoopes,

My question to you involves a matter of whether you published supportable, fact based statements, not whether something is personally "offensive" to me. The published misrepresentation of the facts of a person's life, career, and work is called libel. Please send me the supportive documentation that led you to say that I once worked as a professional astrologer. Please also send the proof for your statement that my work was "influenced" by Dane Rudyar, and that his work provided "the intellectual underpinnings" for my "claims" about the galaxy.

I have no idea where you came up these fantasies, which are clearly intended to be damaging. I've never even tried to work as an astrologer. I've researched and studied astrology, and written critiques of the various assumptions associated with it, but that does not make me a professional astrologer. As for Rudyar, you asked me this question apparently way too late (this past March). Your slanderous presumption was already in press. Since I clarified for you the lack of influence by Rudyar and my lack of familiarity with his work, can you acknowledge and correct your error? Or, if you believe that I was lying to you, can you supply the proof for your statement? Thank you,

John Major Jenkins

No response, many days pass...

To: hoopes@ku.edu **Cc:** John@Hoopes.com

Subject: Please provide proof for your statements. **Date:** Jul 27, 2011 10:37 PM

John Hoopes,

I've inquired several times now to clear up this matter. I'm asking a simple question: Can you provide proof for your published statement that I once worked as a professional astrologer?

John Major Jenkins

And this is how the "feud" began: Ignorant hostile resistance of a "professional" scholar deeply immersed in hubris and elitist privilege. --- John Major Jenkins, 9-11-2014.