



PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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Continuity through time

By John Feliks

Archaeology is usually defined as the study of the human past. It is a scientific field that attempts to learn as much as possible about our ancestors and the great variety of human experience from remains in what is known as the archaeological record.

Yet in recent years the focus in the branch of archaeology related to early peoples, sometimes referred to as palaeoanthropology, is almost entirely driven by the single concept of expected change over time.

The focus on change has been so prevalent that many have forgotten the equally important and valid concept of stability or continuity through time.

So one of the goals of the Pleistocene Coalition is to

address this almost forgotten realm. We intend to draw attention away from our differences and more toward the similarities that we share with our ancestors. We commonly hear such



things today as, "Nothing stays the same except for change." While this is a popular and clever saying, it is certainly not true in and of itself. There is as much evidence in archaeology that is as well described by the opposite expression, "There is

nothing new under the sun."

The Pleistocene Coalition chooses to remain open to what the evidence itself is actually telling us — which speaks both to change and continuity.

We adopt this approach in light of the fact that our entire ability to even consider such things is possible only because our species, *Homo sapiens*, along with its richness and variety of long-lasting world cultures has experienced continuity as well as change through time.

Without this sense of continuity to temper our interpretations of the evidence, we too would be forced to interpret our early ancestors in the lesser terms of popular science even so far as to regard them as half-way-

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The long haul

Virginia Steen-McIntyre on the fight for recognition at Valsequillo

It has been very difficult to bring to public attention the scientific data for the ancient archaeological sites from the Valsequillo area of east central Mexico. I equate it with an attempt to crawl up a particularly steep rocky hillside tied up in a sleeping bag.

The latest hurdle is my new

website. In the changeover, critical data have disappeared from the site proper, and the forum section doesn't even recognize my name. This has been going on for many weeks.

The main problem started in 1968 with geochemist Barney Szabo's uranium-series dates on a mastodon

tooth fragment from El Horno and a fragment of butchered camel bone from Hueyatlatco. Both specimens were associated with well made (but differently crafted) stone tools. We were expecting dates of ca 20,000 years. No 14C dates were possible because no

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Continuity through time (contd.)



...the ability to think and ponder, to observe ...

there links in an evolutionary chain. On the side of continuity; human emotions and aspirations, the ability to think and ponder, to observe and interact with the animals, the trees, the mountains, the lakes and rivers, the sun, moon and stars, to experience a sense of awe and mystery, to be inspired or to be creative, to ask questions about purpose and meaning, or to otherwise objectively reflect on the wonders or the challenges of the everyday reality around us; these are all things that transcend the concept of

change.

Yet, due to the strong and powerful influence of Charles Darwin, such core human qualities are suggested to have come about "of necessity" by gradual means.

And so, as we explore further and further back into time these human qualities must, for the sake of the paradigm, become less and less present in the archaeological record.

But we will be providing empirical evidence from many scientific fields, including engineering and

mathematics, that the exact opposite is true. We also won't be afraid to look anew at anomalies, being aware that prior scientific explanations for them, including labeling many such as frauds, have been presented to the public exclusively from the same paradigm of constant change over time.

We hope that you enjoy this first issue of our Newsletter and that you return again to learn more about our early human heritage.

It is our prehistory. It is our story.

"The site archaeologist was so appalled she would only allow the dates to be published in a journal few archaeologists would ever read..."

The long haul (contd.)

datable carbon remained. Instead, Barney gave us dates of 250,000 - 350,000 years! The site archaeologist was so appalled she would only allow the dates to be published in a journal few archaeologists would ever read. (Szabo et al., 1969, Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 6, pp. 237-244.)

So it began. The next geological paper to confirm these old dates was submitted in 1975. But the

publication was delayed, letters unanswered -- 1976, 1977, 1978 . .

Finally ~ word came that they decided not to publish the proceedings volume at all.

Another editor asked to see it, and it was sent off. Delays. No answers to letters.

A phone call cornered the man who, after some stuttering, said that the manuscript had fallen down

behind the file cabinet and had been lost.

In 1981 our research was finally published in a prestigious journal for Quaternary (Ice Age) scientists (Steen-McIntyre et al., 1981, Quaternary Research, v. 16, pp. 1-17.)

These type of problems have been going on for forty years! For the whole shabby story up until 2006, read Chris Hardaker's *The First American* and visit [his website](#).

The mystery of the Dorenberg skull

by Patrick Lyons

In the 1890s, an ancient skull was found in the foundation of a house in Puebla, Mexico.

This is the story of that skull, the people behind its discovery, and what the skull means to paradigms that hold back American archaeology.

Joseph Dorenberg, a wealthy German merchant living in Puebla at the time of its discovery acquired the skull that now bears his name as part of an ongoing effort to collect antiquities in the region.

The skull was female, missing its lower jaw and had a bony outgrowth from the root of a tooth.

Dorenberg showed great interest in the antiquities of Mexico and became a well-known collector of rare pre-Columbian artifacts from the region.

He acquired what was then known as the "Dorenberg Codex", one of only a handful of Mixtec books in existence, now a priceless treasure.

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Codex (Dorenberg) Colombino

Photo courtesy of Jens S. Røhark Bartusch, 2008



Dorenberg Skull (contd.)



Eduard Seler in his study

Photo courtesy of Ibero-Americanisches Institut, Walter Lehmann and Walter Krickenberg, 1927

**...modern
humans share
a 'hardwired'
template with
our ancestors
as far back as
*Homo
erectus*...**

He enlisted the assistance of Eduard Seler, a famous German ethnologist, to document the codex through the production of colored prints.

The codex was sold in to the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City to be put on display in 1892. At that time, the codex was renamed the "Colombino Codex" and represents the only Mesoamerican codex remaining in Mexican territory.

Hundreds of rare antiquities were collected by Dorenberg while he lived

in Puebla with most of them eventually being donated to museums in New York, Mexico City and Leipzig in Germany.

In a letter to the Smithsonian Institution in 1891, Dorenberg wrote that in addition to documenting the Dorenberg Codex, Eduard Seler had sketched the entirety of his antiquities collection.

Seler, was one of the most renowned Mesoamerican scholars of the 20th Century, being a pre-Columbian anthropologist, ethnologist, linguist, and

epigrapher.

Seler and his wife Cecilia traveled from Germany to Mexico five times, exploring pre-Columbian ruins while documenting their finds with extensive notes, sketches and photographs.

Seler was known as a particularly meticulous note taker who also sketched whatever he examined.

So in the next installment of this story, I will discuss the significance of the Dorenberg skull, its fate, and the location of Seler's sketch of it.

The deep roots of aesthetic design

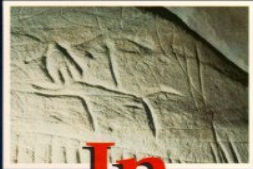
We will shortly be hosting a presentation by one of our founding members, Alan Cannell, on the Deep Roots of Aesthetic Design. In this largely visual work, Alan takes a closer look at the plan shapes of handaxes based on the selection of images available from museums and other collections, and examines the evidence for geometric expressions of phi – the Golden Ratio.

Although it has been known for decades that there is often a close approximation between the value of phi and the ratio between the length and width of these axes, Alan shows that the geometry is often more complex, involving sections of the 'Golden Ellipse' and the angle of 36 degrees. Alan also demonstrates that these same shapes can still be found in modern landmark architecture, suggesting that modern humans share a 'hardwired' template with our ancestors as far back as *Homo erectus*.

To test our modern preference for certain templates, Alan conducted a survey of some 100 students in Brazil which showed that there were marked preferences for the same expressions of phi, although there were some differences between male and female choices.

Alan concludes with comments suggesting that these preferred formats are related to the female body and are culturally enhanced through posture.

Suggested reading ...



Gloria Farley's *In Plain Sight* (1994, 483 pp, ISAC Press,, ISBN 1-880820-08-0), offers a wealth of hard data for pre-Columbian visits.

This includes Ogam, Runic, Libyan, Tifinag, Iberian, Gaelic, Aramaic, Punic, Phoenician and Sabaean scripts, Egyptian hieroglyphics, as

well as Kufi, Catalan, Maghrib, Phapian ~ and even Epona on her horse, Bel.

In *World Trade and Biological Exchanges before 1492* by J.L.

Sorenson and C.L. Johansson (2009, 593 pp, ISBN: 978-0-595-52441-9) we find that there is copious evidence for New World plants and parasites

in Europe, Africa, and Asia as far back as the fifth millennium B.C.

To find out about how this book opens up the debate about interactions and trade in ancient times, there is a discussion about it on [Ishtar's Gate](#).

Anomalies...

by Ishtar and David Campbell

An example of 'palaeo-smarts' 350,000 years ago



Armenta Camacho, J., 1978, *Vestigios de Labor Humana en Huesos de Animales Extintos de Valsequillo, Puebla, Mexico*

In 1978, Juan Armenta Camacho published a photo and careful drawing of an engraved pro-boscidian long bone, collected earlier by his worker in the Atepitzingo baranca, Valsequillo area, Mexico.

A nearby horse metapodial was later dated to around 250,000 - 350,000 years (U-series dates.) At the time he copied the engraving, Armenta was concentrating on the small incised figures, and his brain did not connect the

lines that form the large horse's head (shaded). It remained "hidden" from all who reviewed his publication for more than 20 years.

In fact, it wasn't until September 2005 when Chris Hardaker (archaeologist and author of *The First American*) was looking at the photo, that suddenly a horse's head swam into his view.

Not only that, but even more amazingly, the horse's head appeared to be wearing what could possibly be a bridle.

A domesticated horse dated to around 250,000 to 350,000 years ago would certainly be termed an anomaly.

The existing archaeological

record to date only provides attestation for horse domestication to the Aurignacian, around 30,000 years ago, and continues into the Azilian period with engravings showing lines that look like bridles.

Edouard Piette first made the proposal that Ice Age man had domesticated horses and found many carved bone artworks to support the idea.

More persuasively, he found evidence of a phenomenon called cribbing, caused by domestic horses chewing on their stall or corral while in captivity, in numerous horse skulls from the Ice Age.

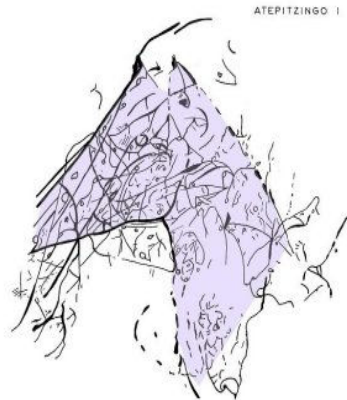
According to Dr. Stanley J. Olsen, professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona, there are artworks in the caves of Europe which show a close relationship between man and horse in the Upper Palaeolithic.

There are also cave drawings of horses with bridles that were found in France and dated to around 15,000 BC.

As Richard Leakey said, the image of Cro-Magnon man, "galloping across the chilly grasslands of Europe may conflict with archaeologists' preconceptions about life in this period, but it may well be accurate."

However, we may now have to reel that back even further and consider the same scenario for *Homo erectus*.

**"...suddenly,
a horse's
head swam
into view ..."**



The First American

Two paragraphs stand out on Chris Hardaker's new revamped website: [The First American](#).

"Two of archaeology's greatest dramas played out simultaneously during the 1960s. Both projects were famous and directed by heavy hitters. Both discoveries slipped into darkness. Both threatened to annihilate the status quo, not only for North American prehistory,

but for the world of human evolution itself.

"They still do."

The new website features not only Calico early man sites and choppers, but also a wide range of photographs of artifacts uncovered around the Valsequillo reservoir area during the last 50 years.

Check out [the website here](#).



Calico chopper from Master Pit 1, approx: 10cm long, 279 grams



Pleistocene Coalition

**To join us, please contact
the webmaster of the
Pleistocene Coalition,
John Feliks.**

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



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