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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

Paleolithic human dispersals across the oceans are usually seen as having happened either by land when water levels were low or by people sailing or rowing man-made boats and rafts. Eclectic researcher, Tim Holmes, however, suggests a third way has been downplayed in anthropology that of Paleoanthropological humans as passengers aboard large naturally-formed floating platforms. See Holmes p.2.

Xavier Bartlett (Bachelors Prehistory, Archaeology; Barcelona U.) is a prolific Spanish blogger with a longstanding interest in suppression in archaeology and the quest for truth in science. This issue, Bartlett tells how South American paleontology’s founding fathers, the Argentine Ameghino brothers, even in the 1880s challenged popular ideas about the peopling of the Americas. See Bartlett p.5 and p.8.

Engineer and astute rock art researcher, Ray Urbaniak, continues to intrigue PCN readers with compelling evidence and perspective regarding Native American prehistory. In this issue Ray provides support for his proposal that early migrants to the Americas may have bolstered their oral histories by way of tattoos as well as more on the Pleiades in rock art. See Urbaniak p.18 and p.20.

How humans made the connection that living things could be portrayed as images has been a longtime debate in anthropology. In 1995, now PCN Layout Editor submitted a thesis on the subject that was well commended by experts while being held back by reviewers with conflicts of interest. 25 years later, original comments are provided to show how anthropology withholds evidence that early humans had intelligence like our own. See Feliks p.22.

Foundations of PCN

“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... These type of problems have been going on for forty years!”

Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Pleistocene Coalition founding member, PCN #1, p.1, Oct 2009

When Virginia wrote her first words in the first issue of Pleistocene Coalition News ten years ago this month she brought to the Coalition decades of experience fighting against suppression by the mainstream anthropology community. Since that time PCN has kept her story current, and if all goes well, it will soon appear in a mainstream journal. PCN has now also provided over 1000 pages by perceptive and inspired researchers and writers with evidence regarding early human migrations and the artistic and intellectual capabilities of Paleolithic people equal to our own. It is not a story the mainstream wants to tell as it goes against 150 years of mainstream presumption, has as one of its tenets the idea early people were as capable as modern people. Readers are now more aware that the wrong criteria have been applied ever since Darwin. In this light, Rockey Whipkey brings ‘Paleolithic’ perspective to the famed megalithic site of Baalbek, Lebanon, which he visited in 2018. See Whipkey p.11.

Archaeologist Vesna Tenodi has been caught between two seemingly irreconcilable worlds—preservation of science as an objective field and compromises to freedom of research and expression. See Tenodi p.25.
Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms, Part 1

By Tim Holmes

Searching for Pleistocene Huck Finn

Although modern examples of humans or animals traveling the sea by way of ready-made natural floating platforms (usually emergency situations) are well-documented no one has yet identified any direct evidence of such platforms from the Paleolithic. That makes it difficult to make bold statements about early human migrations by such means. However, before we make too much of this fact, the same can be said of manmade boats or rafts as the earliest known remains for either is the tiny Pesse Canoe (Netherlands) at just over 9,000 years old. Fig. 1 shows an example of a large natural floating platform (see also current news item in the sidebar).

As far as indirect evidence of humans traveling the sea in one way or another during the Pleistocene we have an abundance. It includes the progeny of likely Paleolithic sea travelers living in Australia, New Guinea, and Melanesia. And much older than these we know from human remains and stone tools early humans somehow traveled fairly long distances over deep water, occasionally almost certainly without line of sight. The oldest Pleistocene instance of this involves Flores island in Indonesia with human arrival dating to about 50,000 years ago with the Philippine island of Luzon dating shortly afterwards. The island of Sardinia apparently had ‘hominin’ arrivals c. 8.5 mya, 250 kya, and 20 kya, and Crete as well 5.7 mya, 130 kya, and 12kya (note however, the 5.7 mya Trachilos footprints were in the time of the Messinian Event, so the group likely arrived by land).

Perhaps we will soon find some Paleolithic relict in locations conducive to preservation similar to the Black Sea dead zone (e.g. nearly perfectly intact 2,400-year old shipwreck), or petrifying wells for rapid travertine preservation. According to present knowledge, though, Indonesia would certainly have been the happening place for Paleolithic ‘natural rafts’ considering its protected warm waters.

One researcher who has studied the pros and cons of both natural and manmade rafts is Jane Balme, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Western Australia. Concerning the dangers involved in sea travel and establishing populations on other lands such as Australia she suggests:

“The important thing about these migrations, whether deliberate or a series of unfortunatefortunate accidents, is that they were successful... in that their descendents are still here.”


Successful failures might be the class of populations that temporarily were stable, but later died out from being too inbred or other issues. However, so far we have not found evidence of such existence, most of which is likely under many meters of water. Balme further suggests:

“If Australia was colonized successfully by people on drifting rafts, there must have been some pretty large losses. However, if boats used to travel from the islands did drift off course, Australia is hard to miss.” –ibid

Targets other than Australia would have been much more difficult to reach. Also, the Australian dates are pretty recent being no more than c. 50,000 years. Regarding more ancient voyages and distinguishing between facts and assumptions Balme suggests:

“As Spriggs (2003: 54) points out, it is all very well to say that the crossing can be done with a built watercraft, but to draw the conclusion that this was how the crossing was made requires a demonstration that the crossing could not be made through other means such as drift on a natural raft. …Morwood and Jungers (2009: 645) [suggest] the arrival of hominins in Flores was accidental and may have been associated with a very rare event such as a tsunami. Thus, the lack of any further evidence for hominin water crossings in the region

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Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms (cont.)

"It is all very well to say that the crossing can be done with a built watercraft, but to draw the conclusion that this was how the crossing was made requires a demonstration that the crossing could not be made through other means such as drift on a natural raft."

There are a few ways suggested for how natural rafts, modified natural rafts, and wholly manmade craft might have been responsible for these earliest known ‘hominid’ occupations of offshore islands, some 30 discovered globally dating before 11,000 years ago. In some cases it is believed the original founders still have or recently had dominance, such as Australia, New Guinea, Melanesia. Those who were single or had insufficient numbers of castaways were at best either unessential or essential to prevent inbreeding supplemental events, not to mention those who died without long lasting reproduction. Most are believed to have been a single lifetime event, and usually not only meaningless but also without evidence.

Modern analogues

Some traditions of New Zealand’s Maori people relate that men arrived on pumice rafts from the north, as do Micronesians. Apparently, however, no American Indians have such traditions (Native Americans might have reached Europe by canoe in 60 BC, related by Pliny the Elder/Pomponius Mela, and of course the Australians reached by boat Madagascar, Hawaii, sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands, probably South America, and possibly deep Antarctic by Ui-te-Rangiorea). That people can survive at sea under less than ideal conditions is exemplified by the fact some of the 2005 Sumatra tsunami victims were found alive in the high seas as much as nine days later.

Three types of natural rafts

So, what are natural rafts and how do they relate to manmade rafts or vessels and why?

Organic (ONR) are the most common, mostly trees in a mat for ocean going “floating islands,” as other types last the least.

Volcanic categories are believed to be only pumice rafts, which are globally a fairly regular occurrence, including in the navigation center of Sunda (present-day Indonesian EEZ).

Ice has more limited use for transporting humans due to its required cold. However, it can offer advantages with foot travel (e.g., see PCN #60, July-Aug 2019: 11, regarding a fox setting a distance record walking from Europe to Canada in 76 days). Advanced heat retaining clothes almost certainly were not invented yet, which greatly tends to make people head south for the winter or at least not go traveling.

Qualities of natural rafts

Natural rafts (NR) can cover considerable distances—the wind even pushes looser free floating pumice to speeds twice or higher the rate of water. The 1882–83 Krakatoa pumice rafts transported human bones to Zanzibar some 4,500 km, some of which appeared to be of ocean going survivors for a while. All, or nearly all, were swept away in the attendant tsunami. By the time the drift reached South Africa, the pieces had separated into a loose mass. Organic rafts tend to have short life spans before breaking up.

Ice can last many years afloat (“ghost ships” have been longest afloat in these seas, apparently 38 years between sightings for the SS Bbachmo). Most seas are not so harsh as the Weddell Sea where Shackleton’s ill-fated expedition faced very aggressive multi-year ice. However, the most likely ice paths usually degrade quickly due to wave action and water temperature. The Solutrean Migration Hypothesis had one proposed method via eddies in the ocean current and ice rafts, apparently discounted.

Indirect evidence, DNA

Another possibility deals with the Australian DNA of certain Amazon tribes (Suruí and Karitiana) came from rafting events of one sort or another, including ice during the glacial maximum stadial periods—probably via birding in Tasmania via floes, accidental drift to Auckland Islands, and from there another, separate trip up to five months to the tip of Patagonia. Back then, ice floes were common around Tasmania (nowadays, even icebergs do not frequent the sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island very often, which is half the distance to Antarctica).

Objective competition

The usual migration proposed using NR is that islands near Flores or Sahul (Australia), which explanation has some heavy competition from constructed craft (boats and rafts). Sunda (Indonesia) is an area of heavy volcanics, for pumice and tsunami methods, although during most of the Pleistocene the sea level dropped away greatly from most of the volcanoes. It has also been an area of both storm surges and warm water. Note that Melanesia was rapidly settled in the late Pleistocene, and natural rafts are much less likely in such a scenario. The distances in Sunda were possibly all line of sight during the extreme lowest sea levels by one route to Sahul.

Steering and other subjects

NR are, for the most part, unsteerable, and pumice rafts completely so. ONR could be moored to some extent with logs, bent trees tied by vines, and cast off with raised/ separated logs and unbent trees when the wind is strongly blowing in the right direction in a pattern that is normally sustained. However, currents are an issue. The whole thing is a gambler’s bet.

Rafting events are on average extremely risky, and humans would know this, vegetative rafts more so. Most attempts would be accidental, until castaways manage to return to their place of origination. It is possible that an organized group might try, including the official line of H. erectus. This points to either an individual's boat, plus
Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms (cont.)

"Even an unmodified floating island allows for simple mooring techniques, such as soggy logs positioned at all right angles to the craft and stuck in the mud. When a strong wind toward the right direction appears, everyone climbs on the end of the log and lifts the anchor."

Later passengers, likely only a log with a runner (believed to be the first boat and reportedly still used for taboo reasons in the last century). Extreme emergencies have at times apparently made truces between all sorts of species, such as in an extreme hurricane with limited safe space available (The Bayous, P.S. Feibelman). On the simplest level, they merge, with an unwieldy log still being used for taboo purposes scarcely more than 100 years ago. Runners attached to the same is the first improvement in some nautical historical narratives, which could in a stretch be a solution for the ancient travels.

'Natural raft' skills, customizations, and math
When the wind is blowing in the right direction, using vectoring, the safest way is to aim and shoot. Even an unmodified floating island allows for simple mooring techniques, such as soggy logs positioned at all right angles to the craft and stuck in the mud. When a strong wind toward the right direction appears, everyone climbs on the end of the log and lifts the anchor. Another step would be a ring of single waterlogged timbers, to use as an anti-grounding bumper, which could be fixed in a few days time. Possible improvements are many, such as slat rudders inserted as needed, as rafts used in nautical history, bending living trees (for new mats) or made lean-to for sailing abilities. The speeds need not be fast. 1km/hr in daylight means 70 kms a week, 300 kms a month, a "QEII" travelling city for the Pleistocene age.

And there are hundreds of thousands of years to improve, in 'refugia' when sea levels or other conditions are poor. Sunda is a very large area.

Natural raft shapes
By no means perfect, a likely shape of natural rafts would be oblong. It is hydrodynamically poor with a lot of drag. It is also hard to have any control. Speeds are slow and the rafts are prone to breaking up regard-
The unusual findings of the Ameghino brothers in Argentina, Part 1

By Xavier Bartlett, historian, blogger, Bachelors in Archaeology, Prehistory and Ancient History, University of Barcelona

"Moir questioned evolutionary theorists’ models beginning to be consolidated and imposed worldwide as a scientific paradigm in prehistory and paleontology."

Eds. Note: This piece was auto-translated from the Spanish via computer by Xavier Bartlett and adapted for PCN. Translation, grammar problems, etc., were corrected where possible.

Introduction

In 2015, I devoted a lengthy article to the figure of James Reid Moir, a brilliant English archaeologist who is totally unknown to the recent and not-so-recent generations of prehistorians. In that text I pointed out that Moir’s work was sound science but ended up being discredited by the academic community in the early 20th century and later forgotten. What was his sin? Simply defending the existence of human beings in Europe in an extremely remote epoch based on archaeological and geological evidence. In other words, Moir questioned evolutionary theorists’ models beginning to be consolidated and imposed worldwide as a scientific paradigm in prehistory and paleontology.

For us, Moir might seem an isolated example, but according to Cremo and Thompson in their controversial book, Forbidden Archeology, this was not at all the case. Between the late 19th and early 20th centuries few prehistorians released findings that supposedly “anomalous” remains could delay the first appearance of humanity by hundreds of thousands or even millions of years. Among this casuistry, I would like to highlight the work of the Ameghino brothers, Florentino and Carlos, two Argentine scientists revered as the most important founding fathers of South American paleontology. Their most controversial findings have been cornered by academic orthodoxy because acceptance would challenge the theories of human peopling of the Americas and human evolution in general. But let us get to the facts [1].

Paleontological work of Florentino Ameghino

Florentino Ameghino (1854-1911) was a naturalist and Argentine paleontologist born in Luján, province of Buenos Aires. From a young age he showed great interest in the natural sciences and in his career he combined his work as a teacher and bookseller with extensive and fruitful research in the field of geology, zoology and paleontology. This led to his being Director of the National Museum of Buenos Aires at the end of his life.

For what concerns us here, we can say Ameghino was particularly devoted to exploring the coastal provinces of Argentina looking for fossils and traces of human presence (Homo sapiens or his ancestors), because he sought to identify evidence of the existence of a certain man-fossil, in their terminology. Thus, in 1887, in Monte Hermoso (about 60 km northeast of Bahía Blanca, in the province of Buenos Aires) he located an interesting paleontological site characterized by the presence of bones of extinct animals as well as indications of human activity in the zone. This evidence is made up of a human vertebra, remains of fires, baked clay, slag, broken bones worked and charred, and many very rough stone tools. The problem is that all these materials were together in the same strata and were therefore contemporary with each other and during tremendously ancient times. According to Ameghino’s geological observations these layers should be dated Pliocene (2) (5.2 to 1.6 million years old), which is the last period of the Tertiary. These early findings were published in the Buenos Aires newspaper, La Nación.

This news was shocking because at that time, though the human family tree was still very green, scientists were convinced man was a creature of the Quaternary Period (Pleistocene and Holocene our current epoch). But Ameghino, although he was influenced by such conceptions, believed that his evidence was conclusive and therefore that he had found some sort of extremely old precursor of humans and should logically be the oldest human ancestor on the continent and even the world [3]. What’s more, it meant the antiquity of man in the Americas could be much greater dating back even to the Miocene (24 to 5.2 million years). Ameghino’s proposal was supported by the flint artifacts found which had a clear parallel with similar artifacts discovered in Portugal and dated to the Miocene.

In 1889, Ameghino published a more detailed description of their findings in Monte Hermoso and it was noted that he had found among the remains of a skeleton of a Macrauchenia antiqua (an extinct early Pliocene camel) an artifact of quartzite with unmistakable signs percussion. As for the presence of fires and terra cotta, Ameghino said there

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"After examining the area, the geologists established the artifacts were in undisturbed sediments of Chapadmalalan age, a typical formation of the Pliocene lasting about 2–3 million years."

The unusual finds of the Ameghino brothers, Argentina (cont.)

were no traces of volcanic activity or accidental fires on the ground to justify a natural origin of these remains. Moreover, the presence of the bones burned by the fires would suggest thinking beyond mere chance.

It is fair to point out that Ameghino’s efforts in the field of prehistory were somewhat confusing and speculative in his attempt to draw a coherent human evolutionary chain from its findings. In this effort he discussed several apelike ancestors with curious names like Prothomo, Diprothomo, Tetraprothomo, Homo pampeus [4]. Following the Darwinian trend he brushed racism to speak of two great modern human species, Homo sapiens (Caucasians) and Homo ater (basically ‘primitive’ races African, Australian, etc., including the “darkies”).

Ales Hrdlicka intervention

The truth is Florentino Ameghino’s investigations aroused the interest of many international experts, including the attention of a celebrity at the time, paleontologist Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institution, who had already begun in North America an intense campaign to discredit any proposal too old settlement of the continent. Hrdlicka was known for his highly critical and skeptical mind and, indeed, after the death of Ameghino he published conclusions to put in question the validity of all of Ameghino’s findings. It is worth looking at the controversy over this intervention.

Indeed, in 1910, shortly before the death of Ameghino, Hrdlicka traveled to Argentina to see for himself the remains and issue a final verdict. To start, Hrdlicka examined the vertebra found in Monte Hermoso (atlas, the first vertebra at the base of the skull) and admitted it was not like primitive or simian believed his Argentine colleague but belonged to an anatomically modern human. Despite this, he was not willing to acknowledge a great antiquity for the first Americans; in any case, a few thousand years [5]. Thus, after a thorough inspection of the evidence, he did not question the artificiality of rough implements but the interpretation of the geological formation (called Puechense) where they had found the materials, which he considered erroneous. In his book Early Man in South America (1912), Hrdlicka disputed the dating of Ameghino’s discoveries with the support of qualified geologist opinion Bailey Willis, who suggested a non-conformity stratigraphy, and prehistorian William H. Holmes of the Smithsonian who insisted on the supposed modernity of the strata in question suggesting Ameghino had confused native artifacts with artifacts created by men of a very remote past.

However, it should be noted that Florentino Ameghino found similar remains elsewhere along the Argentina coast especially of fires, burned earth and animal bones, as well as human remains attributed to Pliocene times. Furthermore, according to Michael Cremo, Ameghino discovered in the same province of Buenos Aires the top of a skull of an ‘anatomically modern man’ was found in a layer of a geological formation called Pre-Ensenadean, dated 1.5 million years old.

Carlos Ameghino’s discoveries in Miramar

After the death of Florentino Ameghino in 1911, his brother Charles (1865-1936), who had accompanied him on most of his expeditions [6] continued the paleontology work and initiated and undertook further explorations along the south coast of Buenos Aires. The site that stands out by far the most is the site of Miramar. As it goes, between 1912 and 1914 Ameghino was digging in that area under the auspices of the Buenos Aires Museum of Natural History and the Museo de la Plata. It specifically focused on a canyon that stretched off the coast, where he found numerous stone tools. To determine their dating he turned to four renowned expert geologists from the Directorate General of Geology and Mines of Buenos Aires and the Museo de la Plata. After examining the area, the geologists established the artifacts were in undisturbed sediments of Chapadmalalan age, a typical formation of the Pliocene lasting about 2–3 million years (according to recent estimates by geologists such as Anderson and Marshall). In addition, during his visit could see the extraction site of burnt ground slag and a flint and ‘ball’ (small spherical stone with a central groove used as projectile).

Encouraged by these results, Carlos Ameghino continued his excavations at Miramar and was able to unearth the skeletal remains of a Toxodon, an extinct Pliocene mammal similar to a rhinoceros, with the particularity that the femur of this animal had nailed Michael stone, a piece well worked [7], which showed that by 2–3 million years ago humans were already capable of making such artifacts in this part of the world. Some critics argued then that Toxodon had survived until a few thousand years in South America, which is quite true, but Ameghino noted that the specimen found was a small adult of a very old species called Toxodon chapalmalensis, predecessor of the larger toxodonts of later times. Finally, at the same Miramar site in 1921 the researcher Milcíades Alejo Vignati discovered a human jawbone of “modern” appearance in a stratum of that Chapadmalalan, which was also called controversial.
The unusual finds of the Ameghino brothers, Argentina (cont.)

Skeptical reactions to the findings of Carlos Ameghino

As had happened with his brother Florentino, Carlos Ameghino immediately met with strong academic opposition to his proposals, both from Argentina and from abroad. For instance, Argentine geologist Antonio Romero, in an article in 1918, already referred to visible geological formations in Miramar were recent and water erosion had caused the displacement and mixing of the various fossils and layers in the canyon with inconsistent stratigraphy. However, other geologists even the critical Willis had not noticed such dislocation layers, but a horizontal stratigraphic sequence that remained intact for almost the entire length of the canyon except for an area affected by a marked hollow zone.

In turn, the French paleontologist, Marcellin Boule, said the Toxodon femur with embedded point had shifted higher than other lower beds and the piece was assigned to an ancient Indian settlement. Also he remarked that the artifacts found were few and scattered and that many could be the result of natural fractures. He also thought that some concrete in the Jockey artifacts (sp.) correspond to the same models used by local native tribes, as documented by Swedish-born anthropologist Eric Boman. However, this observation eliminated the possibility that artifact types had just evolved over hundreds of thousands (or millions) of years, and therefore cannot be considered a definitive argument against the antiquity of the found pieces [8]. On the other hand, Boman went on to suggest the suspicion that one of the closest collaborators of Ameghino, Lorenzo Parodi, had committed fraud in finding balls, and even the tip driven into the Toxodon femur, and this even though Ameghino himself had told him that Parodi was a person you can trust.

As it turns out, Boman went to Miramar in November 1920 and was able to observe how the Parodi itself was in situ and carefully extracted several balls—unmistakably of human origin—embedded unchanged in the Pliocene strata. So, Boman eventually abandoned the idea of fraud and left the door open to the hypothetical existence of a human population in Miramar during the Pliocene.

ENDNOTES

1. Most of the content in this article is based on the work of Cremo and Thompson which many will surely consider biased as it gives the benefit of the doubt to some proposals currently or directly ignored or that are considered nonsense by the academic establishment.

2. In fact, Ameghino incorrectly identified the sestrata, attributing the Miocene, but today is believed to belong to early and middle Miocene.

3. In regard, some have argued that Ameghino made an exercise of "scientificalmism" but it should be remembered that throughout the twentieth century other prehistorians Africa, Russia and China have made similar claims about the "only" source (or at least shared) human in their respective territories.

4. This would, according Ameghino, the ancestor of Homo sapiens, which would have happened in South America to northern Europe and then to Asia and Europe.

5. In contrast, European prehistorians of the time seemed more receptive to the idea of an extremely ancient humanity (also in Latin), in view of some discoveries.

6. In fact, Carlos made more fieldwork than his brother, traveling to Patagonia and other regions for fossils and then send to Florentino.

7. Ameghino described as “a slice of quartzite obtained by percussion, one stroke, and retouched at its lateral edges, but only on a surface, and then pointed at both ends by the same finishing process, giving a approximate willow leaf, and therefore split ends of Solutrense type.”

8. In this respect, anthropologists have identified some blanks in Africa today carved by tribes that have a great similarity with artifacts found in the same territories with antiques of up to one million years.


10. Before Present, or about 3700 to C. [sp.]

11. However, to be fair, Piltdown fraud was clarified over 30 years after leaving a public light!, and meanwhile was a capital of human evolution exponent, although certainly the case was controversial for those 30 years.


13. It should be noted that in many notables and accepted (especially during the nineteenth and early twentieth century) findings were workers or collaborators of the scientist who actually recovered or extracted objects and never spoke bad practices of others.

14. Archaeological Site of New Mexico (USA), excavated in the 1920s of the last century.

15. Date provided by the National Science Foundation, when asked by dissident anthropologist Chris Hardaker what maximum age should be attributed to the first Americans.

16. Including radiocarbon dating, sometimes confirmed with more than one method, as in Huayataco.

XAVIER BARTLETT is a historian and well-known Spanish blogger with a Bachelor’s in Archaeology, Prehistory and Ancient History from the University of Barcelona (1987). Bartlett has a longtime interest in the problem of suppression in archaeology and the quest for truth in the field. His Spanish blog offers translations in various languages. PCN is providing a link to the site due to its high quality in related topics. However, PCN’s many science readers need to know it is not a science-only site but includes popular topics such as ancient astronauts, pyramidology, crop circles and similar, each of which Bartlett handles with equal skill and cordiality. It can be found at the following link: https://laostricaradelpasado.blogspot.com/
The unusual findings of the Ameghino brothers in Argentina, Part 2

By Xavier Bartlett, historian, blogger, Bachelors in Archaeology, Prehistory and Ancient History, University of Barcelona

Eds. Note: This piece was auto-translated from the Spanish via computer by Xavier Bartlett and adapted for PCN. Translation grammar problems, etc., were corrected where possible.

Reflections on the Ameghino’s research

Today, the Ameghino brothers certainly enjoy a good reputation and both popular and scientific recognition for their hard work pioneering geological and paleontological studies in Argentina. And concerning the degree of their merits there is no question. However, what I have seen in a cursory examination of their work, their most controversial findings—those referring to the existence of human beings in the Tertiary—are seldom mentioned in modern sources. In recent critical comments on the subject, I noticed they basically revolve around three arguments:

1). errors occurred in the interpretation and dating of geological formations observed, which moved to an incorrect interpretation of archaeological remains. For many experts, what the Ameghino’s interpreted as Pliocene in age was actually Pleistocene (i.e. in the Quaternary).

2). The Ameghino’s “anomalous” findings were very possibly due to simple intrusion displacements of modern materials into older lower strata by the action of natural agents.

3). The Ameghino’s were heavily influenced by the incipient popularity of evolutionary ideas and various prehistoric finds and were certainly obsessed with discovering extremely ancient ancestors of man such as Java Man or Pithecanthropus identified in the late nineteenth century. In addition, at that time the possibility of tracing the origin of Tertiary-age humans was still a subject of serious debate in the circles of prehistorians. Thus, paleontologists Eduardo Tonni and Laura Zampatti [9], consider that this obsession with finding the man-fossil was the cause of the acceptance of evidence inconsistent from the beginning. On the other hand, they believe that in its time the Miramar findings were the subject of debate and controversy, and even of suspected fraud or manipulation, as noted in Part 1. As for the supposed great antiquity of the findings, Tonni and Zampatti say that even at that time it was inadmissible based on the assumption the lithic artifacts had not undergone change over hundreds of thousands of years when European prehistory itself had clearly shown evolution through the various lithic industries, including those Florentino Ameghino had recognized on a journey to Europe. And in the case of “femur flechado” they deny that the tip was embedded in the bone. In their view, it really was a fragmented raedera, similar to others that have been found in surface layers of the region and have a maximum age (radiocarbon) of about 5,700 years BP [10]. Finally, Tonni and Zampatti end up regretting that while Britain investigated and uncovered the truth about the Piltdown Man fraud, in Argentina similar facts were hidden or forgotten for decades [11].

In turn, the Argentine archeologist Mariano Bonomo, in an article devoted to Fossil Man Miramar [12], sets out four scenarios to explain the commotion caused by the Ameghino’s proposals: 1) were a genuine finding; 2) that the strata corresponded to the Quaternary really early; 3) that the materials in question were not in situ — i.e., they were intrusive—and 4) that everything was a crude fraud allegedly perpetrated by Lorenzo Parodi.

In his conclusions, Bonomo stressed that the appearance of this hominid as being extremely old should be framed as “the artificial construction of a national identity,” which offered to the scientific community and the people some illustrious ancestors of the same level or higher than other notable prehistoric discoveries in other countries, which would be of a kind of scientific and patriotic pride.

For these modern scholars, the Ameghino brothers were imbued with the positivist science of the time and were overvalued as national scholars, a very fashionable trend at the time. Few people in Argen-

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The unusual finds of the Ameghino brothers, Argentina (cont.)

"We cannot give authority to the opinion the work of that time was not methodical or reliable. Many faults attributed to the Ameghino’s investigations as reasons for non-acceptance are equally traits of many other prehistoric findings from the mid-19th century yet those are still assumed valid.”

tina dared to speak out against their mistakes and practices amateurs while being largely criticized from abroad. In retrospect, it is thought that perhaps the Ameghino’s greatest achievements in the geological and paleontological fields could somehow cover up their alleged “gaffes” in the field of prehistory.

In short, one might accuse the Ameghino brothers of a certain lack of professional skill or rigor in practice or research. However, in their favor we can say the following:

a) They applied the scientific methods available at the time as best they could and knew. In this regard, we can say that, despite being self-taught, Florentino Ameghino accumulated considerable knowledge and experience over the years and was in Europe to learn of the most prominent scholars of the time in the field of prehistory.

b) No one has been able to demonstrate conclusively, then or now, that Ameghino were responsible for the slightest attempt at fraud or misrepresentation of the evidence (despite the many attacks on the conduct of Parodi) [13].

c) The geology of that time was not as developed as today. In addition, there was radiometric dating and the land was to explore almost entirely. In any case, they consulted with the expert geologists of the time who largely corroborated their paleontological findings.

d) For precedence, the Ameghino’s had multiple other findings of human remains of extreme antiquity in various parts of the world made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries so that they had a seemingly coherent context that fit their findings.

e) We cannot give authority to the opinion the work of that time was not methodical or reliable. Many faults attributed to the Ameghino’s investigations as reasons for non-acceptance are equally traits of many other prehistoric findings from the mid-19th century yet those are still assumed valid.

Conclusions

Florentino Ameghino was certainly very bold in proposing a South American origin for the human population across the continent (and the entire planet), and even more by proposing an antiquity that could go back two million years. You could blame a certain chauvinism or desire to prominence with a milestone in the research of human evolution. And it seems clear that when launching his bold proposals he was carried away by his strict Darwinian conception that evidence could be found in the ground. Moreover, Florentino and Carlos Ameghino’s work and its certain honesty and broadmindedness cannot be accused of errors and confusion worse than an evolutionary science in general that was still being built in fits and starts not only in the Americas but worldwide.

Reviewing the exhaustive work of Cremo and Thompson, I realized the case of the Ameghino’s was by no means unique in those days. In various parts of the world, including Old Europe, several well-prepared researchers with solid geological knowledge found remains attributable to modern humans (H. sapiens) or artifacts or bones whether or not in ancient strata hundreds of thousands or even millions of years old. These findings were accepted by much of the academic community. However, they also received strong attacks which eventually caused them to disappear almost entirely from the scientific literature. This included the cases of Monte Hermoso and Miramar. It is possible, of course, that the scientists were wrong, but all of them?

It is clear that at some point in the early 20th century there was a break with “anomalous” data; and from that point on, human evolution was modeled from certain findings with certain datings, forming a picture in which all should fit. Thus, the American academic establishment since the time of Hrdlicka systematically rejected an ancient human presence on the continent while betting on a recent settlement of only a few thousand years. This philosophy was strengthened with the discovery of the so-called Clovis culture [14] (reputedly the oldest in America), dated at about 12,000 years old. Eventually the paradigm had to bow to reality, at least partially, for various excavations had revealed the existence of much older human settlements. That resulted in some archaeological circles accepting a “Pre-Clovis” horizon with a limit set at about 25,000 years old [15]. Everything that went beyond that new limit was simply impossible.

Given this position, maybe the proposals of the Ameghino’s seem misplaced speaking of human modern or archaic humans in the Tertiary, but what cannot be ignored is that during the 20th century several excavations took place in the Americas that yielded verified data [16] invalidating the model imposed even by the “Pre-Clovis” paradigm. Thus we have ignored or controversial sites from Alaska to Patagonia that provide evi-
The unusual finds of the Ameghino brothers, Argentina (cont.)

"It is clear that at some point in the early 20th century there was a break with 'anomalous' data; and from that point on, human evolution was modeled from certain datings, with certain datings, and from certain data; and possibly their findings were anomalous' objects were not artifacts but geofacts (stones modified by natural processes, and not by man).

So, perhaps the geological, paleontological, and archaeological findings made by the Ameghino brothers had experienced undue targeting for similar extreme dates. In light of the above, it now seems quite possible their findings were genuine and very old, coinciding with other evidence worldwide and especially with subsequent data from the entire American continent. All of this indicates the long-time theory of the late human peopling of America as the established model of human evolution could be very wrong and should be thoroughly reconsidered.

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Original article in Spanish: https://laotra-cadelpasado.blogspot.com/2016/12/los-insolitos-hallazgos-de-los-hermanos.html

ENDNOTES
[1] Most of the following content is based on the work of Cremo and Thompson, which can certainly be considered party or biased in the sense that at least gives the benefit of doubt some proposals currently or directly ignored or they are considered nonsensical by the academic establishment.

[2] In fact, Ameghino incorrectly identified the strata, attributing the Miocene, but today is believed to belong to early and middle Pliocene.

[3] In regard, some have argued that Ameghino made an exercise of scientificalnacionalism but it should be remembered that throughout the twentieth century other prehistorians in Africa, Russia and China have made similar claims about the "only" source (or at leastshared) human in their respective territories.

[4] This would, according Ameghino, the ancestor of Homo sapiens, which would have happened in South America to northern Europe and then to Asia and Europe.

[5] In contrast, European prehistorians of the time seemed more receptive to the idea of an extremely ancient humanity (also in Latin), in view of some discoveries.

[6] In fact, Carlos made more fieldwork than his brother, traveling to Patagonia and other regions for fossils and then send to Florentino.

[7] Ameghino described as "a slice of quartzite obtained by percussion, one stroke, and retouched at its lateral edges, but only on a surface, and then pointed at both ends by the same finishing process, giving a approximate willow leaf, and therefore like split ends of Solutrense type."

[8] In this respect, anthropologists have identified some blanks in Africa today carved by tribes that have a great similarity with artifacts found in the same territories with antiquities of up to million years.


[10] Before Present, or about 3700 to. C.

[11] However, to be fair, Piltdown fraud was clarified Over 30 years after leaving a public light!, and meanwhile was a capital of human evolution exponent, although certainly the case was Kontroversial for those 30 years.


[13] It should be noted that in many notables and accepted (especially during the nineteenth and early twentieth century) findings were workers or collaborators of the scientist who actually recovered or extracted objects and never spoke bad practices or fraud.

[14] Archaeological Site of New Mexico (USA), excavated in the 1920s of the last century.

[15] Date provided by the National Science Foundation, when dissident archaeologist Chris Hardaker asked what maximum age should be attributed to the first Americans.

[16] Including radiocarbon dating, sometimes confirmed with more than one method, as in Hueyatlaco

XAVIER BARTLETT is a historian and well-known Spanish blogger with a Bachelor’s in Archaeology, Prehistory and Ancient History from the University of Barcelona (1987). Bartlett has a longterm interest in the problem of suppression in archaeology and the quest for truth in the field. His Spanish blog offers translations in various languages. PCN is providing a link to the site due to its high quality in related topics. However, PCN’s many science readers need to know it is not a science-only site but includes popular topics such as ancient astronauts, pyramidsology, crop circles and similar, each of which Bartlett handles with equal skill and cordiality. It can be found at the following link: https://laotra-cadelpasado.blogspot.com/
Putting megalithic sites into Paleolithic context:  
**Part 1, Baalbek**

By Rockey Whipkey

"It gave me the immediate sense the massive Trilithon stones were already in place long before the Romans... arrived... and then saw how convenient it would be to just build their Jupiter temple on top of them."

Through the decades archaeologists have regarded megalithic or massive stone architecture as the work of Neolithic or later peoples. Even though actual dating of the stones themselves has not been possible they have usually been happy to combine the context of megaliths—e.g., datable organic materials nearby, etc.—with the assumption earlier peoples were not capable of such work. Well, people are starting to realize that assumption took a nosedive in 2014 when the site of Gobekli Tepe in Turkey—that contains not only megalithic stonework (the largest still in the quarry weighs 50 tons) but also excellent relief carvings of animals—was dated as much as 12,000 years old placing it into Pleistocene times. [Eds. Note: See Chris Hardaker relevant reprint this issue, p.14.]

**Baalbek's massive stones**

In 2018, I visited one of the most famous of the megalith sites, Baalbek in Lebanon. It is located in eastern Lebanon about 55 miles northeast of Beirut. The site is most famously known for the largest megalithic stones on earth that were not only quarried out of bedrock but also transported and placed as part of a massive platform project (Fig. 1). These three stones which lay horizontally have, since ancient times, been called the "Trilithon," even though they are not stacked in the way the word is typically used, and were—as is increasingly being admitted—already in place long before the Phoenicians or Romans built their own temple.

The famous massive platform stones of Baalbek, Lebanon, known as the Trilithon weigh c. 1,000 tons each. How they were placed is unknown. (Notice the man at the left of the picture.) They are part of the platform of the Roman Jupiter temple. However, when I visited the site in 2018, I immediately noticed the same thing other objective observers do in the different style stonework stacked atop the Trilithon obviously added at a much later date. It made me think the large stones, which have never been dated, were in place long before the Romans arrived. An increasing number of researchers, archaeologists, etc., are beginning to lean toward a "Paleolithic" date. Image public domain.

Apart from my own direct observations which I made during my visit last year one of my main references for this article is National Geographic photographer and anthropologist, Martin Gray’s website, Places of Peace and Power and other objective researchers and archaeologists now leaning toward a Paleolithic interpretation of the platform.

Mainstream archaeologists have been accustomed for a long time to thinking about Neolithic and modern people as smart enough to start civilizations and Paleolithic people as definitely not-as-smart "hunter-gatherers." Despite knowing about the extreme weathering and pitted quality of the Trilithon stones contrasting with the smoother stones around and above them they have tended to talk about the Trilithon as simply part of the "Roman Jupiter Temple," built by the Romans. However, one thing I noticed right away when I was there was how different in style were the stones stacked atop and around the Trilithon obviously added at a much later date. The heavy weathering of the Trilithon stones by wind and sand is very apparent.

The differences in construction methods used at Baalbek are quite pronounced and give a sense of different groups of people or habitation periods. It gave me the immediate sense the massive Trilithon stones were already in place long before the Romans (or even the earlier Phoenicians) arrived. The Romans may have realized they couldn’t move the huge stones without break-

> *Cont. on page 12*
Whatever was on top during the original time of the purposeful large platform appears to no longer exist. Despite how remarkably massive the Trilithon stones are, they are not the largest carved monoliths at Baalbek. In fact, the largest humanly-cut, quarried, and 'moved' stone anywhere on earth is a short walk from the Trilithon. It is called the “Stone of the Pregnant Woman” and weighs an unbelievable 1,200 tons (Fig. 2). Again, no one knows how old the stone is and I am equally doubtful this was a project of the Romans. As if the Trilithon and Stone of the Pregnant Woman weren’t large enough, in 2014 scientists uncovered the largest humanly-cut stone monolith yet found at Baalbek (Fig. 3). Unlike the prior examples, however, it does not appear that this largest stone has ever been moved. By one reckoning it is believed to weigh 1,820 tons.

Baalbek and Gobekli Tepe

The fact that Baalbek is only about 350 miles from Gobekli Tepe, Turkey (about the distance from Detroit to Lexington, a 5-hour drive) and that both of them involve megalithic stone construction also suggests they might have been part of similar or even contemporaneous cultures since they are each presently being considered to be in the neighborhood of “12,000 years old.” Other researchers suggested this idea early on. Everyone knows about the cultural diversification throughout the Mediterranean in ancient and modern times. With Lebanon being on the east Mediterranean (Baalbek is currently about 37 miles from the coast) and in a location between Egypt, the Middle East, Turkey and Asian regions early Baalbek would have made a perfect centrally-located cultural center or distribution point in what was once a lush environment.

Inside the Jupiter Temple

When I made my way around the different temple interiors, I noticed the unmistakable alternate methods that were used in the additions or intentional reconstructions done by these varying cultures over the millennia. Even the current restructuring being done within the Baalbek complex is available for perusal to modern visitors. On the following page are photographs I took inside the Jupiter Temple to show the stone floor that is laid over the top of the Trilithon stones. My personal observation of the wear on this floor is that it is much more severe than anywhere else in the complex. Even though these photo...
Putting megalithic sites into Paleolithic context, Baalbek (cont.)

"What makes the feat of transporting and placing these stones...even more remarkable is that they are quite high up—twice as high as seen in the photo—and that the whole platform is on top of a hill!"

much use or perhaps weathering over time (Fig. 4).

Interpretation suppression

I understand well that there is much skepticism about the possibility the Trilithon stones are Paleolithic in age. However, when believers that the whole construction was done by Romans or Phoenicians try and use science to discount evidence that these actually built on a much older foundation even when the evidence is strong, that’s where I see a science fallacy. Like with the experience of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, a founder of the Pleistocene Coalition, whose work has been suppressed now for over 50 years because it gave "too early" dates for ancient sites in the Americas I can see this is the same kind of resistance and response to Paleolithic interpretations of megalithic sites. I reference Virginia’s work because we can see the reality of discoveries and test conclusions made by "professionals" as written about in the PCN and how even the best professional work, as told about in the journal, is held back by mainstream academia! Apparently this limited approach to science is practiced worldwide. So, whom do we believe, Virginia or the mainstream? After all my research and seeing what mainstream academia is really like since I first wrote in PCN years ago (my better article is the one called How deep do we dig? The pros and cons of a controver-sial ceramic figurine, PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012), I believe Virginia, of course! Apart from what the physical evidence might show the writers in this journal over the years have given evidence that Paleolithic people had the ability to create such things as megalithic monuments if they wished. Virginia’s work and that of many others in this group supports the idea I am promoting that many megalithic sites are Pleistocene like Gobekli Tepe at their roots and were used by Paleolithic people.

Final thoughts

There is evidence at all megalithic sites showing many visitations and habitations in the areas surrounding them. The areas could have been quite large like smaller metropolitan areas today. To most people living back then who got around on foot these sites could have seemed equal in stature to our cities today. Baalbek could have been an area of much cultural exchange. One can get a bird’s-eye sense of the area using Google Earth to see the Baalbek complex from above. I believe we are approaching a major change regarding human prehistory and that recent reassessments of megalithic sites worldwide will lead to major changes in the ‘prehistoric’ timeline. It is fascinating that structures built so long ago are still here today. Some are even cited in ancient texts from around the world even if some think these texts are only myths. Myself? I would think a wise man or woman would be open-minded and read the words between the lines and research as much as they can for themselves.

Addendum: When safe, and when Baalbek reopens, I plan to return to Lebanon. It is a beautiful country, the food is fresh and plentiful, and the people are kind and generous. But under the current world circumstances, if you plan to visit, I suggest knowing your personal limitations before going there.

ROCKEY WHIPKEY was educated in the culinary arts, anthropology, and archaeology and has a deep interest in comparative religion, history, and early civilization. Among diverse occupations Whipkey ran and assisted in setting up lottery operations and facilities for the states of Montana, Vermont, and New Hampshire. In addition to once running for mayor of Helena—the historic capital of Montana—Whipkey has been involved in the politics of the city for many years including as a historic preservation commissioner. He visited Baalbek in 2018 to compare popular writings with his own firsthand observations.
**Pleistocene civilizations**

**Gobekli Tepe and Gunung Padang**

By Chris Hardaker, MA, archaeologist

"Until the discovery of Turkey’s Gobekli Tepe and its 12,000 year old birthdate, the idea of Pleistocene civilization was synonymous with Atlantis, Lemuria or Mu."

**Older than agriculture or pottery**

It was not long ago that putting together the words, "Pleistocene" + "civilization" would have destroyed your academic credibility forever among the professional class of archaeologists, prehistorians, historians, and history-of-science professionals, and almost anyone else who matters. However, that reaction is in the process of rapid change.

**Gobekli Tepe**

Until the discovery of Turkey’s Gobekli Tepe, and its 12,000-year old birthdate (Figs. 1–2), the idea of Pleistocene civilization was synonymous with Atlantis, Lemuria or Mu, and countless other ridiculous casualty myths from the 'long, long ago and told by the very, very high.' This is the kind of baloney that the professional class had warred against valiantly for most of the 20th Century, and did their utmost to warn their students to steer clear. Then Gobekli Tepe happened, and the old baloney suddenly becomes the new golden compost, research-wise.

Since the turn of the millennium, Turkey’s Gobekli Tepe has stunned the world’s experts and gratified the rest of us. At 12,000 years old, that means it is also 10,000 BC. Mammoths and temple edifices—like the movie, 10,000 BC, except now it could actually be knock-your-socks-off real. Sunken shorelines 300–400 feet deep are now fair game; previously they were regarded as ridiculous wastes of time. Paradigm shifts are like that.

Dr. Robert Schoch has been the geological go-to guy for Gobekli Tepe and a number of other ancient sites around the world including the Great Sphinx in Egypt and Gunung Padang in Indonesia. His website is a great take-off point for those concerned with the fundamental issues surrounding these incredible archaeological developments. The world of archaeology is still feeling the tremors of Robert’s identification of water erosion in and around the Sphinx indicating a very wet time after the Sphinx was carved out of its limestone massif. Last time it was that wet at Giza was the terminal Pleistocene. Shoots straight from the hip. A great first or last word on some of the most incredible evidence for Pleistocene civilizations.

http://www.robertschoch.com/

> Cont. on page 15
Pleistocene civilizations (cont.)

Gunung Padang

Another candidate for a Pleistocene civilization—possibly twice as old as the Turkish site—is Gunung Padang in Indonesia (Figs. 3–5). The situation here is not so open and shut. While megaliths at the site seem to have been fashioned out of lava columns back to 12,000 years ago there is the possibility that a 22,000 year old carbon date suggests a much older occupation. The general context of the site itself looks to be a multi-story pyramid.

One of the important factors making Gunung Padang highly credible is that it too is championed by Schoch. (As mentioned briefly above, Robert shocked the world with his pronouncements of water erosion in and around the Sphinx. To fill in the details this was specifically on the profiles of the wall of the Sphinx’s enclosing pit as well as on its own core limestone blocks. Again, the last time water of this amount was present on the Giza Plateau was 10–12,000 years ago or thereabouts. It was certainly older than the 2000 BC date antiquity folks thought it was.) Robert has been involved with many fascinating sites from this time period. By no means does he agree with all of the ancient civilization claims made for them; but Gunung Padang he likes. And where there’s one there must be more! If you run a check on YouTube or Google you will find a number of competing theories out there, especially for the earlier dates. Science in action!

Bon Voyage

CHRIS HARDAKER, BA, MA, was an archaeologist working in California and was one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition. He reviewed and catalogued the data from the massive artifact collection of Calico. For details, see the series, The abomination of Calico, Parts 1-3, beginning in PCN #6, July-Aug 2010, and Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts: Original 2009 paper updated and serialized for PCN (PCN #24, July-Aug 2013) and its Part 2 (PCN #26, Nov-Dec 2013). For additional in-depth information and quality photographs of tools recovered from the Calico Early Man Site excavations see Calico’s "Double-notched" blades from T-22 (PCN #30, July-Aug 2014) and Calico’s only classic handaxe (PCN #31, Sept-Oct 2014). Hardaker is also author of the book, The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World.

All of Hardaker’s articles in PCN can be accessed directly at the following link: http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#the_first_american
Member news and other info

Quick links to main articles in PCN #60:

- Presumed Clovis industry at Harvard Hill, San Bernardino Co. CA
  Xavier Bartlett
- Tattoo as Clovis/Clovis
  Richard Dempsey
- Artifact types of the Lake Manix
  Virginia Steen-McIntyre, John Feliks
- Member news and other info
  Ray Urbaniak, Virginia Steen-McIntyre, John Feliks
- Denisova Cave, Siberia: Art,
  Craftsmanship, and telling DNA
  Tom Baldwin
- Tattoos as Clovis/
  Folsom portable “rock art”
  Ray Urbaniak
- Possible steppe
  bison petroglyph, Moab, Utah
  Ray Urbaniak
- Publication bias in anthropology:
  Roald Fryxell
  John Feliks

Kortik Tepe, Paleolithic civilization older than Gobekli Tepe

Engineer, Paleolithic theorist, and prolific PCN writer and researcher, Ray Urbaniak, sends news on the discovery of Paleolithic “civilization” even older than now famed Gobekli Tepe. Körtik Tepe, not far from Gobekli Tepe is thought a residential area perhaps of those who created the Gobekli Tepe ceremonial site. It is dated 12,500 years old.

To show just how advanced the civilization of Körtik Tepe had already reached the archaeologists have uncovered traces of weaving dating “12,000 years old.” And not only that but observation it was not prototypical but many different styles, types of designs, and patterns. This is pretty “modern” toward interpreting the site as a development area of early textile production. Later designs on pottery from the site give the idea of their sense of pattern. Urbaniak also points out ibex depictions quite like those both Asian and Native American he has written of much in his prior PCN articles (Fig. 1).

“The bodies, bones and objects that we have examined and the textile samples on them are not prototypes. There were many weaving techniques 12,000 years ago. There are samples of various types of designs. ...we can see all stages of the development of weaving.” – Professor Vecchi Özkaya, head of the Dicle University Archaeology Department and the Körtik Tepe excavation.

Older artifacts curated by Paleolithic people

Ray Urbaniak

Something has been bothering me since I saw a photo of some artifacts from a site where one didn’t seem to belong. I was wondering if you have heard of archeologists pursuing this.

My thoughts: You frequently read where the archeologists date a layer and state that things just below it are that age. The dates are also frequently challenged by people claiming the site could have been disturbed and the items actually originated above the layer that was dated. However, it is human nature for us to keep old objects we find including artifacts from earlier times. I don’t recall ever hearing of people dating all the individual objects they find in a layer. It is possible that some objects are found objects from a much earlier period. I think it would make sense to go through collections pinpointing dateable objects that don’t really appear to belong to that time frame.

Virginia’s health and recent stroke

–info and repost excerpts

For those inquiring, Virginia’s general health has been an ongoing concern to those who know her or work with her. John spoke with Virginia recently and she is doing much better. However, along with catch-mail backlog. So, please do keep these things in mind if you have written Virginia but not heard back even after months. Good news is that Virginia has 24-hour live-in help and several other help assistants so she is well cared for. For other details see this column in the last two issues, e.g., Member news, PCN #60, July-August 2019. For new readers of PCN, Virginia is the last of the USGS, NASA, and other geologists who dated the Hueyatlaico, Mexico, site to ca. 250,000 years. Not one ever backed down from their dating of the site.

“Since it now appears... mainstream academics are going to have no choice but to accept what you’ve been saying all along... I just hope... it comes out... they refused to give your ideas serious consideration and stood in their way... History has a way of sorting it all out...although vindication sometimes comes too late to be enjoyed by the vindicated... I will continue to spread the word about PCN at every opportunity.” –PCN reader
Pleistocene Coalition News

10th Anniversary

At right: PCN pages running total from our archives

A special message from the editors to our readers and writers:

We thank our readers for reading PCN all these years and we thank our researchers and writers for providing such great material to read—fascinating, intriguing, challenging and provocative. Finally, we thank everyone who has taken the time to write us about our websites and the journal. Many of your comments are now posted in our homepage section: From our readers. Your kind words have meant everything to us these past 10 years.—The editors

#61 = 28 pages September-October (10th Ann.) 2019 running total 1191
#60 = 17 pages July-August 2019 running total 1163
#59 = 14 pages May-June 2019 running total 1146
#58 = 18 pages March-April 2019 running total 1132
#57 = 21 pages January-February 2019 running total 1114
#56 = 18 pages November-December 2018 running total 1093
#55 = 24 pages September-October (9th Ann.) 2018 running total 1075
#54 = 23 pages July-August 2018 running total 1051
#53 = 20 pages May-June 2018 running total 1028
#52 = 24 pages March-April 2018 running total 1008
#51 = 18 pages January-February 2018 running total 984
#50 = 22 pages November-December 2017 running total 966
#49 = 20 pages September-October (8th Ann.) 2017 running total 944
#48 = 20 pages July-August 2017 running total 924
#47 = 21 pages May-June 2017 running total 904
#46 = 17 pages March-April 2017 running total 883
#45 = 15 pages January-February 2017 running total 866
#44 = 14 pages November-December 2016 running total 851
#43 = 22 pages September-October (7th Ann.) 2016 running total 837
#42 = 22 pages July-August 2016 running total 815
#41 = 23 pages May-June 2016 running total 793
#40 = 22 pages March-April 2016 running total 770
#39 = 19 pages January-February 2016 running total 748
#38 = 20 pages November-December 2015 running total 729
#37 = 22 pages September-October (6th Ann.) 2015 running total 709
#36 = 19 pages July-August 2015 running total 687
#35 = 22 pages May-June 2015 running total 668
#34 = 21 pages March-April 2015 running total 646
#33 = 18 pages January-February 2015 running total 625
#32 = 21 pages November-December 2014 running total 607
#31 = 30 pages September-October (5th Ann.) 2014 running total 586
#30 = 18 pages July-August 2014 running total 556
#29 = 22 pages May-June 2014 running total 538
#28 = 20 pages March-April 2014 running total 516
#27 = 20 pages January-February 2014 running total 496
#26 = 20 pages November-December 2013 running total 476
#25 = 19 pages September-October (4th Ann.) 2013 running total 456
#24 = 19 pages July-August 2013 running total 437
#23 = 19 pages May-June 2013 running total 418
#22 = 18 pages March-April 2013 running total 399
#21 = 14 pages January-February 2013 running total 381
#20 = 17 pages November-December 2012 running total 367
#19 = 20 pages September-October (3rd Ann.) 2012 running total 350
#18 = 24 pages July-August 2012 running total 330
#17 = 23 pages May-June 2012 running total 306
#16 = 23 pages March-April 2012 running total 283
#15 = 20 pages January-February 2012 running total 260
#14 = 23 pages November-December 2011 running total 240
#13 = 21 pages September-October (2nd Ann.) 2011 running total 217
#12 = 22 pages July-August 2011 running total 196
#11 = 21 pages May-June 2011 running total 174
#10 = 17 pages March-April 2011 running total 153
#9 = 20 pages January-February 2011 running total 136
#8 = 18 pages November-December 2010 running total 116
#7 = 18 pages September-October (1st Ann.) 2010 running total 98
#6 = 18 pages July-August 2010 running total 80
#5 = 18 pages May-June 2010 running total 62
#4 = 16 pages March-April 2010 running total 44
#3 = 14 pages January-February 2010 running total 28
#2 = 9 pages November-December 2009 running total 14
#1 = 5 pages October (Debut) 2009 running total 5
Updates on proboscidea, step bison, and tattoos

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist

"We noted a few red flags that it might not be what it appeared to be."

Proboscidea, vigilance in rock art research

We were both excited when an associate of mine, Michael Griffin, a passionate and energetic rock art photographer sent me an intriguing southwest U.S. rock art photo he had recently taken (Fig. 1). However, early on, we noted a few red flags that it might not be what it appeared to be—an ancient Native American rock painting. Still, we were hopeful it was old and would pan out.

My first questions concerned whether or not the panel was sheltered enough to have survived the elements this long. I also wondered what direction the prevailing wind came from and whether or not there were Clovis points found in the area.

Michael did extensive follow-up and contacted several long-term residents of the town nearest the site. He finally confirmed that a middle-aged man was known to have painted the images in the 1960's and that this person was now deceased.

The reason I decided to show this picture and tell the story is to show that you have to be as objective as possible and do your homework before sharing something as a possible discovery of ancient art something that potentially isn’t really old.

Step bison

Earlier, I compared a petroglyph from Moab, Utah with the depiction of a step bison from Altamira, Spain, nicely laid out in PCN #60, July-August 2019 (Fig. 2). I believe many who have seen it have found it persuasive so I wouldn’t have expected to improve upon the comparison. However, further research suggested to me that the body lines also resembled the now extinct Caucasian wisent (Fig. 3). This is an image of a taxidermed Caucasian wisent in Russia. Sadly, the world’s last three (3) Caucasian wisents were killed in 1927.

The most intriguing point is that this species is also not believed to have lived in the Americas.

Cont. on page 19
Both describe a large aDNA dataset covering a wide geographic range, with the oldest samples dated more than 50,000 years ago. …”


The possibility the animal was remembered by people who migrated from Siberia to what is now modern-day Utah is something I have discussed in several prior issues of *PCN*. This could have been aided by portable depictions of the animal as “tattoos.”

**Tattoos**

Also in *PCN #60*, I discussed support for the possibility that the Nomadic Clovis people may have carried their artwork on their bodies in the form of tattoos. I showed a modern-day example of a traditional rock art-style antelope as worn on the arm of a Lorastan Nomad which I reproduce in Fig. 4. Here, in Fig. 5, I offer further support for this hypothesis. It is the tattoo of a fantastic deer-like animal well-preserved on the shoulder of a Siberian mummy of a prehistoric woman nicknamed the “Altai Princess.”

Image source: Tattoos found on Siberian Shamans mummies. Facebook.

Finally, in Fig. 6, I reproduce my proposal of how the Siberian tattoo tradition might have been carried across the Bering Strait Land Bridge millennia ago as a means by which Native Americans retained impressions of what various Asian animals looked like. One of the options I proposed is that tattoos might have also been a means by which Native Americans retained memory of animals that later became extinct perhaps aiding in the depiction of such animals in southwest U.S. rock art.

**Updates, proboscidea, step bison, and tattoos (cont.)**

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

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak
Sequel to Pleiades articles

By Ray Urbaniak
Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist

Did an invisible star in the Pleiades go nova and become bright in the year 1600 BC when there was a crescent moon in the Sky? Or perhaps closer to 1800 BC? (see Note 1 at the end of this article). In the past two PCN articles on Pleiades depictions in U.S. rock art we compared the Native American depiction to another depiction by the Australian Aborigines and to the Nebra Sky Disc depiction. See Fig. 1 reproducing the Paiute Reservation and Nebra Sky Disk comparison. See also the articles, Dating a remarkable petroglyph site through visual clues (PCN #50, Nov-Dec 2017) and The Pleiades 1600 BC (PCN #54, July-August 2018).

Recently I noticed Peter D. Bowden’s (University of Salford Centre for Health Sciences Research) Facebook photo appears to show yet another rock art Southwest U.S. depiction of the Pleiades cluster that supports our reported findings in the prior two PCN articles (Fig. 2). The panel is near Moab, UT, and includes the crescent moon, as well as a Sun image as does the Nebra Sky Disc. The uncanny similarity between these three depictions alone (see Fig. 3 for a view of the Nebra Disk showing the crescent moon) adds strong support to the suggestion the Pleiades 7-star cluster actually looked exactly like the Arizona Paiute Reservation petroglyph shown in PCN #50 and #54.

As to ‘nova,’ it is the sudden appearance of what appears to be a bright “new” star. Novas slowly fade over several weeks or several months. What I am suggesting is that the crescent moon seen on both the Moab, Utah, panel in Bowden’s photograph and the Nebra Sky Disc may indicate the nova star first appeared during a crescent moon. By the way, viewing the moon from different latitudes can cause the moon, etc., to be seen in slightly different orientations.

The Nebra Sky disk is from a site in Germany near Nebra, Saxony-Anhalt, and dated by association with other artifacts to c. 1600 BC. Since the Utah panel was painted on the rock face mirroring the heavens I have flipped the Pleiades image (Sky depictions on rock art. are either painted or pecked as observed, others are painted or pecked mirroring the heavens.) On the following page, the star in this circled area of Fig. 4, I suspect went Nova at the time of the rock face panel was probably painted approx. 1600 BC.

Astronomer R. J. Trumpler of SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System, Harvard, in an article simply called, “The Pleiades,” had the following to say regarding an ‘invisible’ star in Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific: “What I am suggesting is that the crescent moon seen on both the Moab, Utah, panel in Bowden’s photograph and the Nebra Sky Disc may indicate the nova star first appeared during a crescent moon.”
Sequel to Pleiades articles (cont.)

"The Archaeology article says the depiction of the Pleiades dates to 1800 BC. If true, the nova would have occurred at this time, making these two Native American depictions most likely 3,800 years old."

It is definitely possible the Native American people who painted the crescent moon on the Utah panel also used it to insert a "leap month." However, I feel the primary reason was to record a nova event in the Pleiades, because the Pleiades didn't and doesn't look like this normally!

And since I determined the Utah panel 'mirrored' the heavens the crescent moon would be to the lower right of the Pleiades which is the same relative position to the Pleiades as the crescent moon on the Nebra Sky Disk.

Note 1: "The Archaeology article says the depiction of the Pleiades dates to 1800 BC. If true, the nova would have occurred at this time, making these two Native American depictions most likely 3,800 years old."

Benn Pikyavit, a highly respected elder of the local band of Paiute Indians, says:

"We believe that the star People came from either Pleiades or Orion, which brought us here. Pleiades is where we return to after death, we stay there until the second section of the Funeral Ceremony, then on our way to the Milky Way."

(Quoted with permission.)

In fact, the Pleiades is deemed so sacred that Benn has a tattoo of the Pleiades on his arm.

Benn added, "The Pleiades on my arm indicates that I am one of those that helps the Spirit reach these different levels."

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

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak
Natural representations theory

What the experts really think

By John Feliks

"What distinguished the natural representations theory was its connection to actual physical evidence...This evidence was fossils collected, curated, and worked as personal ornaments, etc., by Paleolithic people all the way back to the Acheulian of Homo erectus."

Issue I considered it again. The subject brings back memories of a very trying academic time and a paper close to my heart for the past 25 years. In fact, trying to publish my thesis, The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation, which included shadows and a central element called the natural representations theory (Figs. 1–2) was my first experience with dogma-driven suppression in anthropology, plagiarism, and denigration by competitive reviewers including editors with conflicts of interest. The above and others were anthropology traits I was soon made aware of by leaders at the top of the field who were disconcerted and baffled by the scientific censorship of Current Anthropology, (BTW, there have been many theories about shadows and art origins which I cited in the 1998 paper.) As it turns out, evidence that early human intelligence was like our own was not acceptable. The natural representations theory challenged what became the destructive science fad of entoptic phenomena theories that early artists—compelled by hallucinations—had no idea what they were doing but were acting out a sort of unconscious 'automatic writing.' Entoptics and 'phosphene' theories were aggressively promoted as the "final word" on the origins of art. The paper was censored from mainstream publication by way of competitive researchers whose identities were concealed by anonymous peer review. When the journal promoting the debate determines in secret what rigorous work the public can or cannot see those who place trust in science lose the right of seeing all the evidence. That's how propaganda, not science, works.

The problem of evidence blocking in anthropology is that some peer reviewers are so invested in their "own" theories that they will take opportunities to block a competitor's work while being informed on the latest ideas. Such ideas some then apply to adjusting their own work without citing what prompted changes or, in worst case scenarios, complete about-faces or the presenting of ideas as their own which they actually lifted from competitive reviewers insisting on the latest ideas. Some reviewers may apply competing ideas as their own changes or, in worst case scenarios, complete about-faces or the presenting of ideas as their own which they actually lifted from competitive reviewers insisting on the latest ideas.

The paper challenged neuroscience fads of the 80's and 90's and was blocked from publication by competitive researchers insisting Paleolithic people were not intelligent enough to recognize images. Since evidence like this is blocked from the public many still see H. erectus and Neanderthals as incapable of symbolism. The idea of 'natural representations' began with the author's field experience of mistaking fern shadows at a fossil locality for fern fossils.

Reasons to reproduce reputable comments and full text

Competitive theorist and Editor of Rock Art Research, Robert Bednarik (well-known for suppression of competitive researchers including famed Portuguese archaeologist, Joao Zilhao, and a long list of others including myself) who eventually published the paper after its years of back-and-forth review has refused to provide PDFs to readers requesting them, including the author (a paying RAR subscriber at the time), while freely providing PDFs of a plagiarist's entoptics papers.

> Cont. on page 23
This has created an additional problem when attempting to circulate the paper as many over the years have requested a ‘published’ PDF which I have never been able to provide. When they find a print copy they are faced with negative attached comments including Robert’s ‘no value’ comment and an invited reviewer’s sardonic comment that would never be published in any reputable journal. These provide buffer for Robert’s ‘phosphenes’ theory. Since Robert has dealt with the paper as competitive theorist, reviewer, reviewer selector, and Editor-in-chief dictating PDF access he has had control over the paper’s reception. So, after 20 years, I finally decided to try and transcend the circumstances choreographed by Robert by offering meaningful comments on The Impact of Fossils sent to me and Current Anthropology by objective international scientists and at the same time offer the paper as installments in PCN. It may be awkward but at least PCN readers will have access if they have the interest. Along with the experts’ comments after Current Anthropology censored the paper, I showcase two examples of how Robert actually thought which he hid in some obscure text. Hopefully, after 20 years all these comments will help readers care about science see how the story of early humans as inferiors is done by blocking evidence of their intelligence. The reader will see a consistent questioning the scientific integrity of the field’s leading journal.

Finally, at the time of my CA and RAR experiences, anthropology had not yet required statements from reviewers on conflicts of interest. It was also before general awareness the field could not be trusted with anonymous peer review and resulting calls for transparency. Had these protections existed when I submitted The Impact of Fossils to CA (1995–1997) it would have weedled out many competitive reviewers not wanting the paper to see the light of day. Anthropology has long exercised control like this over beliefs about the nature of humanity. For this reason alone the field should be held to a high standard of accountability.

Comments on The Impact of Fossils and its suppression from experts showing its censorship does not reflect objective opinion and that ideas supporting intelligent early humans should be available to everyone:

“Dear Dr. Feliks… I found your paper absolutely riveting. … and given one ‘furiously to think’ … [Regarding the role of entoptics] I am not sure that the hypotheses are necessarily antithetical—for there may be analogous morphogenetic constraints affecting both ‘entoptic’ forms and organic/fossil ones (as you yourself bring up on p. 119 of your paper)—see a thought on this in my Migraine (p. 289 enclosed). … Beautifully presented and fascinating paper.”

—Dr. Oliver Sacks, neurologist, author of Awakenings (and protagonist of the R. De Niro, R. Williams film); fern and fossils expert. Excerpts from a full-page handwritten letter. The late Dr. Sacks was a longtime subscriber to PCN.

“Dear Current Anthropology: [John Feliks’]… accompanying materials are quite surprising given my past and recent excellent experience with Current Anthropology. … There is considerable originality represented, which in my view is at the heart of all scientific enterprise… it might be appropriate to seek a third set of reviewers… I am aware that I am probably out of order to even suggest the above, however, rock art studies being what they are, need every bit of sensible creativity they can get.”

—Dr. Christy G. Turner II, renowned sociocultural anthropologist, pioneer of dental anthropology, linguistics, perimortem taphonomy, and expert on the populating of the Americas, genetics, and the interaction between human and animals during the Ice Age.

“Extraordinarily interesting. … I find myself reacting… by saying, ‘It’s so obvious; why didn’t I think of that!?’… I believe that Current Anthropology is the single most appropriate outlet… do quote me!” “The parallels you draw are tantalizing, seductive even…a wonderfully interesting piece of work!”

—Dr. John L. Bradshaw, neuropsychologist, author, Clinical Neuropsychology: Behavioral and Brain Science; Human Evolution: a Neuropsychological Perspective; expert on the evolution of language, praxis and tool use, synesthesia, and spatial representation.

“Dear Dr. Feliks, I have read your piece with great interest. I can see the force of the argument, and I wonder why [Current Anthropology] would not publish it.”

—Dr. Rom Harre, internationally-renowned psychologist, mathematician, and social scientist.

“I read [The Impact of Fossils] with the greatest interest. It strikes me as a very important paper… which Current Anthropology was typically stupid to let pass. … Your complex figures in the third section are actually more impressive! … I am delighted that you show a more reasonable and sensible explanation for the so-called ‘entoptics’ than the rather pointless L-W/D version [promoted by Current Anthropology] which merely proves that the artists were human beings.” “The acceptance procedures of Current Anthropology have long baffled me, with good papers rejected, and a lot of rubbish published prominently.”

—Dr. Paul G. Bahn, archaeologist, author, Journey Through the Ice Age. Excerpt from multi-page response educating on the whole structure of anthropology suppression and denigration. Proving Dr. Bahn’s point, Current Anthropology later breezed straight through to publication—without a hitch—a neuro-fad paper by a plagiarist of The Impact of Fossils who six years...

> Cont. on page 24
Natural representations theory (cont.)

Later with Robert started a record "5-year censorship" of the Graphics of Bilzingsleben—also by the author.

"Richard Fox does it again!"
– Dr. Randall White, anthropologist, NYU, author Prehistoric Art: The Symbolic Journey of Humankind.

Reaction message from a leading Current Anthropology reviewer to censorship of The Impact of Fossils after two years review of being 'ping-ponged' by CA's Editor. Dr. White, intrigued by the paper, broke anonymity to discuss it and update me on his excavations at La Souquette and other famous Aurignacian sites in France. He filled in gaps regarding competitive problems in anthropology Dr. Bahn may have missed. The fact that 22 years have passed and anthropology is still duping the public by blocking important evidence of fully intelligent Paleolithic humans shows the field seriously lacks scientific accountability.

"I found [Feliks'] paper most interesting and stimulating, and in the portions that are most in my field of 'expertise' was in accord with much of what the author wrote. If this is a...first it is certainly worthy of congratulations. It is good to see a reference list that covers a wide range, both in time and topic, and the author shows evidence that he has really used the references."
– Dr. David Branagan, Australia's foremost geologist.

"I am impressed—both with the comparison sketches you offer, and by the hypotheses."
– Dr. Ted A. Maxwell, geologist; Senior Scientist National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution; expert early human migration. Assoc. Dir. Collections and Research, NASM. Associate Editor, Air & Space—Smithsonian, more than 50 publications planetary research.

"Your hypothesis is...highly provocative."

"A fascinating argument that observations of plant and invertebrate fossils inspired the invention of rock art."
– Adrienne Mayor, celebrated science historian, mythology expert, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford; Fossil Legends of the First Americans.

"Startlingly original and very convincing."
– Adrienne Mayor

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

"Feliks' use of fossils offers a superb bridging argument... fossils appear to be the only external phenomena that happen to be referent and referent rolled into one... This would solve one of the major problems in the development of human cognition."
– Robert Bednarik

Below are the Abstract and Key words for the paper:

The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation


Abstract

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

1.) Fossils were a means by which human beings came to understand the concepts of 'imagery' and 'substitution' prior to the creation of man-made images.

2.) Humans evolved their own forms of iconic visual representation (especially those in the medium of rock), having first been made aware of various possibilities via fossils.

3.) Many unexplained prehistoric artworks may be structurally and proportionally accurate depictions of fossils.

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

Key words:

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

End of PCN excerpt first half of The Impact of Fossils, Part 1. To be continued next issue.

The next installment will include the Introduction and the following topics, among a few others:

PART I

PRIMING THE DEPICTIVE MIND:

AWARENESS OF FOSSILS AS PRECURSOR TO DEPICTION

the "natural representations theory" -JF
Understanding Australian prehistory accurately depends on honest non-politicized research

By Vesna Tenodi, MA archaeology; artist, writer, former 25-year employee of the Australian Government

"No wonder that everyone wants to be an Aborigine these days, and as a result we now have about 40,000 real, tribal Aborigines, and more than 400,000 fake ones."

"The famous Bradshaw paintings (Fig. 1) represent only part of the evidence there were other people besides the Aborigines in Australia during the Pleistocene."

"Politics of deception "

Ten years ago, in 2009, my book, Dreamtime Set in Stone: The Truth about Australian Aborigines, was published. A group of Aborigines were "outraged" and promptly vandalized my house. Their anger was enough to set the Aboriginal industry in motion—its taxpayer-funded lawyers were dissecting every word, demanding a retraction of my claims and sending me threats of legal action.

Their two "trump cards" that they believed would enable them to start a court case against me consisted of a couple of sentences taken out of context. One was the sentence "Aborigines are a dying race." The other one was "Aborigines are not Australia's 'first people,' as there were advanced Pre-Aboriginal races inhabiting our continent long before the ancestors of contemporary Aborigines arrived."

They failed, as no court would accept their spurious claims. So they resorted to malicious accusations and personal insults. They declared my hypothesis scientific heresy, and attacked my art—referenced to Australian prehistory—as "blasphemy." Some of their lawyers were publicly threatening to sue me for "blasphemy" and demanded for my art to be destroyed (ABC radio, Law Report, October 2010).

[BTW, the famous controversial Bradshaw paintings (Fig. 1) represent only part of the evidence there were other people besides the Aborigines in Australia during the Pleistocene. They give an immediate sense of a refined social hierarchy commonly seen in agricultural societies but dissimilar to the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of the Aborigines. Other crucial evidence now ignored is that when Joseph Bradshaw discovered the paintings in the 1890s, his Aboriginal informants disavowed any connection to them, telling him they were "rubbish" paintings someone left there. With Bradshaw watching, the Aborigines also painted over the paintings while repeating "It's just rubbish, as if birds pecked on the rock, so we call them Gwion Gwion, a bird with a long beak." This is all very unlike modern Aboriginal claims (see my articles, Pre-Aboriginal Australian rock art: Wanjina and Bradshaw figures (PCN #17, May-June 2012), Wanjina & Bradshaw-style rock art in other parts of the world (PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012), and Decoding the messages of pre-Aboriginal rock art—Part 1 (PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015).]

The Aboriginal industry's over-the-top accusations of me backfired, and their criticism of my work in both archaeology and art had unintended consequences—in the long run, their fury brought me a lot of support. Some people finally realized that the well-intended policy of helping Aboriginal tribes has turned into an appalling ideological tyranny that should no longer be tolerated.

"The Aboriginal industry's over-the-top accusations of me backfired, and their criticism of my work in both archaeology and art had unintended consequences—in the long run, their fury brought me a lot of support. Some people finally realized that the well-intended policy of helping Aboriginal tribes has turned into an appalling ideological tyranny that should no longer be tolerated."

Australians are smart, but they are often too kindhearted when it comes to Aborigines, and too timid to speak up when the time is right. Most of them were unaware that, while we were sleeping, 60% of our continent has been given to a handful of tribes based on false claims that they have some "sacred" connection to a particular area. They are now questioning why we, the Australian taxpayers, have to give more than $33 billion every year to Aborigines, who also receive countless billions in royalties from the mining companies that work on "their" land, to never hear as much as a "thank you." It seems that the misdirected policy of our Government has made Aborigines not only the most privileged but also, apparently, the richest people on earth. No wonder that everyone wants to be an Aborigine these days, and as a result we now have about 40,000 real, tribal Aborigines, and more than 400,000 fake ones—the white people who masquerade as Aborigines, for the sake of all the privileges that self-proclaimed aboriginality automatically brings them.

We've created a monster"

After half a century of constant brainwashing with stories about a culture that never > Cont. on page 26
“In order to elevate the tribes to something other than Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, the first priority was to destroy archaeological material which didn’t fit the desired narrative.”

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

actually existed, most Australians only recently started to realize that we have been systematically deceived by these appeals to our compassionate hearts and generosity of spirit.

Despite being elevated to the status of a “national treasure” and showered with money and privileges, Australian Aborigines are embittered, angry, and violent.

Some brave Australian intellectuals have been warning of the disastrous consequences of the pro-Aboriginal policy of our Government. They are warning of more harm to come to the Australian people, because,

“The goal of Aboriginal political activists today is to gain ‘sovereignty’ and create a black state, equivalent to the existing states. Its territory, comprising all land defined as native title, will soon amount to more than 60 per cent of the whole Australian continent”


Despite all the decades of effort and countless billions of dollars, there is no improvement in remote Aboriginal communities. The same author doesn’t mince words and denounces those communities as “cesspits of alcoholism, drug taking, homicide, suicide, domestic violence and the sexual abuse of children” and describes these communities in their ‘homelands’—a concept that was borrowed from North America— as “cultural and political disasters” (*Ibid*).

It would seem that this fabricated culture, invented by the Aboriginal industry, is being used to keep robbing us of our country, our values, and our basic human right to live in our own country without fear of Aboriginal violence. It seems we have created a monster.

Paleolithic culture reinvented as a “civilization”

This overview of the Australian recent past is necessary to understand how much damage has been done by archaeologists and anthropologists who have been willing participants in this fabrication of a non-existent culture.

In order to elevate the tribes to something other than Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, the first priority was to destroy archaeological material which didn’t fit the desired narrative, and in order to make the new paradigm sustainable, also to ignore those finds which prove the existence of pre-Aboriginal races and cultures.

One of the most vocal objectors to this destruction of what should be regarded as world heritage and rigorously analyzed by any scientist interested in the subject, was late Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney, known as the father of Australian archaeology. Mulvaney raised his voice when the fossilized remains return policy had started, when a large number of skeletons from the Kow Swamp site (*Fig. 2*) were returned from Melbourne’s museum and destroyed, as well as when Mungo Man remains from the Willandra Lake site were “returned.” About Kow Swamp Dr. Mulvaney said:

“This carefully excavated cemetery was unique in that the large sample was dated from 8000 to 14,000 years, came from one locality and their cranial features suggested either descent from Homo erectus or an early cultural practice of head binding.”


We appealed on television for the bones not to be returned. So, in his frustration, he pointed a finger at the real culprits who are always willing to lie, defining them as “those consultants who are inexperienced or less qualified who may report in a manner their employer hopes for, regardless of reality.”

He wanted all fossilized human remains saved for scientific reasons, for DNA testing, which could easily prove who is who in this land of identity politics. That was exactly what the Aboriginal industry would never allow—to have the genetic proof of whether any of the bones have anything in common with contemporary tribes. They knew the land claims policy would be proven to be baseless. In the end, Professor Mulvaney started ridiculing the decisions which destroyed our archaeology, especially the decision that the Kow Swamp remains “must be ‘returned’—to a community some 400 generations removed” (*Ibid*).

With our most important archaeological finds destroyed, and archaeology reduced to endless litanies about the sanctity of Aboriginal Stone Age culture, I know that the battle that so many great people fought, for saving the archaeological finds, is now lost.

> **Cont. on page 27**
Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

What bothers me these days is this Newspeak we are forced to adopt. The whole new jargon when talking about Aborigines. What irritates me is that the promoters of these lies believe that Australians are dumb and will adopt any terminology invented and dictated by the Aboriginal industry. Among most recent mandatory synonyms enforced through constant repetition in all the media, is calling Australian prehistoric culture a “civilization.”

This is yet another fantasy dreamed up by the Aboriginal industry, betting on ignorance of the meaning of the term. Indeed, ordinary Australians would think nothing of it, just start repeating it and, voila, we can trumpet to the world that we’ve got the “first civilization.”

The worry is that this new jargon is now included at all levels of education, including in primary school books, so that children will know from day one that we have the “oldest civilization in the world.”

Growing up in this ideological climate, the children are never going to be told that the word ‘civilization’ comes from the Latin word ‘civitas’ (city) and ‘civis’ (citizen—someone who lives in the city). That there is a huge difference between a typical Paleolithic (the Old Stone Age) culture of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers—such as was the Aboriginal culture that the settlers found in Australia—and civilization as we know it.

But the Aboriginal industry is now committed to spinning this new lie that Aborigines built cities and were organized as its citizens (hence ‘civilized’). We all know that Aborigines as the British settlers found them in 1788 never made the transition to the Neolithic—the New Stone Age—and never invented any of the markers of what is known as the Neolithic Revolution. Unlike some advanced ancient cultures elsewhere in the world, Australian Aborigines never invented clothes, pottery, metalwork, never built settled settlements nor had agriculture, and never made any of the discoveries that are typical for Neolithic cultures elsewhere.

But rather than being upset about our children being fed this nonsense by fake scientists and their junk science, I have become resigned to our reality—we are where we are, and I have decided to do exactly what my friend, John Mulvaney, did in the end—to ridicule the mindless and the corrupt.

Thanks to good friends, I have access to Aboriginal fossilized skulls and bones, as well as to Australian Paleolithic artifacts kept in Europe. With scientific venues disappearing I use images of these in my art to show what real Australian prehistory looks like. In modern history suppressed knowledge has often been expressed in the arts.

**Fossil skulls available for study via 3D scanning**

There is also good news in light of Australian archaeological evidence destruction. With recent developments in computer technology, 3D scanning has become part of scientific routine. Museums and institutions that house ancient fossils, including human skulls and skeletons, have been scanning the specimens in their collections for more than a decade (Nature, March 6, 2019). This means people worldwide can now use ‘virtual fossils’ for their studies.

Perhaps even more exciting is the fact that scientists are now converting 3D photos of ancient fossils, including fossilized human remains, into 3D models. There are several complex programs that are now being used for converting 2D images to 3D models. Scientists in Asia are currently converting photos of ancient Aboriginal skulls, as well as photos of past and present Aborigines, into 3D skull models.

We are already able to share the print-ready scans of skulls, digital morphology data, and 3D STL files—ready for 3D printing, as soon as they are uploaded online. With 3D printers being quite affordable these days, many of us will soon be able to print a model of any ancient skull, in our own home.

In light of this, the hysterical demands of the Aboriginal industry for all of our fossilized human remains to be “returned” and destroyed, and all relevant photos removed from the internet, have become redundant.

I wonder how the Aboriginal industry is going to deal with these new developments. Perhaps they will start the fight for control over ‘virtual fossils.’ Or, perhaps, they will see the light and change their hostile attitude and apologize to those of us who they have offended and harassed for years, just for doing our job.

Despite my horrible experiences with the Aboriginal industry, I would still like to have a Kow Swamp skull replica on my desk and new 3D technologies will make that possible.

VESNA TENODI is an archaeologist, artist, and writer based in Sydney, Australia. She received her Master’s in Archaeology from Univ. of Zagreb, Croatia. She also has a diploma in Fine Arts from the School of Applied Arts in Zagreb. Her Degree Thesis focused on the spirituality of Neolithic man in Central Europe as evidenced in iconography and symbols in prehistoric cave art and pottery. In 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. She is developing a theory of the Pre-Aboriginal races which she has called the Kajanes and Abrajaness. In 2009, Tenodi founded the DreamRaiser project, a group of artists exploring iconography and ideas contained in ancient art and mythology. Website: www.modrogorje.com E-mail: ves.ten2017@gmail.com All of Tenodi’s articles published in Pleistocene Coalition News can be found at the following link: http://pleistocenecoalition.com/vesna_tenodi
Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is unlike that promoted by mainstream science.

Explore and regain confidence in your own ability to think for yourself regarding human ancestry as a broader range of evidence becomes available to you.

Join a community not afraid to challenge the status quo. Question with confidence any paradigm promoted as “scientific” that depends upon withholding conflicting evidence from the public in order to appear unchallenged.

Prehistory is about to change