

Utterly brilliant – How Raphael Semmes creates the Icelandic Scenes in *A Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (1864) and proves the Saksussemm Dual Cipher.

1. *the gnomon of a vast sun dial ...*



**The meteorological tower at Bidston Observatory
(construction started 1864)**

2. *...In the midst of the vast surface of snow presented by the hollow between the two peaks...*



3. ...a kind of staircase appeared unexpectedly



4. ...two peaks one north one south



5. ... one south...Scataris

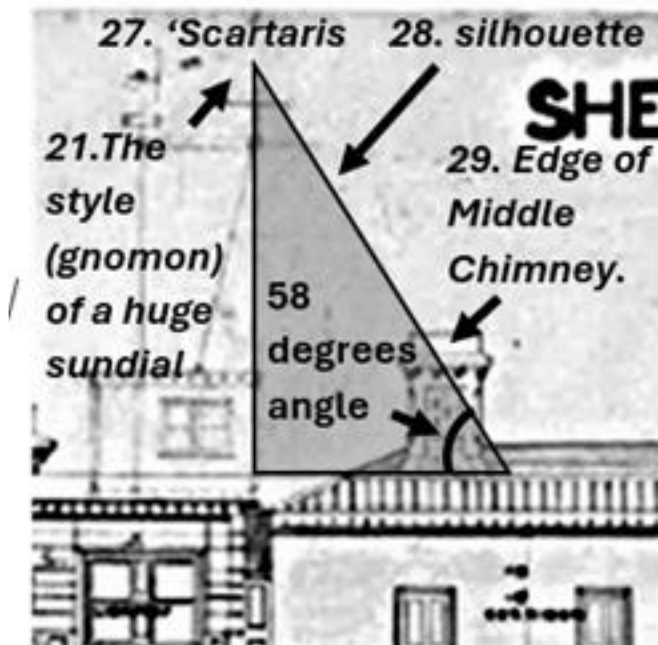
6. One north...an inverted cone...Snaefells

7. *At the bottom of the crater there were three chimneys.*



The Roof of Bidston Observatory with three chimneys.

8. *On the 29th June...*

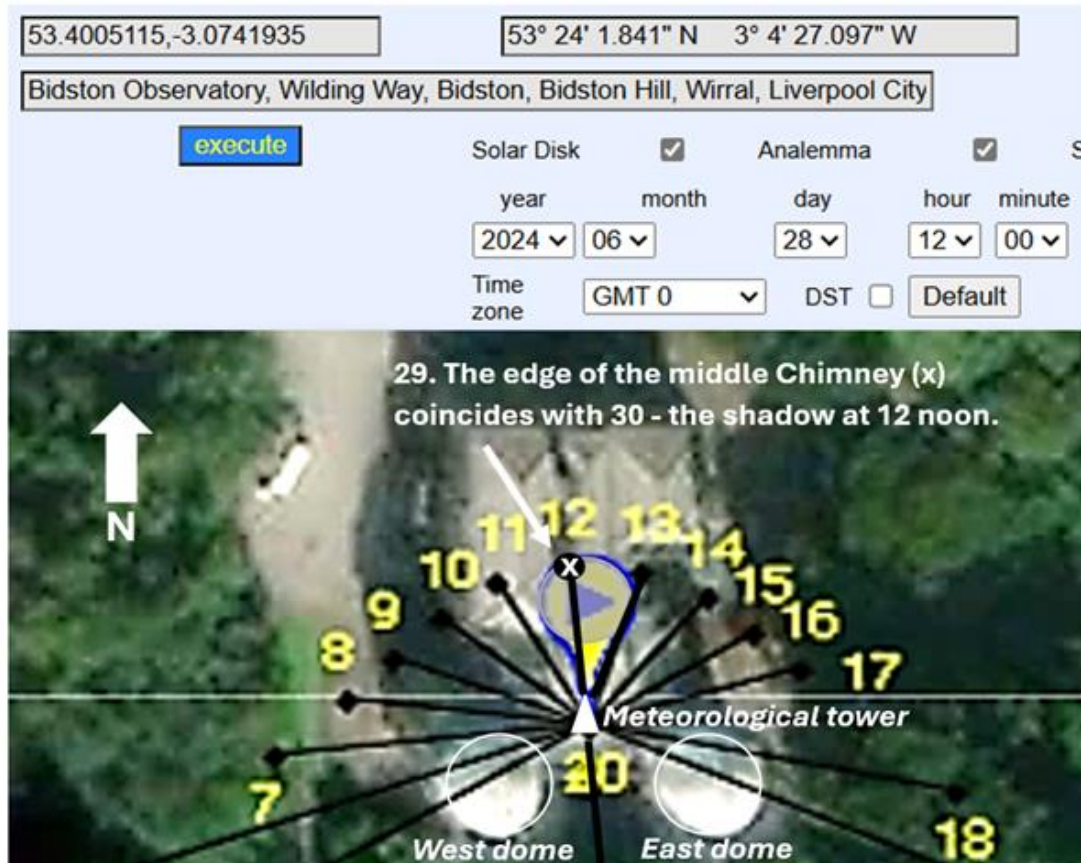


On the 29th June the sun is 58 degrees high in the sky at Birkenhead.

This is exactly the right height for the shadow from the top of the vertical pole (gnomon of the vast sundial) to reach the edge of the middle chimney.

9. *...Scartaris laid down his sharp pointed angular shadow*

10. At noon, being at its least extent, it came and fell softly on the edge of the middle chimney.



The Website *Sunearthtools* (above) shows the shadow created by any raised point on the earth's surface at a precise time and date. The website superimposes the shadow results on to any vertical aerial photograph, in this case on the meteorological tower on Bidston Observatory roof at Birkenhead.

The lines (above) show the relative length and direction of shadow from a fixed object (the pointed meteorological tower) 10m high between the sun rising in the east at 5:00 a.m. and setting in the west at 19:00.p.m on July 1st 2024.

The sun is not directly due south in Birkenhead at noon but slightly offset to the south, southwest, however this is compensated by the middle chimney being slightly offset to the north north west, so indeed the shadow from the meteorological tower does indeed strike the edge of the middle chimney at 12.00 noon on June 29th – the genius of Jules Verne!

11. I approached the Middle Chimney...each of us could then descend ...we are there...at the bottom of the perpendicular chimney...let us have supper and go to sleep...

12. ..."Did you ever spend a quieter night in our little house at Königsberg? No noise of cart wheels, no cries of basket women, no boatmen shouting!"



*A deep trench known as the moat, surrounded the whole building to insulate the telescopes from **the vibration** caused by the movement of traffic round the building.*

***Bidston Observatory – The Place and the People.**
Joyce Scoffield (2006)*

...and finally...

The explorers are now in the quietest room in Bidston observatory. There are approximately 500 million rooms in Great Britain, however this one room could be classed as one of the most important in modern French history, because from this room in early 1944, using Lord Kelvin's tide machine calculator (an early analogue computer) the date of the D-Day landings was set as June 6th 1944. Perhaps the last great illustration of how Birkenhead's industrial and technological might had drawn the great Jules Verne to the town.

As one man said - *'Birkenhead or Milan or London or Calcutta, a huge extension of human power?'*

H.G. Wells (1906)