

CrossTalk

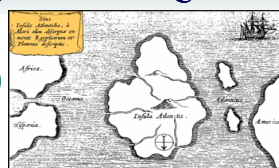
CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter December, 2017

FLOATING CITIES

Plato described Atlantis in his "*Timaues* and *Critias*" as a series of concentric circles alternating land and sea, a huge island complex located in the center of the Atlantic Ocean. It is hard to believe that such an island existed in that location, so a majority of scholars have opted for a more modest location. If Atlantis had existed at all, they say, it would have been in the Aegean Sea, not too far from present-day Athens. But even there, where is the evidence?

The doubts about the existence of Atlantis center on the lack of any physical, geological proof. A huge island once existing in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? Really? But what if Atlantis wasn't a land-based island at all?

In January this year, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government of French Polynesia (Tahiti) and a non-profit organization out of San Francisco called the Seasteading Institute. The plan is to build the world's first self-sustainable floating island habitat in Tahiti. Its designers envision it as a prototype for future floating cities - even nations - free of government controls, taxes, and other inconveniences. Seasteading's ultimate goal, according to president, Joe Quirk, is to "liberate humanity from politicians" and "rewrite the rules that govern society."



An early map placing "Atlantis" between Africa and America in the Atlantic Ocean

Politics aside, the scale and sophistication of Quirk's future island nation-states suggest the possibility that, perhaps in the distant past, a

technologically advanced civilization may have actually existed in the Atlantic Ocean. Not on a land-based island, but on a kind of floating island similar to those now being envisioned by the Seasteading Institute. Atlantis might have existed in

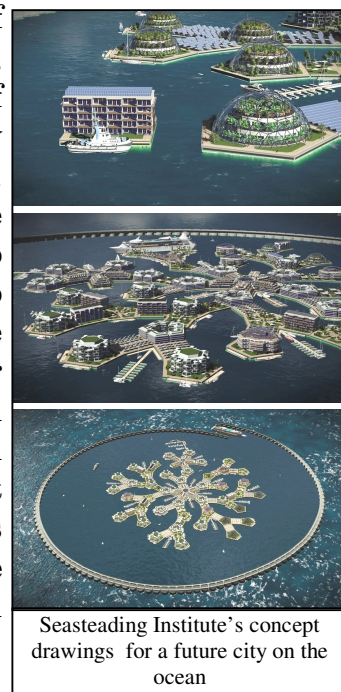


A prototype for Tahiti

such a form, and if it did, this could explain why there is no trace of it today. It could have suffered a cataclysm that left no physical

evidence behind that it ever existed.

Crazy, you say! Whole nations living on man-made floating islands? In the middle of the ocean? But the concept is not unusual or even new. People to this day have been living on floating man-made islands made of reeds for hundreds, even thousands of years in many parts of the world, from Africa to the Middle East to South America. To be sure, these structures are far less ambitious than Quirk's envisioned floating cities, but the concept is there. Add the technology and you may just come up with a new "Atlantis!"



Seasteading Institute's concept drawings for a future city on the ocean

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here is something on future ocean cities:

<https://www.boredpanda.com/first-floating-nation-island-pacific-ocean-tahiti-2020-seasteading-institute/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Brexit. England is leaving the EU. Rather than this making the English language less important in Europe, I think this will *increase* its importance there. Why? With no remaining member country having English as its native language, there will be an opportunity for all EU nations to use the international and, now “neutral”, language for all negotiation and communication purposes favoring no one nation in particular.

Junko Says: Next year, 2018 will be the Year of the Dog. But the original sign in the Chinese zodiac used a character that has nothing to do with animals. The original character has the meaning of the withering of plants. So it has the image of winter, while also indication the beginning of a new life. Some say that this 11th sign symbolizes the fruits of hard work. I hope you will all have a fruitful year next year.



Perry Says: It's surprising how quickly the weather has cooled down. Everyone asks me if Chicago is colder than Matsuyama and it is. But one big difference is buildings in America have better insulation, so even when it's very cold outside, it's warm inside. In Japan, many homes—especially older ones—have very poor insulation. So it can sometimes feel just as cold inside as it is outside!

Darrin Says: One thing that I always get asked about here in Japan is how are Christmas and New year different in Australia. The answer is that the Japanese New Year and Australian Christmas are similar in that this is a time we spend with our family with almost every shop closing for the day. The Japanese Christmas and Australian New year are similar in that this is a time to enjoy with friends. Have a great Christmas and happy new year.



Mandey dit: Aaaaah Noël ! Le moment le plus magique de toute l'année ! Les maisons sont redécorées de rouge et de vert, les guirlandes de lumières qui éclairent la ville, l'odeur du vin chaud et du pain d'épice. J'espère donc que vous avez été bien sages cette année, et que le Père Noël vous offre plein de cadeaux. Joyeux Noël à tous !

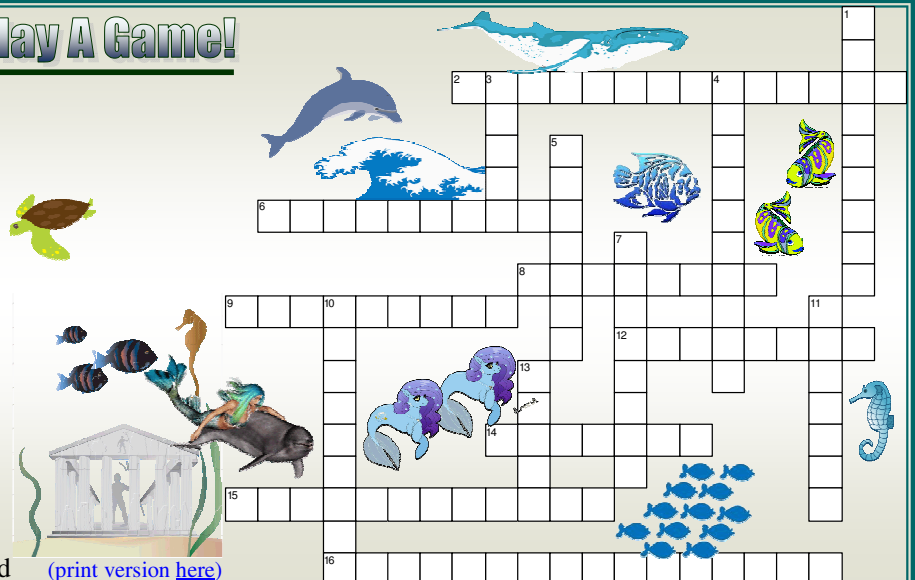
ACROSS

- 2 refined, complex and worldly
- 6 written proposal
- 8 furthest or highest in degree
- 9 a sudden and violent event
- 12 imagine, picture to oneself
- 14 an environment that supports life
- 15 discomfort or not convenient
- 16 needing no outside support

DOWN

- 1 a full-scale working model
- 3 selected as an alternative
- 4 having a common center
- 5 complicated in structure
- 7 make free
- 10 a strong desire for success
- 11 a general idea
- 13 an indication that something once existed

Play A Game!



(print version [here](#))

Jazz in Shikoku

By Keiko Kurita



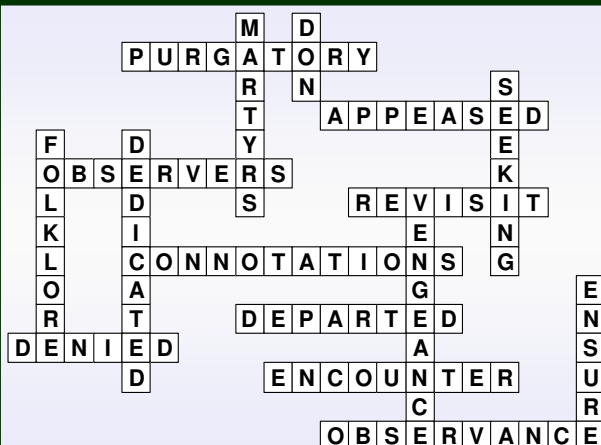
On October 21st, I performed at the “Jazz in Shikoku” concert in Ainan-cho, located in the southern area of Ehime prefecture. In the past, going from Matsuyama to Ainan-cho took five hours by car. But since the highway was built, it only takes two and a half hours.

This is the fourth “Jazz in Shikoku” concert and it was held at the Cultural Center. Many famous jazz musicians from all over Japan gathered there.

Unfortunately, Typhoon No. 21 also came on the same day of the concert. You might think the typhoon stopped people from coming, but that wasn’t the case. Despite the rain, a lot of people still came to see the concert.

I performed with Osamu Kawakami (bassist), Kenji Mori (saxophonist), and Mie Joke (vocalist). They usually perform in Tokyo and Nagoya, so I was very happy and honored to play with them. It was an important opportunity for me. There were three other bands besides ours. Each band was very skilled and I enjoyed their performances, too. Some of the artists included Takeo Moriyama and Fumio Itabashi, Keiko Lee and Philip Woo, and Kazumasa Akiyama and Trial Trip.

The next day, Ainan-cho also held “Jazz Concert for Children.” Some of the musicians from “Jazz in Shikoku” also performed at the children’s concert. I not only performed, but I also served as the MC for the concert. I had the chance to perform with Ainan-cho’s local high school brass band. It was a great weekend.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 3 a place where the dead are temporarily tormented and tortured
- 5 make peace with, gain favor with
- 8 followers or believers
- 9 visit again
- 11 an implied or suggested idea
- 13 dead
- 14 refuse to accept
- 15 unintentionally be in the same place
- 16 a formal event on a special occasion

DOWN

- 1 people who suffer (even die) for a cause
- 2 put on clothing
- 4 searching for
- 6 the unwritten stories, etc., of a culture
- 7 committed to a cause, ideal or purpose
- 10 taking revenge, retaliation
- 12 make certain of something



Don't forget... Our **SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.