

# twelve monoliths

Reynald Drouhin



# twelve monoliths

Reynald Drouhin



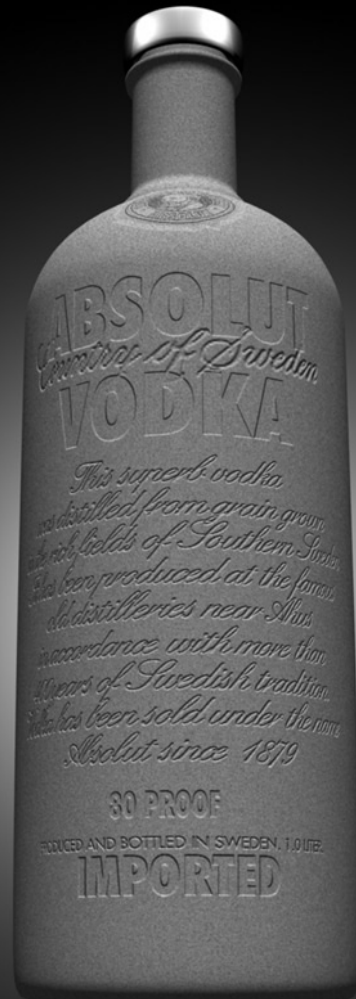












# ABSOLUT MONOLITH

















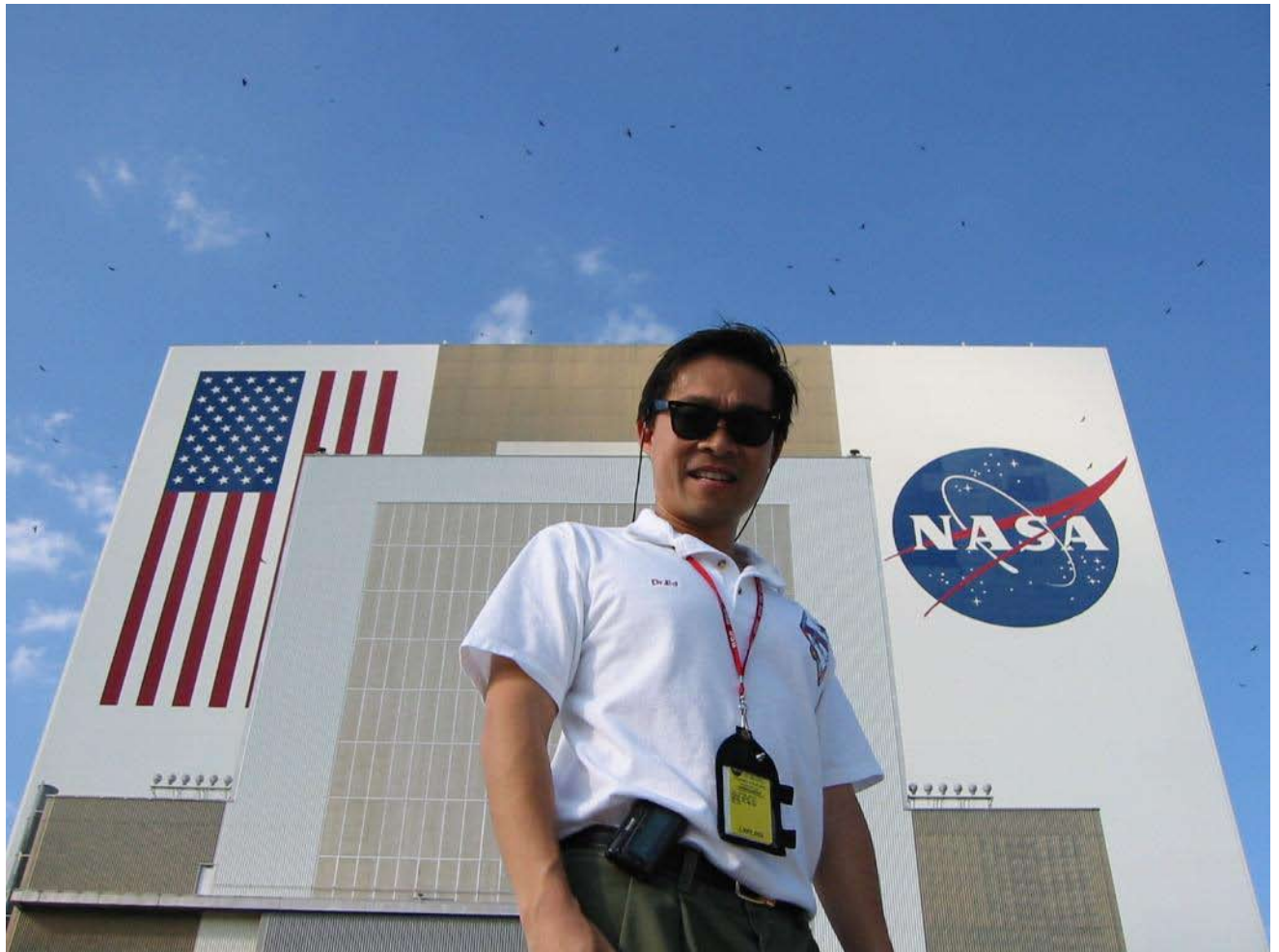


beside the now meaningless monolith, until the exodus under Justinian II., 688 A. D., robbed the island of half its inhabitants, and left so many villages and farmsteads to fall to ruins in a deserted land.

The modern Cypriotes have utilised a few of the mill-stones, but the majority are much larger than those in use nowadays, and thus have remained in situ: the uses to which the monoliths were once put they have absolutely forgotten (as they have forgotten other obsolete things much more recent, e.g. the cultivation of the sugar-cane on the Paphos plain), and their ignorance has invested these solitary relics of a past age with properties attractive, but misleading, to the student of folklore.

I have already mentioned the Agia Trypiméne near Yerovasa, round which bushes and stumps bear countless rags, whereto countless fevers and agues have been consigned; and the perforation of one of the Agios Stefanos stones was full of vicarious pebbles, while the apex of another was similarly loaded. This custom is, no doubt, at least as old as the Mosaic scapegoat, but is of so universal acceptance in the East (nor altogether unknown in the West) that a special origin need hardly be inferred for it in particular instances. I have observed rags tied to trees and shrubs, not only near this monolith, and the dolmen, known as Phaneroméne, near Larnaca, but to many other trees and bushes near nothing in particular, both in Cyprus and Asia Minor. In two cases only could I hear of a habit of crawling through the aperture for the cure of sickness: ailing children are said to be passed through the Paphos stones, and barren women through one of those near Anoyira: and on the top of one of the former women sit, as on the holy stone at the Trooditissa monastery, and on many stones in Egypt and elsewhere. Troth is also said to be plighted by clasping hands through the slit at Paphos, as in the Woden stone in Orkney. The natives of Agios Photios call their monoliths vaguely *ἀγίαί πέτραι*, but I could elicit no trace of any belief in their possessing medicinal or other virtues; and a similar result attended my constant and persistent enquiries as to all the remaining examples in Cyprus—that is to say, that to not one fourth part of the whole number of instances does any popular superstition attach. For example, the villagers of Kalorgá smiled at the suggestion that there was any virtue in the six monoliths of Macaria, and to one









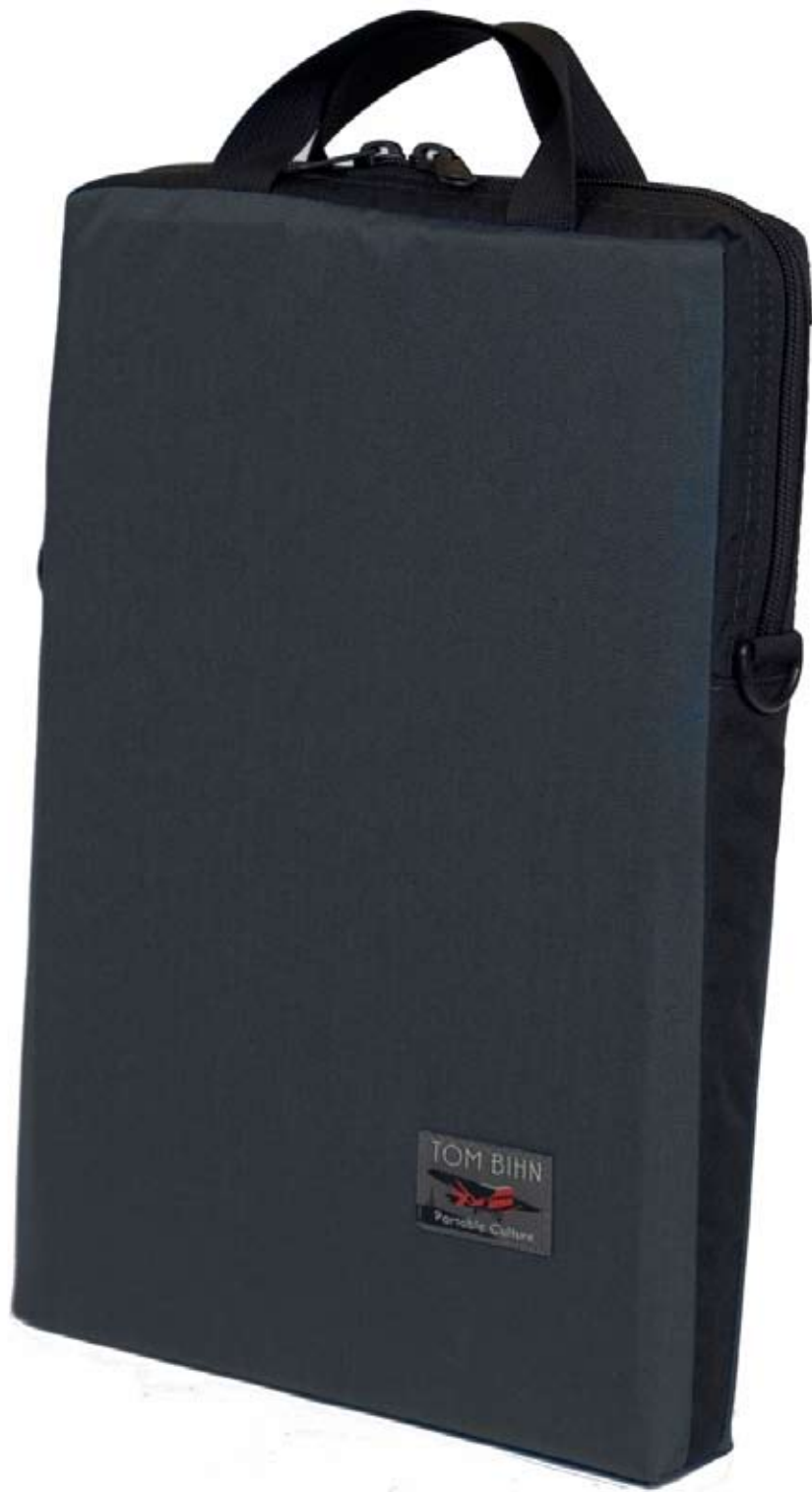












TOM BIHN  
Pensable Culture









monolith3.jpg



279585936\_5ef472934f\_b  
.jpg



Absolut-Monolith.jpg



monolith\_large.jpg



2004-11-25-024.jpg



monolith.jpg



HogCy051.jpg



vab\_monolith.JPG.jpg



fear\_01.jpg



Uluru\_Australia(1).jpg



MShighres.jpg



mono2000.jpg

*twelve monoliths*, photographies trouvées sur un moteur de recherche en 2007.

