Ever wonder about how the ancient Egyptians managed to build the great pyramids with such incredible precision?

It’s a problem that has been puzzling experts for centuries.

Now, a solution has been found, an explanation that is rapidly becoming an accepted answer among people with expertise in stone construction.

The answer was published by Olaf Tellefson, of Everett, Wash., a former naval architect and civil engineer who has been studying the problem of the great pyramids since his retirement in 1965.

“What the discovery proves,” Tellefson explains, “is the sequence in which the regular body stones were placed.

“When we know that sequence, it is not much of a step to determine the most logical work routine compatible with then prevailing conditions.”

What the new explanation means is that construction experts are no longer entirely in the dark on how the ancient Egyptians managed to build with a precision that never since has been surpassed anywhere or at any time in the world.

Furthermore, the construction technique indicates that the actual raising of the structure was a comparatively low budget job even by modern standards.

For centuries, scholars have been struggling with the Pyramid problem without even coming close to a perspective or reasonable explanation—and now an opening wedge has been driven into the enigma, exposing a technique that, at least, removes any doubt about the construction sequence.

As the drawing indicates, the outer core blocks of the Pyramid have been smoothed down to match the top of the abutting casing blocks. This provides a smooth and level seat for the next row of casing blocks.

At this stage of construction, the casing blocks are missing, but the smoothed down part of the core blocks are in evidence all over the Pyramid.

It is from the manner in which the core blocks were smoothed down that investigators deduced the sequence in which the blocks were placed.

First, it was learned that the top of the casing blocks determined the amount to be rubbed down, which confirms that those blocks must have been in place at the time.

The second deduction, as the drawing indicates, reveals that abrasion extends a few centimeters beyond the face of the core block above. That could not have been so had that particular block been in place during the smoothing down operation.

These data therefore reveal the sequence in which the regular body stones were placed. The casing stones were placed first, because they had to be pushed into place from the inside where there was something solid to pry against.

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The abutting core blocks were placed next. This, of course, allowed the smoothing down operation for the following row of casing blocks. It also enabled workers to complete the remainder of the core masonry for that level.

The logic of the sequence is not difficult to understand, Tellefson continued. It was essential that the prepared seat for the casing blocks be perfectly level, because those blocks were beveled to the exact design slope angle. Only when placed on a perfectly level seat could they maintain that angle on all four sides as the Pyramid rose.

No other procedure could produce the perfect symmetry of the structure.

In addition, the finely finished casing blocks controlled the straight line, and, therefore, the perfect plane of the side surface. And this is what controlled the, angle of slope.

Contemporary engineering could not devise a more practical sequence than that.

Because of the erosion of the exposed core block edges that has taken place over the years, it is difficult to obtain a clearly illustrated photograph showing how the abrasion undercuts the core blocks. The evidence had to be verified by close inspection of the pyramids themselves.

An examination of the photograph given here does show that the configurations of the abrasion conform to the direction that blocks were pushed and placed. It proves that the sketch is derived from fact, and that the arguments—that the Pyramids were built from the outside in—are established on evidence that is irrefutable.

“Architects, civil engineers and masons understand this kind of evidence,” Tellefson contended, “and they understand the rationale of the stone-placing sequence.”

People with construction know-how have long been dissatisfied with the conventional archaeological explanation that the structure was built from the inside outwards and that the casing stones were placed last as the finishing mantle.

Their suspicion of this theory arises because it involved some physical impossibilities. Not even the Egyptians with all of their slave labor could push the three-ton casing blocks into position from the outside.

No platform could be secured solidly enough to withstand the reaction of the pries—nor could the hairline fits be achieved in that sequence.

For these reasons, it is now felt that solid evidence has been found for the manner in which the Great Pyramid actually was raised.

“Much more has been discovered,” Tellefson concluded, “relative to the superb engineering and craftsmanship that were prerequisites for the planning and execution of the world’s most magnificent monument of stone.

“But those discoveries can keep until the stone-placing sequence becomes generally accepted. The Great Pyramid is in fact, if not by intent, a time capsule, reflecting the knowledge and skills of its day.”