

## Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2005-05/msg00061.html>

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- *From:* Eric Stevens <[eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 05 May 2005 17:40:56 +1200
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On Wed, 04 May 2005 19:39:46 -0500, Tom McDonald  
<[tmcDonald2672@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:tmcDonald2672@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

>Steve Marcus wrote:

>> "Eric Stevens" <[eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message

>> [news:jlnf71lmtgrqivf9fpjudrg6nm4k59ui3h@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:jlnf71lmtgrqivf9fpjudrg6nm4k59ui3h@xxxxxxxxxx)

>

><snip>

>

>> How will you ever \*know\* that you have all the information??

>>

>> I'll answer the question myself: You'll \*know\* that you have all the

>> information when the information reaches a conclusion that you or your

>> client (not necessarily the same thing) want to reach.

>

>Steve,

>

> I don't find evidence for this allegation. AFAICS, Eric appears  
>to be the consummate professional in his business dealings. Of  
>course, we only have his e-presence to judge from; but he seems  
>very consistent to me. The only thing I can recall that mars his  
>objectivity here was his reaction to the announcement of the fake  
>AVM stone.

I didn't spot this the first time round. There are lawyers who will shop around until they get an expert who gives them the opinion they want. Some of them will hire experts whose opinions they don't want merely to render them unavailable to the other side in the case. There are experts who will give a lawyer any opinion the lawyer wants, but these experts become known and generally go down very badly with judges.

I have twice had the experience of giving a major (insurance company) client an opinion that was very much the reverse of what they wanted to hear, and then have the opinion leak to the opposing side who immediately subpoenaed me. Although on both occasions, in court I gave my opinion exactly as I had given it the first time, and my original clients lost in both cases, I still do work for both the clients and the lawyers concerned.

Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

Honesty is supposed to be the best policy but I find that telling it as it is and being sure of your facts is an even better policy. In particular, if you don't know, say so. If you can't fully justify a conclusion, don't try to reach it but qualify it as 'possible' or some such. In any case, don't let someone bully you into saying something you don't want to say.

>

> He gets lumped in with Johansson and Seppo (very unfairly, >IMNSHO) because of his propensity to require, as David pointed >out, a level of evidence that is very nearly never present in >archaeology.

It's not so much that I require the evidence as that I object to people reaching conclusions as firmly as if the evidence was there. If the evidence isn't there, you can't know, no matter how positively you hold forth.

>And his tenacity, come to that, in defending that >propensity. He has explained why he doesn't often take exception >to the above-named worthies, and I for one believe him. He has >recently talked truth to powder wrt the anatase business. I'd >like to see more of this; but that's his choice.

>

> I don't think his actual tentative assessments of most of the >stuff we discuss is very different from yours, or from mine. If >someone put a gun to his head, I think you'd find that out. >(Please, do not attempt this at home, or in NZ!) But whatever the >case, I don't see the point in questioning Eric's professional >integrity.

Lawyers tend to see things differently from the rest of us. Of course, the best of them are straight shooters also.

Eric Stevens

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• **References:**

- ◆ **Re: The Vinland Map's Ink**  
◇ From: Ken Towe
- ◆ **Re: The Vinland Map's Ink**  
◇ From: Eric Stevens
- ◆ **Re: The Vinland Map's Ink**  
◇ From: David B
- ◆ **Re: The Vinland Map's Ink**

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:* Tom McDonald

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