

# Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2005-04/msg00449.html>

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- *From:* Eric Stevens <[eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 16 Apr 2005 11:54:01 +1200
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On 15 Apr 2005 13:19:00 -0700, "Ken Towe" <[ken.towe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ken.towe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

>David wrote:

>

>"I took that to mean that McCrone's evidence was suspect :-)"

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>David is right! That's the correct interpretation. There was a feeling  
>that McCrone may have made some mistakes (which he did) and that was  
>part of the reason that Cahill et al. were retained by Yale to  
>reevaluate the Map using a different approach.

It wasn't that it was thought that he had made a mistake but that there were practical limits to what he could achieve with optical microscopy.

>They could have shown  
>that McCrone was wrong but, in fact, they provided him support even,  
>though they got the quantitative aspects of their analysis wrong. They  
>found Ti as the most common element in the ink (of the elements above  
>sodium) and also that it was consistently present in higher amounts in  
>the ink than on the parchment. In fact, only 5 of 33 ink-parchment  
>pairs had Ti on the parchment above the minimum detectable limit. If  
>there is any anatase on the parchment it is trivial compared with that  
>in the ink. Brown & Clark subsequently reconfirmed this observation. It  
>is difficult to see how this anatase with a modern appearance (free of  
>clay minerals) and present in the yellow organic binder UNDERLYING the  
>black carbon component, could have been added later, even if such a  
>bizarre and atypical combination had been a medieval concoction.  
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Eric Stevens

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- *Follow-Ups:*
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* David B
  
- *References:*
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Tom McDonald
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Philip Deitiker
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Alaca
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Philip Deitiker
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Eric Stevens
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Steve Marcus
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Eric Stevens
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* David B.
  - ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
    - ◇ *From:* Ken Towe
  
- Prev by Date: ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
- Next by Date: ***Re: The Nature of Anatase...***
- Previous by thread: ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
- Next by thread: ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
- Index(es):
  - ◆ ***Date***
  - ◆ ***Thread***