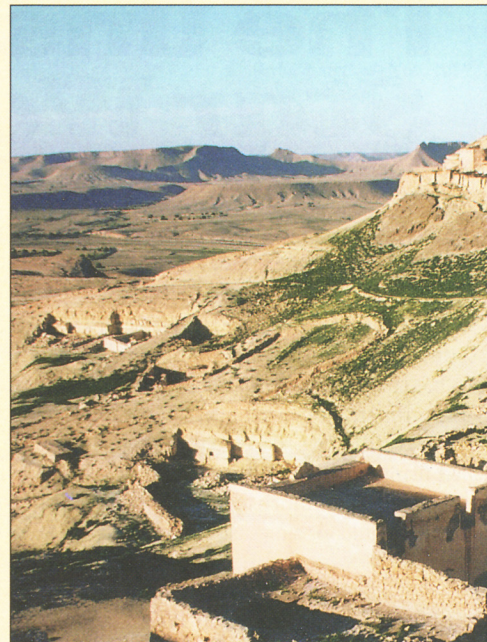
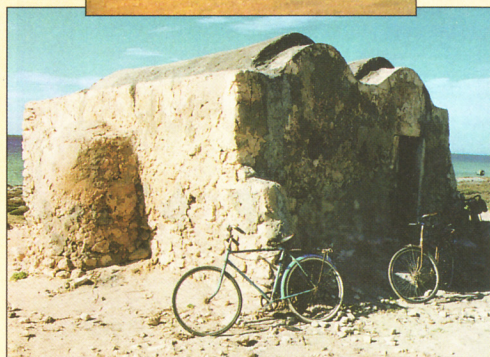




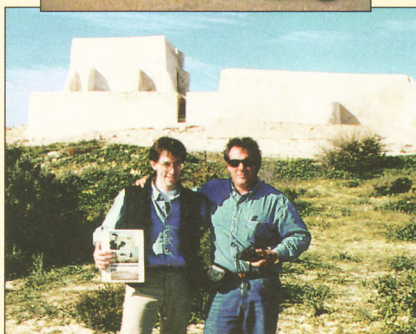
Producer Rick McCallum collects footage at a “very Tatooine” *ksar* complex that the reconnaissance team would have missed without archeologist Reynolds in the lead.



Though it looks like a matte painting, this mountain city is real, standing deep in the remote wastes of southern Tunisia.



Reynolds added another original *Star Wars* filming site to his list of discoveries when he unexpectedly spotted Ben Kenobi’s home in a desolate part of the Island of Djerba. Nowadays there are bicycles parked out front instead of Luke’s landspeeder.



Reynolds and McCallum also rediscovered the lost location of the “outskirts of Mos Eisley” seen briefly when Luke’s landspeeder zooms overhead. The area is now overgrown and looks very different, although the structures (part of an ancient mosque) still stand just as they were in the movie.



In front of the Mos Eisley Cantina, Reynolds and McCallum display a “trophy” of the expedition: a dewback tether ring from *Star Wars* found in a 20 year old junk heap!

the Mos Eisley sites. McCallum and company also took joy in teasing “Mr. Archaeologist” Reynolds, when they discovered set dressings, like the entrance door to the Cantina, that Reynolds had missed on his previous expedition.

One fiberglass ring was particularly puzzling. Reynolds identified it as a dewback tether ring that hitched outside the Cantina door. No one believed him until Reynolds produced a movie still that proved it. McCallum was aghast. “Are your colleagues aware of how *desperately* ill you are?” he exclaimed, sarcastically implying that David now knew *too* much about Tatooine.

One surprise discovery that David spotted was the site of Ben Kenobi’s home. Although it’s supposed to be set in the desert, the actual site is on Djerba, within throwing distance of the ocean. From the angle in which it was filmed, the ocean is not in view, although anyone standing there can hear the pounding surf nearby. (Anyone who has read the *Shadows of the Empire* novel knows that Ben’s house figures prominently as a setting in the book.) Whether it is utilized in the new films remains to be seen, but for now one of the last important Tatooine location sites has been located.

For possible new locations the team concentrated on southern Tunisia. Traveling high into the mountains near Algeria they surveyed many long-abandoned cities. One city hung over a deep chasm, clinging to the very edge of a cliff wall. Reynolds describes it as “a haunting isolated place, built like battlements rising out of living rock...one of the most amazing sights I have ever beheld.”

“We found some local architecture styles that were very interesting and

hadn’t been used on the first film,” said Bocquet. One such style was from a series of fortified Berber granaries made up of individual vaulted chambers called “ghorfas” stacked up to five stories high and arranged around courtyards. Sights like this had simply been too remote when *Star Wars* was filmed in 1976. “A lot of places we went to on this trip weren’t accessible 20 years ago. In 20 years the country had opened up quite a lot.”

After the trip McCallum departed for Morocco to supervise and produce the next *Young Indy* episodes *Tales of Innocence* and *Curse of the Jackal*, which are filming in Erfoud, Ouarzazate, the Atlas Mountains, and Marekesh. Bocquet resumed his preliminary production design work for the prequels. Reynolds went back to the states to put the finishing touches on his Ph.D. in archaeology. (Which makes him “Dr.” Reynolds from now on.)

“David was very useful to us, as well as being a nice chap. It’s very useful to have someone who has that knowledge of civilization and history,” said Bocquet. McCallum on the other hand noted that Dr. Reynolds was indeed insane, a sick and demented *Star Wars* fan who needed deep psychological help to get through this difficult time. Fans can be content with the fact that the history and civilization of the new *Star Wars* films are now that much closer to being a reality. 🗡️

Dr. David West Reynolds will be giving a multi-media presentation called “Return to Tatooine” on Friday July 5th at this year’s San Diego Comic Con.

