

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON HISTORICAL WONDERS:

### SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

There are many wonders in the world of which the *Seven Wonders* were best known in history, first designated by *Antipater of Sidon* and *Philo of Byzantium* during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, which include, viz :-

#### 1. Pyramids of Giza, Egypt:

There are 3 pyramids forming the Great Pyramid known as “Horizon of Khufu”. For further details and picture, please refer to pages 6 and 7.

#### 2. Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Baghdad, Iraq:

According to legend, these were built by Nebuchadnezzar for his Median Queen who cherished woodlands of her native mountains. Archaeologists have found the ruins of Babylon site at an irrigation system that used to water lofty terraces with trees and other vegetation and probably the site of the Hanging Gardens.

#### 3. Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Athens, Greece:

The statue of Zeus at Olympia, fashioned of gold and ivory by Phidias, most renowned of Greek sculptors, in the shrine at the site of Olympic Games. The giant effigy was taken to the palace of Constantinople where it was later believed to be destroyed in a subsequent fire during the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.

#### 4. Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Izmir, Turkey:

The Temple of Artemis (Turkey) which Pliny called it “the most wonderful monument of Grecian magnificence” it was burned by the Goths in one of those raids which foreshadowed the fall of the Roman Empire. Only the façade of Celsus Library in Ephesus, Istanbul, re-erected – see picture at page 16.

#### 5. Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, Aegean Sea, Turkey:

The Mausoleum built by Queen Artemisia for her husband King Mausolus in the city of Bodrum, Halicarnassus. In 19<sup>th</sup> Century British archaeologists excavated the site and unearthed the statues of Mausolus and Artemisia which once stood at the top of the Mausoleum, are today on display at the British Museum in London.

#### 6. Colossus of Rhodes, Mediterranean Island, Greece:

This was a giant bronze statue dedicated to the sun god, Helios which took 12 years to build, was destroyed by earthquake during 226 BC, only its monstrous fragments lay on the ground for a millennium.

#### 7. Pharos of Alexandria, Egypt:

This was a massive 445 feet height towering lighthouse known as Pharos of Alexandria at the harbour entrance which was there for almost 600 years until it was destroyed by 2 strong earthquakes in 1303 and 1323.

Today, only the oldest **Pyramids of Giza in Egypt** remained whereas the other *six forgotten wonders of the ancient world* had either perished by fire, earthquakes or other unknown causes.

### **1. PYRAMIDS OF GIZA, EGYPT:**

There are three pyramids of which the most famous Egyptian pyramids are in the desert 5 miles southwest of Giza which is 3 miles southwest of Cairo. The great Pyramid known the **“Horizon of Khufu”** was built in 2550 BC with the original height of 481 feet 1 inch, but due to the loss of its topmost stones, it now stands at 451 feet with a base foundation of 755 feet 10 inches, covering more than 13 acres of land. It took 30 years of 100,000 permanent work-force to mobilize 2,300,000 limestone blocks into its present position. Each block with the average weight of 2.5 tons and total estimated weight of 5,840,000 tons and the volume is 91,571,000 ft.

## **OTHER SUCCEEDING WONDERS OF THE WORLD**

When **Antipater of Sidon and Philo of Byzantium** designated the *Seven Wonders of the World* during the Alexandrian period, little was known to them of the other wonders of the world probably due to poor communication at that time.

The contemporary six best known of the *Seven Wonders of the World* probably include **the Great Wall and the Mount Li Tomb of China, the Angkor Wat, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum and the Abu Simbel Temples in Egypt**. Hypothetically, six out of the Seven Wonders of the World are found in three of the most ancient cities on earth, namely **in China, Egypt and Italy**. Coincidentally, they belong to the fair yellow, brown and white complexion communities from Asia, Middle East and Europe.

Even though there is no universal declaration, the author is of the opinion that they are generally recognized as succeeding *Seven Wonders of the World* by virtues of their antiquities and colossal or ingenious unique structures which remained substantially unchanged over 2,000 years, even beyond the expectations of mankind in modern times.

Seven Wonders of the World	Years Built	Country	City/Town
1. The Pyramids of Giza	2550 BC	Egypt	Cairo
2. The Great Wall	228-210 BC	China	Beijing
3. The Mount Li Tomb	221 BC	China	Shaanxi
4. The Angkor Wat	1112-1182	Cambodia	Siem Reap
5. The Leaning Tower	11 <sup>th</sup> Century	Italy	Pisa
6. The Colosseum	AD 72-80	Italy	Rome
7. Abu Simbel Temples	1250 BC	Egypt	Nile

