



Art Conservator Frank Dorland, who has studied the Mitchell-Hedges crystal skull since 1950, points to an optical effect at the base which can project light up to the sockets causing them to glow.

Dorland's theory is:

In all probability, the skull was first carved and put to religious use either by the people of Atlantis or by the ancient Egyptians or Chinese. At that time it resembled the example in the British Museum and was, in a sense, unfinished. Later, it was used by the Babylonian priests in religious temples on the hill of skulls, perhaps around 1000 B.C. The Phoenicians then brought the skull from Babylon to Central America where it was used first by the Mayans and then by the Aztecs. Perhaps the skull spent sometime at Atlantis before being transported to Central America. It was probably the Mayas or Aztecs who completed the sculpting, detached the lower jaw, and carved in other "trickery." The skull was then "lost" for hundreds of years until "found" again by the Mitchell-Hedges expedition

I have examined the entire surface of the skull in microscopic detail. I found no trace of machine tools. The skull was created by some other method. The top surface was so finely polished that I had a hard time seeing it, but when I did, the scratches went in a million directions. I've never seen any polished crystal like it.

The Mitchell-Hedges skull is anatomically correct in every respect, except that it lacks suture cracks along the top. It is assumed that this was so nothing would interfere with its use as a crystal ball. Dorland believes that at least three cultures worked on the skull. The detachable jaw, prisms, and pivots (which would allow it to be manipulated for dramatic effect) show two distinct levels of craftsman-

ship, both inferior to that of the top surface and the face. The skull of the British Museum does not have a detachable jaw or these other features.

Crystal is not just unusual because of its mystical and religious history. It vibrates, and cutting it in different directions produces different vibrations. The clocks taken aboard spacecraft use tiny flakes of quartz to maintain their accuracy. Primitive radios called crystal sets used an ordinary quartz crystal to detect radio waves. Crystals of silicon (the main ingredient of quartz) are the backbone of modern electronics. Without these crystals there would be no transistor television or computer electronics as we now know it.

Phenomena associated with the skull, reported by individuals and groups on literally hundreds of occasions while meditating on the skull include images appearing in the eye sockets and cranial mass. Often seen are other skulls, skeletons, temples, and buildings which are sometimes involved in episodes or scenes, people, and places.

Dorland has traveled across the country trying to find a scientific institution that would take charge of the research that needs to be done. The only institution that would even look at the skull was Hewlett Packard. Being in the business of industrial and electronic uses of crystal, they were able to determine that the jaw was originally part of the whole crystal, but beyond that they could come up with nothing.

The Mitchell-Hedges skull has been given to the Museum of American Indians in New York City and has been on display there in a show entitled, *Images of Mortality*, but Frank Dorland believes this skull is really an image of immortality and should be recognized as such.

Whatever the actual history of the skull, Dorland seriously believes that the secret of its past is locked in the skull itself and that the key will only be found through modern scientific methods. Further research on these windows into the past will only come when interest in the skull is demonstrated by people who wish to see the skull in the Museum of American Indians. A good place to start would be a video tape of the skull made by a New York video group. Meanwhile, on the West Coast, plans to tape remarks by Frank Dorland and to record his slide lecture on the skull are in progress. Whatever the meaning of the crystal skulls, the possibility of their presence before the Pyramids or Stonehenge must be thoroughly investigated.

