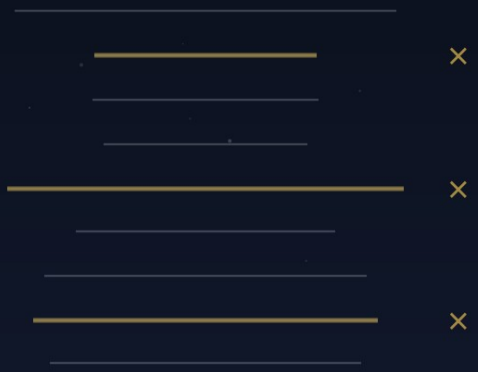

THE RUNNING RECORD

Corrections and Failed Predictions

Everything this work got wrong, with dates

APPARATUS

KEITH SHIRLEY

Corrections and Failed Predictions

Everything This Work Got Wrong, With Dates

A Running Record

Keith Shirley

23 November 2026

Why this document exists

A body of work with no public error record is making an implicit claim about itself, and the claim is false. Everything of this size contains errors. A corpus that shows none has either not looked or not said.

This is the running list. It covers seven volumes, a working paper, three sealed registration files and five hundred and thirty-two sources, and it records every instance in which this work asserted something and then found it to be wrong.

It is also the only credential this work has. There is no institutional position behind it and no peer review. What there is instead is a method that registers predictions before looking and publishes the ones that fail. That method is worth nothing unless the failures are easy to find, which is what this page is for.

Entries are dated. Superseded text is described rather than quietly removed. Where a correction produced a better hypothesis, the replacement is named.

Part One: Registered predictions that failed

Four predictions were written into sealed files before any searching and subsequently failed. In each case the failure produced a stronger account than the prediction had.

F1. The three-property account of the gathering-name

Asserted: in *The Seven Who Are Six*, that the Pleiades attracts collective terms because it is plural, compact and without a dominant member.

Failed: before the second sealed file was written, on an object the first volume had not considered. Orion's Belt is plural, compact, and more uniform in magnitude than the Pleiades by roughly a factor of four. By the stated account it should attract collective terms more readily. It attracts them nowhere on Earth.

Replaced by: a fourth necessary condition , the group must also defeat enumeration. This became the central finding of the entire corpus.

Note: this failure occurred before the testing programme began, which means the programme's first result was the destruction of the hypothesis it was built to test.

F2. Literacy fossilises, orality corrects

Registered: in the durability pre-registration, that fossilisation would be the commonest outcome in literate traditions and correction the commonest in oral ones, on the reasoning that a written list acquires authority independent of observation while an oral calendar must be re-derived annually by somebody watching.

Failed: literate traditions do both, frequently at the same time. India corrected its working nakshatra list twice while leaving the *Shatapatha Brahmana*'s contradicting statement untouched for four thousand years. Babylon copied MUL.APIN's stale dates for a millennium while recording actual positions nightly in the diaries.

Replaced by: canonical texts are not corrected but silently **demoted** from description to authority, while observation continues beside them unreconciled. This is now the most portable finding in the corpus and is visible in a twentieth-century guidebook decision as well as in cuneiform.

F3. Drift magnitude predicts the response

Registered: that the size of a precessional drift would determine whether a tradition corrected or fossilised, on the reasoning that you can only repair what somebody noticed.

Failed: Egypt sustained the largest drift in the sample, a full year over fourteen centuries, and did not correct for roughly two millennia. The tropical and sidereal zodiacs diverged by twenty-four degrees and **both** traditions corrected. Comparable magnitude, opposite outcomes.

Replaced by: the **cost** of correction, not its size, predicts whether a detected error is repaired. An anchor embedded in administration, law and record-keeping is effectively uncorrectable; a symbolic anchor is repaired freely. This also supplied a name for the Egyptian case , fossilisation by law rather than by forgetting.

F4. Seven-fold geometry is rare to absent

Registered: in the aperture pre-registration, that regular seven-fold geometry would be rare to absent in compass-and-straightedge traditions and approximate where present.

Failed in its first clause. Seven-fold work exists, has a historical corpus, and a practitioner's account describes it as uncommon but not rare. Seven-fold circle division is in the working repertoire.

Held in its second clause, and strongly. A crystallographic analysis of a Moroccan pattern describes its eightfold elements as regular and its sevenfold elements as pseudoheptagonal approximations.

Replaced by: craftsmen did not avoid the impossible figure; they approximated it, within a tolerance the mathematics does not have. Which produced the broader finding that **only limits with no available approximation leave marks on a culture.**

Part Two: Substantive corrections to published claims

C1. The paper's central mechanism

Date: 23 November 2026.

Asserted: in Section 8 of the working paper, that a group defeats enumeration when n exceeds approximately four **and angular separation approaches the resolution limit.**

Wrong. The bright Pleiades are separated by twenty to sixty times ordinary visual acuity and are trivially resolvable. Resolution is not the limiting factor and never was.

Corrected to: detection instability. Roughly six members sit above the naked-eye detection threshold, three at or below it, and one of those is variable. Foveal vision lacks rods, so direct fixation on a near-threshold member extinguishes it. The set's membership therefore changes within an observing session and between observers and sites.

Consequences of the correction, all of which favour the corrected version: it explains the reported flicker rather than predicting a blur; it distinguishes the Pleiades from Praesepe on principled grounds; it reconciles Norris, his critic, and Colenso's 1839 report, all of whom turn out to be describing a quantity that does not exist; and it supplies the mechanism for why no cardinality was ever established observationally, which is the origin of the repair-narratives.

Status of the superseded version: withdrawn. The paper carries a note at the top and a full record in its Section 13.

C2. The psychophysical prediction

Date: 23 November 2026. Follows from C1.

Withdrawn: that the transition from counted to mass-noun description tracks angular separation.

Replaced by: the transition tracks the proportion of set members near the observer's detection threshold, largely independently of separation above a few arcminutes.

Note: the original experimental protocol already varied both separation and magnitude, so the design still tests the revised prediction. What changed is which variable the prediction names , and the original is on record as having named the wrong one.

C3. Chamukuy

Date: found during the third deep pass of the second volume.

Asserted: in the first gather, that *Chamukuy*, a Yucatec Maya term for a small bird, was a name for the Hyades cluster.

Wrong. It is the IAU-approved proper name of **θ2 Tauri**, a single star within the cluster.

Left in the record rather than silently removed, because it is the characteristic error a star-name compilation invites: a name attached to one star, reported as a name for a group.

Part Three: A result scored against the argument

S1. Jīshī at Praesepe

The scoring rule fixed in the second sealed file counted a name as a collective term wherever its literal sense is a heap, crowd, group, herd, assembly, many or together.

The Chinese name for Praesepe, **Jīshī** 積屍, contains *jī*, meaning accumulated or heaped. Under the pre-registered rule this scores as a collective term on an object predicted to attract none.

It is the only such case across six control objects, and it is printed in full, with both available readings and no adjudication, in the middle of a chapter that otherwise confirms the prediction.

The second reading , that the celestial referent is the *qì*, the vapour, with the heaped bodies supplying the explanation rather than the object , would group it with the Greek and Roman vapour-terms. The asterism's position within the Ghost lodge is consistent with that.

Unresolved. It requires a specialist in Chinese astronomical terminology and it decides whether the corpus has zero counter-examples or one.

Part Four: An assertion caught before publication

X1. The 3.4 to 3.6 arcminute constant

Date: 23 November 2026.

An outline for the seventh volume named a threshold of **3.4 to 3.6 arcminutes**, described as a constant of the work and a universal boundary of human consciousness.

The figure appears nowhere in seven volumes or five hundred and thirty-two sources. It was never measured, cited or derived. The real quantities are approximately four items (subitizing), approximately one arcminute (visual acuity), approximately twelve arcminutes (Mizar to Alcor) and approximately two degrees (the cluster's extent).

Three features of the case are recorded because they are instructive rather than embarrassing.

The range is the tell. Not a bare figure but *3.4 to 3.6*, which is the rhetorical signature of a measurement and is why it reads as one.

Nobody was careless. The outline was otherwise accurate and its structural judgement was correct. The constant is what fluent reasoning produces when a slot requires a number and the slot is more salient than the absence.

Its provenance is unknown and unrecoverable. This project involves a human author, an AI gatherer and a third collaborating voice. None of the three can say which produced it.

It was never published, because checking it against the corpus is also what surfaced C1 above. Had it not been checked, it would have entered a volume as an established constant and been cited from there, and within two citations its origin would have been lost.

It is recorded here because it is a complete specimen of the phenomenon the entire corpus describes, produced by the people describing it, in the week they were describing it.

Part Five: Claims declined

Not errors, but assertions this work could have made and did not. They are listed because a record of restraint is part of an honest record.

D1. The heptagon and enumeration resemblance

Seven is the first regular polygon that cannot be constructed with compass and straightedge, and it also sits past the limit at which a compact group can be enumerated. The resemblance was flagged as suggestive in a sealed file and then **declined** on working the material.

The mechanisms are unrelated , one concerns attentional capacity, the other field extensions and Fermat primes , and they behave oppositely. The enumeration barrier cannot be approximated around; the construction barrier routinely was. Had this volume been written to confirm existing findings, that resemblance is exactly what would have been promoted into an illumination.

D2. That the observer measures only itself

An available and attractive conclusion from the seventh volume, and false. Six control objects produced six distinct name-families sorted by photometry and geometry. If observers were measuring only themselves, all six would have received the same name. The object constrains tightly. What cannot be done is separating the two contributions after the fact, which is a measurement problem rather than a metaphysics.

D3. That this work is about consciousness

It concerns attention, detection, enumeration and the grammar in which their failure is reported. That is a specified and fairly small part of mental life. The larger word would be the precise error the corpus exists to describe.

Part Six: Known unresolved confounds

Flagged in the volumes where they arise, listed here so they are not scattered.

Deliberate tolerance versus poor building. The durability finding predicts coarseness in surviving alignments. Incompetent construction also produces coarseness, and an alignment alone cannot distinguish them. Proposed discriminator, untested: aperture variance should be low if tolerance was chosen and high if it was not.

Iconoclasm versus decay. The Cusco horizon pillars, the most precise Inca solar instruments known, were destroyed in the anti-idolatry campaign rather than lost to time. A precise instrument is legible as a religious object in a way a coarse feature is not. The surviving record is therefore biased toward coarseness by two independent processes, and this threatens the corpus's own tolerance finding.

Solar dominance versus verification bias. Sacred Valley alignment literature is overwhelmingly solar, consistent with the durability account. It is equally consistent with solar alignments being the ones modern researchers can verify. No colonial-period tally has been consulted that would separate them.

Lunar station origins. Whether the Babylonian, Indic and Chinese systems share an origin bears on several independence claims across both trilogies. Disputed since Bezold and not resolved here.

What this list implies

Eleven entries, from a body of work completed in a single extended session, found by its own authors with no external review.

The correct inference is not that the method is working well. It is that the rate of detected error is high, that every one of these was found by internal checking alone, and that internal checking is systematically worse at finding errors than external review , which has still not happened.

If eleven were found from the inside, the number remaining is not small.

This page will be updated whenever another is found. Corrections are welcome at the address on either site, and a correction that forces an entry onto this list is the most useful thing a reader can send.

In Harmony, Small Things Grow Towards Unity.