

Re: You are cataloguers,not astronomers

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-05/msg00222.html>

- *From:* tomkirke@xxxxxxxx (Tom Kirke)
 - *Date:* Tue, 03 May 2005 17:27:19 -0500
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In article <1115128151.686491.185970@xx>, geraldkelleher@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

> "But such information will probably be of little use or interest to the
> archaeologist unless it serves to amplify some historical or cultural
> detail. An astronomer may not understand why his information fails to
> produce excitement because he does not fully grasp that archaeology is
> a social science. Few astronomers have the training to completely
> understand that distinction. The astronomer will generally fail to
> consider how little value an isolated astronomical fact may have to an
> archaeologist in the absence of a cultural context. The different
> languages of astronomy (a "hard" science) and archaeology (a social
> science) foster a lack of attention on the part of the Egyptology
> community for ideas presented by astronomers."
>
> <http://www.cloudbait.com/archaeo/arce2004.html>
>
> I have to laugh at distinction between 'hard' science and social
> science notwithstanding that you flatter yourselves by the unwarranted
> Do you know why the Egyptians chose the angle of inclination of the
> Great Pyramid as 51 degrees 50 minutes ?. It takes a

How do you know this? I know it is quoted in some sites, but there are others that give different values:

<http://ce.eng.usf.edu/pharos/wonders/pyramid.html> 145.75 x 229
<http://www.unmuseum.org/kpyramid.htm> 137.16 x 230.4
<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/greatpyramid1.htm> 146.59 x not stated

(Height x Base Length in meters)

The middle site gives the current height. In 820 A.D. the Arab Caliph Abdullah Al Manum searched for the treasure of Khufu but by this late date the treasure had long been looted. The Caliph then tried to level the pyramid and removed *about* 30 feet from the top. The other sites give *estimates* for the finished height.

It gets worse, in the original design the pyramids had white limestone

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cladding. This has been stripped, probably starting in the 19th Dynasty, Caliph al Manum finished the job. We simply do not know the exact dimensions of the cladding, nor even if these dimensions were constant along the height of the pyramid.

Based on some *assumed* dimentions there are many fantastic claims made about the pyramids. Unfortunately these all rest on a bed of

.... sand (sorry about that).

tom

BTW You're not thinking that $\cos (\tan (51.833... \text{ deg })) \sim 1$?

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We have discovered a therapy (NOT a cure)
for the common cold. Play tuba for an hour.

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• ***Follow-Ups:***

- ◆ ***Re: You are cataloguers,not astronomers***

◇ *From:* geraldkelleher

- ◆ ***Re: You are cataloguers,not astronomers***

◇ *From:* Rob Johnson

• ***References:***

- ◆ ***You are cataloguers,not astronomers***

◇ *From:* geraldkelleher

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