

# Re: Clams before Columbus

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2006-02/msg00324.html>

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- *From:* "t(nospam)kavanagh" <"tkavanag"@ (nospam)indiana.edu>
  - *Date:* Fri, 03 Feb 2006 22:20:02 -0500
- 

Peter Alaca wrote:

t(nospam)kavanagh" <"tkavanag wrote:  
ds12na\$ncd\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,

Peter Alaca wrote:

t(nospam)kavanagh" <"tkavanag wrote:  
ds10gt\$mpp\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,

Alan Crozier wrote:

In my review of  
Nielsen/Scott on the  
Kensington Rune Stone I  
criticized the absence of  
references for certain  
claims. One of  
the claims concerned clams.  
I asked "Where are the  
clams from  
Klagen [Skagen?] in north  
Jutland that must have come  
with ships  
from New England in the  
13th and 14th centuries?"

Richard Nielsen has now  
kindly provided an Internet  
source with  
a reference to something  
published in Nature 1992:  
<http://www.science--frontiers.com/sf085/sf085a01.htm>

Re: Clams before Columbus

(I note that my suspicion  
was right about the correct  
form of  
the place-name: it is indeed  
Skagen/the Skaw at the  
northern tip  
of Jutland. See  
<http://www.vulkaner.no/t/skagen/skagen1-n.html>)

Come on folks, we went thru this before,  
thanks to Yuri, back in  
1998:

Quote from the thread:

shells indicate Nordic-American links  
42. "tkavanag<no spam>" <"tkavanag Mar  
19 1998, 3:00 am

Newsgroups: sci.archaeology  
Date: 1998/03/19  
Subject: Re: shells indicate  
Nordic-American links

OK, folks, here it is:

K.S. Peterson, K.L. Rasmussen, J.  
Heinemeir, N. Rud  
1992 Clams Before Columbus. Nature. Vol.  
359, p 679.

...We have dated a sample from the Kattegat  
region on the east coast  
of the Skaw in northern Jutland, Denmark. ...

We took three samples from the east coast of  
the Skaw, ... with  
fragments of *M. arenaria*. ... The  
conventional radio-carbon dating  
of the three samples ... showed calibrated  
ages in the range of ad  
1400-1650... We subsequently radio-carbon  
dated one *M. arenaria*  
specimen from each of the three samples by  
accelerator mass  
spectrometry ... The age of the AMS sample  
found in the sand barrier  
farthest from the coast (... AD 1245-1295  
+/- 1 SD)... It is obvious  
from the distribution that there is a very

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slight probability of the  
sample being younger than Columbus's  
discovery...

Note that indeed, we are talking about a date  
from the fragment of  
ONE shell found in a sand dune, with no  
archaeological context.  
Moreover, the authors suggest that it might  
even be younger than  
Columbus.

/endquote/

ONE SHELL.

tk

Thanks for the quote and the 1998 ref, where is more.  
btw. Joe Pinegar cited the article

That's where I got the original reference that I went to see.

ONE SHELL

Must have come from mother superior's kitchen garden.

The larger question is that besides being a computer expert, who can't  
seem to get around upgrading her own computer, a scholar who won't  
organize her own files, a going-on 40-year expert on CO2 (who has read  
everything on CO2 written in the past 40 years), she is also an expert  
on Chesapeake soft-shell clams ("the other side of the Delaware  
peninsula"), whose only documented occurrence in the northlands seems to  
be fragments on one beach in Denmark, such that she is able to identify  
a shell fragment in an undated, and probably undatable, abandoned  
nunnery's garden.

That sure is convincing evidence, by gum.

tk

Ales Hrdlicka take note

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