



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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## Member news and other info

**"Dee Schroth reported there has been some trouble with Fred Budinger and friends inundating the state archaeologist with letters."**

### We make the *Friends of Calico* newsletter... sort of

-Virginia Steen-McIntyre

**I recently received the fall issue of *The Calico Core*, the newsletter for the Friends of Calico, Inc., and the "Calico Mountains Archaeological Site."**

Recall that after 50 years (and, in fact, with a celebration planned for November 1, 2014), the name of the site has recently been abruptly changed. This was done by the site's new director, Dr. Dee Schroth, without consensus or input from many of the site's most crucial researchers over the past 20 years. It is simply no longer called "Calico Early Man Site."

Memos have also been sent to various agencies about this change including AAA travel guides. As anyone might imagine, this is not standard procedure in archaeology.

Apparently now, there have also been major changes in the Board of Directors according to new president Claude Short:

"Due to circumstances beyond their control, and previous commitments, four of our board members—Richard Cerreto, Michel Failla, Jessica Henderson and Annette Mann—have resigned."

And according to the Project Director, Dee Schroth:

"Due to unavoidable circumstances, our third Saturday of the month Lab Day at San Bernardino County museum will not be held this dig season. I will keep you updated on when it will begin again."

We are mentioned on page 7 (sort of), in the "Friends of Calico, Inc. General Membership Meeting Minutes May 4, 2013," under "BLM Relations":

"Dee Schroth reported there has been some trouble with Fred Budinger and friends inundating the state archaeologist with letters—who keeps telling him to send her a proposal. If he does get one written, we get to review it. Without a proposal, she can't do a thing."

*To be continued?*

### In a related story...

*Science News* has reported that an **ancient boy's DNA** has apparently been linked to both Europeans and Native Americans. While this is still inching along toward our much more ancient dates, it does show that the dates keep getting earlier and earlier

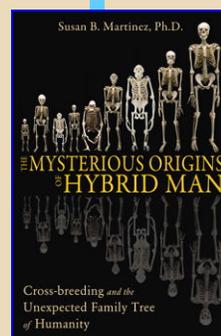
"The DNA of a young boy buried in eastern Siberia about **24,000 years ago** has been linked to ancient Western Europeans as well as living Native Americans, according to a study published in *Nature*. The finding suggests that Europeans reached farther east across Eurasia during the last Ice Age than previously thought, and that they had reached Siberia and mixed with East Asians, from whom Native Americans are believed to be descended. **'We estimate that 14 to 38 percent of Native American ancestry may originate through gene flow from this ancient population,'** University of Copenhagen's Eske Willerslev co-wrote in the study he led. *The New York Times* (tiered subscription model) (11/20)

**Susan B. Martinez, PhD, sent an announcement for her new and controversial book, *The Mysterious Origins of Hybrid Man: Cross-breeding and the Unexpected Family Tree of Humanity*.**

We just received this and no one here has yet read it. So, this is not an endorsement for Dr. Martinez' particular theory on human origins. However, whatever this apparently well-researched and thought-provoking book—according to the publication reviews—may say, we mention it as another example of how more and

more people in every field, and both professional and lay readers alike, are beginning to develop a sense of the ongoing problems with Darwinism when it comes to actual physical evidence. Many well-educated people are starting to wonder if there is something wrong with how the science community has continued to aggressively promote an ideology which has had 150 years to convince but has not yet proved its case. Literally hundreds of

books and papers have been written pointing out how the evidence does not support



standard evolutionary theory presently taught as a fact of science. At the very least, Dr. Martinez' book should keep the subject in the forefront.

SUSAN B. MARTINEZ, PH.D., earned her doctorate in anthropology at Columbia University, where she also served as lecturer in ethnolinguistics.

A v o c a t i o n a l   a r c h a e o l o g y

# Old North Texas sites revisited

By David Campbell



**In the course of editing and compiling a book for a friend, I did a considerable amount of re-search and fact-checking of old geological and archaeological reports centering around Rockwall County, Texas (Fig. 1).**

**"These long forgotten or neglected sites in North Texas serve to provide additional perspective to the newer discoveries and theories which have occurred since they were written."**



**Fig. 1. Top:** Location of Texas in mainland U.S. **Bottom:** Rockwall County.

I discovered a large archive of old papers in the Shuler Museum collections at Southern Methodist University (SMU). These are available online free of charge for research. In searching for relevant papers, I found numerous others which contained information that may be of interest to readers of *PCN*.

These long forgotten or neglected sites in North Texas serve to provide additional perspective to the newer discoveries and theories which have occurred since they were written.

In addition to the treasure trove from SMU, Jesse Todd of Fannin County sent me a copy of a new newsletter,

*The Archeological Journal of the Texas Prairie-Savannah*. It does not quite cover our area but we are mentioned often. Of particular interest are some articles by Wilson Crook II and the legendary R.K. "King" Harris. These reports nicely complement the Shuler Museum reports.

### Lewisville Lake

After their Lewisville Lake discovery in the early 1950's (1957, 1962), Crook and Harris began surveying extensively for similarly aged sites. Lewisville originally yielded carbon dates around 38,000 years but due to lignite contamination the site was reassessed to around 11,500 years (Fig. 2, next page).

### Hickory Creek Site

The Hickory Creek site lies some 10 miles north of Lewisville. A mammoth had been excavated there in 1951-1952 by North Texas State University. Crook and Harris returned to find burned bones with small worked flakes in the same geological horizon as Lewisville. The late paleontologist Bob Slaughter first dated the site to Sangamon (80,000+ YBP) but later, in 1962, revised this down to Wisconsin (27,000+). One of the flakes, a light gray chert with characteristic Edwards chert fluorescence, is almost identical to the Clovis Lewisville point and to other flakes found by Dennis Stanford in 1982 at Lewisville. Other flakes include a purple-black quartzite and a medium

grain red-brown quartzite apparently broken to form a burin edge and which shows minor polish from possible use on bone.

### Wheeler Site

A 1952 article on the Wheeler Site (Crook, 1952) made me sit up and take notice. I had been finding similar assemblages and materials on Caney Creek in Fannin County for more than 15 years and had a difficult time putting a good date to them. They seemed to be from Pleistocene clay deposits but showed characteristics of everything from Late Prehistoric to Paleoindian, all in close proximity.

The Wheeler Site is located in the northwestern corner of Dallas County near Carrollton, Texas, 150 yards south of Denton Creek and 0.3 mile south of the location of the Carrollton Skeleton which was found in 1940 at the base of a brown sand some six feet deep, just above clay and gravel formations of an apparent Pleistocene terrace.

Wheeler was excavated from the lowermost part of a brown sand layer five feet below the surface of the youngest terrace (Carrollton Terrace) of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Extensive gravel pits were dug in the area 1946-48 exposing the site. No artifacts have been found on the surface and none shallower than 40 inches. Bison, saber-toothed

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

## Old North Texas sites revisited (cont.)

cat, sloth, camel, horse and elephant were collected from within the two upper older terraces. The Carrollton Ter-

and numerous other sites in the Americas.

The top of the clay layer is thought to be the surface as it existed 10-20,000 YBP and the brown sand a later flood deposit. Since no bones of extinct animals were found in the sand and the artifacts are of the



**Fig. 2.** Aerial view of Lewisville Lake and Dam on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River in Denton County, Texas, USA. The lake is located near the town of Lewisville about 20 miles (32 km) north of Dallas. Photo: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, crop, Wikimedia Commons.

**"It is my conviction that a great deal of data remain to be recovered from reexamination of vintage sites such as the ones mentioned here."**

race stratigraphy consists of the bedrock Eagle Ford Shale—Cretaceous in age—overlain by a younger sedimentary stack consisting of 4 feet of iron-stained gravel, 4 feet of consolidated sterile clay, and topped by the sand layer. It is in the lower 18 inches of the brown sand layer that all artifacts and one partial skull were found. The skull, half the skull cap, nearly entire right side of the brain case, forehead and brow ridges, were found 54 inches from the surface, 6 inches above the top of the clay. It was not mineralized but so decalcified it required several coats of shellac precluding carbon dating. It showed extreme dolichocephaly slab sides, keel vault, and heavy brow ridges, similar to a recognizable type found near Abilene, Texas, the coast of Texas, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and Channel Islands, California, the Pericu of Baja California, Mexico

stemmed type, it was proposed that the sand was laid down in the Little Pluvial 3,451-3501 years ago and that the artifact makers had camped on the Pleistocene clay previous to that.

Crook found little material similar to Wheeler in published reports but did find some in private collections. A visitor had found the identical end scrapers of gray quartzite, the unusual 'un-fluted' Folsom points and net sinkers near a blowout below the old Lake Dallas Dam. It was also in brown sand over a clay formation.\*

\*The above is an edited version of a presentation that I gave to the Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society of Paris, Texas, September 2013. During the presentation, I displayed artifacts that I had recovered over the years from my own and neighboring farms, Caney Creek, that runs just below these sites, the North Sulphur River, and Rockwall

County, Texas. In addition I passed around photos of a partially mineralized human jawbone from a tributary of the Red River that a resident had asked to be identified and documented. In subsequent discussions with members of the Texas Archeological Society, I was given additional insights from archaeologists with extensive experience in North Texas.

It is my conviction that a great deal of data remain to be recovered from reexamination of vintage sites such as the ones mentioned here. As an avocational archaeologist with time on my hands, I shall continue to do so as the opportunity arises.

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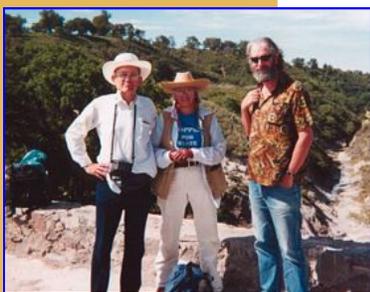
DAVID CAMPBELL is an author/historian and an investigator of geological or manmade altered stone anomalies or large natural structures which may have been used by early Americans. He also has a working knowledge of various issues regarding the peopling of the Americas. Along with Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Tom Baldwin, Campbell is one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*. His most recent prior article in the newsletter is "Heads up on the Trinity," about the enigmatic Malakoff sculptures discovered on the Trinity River in Texas, [PCN#20, Nov-Dec 2012](#).

Website:  
[anarchaeology.com](http://anarchaeology.com)

# Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts? Part 2

Original 2009 paper updated and serialized for PCN

By Christopher Hardaker archaeologist, Earth Measure Research



The author, right, at Valsequillo, Mexico with Dr. Sam VanLandingham and Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre 2001.

**"Armed with a small collection, Simpson set off for London to show them to famed anthropologist, Dr. Louis Leakey. Leakey was immediately interested."**

Continuing from [Part 1](#), **Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts? PCN #24, July-August 2013**, this is a serialization of an original paper which was published in *SCA Proceedings* 22: 1-18.

The original work was based on an extensive study of the lithic collection from the Calico Early Man Site housed at the San Bernardino County Museum, California. This new serialization contains

updated information which can also be found on my website at [calico.earthmeasure.com](http://calico.earthmeasure.com)

## THE GEOFACT-ARTIFACT CONTROVERSIES OF THE CALICO EARLY MAN SITE

### Background

Histories of the Calico Early Man Site excavations and research and photographs of the artifacts can be reviewed in several works (Budinger 1983, 2000, 2004; Budinger and Simpson 1985; Calico Early Man Site 2005; Leakey 1972; Leakey et al. 1968, 1970; Minshall 1976: 30-40; Schuiling 1979; Simpson 1980).

Briefly, dense lithic (stone tool) workshops captured in wide swaths of desert pavement in the Calico Hills were brought to the attention of Dee Simpson during the 1950s. With degrees in both archaeology and geology

from University of Southern California, Simpson was uniquely qualified to reach the conclusion that Calico's surface lithic workshops were different than the assemblages of other early surface sites in the region, most notably the artifact types from Pleistocene Lake Mojave (Simpson 1960).

Walking over the square miles of workshops on the western alluvial fans near Calico, above Pleistocene Lake Manix, the assemblages had a more ancient quality about them than other paleo-artifact assemblages.

There was also a nearly total absence of projectile points and other artifacts typical of later pre-historic periods. Further, the artifacts observed above the higher lake stands were much more weathered, hence older, than those at lower elevations.

Armed with a small collection, Simpson set off for London to show them to famed anthropologist, Dr. Louis Leakey. Leakey was immediately interested. He had never seen artifacts like

this from the New World before. (See **Figs. 1 & 3** for sample Calico artifacts.)

A few years later Leakey came out to the area to have a look for himself and came across buried artifacts in the profile of a bulldozer trench. In 1964, with support from National Geographic, the Calico Early Man Site was born. The geofact-artifact controversy started soon after. The oldest accepted Paleoamerican finds in the Mojave Desert were all surface artifacts. Calico's 5 ft. by 5 ft. units were going down 20 ft. in a dead fan. Tensions were high.



**Fig. 1.** Sample artifact from Calico. Calico Lithics Photographic Project, Christopher Hardaker.

A conference held in 1970 resulted in a hung jury and thoughts that the site's age might be a half million years old. Such an antiquity (500,000-100,000 years) for a New World site was simply too extreme at the time.

In 1973, *Science* published C. Vance Haynes's critical

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

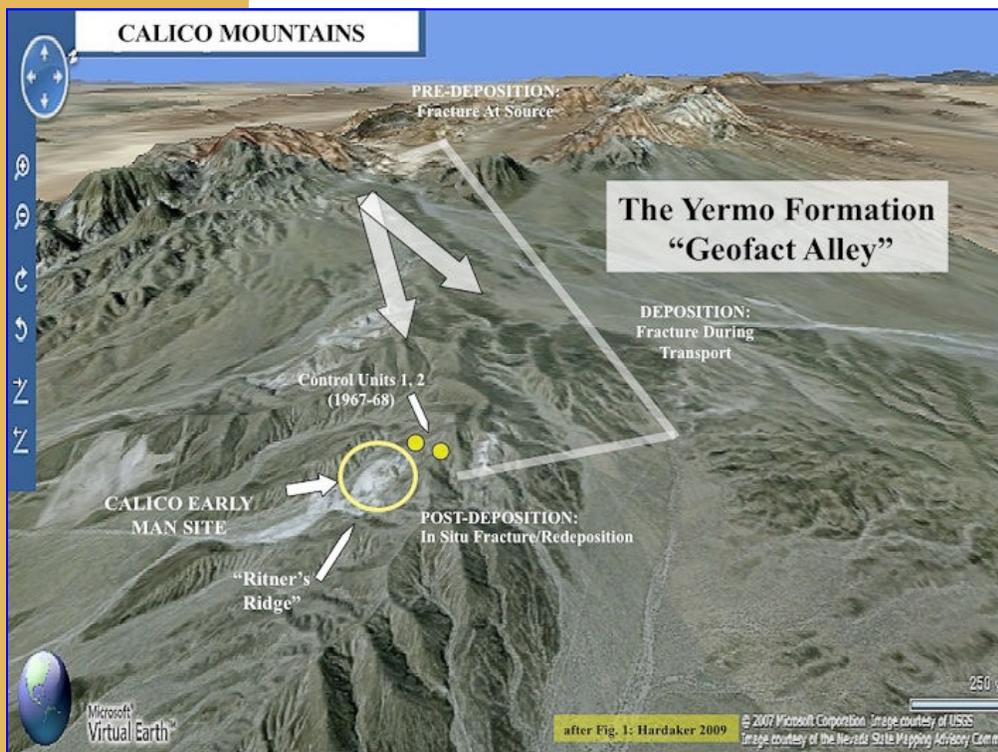
# Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts? Part 2 (cont.)

**"Most New World debunkers seem to have no problems**

article that effectively, though hypothetically, dismissed Calico's collection from serious attention. Haynes listed a number of agencies capable of fracturing chert—at the outcrop

Most, if not all, of the professionals with a curious eye on Calico after the 1970 conference turned away when the article was published. Few felt confident enough about their lithics acumen to stake

persists. Most New World debunkers seem to have no problems believing that the simple nature of non-handaxe Middle Paleolithic tool assemblages—like those from East Asia—can be readily mimicked by Calico's fan building processes, and that it would be next to impossible to distinguish natural fracture from artificial under such circumstances. And the critics have won out in popular society, as shown in a recent article in *Science Illustrated* about the earliest Americans; the unknown author of the piece refers to Calico as "The Oldest Mistake" (Footprints from Our Past 2008: 49). Haynes lists agencies associated with the source of the rock itself, followed by those agencies related to transport, and ending with post-depositional fractures as the most logical geofact contributors from start to finish (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2.** Geofact Alley: the hypothetical source of Calico's fractured specimens. The source, transport route, and the site are shown looking west towards the Calico Mountains. The two control pits are upslope from the Master Pit zone, and below it is Ritner's Ridge.

**believing that the simple nature of non-handaxe Middle Paleolithic tool assemblages—like those from East Asia—can be readily mimicked by Calico's fan building processes."**

source of the fan materials, during transport, and post-depositionally (1973: 107). The article is persuasive because it ascribes a highly dynamic geological scenario to the alluvial fan-building process at Calico. With all those forces in play, nature could just about make any kind of simple tool form imaginable, even bifacially flaked edges and delicate becs. The continuing absence of spearheads and human bone apparently clinched for Haynes the non-artifactual nature of the assemblage.

their careers on this perceived avalanche of fractured stone. Leakey had passed away in 1972 and therefore could not rebut Haynes. Instead, the entire affair was left in Dee Simpson's capable lap, but with no funding and academic support virtually gone.

### Geofacts Gone Wild

The political and scientific status of Calico has remained essentially the same since that time. The vision of the Yermo Formation as a gigantic rock crusher still

- 1.) Fracturing of outcrops by tectonic stress and weather fracturing, root pressure, freeze-thaw cycles, solar heating.
- 2.) Movement of cherts down steep slopes by free-falling, tumbling, sliding, either individually or *en masse*.
- 3.) Tumbling for several miles down low to intermediate slopes by water and mudflows, carrying igneous rocks as well as cherts.
- 4.) Buried in aggrading alluvial fan, erosion can re-expose cherts to further fracture and flaking by intergranular pressure.

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# Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts? Part 2 (cont.)

**"The 'breakage during transport' idea still needs to be tested by geologists**



**Fig. 3.** Several photographs from Part 1 offered again as a reminder of the kind of objects mainstream archaeologists refer to as "geofacts." Calico Lithics Photographic Project, Christopher Hardaker.

**before it can be cited as a cause for the 'geofacts' encountered in the MPs."**

5.) Erosion and redeposition can account for several generations of flaking observed on some pieces of chert (Haynes 1973: 307).

*Source of Cherts*

The source of the material carried down by the ancestral fan has not been located, so the fracture agencies

listed under (1) above cannot yet be verified. Although such processes may be observed today at siliceous rock outcrops elsewhere in the Calico Mountains, these have not been studied (George Jefferson, personal communication 2008).

*Fracture via Transport*

With respect to agencies of fracture typified by transport (#2 and #3, above), several control pits were excavated upslope from the Master Pit (MP) zone in 1967 to test whether the same kinds of fractured specimens turned up beyond the MP excavations. According to Haynes, questions about lithological populations beyond the Master Pit zone "led to the excavation in 1967 of two control pits, which I believed at the time would be an inadequate test because more and smaller test pits would have been statistically more representative" (1973: 308). Later, other smaller test units were sunk to test this suggestion and came up virtually sterile. (Results of these test excavations and other ancillary excavations will be published when the classification of the materials recovered is completed.)

Fig. 2 (on preceding page) shows the location of these

units. Control Pit 1 extended down more than 80 ft., with only several dozen fractured pieces collected. There was a story about five of the best being shown to Dr. Leakey and that he rejected all of them. However, I have seen a few pieces that could possibly be identified as "scraper" types. The examination has just commenced, so there might be some surprises in store.

On the other hand, Control Pit 2 yielded nothing that corresponded to the standards of selection set by Leakey. Using the same criteria as they used in the MPs (Dan McCarthy, personal communication 2008), the numbers of collected specimens from the control pits were extremely low when compared to the yield from the MPs.

The following quantities are preliminary totals of fractured specimens from Master Pits 1 and 2 (including entry trench specimens), and Master Pit 3 which is incomplete and only about 8 ft. deep at present and has not reached the base of the Yermo Formation. (Master Pit 2 is about 30 ft. deep.) Master Pit Collected Specimens (~85 percent debitage): MP 1: 46,057 MP 2: 21,829 MP 3: 2,816 (incomplete)

These totals, when compared to other excavations outside the Master Pit zone, appear to indicate an inhomogeneity of fracture densities from different parts of the flanglomerate. This needs to be resolved if the geofact argument is to be supported. In the future, more test units would help to define these densities beyond the MP zone.

One anomaly is known to exist, and is located just east of the bulldozer cut where Leakey found the first sub-

surface artifact. It is called Ritner's Ridge after the person who excavated the locus. Hundreds, maybe thousands of specimens were collected, including some definable tool types and much debitage. Excavations went down about 6 ft. The location of this site indicates that specimens continue to be found more distally on the paleo-fan than the MPs, relative to the outcrop source, but specimen count decreases markedly above them toward the source of chert. This needs to be explained. Again, artifact populations of this and other ancillary excavations still need to be tabulated. However, it is safe to say that none approach the fracture densities present in the MP zone. For the moment, the "breakage during transport" idea still needs to be tested by geologists before it can be cited as a cause for the "geofacts" encountered in the MPs.

*To be continued...*

(Additional editing, Tom Baldwin)

CHRIS HARDAKER is an archaeologist working in California and is one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition. He reviewed and catalogued the data from the massive artifact collection of Calico. See the series, [The abomination of Calico](#), beginning in PCN #6, July-August 2010, for more details. Hardaker is also author of the book, [The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World](#).

For more information on the story of Calico and Chris Hardaker's cataloguing of all the artifacts visit:

<http://calico.earthmeasure.com/>

and

<http://calicochop-pers.earthmeasure.com/>

# Pre-symbolic interaction and paleo-ecology of religion, Part 1

By Jörn Greve and Gerhard Neuhäuser

**"Their not very conspicuous products, apart from handaxes or scrapers, might be a reflection of their special way to use another mode of symbolic action than their successors because of a more open and less crowded environment."**

This is an updated version of "Pre-symbolic interaction and the palaeo-ecology of religion," by Jörn Greve, in *Exploring the Mind of Ancient Man*, Research India Press, 2006: 389-93.

## Introduction and Summary

Figurative symbolization was rare during the Middle Paleolithic from c. 140,000 to 40,000 years ago, the time period characterized by Neanderthals in Europe and the Middle East (**Fig. 1**). Neanderthals lived in sheltered



**Fig. 1.** Presently agreed-upon Neanderthal range. Wikimedia Commons

abris and in open-air sites as highly specialized hunters. Their not very conspicuous products,

apart from handaxes or scrapers, might be a reflection of their special way to use another mode of symbolic action than their successors because of a more open and less crowded environment.

In a less crowded environment, socio-ecological balance could be preserved, even in less comfortable living conditions.

We further propose that behaviour—represented also by early religious thinking—did not rely on a differentiated symbolization until Upper Paleolithic times. Nature and its identical picture were seen as unmediated proponents. People kept balance with nature as long as there was a quasi-equal relationship to nature's productivity, securing reciprocity by means of mutual interaction (**Fig. 2**).

If these balances are disturbed social as well as cultural advances are to be fixed by rules. This fact is expressed

symbolically by "cultural" signs called "art." They are connected with religious differentiation and initially by paintings of mightiness with a dominance of anthropomorphic designs since late Upper Paleolithic times.

The commonly-accepted first steps of a "differentiated" cultural symbolization and religious behaviour are the impressive—and until recent times scientifically not really understood—abstract signs and animal figures in decorated caves. We propose that these works also document a progressive decrease in ecological resources with an increase of social pressure.

This hypothesis is supported by analyzing "evolutionary" and ecological aspects of religion, according to Hultkrantz, and by the statement of Durkheim, that *growing social and systemic complexity correlates with increasing population and loss of empathy*, also in regard to religious thinking.

Therefore, sustainability is necessary to restore nature as being sense- and meaningful ("Sinnhaftigkeit"). Otherwise, there is the alternative of permanent progress in techniques for hunting and social life resulting in civilization and 'sociocentrism' as expressed by figurative symbols.

## Background

It begins already about 300,000 years ago with signs of ecological and religious interaction, which are rare or perhaps present but not preserved or possibly not visible



**Fig. 2.** Recent examples of Neanderthal reconstruction and enactment, Wikimedia Commons. As the years go by, our representations of these early people have become more and more like us. Prior, Neanderthals were portrayed in science and the media as dim-witted and brutish, assumptions based on their physical appearance and seeming disinterest in producing preserved symbolic objects. The authors regard this as a limited reading of the evidence.

due to being in a different form than we are accustomed to recognize in modern times. There are more "natural" or hidden symbols especially at the end of the Paleolithic, e.g., the site of La Ferrassie (Dordogne, France). The interpretation by archaeologist Lutz Fiedler shows that the burial of children and adults can be seen in some way as an anthropomorphic figuration (see The Mousterian structures of La Ferrassie by Lutz Fiedler, *PCN #13, Sept/Oct 2011*). It resembles the image of a feline covering the tomb of a very young child, decorated also by three Mousterian scrapers.

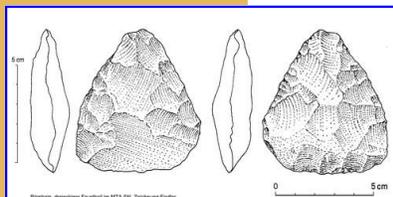
There are more than 40 carefully buried Neanderthal skeletons known ranging from Belgium to Tschechia, and marked bones are found in Africa and elsewhere, not only at Bilzingsleben (Mania 1990, Trinkaus and Howell 1979, Ullrich 2006).

The configuration of the sites should have some meaning, e.g., according to social order. Douglas (1996) speaks of "natural symbols," not arranged to present a "cultural" code but part from nature. In the same way as nature is integrated into daily activities of hunters and gatherers, holy places were established. They can be found

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## Pre-symbolic interaction (cont.)

in nearly all indigenous people. What do these phenomena tell about "thinking" of *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals? Is there a message behind the signs and what could they mean? If we compare with elaborated figures representing a complex system and cultural integration of thoughts by "Sapientes" since Upper Paleolithic time,



**Fig. 3.** Handaxe from Röhreshain, Hesse, Germany. Drawing by Lutz Fiedler; used with permission.

**"In a less crowded environment, socio-ecological balance could be preserved, even in less comfortable living conditions."**

these early messages are rather vague. But as the structures of La Ferrassie illustrate, there is something behind them.

For using a "natural code" developmental and anthropological aspects are to be considered, among these polysensoric or synaesthetic cognitive abilities which arise during the first years of life with the differentiation of neuronal networks. Sensory integration, however, provides the background to develop animistic thinking and establish religious behavior (Greve 2009).

Until the Upper Paleolithic no signs of ecological destruction are observed. With the regional extinction of mammoth and mastodon about 15,000 years ago there is transition to a different social system and to technically elaborated ways of organized hunting. The Middle Paleolithic is characterized by remarkable stability and lasted for more than 100,000 or even 300,000 years without any ecological disaster. Therefore, it might be seen as some model for sustainable socio-ecological behaviour because of ritual and spiritual inclusion of human thoughts into reality.

"Natural" codes are difficult to interpret by scientific methods. Objects may include the duplicity and ambiguity of the holy (sacred) and the profane (Durkheim, 1988), as they demonstrate the unity of life and death. The "evolution" of

semiotics started from proto-symbolic marks as demonstrated by handaxes. Later on, associated with modern men, there is a more rigid symbolic system by elaborated scenarios in Upper Paleolithic. According to leading fossils a similar cultural process existed in widely spread settlements of *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals all over Europe. On the other hand, highly elaborated diversification of objects did not actually start in the Upper Paleolithic but already had roots in the Lower and Middle Paleolithic as Feliks (2006, 2008, 2011) showed by his studies of handmade signs at Bilzingsleben. By means of morphological comparison, direct and highly non-restrictive interactions in "copying" nature by identical, equivocal and reciprocal procedures can be stated.

If we cannot find evidence for a differentiated sign-system during the Middle Paleolithic this suggests that there is identity with natural surroundings in regard to psycho-ecological and social interactions. Thus the "natural code" seems to be more sustainable than any "elaborated" artificial or symbolic diversity. The transformation of codes from "natural" to "elaborated" correlates less with "higher" cognitive development than with stratification of social and ritual order. The Neanderthals' long survival may provide a message: "Modern" human-cultural and anthropocentric standards should be revised and defined alternatively according to nature-bound and identical reciprocal behaviour.

### Some Facts and their Interpretation

The same human brain size has existed for more than 140,000 years. In Neanderthal populations it was even larger. There is much variability in anatomical documentation (Trinkhaus and Howells, 1979; *Science et Vie*, N°235, 2006); differences might be present in the extension of fronto-

orbital areas responsible for signal-decoding processes and social behaviour. The possibility of "subcultures" is also suggested. According to Leroi-Gourhan; tools, shells, rock engravings, ochre with buried skulls; exhibit characteristic decorations representing different Mousterian typologies (La Quina, La Ferrassie etc.).

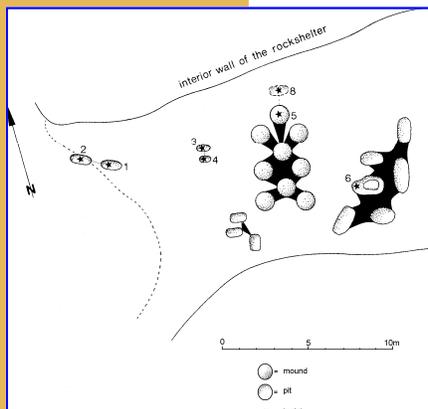
The famous "elaborated" bifacial handaxes are just the core of flint pieces. Being found and thus guarded they were of great value. Tools of daily use could be struck from a big flint piece bit by bit and then trimmed to knives and scrapers. There is analytical evidence for this suggestion by the rate of utilisation (Keeley, 1977). Neanderthals worked on the stone-material as to imply a meaningful message into this object. Therefore, handaxes and even scrapers are more than just things, they also represent a (holy) singular shape as discoid, heart like or petal (**Fig 3**). Stones got a "holy" singularity as mirror images fixed in mind and resulting from a "working brain." In contrast to the Neanderthals' negation of expressive or clearly figurative symbols, a widespread, relative more uniform Euro-Asian tool production since Gravettian can be stated. It signalizes different thinking and acting while the findings change to elaborated figurative "art" by cave paintings or statuettes supposedly done by "Sapientes."

Mousterian thinking and acting was present for more than 100,000 years, even since Acheulian, special handicraft may be seen as evidence for inherent thinking (Mania, 1990; Thieme 1999). From documented burial rites in Shanidar (Iraq) or Monte Cicero (Italy) as well as at other places Leroi-Gourhan (1965/1981) provided a survey of Mousterian findings in regard to a critical evaluation of religious thinking and

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

## Pre-symbolic interaction (cont.)

judged them as obviously meaningless: But the arrangement of bones in abris and caverns show some discernable spatial association; bodies and special objects have not been scattered but are deliberately arranged.



**Fig. 4.** The undisturbed Neanderthal level at La Ferrassie (Dordogne, France) rock shelter; Fiedler 2011 interpretation. Number 6 with star is the infant burial. Used with permission.

**"The same human brain size has existed for more than 140,000 years. In Neanderthal populations it was even larger."**

Other signs which suggest thinking and signalize the emergence of 'paleoart' are found in structured living sites already at Olduvai (Bed 1). As such tools are "non-material" they could represent a spiritual use

rather than some sort of "memory-signal" (Vygotzkij 1978). Memory and imagination as functions of the central nervous system need some predisposition and "proposal" not only as a sensory related action but also for representing social and individual entity. Palaeoarchaeologists hesitate to accept this explanation because it suggests "religious thinking," as stated by Durkheim (1988) and Hultkrantz (1965). The long lasting tradition to use these and other signs and their regional and functional variation can be interpreted not only as "blind" conservative behavior but as a message of what could be behind them (Durkheim's unity of "holy and profane").

There is a rigid pattern and also some specific ratio in the bone "arrangements" already before Neanderthals performed by *Homo erectus* (Schöningen, Bilzingsleben; Thieme 1999, Mania 1990). Patterns represent the social status similar to ivory bones if they are not scattered as useless and waste. In burial sites

the position of skeletons, especially the skull is elevated. Buried children have their own bone arrangement (La Ferrassie), and all burials show some symbolic interaction. They provide examples of "natural" symbolism (Douglas 1996). This was illustrated by Fiedler who used the former described structures of pits and mounds as found by Peyrony, Bergounioux and Delporte for his interpretation (Fig. 4, by permission of Fiedler) including the burial of a very young infant with her or his gifts. The statement probably has to be revised by actual findings from analyses of the geological situation: Pits and mounds are more likely to be interpreted as geo- and not artifacts, as Peyrony suggested; actual results will soon be presented by Turq (pers. comm. when visiting the site in 8/13). However, from Fiedler's perspective it can be stated that the structures of La Ferrassie were intentionally arranged within a holy place; they demonstrate spiritual thinking and meaning.

Until the Middle Paleolithic there is a clear preference for non-technically modified arrangements. Nearly all are connected to natural surroundings in La Ferrassie to abri, rock shelter, and landscape.

As Feliks already suggested in 1998, patterns of nature are constitutive for cognitive functions. This fact has adaptive bio-ecological implications. Otherwise inclusive and responsive behaviour could not develop. In Mousterian findings the morphological relations of bones, living and burial sites show definite connections with ritual circumstances responsible for sustainability.

Cultural specification during the Upper Paleolithic is accompanied by a more uniform appearance of functional tools; strong social coherence and order with established hierarchy. This is suggested by activities of cave painting specialists and may be a sign

for dividing work into a spiritual and a social part.

*Continued Part 2 next issue...*

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- JÖRN GREVE, PD, MD, is a neurologist at IQPR, Cologne, Germany; and Lecturer, University of Bremen.
- GERHARD NEUHÄUSER is former Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Justus-Liebig-University in Giessen, Germany, where he was Head of Child Neurology and Social Pediatrics (1978—2001).

# Contrasting Georgia's handling of *Homo georgicus* with Australian archaeology

By Vesna Tenodi MA archaeology; artist and writer

**"Having survived the communist approach to science, Lordkipanidze... set out to transform everything. His guiding ideas are clear... most importantly—sharing of the archaeological finds with the world."**



## Dmanisi skulls and Georgian scientist—committed to research, preservation and sharing

Professor David Lordkipanidze, Director of the Georgian National Museum, announced his team's latest research results on October 18, 2013, and again made his feelings clear:

"The early 1990s were quite a difficult time for the country—it was the time of the collapse of the Soviet system. So it was hard for science, very hard, but we continued to work... Today, it is important to protect the Dmanisi site. It belongs not only to Georgia, but has mean-

ing for the world. We need to preserve this site, continue research, and we need to make it accessible to the public."

Having survived the communist approach to science, Lordkipanidze became Director of the Georgian National Museum in 2004, and set out to transform everything. His guiding ideas are clear—research by an international team, preservation of the site, and most importantly—sharing of the archaeological finds with the world (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** David Lordkipanidze, Director of the Georgian National Museum, holds a 1.8 million-year old skull during a press conference in Tbilisi on October 18, 2013 (APF Photo/Vano Shlamov).

able to leave Africa earlier than 1 million years ago. The prevailing view was that when humans left Africa they had larger brains and sophisticated stone tools, but Dmanisi changed all that. A partial skeleton was discovered in 2001. Stone implements and animal bones were found alongside the ancient human re-

mains. The five skulls and skeletons, dated to around 1.8 million years old, are the earliest hominin remains yet found outside of Africa.

This approach stands in striking contrast to Australian archaeology and its practice of willful destruction of prehistoric fossilized human remains.

Georgia, located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, has a long history (Fig. 2). The territory of modern-day Georgia had been inhabited by *Homo erectus* since the Paleolithic era.

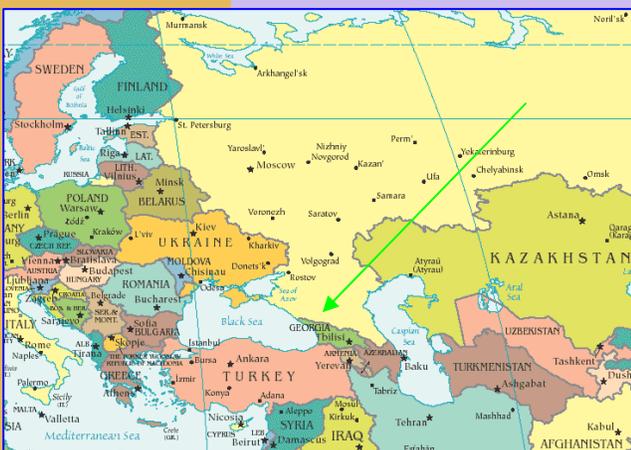
The ancient hominid fossil remains from the early Pleistocene epoch were discovered during the excavations at the Dmanisi medieval archaeological site, about 100 kilometres from Georgia's capital, Tbilisi. Below the ruins, the first bones of an extinct species were found in 1984. The first human jaw, found by Lordkipanidze in 1991, was dated to 1.8 million years old. This was important, because nobody believed that humans would have been

With only one percent of the site having been excavated so far, Dmanisi is a treasure trove of prehistoric archaeology, and one of the richest sites in the world.

## Rocking the boat of conventional theorists

On October 18, 2013, David Lordkipanidze and his team of European and American researchers announced the results of the 8-year research into Dmanisi Skull 5. The cranium was discovered in 2005, five years after the jaw associated with the skull was found. When the two pieces were put together, they formed the most complete large skull found at the Dmanisi site. It is one of five early human skulls—four of which have jaws—found so

> [Cont. on page 12](#)



**Fig. 2.** The Republic of Georgia is at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

## Contrasting Georgian & Australian archaeology (cont.)

**"The commentators are calling for mainstream scientists to rethink human origins. A detailed analysis of Skull 5, unveiled by Lordkipanidze and his team is now challenging the fundamental concept of modern human origins and conventional evolution theory."**

far at the site, along with Paleolithic stone tools and other implements.

The Dmanisi skulls were named *Homo erectus ergaster georgicus*, or *Caucasus Homo erectus*. More

*Homo* genus—*Homo habilis*, *Homo rudolfensis*, *Homo ergaster* and *Homo erectus*—actually all belonged to the same species and only looked different from one another. Skull 5 unites fea-

nouncing that it will rewrite the history books.

The commentators are calling for mainstream scientists to rethink human origins. A detailed analysis of Skull 5, unveiled by Lordkipanidze and his team is now challenging the fundamental concept of modern human origins and conventional evolution theory.



**Fig 3.** Four views of Dmanisi Skull 5. Credit: AP Photos/Courtesy of Georgian National Museum.

commonly, they are known as "Dmanisi Man."

The Dmanisi group of five fossil skulls is considered to be a divergent subgroup of *Homo erectus*. This poses a challenge to the mainstream theory of human origins (**Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4**).

Dmanisi Skull 5 displays a combination of features not seen by researchers before the find—it combines a small braincase with a long face, a massively built jaw, large teeth and the smallest brain within the Dmanisi group. It shows that the first representatives of the genus *Homo* outside of Africa go as far back as 1.8 million years ago. The diversity of morphological traits examined in the five Dmanisi skulls belonging to the same species is shaking up the classification system for early human ancestors.

Regarding Skull 5, Lordkipanidze said:

"Skull 5—as well as the other Dmanisi samples—shows all the features lumped together in one group that we previously thought identified different groups. We are touching the earliest stages of genus homo and its lineage."

The new fossil means that the earliest members of our

tures that have been used previously as an argument for defining different African species. A co-author of the study, Christoph Zollikofer from the Anthropological Institute and Museum in Zurich, Switzerland, said that "if the braincase and the face of Skull 5 had been found as separate fossils at different sites, they very probably would have been attributed to two different species."

Knowing that the five individuals of the Dmanisi site came from the same location and same geological time, they are deemed to represent a single population of a single species.

This announcement caused a lot of flurry in the media. The story made headlines around the world, in the journal *Science*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Australian*, the *Hindu*, *National Geographic*, *BBC News*, *Al Jazeera*, all an-

The team says that the Dmanisi individuals were about 1.45 to 1.66-metres tall and meat-eaters who probably slept in trees at night for safety. Skull 5 has a brain capacity of about 600 cubic centimeters (cc) as compared to the range for modern *Homo sapiens* which is roughly 1216 to 1371 cc [Dr. John R. Skoyles: "*Human Evolution Expanded Brains to Increase expertise capacity, not IQ*", 1999]. This group of five



**Fig. 4.** 2005 photo of Skull 5 in situ. Photo: courtesy of Georgian National Museum.

skulls, all in good condition, is now offering opportunity for comparison with modern human cranial morphology.

### Same species, same time, different places

The findings raise serious questions about the scientific concept of evolution of *Homo sapiens*. Some are looking for a way to fit the Dmanisi Man into the Out-of-Africa theory of one-point-of-origin migration dispersal. Others are more willing to re-examine the

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

## Contrasting Georgian & Australian archaeology (cont.)

**"It is a tragic reality that unlike the research-**



**Fig. 5.** The author at the Australian Museum in November 2013 and the display on Pleistocene skulls from all over the world. Not a single skull from any Australian site is available for viewing.

**ers in Georgia Australia has nothing to contribute to this worldwide effort to understand human origins."**

established theories, seeing the Dmanisi skulls as a smoking gun and strong material evidence in favor of multiple-points-of-origin and multiregional evolution theory.

While some researchers are excited about the prospect that Dmanisi Man could force a re-evaluation of current theories of human evolution, others are reluctant to let go

of the clear-cut and the simple one-point-dispersal and linear evolution theory reigning today. But both camps agree that this is the richest and most complete collection of indisputably early *Homo* remains from any one site.

### **Welcome to Georgia, the archaeologist's dream**

Lordkipanitze keeps saying, "Science is not just for scientists. After the fall of communism, Georgia wants to display its archaeological treasures, which need to be publicized, need to be appreciated, and are made accessible to the world. They are vital to help us to build up a picture of the lifestyles of prehistoric people and their modes of survival. They needed to move around the landscape in search of food. They survived by group activity, as a horde. Skeletal bones are critical to build up a picture of early human anatomy."

It is a tragic reality that unlike the researchers in Georgia Australia has nothing to contribute to this worldwide effort to understand human origins.

Due to political correctness, any research into Pleistocene human skeletal remains is forbidden in Australia. Handling, touching, even looking at human fossils is forbidden, as being "offensive to contemporary Aborigines." Australian students have no opportunity to gain access to or be engaged in working with human fossils. They are not allowed to even ask questions about either Aboriginal or pre-Aboriginal skulls, or bones, or skeletons.

For almost 50 years, the Australian past has been systematically fabricated and altered by "consensus" to suit political purposes. Politically inconvenient finds—especially those related to pre-Aboriginal races—are literally being destroyed. Some of the greatest Australian archaeologists, who conducted excavations and research prior to the late 1960s and early 1970s and published their findings, ended up ridiculed and humiliated. Some were posthumously vilified, and deleted from today's official story of Australian prehistory.

In light of this, it is not surprising that young people in Australia are not willing to risk their future careers by asking "insensitive" questions. They would be viewed as "dissident" archaeologists and they, too, might suffer the fate of being banished to scientific and social Siberia, frozen out for asking any of the forbidden questions.

The Australian Museum in Sydney has a collection of replicas, casts and endocasts of prehistoric skulls from all over the world. But not one prehistoric Aboriginal or pre-Aboriginal skull is on display (Fig. 5). Not even a picture of one, because even a display of an image of a skull has been known to send the contemporary tribes into a frenzied rage. And no-one is willing to risk a riot.

The original collections of prehistoric human fossils that used to be stored or displayed in Australian institutions no longer exist. The skulls, the bones, the skeletons, hundreds and thousands of them, were destroyed to pacify angry Aboriginal objectors. Under the rules enforced by the current regime, which now mirrors the communist approach to science, the exhibits and photos in Australian archaeological collections have been replaced with posters with political slogans.

The birth of humanity is still mysterious and more complicated than most are willing to acknowledge. Dmanisi Man is reviving this exciting debate, in which Australia cannot participate, due to "cultural sensitivities."

Australian archaeologists can only watch from the sidelines. In hindsight, future generations will view this situation as the darkest days of Australian archaeology.

VESNA TENODI is an archaeologist, artist, and writer based in Sydney, Australia. She received her Master's Degree in Archaeology from the University of Zagreb, Croatia. She also has a diploma in Fine Arts from the School of Applied Arts in Zagreb. Her Degree Thesis was focused on the spirituality of Neolithic man in Central Europe as evidenced in iconography and symbols in prehistoric cave art and pottery. After migrating to Sydney, she worked for 25 years for the Australian Government, and ran her own business. Today she is an independent researcher and spiritual archaeologist, concentrating on the origins and meaning of pre-Aboriginal Australian rock art. In the process, she is developing a theory of the Pre-Aboriginal races which she has called the Rajanes and Abrajanes. In 2009, Tenodi established the DreamRaiser project, with a group of artists who explore iconography and ideas contained in ancient art and mythology.

Website: [www.modrogorje.com](http://www.modrogorje.com)

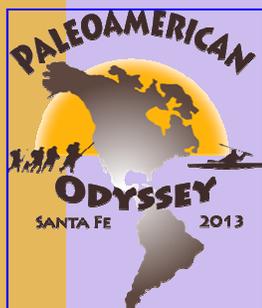
E-mail: [ves@theplanet.net.au](mailto:ves@theplanet.net.au)

# Observations on the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference, Santa Fe, 2013

Compiled by Tom Baldwin

***"It appears to me that the 'baby steps' or incremental acceptance of early dates (e.g., Monte Verde, Freidkin sites), are now giving rise to at least initial acceptance of tens of thousands of years, rather than merely a few hundred or a thousand or so."***

-Roy Shlemon, geologist



**The Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 16-19, 2013 had us here at Pleistocene Coalition really excited since it dealt with the peopling of the Americas.**

We have long felt the

Clovis Theory that said man had only been on this continent somewhere around 10K years was wrong, but archaeology's powers-that-be insisted on holding to it. Clovis lay at the foundation of too many reputations and was the basis for too many grants for it to die a clean death. The last few decades have seen much kicking and screaming on the part of the 'Clovis Firsters' but the evidence just kept mounting that Clovis was wrong. So then, we wondered, would the conference be Clovis' last stand, or would Archaeology finally break Clovis' shackles, acknowledge its death, and move on? Below are reports on the conference from some of our members who were in attendance. You be the judge.

## Roy Shlemon

Consulting geologist, PhD

As I recollect, the highlights for me were:

1. Clovis First is definitely "dead."
2. There is absolutely no consensus about migration routes for "First Ameri-

cans." Myriad alternatives were presented, ranging from the classic post-LGM entry via an ice-free corridor, to Solutrean, north Atlantic crossing substantially pre-Clovis. As Dennis Stanford put it: "Solutrean folks along the east coast of NA greeted the Clovis and slightly pre-Clovis folks as they entered the New World." Other speakers (and authors) pushed for coastal migration routes, some suggesting entry into NA (North America) from the south, via west to east crossing the Panama Isthmus then moving up and dispersing from the Gulf Coast. So no definitive agreements here either.

3. Good data from Siberia (Yana sites) suggesting ~ 25-30 ka sites there.
4. The physiognomy of the early Holocene Kennewick Man is more akin to south Pacific people than to traditional Native American stock.
5. DNA analyses are increasing, in quantity and accuracy, and provide useful information, but are not likely to resolve the fundamental questions about antiquity of pre-Clovis people in the New World. The data obtained thus far can be interpreted by various workers in myriad ways. A work in progress.
6. MIS stage 3 (30-40 ka) vertebrates are interpreted (by some) to have been butchered or otherwise modified by NA early people, thus suggesting migration into NA, from whatever direction, at least by that time. So we now see leaps into the potential antiquity of Man into the New World, no

longer constrained by Clovis First of "overkill" models. It appears to me that the "baby steps" or incremental acceptance of early dates (e.g., Monte Verde, Freidkin sites), are now giving rise to at least initial acceptance of tens of thousands of years, rather than merely a few hundred or a thousand or so.

7. At least one speaker (Mandel) emphasized, from his geoarchaeological work in KS and NE, that few, if any natural cuts expose sediments and soils (pedogenic) much older than Holocene. Hence, one needs to have deep cuts and specifically focus on places where Peorian silts. Brady and possibly Sangamon buried paleosols (mid-western terminology). To me, anyway, this is what we have been saying for at least the past 40 years: If one is looking for "Early Man" in the Americans, then one needs to target the investigation to find the appropriate-age sediments. Ahhh, the joys of the excavator or trackhoe!

8. And, of course, we all recognize that a vertical natural or anthropic cut reveals an incredibly small percentage of the paleo-landscape of a particular age. Hence, the archeologist's best tool, at least initially, is the backhoe and the scraper. Not too many folks have these just hanging around, so the best friend is likely to be the hated contractor! But this is a topic that Fred and I have discussed for seemingly eons now.

9. I don't recollect that Valsequillo was discussed; but

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

## Observations on the Santa Fe 2013 Conference (cont.)

**"No one said they thought the Calico specimens illustrated were geofacts, but not a lot of people were yet comfortable with the >200 KYA date.**

**...I answered questions and discussed Calico for about 5.5 hours."**

-Fred E. Budinger, Jr.,  
archaeologist

Calico was informally mentioned, at least I took the liberty of doing so in a question-and-answer period. And, indeed, Fred's poster presentation on Calico was well received, at least there were many lively discussions. But Fred can comment more specifically about the feedback that he received from those who observed his poster.

10. And finally, I don't recollect any outright denunciation to the concept of >~30 KYA ages for man in the New World. Getting things past Sangamon (MIS 5) is still going to be a challenge. But, if archaeologists, with the help of Q geologists, just look for older sediments, I am quite convinced that lithic [worked stone] finds will be forthcoming.

11. Bottom Line: From my perspective, the Conference went well, both financially and conceptually. As usual, there is no agreement and some archaeologists got into personality conflicts, as many are prone to do (probably socially insecure folks). But good information with many hypotheses still awaiting testing. But, of course, this will go on forever, certainly long past our lifetimes. A fun time was had by most, if not all.

Cheers; thanks; and I apologize for the monologue!

-Roy

Roy J. Shlemon  
P.O. Box 3066  
Newport Beach, CA 92659-0620

Tel: 949-675-2696

[rshlemon@jps.net](mailto:rshlemon@jps.net)

DR. SHLEMON received a Special Recognition Award at the conference for his support of student research and education at the Center for the Study of the First Americans -VSM.

From Geological Society of America (GSA): Roy Shlemon's career has included "teaching and research positions at eight institu-

tions and over 30 years as a full-time, multidisciplinary, consulting engineering geologist in southern California. Comfortable in both applied geology and academia/research, Roy fully appreciates the importance of cooperation and coordination between these two fundamental sectors of the science. For geology students, mentoring presents an early career opportunity to begin this process." "The Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience is designed to acquaint advanced undergraduate and beginning graduate students with careers in applied geoscience. The Mentor's goal is to provide real-world information and insight, based on his or her own career, to which students may not be exposed through their academic experiences."

### Fred E. Budinger, Jr.

Archaeologist, Former Director,  
Calico Early Man Site, California

The conference was very dense. They packed a lot of oral presentations and poster presentations into three days.

My poster regarding Calico at 204.8 KYA was well attended. It was on the artifact/geofact issue, the new U-series dating and the new 10Be dating. No one said they thought the Calico specimens illustrated were geofacts, but not a lot of people were yet comfortable with the >200ka date. Most folks had heard of Calico before; some had not. Most of the questions to me concerned 10Be dating and U-series dating. I answered questions and discussed Calico for about 5.5 hours.

### David Campbell

Copy editor  
*Pleistocene Coalition News*

A member of the Texas Archaeological Society posted the entire program and abstracts in pdf form <http://skiles.net/program.pdf>. I

only skimmed through it as it took 24 minutes to download. Here is the abstract on Hueyatlaço presented by Mike Waters and members of the INAH:

### **Recent Findings in the Hueyatlaço Site, Puebla, México**

Óscar Torres-Solís, Patricia Ochoa-Castillo, Michael R. Waters, and Joaquín Arroyo-Cabrales

For more than 60 years, there have been reported controversial findings of early human activities associated to Late Pleistocene extinct animals. However, after different undertakings, the evidence of hunter-gatherers has not been confirmed. In fact, high technology research has provided information to discard some of the hypotheses calling for a very early human presence. In any case, several studies put the site findings at the Late Pleistocene, and mostly at the end of the Wisconsin glaciation, between 10,000 and 30,000 BP, forming three faunal zones. The Archaeological Project HUEYATLACO is the most recent on-going research in the area, with the current study of the animal remains recovered during the excavations in 2001 and 2004, with about 2582 specimens, having a positive identification 119 of them which pertained to four orders (blackened), five families, and five genera of mammalian herbivores that included: *Erissodactyla*: Equidae, Equus; *Artiodactyla*: Antilocapridae, Antilocapra; Camelidae, Camelops and Hemauchenia; Cervidae, *Odocoileus*; Cingulata, Glyptotheriidae; and members within Proboscidea. (this part did not copy and is my wording of the last sentence) Anthropogenic marks on some of the long bones were found and merit further study.

> [Cont. on page 16](#)

## Observations on the Santa Fe 2013 Conference (cont.)

**"I was not informed by my former colleagues that they would be presenting a poster session on Hueyatlaco. Did any of our readers notice it? We refuted the early dates for the site in an on-line journal article in 2011 (Malde, Harold E., Steen-McIntyre, Virginia, Naeser, Charles W. and VanLandingham, Sam L. 2011. The stratigraphic debate at Hueyatlaco, Valsequillo, Mexico. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 14 (3): 44A:26p; <palaeo-electronica.org/2011\_3/27\_malde/index.html>.)"**

-Virginia Steen-McIntyre, geologist

[Editors Note by VSM. I was not informed by my former colleagues that they would be presenting a poster session on Hueyatlaco. Did any of our readers notice it? We refuted the early dates for the site in an on-line journal article in 2011 (Malde, Harold E., Steen-McIntyre, Virginia, Naeser, Charles W. and VanLandingham, Sam L. 2011. The stratigraphic debate at Hueyatlaco, Valsequillo, Mexico. *Palaeontologia Electronica* 14 (3): 44A:26p; <palaeo-electronica.org/2011\_3/27\_malde/index.html>.)]

**Roy Shlemon**  
again wrote:

Thanks much for bringing up the [Hueyatlaco] site Abstract. I don't recollect that it was ever mentioned during the formal presentations, not even in question-and-answer periods.

**Allan Shumaker**

I tried to talk to Fred [Budinger] at the poster display but every time I stopped by he was heavily engaged in conversation with someone else. I was particularly impressed with Steve Holen and what he is doing. He has a very good section in that \$70 book from the conference which proposes humans could have followed herds across the Mammoth Steppe anytime during Oxygen Isotope Stage 3 (roughly 70 KYA to LGM). Feel free to use anything I posted at Ma'at.

**From Allan Shumaker's Hall of Ma'at overview:**

The Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico last

week. The conference was organized by the Center For Study of First Americans at Texas A&M University. This conference was the successor to the Clovis and Beyond Conference of 1999. The purpose of these conferences is for anthropologists, archaeologists and geneticists to share the results of their research on when and where the first Americans came from. The presenters came from all over the world, Russia, Japan, Denmark, France, Brazil, Mexico, etc. Over 1000 people attended.

One of the most interesting presentations was by Tom Dillehay of Monte Verde fame. The last few years he has been excavating Huaca Prieta, a human built mound on the north coast of Peru. Unifacial, edge trimmed pebble flake tools dating 12,300 rcybp have been found in the lowest levels.

Dillehay made some derogatory comments about Stuart Fidel's proposal that capuchin monkeys made the stone tools at Toca da Tiera Pela rockshelter in Brazil which brought chuckles from many. He also made a comment that he "hoped young archeologists now in their 30s and 40s will not have to endure the bullshit that his generation had endured to get old sites accepted." That comment drew a sustained round of applause from the audience.

Dillehay is now returning to Monte Verde 1 in Chile to resume excavating. That is where, years ago, he found a blood stained tool that dated to 33 KYA (though he did not mention that date). He did display slides of a couple of crude stone tools with dates of 23—26 KYA.

In a followup reply to Donald Raab who complained that

Valsequillo and Calico had not been mentioned he responded:

"Donald, Valsequillo and Calico both had poster sessions. On the final day CSFA requested the poster presenters to forward the graphs and photos so they can be uploaded to the CSFA website. Hopefully they will be online in a few days."

'Clovis First' is dead. About the only supporter still left is Stuart Fidel and he has become less vocal in his support.

To encapsulate, I guess we will still have to wait a while until Mike Waters gets around to publishing his presentation on the CSFA website. That's okay, we've waited since 2004 so I guess we can wait a little while longer. Apparently Waters does not feel it is urgent news of great importance.

Tom Baldwin

Copy Editor, *Pleistocene Coalition News*

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 five prior articles focusing on Calico and early man in the Americas.

# More on Ice Age animals in SW U.S. rock art

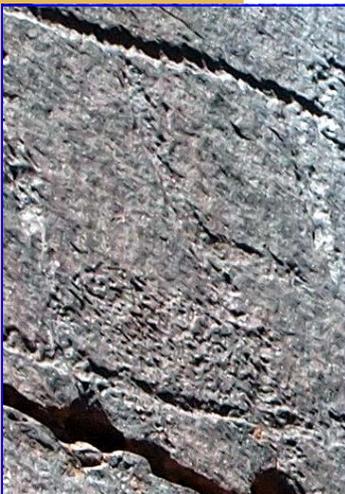
By Ray Urbaniak engineer, rock art photographer and preservationist

**After documenting extinct animals which were depicted in rock art around the last Ice Age**



I felt that it was clear which petroglyphs could be considered when looking for depictions of Ice Age Animals.

The following slide shows a petroglyph on a rock face some 30 feet up off the ground. The rock face where this petroglyph was engraved was probably close to ground level during the last ice age. I propose that this petroglyph depicts an extinct pronghorn antelope. The glyph is fully patinated to the color of the background rock surface (Fig. 1).

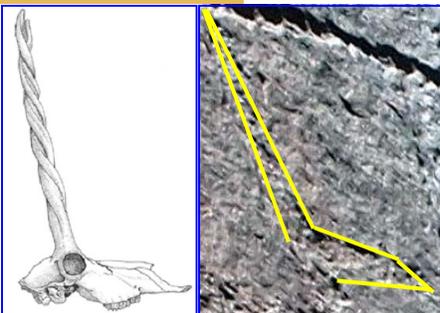


**Fig. 1.** Proposed extinct Pronghorn antelope petroglyph. Black & white photo by Ray Urbaniak.

The pronghorn glyph is identical to the fossil record of this animal (Fig. 2).

**Extinct Pronghorn Antelope**

However, I remembered a perplexing panel I had photographed a number of years ago (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 2.** Left: Pronghorn antelope skull and horns. Right: Detail of Fig. 1 petroglyph photograph with yellow overlay showing suggested interpretation as compared with the skull and horns. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.

The above panel of rock was pretty evenly patinated over hundreds of thousands of years,

yet after the images were pecked into the rock face some 2,000-3,000 years ago (best guess), I observed that the areas with underlying rock intrusions did not repatinate at the rate of the larger portions of the glyphs on the base rock. This suggested the idea that it is possible to have depictions of Ice Age animals which look recent if they are pecked into a rock surface that resists repatination.

There are other obvious examples of rock that won't repatinate. There are panels at what we call the "Cookie Cutter" site (Fig. 4 on the next page) where the iron layer is so thick that once it was cut through, the underlying area was just sand that would easily erode away and not repatinate.

With this in mind I decided to re-photograph a panel I had ignored when I was preparing the [Part 1](#) article, [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art](#), PCN #22,

March-April 2013. See **Fig. 5** on the next page.

The panel was high off the ground, which again meant



**Fig. 3.** A perplexing rock art panel that was pretty much evenly patinated over hundreds of thousands of years. However, after the human-type images were pecked into the rock face, probably c. 2,000-3,000 years ago, the areas that had underlying rock intrusions did not repatinate at the same rate as the larger portions of the glyphs that were on the base rock.

it was possible that it had been at ground level, or at least closer to ground level, in the distant past, and the animals depicted did not match more recent animal depictions. In fact, the long-horned animal again more closely resembled an animal from Asia than it did an animal from the U.S. (Fig. 6)

Notice that there are areas where the patina surface has just fallen off the rock.

In my opinion, these petroglyphs are probably Ice Age depictions. The only reason I hadn't considered them before is because they hadn't repatinated.

Therefore, repatination should only be used as a

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

# Ice Age animals in SW U.S. rock art (cont.)

**"This suggested the idea that it is possible to have depictions of Ice Age animals which look recent if they are pecked into a rock surface that resists repatination."**

guideline when considering age of a petroglyph panel, not as a prerequisite.



**Fig. 4.** Here is an obvious example of rock that won't repatinate. This is a panel at what we call the "Cookie Cutter" site. The iron layer is so thick that once it was cut through to create the petroglyphs, the underlying area, being just sand that easily erodes away, does not repatinate.

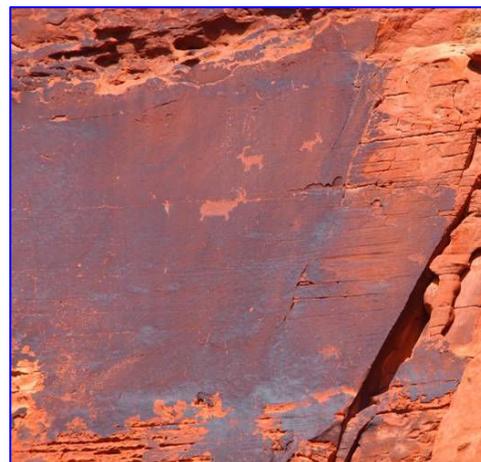
RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by education and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research on Native American rock art, especially as related to archaeoastronomy, equinoxes and solstices in Utah. He has noted that standard archaeological studies commonly record details of material culture but overlook the sometimes incredible celestial archaeological evidence.

Urbaniak has also played a major role in documenting and raising concerns for the accelerating vandalism, destruction and theft of Native American rock art. He has brought state representatives to rock art sites with the hope of at least placing labels as protected nearby what he calls "sacred art" sites as a deterrent to vandalism. Urbaniak's

book, [Anasazi of Southwest Utah: The Dance of Light and Shadow](#)

(2006), is a collection of color photographs of previously unrecorded Anasazi or Ancestral Pueblo solstice markers, equinox and cross-quarter markers in SW Utah including both petroglyph and horizon markers as well as the first general guidelines for identifying

solstice and equinox markers. His rock art photographs include clear descriptions with many photographs being time-sequenced as events occurred along with compass, angular



**Fig. 5.** This panel was high off the ground. This means that it was possible that the panel had been at ground level, or very near to ground level, when the animals depicted were etched into the rock sometime in the distant past. A much greater antiquity than normally ascribed to depictions such as these might explain why the animals depicted do not match more recent animal depictions known elsewhere. (Inset: Close-up of central figure.)

As noted in this series, the long-horned animals depicted appear to more closely resemble animals from Asia (Fig. 6) than from the U.S. Notice also areas where the patinated surface has just fallen off the rock. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.



**Fig. 6.** High Altai—Central Asia—Petroglyphs—Prehistoric Rock Petroglyphs. Notice how these Central Asian depictions closely resemble the long-horned American animal depicted in Fig. 5. [http://www.face-music.ch/highaltai/stoneslabs/stoneslabs\\_en.html](http://www.face-music.ch/highaltai/stoneslabs/stoneslabs_en.html). Used with permission.

orientations, and other information.

Webpage: <http://www.naturalfrequency.net/Ray/index.htm>

E-mail: [rayurbaniak@msn.com](mailto:rayurbaniak@msn.com)

# Tales of a fossil collector, Part 3

By John Feliks

**One of the most exciting types of localities where one can either study or collect fossils *in situ* is at railroad cuts.**

Note: Due to recent commitments this installment had to be greatly shortened to a brief one-pager. There was only enough time to

use the space to hint at what the proposed project of [Part 2](#), the Objective International 3D Stratigraphic Column Project or OI3D-SCP, for lack of a better name at present, is all about.

It is a project which is proposed to involve both professionals and amateurs in many different fields and in many different capacities that I believe will be equally as exciting as SETI@home (the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence). The implications are equally profound and have the potential of more immediate results.

At the same time, the project will be much more economical than SETI as well as being more beneficial to one's physical health. The main difference between OI3D-SCP and similar projects is that it can if one wishes involve a lot more physical activity in the real world—as opposed to spending all of ones project time at the computer. It will give participants a *goal-*

*oriented reason* to get away from their day-to-day lives or even standard tourist attractions and open themselves to some possible adventure along the way.

The project will link paleontology and archaeology and other fields. And hopefully it will encourage a more objective look at fossils or the evidence we have from Pleistocene archaeology.

For now, I hope you enjoy these few details about fossil collecting at railroad cuts (**Figs. 1-5**).

From my notes on the PA locality:

“Found some nice straight cephalopods. K found a possum skull. We really enjoyed this locality though the trains were pretty scary being so close.”

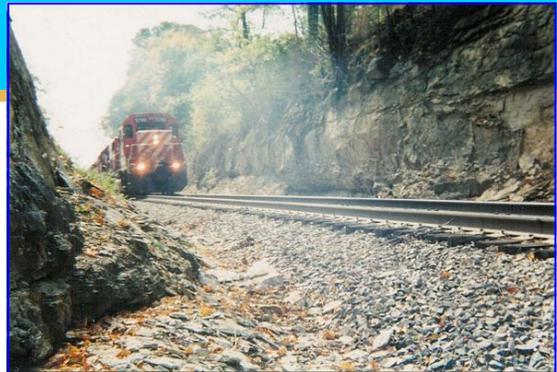
A day well spent!



**Fig. 1.** The fossil localities w/train + strata experiences in this article are in Indiana and Pennsylvania.



**Fig. 3.** Engine and train quickly moving through an ancient Indiana seafloor. The roar and rumble of a passing train in such a quiet and intimate setting can be a very transforming experience. Photo by the author, October, 1997.

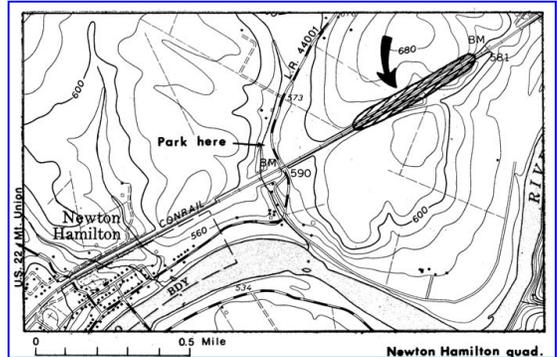


**Fig. 2.** Approaching train at an Ordovician age (c. 450 million years old) railroad cut north-east of Madison, Indiana, 1997. Railroad cuts are a great place to ‘travel through time.’ Unlike road cuts where the walls are separated by a great distance, the walls at railroad cuts are often a much more intimate setting. Just by standing between the two opposing walls at such a cut, with a little imagination, you can sense the physical space once traversed by myriad sea creatures on an ancient seafloor millions of years ago. Photo by the author, October, 1997.



**Fig. 4.** A *Michelinoceras* or *Orthoceras* nautiloid cephalopod (6.7cm or 2 5/8”) about 390 million years old from the Newton Hamilton railroad cut, PA. (Inset: Life reconstruction; Wikimedia Commons.) Orthocerids like this existed for approximately 286 million years. Found by the author, May, 1992.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for 20 years demonstrating that early humans were as intelligent as us.



**Fig. 5.** Location of the Newton Hamilton railroad cut, PA. The cut is more than 2000’ long consisting of Early–Middle Devonian shale and limestone of the Onondaga formation. General Geology Report 40, *Fossil Collecting in Pennsylvania*; Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 2nd Printing of 3rd Edition, 1988.



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### CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

Roy Shlemon  
Fred E. Budinger, Jr.  
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