



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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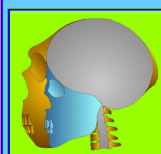
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**Cerutti Mastodon 'Parallel Timeline' reprint facts 25-yr. suppression fiasco**

John Feliks



In 2010, after decades of field research, Dutch stone tool production expert, **Jan Willem van der Drift** (colleague of Pleistocene Coalition founding member and archaeologist, the late Chris Hardaker), demonstrated that Oldowan 'Mode I' tools exhibited what he termed 'oblique bipolar flaking' in an age mainstream anthropology typically regards as populated by mentally inept *H. habilis*. Here, van der Drift challenges mainstream staples regarding Neanderthal extinction by focusing on energy economics and *H. sapiens*' necessary improvements in hut technology. See [Van der Drift p.2](#).



In **PCN #62**, we noted how confusing the 50,000-year old technological discoveries at Denisova Cave (Siberia) are for the tenets of Darwinian anthropology. Clinging to the 19th century idea humans just keep getting smarter and smarter the *mainstream ignores the implications* of Neanderthals or *H. erectus* exhibiting modern-level ingenuity. Multi-use tools—in both Old and New Worlds—are part of the problem. See [Baldwin p.6](#).



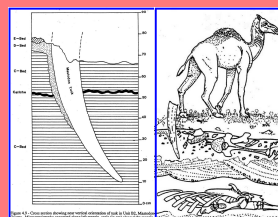
moth, llama and proposed ancient rhythmic notation site in southwest Utah. It is followed by two thought-provoking articles inspired by the discoveries at Cosquer Cave, France, including a new perspective on its well-known hand stencils. He also explores the possibility of finding similar 'hidden' Pleistocene art sites in the Americas. Urbaniak continues to challenge the mainstream picture of Paleolithic Americans as intellectually and artistically inferior to their European counterparts due to evolutionary and migration theory predispositions. See [Urbaniak p.9](#), [p.12](#), and [p.13](#).



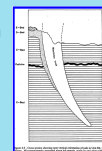
In **PCN #s 61–63**, a brief background, followed by Parts 1 and 2, were provided for a published thesis called *The Impact of Fossils*. It concerns how early humans may have been influenced in the development of rock art. The Introduction included passionate comments of defense from well-known science authorities in many fields responding to the paper's censorship by *Current Anthropology* and competitive researchers claiming *low intelligence* in early people. This Part 3 explores the psychology behind 'iconic recognition' and includes the first geometric study of the famous 250,000-year old West Tofts handaxe. See [Feliks p.16](#).

## Welcome to PCN, Volume 12, Issue #2

The Pleistocene Coalition is in its 11th year publishing rigorous, new and long-censored evidence early humans were our 'equals' and in the Americas hundreds of millennia ago. The Coalition calls for accountability in anthropology and paleontology—fields professing to be 'sciences' while untrustworthily mismanaging the objective evidence—Paleozoic to Pleistocene.



**\*This is a hypothesis** that begs for careful scrutiny and attempts to falsify it; I'm open to that.... That's the way science should work, right? Bring it on.'



—Dr. Tom Deméré, Cerutti Mastodon Team, *national-geographic.com*, April 26, 2017

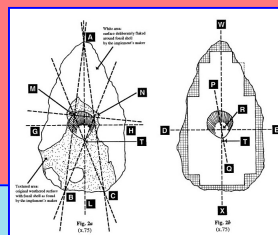
**\*Regarding PCN's Cerutti Mastodon Parallel Timeline:** Filling in for mainstream credibility gaps it shows the lone wolf problem of omitting context to gain priority. One reader stated they'd 'never seen anything like it.' See reprint pp. 20–25.

In the last issue (PCN #63), we reprinted from Issue #3 the first 'In their own words'

installment by Pleistocene Coalition founding member, **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD**, regarding the Cerutti Mastodon



butchering site—suppressed for '25 years.' Due to ongoing interest in this matter, with readers sending questions, papers, etc., the reasons for *citing prior evidence before making bold new claims*—are becoming clear to them as part of how science is meant to work. The unsatisfactory way journals like *Nature* and *Science* mislead the public by publishing bold claims without proper context\* is part of the problem. Next issue will include Chris Hardaker's *psychology behind self-suppression* and how Cerutti Team's denigration of Calico and ignoring of Valsequillo to be 'first' weakens their case. See [Steen-McIntyre p. 5](#), [p. 8](#), and [pp. 20–25](#).



## How our ancestors lived, *Part 1*

# Neanderthals, *Homo sapiens* and the crucial role of huts

By Jan Willem van der Drift, Stone tool production expert, early man theorist

**"If we use cars as an analogy**



**Neanderthals were like high performance 4WD cars that need lots of fuel. Whilst we are like economy cars: we're not built to be better, but to be cheaper."**

### Updating our questions about Neanderthals

In the colonial era people were judged on what they had. For example, black men had simple huts and no guns, so they had to be a simple 'lower race.'

Prehistorians (e.g., archaeologists, anthropologists) used the same method. For example, Neanderthals used handaxes so they were low on the 'evolutionary' ladder. Today, however, we know that the theory

that a man's material culture reflects his evolutionary stage is absolutely false, for we can easily see that all living humans are equal, whatever their wealth or technology. Then why would this false theory still be applied to Neanderthals?

Genetic studies show that Neanderthals and Moderns interbred. This proves that they were biologically compatible. This means that the muscle-tissue of Neanderthals was compatible to ours and when you combine that with the fact that they had larger muscles, it's clear that they were stronger than us.

Neanderthal brain tissue was also compatible and when you combine this with the fact that their braincases were bigger, it's clear that they were at least as clever as we are. Indeed, they outperformed us in almost every way. But if Neanderthals were the better men why did they lose the struggle for survival?

### Energy economics

The first reason why the high-performance Neanderthals lost the struggle for survival is that performance always comes at a price. When we compare *Homo sapiens* and

Neanderthal skulls at the same scale, like in my drawing (**Fig. 1**), we see that the Neanderthal mouth was comparatively much larger than ours. It might be proposed that evolution or adaptation made it as large as it is because Neanderthals had to eat three times the amount we eat, roughly 6000 calories per day.

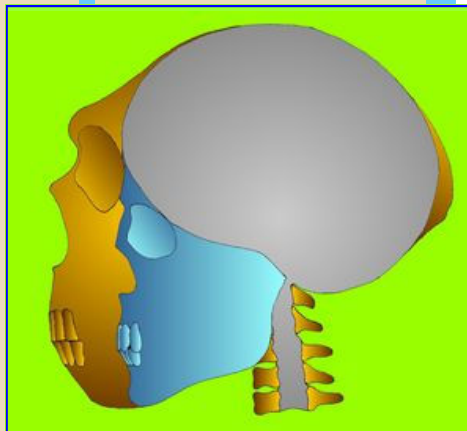
If we use cars as an analogy Neanderthals were like high performance 4WD cars that need lots of fuel. Whilst we are like economy cars. We're not built to be better but to be cheaper. You lose what you don't use, so, you might say that evolution or adaptation made our *Homo sapiens* mouths smaller. Our noses also became smaller because we use less oxygen. My drawing shows the result of these changes. In effect, our complete face shrank like a deflating balloon.

### Confusing brain size, etc., with intelligence

When Neanderthals were first discovered, scholars did not understand how the shape of the face connects to the performance of the body. So, they used 'phrenology'—belief that the shape and size of the cranium is an indicator of character and mental ability—to interpret the fossils. E.g., the weak chin of Neanderthals would indicate a weak character, and the low forehead, a wild and brutal mind. By such criteria, our characteristic *H. sapiens* high forehead has been imagined as a sign our modern brain had risen to a higher mental stage.

Today we know that phrenology is a 'pseudoscience' yet most people—even anthropological

scientists—still believe these claims! My drawing shows



**Fig. 1.** Morphology of Neanderthal skull (in background) compared at the same scale with that of *Homo sapiens* (foreground). Note that the braincase is not actually set lower in the skull as many imagine but that the eyes are set higher. The comparative distance from the chin to the top of the head is essentially the same. Drawing by Jan Willem van der Drift.

what really happened: the economized face shrank so our eyes sank below the brain-case. We do not have a higher brain but simply lower eyes.

### Energy economics and larger populations

We developed our economy class anatomy because our early modern *Homo sapiens* ancestors lived in parts of Africa where every dry season brought food-shortages. These food shortages weakened all fast-growing muscular children who needed the most energy and many became ill and died. However, the slower-growing leaner children needed less energy to survive. So, these children stayed healthy on the same ration of food-shares. We might say that natural selection made our bodies 'cheap.'

When we return to the car analogy it's clear that cheap sells. Yet, even though our more economical anatomy helped to make us a success high-performance 4WDs have

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

## Neanderthals, *Homo sapiens* and the crucial role of huts (cont.)

**"These food shortages weakened all fast-growing muscular children who needed the most energy and many turned ill and died. However, the slower-growing and leaner children needed less energy to survive. So, they stayed healthy on the same food-shares. We might say that natural selection made our bodies 'cheap.'"**

not completely disappeared. So why, then, did the high performance Neanderthals completely disappear and modern *H. sapiens* completely take over their habitat areas?

### Rise of the huts

I suggest the first factor is that humans who eat less can stay in one area for a longer period of time. This gave Moderns the option of returning to the same shelters night after night. Subsequently, Modern children were often cold at night when the temperature went down because they burnt so few calories. So, families that used the same shelters for weeks or even months at a time decided to make the walls 'wind-tight' and the roofs 'watertight.' Step-by-step, this resulted in basic simple shelters being gradually improved upon to the point of becoming comfortable 'huts' and living in huts became the real game-changer!

### The importance of huts

It is essential to understand that early man, for the most part, lived in groups that were always on the move in search of food. So, a *Homo erectus* or Neanderthal woman had to physically carry her child every day for almost the whole day. Such women, therefore, could only sustain a second child when the firstborn was old enough to follow the group on their own. This gave *H. erectus* a long natural birth-interval of about five years helping to keep the early human populations small. But that limitation changed when the Moderns began to live in 'modern' huts. Now, women could leave their children at home in grandma's care while they went out to gather food. The result was that since the Modern women did not need to carry their children, they could have a child every year. So, as soon as the

Moderns began to live in high-quality huts, their population began to rise exponentially.

Under these circumstances, the modern *H. sapiens* population



**Fig. 2.** Neanderthals lived in cool dry climate phases of the Old World, a time when herds travelled very far. For this reason hunters naturally had to carry raw materials over great distances. It is also reasonable to assume this is why they tended to make very small handaxes as seen above. Artifacts recovered and photographed by Jan Willem van der Drift.

doubled each generation and, eventually, it became harder for these larger groups to find food. By consequence the last Africans that needed lots of food (e.g., Kabwe man or, according to whatever faction one belongs, *Homo heidelbergensis* to some) starved. They were the first victims of our population growth.

Around 100,000 years ago, the Moderns had not yet migrated outside Africa because their children were too weak to survive the temperate winters. But after the invention of the hut, their children grew up indoors in a protective micro-climate.

So, living indoors allowed modern *Homo sapiens* to settle in nearly every climate and the population growth drove them further and further in search of food. From this point of view one might say that Modern man was driven out-of-Africa by the game-changing effects of his huts.

### Huts and advances in 'material' culture

Huts were a game-changer in another way as well. Since Neanderthals had no homes, so to speak, they always physically carried with them everything they owned—even during the hunt. This mobile lifestyle forced Neanderthals to travel light. They could only carry a handful of essential objects with them and that, crucially, limited their developing a complex 'material' culture. In other words, their material culture was limited for practical reasons and not for reasons of their mental ability such as promoted in the mainstream.

This condition of traveling light is likely also why Neanderthals are known for smaller and lighter handaxes than many of our earlier predecessors (**Fig. 2**).

In contrast, however, we know that Neanderthals used medicinal plants and understood the animals and the landscape, by which they had an impressive 'nonmaterial' culture. They must have passed their knowledge on as oral history and also in songs and dances. The Moderns did not need to carry their stuff, they left it at home so their 'material' culture quickly became very complex. This is why the onset of 'art and symbolism' coincides with the start of our indoor lifestyle. **[Eds. Note:** It is important to point out that this particular belief, art origins and symbolism as Modern, is due to mainstream suppression of hundreds-of-millennia-old *Homo erectus* engravings and other innovative work from Java, Bilzingsleben, Valsequillo, West Tofts, etc., as covered in PCN.]

### Cultural interactions and options

The Neanderthals must have noticed how profitable the

> [Cont. on page 4](#)



## Neanderthals, *Homo sapiens* and the crucial role of huts (cont.)

**"By such criteria, our characteristic *H. sapiens***



**Fig. 3.** Skull and reconstruction comparisons of Neanderthals and modern *Homo sapiens*, from the author's video (in Dutch), Jan Willem van der Drift, *Bipolaire steenbewerkings-techniek deskundige*. APAN-lid sinds 1993; YouTube.

**high forehead has been**



**imagined as a sign our modern brain had risen to a higher mental stage."**

homes of the Moderns were. So why did they not adapt and build their own homes? I believe this becomes clear when we realize that during the winters Moderns lived in small groups, because there was only food for about 15 people within walking distance

of the winter camp. But 15 Neanderthals ate the same as 45 Moderns, so any

Neanderthal family that stayed in one place starved long before the end of the winter. The Neanderthals had only one option: to stay mobile, follow the herds and sleep in shelters until the Modern population grew so big that they starved. A few individuals, however, did find a loophole: the area around one winter-camp offered enough food for 15 Moderns, so it could also support 12 Moderns

plus one Neanderthal! Certain Neanderthals took this chance to live and crossbreed with the Moderns. But their children grew up on small shares, so only the leanest survived. This economical selection provides an explanation for why all non-African Moderns have Neanderthal-DNA although nobody inherited the curved leg bones that gave Neanderthals extra running speed or the deep chest that gave them greater endurance. We have completely lost their high performance anatomy.

We still invest more energy in keeping Neanderthals as our inferiors than in finding the truth. *Nature* illustrated this in 2004 when it published Bramble and Lieberman's study on endurance running. They tested how a modern man ran with the weight of a Neanderthal's face put on his own face. The runner struggled so the authors concluded Neanderthals were incapacitated by their big heads. But they ignored that Neanderthals had stronger necks, larger hearts and lungs. If the study instead used the weight of a horse's head ignoring the strength of the horse's muscles it would have concluded that horses can hardly walk. This mistake created the new myth that only Moderns were capable of endurance running and that Neanderthals had to hunt by way of ambush.

In *Part 2* of this series, I will discuss the invention of stone tools.

### Additional information

**Fig. 3**, above, is a still from my YouTube video, in Dutch, [Jan Willem van der Drift, Bipolaire steenbewerkings-techniek deskundige](#). APAN-lid sinds 1993.

If you would like to learn more about Neanderthals not typically covered in mainstream venues, take a look at my Stone-Age-Day 2018 slide presentation [What happened to the Neanderthals?](#) which I gave at the State Museum of Antiquities, Leiden University. It contains 70 original figures. See also my 2019 book [The Paleolithic: how and why](#). Both are downloadable as PDFs.

### Author's selected earlier papers

Van der Drift, Jan Willem. 2012. [Oblique bipolar flaking, the new interpretation of Mode-I](#). *Notae Praehistoricae* 32: 159–64.

Van der Drift, J.W.P., 2011. [Partitioning the Palaeolithic: Introducing the bipolar toolkit concept](#). DVD (in Dutch and English).

Van der Drift, Jan Willem. 2010. [1.8 million years old artefacts from the Netherlands: The oldest archaeological finds from the Netherlands](#). *APAN/Extern* 14: 1–19.

Van der Drift, Jan Willem. 2010. [Comparing bipolar artefacts with pseudo-artefacts and industrial waste: An overview based on experimentation](#). *Notae Praehistoricae* 30: 95–100.

Van der Drift, Jan Willem. 2009. [Bipolar techniques in the Old-Palaeolithic](#). *APAN Extern*, pp. 1–15.

Jan Willem van der Drift, a veterinarian in the Netherlands by trade, is a colleague of the late Chris Hardaker, archaeologist and founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition. He is a Dutch lithics expert in stone tool production with over 40 years field experience. Van der Drift is a prolific author in both English and Dutch publishing in such as *Notae Praehistoricae*, *Archeologie*, *APAN/Extern* (publication of Aktieve Praktijk Archeologie Nederland), etc. He is also a producer of educational films demonstrating bipolar techniques of stone tool production and its association with various human cultures of all periods beginning with the Paleolithic. Van der Drift's work is also referenced in Paul Douglas Campbell's book, *The Universal Tool Kit* (2013), a highly-rated overview of stone tool production techniques. Van der Drift is presently Chairman of APAN or Active Practitioners of Archaeology in the Netherlands (Aktieve Praktijk Archeologie Nederland). The organization was started due to the cumulative knowledge and field experience of its members consistently observing inaccurate interpretations of physical evidence regarding the nature of early humans by the mainstream archaeology community. The group was given extra motivation along these lines by Chris Hardaker who, in correspondence with van der Drift related the treatment of Calico Early Man Site in California (excavated by famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey) by the mainstream archaeological establishment. Van der Drift lives in the small town of Cadier en Keer in the province of Limburg, Netherlands.

Website: <http://apanarcheo.nl>

# Thoughts on early man \*\*\*

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD

Volcanic ash specialist

**"Then, being so many years later with no change in the site's status we re-printed the article in our**

**Jan-Feb 2017 issue, PCN #45, as [Revisiting PCN#3 \(Jan-Feb 2010\), 'In their own words,' with additional figure, just before their public announcement."](#)**

## \*\*\***Relevant reprint series**

Tenacious interest continues with readers confused by *Nature's* 25-years-late publication of the Cerutti/Caltrans Mastodon site as well as sending us various links and materials. The confusion is understandable. It was Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre who began discussing the suppressed site decades before the *Nature* fiasco and *PCN* team followed suit in detail in the [Parallel Timeline exposé](#) reprinted from our [Cerutti Mastodon Site special issue](#).



**Most of you will have heard of the Cerutti/Caltrans mastodon site in southern California by now.** Steve Holen and his group reported on it in a *Nature* Letter recently. Dated at ca 130k. An excellent article that covers several bases. An **official** breakthrough that demolishes the old Clovis First mental barrier for good. Reported worldwide.

Sort of a bitter-sweet time for me. We reported on the site way back in the Jan-Feb 2010 issue of this newsletter, *PCN* #3, [In their own words: Caltrans Site](#). Then, being so many years later with no change in the site's status we reprinted the article in our Jan-Feb 2017 issue, *PCN* #45, as [Revisiting PCN#3 \(Jan-Feb 2010\), "In their own words," with additional figure](#), just before their public announcement. It was then called the Caltrans site.

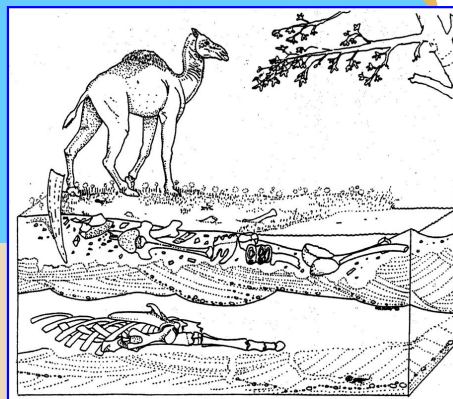
Why the bitter taste? No mention of Hueyatlatco, even as an acknowledged controversial site. Hueyatlatco is officially ignored, again. They start off in their abstract listing the criteria proposed early sites are required to meet for acceptance: "(1) archaeological evidence is found in a clearly defined and undisturbed geologic context; (2) age is determined by reliable radiometric dating; (3) multiple lines of evidence from interdisciplinary studies provide consistent results; (4) unquestionable artefacts are found in primary context." Hueyatlatco has met all of them. Then they write, "The CM site is, to our knowledge, the oldest *in situ*, well-documented archaeological site in North America..."

No. Steve knew about Hueyatlatco and the other older sites down by the Valsequillo Reservoir, state of Puebla, Mexico. Sites two to three times as old as Cerutti/Caltrans and first reported in *Quaternary Research* in 1981. Steve and I corresponded from 2008 through January 2013 regarding early man in the New World, including the Valsequillo sites and Cerutti/Caltrans. Then he wrote he was leaving the Denver museum, husband Dave died suddenly, and I fell and broke my arm and ended up in a nursing home.. Haven't heard from him since..

For the record, I've copied below parts of early emails sent to Steve Holen when we were corresponding:

December 31, 2009:

**I've been re-reading the Caltrans open-file report that includes information for a mastodon butchering site in the San Diego area (1995),** age roughly 300,000 years U-series on tusk, C14 dates infinite). Bones had been moved around and modified, associated with a few large cobbles and stone flakes in a fine-grained stream matrix (had to have been brought in.) According to a note attached to the report by our murdered colleague, the late Charles Repenning, the stone flakes could be fit together to form small boulders. They were using the bipolar flaking technique, placing a boulder on an anvil and bashing the opposite end with another cobble to shatter it into a bunch of flakes, then finding "expedient flakes" to use as tools.



February 14 2010:

[My \[Caltrans\] article](#) is there [in the Jan-Feb 2010 *PCN* newsletter.]. A colleague e-mailed me only after I had finished the piece that you had been quietly working on the Caltrans material for over a year. I had forgotten. Note that I did not include the authors' names and affiliation. Ditto for that piece in the last issue, on Solorzano's classic *H. erectus* skull fragment from the Guadalajara area. No sense embarrassing folk. As I wrote my friend, we are presently tumbling over a major paradigm cliff, and ALL of us have said or done dumb things before our thinking was changed! [So true! VSM 5/17]

VIRGINIA STEEN-McINTYRE, PhD, is a volcanic ash specialist; founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition; and copy editor, author, and scientific consultant for *Pleistocene Coalition News*. She began her lifelong association with the Hueyatlatco early man site in Mexico in 1966. Her story of suppression—now well-known in the science community—was first brought to public attention in Michael Cremo's and Richard Thompson's classic tome, *Forbidden Archeology*, which was followed by a central appearance in the NBC special, *Mysterious Origins of Man* in 1996, hosted by Charlton Heston. The program was aired twice on NBC with mainstream scientists attempting to block it.

All of Virginia's articles in *PCN* can be accessed directly at the following link:

[http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/virginia\\_steen\\_mcintyre](http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/virginia_steen_mcintyre)



# Early man and multi-use tools

By Tom Baldwin



**"My doubts were put to rest when I found an almost identical tool... in an exhibit at the Calico Early Man Site's Visitor Center."**

**A few years back, I discussed what I termed a Pleistocene 'Swiss Army Knife' (PCN #47, May-June 2017). I had found the artifact many years prior in the hills near Calico Early Man Site. It is an area known as Pleistocene Lake Manix.**

At the time I found the artifact I would spend a weekend every month working at Calico which, at the time, was on my way home from work through the desert. I liked getting off the main road near some high voltage towers crossing the desert close to Calico. It was a good area to find artifacts lying on the ground.<sup>1</sup>

The tool I found is a curiously shaped artifact that fits perfectly in a person's right hand for ease of use, sunken on one side and bulging on the other (**Fig. 1**).

As for the artifact's versatility, for one thing, it can be used like a knife, being pointed and double edged. Its point can also serve as a 'burin' which is a chisel-like tool for scoring or marking substances like leather when making clothing, or possibly marking a cliff face when making rock art.

The artifact also has a concave portion that bears its own sharp edge and would have

been useful for stripping meat from a bone or stripping bark from a small tree in order to make a spear shaft.

When I first found the tool, I wondered if its complexity really had been planned out or if it was just a fortuitously shaped flake that some early man/woman had seen possibilities in. My doubts were put to rest when I found an almost identical tool in an exhibit at the Calico Early Man Site's Visitor Center (that piece is actually a casting of the tool as the real artifact is kept in the San Bernardino County Museum).

**Fig. 2** shows the bulge on the artifact that lends itself to the fingers closing on the back side to hold it steady.



**Fig. 1.** How the multi-use stone tool fits into the hand as if molded to fit. The arrow points to the 'concave' sharpened edge that could be used for stripping meat from a bone or stripping bark from a small tree in order to make a spear shaft. The tool's many features demonstrate the skill of the person who did the knapping. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

**Fig. 3** (on the following page) shows the concavity that lets the thumb grip the artifact.



**Fig. 2.** The bulge on the 'back' side of the artifact that lends itself to a steady grip. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

It also shows the large amount of 'desert varnish' on this tool. The varnish slowly builds up on objects that have rested on the desert surface for great spans of time. That fact further attests to the multi-use tool's great age.

<sup>1</sup> For our new readers, Calico was under the direction of famed anthropologist, Dr. Louis B. Leakey. Calico is the only site Dr. Leakey excavated in the Americas for which he had to face continuous harassment by mainstream archaeologists absorbed in the belief there were no early people in the Americas. The truth is, since Calico's 50-200,000-year old dates were automatically unacceptable to them, they spent literally decades badmouthing Leakey including with personal attacks and accusations of mental instability, all because of Calico. Although Leakey was the world's leading expert on Paleolithic stone tools those same archaeologists even today are so stuck they continue to claim Leakey's artifacts were not made by man but were made by nature—calling them 'geofacts.' We at the Pleistocene Coalition have published over 40 articles on Calico since our first issue effectively disproving this school of thought. Go to our [homepage](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#tom_baldwin) and simply do a search for 'calico' and follow the links. All of my Calico articles in particular can be found at the following link:

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#tom\\_baldwin](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#tom_baldwin)

> [Cont. on page 7](#)

## Early man and multi-use tools (cont.)

**"Every time we turn around we**



**Fig. 3.** The central concavity of the Lake Manix multi-use tool helps the thumb grip the artifact. This photo also shows the large amount of 'desert varnish' on the tool. The varnish builds up on objects exposed on the surface of the desert for long periods and attests to old dates of such artifacts. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

**find some new proof our Homo erectus, Neanderthal,**



**Fig. 4.** A stone tool recently unearthed by Kseniya Kolobova (Inst. of Archaeology and Ethnography, Russian Academy of Sciences) and her team at Chagyrskaya Cave, Siberia, is being attributed to Neanderthals. Like my Lake Manix artifact it is also being compared to a "Swiss Army Knife." Image: IAET.

**Denisovan... ancestors were... intelligent creatures just like ourselves."**

The reason I bring the issue of this tool up when I have already written an article on the artifact is that the Russians have discovered an artifact/tool that also has

multiple uses. One that they are calling also a Pleistocene "Swiss Army Knife." Although the term has been used before, I like to wonder if they got the idea from my article. *PCN* is read by archaeologists and those of related disciplines around the world and

shared among peers—and, indeed, many who have written us behind the scenes (as it challenges long-held beliefs and assumptions about early human intelligence and capabilities and, as has been explained to us by open-minded experts, has caused problems with their 'not-so-objective' peers), so the possibility, while

remote, is not implausible. And, as I am told, many such instances of inspiration or even 'borrowing' without citation (such as Cerutti/Caltrans mastodon and Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's tireless though perpetually un-acknowledged efforts

and evidence are reprinted in this issue) can be traced and dated.

The artifact the Russians discovered has been dated to about 60,000 years before present. I date mine to sometime between 25,000 and 50,000 years BP. My date is conjecture, but it is not just speculation. It is an educated guess. I found it on the surface of the desert. The surface in that area used to be part of the alluvial fan coming down and out of the Calico Mountains. About 50,000 years ago the ground in the region uplifted and the fan quit depositing new surface materials. At that time the area was populated by Early Man, as well as other megafauna that lived along the shores of the nearby Pleistocene Lake Manix. We regularly find artifacts from the ancient shoreline and back up into the hills. Very few are found down in what would have been the ancient lake itself. About 25,000 years ago the lake broke through a natural dam in the Afton Canyon area some 30 miles from Calico. The lake drained down into what is today Death Valley and it never refilled.

Since we don't find tools and workshops, etc., below the old shoreline it is safe to assume that when the lake disappeared the animals that called its shoreline home moved on and the early men with them. So my artifact must have been made some time between when the ground uplifted and the lake drained, or 25–50,000 years ago.)

The Russian tool has been attributed to Neanderthals living in Chagyrskaya Cave. This cave, like the Denisova Cave, is found in the Altai Mountains of Siberia. In fact, they are only about 60 miles apart.

The Neanderthal tool (**Fig. 4**) is different from mine. The reason we each chose to attach the ascription "Swiss Army Knife" to our artifacts

is that the tools have multiple uses. The Neanderthal tool was used to butcher animals, scrape hides, and make other tools.

These multi-use artifacts are a testament to the ingenuity of Early Man. Every time we turn around we find some new proof our *Homo erectus*, Neanderthal, Denisovan, *Homo sapiens*, or other 'hominid' ancestors were more than grunting savages. They were intelligent creatures just like ourselves.

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TOM BALDWIN is an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah. He has also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. Baldwin has been actively involved with the Friends of Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, California) since the early days when famed anthropologist Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only site in the Western Hemisphere which was excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's recent book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is an entertaining fictional story based on the true story of Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, Baldwin has published 40 prior articles in *PCN* focusing on *H. erectus* and early man in the Americas. His articles on the Denisovan sophistication enigma include: [Denisovan bracelet: Advanced technological skills in early human groups is still resisted](#) (*PCN* #35, May-June 2015), [Those pesky Denisovans](#) (*PCN* #43, Sept-Oct 2016, our 7th Anniversary Issue), and [Update and review of 'modern level' Denisovan culture c. 40-50,000 years ago](#) (*PCN* #50, Nov-Dec 2017), [Denisova Cave, Siberia: Art, craftsmanship, and telling DNA](#) (*PCN* #60, July-August 2019), and [Denisovan news: Keeping these remarkable yet enigmatic people up front](#) (*PCN* #62, Nov-Dec 2019).

Links to all of Baldwin's articles on Calico, *H. erectus*, and many other topics can be found at:

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom\\_baldwin](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin)



## Member news and other info

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Vesna Tenodi

[\\*Regarding our Cerutti Mastodon 'Parallel Timeline' \(pp. 20-25\) one reader stated they'd 'never seen anything like it.'](#)

### Anthropology's falsehoods by omission

PCN reader and eclectic researcher, Ed Swanzey, relayed the following perspective from his son, an aerospace engineer:

"Paradigm is an excuse for Academia to sell wrong material in outrageously priced textbooks without the authors having to do more work."

At PCN, we appreciate the many similar [observations from our readers](#).

For over 10 years we have provided interdisciplinary evidence for the corruption of Paleolithic-focused anthropology via the propaganda technique of 'selective reporting.'

Blocking evidence, or the competitive non-citation of pertinent evidence such as the 250,000-year old human presence in Valsequillo, Mexico, completely omitted in the Cerutti Mastodon *Nature* publication, is typical anthropology. It also reflects anthropology's preponderance of lone wolves because citing relevant prior evidence of which they are already aware (the way of reputable science) throws a

wrench into their claiming priority as the "first" such evidence. For Pleistocene Coalition founding member, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre ([p. 5](#) and [pp. 20-25](#)\* this issue) Cerutti omission of prior key evidence is only the most recent in over 50 years of such methods. Unfortunately, science like this propagated in journals like *Science* and *Nature* further takes in a

public trusting it must be good science. It isn't. Recall our debunk of [Science's Ardi fiasco](#) 2010

conning the public with one of the most blatant science propaganda campaigns ever attempted. As long as central evidence is blocked from the public anthropology can never be trusted as a science.

The writers of the textbooks Swanzey mentions are content to 'repackage' the same material.

What most people don't know is PBS television is the same. It repackages already-disproved beliefs with more eye candy—special effects, clever animations—and overly-enthusiastic 'experts' who couldn't tell you the first thing about the non-supportive invertebrate fossil record. It also propagates *false claims* such as 75,000-year old engravings at Blombos are first evidence of symbolism (e.g., *Great Human Odyssey*) possible only by omission of [evidence 400,000 years older](#) (Baldwin PCN #52).

When one looks objectively at such

programs one sees they are basically adult-oriented versions of *Sesame Street*. Recall *Sesame*

*Street* is where the producers hid behind a two-way mirror recording the eye-movements of subject children's reactions to puppets and other giddy characters, animations and music, and quickly changed

sections where children looked away from the TV screen. That is PBS' perennial 'Neanderthal' programming. Omitting evidence Neanderthals were as intelligent as us enables them to

continue making a scientifically-unfounded distinction between Neanderthals and 'humans.' -jf

### Longtime 'figure stones' collector Alan Day of Ohio

recently wrote us about continuing troubles in the subject area and difficulties of getting collectors to raise the scientific bar per advice from Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre and the other PCN editors. Figure stones has been a contentious subject that Virginia managed. Hopefully she will be back soon to continue her open-minded guidance to collectors.

### Degradation of Australian archaeology as a science equals the U.S.

Longtime PCN contributor and former 25-year employee of the Australian government, archaeologist, Vesna Tenodi, has for many years informed readers on the collapse of Australian archaeology due to evidence destroyed for political or ideological reasons. On the ordinary citizens front she recently informed us that legally obtained stone artifacts had been confiscated in a raid of a residence by Australian officials guided by so-called 'experts' justifying the raid by identifying artifacts as Aboriginal. The level of 'expert' training justifying a raid on personal property is revealed in that artifacts claimed to be 'Aboriginal' were actually from 'Texas' legally purchased online. The story echoes the immeasurably greater problem of professionally-excavated evidence dozens of millennia older than could be claimed by any living groups being destroyed. It is reminiscent of Calico, CA, related by former Site Director archaeologist Fred Budinger: [The Calico Legacies](#), (PCN #32, Nov-Dec 2014), [Protecting Calico](#) and [Saving Calico Early Man Site](#) (PCN#17, May-June 2012)—about a government-assigned archaeologist systematically 'obliterating' the data of thousands of professionally-recovered and catalogued artifacts. The primary effect of such actions in both Australia and the U.S. is that of misleading the public regarding the Paleolithic past.



[Link to PCN #63](#)



[Link to PCN #62](#)



[Link to PCN #61](#)





## Elaborated documentation of the mammoth/notation panel

By Ray Urbaniak, engineer; Mark Willis, archaeologist; Todd Ellis, photographer; and Braxton Ellis, photographer



**"Braxton was able to rappel down the cliff-side to the panel and get a few close-up shots."**

**In my earlier article, [Dissecting a woolly mammoth petroglyph image](#)**

(PCN #62, Nov-Dec 2019), I detailed the deciphering of a mammoth image on a very old rock art panel approximately 30' above the ground in southern Utah.

Mark Willis, an archaeologist friend of mine from Texas, came up to Utah to do a 3D rendering of the panel using photogrammetry techniques.

(Photogrammetry is the art and science of extracting 3D information from photographs. The process involves taking overlapping photographs of an object, structure, or space, and converting them into 2D or 3D digital models.)

Professional photographer, Todd Ellis, ferried us and our equipment out to the site on his two ATVs.

In order to facilitate this photography I configured a drop down pole to hold Mark Willis' camera as well as provide a way to maneuver the camera. Un-



**Fig. 1.** Photographer Braxton Ellis rappelling down to the "Mammoth" panel I discovered in southwest Utah containing depictions of Ice Age animals and possibly the oldest Paleo-American rhythmic notation. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

high with an equivalent layer of rock above it. As it

layer above it of equal thickness, meaning my pole configuration was approximately 6' short.

Fortunately, Todd Ellis' son Braxton Ellis, is an accomplished climber and had brought his gear. Braxton was able to rappel down the cliff-side to the panel and get a few close-up shots. See **Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2**. The right photo in Fig. 2 shows the possible rhythmic notation glyph detailed in [PCN #63](#).

Todd Ellis brought his camera as well including a pow-

> [Cont. on page 10](#)



**Fig. 2. Left:** Braxton rappelling to photograph the panel. Photo: Ray Urbaniak. **Right:** Medium-close shot of the panel's possible rhythmic notation petroglyph. Photo: Braxton Ellis.

fortunately, I underestimated the panel to be 3'

turned out, the panel was closer to 6' deep, and the



## Elaborated documentation of the mammoth/notation panel (cont.)

**"Todd Ellis mentioned archaeologists doing a recent dig... found an approximately 10,000-year old Folsom point... less than 10 miles away. This further supports my findings suggesting an old age for the panel. I confirmed this Folsom point find with a local archaeologist friend, Greg Woodall."**

erful telephoto lens with which Mark Willis was also able to get additional photos from below.

Although the 3D modeling didn't turn out as well as it could have, had we been able to use the poles, the telephoto images were very good.

**Fig. 4** is one of the photos taken by Mark Willis using Todd Ellis's camera and long telephoto lens. Since the mammoth image in the upper right is still difficult to see for most people, I include **Fig. 5** from the original *PCN* #62 article that featured a light outlining of the mammoth image detail for easier viewing (**Fig. 5**).

Using information from all of the photos combined Mark was able to create a 3D composite of the panel (See **Fig. 6** on the following page) which helps to support my propositions in the original article. As noted above, the quality was somewhat reduced being minus the view from the drop down poles. However, Mark plans on returning to the site for a better 3D rendering in July.

An additional bonus of the visit by Mark's team was that Todd also photo-

The panel also appears to depict an extinct pronghorn species. I have also provided extensive photographic rock art evidence contradicting established belief that these animals, as well, were not in this area when humans first arrived in North America.

Todd Ellis mentioned archaeologists doing a recent dig in preparation for a new highway have found an approximately 10,000 year

old Folsom point and stemmed points at a dig site less than 10 miles away. This further supports my findings suggesting an old age for the panel. I confirmed this Folsom point find with a local archaeologist friend, Greg Woodall. The report has not yet been published.

While at the site I also spent an hour or so looking amongst the extensive surface flake debris—the debris from stone tool manufacture—and I could not find a single potsherd. This further confirms my belief as to a likely old age for the panel since there was not any Pueblo era

> [Cont. on page 11](#)



**Fig. 4.** Close-up of the mammoth panel showing an extinct 'llama' (upper left), proposed mammoth portrait with domed head, eye, and trunk, with trunk fingers (upper right), and the possible earliest Native American rhythmic notation (the lower right). Photo by Mark Willis using Todd Ellis' telephoto lens.

graphed another panel nearby which appears to depict Siberian ibex and extinct pronghorns. See **Figs. 7–8** on the following



**Fig. 5.** Lightly-outlined enhanced-for-clarity version of the mammoth petroglyph from *PCN* #62, compared with a modern Asian elephant.

page. This is significant as according to mainstream views, the animals were not supposed to have ever lived in this area. Recall, to the contrary, that I have provided much rock art evidence of their presence and other Ice Age animals in many prior articles.



## Elaborated documentation of the mammoth/notation panel (cont.)

***"The panel also appears to depict an extinct pronghorn species. I have... provided extensive photographic rock art evidence contradicting established belief that these animals... were not in this area when humans first arrived in North America."***

occupation of this particular site.

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art of the Southwest and other topics. Urbaniak has written over 30 prior articles with original rock art photography for PCN. All of them can be found at the following link:

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MARK WILLIS is an archaeologist who specializes in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and aerial photography by way of UAV's (unmanned aerial vehicles) such as kites, blimps, and drones generally, including SfM (structure from motion) mapping of archaeological sites in dense jungles. He has over 25 years field experience internationally in many different countries. Willis has worked as principal investigator, project archeologist, and crew leader in large survey excavations and planning projects in the western United States.



**Fig. 6.** Composite 3D-enhanced rendition of the mammoth panel by Mark Willis. The quality was somewhat reduced as we were missing the primary shots we had anticipated from the drop-down poles. Mark plans to return to the site for a better 3D rendering in July.



**Fig. 7.** A bonus of the excursion was that Todd Ellis photographed another panel nearby which appears to depict Siberian ibex and extinct pronghorns.



**Fig. 8.** Detail of the nearby panel photographed by Todd Ellis which appears to depict Siberian ibex and extinct pronghorns. Contrary to mainstream insistence such are obviously not bighorn sheep.

# Another possibility regarding hand stencils in France

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist



**"Curiously, I don't recall seeing a positive hand stamp with missing digits. All the prints I recall with missing digits are negative hand stencils."**



**Fig. 2.** An example of Dupuytren's Contracture in which a person's fingers bend over permanently. Image: Countryside Orthopaedics—Physical & Hand Therapy website (flipped and rotated).

## It is well known that many Ice Age hand stencils in France have missing digits.

Over the decades it has been suggested this is a result of injuries; ritual mutilation; frostbite; diseases such as leprosy; or, in a more positive vein, a type of sign language in which the digits were deliberately curled inward. For an overview, see pp. 58–79 in Jean Clottes and Jean Courtin's *Cave Beneath the Sea: Paleolithic Images at Cosquer*.

I had fully accepted that these theories pretty much covered all the bases until my attention was grabbed by one particular photo from Cosquer Cave. It is from an article called 'Canadian researchers say they can explain these imprints of disfigured human hands' (Dec. 5, 2018) online edition of Canada's *National Post*. See **Fig. 1**. Another Canadian magazine, *The Province* (same date), was even bolder in its conviction that the final explanation had been found: "Cave art of disfigured hands proves Paleolithic people cut their fingers off as sacrifice, SFU researchers say." I believe 'proves' is too strong a word for this single explanation.

As soon as I saw the photo I remembered my Great Uncle Henry who had a severe case of what is known as Dupuytren's Contracture in his right hand. It is a condition in which one's fingers are bent over permanently. **Fig. 2** shows an example almost identical to what my uncle's hand looked like except that his little and ring fingers almost touched his palm. (Coincidentally, my great uncle was French Canadian. He died at the age of 102.)

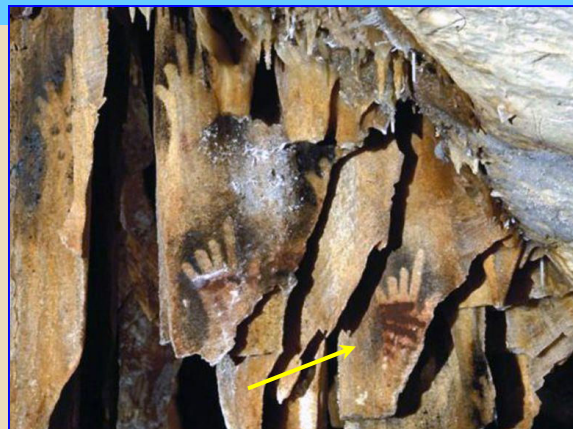
On the Countryside Orthopaedics website with the hand picture they explain that while it is possible for Dupuytren's disease to impact any fingers (or even the thumb) it "mainly

affects the pinky and ring fingers," i.e. the impression one might get by viewing the Cosquer Cave images. In moderate to severe cases, they write, the condition "can lead to hand deformities that greatly impact daily activities."

—Countryside Orthopaedics—  
Physical & Hand Therapy

Dupuytren's contracture is fairly common in Northern Europe including France and in those of Northern European ancestry (it is different from 'trigger finger'). It can affect in excess of 30% of the population over the age of 50, in certain countries. Granted, most Ice Age people didn't live to be over 50, but some did, such as the 'Old Man of La Chapelle.' Also, Dupuytren's contracture does affect some younger people as well.

Notice the positive red hand stamp over the negative hand stencil (arrow) of the cave painting. It appears to have all of the digits. Curiously, I don't recall seeing a positive hand stamp with missing digits. All the prints I recall with missing digits are negative hand stencils. If someone had Dupuytren's contracture it would be impossible to make a positive hand stamp while one could easily make a positive hand stamp if they had missing fingers. If one had Dupuytren's contracture the only way one could leave their mark would be by putting their hand against the rock face with the palm up and creating a nega-



**Fig. 1.** Hand stencils in Cosquer Cave, France, purported to prove Paleolithic people cut off their fingers as a form of 'ritual sacrifice' appearing in the Canadian *National Post* and *The Province*; Dec. 5, 2018. Photo: Jean Clottes.

tive hand stencil. One could not make a positive handprint since one's fingers would be in the way which would prevent them from pushing the hand flat against the rock face. It is very possible Dupuytren's contraction could account for many prints attributed to mutilation.

In an earlier article I showed how some hand stencils could have been made using a piece of fur to dust fine pigment over the hand after spit spraying water on the surface of the cave wall ([Experimental archaeology and Paleolithic-style hand stencils](#), *PCN* #56, Nov-Dec 2018). So, just as there is another way hand stencils could have been made, I suggest that some negative hand stencils with missing digits could indeed be by individuals with varying degrees of Dupuytren's contracture.

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art of the Southwest and other topics. Urbaniak has written over 30 prior articles with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of them can be found at the following link:

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# Possible locations of Pleistocene rock art in North America

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist



***"How many other now sunken cave entrances might have led to similar chambers during the Last Glacial Maximum?"***

**Nearly 340 caves have been discovered in France and Spain with prehistoric artwork in them.**

While researching Pleistocene cave art in these two countries it finally struck me just how much lower sea level was around the Glacial Maximum period. With such a dramatic sea level rise since that time it is likely that a large number of additional caves have been inundated by sea level rise and glacial melting many of which probably contained cave art at one time or another.

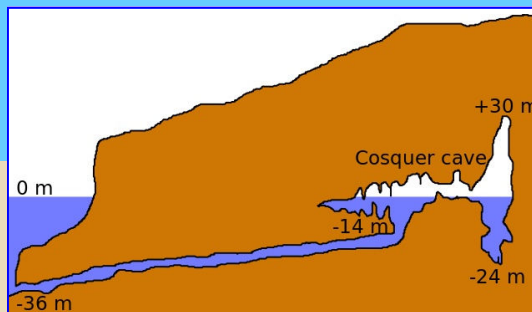
In 1985, Cosquer Cave was discovered off the coast of Marseille, France, by Henri Cosquer. When it was discovered, the entrance was 121 feet below sea level with a dry gallery 360 feet into the cave (Fig. 1). The dry gallery is at a point above current sea level, containing cave art from two periods:

At the Last Glacial Maximum c. 27,000 years ago the cave entrance (now 121 feet below sea level) was 330 feet above sea level. To give a better sense of the difference, I modified the Wikimedia Commons sketch to roughly show location of the cave's entrance when it was painted during the Global Last Glacial maximum c. 27,000 years ago (Fig. 2).

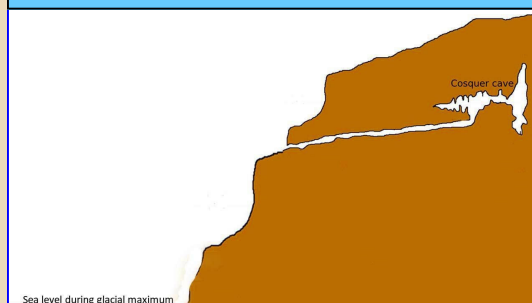
Cave Paintings which are tens of thousands of years old

only survive under ideal conditions. This chamber must have met that criteria while the rest of the art in the chamber's access cave was effectively destroyed by rising water—if not earlier from thousands of years of wind and changing temperature and humidity. How many other now sunken cave entrances might have led to similar chambers during the Last Glacial Maximum? See the ancient shorelines map (Fig. 3).

This map suggests that not only are there many caves along the French and Spanish coasts which have



**Fig. 1.** Entrance to Cosquer Cave in southern France when it was discovered in 1985. The entrance was 121 feet below sea level. Wikimedia Commons.

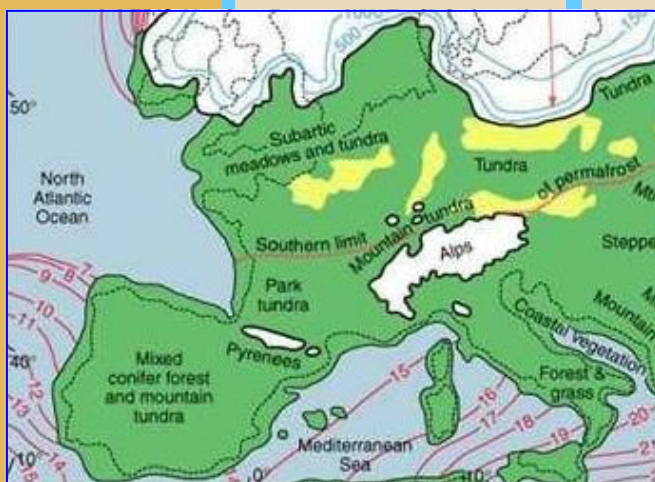


**Fig. 2.** Cross-section of Cosquer Cave entrance modified to roughly show how high above sea level the cave was during the the Global Last Glacial Maximum 27,000 years ago—when its oldest paintings were created.

not yet been discovered, but also that there are likely underwater Pleistocene era caves along the coasts of North America (see Fig. 4 on the following page).

Most, if not all, of the cave art such North American caves potentially contained would have been destroyed over time. Yet, it is still possible that some off shore caves in North America could still contain Pleistocene cave art and could eventually be discovered. The odds are low since there are no known long-term early settlement sites in North America such as there are in Europe. Some areas in France and Spain had relatively large concentrated populations during the late Pleistocene. If there were such large habitation sites in North America they now lie underwater on the continental shelf.

> [Cont. on page 14](#)



**Fig. 3.** Dotted outlines show the familiar shorelines of southern Europe during the Last Glacial Maximum. One can easily see the vast stretches of land available for one-time cave sites. Detail of unattributed map at <http://www.dandebat.dk/eng-klima5.htm>.

27,000 years ago and 19,000 years ago.

## Possible locations of North American Pleistocene art (cont.)

**"It is possible some caves**

However, it is possible some caves with Pleistocene artwork on land survived

of sand in these valleys over time through the actions of wind and rain deposition.

apparently at ground level when the rock art was created (see **Fig. 6** on the following page).



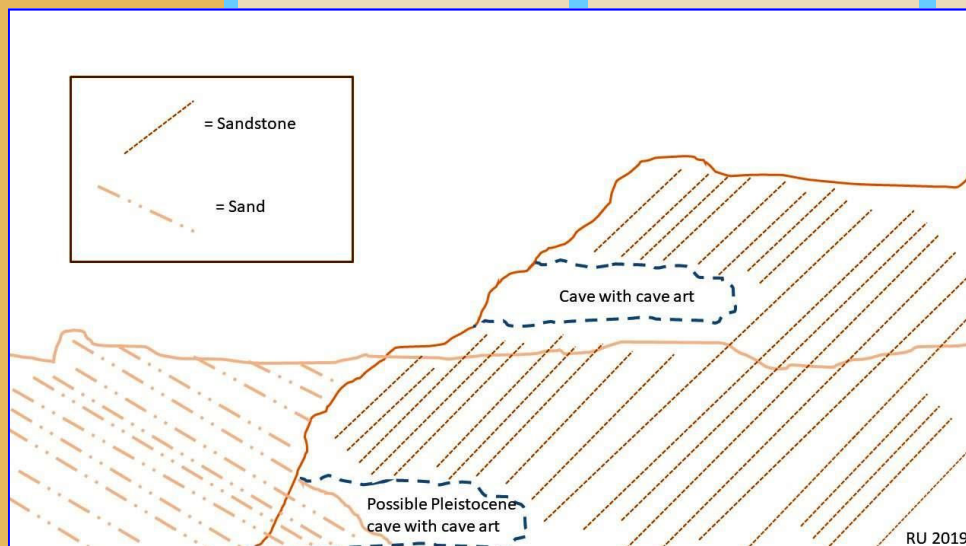
**Fig. 4.** Very likely, there are underwater Pleistocene era caves along the coasts of North America. Not being able to find any would more likely be the result of mainstream refusal to look due to the long-held-to belief there were no early Americans than to at least some not being preserved.

**with Pleistocene artwork on land sur-**

through being buried by sand (**Fig. 5**). I personally know of a few very old cave art sites in southern Utah

Over many thousands of years there are also places where the opposite has happened, soil has eroded

over long periods. The photo shows one of the oldest images despite being near the top of the panel.



**Fig. 5.** It is possible that some as yet undiscovered caves containing Pleistocene artwork in North America survived through being buried by sand as depicted at bottom of drawing. Ray Urbaniak.

**vived through being buried by sand."**

and the Arizona strip with rocky, sandy locations where this is possible. There has been a deep deposition

away verses being deposited. For instance, I have found many rock art sites high up on cliffs which were

The petroglyph was about 10-15 feet off the ground. I looked across from the panel where the rock face was still covered with sand and the exposed rock was at almost the same elevation.

I scrambled up the dune to the face of the rock and carefully scraped away a few inches of sand and found petroglyphs there, as expected. They are most likely the tip of a petroglyph panel iceberg. The rock art below this sand should last a long time since it is protected by the sand from most of the weather.

I asked archaeologist friend Mark Willis (<http://>

> [Cont. on page 15](#)



## Possible locations of North American Pleistocene art (cont.)

**"Cave art in sand-buried caves...sealed**

[palentier.blogspot.com/](http://palentier.blogspot.com/)) if ground penetrating radar could detect buried caves. I

cave art sites on land that contain only Pleistocene art. Cave art in sand-buried

rock art photography for PCN. All of them can be found at the following link:



**Fig. 6.** I have found many rock art panels high up on cliffs which—even though other explanations are possible—were presumably at ground level when the rock art was initially created. **Left:** Proposed changes for an erosion model. **Right:** Upward shot of panel whose location is indicated in the image at left. Photos by Ray Urbaniak.

**for many thousands of**

wasn't certain whether the radar just penetrated vertically or if the radar flared out.

He said the radar did flare out and could detect buried caves. I believe this is a project worth pursuing. Ground penetrating radar can possibly detect buried caves in this SW region and potentially prove

the existence of Pleistocene

caves that has been sealed for many thousands of

years and protected from destruction by wind and changes in temperature and humidity may still exist.

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art of the Southwest and other topics. Urbaniak has written over 30 prior articles with original

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray\\_urbaniak](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak)



**Fig. 7.** Example of rock art which had been prior buried by sand for an undetermined time. In 2009 a land owner in Arizona showed me this rock art that became visible on his property after a big storm relating that it had previously been buried by a 30 foot sand drift. The photo shows one of the oldest images despite being near the top of the panel. I looked across from the panel where the rock face was still covered with sand and the exposed rock was at almost the same elevation. (Ed. adjusted brightness and contrast for clarity).

**years... may still exist."**



**Fig. 8.** After documenting the panel in Fig. 7, I scrambled up the dune to the rock face and carefully cleared away a few inches of sand. As expected, this revealed more petroglyphs. These faint images are most likely only a small portion of a much larger decorated panel more likely than not better preserved having been protected from weather by accumulated sand for a long time (Ed. adjusted brightness and contrast for clarity).

# The Impact of Fossils A paper on Paleolithic fossil collecting and its possible influence on early humans, text pp. 113–116

By John Feliks

**"Both the mold (the negative likeness) and cast of a fossil**



At the Permian-age seafloor diorama, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. The author's lifelong study of fossils began c. age 8. Photo May 1962 by V. Feliks.

**are readily seen when rocks are cracked open. ...the two corresponding halves can easily be matched."**

[Click here](#) for the Introductory article describing the paper's suppression by competitive editors and researchers countered by [quotations from eminent experts](#) in many fields (PCN #61, Sept-Oct 2019).

[Click here](#) for PCN full-text Installment 1 (PCN #62, Nov-Dec 2019).

[Click here](#) for PCN full-text Installment 2 (PCN #63, Jan-Feb 2020).

## [The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation](#)

John Feliks. 1998. *Rock Art Research* 15: 109–134. [Submitted 1995, 1997, 1998. See [PCN #61](#) (Sept-Oct 2019) for the full story of the paper, experts' responses to its suppression, and what this serialized version hopes to fulfill.]

### ABSTRACT

The origins of visual representation have been debated primarily in terms of human activity and psychology. This paper proposes that manmade representation was preceded by a natural, already quite perfected representational system, the products of which were observed and collected by early humans. The author suggests the following new hypotheses:

- 1.) Fossils were a means by which human beings came to understand the concepts of 'imagery' and 'substitution' prior to the creation of manmade images.
- 2.) Humans evolved their own forms of iconic visual representation (especially those in the medium of rock), having first been made aware of various possibilities via fossils.
- 3.) Many unexplained prehistoric artworks may be structurally and proportionally accurate depictions of fossils.

Because fossils are known throughout the world, the hypotheses have cross-cultural validity. Clinical studies offer the potential of analogical testability.

### KEY WORDS

- Iconic recognition
- Depiction
- Prehistoric art
- Rock art sign
- Fossil collecting

PCN full-text 3rd Installment continuing from [Installment 2](#) (after 'Observation and collecting of fossils during Palaeolithic times')...

## Part II

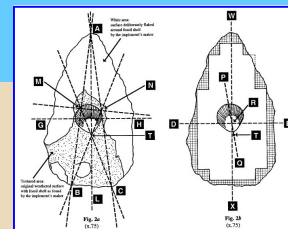
### PERSPECTIVES ON THE TRANSITION FROM NATURAL TO ARTIFICIAL REPRESENTATION

#### revealing and emphasizing natural imagery through the making of stone tools

##### *Retrospective predictability #1: Acheulian fossil collecting*

Once controversial, evidence pointing toward personal ornamentation and symbolic or image-making skills in the Acheulian is increasingly being cited in the present decade (Bednarik 1993, 1995; Bahn 1991, 1997, 1998; Bradshaw and Rogers 1993; Bradshaw 1997; Marshack 1991b, 1997; Goren-Inbar et al. 1991, 1995; Hayden 1993). The evidence includes petroglyphs, portable engravings, fossil-ornamented stone tools, personal ornaments (including possible fossil ornaments), and an example of a 'figurine.' It is noteworthy that these developments, primarily in the medium of rock, coincide chronologically with the earliest examples of fossil collecting and the working of stone artifacts to highlight embedded fossils.

In the words of Oakley, the Acheulians are the first people known to have 'paid attention to fossils' (1973: 59). But this mindfulness has a certain retrospective predictability about it. Namely, the refinements in toolmaking which occurred during the Acheulian are undeniably synonymous with the fact that the makers of the tools



were paying closer attention to the rock with which they were making their tools. Flint, chert and other core substances often contain fossils. It is hard to imagine that fossils would not have been considered, or, more likely, deeply pondered, as they periodically popped into view in the process of stone toolmaking.

##### *Self-contained referent/icons*

Through making stone tools (with fossiliferous core materials) prehistoric people would have had innumerable opportunities to observe both mold and cast of individual fossils, simultaneously. Both the mold (the negative likeness) and cast of a fossil are readily seen when rocks are cracked open. Hence, the two corresponding halves can easily be matched. This matching process has significant implications.

Observing both molds and casts, prehistoric persons would, certainly, have grasped their relatedness, particularly if they observed the process of the casts coming out from the molds. Understanding that the two halves were related and that each half implied the other, is a cognitive step well within reach of any prehistoric person intelligent enough to make a 'handaxe.' It would not have required a great leap of cognition for such a person to realize that the mold of a fossil *represented* the cast of the fossil, because the mold would have sufficiently and immediately communicated the existence of the cast.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Fossil molds and casts may have played another part in the development of early man's abstract thinking. They may have assisted him in grasping the *concept of opposites*. More so than any other natural phenomenon, fossil molds and casts display opposite images instantaneously, when fossiliferous rocks are cracked open. The significance of this instantaneous effect is that two opposite images can be compared side-by-side the moment they are discovered. Since much of Paleolithic technology revolved around the working of stone, it can be assumed that such experiences occurred on a regular basis.

> [Cont. on page 17](#)



## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

**"It is noteworthy that**

*Actively revealing natural representations and making images visible*

Cracking open rocks and revealing natural images could have

attention by Oakley (1973, 1981) and continues to be a principle citation in discussions on early 'aesthetic sensibilities' (e.g., Pfeiffer 1982; Dissanayake 1989; Hayden 1993; Bradshaw and

Rogers 1993; Bradshaw 1997; Bahn 1997, 1998).

Oakley noted that the fossil was on a weathered portion of the block of flint from which the tool was fashioned, suggesting that the stone may have been chosen because of the fossil visible on its surface.

He also

noted that a great deal of care had been taken to avoid chipping the fossil while shaping the stone into a handaxe, and that the fossil was left occupying a central position in the finished tool.

The chipped area of the implement approaches closely three-quarters of the fossil's perimeter without touching the fossil; the effect is that of *framing* the fossil. The chipped outline of the handaxe itself further serves to *frame* the fossil within a conventional Acheulian design. Since the fossil was visible before the stone was worked, the possibility that the fossil influenced the shaping of the handaxe cannot be ignored. As Schapiro (1969: 228) might describe it, 'The image comes first and the frame is traced around it' (Fig. 2a).

Although always noted that the fossil is emphasized by its central positioning, exactly how central a position this is had never been explored prior to my geometric studies circulated in earlier drafts of this paper (1993–1995) which I reproduce

here at 75% reduction. The studies were made using two-dimensional line drawings of the artifact (actual size 135 mm X 78 mm). Reference points were established differently in each to see if different approaches would yield similar results. In the first study, I created a non-arbitrary triangle reference based on the artifact's longest dimensions (Fig. 2a). In the second study, I divided the artifact into four equal quadrants of two-dimensional surface area starting with a vertical line from the artifact's non-arbitrary, assumed utilitarian, point—here designated as vertex (Fig. 2b). The results of these two studies support a deliberate design interpretation, and suggest a great precision of workmanship and sense of visual balance (consider Marshack 1990: 460–1; Gowlett 1984: 185–6):

*Geometric Study 1: Fig. 2a (X 0.75)*

1) In triangle ABC, median AL nearly bisects the umbo (or beak) of the fossil shell.

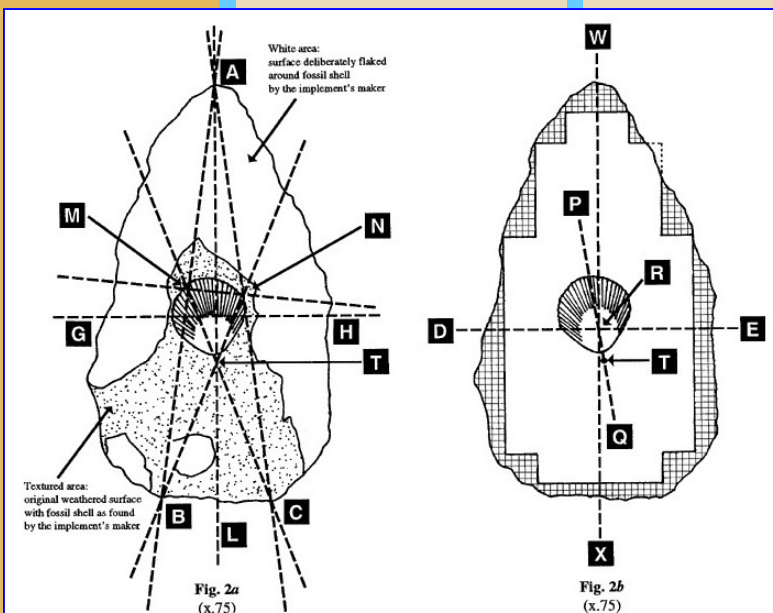
2) Median lines BN and CM also contact the umbo within one millimeter of median AL.

3) Centroid T (the point at which all three medians meet) is located directly 'beneath' the umbo of the fossil shell. In actual visual effect the shell is pointing directly at centroid T.

4) Midpoints M and N, at which medians BN and CM contact the sides opposite their vertices, occur at the outer edges of the fossil shell. Hence, the triangle formed by M, N, and centroid T is directly superimposed over the shape of the fossil shell. Note also that medians BN and CM follow the radiating rib lines of the fossil shell.

5) Line GH, drawn through the center of the fossil shell, divides the handaxe into two parts with equal edge measurements. These two parts, for convenience, will be called 'triangle' AGH, and 'quadrilateral' GBCH. Specifically, the outline of the

> [Cont. on page 18](#)



**Fig. 2.** Centrality and symmetry of 'iconic image' in the West Tofts handaxe. Note: Figures in this PCN series are numbered according to the original published article.

**these developments, primarily in the medium of rock, coincide chronologically with the earliest examples of fossil collecting and the working of stone artifacts to highlight embedded fossils."**

caused prehistoric persons to think that their efforts played a part in creating those images. These persons would indeed have been actively responsible for *making images visible*. The process of revealing natural iconic imagery (of varying levels of iconic quality) over hundreds of millennia might also prime the capacity for projection of iconicity into randomly-made human markings (as per Davis 1986; see also Bednarik 1994a). The theory that manmade representation evolved out of natural representation fits well with Davidson and Noble's assertion that there could have been no intention to depict if there were not first the knowledge of the 'possibility' of depiction (1989: 129).

[the earliest iconic image 'framed' by a human being](#)

The most famous example of fossil collecting by early humans is an Acheulian handaxe from West Tofts, Norfolk, in England, which contains a fossil scallop shell (*Spondylus spinosus*). The artifact, dated at about 250,000 BP, was first brought to academic

## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

'triangle' created by following the outer edge of the handaxe is approximately 241

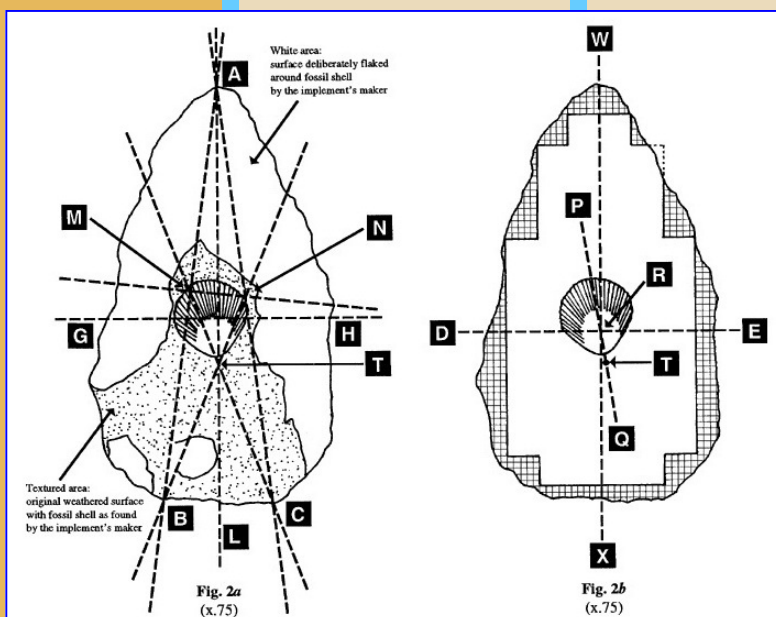
centroid point *T* (determined in Fig. 2a). Put in other words, a line drawn between geo-

metric center *R* and centroid point *T* follows the central rib lines of the fossil shell.

Apart from the fossil's remarkable centrality, there is the equally interesting factor of its symmetry. Like the handaxe itself, the fossil shell is of the

seeing the fossil shell as little more than an "interesting pattern." But this unnecessary perspective presupposes that the toolmaker never saw a living shell! Various pectinidae such as *Chlamys varia* (Variegated Scallop), *Chlamys (Aequipecten) opercularis* (Queen Scallop), and *Pecten maximus* (Great Scallop), are common along the not-too-distant coastline, as are many other shells (Brand 1991; McMillan 1968; Tebble 1966). Assuming similar fauna 250,000 years ago, it is only befitting that our Acheulian toolmaker (and/or any others of his/her time who may have seen the handaxe) be given the intellectual credit for recognizing the fossil not as just an interesting pattern but as an 'image' of a scallop shell. That the scallop image (and brachiopod image of similar design) holds a special attraction for human beings, both prehistoric and modern, is well-established (see Cox 1957, and references cited in Part I).

*Continued in PCN Installment 4\**



**Fig. 2** replica. Centrality and symmetry of 'iconic image' in the West Tofts handaxe. Figure reproduced for ease of comparing geometric studies with the text.

**"Perhaps the most profound implication of the West Tofts handaxe is that it contains an iconic image framed by a human being."**

mm. The outline of the 'quadrilateral' created by following the outer edge of the handaxe is also approximately 241 mm.

*Geometric Study 2: Fig. 2b (X 0.75)*

1.) When an image of the handaxe is divided lengthwise into two halves of equal surface area (approximately 37.5 square centimeters each) bisector line *WX* crosses directly through the umbo of the fossil shell.

2.) When the handaxe is subdivided into four parts of equal surface area (approximately 18.75 square centimeters each) geometric center *R* is determined. This central point is synonymous with the central point of the ellipse suggested by the smoothed portion of the fossil shell.

3.) If a line (*PQ*) is drawn from point *R* through the center of the umbo of the fossil shell, the shell is divided into two near equal parts. Line *PQ* also crosses

bilaterally-symmetric variety (Superfamily Pectinacea—scallop-like); and, for all practical purposes the shell can be said to be in symmetrical alignment within the artifact, its umbo (or beak) pointing in the exact opposite direction as the point of the handaxe. This symmetrical alignment between fossil and artifact suggests an interest in bilateral symmetry apart from that indicated by the making of bilaterally-symmetric, tear-shaped tools. This is significant since the bilaterally-symmetric shapes of Acheulian handaxes are continually cited as one of the earliest signs of 'aesthetic' interest.

Symmetrical alignments have been noted in other artifacts from this time period, as well (e.g., Bednarik 1988: 99).

But perhaps the most profound implication of the West Tofts handaxe is that it contains an *iconic image* framed by a human being. Previous discussions of the artifact, for no apparent reason, seem to limit its maker to

**References** for the 1998 paper for this section only follow. This Installment 3 represents pp. 113–116 (through the top of p. 116) of the 1998 RAR publication.

\*Installment 4 in the next issue begins with:

**The medium of rock as image field**

"Why create iconic images in rock?"

"Race cryptomnesia"

"Retrospective predictability No. 2: What rock art and fossils have in common"

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> **Cont. on page 19**



## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

**"This symmetrical alignment between fossil and artifact suggests an interest in bilateral symmetry apart from that indicated by the making of bilaterally-symmetric, tear-shaped tools. ... the bilaterally-symmetric shapes of Acheulian handaxes are continually cited as one of the earliest signs of 'aesthetic' interest."**

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"The only scientific hypothesis of which I am aware concerning the West Tofts object, or indeed the entire issue, is that presented by Feliks... He tested the centrality and symmetry of the West Tofts specimen's *Spondylus spinosus* cast by geometric means that lend themselves to refutation. His finding that the positioning is indeed significant and intentional is based on transparent data open to testing, and until someone presents falsifying data or proposes a more parsimonious hypothesis to account for Feliks' data, his hypotheses stands as the most likely explanation. Those wishing to promote the non-utilitarian aspects of other stone artifacts might profit from examining how Feliks approached the issue—not necessarily to copy his methodology, but to copy his philosophical basis. This may sound a little over-rigorous, but in view of our predilection for detecting evidence of intentionality it is fully warranted."

—Robert Bednarik, IFRAO Convener, Editor of *Rock Art Research* and competitive theorist with conflicts of interest, after being called to account for his paper, The Earliest Evidence of Palaeoart (*RAR* 2003: 89-135) sold as a comprehensive overview. In the paper, Bednarik omitted the West Tofts handaxe—long regarded one of the most significant pieces of evidence of *Homo erectus* intelligence—published by this author on invitation of Bednarik in his *RAR* journal (1998). Bednarik's comment on The Impact of Fossils' geometric studies came five years after playing down the paper due to his competitive theories and permanently withholding its PDF from the author and others requesting it. This was after promoting a competitor's paper that used The Impact of Fossils as its topic inspiration and structural template without aptly citing it (the start of a pattern). Bednarik's opinion of the West Tofts studies' scientific merit was hidden in an obscure Reply (pp. 122-3) after the author commented on his omission of the artifact. Conflicts of interest by those in positions of authority (epitomized by Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's 50-year suppression) shows the dogmatic and lone-wolf problems in anthropology. The public should not be kept in the dark on the modern-level capabilities of *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals.

# Cerutti Mastodon publication after “25 years”\*

**What was actually behind the infamous suppression and publication? The answers are not as clear-cut as *Nature* and other popular venues are saying, *Part 1***

By John Feliks; informed by PCN editors Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Tom Baldwin, and David Campbell; and PC records; Chris Hardaker; the San Diego Cerutti Team’s “Discovery Timeline;” and other sources as credited

**“First, the problem is not falsification. What’s needed is proper citation and acknowledgement of prior relevant work.”**

**\*April 2020 note:**  
Per reader interest, this is a verbatim reprint from [PCN #47](#), May-June 2017.

**This side-by-side timeline compares Pleistocene Coalition documentation with the Cerutti Timeline.** It provides missing perspective on how CM Site authors’ confidence was interwoven with the PC and *Pleistocene Coalition News*. It also sheds light on the inner workings of anthropology and paleontology the past 50 years.

**“This is a hypothesis that begs for careful scrutiny and attempts to falsify it; I’m open to that.... That’s the way science should work, right? Bring it on.”**

—Dr. Tom Deméré, Cerutti Mastodon Team, [nationalgeographic.com](#), April 26, 2017

First, the problem is not falsification. What’s needed is proper citation and acknowledgement of prior relevant work and that the hypothesis of 100,000-year+ people in

the Americas has already been long-forwarded and established. As critics of *Nature* have recently published, the evidence as presented does not match the boldness of claims made for Cerutti Mastodon as a “stand-alone” site. Because of this, the claims made seem to come out of nowhere. Where did so much confidence in *H. erectus* or Neanderthal capabilities come from after 25 years? Also, how is it that the evidence provided both “suggests” and, at the same time, “confirms” the presence of unidentified *Homo* species in the Americas without acknowledging any prior evidence? As Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre says in this issue the CM Site is *not* the “oldest *in situ*, well-documented archaeological site in North America” (Holen *et al* 2017, *Nature* 544: 479). Yet, in the *Nature News* article 5-27-17, CM Team

dismisses established artifacts from older sites as *mere rocks* only “resembling” stone tools. This standard claim can be questioned by looking at the Figures in Hardaker’s, Baldwin’s, and Feliks’ articles this issue to decide whether or not the claim is even remotely true. Only in anthropology is undeniable well-documented professionally-acquired physical evidence not incorporated into the knowledge base even after half a century but ignored while new claims start over from scratch. This is one of the reasons the field is attracting increasing skepticism with a public looking more and more into matters for themselves. For too long, anthropology has promoted individual sites at the expense of a larger picture which is already here. 50 years of Calico and Valsequillo suppression and omission is enough. That also is how science works.

**PCN’s Parallel Timeline: PC documentation behind Cerutti confidence regarding *H. erectus* and Neanderthals in the Americas**

## 1992–2009

The Cerutti Mastodon Site was recognized already in 1992 as an important “Pre-Clovis” site by its discoverers despite a cryptic 1995 “Final Report.” Whether it was 400,000 years old or 100,000 is minor compared to the many implications of an extinct mastodon skeleton worked by early Americans who were, purportedly, not *Homo sapiens*:

**“When we first discovered the site, there was strong physical evidence that placed humans alongside extinct Ice Age megafauna. This was significant in and of itself.”**

—Dr. Tom Deméré quoted in *University of Michigan News*, April 26, 2017, with co-author, University of Michigan paleontologist, Daniel Fisher.

For something so profound it is surprising the site was suppressed for 25 years. Where did the Cerutti Mastodon Team’s later confidence in *H. erectus* and Neanderthals in the Americas come from beginning in 2008—enough to finally move them toward publication? The 2017 *Nature* articles and interviews in other journals suggest that the delay was because of dating problems:

**“The main delay came from the sheer difficulty in accurately dating the site [e.g., professional problems w/the U.S. Geological Survey].”**

—[nationalgeographic.com](#), April 26, 2017.

Dating problems don’t keep important discoveries from the public and definitely not for 25 years. The dating claim just can’t be given any credence

**Cerutti Mastodon Discovery Timeline: San Diego Museum website—abridged**

## 1992

**Nov 1** Retired PaleoServices Field Paleontologist **Richard Cerutti** discovers the site. Curator of Paleontology and Director of PaleoServices **Dr. Tom Deméré** and PaleoServices Field Paleontologist Brad Riney meet with Cerutti to formulate plan for excavation of the fossils.

**Nov 17** Formal excavation begins.

**Nov 18** Caltrans archaeologists visit the Cerutti Mastodon Site and help screen sediment from disturbed area.

**Nov 19** Steve’s Horse Quarry discovered and excavated over next 9 days.

**Dec 3** Dr. Tom Deméré begins videotaping/documenting the Site.

**Dec 19** Paleontologist Dr. Larry Agenbroad visits the Site for the first time.

**Dec 24** SDSU Geologist Dr. Pat Abbott visits the Site for the first time.

> [Cont. on page 21](#)



## Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

### PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

#### 1992–2009 (cont.)

when seeking the real reasons for suppression. It will be something bigger. This Parallel Timeline, instead, adheres to PC founding member, California archaeologist, **Chris Hardaker's insider take** (this issue) as far more credible. Instead of blaming the USGS, Chris explains *what happens to American scientists* who dare publish controversial dates as the real deterrent. I.e. the delay was not the scientists' or the USGS' fault but mainstream anthropology-paleontology—an academic monopoly *well-known* and *well-documented* for suppression and even quashing researchers—e.g., famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey—should they publish controversial dates or opinions. This is the kind of suppression power that can cause a 25-year publication delay. The reason such control has existed in the community for decades is its attachment to origin myths taught as fact now forcing the community to self-censor, block, or deride researchers every time conflicting evidence is discovered. Honest and hard-working scientists like **Richard Cerutti** and **Tom Deméré** pay the price for bias at the highest levels of their fields. The problem is the myth that early humans such as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals were not capable people and not intelligent enough to make it to the Americas. As Chris explains, the way for the public to get past science like this is to become informed. Chris (an associate since the 1970s of the CM Site's discoverer Richard Cerutti), in his book, [\*The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World\*](#), instead of appealing to conspiracy to explain suppression, proposes “groupthink.” I.e. the community resists individual creative thinking in an effort to reach consensus without having to acknowledge conflicting evidence.

#### 1993

#### 1994

### Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

#### 1992 (cont.)

**Dec 28**\_Dr. Larry Agenbroad and Paleontologist Dr. Jim Mead join the excavation team for one week.

**Dec 29**\_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**Dec 31**\_Former PaleoServices Field Paleontologist Steve Walsh mentions discussion with Larry and Jim about a Sangamian versus Wisconsinian age for the Site.

#### 1993

**January 3**\_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**January 14**\_National Geographic Society awards emergency grant of \$14,038 to support field work and travel.

**January 23**\_Dr. Larry Agenbroad returns to San Diego for two-day visit.

**January 24**\_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**January 27**\_SDSU Geologist **Dr. Tom Rockwell** visits the Site suggesting an age of 300,000 years +/- one interglacial (i.e., 200,000–400,000 years) based on elevation, caliche volume, and degree of modern soil development.

**March 22**\_CM-423 cobble found in Unit G-5 at the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**April 5**\_Dire wolf skeleton discovered.

**April 21**\_Column sample of quarry stratigraphy jacketed in northwest corner of Unit F-5 at the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**April 27**\_Steve Walsh collects OSL samples—north wall Unit B-6; last day of field work at the CM Site.

**April 28**\_C Mastodon Site buried by bulldozer.

**December 29**\_Richard KU (USC) calls Dr. Deméré with preliminary radiometric date of ~190 ka on caliche sample.

#### 1994

**January 7**\_USC Geologist Dr. Richard Ku sends letter report with radiometric (U-Th) dating results.

> [Cont. on page 22](#)

# Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

## PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

**1995** – **On the ball scientists appear immediately.** After reading the 1995 “Final Report” (submitted only to CA government), USGS professionals, the late **Dr. Charles Repenning** (renowned paleontologist who confirmed ID's of small mammals at the site), **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre** (volcanic ash specialist), and the late **Dr. George F. Carter** (Johns Hopkins U., Texas A&M U.; anthropology)—all involved with earlier sites and well-aware of U.S. suppression regarding early Americans—agreed not to discuss the “exciting discovery” until the original scientists made their public announcement. **No announcement was ever made** ([Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010](#)). Note that Richard Cerutti was/is a supporter of Dr. Carter's views on early Americans; so not publishing suggests concern over career exactly as per Chris' article this issue.

**1996–2007** Nothing happens with the Cerutti (Caltrans) Mastodon Site for 11 years. Anywhere else such a discovery would have been announced quickly. But in the Americas due to predisposition scientists have been afraid to publish sites old enough to invoke Neanderthals or *Homo erectus*. Those who do are academically maligned. In the meantime, due to no small effort by Dr. Steen-McIntyre, Caltrans was becoming recognized “outside” academia as the suppression of yet another early American site. For the most part, those listening were not mainstream scientists. One result involved online discussions in 2006 including both amateur and professional archaeologists informed by Dr. Steen-McIntyre and Chris Hardaker that Caltrans was one of “many” suppressed American sites. This was just prior to Chris' announcement in the same forums of his upcoming exposé, *The first American*, incl. Caltrans, providing insight into how honest archaeologists and paleontologists are cattle-prodded by science institutions. Such exposés questioning science authority are increasing. An editorial published in *Nature* simultaneously with PCN's Jan-Feb re-publication of Virginia's 2010 Caltrans exposé describes this very well:

**“Of the two industries I work in ... concerned with truth—science and journalism—only the latter has seriously engaged and looked for answers. Scientists need to catch up, or they risk further marginalization in a society that is increasingly weighing evidence and making decisions without them.”**

—A. Makri. “Give the public the tools to trust scientists... The form of science ...in popular media leaves the public vulnerable to false certainty.” *Nature* 541, January 2017.

**Public pressure to publish:** In 2005, Dr. Steen-McIntyre's sought-out knowledge sent Michael Cremo and co-author of *Forbidden Archeology*, mathematician, Richard Thompson, to the San Diego Museum to speak directly with Dr. Tom Deméré—author of the 1995 CM “**Final Report**.” They didn't stop there. They further asked about a relevant San Diego site with mammoth bones showing “cut marks made by stone tools.” The bones were **dated by the USGS to 300,000 years old**. Deméré said he was familiar with the evidence but that due to peer review it could never be published into “any” scientific journal. **There's the culprit at work.**

**2006** **Dr. Steen-McIntyre** continues actively discussing suppression of early American sites with scientists and others via online forums, etc.

**2007** **Chris Harkaker** publishes *The first American*. See his article, The ‘new’ New World, this issue for perspective on what contract paleontologists and archaeologists such as Richard Cerutti and Tom Deméré were up against when deciding whether to publish.

**2008** – **THE TURNING-POINT YEAR:** **Dr. Steve Holen and influences** Though Steen-McIntyre, Repenning, Carter and Hardaker were aware, 2017 *Nature* paper lead author—mastodon expert, Dr. Steve Holen—had no idea the site even existed until 2008:

**“After hearing about the San Diego mastodon the Holens visited Deméré in 2008 to see the boxed-up remains.”** –*Nature News*, April 26, 2017

Also in 2008, **Steen-McIntyre contacted Dr. Holen** regarding **mastodon sites incl. bones w/undeniable markings from stone tools in Valsequillo, Mexico, dated 250,000 years by the USGS**. One expert critic of the *Nature* report noticed such missing references:

“I do think it is important to properly contextualize the Cerutti Mastodon claim, and I believe it should have been done, however briefly, in the original article.”

—Dr. Andre Costopoulos, Prof. of Anthropology; Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, University of Alberta, CA; “Traditional academic publishing has jumped the mastodon.” *Archaeothoughts.com*, May 2, 2017

August 2008, Dr. Steen-McIntyre introduced PC founder and Layout editor, **John Feliks**, to Dr. Holen via e-mail. Dr. Holen who had just learned about the CM Site's evidence of “pre-sapiens” people in the Americas was interested in hearing about the 400,000-year old evidence from Bilzingsleben, Germany, recently published by Feliks on **modern-level intelligence in Homo erectus**—‘cognitive archaeology’—early human capabilities.

## Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

### 1995

**March 20** State Route 54 Paleontological Mitigation Report submitted to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

### 1996–2007 N/A

### 11 years

### 2006 N/A

### 2007 N/A

### 2008

**April 5** Archaeologists **Dr. Steve Holen** [mastodon site expert] and **Kathleen Holen** [‘cognitive archaeology’] first research visit to San Diego Natural History Museum to examine the fossils and artifacts salvaged from the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

**...Continued in Part 2**



# Cerutti Mastodon publication after “25 years”\*

What was actually behind the infamous suppression and publication? The answers are not as clear-cut as *Nature* and other popular venues are saying, *Part 2*

By John Feliks; informed by PCN editors Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Tom Baldwin, and David Campbell; and PC records; Chris Hardaker; the San Diego Cerutti Team’s “Discovery Timeline;” and other sources as credited

## PCN’s Parallel Timeline (continuing from Part 1)

**2009** Dr. Holen was part of the inside group during formation of the Pleistocene Coalition. PC was formed for two main reasons: 1.) Publish mainstream-suppressed evidence about *early humans in the Americas*, 2.) Publish mainstream-suppressed evidence that early humans were of *modern-level intelligence*. Afterwards, a 3rd goal became exposing sciences aggressively promoting origin myths as fact.

**When Pleistocene Coalition News debuted in 2009, Dr. Holen was already on the mailing list—PCN #1 onward.** The Denver Museum of Nature and Science—where Dr. Holen was Curator of Archaeology and Kathe Holen ‘cognitive archaeology’—archived hardcopies of PCN as arranged by Dr. Steen-McIntyre. **When PC began, Dr. Holen believed humans in the Americas were no older than a couple dozen millennia.** Through VSM and PCN, Dr. Holen became increasingly informed about earlier sites as well as PC’s ongoing evidence for modern-level intelligence in the Cerutti-pertinent age range of *H. erectus* and Neanderthals. This was squarely against mainstream consensus. **These facts explain the confidence of CM claims** which critics find unsupported with CM promoted as a stand-alone site. So, while Dr. Holen’s confidence was strong that support already existed, *Nature* skeptics—seeing no citations—did not have this. By not citing earlier science, to critics, CM confidence seems to come out of nowhere. PC, PCN, and Dr. Steen-McIntyre and her prior San Diego site connections no doubt fueled that confidence. At least one mainstream expert noticed missing citations and questioned why relevant contextual references were not included:

“The Cerutti Mastodon Letter to *Nature* introduces, seemingly out of the blue ... the find and its claim of interglacial human occupation of North America ... and surprisingly uncritically. It is no surprise in fact that this development comes out of the San Diego area with its long history of research on this question. What *is* surprising is that despite its obvious roots, the *Nature* paper makes no reference at all to this long history and is not contextualized with reference to the evidence previously presented in an archaeological tradition that goes back at least to the 1950s and probably earlier.”

—Dr. Andre Costopoulos, Professor of Anthropology; Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, University of Alberta, Canada; “The Cerutti mastodon and the San Diego School: A brief history of the claim.” *Archaeothoughts.com*. May 10, 2017.

**2010**—12th year nothing from the CM Team. From Jan 2010 to April 2017, PCN was the only publication keeping the CM Site before the public. **By contrast, readers of mainstream science** had no idea the site even existed for 25 years. They continued to be told there were no early people in the Americas.

**PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010** PC founding member, volcanic ash specialist, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, published her first article on the suppressed Cerutti (Caltrans) Mastodon Site called, [In their own words: Caltrans site](#). Dr. Steen-McIntyre had already begun telling researchers about the site in the 1990s after realizing it was not going to be published.

**PCN #7, Sept-Oct 2010, First Anniversary Issue** PC founding member, archaeologist, **Chris Hardaker’s** first PCN mention of the suppressed Caltrans Site, [The abomination of Calico, part two](#). In the same issue we frontloaded the work of Cree First Nations archaeologist, molecular anthropologist, **Paulette Steeves** (now PhD)—**another associate of Dr. Holen**. Her article, [Deep time ancestors in the Western Hemisphere](#), started her online database to coincide with PCN’s Ann. 12 sites, incl. CM, Calico, Valsequillo were oldest. To help it get off the ground, the Pleistocene Coalition promoted Steeves’ database incl. sites known only to Native Americans and First Nations peoples of Canada. [The four oldest North American sites](#) involved Dr. Steen-McIntyre and Dr. Louis Leakey—Valsequillo and Calico. Steeves’ PCN article received rave reviews from all associates prompting her to create the first university class on indigenous sites 10,000–200,000+ years old. Again, Dr. Holen was informed on the earliest American sites via the PC.

## Cerutti Discovery Timeline:

### 2009

#### May 28–29, 2009

Conference on Cerutti Mastodon Site held at San Diego Natural History Museum. Attendees included Dr. Tom Deméré, Richard Cerutti, **Dr. Steve Holen, Kathleen Holen**, Dr. Dan Fisher (paleontologist and mastodon expert), Dr. Tom Stafford (archaeologist and dating expert), George Jefferson (paleontologist and Pleistocene expert), Dr. Steve Forman (OSL dating expert), Dr. Pat Abbott, and Dr. Mark Becker (archaeologist and lithic expert)

#### May 28, 2009

Trench excavated into the south side of the sound berm directly opposite the Cerutti Mastodon Site to collect fresh sediment samples for OSL dating.

**\*April 2020 note:**  
Per reader interest, this is a verbatim reprint from [PCN #47](#), May-June 2017.

### 2010 N/A

> [Cont. on page 24](#)

# Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

## PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

**2011** Denver Museum of Nature and Science where **Dr. Holen** was Curator of Archaeology begins *archiving archaeological papers on Valsequillo*—dated 250,000-years by the U.S. Geological Survey—as arranged by **Dr. Steen-McIntyre**.

**PCN #14, Nov-Dec 2011:** In this issue we produced a **map** of the earliest suppressed Western Hemisphere sites up to 400,000 years old including Caltrans. See [The collapse of standard paradigm New World prehistory](#), **Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD**. Also in this issue is Virginia's, [Hueyatlaco/Valsequillo saga: Part 7](#), important because it proved the destruction of Hueyatlaco, a direct result of U.S./Mexican anthropology omission and denigration. *Even at this late stage*, **Dr. Holen** was promoting the Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis that Americans dated no earlier than 40,000 years.

## **2012**

**2013**—Still no Cerutti Mastodon Site announcement after “21 years”

**PCN #22, March-April 2013** Excerpts: “**Fred F. Budinger Jr.**, archaeologist and former Director of the 200,000-yr old Calico Early Man Site ...is looking for any ideas on how to protect the site from the ongoing destruction of physical evidence... by its new Director, Dee Schroth.” “Toca da Tira Peia site [Brazil] is being sold to the public as “rewriting history” because of its 22,000-yr old date. Of course, that date is not at all controversial compared with... Calico (200,000), Hueyatlaco (250,000), or Caltrans (300,000)—all blocked from mainstream publication.” “In *Part 1*, I suggested that the discovery of ‘cultural’ evidence of early humans in the Americas at sites such as Calico, Hueyatlaco, Caltrans, etc., was more important and more trustworthy than anything the public has been taught by the physical anthropology community.”

**PCN #23, May-June 2013** Excerpts: “Pleistocene Coalition founding members, **Jim Harrod** and **Chris Hardaker**, also discussed evidence for the potential of very early Bering Strait crossings as far back as several hundred thousand years ago ([Out of Africa revisited](#), PCN #3, Jan-Feb. 2010; [The abomination of Calico, part 3](#), PCN #8). PCN editor **Tom Baldwin** provided estimates of an available Bering Land Bridge at 13,000, 125,000, 325,000, and 425,000 years ago ([Breaking the Clovis barrier](#), PCN #16, March-April 2012). This is all not to mention the years of evidence provided by founder, **Virginia Steen-McIntyre**, regarding the 250,000-year old Valsequillo sites in Mexico as well as sites such as the [Caltrans 300,000-year old mastodon kill site in California](#) (PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010).”

**PCN #24, July-Aug 2013** Excerpts: [The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature](#). By **Tom Baldwin**. “The animals ... were going back and forth between Alaska and Siberia—the land bridge becoming a veritable megafauna superhighway—yet we are led to believe by archaeological authorities that early man stopped and did not make that same crossing, at least not until a relatively few thousand years ago... [I] find myself asking a big “WHY?” Then I realize it isn't I who has to answer that question. It is the Archaeological Powers That Be. They are the naysayers. ... In fact, there is ample evidence that *Homo erectus* did cross over. He left his tools at the Calico Early Man Site ... (and at the [Caltrans mastodon kill site](#) also in California). He left them at Valsequillo in Mexico. ... This is as should be expected. ... Given *Homo erectus*' well-known penchant for travel and ... Beringia ... with all kinds of large animals crossing back and forth regularly it is logical to assume that *Homo erectus* did find his way to the Americas. Those who believe otherwise need to come up with reasons why not.”

**Also 2013**, **Dr. Holen** publishes The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis proposing oldest evidence for humans in Americas 40,000 yrs. **No mention of CM, Calico, Hueyatlaco** even though dated much older, e.g., 250,000 years by the USGS and NASA.

## Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

## **2011**

**May 16** First Cerutti Mastodon Site samples sent to Dr. James Paces, geologist and geochronologist at the [U.S. Geological Survey](#).

## **2012**

**February 18** Initial radiometric (U-Th) dating results reported to the Cerutti Mastodon Team.

**April 2** Dr. Jim Paces and Dr. Steve Holen visit the San Diego Natural History Museum to identify additional samples for dating.

**October 5** Two Cerutti Mastodon Site rock specimens (CM-254, 383) sent to Australia for use-wear and residue analysis. Initial contact with Archaeologist Dr. Richard Fullagar.

**July 2012–December 2014** Dr. Jim Paces prepares multiple specimens and performs digestions, chemical separations and purifications, and completes isotope analyses on nearly 100 individual subsamples.

## **2013**

Dr. Jim Paces dating continues

> [Cont. on page 25](#)



# Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

## PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

### 2014

**PCN #29, May-June 2014** Excerpts: “After **Tom Baldwin’s** recent articles concerning the rapidly changing views about people in the Americas ... our readers have been on the lookout... One item sent by Kevin Callaghan is very telling. It is a...write-up in the May 9 issue of *Science* called, ‘New sites bring the earliest Americans out of the shadows.’ What they mean by ‘earliest Americans’ has to be questioned...Hueyatlaco, Calico, Caltrans, [Old] Crow, etc., are much older...Now that the *once taught-as-fact Clovis-first theory* has been disproved mainstream archaeologists are rushing to push their dates back while still blocking the evidence of earlier sites.”

### 2015

**PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015**. 8th article w/CM suppression. Excerpts: “*National Geographic*, **January 2015—Same old same old.**” –By **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre**. “On the ‘First Americans.’ Both give ...establishment take... *As expected*, none of the early sites or artwork from the Americas...are mentioned. ...While...Monte Verde...is mentioned, the older dates for artifacts from lower in the excavated section are not... No mention of: [Valsequillo, 250k], Calico (200k+ yrs., Issue 13 pp. 6,7); the Flagstaff site (Sangamon interglacial, >80k yrs. Issue 31 p. 13); Old Crow Basin, Yukon (Pre-Sangamon, Issue 20 p.16); National City/Caltrans State Route 54, California (ca 300k yrs, Issue 3 p.10).”

**PCN #36, July-Aug 2015**. 9th article incl. suppression of Caltrans Site. Excerpt: “Fortunately, the preservationists persisted, and won. The Cõa Valley sites are now safely on the ‘World Heritage’ list. If Valsequillo, Hueyatlaco, Calico, Caltrans and other American sites experienced similar efforts, they too—rather than being destroyed—might be World Heritage Sites today. –jP”

### 2016

**PCN #39, Jan-Feb, 2016** 10th article CM suppression—**2 months before** CM submitted to *Nature*—“25 years” after discovery. Excerpts: “This brings us back to one of the main reasons the Coalition was formed...that evidence for the presence of truly ancient man in the Americas is suppressed by the science community. ...Related...is **Virginia Steen-McIntyre’s ...Mammoth migrations into North America suggest human presence** (PCN #38, Nov-Dec 2015). ...[suggesting] that if mammoths ...were wandering the Bering Land Bridge 1.5 million years ago...human mammoth hunters would have likely not been far behind. ...more evidence pointing straight to North American early man sites dated between 200,000 and 400,000 years old by professional geologists and chemists including from NASA and the USGS. These sites are suppressed by the mainstream science community because of their antiquity. ...They include such sites as Old Crow in Alaska, Caltrans and Calico in California, Hueyatlaco in Mexico, and Monte Verde in Chile.”

### 2017

**PCN #45, Jan-Feb 2017** 11th article on suppression of the CM Site **two months before** the CM paper is accepted by the journal *Nature*. This is our re-print of Dr. Steen-McIntyre’s original Caltrans suppression article from Jan-Feb 2010 w/an additional figure—“25 years” after the site’s discovery in 1992.

**April 26** Concerns of the Mastodon Team and San Diego Museum were expressed that *PCN* Layout editor was “leaked” inside information to explain how our Jan-Feb issue (PCN #45) wound up with a front-page re-publication of Dr. Steen-McIntyre’s original exposé (PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010). It created a stir. The suspicion of a leak arose because the issue just so happened to appear two months before the CM Site was finally announced in *Nature*. There was a statement requested of the Editor as to why the VSM exposé was chosen for that particular issue. **For the record and to alleviate any concerns:** A year or so ago Chris Hardaker suggested re-publishing some of our best prior articles and that was simply the one the Layout editor chose to be first. An amazing coincidence to be sure. The re-publication was also about 25 years after CM discovery. *PCN* had already been keeping the site in public view for seven years in 10 prior issues. So, there was no leaked information by anyone from the SD Museum, Cerutti Team, from Chris Hardaker, Richard Cerutti, or anyone else. Chris, a 40-year associate of Cerutti, did not break any confidences in keeping the *Nature* announcement completely secret. Now, with the Parallel Timeline published readers might ask themselves: “How many more sites with evidence of modern intelligence in early people are out there?” True science always goes wherever the evidence leads.

## Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

### 2014

Dr. Jim Paces dating continues

### 2015

**January to April** Dr. Jim Paces compiles and evaluates all data using newly published numerical age models that consider diffusion, absorption, and decay of U in bone.

**February** Geoarchaeologist and Soil Scientist Dr. Jared Beeton visits the San Diego Natural History Museum for first time to examine Cerutti Mastodon Site collection and obtain sediment samples and soil descriptions.

**May** Final age determination for the Cerutti Mastodon bones of 130,700 ±9,400 years is reported to the Cerutti Mastodon Team.

### 2016

**March 17** Initial submission of Cerutti Mastodon Site manuscript submitted to the prestigious science journal *Nature*.

### 2017

**March 13** Formal acceptance of Cerutti Mastodon Site manuscript by the science journal *Nature*.

**Below** added to “Discovery Timeline” by *PCN* editor:

**April 26-27** Cerutti Mastodon Site finally announced to the public in the journal *Nature*—25 years after its discovery.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for nearly 25 years providing evidence that human capabilities have remained the same through time. In 2009, Feliks and several colleagues formed the Pleistocene Coalition to bring to the public suppressed evidence related to human origins and prehistory.



## The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is 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 with confidence any paradigm promoted as “scientific” that depends upon withholding conflicting evidence from the public in order to appear unchallenged.

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**The Pleistocene Coalition** celebrated its ten-year anniversary September 26, and the anniversary of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, October 25. *PCN* is now in its 11th year of challenging mainstream scientific dogma.