



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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## Sexual selection in archaic populations Were Neanderthals 'cute' in their own way?

By Alan Cannell  
International civil engineer

NOTE: This article is a brief review of the author's studies involving Phi. For more on Phi and Neanderthals, visit <http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/cannell/index.html>

**Neanderthal people are usually thought of as being unattractive by modern standards of beauty. However, when looking at the possibility that Neanderthals may have been attracted to each other in a way that involves the geometric universal, Phi, a whole new perspective comes to light.**

In [PC News, Issue 3](#), and [4](#), and in an online slideshow ([Cannell 2009](#)), an examination has been made of the fascination that certain expressions of Phi or the Golden Mean have held for mankind for over half a million years—especially the angles of 36 and 18 degrees

and what is known as the Golden Ellipse.

Earlier work begun and carried out by John Feliks in *Phi the the Achuelian* (1) opened up a new area of mathematical exploration by demonstrating Phi not only in a variety of stone tools but also in bone engravings and the skull of *Homo erectus*. The conclusion was that *Homo erectus* people had an eye for the Golden Mean in much the same way as people do today.

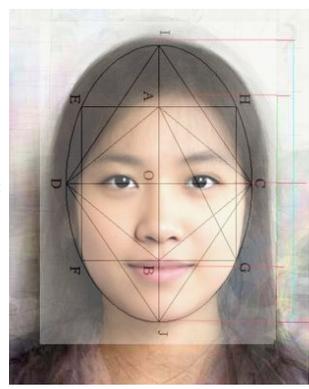
If we take the logic to a different level it is possible to demonstrate that even sexual selection and a sense of beauty in Neanderthals may have been related to Phi.

It has long been believed that the structure of the

modern human face revolves around Phi, in particular, the height to width of the face (equal to Phi, with the eyes set in the middle) and the relationship between the distances from the eyes to the chin and between the eyes. Dr. Stephen R. Marquardt, (Chief of Research in Esthetic Facial Imaging, UCLA) has taken this examination of beauty a step further and developed a 'mask of the perfect face' based on a ten-sided Golden (Phi) Decagon.

The results have been widely debated as Marquardt's 'mask' is recognizably a 'Western' face. However, as demonstrated in Fig.1, Asian faces express Phi as well and tend to have an emphasis on the Golden

> [Contd on page 2](#)



**Fig 1.** Modern Han Chinese face demonstrating perfection of the Golden Ellipse (photograph and geometric overlay by the author)



**Fig.1.** Grassi museum, Leipzig, Germany, home of the Dorenberg skull, 1919-1943.

**Good indirect evidence indicates that the so called "Dorenberg skull hoax" is a contrivance (circa 2003) which attempts to discredit**

## Blocking data 1: the Dorenberg skull hoax caper

By Sam L. VanLandingham  
Consulting Environmentalist/Geologist

**mounting evidence for the presence of humans in east central Mexico well before the last Ice Age more than 80,000 years ago.**

The accumulating evidence prompting this reaction

comes from fission track and uranium-series dates, diatom biostratigraphy, volcanic ash studies, paleotopography, microstratigraphy, etc.

The Dorenberg skull was

> [Contd on page 4](#)

## Archaic sexual selection (cont'd.)

**"Population groups achieve a specific 'style' of beauty, after generations of sexual choice, in which certain elements of phi – or other cultural or physical aspects – are stressed."**

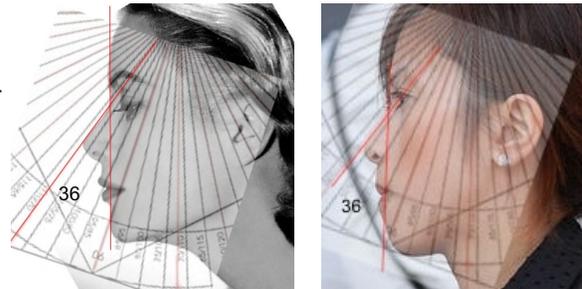
Ellipse shape and its division into two halves enhanced by the narrower eyes.

Marquardt's research also concluded that visual perception of the face is two-dimensional: we see the face as a plane and similar principles apply to profiles. In the examples at right (Fig. 2a—an iconic portrait of Western beauty—and 2b—a girl from Southern China), the nose forms an angle of 36 degrees [Editor's note: vertex or smallest angle of a Golden triangle] with the vertical plane of the face, although it is clear that there are certain cultural preferences in relation to the size and length of the nose.

The expressions of Phi in the human face are often presented as being an inherent part of nature, like seashells, starfish or the petals of a flower, or as Marquardt puts it, "We now feel that the Phi mask or Golden mask is a genetically encoded configuration or archetype which is basically programmed in our genetic material" (2).

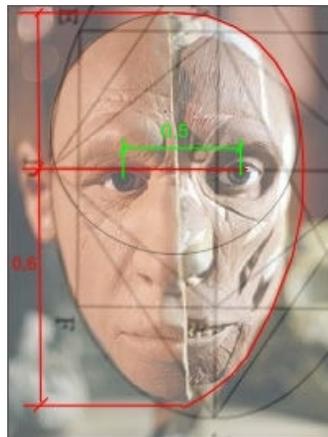
However, far from being a mere genetic code, there is also a strong element of sexual selection that favors 'cuteness' based on our manifest preferences for expressions of Phi. This is a concept so important that it is worth rephrasing: Population groups achieve a specific 'style' of beauty, after generations of sexual choice, in which certain elements of phi—or other cultural or physical aspects—are stressed.

Unlike natural selection, sexual selection can promote change at a much faster rate. A genetic defect considered 'cute' - say, blue eyes - gets passed on; as



**Fig. 2. a.)** Actress Grace Kelly (image public domain, geometric overlay by the author), **b.)** Han Chinese profile (photograph and geometric overlay by the author).

does a chin which forms a vertical plane with a higher forehead and gives the face a pleasing Golden Elliptical format when viewed from the front.



**Fig.3.** Neanderthal reconstruction (Image, BBC, with author's annotations).

This importance of the chin in sexual selection has been pointed out in a recent paper, *Sexual dimorphism in chin shape: Implications for adaptive hypotheses* (3), although not in relation to an expression of Phi. However, as expressions of Phi can be found in the design of hand axes that are nearly a million years old, it might be expected that archaic mankind

also sought expressions of Phi in their mates; which brings us to the crux of this article: were Neanderthals the ugly brutes often portrayed by popular science or were they cute in their own way?

Archaic skulls have been examined and described in exacting anatomical detail over the past decades, but apart from Feliks' observation regarding the Turkana Boy *Homo erectus* skull, never analyzed by the eye of a beholder looking for Phi. With only fossil bones to work with, the closest we can get to seeing what Neanderthals actually looked like in a sense of Phi is through the forensic reconstructions of skulls.

Fig.3, for example, is based on a BBC News image (February 10, 2005). When viewed from the front, the face forms a Composite Ellipse or 'ovate' shape; the height and width are according to the Golden Ratio (Phi), the dome of the head is round, and the cheeks form sections of a Golden Ellipse. The centre of these Golden Ellipses is set at the nasal/brow ridge depression so that the distance from the eyes to the 'chin' is the same as the width, i.e. close to phi (0.6) in relation to the total length of the face. The distance between the eyes is half the distance from the eyes to the chin.

The shape described above is extremely common in handaxe/biface design, such as the Boxgrove biface from Q1 \B (www.ucl.ac.uk/boxgrove). It has been superimposed on the face and the outline highlighted in red

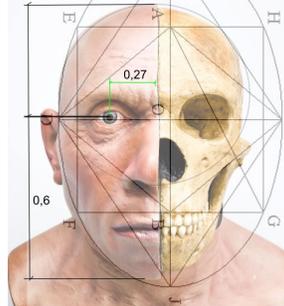
> [Conclusion on page 3](#)

# Archaic sexual selection (cont'd.)

**"Neanderthals did not look like us, but this very cursory examination indicates that they may have had notions of facial beauty that were based on the same Phi-based principles that we find pleasing today."**

confirming a similar observation to Feliks' of Turkana Boy and the handaxe shape.

Another reconstruction is from the Australian Museum (Fig.4) and shows similar traits: the face forms a Composite Ellipse with the centre of the ellipse at eye level. The head again is domed, and although the relationship of length to the width of this particular skull is slightly under Phi at 1.52, the rela-



**Fig. 4.** Reconstruction of a Neanderthal head. Photo: Carl Bento © Australian Museum (<http://australianmuseum.net.au/image/Neanderthal-head-reconstruction-front-view>). Used w/permission), Geometric overlay by the author.

In profile, a model developed by Columbia University (Fig.5) shows both the nose and

brows in parallel, forming an angle of 36 degrees with the vertical plane (as given). Again, the distance from the eyes to the chin is close to phi in relation to the overall face length. [Note: the top of the skull was obtained using the profile of the type-skull shown in Fig.6.]

Through geometric overlays, Feliks (1) had observed the surprisingly perfect relationship between

the profile of a type *Homo erectus* skull (Walker and Leakey's Turkana Boy) and the Golden Spiral and pointed out that the same relationship was present in the

that were based on the same Phi-based principles that we find pleasing today. There is a record in stone tool design which strongly indicates that all humans have had shared tastes for almost a million years, so it should come as no surprise if sexual selection, using the same inherent tastes, but over hundreds of thousands of years, did in fact produce different standards of beauty in archaic groups. Some of these are:

- There is a preference for 'ovate' faces with eyes set at phi in relation to overall length.
- In most reconstructions the distance between the eyes is close to half the distance from eyes to chin.
- Like us, the front view of the Neanderthal cranium is circular; however, unlike us Neanderthals may have preferred a head profile shape that was based on a Golden Ellipse rather than the flat plane formed by a high forehead and chin.
- Like us, they may have preferred noses that angled out at 36 degrees.

Neanderthal Reconstruction	distance eyes to chin/head length
BBC	0.6
Australian Museum	0.6
Peabody Museum	0.65
National Geographic (Wilma)	0.62
Scientific American (Cover August 2009)	0.62
Columbia University	0.6
image 605 John Gurche, based on La Ferressie 1	0.62
image 656 John Gurche based on Shanidar 1	0.62
Das Neanderthal Museum, Germany	0.62
<b>Average</b>	0.617

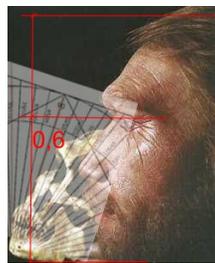
**Table 1.** Average distances from eyes to chin in relation to head length of famous Neanderthal skulls. Phi is 0.618.

relationship of the distances between the eyes and from the eyes to the chin is again close to phi (0.6) and the distance between the eyes is 0.54 the distance from the eyes to the chin.

Analysis of these and other reconstructions are averaged out in Table 1, above, which shows the source of the reconstruction and the distance from the eyes to the chin in relation to overall head length.

The overall pattern seems clear: eyes set at phi in relation to overall head length.

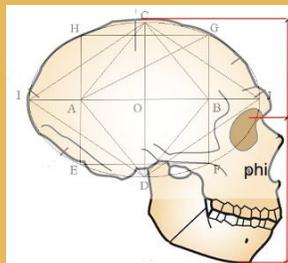
profile of the modern human brain. It is important to observe that the Neanderthal braincase is also associated with the Golden Mean, only in this instance, the elongated braincase with its occipital 'bun' at the back forms a Golden Ellipse as in the well-known Saccopastore skull at the Giorgio Manzi Museo, Italy, or the Type Neanderthal skull of Fig.6.



**Fig. 5.** Neanderthal Reconstruction in Profile, Columbia University (overlay by the author).

### Conclusions

Neanderthals did not look like us, but this very cursory examination indicates that they may have had notions of facial beauty



**Fig.6.** Type Neanderthal skull braincase (Wikimedia) with Golden Ellipse overlay by the author. See also the Saccopastore Skull (Giorgio Manzi Meseu).

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## Blocking data—Dorenberg skull (cont'd.)

**"In other words, some species of the human genus, Homo, was clearly living in Mexico by at least 80,000 years ago.**

**...Aware of how such information would be received by the American archaeological establishment, I placed the data in my 'think of later' file and went on with my career."**

**"One of the [false] rumors that suddenly surfaced was that the Dorenberg skull was a hoax. It was put forth by an anonymous reviewer of a manuscript of mine discussing these ancient dates"**

recovered from diatom-rich sediment in the Puebla, Mexico area over 100 years ago. It was housed in its own special display case in the Grassi museum of Leipzig which was destroyed in a

gamonian, and one, *Navicula dorenbergii*, which is restricted to the Sangamonian (Fig. 3).

In other words, some species of the human genus, *Homo*, was living in Mexico by at least 80,000 years ago. Reichelt

2000, 2004, 2006).

As the diatom dates became better known, resistance to them mounted. These were never frontal attacks on the data themselves, but behind-the-back thrusts—gossip, innuendo, character assassination—the usual rot.

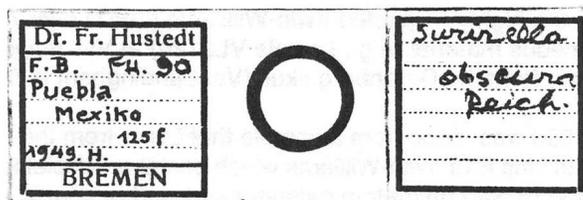
One of the rumors that suddenly surfaced was that the Dorenberg skull was a hoax.

It was put forth by an anonymous reviewer of a manuscript of mine discussing these ancient dates, a manuscript that I had submitted for the 2002 proceedings volume of the International Diatom Symposium (IDS), "Correlation of Sangamonian age of artifacts from the Valsequillo region, Puebla, Mexico by means of diatom biostratigraphy." It was given as one of the reasons to reject the manuscript for publication (another shabby story, detailed in Part 2.)

The reviewer claimed, "(there is evidence that this was a hoax generated by Europeans to obtain funding for work in Mexico at

the turn of the century) in opposition to the totality of mainstream archaeology." No proof, just a statement.

In making this claim, the reviewer was unaware that "at the turn of the century" (c. 1900) there was no "funding" as used in the modern sense. In order to "fund" significant archaeological research in those days, a person had to be (1) independently wealthy, (2) in



**Fig. 2.** CAS diatom collection glass microscope slide #191090 prepared from a diatom sample attributable to Reichelt (1900) and taken from inside the Dorenberg skull. Housed at the California Academy of Sciences. Note the authenticated label and writing of Dr. Fr. Hustedt, a close colleague of Reichelt from whom the sample cut for this slide was obtained.

WW II bombing raid (Fig. 1 and Fig. 4: Two photos of the museum before it was destroyed).

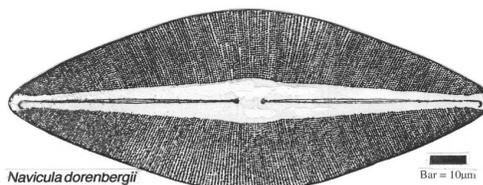
We have yet to find an image of it, but know it was "a skull of a female without a lower jaw. It has a tremendous kornförmige Exostose [bony protuberance] and was found in a foundation of a house in Puebla, Mexico (translation by Weber, 2004). See Lyons 2009a and 2009b for more historical background.

Diatoms scraped from within the sutures of the skull by H. Reichelt in the late 1890s were preserved as reference slides by F. Hustedt.

One such slide is housed at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco (no. 191090, Fig. 2). In the late 70s I examined that slide and identified several diatoms which would date the skull to the last interglacial (Sangamonian, more than 80,000 years ago): two taxa with earliest known first occurrences in the Sangamonian, five which became extinct at the end of the San-

[1899 (1900)] a century before me had also commented on the skull's great age.

Aware of how such information would be received by the American archaeological



**Fig. 3.** *Navicula dorenbergii*, an extinct diatom restricted to the Sangamonian, scraped from the Dorenberg skull and confirming the skull to be at least 80,000 years old (VanLandingham 2004, Plate 8, Fig. 3).

establishment, I placed the data in my "think of later" file and went on with my career.

### RECENT DIATOM WORK

It wasn't until 1999 that I had the time and opportunity to review the Dorenberg skull diatom data once again. I then became involved in the Classic Valsequillo Project, dating to Sangamonian age and older the artifact-bearing sediments at the Hueyatlatco site as well as sediments from the surrounding Valsequillo area, and publishing the dates (VanLandingham

> [Contd on page 5](#)

## Blocking data—Dorenberg skull (cont'd.)



**Fig. 4.** Grassi museum, Leipzig, Germany (1930's), where the Dorenberg skull was housed and displayed in its own case.

**"Dorenberg and others associated with the skull would NOT have needed a 'hoax generated by Europeans to obtain funding.' In 2003-2004, my many queries to American and European libraries, institutions, and museums revealed nothing about such a hoax."**

royal favor or patronage, or (3) under the direct aegis of a research institution or museum. Not only was Joseph Dorenberg, the skull's namesake, an official diplomat and a merchant of highest integrity, he met all three of the above criteria and supported archaeological and geological research in the Puebla region. All of the im-

portant scientists involved in the early days of the Dorenberg skull saga—Reichelt, Felix, Lenk, Hustedt—met one or more of the three criteria above. Dorenberg and others associated with the skull would NOT have needed a "hoax generated by Europeans to obtain funding." In 2003-2004, my many queries to American and European libraries, institutions, and museums revealed nothing about such a hoax.

The reviewer also claimed: "...there is no scientific description published that gave an age for the skull." It is clear that the reviewer had not bothered to read Reichelt (1900) who indicated over a century ago that the diatomaceous material scraped from within the Dorenberg skull was associated with the age term "diluviales Alter": Diluvium or Glazialzeit = Old Glacial Time or start of the Last Ice Age = Wurm i.e. ca 80,000 ybp; and also contained the diatom *Navicula dorenbergii*. The skull itself is also mentioned in publications by Heiden (1903) and Hustedt (1913, 1966.)

Above is just a small sample from my 23-page rebuttal, where I point out to the editor of the 2002 IDS Proceedings volume documented errors by the fabricator of the hoax. The rebuttal was

ignored. Archaeologists and historians have been invited to present any evidence of a hoax involving the Dorenberg skull on various websites. In over five years, this requested evidence has not been forthcoming. It can be concluded that the Dorenberg skull hoax is a contrivance and not a deterrent to the evident great antiquity of the skull and of the bifacial artifacts from Hueyatlatco.

### RESULT

An unnamed scientist, hiding behind the anonymity of the peer review process, makes false statements about the Dorenberg skull, claiming it was a hoax from the beginning. No proof. These false statements go far beyond what can be attributed to Michael Cremona's "knowledge filter" (Cremona, 2010); they are outright lies. And they were believed. My manuscript documenting the great age of the Dorenberg skull and the bifacial beds at Hueyatlatco was rejected. Fortunately, I was able to publish the information elsewhere (VanLandingham, 2004), but how many other important manuscripts never see print because they are blocked at the peer review level? In Part 2 we will look more closely at how it was done in this particular case.

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### COMING NEXT ISSUE:

**Blocking data, Part 2: Mis-use of the peer review process**

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## PALEO-CAMERA, PHASE II: PROJECTED IMAGES IN ART & RITUAL

(or why European Upper Paleolithic art looks the way it does)

By Matt Gatton

**Over 600,000 years ago hominids learned to make shelter and, thereafter, began intermittently seeing two-dimensional projected-**



**"The images were an accidental optical by-product of the need to fend off the elements."**

**light images: the sun, sky, hills, animals, and people hovering spectrally on the interior walls.**

Humble Paleolithic huts coincidentally acted as simple camera obscuras, because of small holes in the exterior coverings. The images were an accidental optical by-product of the need to fend off the elements.

Over time these random images played a significant role in the development of the concept of representation (Phase I, [Pleistocene Coalition News 2\[3\]: 4-5](#)).

By the time we reach the Upper Paleolithic (roughly 40,000 to 10,000 years ago), people are in full command of the camera ob-

scura, using projected images in ritual and artistic practices (Phase II).

The best evidence of the use of projected images comes from Europe, which benefited from ideal environmental circumstances. Largely characterized by a

steppe biome (with some oscillation); the broad grasslands supported an incredible biomass of hoofed herbivores...people food. The climate was a delicate balance of rainfall, temperature, and sunlight. The broad sight lines and open exposure to the sun not only made for the grass and thus the animals, but also offered near constant availability of projected images inside the tents.

To understand the art of the era we must not only comprehend the environmental context but also the lifeways of the people.

Small bands of hunter-gatherers established a circuit of campsites that followed the migration routes of favored game. Wherever

the animals went, the people went, too.

The tents not only protected the occupants from the weather, but also acted as hunting blinds, masking scent, and affording a means to surreptitiously observe and draw in quarry. The archaeological record describes repeated short-term seasonal occupations at these campsites, or more properly, habitation sites. Excavations outline bursts of activity—knapping blades, butchering animals, cooking meat, preparing hides—and lulls of idle—drawing (presumably while silently waiting for herds to approach or after all had been sated).

Recovered from these sites are flat paver stones and bones covered in lines. The great preponderance of which were from cutting leather and meat. Buried inside these cutting board-like lines are carefully crafted abstract symbols, rudimentary memory drawings, and exquisite image-projection tracings.

In terms of time investment there is very little difference between settling down in a patch of light in the otherwise dim tent, picking up a stone, and drawing a time-honored symbol, or a thought in the mind's-eye, or tracing the image cast by the beam of light; but there is a significant difference in the look of the drawings.

Tracing a moving projected image is an exceedingly peculiar way of making art and it bears a set of telltale characteristics—repetition,

> [Contd on page 7](#)

## Paleo-camera (cont'd.)

movement, disconnection, superimposition, random orientation, and distortion.

When an image of an animal is concentrated onto a flat stone, the light of the image overpowers any information on the stone's surface, meaning the lines of the drawing cannot be seen as they are made.

Working with lines that cannot be seen causes strange things to happen. The first line is drawn then the head turns, the tail swishes, a leg shifts; and the next line is laid over in a new place; repeating features and documenting the animal's movement.

Repetitions that accurately describe anatomical movement are a part of this process. Unseen lines not only make for repeated but also disconnected features, unattached legs, torsos, and heads. When working with visible lines features are connected, in the realm of unseen lines, lines go missing. Moreover, it does not matter if there is one drawing or one hundred drawings already on the surface of the rock, the image is all that can be seen, so drawings end up superimposed on top of one another sometimes in great jumbles of lines, each figure randomly orientated to the next, upside-down, on-a-slant, and sideways.

A most likely scenario would find our would-be artist in-

side a tent, eyes looking down on an inverted image, cast on a flat stone that has



Image tracing characteristics were an established component of the culture's

visual vocabulary that they carried with them wherever they went including the occasional foray into the deep cave. The style of campsite art influenced by camera obscura technique was reiterated on cave walls

where the art has fortunately been preserved by the archival nature of the cave environment—a steady temperature, a complete lack of destructive ultra-violet light, and hygrometric consistency.

European Upper Paleolithic art exhibited a fundamentally homogenous artistic character for nearly 30,000 years, the longest running artistic tradition known to humankind.

It was held together by light.

To find out what happened next, during the Neolithic and onward,

visit [paleo-camera.com](http://paleo-camera.com)

### **Coming next issue:**

### **PHASE III: Evidence of camera-obscura from cave paintings**

MATT GATTON is an international artist and Palaeolithic studies theorist and originator of paleo-camera theory. He continues to do invited demonstrations in the U.S. and abroad having presented in the UK, Germany, France, and Portugal.

***"Inside the tent, it is most natural for the artist to catch the image with the torso, the engraving stone secured against the body, and the eyes looking down on the inverted image."***

# Determinants of human development—exemplified by *Homo floresiensis*

Jörn Greve  
PD, MD, Neurologist

Gerhard Neuhäuser  
Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, retired

**"She had the intelligence to survive the rigors of the Flores jungle of 13,000 years ago."**



**Fig.2.** a.) modern *Homo sapiens*; b.) *Homo erectus*, "Peking Man," replica; c.) *Homo floresiensis*, "Lady Flo," replica; d.) *Australopithecus africanus*, "Tuang Child," replica (all images—Wikimedia)

**"Lady Flo," as the specimen LB1 of *Homo floresiensis* is informally called, was found as an almost complete skeleton in 2003 on the island of Flores.**

This large and geographically beautiful area is situated within the Sunda archipelago, southeast of Borneo, in Indonesia (Fig.1).

small brain case (less than 350 ml) and her "elfish" appearance (a meter tall), it has been suggested that she was a degenerate specimen of a more common ancestor. But she is certainly more than that. She had the intelligence to survive the rigors of the Flores jungle of 13,000 years ago.

line, or even the *Homo erectus* line? (See Fig. 2). This might be possible because on the island of Java to the west, Oldowan II or Acheulian-like tools, as well as bifaces, have been found (in older layers) beneath a distinctive layer of greenish-blue meteor fragments, dated by earth magnetism and isotopic analyses to more than 1 million years ago.

This would lend support to the multi-regional hypothesis of hominid development as originally proposed by Milford Wolpoff, and reflect on dates for the first settlement of Australasia.

What we do know about "Lady Flo" only adds to the puzzle.

As mentioned above, she was small in stature (approx. 100 cm tall) and she had a small brain case (380 ml). She also had a skull shape similar to *Australopithecus* but with limbs, fingers, and other somatic features more akin to modern humans (*Homo sapiens*). And to top it all off, she had a tool kit similar to that of *Homo erectus*.

But the problem is that *Australopithecus* lived 4 million years ago; *Homo erectus*, 1.4 million years ago; and *Homo sapiens* (our own modern species) possibly c. 100 thousand years ago and counting.

> [Contd on page 9](#)



**Fig.1.** The island of Flores (lower center highlighted in yellow) where "Lady Flo" and the other *Homo floresiensis* or "Hobbit" remains were found.

### How Do We Explain the Lady's Developmental Deviations?

Isolation alone cannot account for all the peculiarities of this hominid skeleton. Because no one could explain its oddities, especially the

What is more, since her discovery, five other specimens of *Homo floresiensis* have been found, all with that astonishingly small-sized brain case.

Could "Lady Flo" and her companions be descendants, although as a special variant, from the *Australopithecus*

## *Homo floresiensis* (cont'd.)

"Lady Flo" thus exhibits some relatively modern features at the same time as features found in older hominid species separated in time by millions of years (1.4 to 4 million years); yet she and her companions lived relatively recently, from 93 to 13 thousand years ago!

### The Problem

Although the brain-case size is small like *Australopithecus*, the tool kit of *Homo floresiensis* is rather elaborate, in many ways more like that of *Homo erectus*, especially that found in the developed Acheulian. *Australopithecus* never prepared such elaborate tools.

It has long been believed that mental capacity is related to brain size: the larger the brain, the greater the potential for intelligence. This does not seem to hold true for the Flores finds: Brains are small. Tools are relatively complex.

Yet they are functional tools, even though they lack the "aesthetic" appearance found in earlier Acheulian tools.

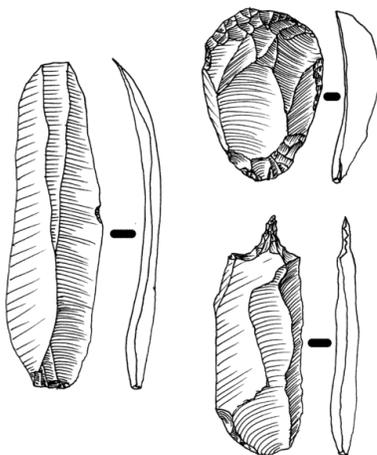
A recent article by Lutz Fiedler (2010) may suggest the reason for this: *Homo erectus* already had a long history of tradition and identity regarding tool making and use, something that *Homo floresiensis* did not have.

### What's Going On?

Darwin's natural selection theory is not at work on the island. More than a million years separate "Lady Flo"—who lived in the late Pleistocene—from *Homo erectus*; and on Flores there has been essentially no progress in tool development during that time.

If these peculiarities cannot be explained by natural selection, then an unmodified Darwinistic interpretation cannot be used here. The same would be true if dwarfism or gigantism is

considered. But these extremes in body size could give an answer in regard to the



**Fig.3.** Upper Palaeolithic stone tools (blade, scraper, drill) similar to those made by *Homo floresiensis* (Drawings public domain, José-Manuel Benito).

question of what is wrong with or what needs to be added to the theory of natural selection for it to work in this case.

One explanation for these growth extremes might be to consider problems in context with nutritional factors: the brain needs enough resources to be able to grow as there are calories necessary for the body to survive for longer periods of time (Martin 2000.)

The theory of social selection, as presented convincingly by Joan Roughgarden (2009) also comes to mind as a possible explanation for "Lady Flo," but in the long term, her arguments of various kin-selection models need to be expanded by adding the model of a broader eco-social interaction in order to maintain an enduring equilibrium between nature and man.

Perhaps reassessing the ideas of Lamarck and Alfred Russel Wallace would be appropriate. Then, *Homo floresiensis* might tell a different story, as Darwin has done about growth and de-

cline in nature. One must assume a dialectical aspect being present in the phenomena of dwarfism and gigantism (and by projection, brain-case size); an extreme dependency on the socio-ecological surroundings, as is done also by "epi-genetics," as, for instance, playing the role of a trigger enforcing epi-genetics as a correspondence within an interactive process dependent on resources.

### Conclusion

Even taken together, Darwin's natural selection and social selection, as J. Roughgarden states, cannot explain the phenomena of Flores. The ecological dialog encoding and triggering the changes of epi-genetics has to be added as well.

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If you would like to submit a comment, letter, or article for publication in *Pleistocene Coalition News*, please e-mail the editor or [Virginia Steen-McIntyre](#)

# The abomination of Calico, part one

By Chris Hardaker

Archaeologist  
EarthMeasure Research

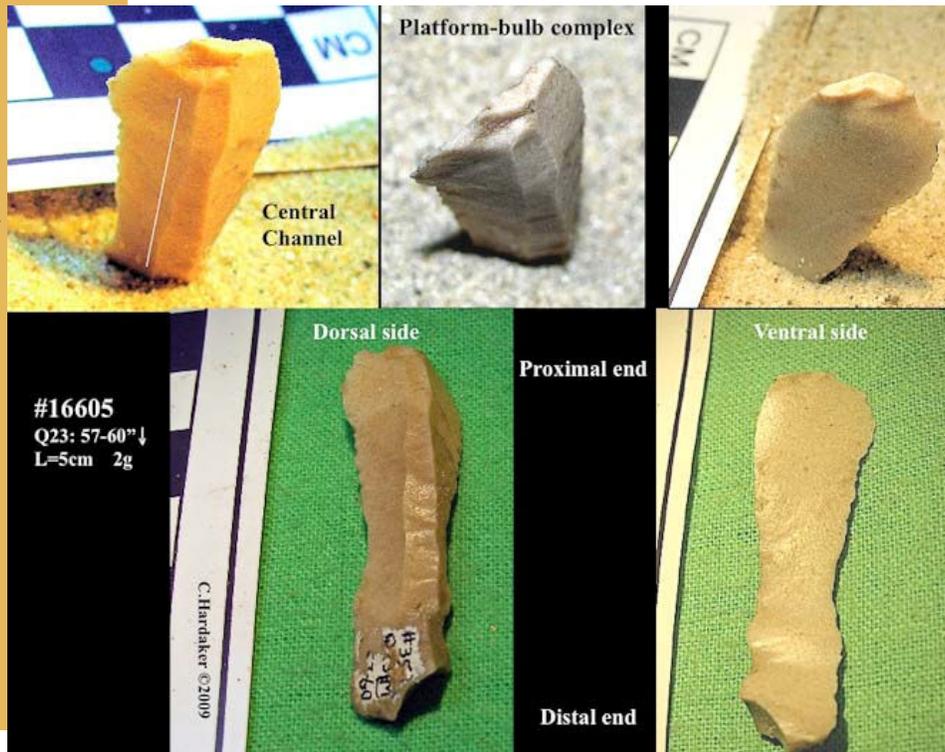
<http://www.earthmeasure.com/first-american.html>

**"Over a hundred thousand specimens in the collection, and still counting, and every single one is simply said to be a 'geofact.'"**

**The abomination of the Calico Early Man Site near Barstow, California (Fig.1) is not its lithics (stone artifacts), but its great antiquity.**

identified as such by competent Old World archaeologists, but that did not matter to their counterparts in the United States who repeat-

For over forty years this mindset has concluded that "Calico is either archaeology or it is nothing at all," with the mainstream professional class solidly on the side of the latter. There is no middle ground. You cannot be a little bit pregnant. Over a hundred thousand specimens in the collection, and still counting, and every single one is simply said to be a "geofact."



**Fig.2.** Calico Lithics Photographic Project, Part 4a, Introduction to BLADES. From the author's website. This figure shows several different views of the same blade. The upper three photographs are of the artifact held upright in sand. Blades are chipped stone flakes that are at least two times longer in length than width. They are often very delicate.

For the "experts" (i.e. Calico debunkers), Calico was just your everyday massive deposit of naturally fractured rocks -- rocks chaotically broken over the eons and trapped in alluvial sediments: broken repeatedly in such detailed ways that you can actually fit them into basic typological classes. The site was treated like it was a dime a dozen. Nothing to



**Fig.1.** Location of Calico about 120 miles southwest of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Simply on the strength of its inordinate age, a minimum 200,000 years, have the doors of inquiry been shut for forty years with little evidence of any will to open them.

Right now, no professional wants to touch Calico. It is toxic, a career killer even to suggest *in public* the possibility that the specimens (such as in Figs. 2-5) look like artifacts. Hundreds of artifact-like specimens were

edly claimed: *It's too old. They are all geofacts (nature made) because they must be geofacts. We are so certain of it that we don't even have to check. It is a done deal. It is settled science. All subsurface lithic collections from Calico's master pits are nature-made.*

And that means every single one of them...because even the presence of one artifact means, *uh oh we're in trouble.*

see here.

Everything started during the early 1960s when San Bernardino County Museum archaeologist Ruth "Dee" Simpson went to England and showed famed African early man hunter, Louis B. Leakey, some artifacts she found on the surface of alluvial fans on the east side of the Calico Mountains some

> [Contd on page 11](#)

## Abomination of Calico (cont'd.)

120 miles southwest of Las Vegas Nevada.



**Fig.2.** Object #4781, possible graver tool from Calico nicknamed "Blackie."

**"For over forty years the idea has been that Calico's subsurface is either an archaeology site or it is nothing at all. That has been a false opposition designed to sweep the whole thing under the rug."**

Leakey liked what he saw, enough to shepherd his *National Geographic* entourage to the windy slopes of an eroding alluvial fan, dig down twenty feet in a near-concrete matrix, and recover thousands of very artifact-looking things, which were referred to as "specimens" – an objective term that allows for whatever later determination is arrived at: artifact or nature-made geofact.

The specimens were placed in type categories by Leakey, using some of the same common categories he used for the artifacts he found in Africa and which are also in use in the States: choppers, wedges, notches and denticulates, blades, scrapers (multiple varieties), cutting tools, etc. (Figs.2-5.) A largely U.S. contingent concluded they were geofacts and that was that. The year was 1970. Leakey died in 1972.

The current accepted U.S. mainstream conclusion: Calico was a big waste of archaeological time. According to *Science Illustrated* (2008), Calico was the big-

gest mistake in archaeological history, making Louis B. Leakey out to be its biggest fool; and through implication, this extends to anyone else who has been, is, or will ever be allied with the Calico camp.

*Again, nothing to see here.* This total certainty that the Calico collection is all geofacts is shared by upwards of 99% of all professionals in the States; at least, that's the way they would answer on a public true-false test. Yet 98.9% have never even looked at an honest fraction of the specimens, mostly because they believe they do not have to, so silly is the idea that they could ever be deemed artifacts to begin with. *Might as well look for a crashed UFO or Bigfoot burial. Sheeesh. Don't even bring Calico up in my classroom. Or if you do want to do a paper on the site, expect an "F" [true story].* The school of thought known as the Clovis-Firsters (meaning, no one was here before the Clovis people c. a mere 13,500 years ago) dumped very hard on old Louis Leakey at Calico, waiting until after he had died, of course.

### The Myth of Reason

1970, or any year since, was the point that scientific objectivity, reason, honesty and integrity should have stepped in. For over forty years the idea has been that Calico's subsurface is either an archaeology site or it is nothing at all. That has been a false opposition designed to sweep the whole thing under the rug – which is all fine and dandy when you subscribe to the theory-driven (groupthink) approach to science as opposed to the traditional evidence-driven approach.

A more truthful opposition would read:

Calico is an archaeology site or it is a nature-made geofact site.

And since it was archaeologically negated, that means it must be a geofact site. But then, why did the experts treat this conclusion as a bad thing? It should have been exhilarating. Calico should have been given premier status by anyone interested in lithics, especially prehistoric field archaeologists and analysts from around the world. Geofacts in such massive numbers that they actually fall into typological classes? It was, and remains unheard of. Such a site has never been discovered before, at least none at this volume (Hardaker 2009).

Calico stands alone in the world of lithics and fracture mechanics as a natural "geo-factory." Calico as *geofact central* is ground zero for one of the great epistemological issues of all time. An honest post-1970 focus by experts on the Calico sediments and their resident fracturing agencies *should have* taken us far into the realm of discerning the natural from the cultural, the unintentional from the intentional, worldwide.

Fracture mechanics apply to all flaked lithic assemblages around the world, and anywhere a rock fractures in the natural world. Calico should have become the prime-time mecca for students and professors of prehistory. It is absolutely crucial that we understand how nature can make tens of thousands of specimens within a relatively small area. There are speci-

> [Contd on page 12](#)

## Abomination of Calico (cont'd.)

**"The experts should have taken this terribly important data by the horns! Can we finally get a handle on that gray zone between artifacts and geofacts? This is a world-class issue. And it's right here, sitting on a platter between Los Angeles and Las Vegas."**

mens with a wide range of repeating fracture types, often on the same pieces (multi-notched and/or multi-flaked pieces with single generation flake scars). Is it not important to understand how nature alone fractured these pieces in these patterns? It must be one of the top discoveries in archaeology and geology when it comes to our perceptions of what constitutes signatures of human presence. Lithics is the most robust category of artifacts available to archaeologists tracking our earliest presences. Regardless of where they turn up, the laws of fracture are always the same.

The experts should have taken this terribly important data by the horns! Can we finally get a handle on that gray zone between artifacts and geofacts? This is a world-class issue. And it's right here, sitting on a platter between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. A true scientific approach to Calico would also have supported a search for other geofactories. Until they are located, Calico is the most important

site in the world for the exegesis of geofacts versus artifacts. Since everyone

silicates (chalcedony, jasper, agate), so it would seem to be perfect for quantitative and qualitative studies.

This is the problem with the US experts who debunked Calico from the get-go. It never ever dawned on them that Calico could be a non-archaeological treasure trove. As geofacts, Calico's master pits should have been a red-letter alert. If vast numbers of flaked pieces looked so like

artifacts, then perhaps there are similar geofacts that are being identified as artifacts in Africa, Europe and Asia. That's not important? Apparently not.

In the end, the pros stayed away from Calico. They still stay away.

Continued next issue.

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CHRIS HARDAKER is an archaeologist working in California and for several years has been cataloguing the massive collection of artifacts from Calico. He is author of [The first American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World.](#)



Fig.4. The Calico artifact known as "Whitie."

agrees that the fan surface is covered with lithic work-

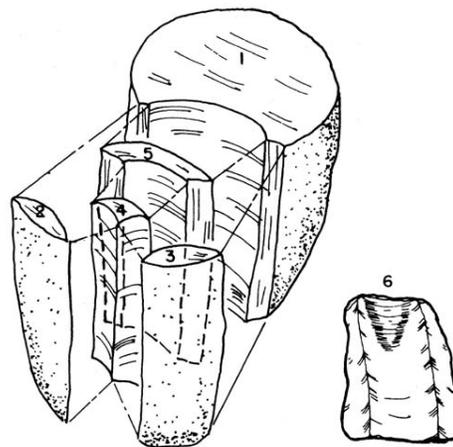


Fig.5. Steps necessary to create the Calico artifact known as "Whitie." From George Carters' (former Professor of Geography and Anthropology, at Texas A&M University) book, "Earlier than you think." 1) is the striking platform; 2, 3, and 4) are blows required to create a three-faceted surface; 5 is the blow to strike off a flake with three facets on its dorsal surface; and 6) is the final product. "Nature does not strike such a series of purposeful blows, but man does."

shops, a comparison could be made of surface vs subsurface populations. All materials are cryptocrystalline

## BOOK REVIEW

### [The Cycle of Cosmic Catastrophes](#)

By Richard Firestone,  
Allen West, and Simon  
Warwick-Smith

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

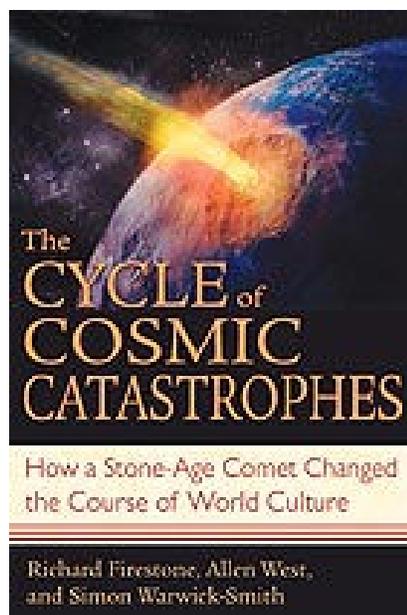
Only glance at the title and cover and you may think *The Cycle of Cosmic Catastrophes: Flood, Fire, and Famine in the History of Civilization* a fun science-fiction read for a lazy summer afternoon. Far from it. Although well written, and in terms the educated layman can understand, it deals with a very serious subject: "cosmic visitors" in the form of deadly radiation and waves of space debris that have caused havoc on the earth in, from a geologist's point of view, the relatively recent past.

The book builds on the original research of archaeologist Dr. William Topping, and centers on "The Event" -- at 13,000 years ago the latest in a series of cosmic happenings that "injected a surge of radiocarbon into the atmosphere; initiated a chain reaction that caused widespread extinction of large animals; produced high-velocity, high-density metallic grains that left tiny craters in chert; and affected the Great Lakes region more than areas farther to the south."

Like the great detective story it is, the book takes you from clue to clue as the authors, a nuclear physicist, a consulting geologist, and a mining geologist, build their case. Puzzling features find a possible common explanation: The thin black mat of dead algae that, like a pencil-line, marks the end of the

mammoth bones and Clovis points found lower in the trench walls at several archaeological sites. The drumlin fields in the upper Midwest; thousands of oriented, spoon-shaped hills of glacial sediment ranging up to 200 feet in height and in length from a fraction of a mile to several miles. The Carolina Bays; hundreds of thousands of shallow depressions, ranging in size from small lakes and bogs, well developed in the sandy piedmont area of the Carolinas. (The "bays" refer to the bay trees that often grow in them.)

The cause of all the havoc seems to have been a massive exploding star in the stellar neighborhood; a supernova, first recorded on earth by a sharp increase in global radiocarbon and the extinction of millions of animals in Australia ca 41,000 years ago; then at 34,000 years, another increase in radiocarbon; followed at 16,000 years by the rapid meltdown of the northern ice sheets and epic flooding; and at 13,000 years the sudden end of the mammoth and the Clovis culture. All caused by wave after wave of radiation and "shrapnel" as the supernova remnants passed through our solar system.



Pity the poor Clovis people!

And those now-frozen tundra mammoths, then calmly eating lunch on a mild day up north. Death would have been quick for those outdoors; not so for their kin in the caves, who would face massive fires, poisoned water, and a vanished food supply.

I've barely scratched the surface on the evidence presented in this book. Read it and it could radically change the way you view the starry skies on a dark night. It may even change your world view! Sobering.

Firestone, R., A. West, and S. Warwick-Smith, 2006, [The Cycle of Cosmic Catastrophes: Flood, Fire, and Famine in the History of Civilization](#), Bear and Company, Rochester, Vermont, 392 pp., ISBN-13: 978-1-59143-061-2, ISBN-10: 1-59143-061-5.

RICHARD B. FIRESTONE, Ph.D., is a nuclear scientist at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Nuclear Science Division, Isotopes Project (since 1979).

ALLEN WEST, Ph.D., is a consulting geologist and geophysicist. In 2009, he appeared on NOVA's *Megabeasts' Sudden Death*.

SIMON WARWICK-SMITH, publisher, was a former field exploration and mining geologist in Australia.

**"The cause of all the havoc seems to have been a massive exploding star in the stellar neighborhood; a supernova, first recorded on earth by a sharp increase in global radiocarbon and the extinction of millions of animals."**

## In my opinion...

# The origin of hubris

By Ishtar Babilu Dingir

**"The very language we use to discuss the past speaks of tools, hunters, and men, when every statue and painting we discover cries out to us that this Ice Age humanity was a culture of art, the love of animals, and women."**

-William Irwin Thompson

**To study the history of the theory of human evolution is not to study the development of a science.**

Soon after beginning such an enterprise, what we find ourselves studying turns out, instead, to be the differing attitudes and beliefs that man has deemed to be politically correct to adopt over the centuries, about who he is and where he stands in the universe.

Ever since Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in the mid 19th century, scientists have been amassing a body of evidence with which they hope to prove that we descend from a common ape ancestor. However, to date, that evidence is both quantitatively and qualitatively sparse...so sparse, in fact, as to render any speculation virtually useless.

Anthropologists, paleontologists, geneticists and biologists are still arguing over where we originally came from, and whether to opt for the 'Out of Africa' theory or the 'Multi Regional theory.' There is disagreement as to whether or not *Homo sapiens sapiens* (HSS) was descended from *Homo erectus* (HE), their taxonomy, who *Homo erectus* actually was, and where he originated. HSS seemed to appear from nowhere about 50,000 years ago...until recent finds pushed the date back to 195,000 years ago!

But still the fossil record is unable to show a smoothly evolving gradation terminat-

ing in HSS—in other words, and as it is commonly said, and for good reason, the Missing Link is still missing. And the fact that HSS lived alongside the Neanderthals (HN) for tens of thousands of years with, apparently, very little admixture (1-4%) would suggest that they were a separate species—if only we could determine what we mean by 'species.'

In addition, virtually the whole of this investigation proceeds on the premise that cognition (intelligence) evolves. However, this premise is not only unproven—there is actually no evidence for it and, in fact, the idea that cognition does not evolve has been well-demonstrated by John Feliks in several papers such as *Phi in the Acheulian* (2008).

Further, by seeking to understand the origins of man through the aperture of Western science, are we looking through a glass darkly? As William Irwin Thompson points out in *The Time Falling Bodies Take to Light: Mythology, Sexuality and the Origins of Culture:*

"Because we have separated humanity from nature, subject from object, values from analysis, knowledge from myth, and universities from the universe, it is enormously difficult for anyone but a poet or a mystic to understand what is going on in the holistic and mythopoeic thought of Ice Age humanity. The very language we use to discuss the past

speaks of tools, hunters, and men, when every statue and painting we discover cries out to us that this Ice Age humanity was a culture of art, the love of animals, and women."

Perhaps by looking at the timeline of how the theory of evolution developed, we can find some clues as to how to retrace our steps.

### Masters of the Universe

In the mid-19th century, Charles Darwin rushed to publish his *Origin of Species*, knowing that Alfred Wallace was about to publish his own paper on evolution in which Wallace expressed some doubts about it, based on his knowledge of the human mind and language.

Darwin's work took the world by storm, or at least the chattering classes in England. However, the fact that the book got so much publicity was because the public was ready for a theory that would break the iron-cold, dead hand of established religion on their lives.

So a theory, that, if it were true, would disprove the existence of the Old Testament God was very welcomed, especially when you have the brilliant Sir Julian Huxley coming up with great one-liners like:

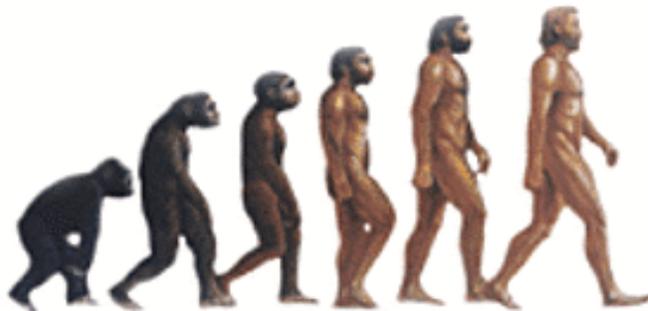
"Operationally, God is beginning to resemble not a ruler but the last fading smile of a cosmic Cheshire cat." Huxley also said: "I suppose the

> [Contd on page 15](#)

## Origin of hubris (cont'd.)

reason we all jumped at the *Origin* was because the idea of God interfered with our sexual mores."

So perhaps if Huxley had



**Fig.1.** Assuming that, any day now, the Missing Link would come strolling down from the African plains, we all began to be mentally conditioned with pictures like this one (public domain).

**"Anyway, whatever the reason, the theory of evolution entered into what's known as the zeitgeist of the age, an age when its readers—mainly upper-class white Europeans—were taking over the world."**

been getting more action in the sack, the theory of evolution would never have taken off? Just a thought.

Anyway, whatever the reason, the theory of evolution entered into what's known as the zeitgeist of the age, an age when its readers—mainly upper-class white Europeans—were taking over the world.

Thus the imperialist invaders of Africa, Australia and the New World regarded themselves as just living proof of the theory of the survival of the fittest, with their colonial vassals as mere evolutionary leftovers, or living fossils if you like, of a more primitive age that was well on its way to extinction.

But it was Darwin's later book, *The Descent of Man* (1871), which really focused on the idea of man having a common ape ancestor. His view appeared to be based on the follow-

ing observation:

"In each great region of the world the living mammals are closely related to the extinct species of the same region. It is, therefore, probable that Africa was formerly inhabited by extinct apes closely allied to the gorilla and chimpanzee; and as these two species are now man's nearest allies, it is somewhat more probable that our early progenitors lived on the African continent than elsewhere" (p. 182).

That's it—just an observation—nothing more 'scientific' than that, as it wasn't until half a century later that fossilized remains of what became known as 'hominids' began to be dug up all over Africa by members of the race which had grown to perceive itself as the pinnacle of evolution.

At the same time, the Masters of the Universe worldview had permeated the thinking about these fossils. So it was assumed that these ape-like creatures had been superseded by the more evolved and fitter HSS, like the white Europeans who had found them.

### **Paradise lost – or at least, forgotten**

By the 20th century a veritable industry had emerged with the expressed purpose of proving our descent from the ape.

However, the western academic world, funded by corporate interests anxious to justify capitalism, and the newly developing

Marxist world did not wait for such confirmation. Assuming that, any day now, the Missing Link would come strolling down from the African plains, we all began to be mentally conditioned with pictures like this one: (Fig 1).

In addition, pictures of trees began to appear in our textbooks. These trees had thick trunks (representing the white Europeans) and thin spindly branches growing off them showing those species which had become extinct—the *Pithecantropus* and the Neanderthals for example. Even the native Australians and Africans were included in their respective places.

This racial hierarchy stereotyping reached its zenith during World War II, with the horrors that stemmed from the Nazis' ideas about the superiority of the Aryan race. But soon after that, in the middle of the 20th century we start to see the fall of Empire, with the loss of India in 1948 probably being the harbinger of a sea of change in thinking.

### **What we need is a great big melting pot**

The end of our imperialistic ambitions had killed the Masters of the Universe theory. But we didn't have long to examine its entrails. We were soon thrown into a massive love-in.

The Swinging Sixties was the age of Martin Luther King and race riots that led to the repeal of the laws on 'bussing' and segregation. In just a couple of decades, apartheid in South Africa would fall and so by then,

> [Contd on page 16](#)

**"...it is notable that one of the molecular biologists that discovered DNA, Frances Crick, had never believed in the ape common ancestor theory."**

## Origin of hubris (cont'd.)

no reputable anthropologist would dare to mention evolutionary status and hierarchy of race in the same breath.

Thus the old hierarchical way of reading the fossil record was also discarded and, in fact, the pendulum swung the other way. Now it was almost considered to be racist to exclude any fossil ape-like primates from our ancestry—which is why the field of paleontology is in the mess it's in today.

The old taxonomy had to make way for new ideas about who we are, and the word 'variant' lost any negative connotations in the salons of London hostesses. Everyone was welcomed into this New Age, hands-around-the-world love-in, from the most ancient primates called australopithecines, to *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and even the Neanderthals, to name but a few.

So did this mean that the old racist ideas were now, truly, a thing of the past? Well, no. As we all know from bitter experience, when you don't have laws in a country just about anyone can walk in. It isn't so much that nature abhors a vacuum; she actually takes positive steps to fill it...and this time, it came up with an American anthropologist, Carleton Coon, and his book *The Origin of Races*.

### Sex, lies and salamanders

By juggling his dates and his taxonomy, Dr. Coon decided that evolution was in fact racist, with different races evolving at different times into HSS from HE. So his view was based on the Multi-Regional model, and in it, he postulated that the whites made the transition

first (natch!). Then came the Orientals, then the Africans and then finally the Australians, who were the last to become fully human.

The idea that one single interbreeding population could change species, and especially in such a racially hierarchical way—Coon had little proof beyond some birds and salamanders displaying a similar arrangement—naturally caused outrage.

And to cut a long and very painful story short, the outcome was such that some anthropologists began to view the whole Multi-Regional theory as racist...and this led to more of them leaning towards the Out of Africa theory.

So there it is...all because Huxley wasn't getting enough sex we have to consider ourselves to be apes. And some of us even use that as a justification to behave like apes, as if life was just one long stag party or a lost boys' weekend.

The *Pithecanthropus* remains of Java were originally thought to be those of *Homo sapiens'* ancestor, *Homo erectus*, from about a million years ago. But recent dating of their teeth shows that these guys were living in the jungles of Java only about 50,000 years ago.

A further recent find of one finger in Siberia has upset the thinking even further. The newly-discovered DNA is from a human-like being who lived there between 48,000 and 30,000 years ago, but one unlike any other so far identified. And even as we speak, scientists are arguing about whether the 4.4 million-year old fossil known as Ardi was or was not human.

In addition, some geneticists and molecular biologists are getting a little tired of it all, and are starting to point out that the 'Naked Ape' has in fact, got clothes on. Some of them are starting to question even the term 'species' and to ask the question: "If we all evolved from one common gene pool, how did the different species arise?"

Geneticist Professor Maciej Giertych of the Polish Academy of Sciences says he knows of no biological data relevant to tree genetics which would require evolutionary explanations. He adds that he could easily pursue his career without ever mentioning evolution.

And it is notable that one of the molecular biologists that discovered DNA, Frances Crick, had never believed in the ape common ancestor theory.

Recent studies show that HSS was not physically more fit than anyone else, and if anything, what's become known as 'gracilization' and 'juvenilization' had rendered him nowhere near as fit as his then contemporaries, the Neanderthals.

And if we still like to think that we modern folk (at least some of us) represent "the best" that evolution has been able to do up until now, well, that's just plain hubris!

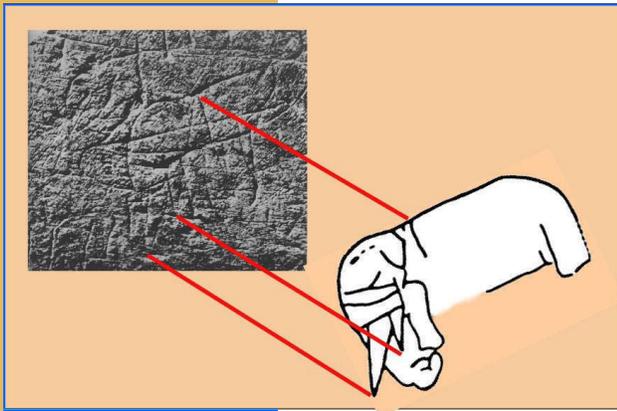
ISHTAR BABILU DINGIR is one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition and the original editor of *Pleistocene Coalition News*. Her work in the professional world includes national newspaper journalism (London) and managing her own large company. Presently, she hosts the very successful web forum, [Ishtar's Gate](#), which discusses archaeology and other scientific fields in the context of shamanism and similar traditions.

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## The mastodon as food in ancient Mexico

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre

**Did paleofamilies enjoy an occasional mastodon bar-b-cue in ancient Mexico? Evidence says yes; establishment says no.**



**Fig.2.** Engraving on a mastodon pelvis bone of what appears to be a double-tusked mastodon. The engraving is dated c. 250,000 years old. Remains of the double-tusked mastodon are known from the same area as the engraving.

**"A total of fifteen artifacts and flakes of indisputably human workmanship were recovered, eleven in direct association with the bones of extinct animals, primarily mastodon."**

### Evidence from the 60s

In her 1962 report to INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia), archaeologist Cynthia Irwin-Williams devotes eight pages to the El Horno site, north shore of the Valsequillo Reservoir, State of Puebla, Mexico. Edge-retouched unifacial stone tools were found there, in close association with the remains of a butchered mastodon. Some of the bones had been modified (Fig. 1).

Irwin-Williams closes the section on El Horno with the following summary:

"Between June 8 and July 14, 1962, excavations were carried out at the site of El Horno, in the Valsequillo Zone, Puebla, Mexico. A total of fifteen artifacts and flakes of indisputably human workmanship were recovered, eleven in direct association with the bones of extinct animals, primarily mastodon." (p. 17, later pagination, p. 20.)

Later uranium-series dates for the animal, obtained from a tooth fragment, are greater than 280,000 years. (2)

### Evidence from the 70s

In 1978, Professor Juan Armenta Camacho reported on his Tetela 1 specimen (3), an intricately carved fragment of mastodon pelvis that included a clear representation of a double-tusked mastodon, probably *Ryncotherium tascalae*, whose remains have been discovered in the area (Fig. 2). It was collected in 1959 a short distance north of what was later to become the Hueyatlatco site, and from the same sedimentary unit (Valsequillo gravels). The upper artifact-bearing levels at Hueyatlatco have been dated by the uranium-series methods at approximately 250,000 years. (2).

The bone was fresh ("green") when it was carved.

### No evidence today?

But this evidence apparently has been forgotten. Although the El Horno site and Tetela 1 engraving are not unknown to government scientists in Mexico City, a recent article by them states the following:

"Proboscideans are among an important suite of animals in examining the coexistence of early peoples and extinct fauna in México. For the late Pleistocene, four genera are known for this group, the gomphotheres *Cuvieronius* and *Stegomastodon* having one species each, the American mastodon *Mammut americanum*, and the Plains mammoth *Mammuthus columbi* (Polaco, 2002). The only one that has been found in association with evidence of human activity is the mammoth." (4)

Of course radiometric dates for Irwin-Williams' and Ar-

menta's discoveries would put them back in mid-Pleistocene, not late-Pleistocene time. Perhaps that is why they are ignored here? Is this a case of a communication gap or a classic example of Michael Cremo's "knowledge filter" in action? (5)

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**Fig.1.** Modified mastodon bone with a groove, dated 280,000 years old.

[*Traces of Human Workmanship on Bones of Extinct Animals from Valsequillo, Puebla, Mexico*], Work supported by the American Philosophical Society and the Mary Street Jenkins Foundation, presented at the 35th International Congress of the Americanists, Puebla, 1978, published privately, Puebla, Mexico, 1,000 copies, 128 pp.

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## The Pleistocene Coalition

**Challenging the precepts of  
mainstream scientific agendas**

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors, a story about highly-intelligent and innovative people, a story quite unlike that promoted by mainstream science.
- Explore and regain confidence in your own ability to think for yourself regarding human ancestry as a broader range of evidence becomes available to you.
- Join a community not afraid to challenge the status quo. Question any paradigm promoted as "scientific" that is so delicate as to require withholding conflicting data in order to appear unchallenged.

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The Pleistocene Coalition will be  
celebrating its one-year anniversary  
on September 26  
and anniversary of the newsletter  
on October 25