From Finger Counting to Inscriptions during the Neolithic Age

Martin Macbeath

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Over the centuries there have been many theories which have tried to explain the purpose of Neolithic monuments, such as stone circles. This peaked with archaeoastronomy which claimed that stone circles were calendars that relied on a deep but lost understanding of mathematics to explain the movements of the sun, moon and stars. Although these theories captured the imagination of the public, most of the results were found to have been overstated. However, within the field of archaeology there still remains a sense that at least some of these monuments do indeed reflect what happens in the sky.

A new interpretation of these monuments will be presented linking them through metaphor to finger counting. This theory will be expanded upon using the Neolithic site at Avebury as a primary example. It will then be suggested that there exists readable evidence that a positional number system was used during the Neolithic Age. Several examples will be presented with an interpretation of meaning. Finally, a hierarchical link between the stone circles and the number system will be demonstrated.