



PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

JULY - AUGUST 2017

Inside

PAGE 2

An avocational archaeology page?
(reprint PCN #9, 2011)

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

PAGE 3

Now it's Monte Verdi first?

Chris Hardaker

PAGES 6-7

Member news and other information

Patricio Bustamante,
Virginia Steen-McIntyre,
John Feliks

PAGE 6

Kudos for recent issues of PCN

Our readers

PAGE 7

Paleolithic-style tools in Atacama Desert, Chile

John Feliks

PAGE 8

Hand-axes dredged up in U.K. Who made them?

Richard Dullum and
Kevin Lynch

PAGE 11

Eoliths, figure stones, and found art revisited

Brett Martin

PAGE 14

Ice Age animal depictions passed down through oral tradition

Ray Urbaniak

PAGE 17

Two perplexing big news items

Vesna Tenodi

- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

The problem of wide-ranging Pleistocene–Recent tool types and intellectual skills

Oldowan, Acheulian, Mousterian; *H. habilis*, *H. erectus*, Neanderthals; and then *H. sapiens*; the mainstream seems to have it all wrapped up in a nice neat evolutionary package starting in Africa.



Multiform tool; Norfolk, U.K. Dullum & Lynch [p.8](#) discuss tool types and implications.



Top: Biface, Ghatchi, Chile, Kenya. Ana María Barón Parra. See [p.7](#).



Multiuse tools: Ghatchi, Chile (Ana María Barón Parra, [p.7](#)); Lake Manix, CA (Tom Baldwin; link [p.6](#)); Evansville, IN (R.Doninger; link right).

However, things quickly become less cut and dried when we find Oldowan, Acheulian, and Mousterian-type tools in unexpected places like the Americas. It creates problems for the mainstream's prehistoric migration stories because the mainstream is committed to the idea that the users of these tech-



Left: PCN added this sketch of a standard "Middle Paleolithic" or Neanderthal Levallois point (F. Bordes, 1961, *Gallia Préhistoire*) after we received the **Middle** submission from amateur field collector Richard Doninger. The artifact is part of a massive collection of similar artifacts found in southwest Indiana—a region most people don't associate with Neanderthals. A glance at Doninger's collection in the Avocational Archaeology section of [PCN #34, March-April 2015](#) and [PCN #35, May-June 2015](#) will show that if amateur collectors adopt archaeological documentation they will add to a formidable challenge against mainstream dogma. **Right:** Levallois point collected by archaeologist Ana María Barón Parra; Atacama Desert, northern Chile. Middle Paleolithic? Another problem.

to block or ignore conflicting evidence. This is why non-mainstream researchers are becoming more important. Their growing body of evidence is a sign that we are entering a new era in archaeological discovery.



Ray Urbaniak (M) continues his thought-provoking series on possible animal descriptions passed down through oral history. He invites Paiute elder Benn Pikyavit (L) to see one such depiction, [p.14](#). Archaeologist Chris Hardaker (R) hits the mainstream hard, [p.3](#).



Dullum and Lynch—Classic British Archaeology with modern perspective, [p.8](#).



Archaeologist Vesna Tenodi reports on two controversial items in the news, [p.17](#).

nologies were not intelligent enough to make it to the New World. To make their ideas look like facts their practice has been



VSM's Avocational Archaeology continues raising the bar this time featuring figure stones collector, Brett Martin. One advantage such collectors have over mainstream thought is their unwritten presumption that early people were of like mind to us and likely to have seen figurative imagery just as we do, [p.11](#).

An avocational archaeology page? (reprint PCN #9 Jan-Feb 2011; [p.2](#))



By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD volcanic ash specialist

"There's an old saying that a three-strand cord is not easily broken. Can the same apply to a newsletter? One of the original goals of Pleis-

tocene Coalition News was to bring together for mutual appreciation the works of artists and scientists, two groups that rarely mingle professionally. But we are overlooking another major group in our search for truth in the early man field, one that would

form the third strand in the cord, thus giving our newsletter a strong base: the avocational archaeologist." See [p.2](#) for the article and update.

[Revisiting PCN #9 \(Jan-Feb 2011\)...](#)

An avocational archaeology page?

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD geologist, volcanic ash specialist

"It is the avocational archaeologist who often makes the critical 'first find' of an important new discovery, a point that may never reach the media in the follow-up professional news releases from museums and universities."



There's an old saying that a three-strand cord is not easily broken. Can the same apply to a newsletter?

One of the original goals of *Pleistocene Coalition News* was to bring together for mutual appreciation the works of artists and scientists, two groups that rarely mingle professionally. But we are overlooking another major group in our search for truth in the early man field, one that would form the third strand in the cord, thus giving our newsletter a strong base: the avocational archaeologist.

Traditionally there has been little love between the professional and the amateur archaeologist. "Pot Hunter" is just one of the epithets one hears in the halls of science, and it is often applied across the board. A pity. It is the avocational archaeologist who often makes the critical "first find" of an important new discovery, a point that may never reach the media in the follow-up professional news releases from museums and universities.

Perhaps this newsletter can help change that by establishing an avocational archaeology page, one where non-professionals can share their thoughts and ideas, as well as their photos of interesting artifacts and art pieces they have found, all without fear of harsh criticism by professionals or actual confiscation of their prize "in the name of science."

This need became evident to me when I tried to place my edited version of Ron Alexander's "Driveway Archaeology"

piece in the November-December issue. What to call it? Not a scientific article, not an art piece, but still an interesting idea that should be shared with our readers.

The addition of such a page could benefit us all. As the barrier comes down between the professional and the amateur real dialog and sharing can take place: new ideas about point-type distribution; new insights on fabricating techniques (many amateurs are also flint knappers and paleo-tool makers); new brains to pick! We professionals can do our part by suggesting how to document the position of an important find (photos, photos, photos!), how to photograph a piece (scale!), how NOT to clean the prize completely, and why.

As you can tell, we are only at the beginning stages of this idea. Interested? Contact me to share your thoughts.

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

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

http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/#virginia_steen_mcintyre

From the Eds. [Avocational Archaeology](#) is a section started by Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre in *PCN* #9—nearly 40 issues ago (Jan-Feb 2011). The idea was to encourage the amateur collecting community to upgrade their work by using more scientific collecting and documenting practices to increase the value of their finds. From the beginning it included many important archaeological practices most collectors didn't know about like not to wash totally clean their finds. This is so that matrix material adhering to the finds may be available for dating. Other advice also included some basic documentary photography techniques including photographing finds with a size scale (inches, millimeters) and preferably not with coins. This is because international audiences have different sizes of coins. Perhaps the most important piece of advice is to record the exact *in situ* context of the finds even if they were surface collected.

As the mainstream professional community continues to lose respect through the blocking of papers and evidence showing that early human cognition was like our own as well as evidence for very early human presence in the Americas it is increasingly important for amateurs to take up the slack. This is especially so in the fields most important to the Pleistocene Coalition—anthropology, biology, and paleontology. We encourage avocational researchers the world over who may not know that many of the most important contributions in these fields were made by amateurs.

Now it's Monte Verde first?¹

By Chris Hardaker, MA archaeologist

"Rocks falling off high cliffs and...the capuchin monkey flint-knapping wonders of the world were the reasons given by US archaeologists debunking Pedra Furada, a site with 20,000 year old rock art, not to mention a probable 45,000-year+ record of occupancy."



My take on the Cerutti Mastodon Site (CMS) was included in the prior issue (PCN #47, May-June 2017).

This is a review of certain aspects of a critique of the site recently published in Mike Waters' *PaleoAmerica*. That paper is a group effort by some of the biggest hitters in US archaeology,

and assisted by the editorial staff of the same journal. This would not constitute a peer-reviewed article, more like a peer-assisted one: Team *PaleoAmerica*. It questions the conclusions for a 130,000 year-old archaeology site in San Diego announced a few months ago² in the journal *Nature*, the zenith of science publications. *Nature* is peer reviewed. For Team *PaleoAmerica*, Monte Verde, Chile is still the earliest recognized site at 14-18,000 years. In 1999, "Clovis First" was changed to "Monte Verde First." Since then, almost 20 years later, like before, everyone else is wrong.

The *Nature* paper, after surviving intense peer-review, earned the right to a seat at the First American Roundtable. *PaleoAmerica* is contesting that right. This criticism from *PaleoAmerica* voices the current official view of the *Society for American Archaeology*, a.k.a. the Vatican; for example, this is the voice you need to have if you want to qualify for one of the prestigious grants in First American studies—which includes promising not to find anything older than 20,000 years.

Team *PaleoAmerica* twice demands obedience to the

popular Saganism, "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." Somewhere along the way these seasoned scholars forgot about its twin, Occam's Razor: "When two competing hypotheses explain the data equally well, choose the simpler" (dictionary.com). And though the battle against Team Cerutti is a huge one, the venue's arena is fairly small, a warm-up. It is largely written to assure graduate students in the US branch of anthropology that all is well and that there's nothing to see here, putting them on notice before the fall semester begins. The rest of the US field is not so sure but they have learned to keep their mouths shut; besides if you have ever lived through a Clovis First tirade against a serious challenger, you have heard it all before.³

Extraordinary "What-Ifs"

Two unforgettable "untried but true" claims for scuttling discoveries that conflict with the 'Monte Verde First' narrative are: waterfalls of rocks mimicking stone artifacts, and/or it was capuchin monkeys breaking the rocks for tens of thousands of years; and, dancing and/or wallowing elephants fracturing their deceased relatives' skeletons, thereby mimicking bone tools and artifacts. At the CMS, it was fractured mastodon molars and femurs—ever see a mastodon's femur?

Another stinker from the 70s was the old ploy about an "errant coal seam" that lost its way from the mother seam over two miles away, and happened to wander into Meadowcroft Rockshelter and contaminated the

16,000 year old dates. This was only an expert's suggestion, a what-if comment, but it alone was enough to contaminate the rockshelter's claim, which in turn begat the equally unforgettable, "Clovis Mafia." As the decades rolled on, no evidence of such contamination in the rockshelter was ever established. Why is it not even mentioned in the current paper, though it is concurrent with Monte Verde? Might it involve a vendetta?

My favorite anti-"Clovis First" remark came when Monte Verde's acceptance brought back the forbidden idea that Pleistocene travelers from Siberia came across in boats and cruised down the west coast. This was a Canadian proposal from the 70s that was quickly exorcised from the table of the US experts (the only table that matters). With Monte Verde, ancient navigation was brought back onto the table to the delight of many frustrated professionals. Here, some of that professional exasperation leaked out.

"Hypothetically there was nothing wrong with proposing a coastal entry, but it seems the Clovis school argued: 'the west coast might have been the route by which people entered the Americas, but the evidence will never be found to prove it was the route, therefore it wasn't the route.'"⁴

What would *Nature* do with that zinger? Whenever an offending claim is put on the table, out pours Team *PaleoAmerica*'s litany of what-ifs to hockey stick the damn site off the table. Rocks falling off high cliffs and (falling on?) the capuchin monkey flintknapping wonders of the

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

Now it's Monte Verde first? (cont.)

world were the reasons given by US archaeologists debunking Pedra Furada, a site with 20,000 year old

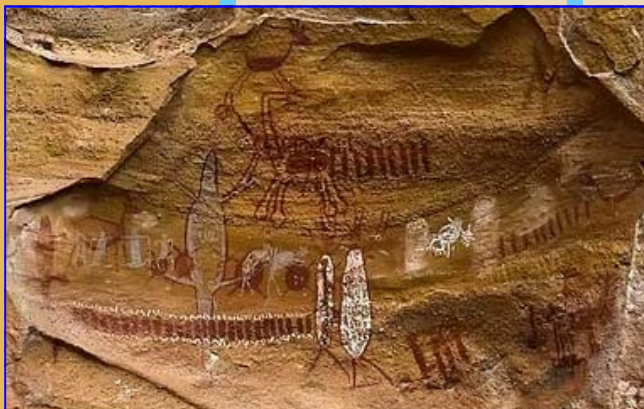


Fig. 1. Pedra Furada 20,000-year old "Capuchin monkey" art? Photo by Diego Rego Monteiro; Wikimedia Commons.

"Ten years later he recants the earlier dates. Now, almost twenty years after that, he returns for another go. Both times he digs the same site, both times he finds undeniable artifacts deeper down, dating from 25–33,000 years old. Not good enough, both times."

rock art (**Fig. 1**), not to mention a probable 45,000-year+ record of occupancy.⁵

Omissions

Routinely, in order to smear a Pre-Clovis site and defrock the rogue, the Firsters have only to mention these generic causes—rather than demonstrate them. It is guilt by association with an enemy theory. But it's not always black and white. In fact, we have an interesting conundrum in front of us right now. One of the *PaleoAmerica* authors actually discovered Monte Verde, and yet now agrees with his colleagues and rejects his 25–33,000 year old dates as not good enough, dates he initially celebrated in his own letter to *Nature* back in 1988.⁶ Ten years later he recants the earlier dates. Now, almost twenty years after that, he returns for another go. Both times he digs the same site, both times he finds undeniable artifacts deeper down, dating from 25–33,000 years old. Not good enough, both times.⁷

Nearer to the North Pole, it is apparent that the A-Listers involved with this piece all agreed that 24,000-year-old

Canadian sites don't count either. How this award-winning team effort could so easily ignore the huge announcement in January of a 24,000-year date for Bluefish Caves is academically unimaginable for any discussion of the First Americans.⁸

Bluefish was quickly debunked during the 1970s by the same kind of thinking you see here. Now it's back. Maybe in this way the team can avoid having to say they, and/or their Clovis First ancestral professors, were wrong forty years ago? If Team PaleoAmerica

submitted this paper to *Nature* would its peer reviewing gargoyles inquire about this giant omission? That maybe there's some sort of ethno-nationalism going on across the pond?

Claim: "*Scientists have found nothing to indicate hominins were ... in far northeast Asia before ~50 kya.*"

Embarrassing? Hilarious? Inexcusable? Ironic? Egregious? If there is a word that combines all of these words, I sure don't know it, but it would apply to the omission used to make this statement. It is also that much more shocking when you consider that the truth of the oldest NE Asian occupancy was probably just a few steps away from *PaleoAmerica's* own editorial office, probably sitting in his A&M office, i.e. your Boss!

Team PaleoAmerica's strategy here comes from the Clovis First era, as does its data, it appears. Hypothetically, if humans did not conquer the demands of arctic living before 50,000 years ago, then there is no reason to argue that they were capable of crossing the landbridge either. The claim here, in 2017, is that there is no evidence

from NE Asia older than 50ky. Twenty-two years ago they might have had a point.

Dear Team PaleoAmerica:

Does Diring Yuriakh ring a bell?

What about *Mammoth Trum-pet*—say, January 1996, Vol. 11 (1): p.1?

Have you ever heard of a "Michael Waters"?

In the 1990s, Mike Waters published a couple articles on Diring Yuriakh, in eastern Siberia, and its ~300,000 year old dates.⁹ Meltzer omits this site in 2009 to make his point, and then Team PaleoAmerica omits the site again in 2017 using Meltzer as a source. Are you beginning to see why this kind of academic incest between writers and willing editors can backfire? "Oversight" just doesn't cut it.

The fact that leading editors and directors signed off on this critique is boggling. And it is unimaginable that the rag's own editors did not think of showing a draft to Mike Waters before they published it. He would have corrected this indefensible error immediately, I'm sure.

In real science, this is called fraud, the sin of omission, suppression of data, lying; best case scenario—ignorance and academic incompetence. In the real world, it is called hogwash. How can one not conclude that Team PaleoAmerica must have terribly low opinions of their readership to think they can get away with such juvenile tactics just so they can squeeze out their case and maintain their group-umbrage?

By omitting such a world-shaking discovery from your argument, then sure, it's easy to pat yourselves on the back and show that the other guys are bozos. Just ignore this huge elephant in

> [Cont. on page 5](#)

Now it's Monte Verde first? (cont.)

"During the last half of the 20th Century and now into the 21st, there has never been any supporting evidence for the earliest Clovis populations north of Montana. ... No Clovis evidence documenting their arrival and entry has ever been found in Canada, Alaska, not even Siberia. Period."

the room, and then it's simple. Welcome to scholarship, Team PaleoAmerica-Style.

Reflections

When it comes to 'extraordinary claims,' Team PaleoAmerica might do well to look in the mirror. They will find that they are sitting in a glass house throwing stones. The terms they toss around like extraordinary and unequivocal may come back to haunt.

In order to believe/defend/adore the Clovis First Theory, you had to assume non-existent artifacts. That is to say, you had to firmly believe, like everyone else, that the archaeological record supports the Siberian-Clovis theory even though it didn't, doesn't and so far never has. Support means material evidence from a controlled excavation, and a Field Trip so that fellow experts can empirically experience the site and data first hand. During the last half of the 20th Century and now into the 21st, there has never been any supporting evidence for the earliest Clovis populations north of Montana. The Clovis Trail was never found.

As the story goes, the newly arrived Clovis were stalled in Alaska prior to entering the U.S. plains via the eastern flanks of the Canadian Rockies, the assumed "ice free corridor." No Clovis evidence documenting their arrival and entry has ever been found in Canada, Alaska, not even Siberia. Period.

Why is Clovis culture older in Mexico and the eastern US than in the west where they were supposed to come from?

"Doesn't matter."

If we can't find where they came from up north, then where did Clovis initially invent their awesome spearpoints and technologi-

cal know-how? It sure wasn't Siberia.

"Doesn't matter."

When there is not one gram of evidence to support this generationally favored Clovis Origins theory, when in fact there is truly, literally, "nothing to see here" (in Siberia, Alaska or Canada), then we can begin a genuine comparison with the Cerutti Mastodon Site regarding what truly constitutes extraordinary and unequivocal evidence in the eyes of Team PaleoAmerica. The unequivocal evidence for the Clovis Entry theory was so extraordinary, it didn't even need to exist.

Footnotes & references

¹ Braje, T.J., T.D. Dillehay, J.M. Erlandson, S.M. Fitzpatrick, D.K. Grayson, V.T. Holliday, R.L. Kelly, R.G. Klein, D.J. Meltzer, and T.C. Rick. 2017. Were hominins in California ~130,000 years ago? *PaleoAmerica* 3 (3): 200-2.

² Holen, S.R., T.A. Deméré, D.C. Fisher, R. Fullagar, J.B. Paces, G.T. Jefferson, J.M. Beeton, et al. 2017. A 130,000-year-old archaeological site in Southern California, USA. *Nature* 544 (7651): 479-83.

³ G. Haynes. 2017. The Cerutti Mastodon. *PaleoAmerica* 3(3): 196-99

Fiedel, S.J. 2014. Is Clovis Still First? *NYAS-Anthropology Lecture Series* October 27, 2014. <http://www.wennergren.org/events/stuart-j-fiedel-clovis-still-first>

⁴ Fedje, D.W., Q. Mackie, E.J. Dixon, and T.H. Heaton. 2001. *Late Wisconsin Environments and Archaeological Visibility on the Northern Northwest Coast*. Manuscript p.3.

⁵ Guidon, N., A-M Pessis, F. Parenti, C. Guérin, E. Peyre, and G.M. dos Santos. 2002. "Pedra Furada, Brazil: Paleoindians, Paintings, and Paradoxes." *Athena Review* 3 (2): Peopling of the Americas <http://www.athenapub.com/10pfurad.htm>

Romero, S. 2014. Discoveries Challenge Beliefs on Humans'

Arrival in the Americas. *New York Times*. Mar 27, 2014. Video Presentation. <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/americas/discoveries-challenge-beliefs-on-humans-arrival-in-the-americas.html>

⁶ T.D. Dillehay & M.B. Collins. 1988. Early cultural evidence from Monte Verde in Chile. *Letters to Nature, Nature* 332: 150-2, March 10, 1988.

⁷ Dillehay, T.D., C. Ocampo, J. Saavedra, A.O. Sawakuchi, R.M. Vega, M. Pino, M.B. Collins, et al. 2015. New Archaeological Evidence for an Early Human Presence at Monte Verde, Chile. *PLOS ONE* 10(11).

Hardaker, C. 2015. 18,500 BP, Monte Verde, Chile: It's evidence we cannot ignore. *Pleistocene Coalition News* 7(6): 11-12. Nov-Dec 2015. <http://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/november-december2015.pdf>

⁸ Bourgeon, Lauriane, Ariane Burke, and Thomas Higham. 2017. Earliest Human Presence in North America Dated to the Last Glacial Maximum: New Radiocarbon Dates from Bluefish Caves, Canada. *PLOS ONE* 12(1).

⁹ Waters, M.R., S.L. Forman, J.M. Pierson. 1997. Diring Yuriakh: A lower Paleolithic site in central Siberia. *Science* 5304:1281-4. Feb 28, 1997.

CHRIS HARDAKER, BA, MA, is an archaeologist working in California and is one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition. He reviewed and catalogued the data from the massive artifact collection of Calico. For details, see [The abomination of Calico](#), Parts 1-3, including Hardaker's first explanation of Caltrans (Cerutti) Mastodon Site suppression 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). Hardaker is also author of: [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

Kudos for recent issues of *Pleistocene Coalition News*

Quick links to PCN #47's main articles

PAGE 2

[Thoughts on early man](#) (Re: Cerutti Site)

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

PAGE 3

[The mastodon as food in ancient Mexico](#)

Revisiting PCN #6, July-Aug 2010:

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

PAGE 4

[The "new" New World](#)

(Cerutti Mastodon section from *The First American* (2007)—Updated

Chris Hardaker

PAGE 7

[Member news and other information](#)

Ken Johnston, Virginia Steen-McIntyre, John Feliks

PAGE 8

[The Pleistocene version of a multi-use tool](#)

Tom Baldwin

PAGE 10

[The levee breaks](#)

David Campbell

PAGE 12

[Oral tradition and beyond](#)

Ray Urbaniak

PAGE 14

[Cerutti Mastodon "Parallel Timeline"—The story you have not heard, Pts 1-2](#)

John Feliks

PAGE 20

[Neighboring sites: Cerutti benefits by not distancing Calico](#)

John Feliks

"You folks are draining the swamp. The aim of the Pleistocene Coalition is in action."

—paleontologist

"I am confident that the Pleistocene Coalition has such a vast wealth of information that anyone who tries to argue against it only demonstrates an obstinate disdain for the truth ...Whatever you do, DON'T stop doing it!"

"All of you are complimented and respected for your research, integrity, and courage."

—attorney

"As usual, EXCELLENT."

"Please accept my congratulations for your faith and fight."

—art professor

"I would quote from Margaret Mead: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.' [And] from Steve Jobs: 'The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones that do.'"

—medical field

"You have established a 'corridor' between University Archaeology and 'Ancient Aliens,' neither of which is correct. By its nature, University Archaeologists must adhere to their circa early 1900's origin and cling to the funding pole around which it is tethered. They do not have the resources, facilities, knowledge, or desire to risk their university positions on new discoveries, with a few exceptions. ... In the meantime, you and your staff are to be congratulated for adding real scientific data to real world knowledge."

—physicist

"PCN is probably one of the best anthro newsletters out there, definitely the most lively and exciting, not only content but its format, and with an exploding niche given all the incredible things being found. ...This one is more like a celebration of data."

—archaeologist

"GREAT issue. Thank you."

"What a page-turner Issue 47 is! Superb job!"

—geologist

"It just goes to show you that holding the establishment's feet to the fire sometimes pays off."

"Over many years I have followed the work of some of your members hoping to see it enlighten the paleoarchaeological establishment as the old passed... Because our quarry and efforts have always been private I have lived in between the various Politically Correct groups of the times and so identify with your members challenges and appreciate the wisdom you all put forth."

—paleontologist

"Had my first read of Issue 55 this evening. My compliments to you all!"

"I was so happy to see the new issue and the piece on Valsequillo!"

—professional author

"You folks at the Pleistocene Coalition are great. Keep up the good work."

—paleontologist

"Congratulations for your continuous effort to reveal the truth! Thank you!"

—anthropologist



Valsequillo spearheads. Age: 200,000 years+ Priceless. Missing.

Member news and other info

Neanderthals have "human" DNA

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre

I do love these new DNA analyses! A couple of cheek swabs have confirmed that I am c. 95% Scandinavian. The other 5%? Finn! Have no idea where he/she came from.

Exciting surprises are also coming to light examining fossil bones for DNA. It's now common knowledge that living people of non-African ancestry contain various amounts of Neanderthal DNA. What was new to me was that various Neanderthal bones from Europe, some going back way more than 200,000 years, contain *Homo sapiens* DNA! Which means: **1.)** Amorous encounters between *sapiens* and Neanderthals have been going on for a very long time. **2.)** *H. sapiens'* ancestry extends farther back in time than we thought. **3.)** Those well crafted bifacial tools from

the upper layers at Hueyat-laco could possibly have an *H. sapiens* origin!

Why do all humanoid advances have to come out of Africa? Jeff Goodman wrote a book decades ago suggesting that *H. sapiens* may have originated in the New World. The Bering Land Bridge is not a one-way street, and ocean currents run both ways!

—VSM

Member news and other info

"The tools ... are recognized to include Oldowan or

Lower and Middle Paleolithic-style tools in Atacama Desert Chile

In order to promote myths of no ancient people in the Americas or that human capabilities 'evolved' from ape-level to human level anthropology must continually ignore or denigrate conflicting evidence—such as published in *PCN* since its debut in 2009. Chilean archaeoastronomy researcher Patrio Bustemante (co-author of [Earth and sky as a 1:1 scale astronomical instrument and Rorschach test](#), *PCN* #21, July-August 2012), in response to recent exposés in *PCN* (e.g., [PCN #47](#)) sent us new dogma-challenging evidence regarding South America. It involves Africa and Europe-equivalent Lower and Middle Paleolithic stone tools recently discovered in Chile's Atacama Desert (**Fig. 1**) by his



Fig. 1. Top: San Pedro de Atacama region, Chile, at the edge of the Atacama Salar (salt flat) where Lower and Middle Paleolithic-type tools have recently been discovered.

Bottom: Atacama Valley. Images, Wikimedia Commons.

The region is similar to that of Calico and Lake Manix in southern California. As covered in *PCN*,



Calico was excavated by the late Dr. Louis Leakey, renowned anthropologist and expert on stone tool construction who faced mainstream derision for promoting Calico's 200,000-year old tools as types known from Africa and Europe. They are all comparable to the new tools discovered in Atacama Desert. **Inset:** Location of Atacama Desert in Chile.

Mode 1, Acheulian or Mode 2, and Mousterian Levallois or Mode 3 types."

colleague, famed archaeologist Ana María Barón Parra, of the University of Chile.

The tools that Barón Parra has recovered are identified to include Oldowan or Mode 1, Acheulian or Mode 2, and Mousterian or Mode 3 types, e.g., **Figs. 2–4**. The tools include cleavers and chop-

pers traditionally regarded as *Homo habilis* technology,

Acheulian bifaces traditionally regarded as *Homo erectus* technology, and Mousterian Levallois points traditionally regarded as Neanderthal technology, as well as many large flakes and denticulate tools (notched or saw-toothed). Samples are from Barón Parra's "Industrias liticas en el Desierto de Atacama (Lithic industries in the Atacama Desert)" presented at the "Fifty Years After *Homo habilis*" Congress, in Tanzania, August 2015. Barón Parra's program included a skullcap discovered in the region compellingly compared in 1965 to the Neanderthal skull of La Chapelle aux Saints by famed Atacama researcher the late Gustavo Le Paige (**Fig. 5**).

While physical anthropology and paleontology are still stuck in low-rigor science by reason of putting all their eggs into one basket stone tools can be studied objectively without any need to appeal to evolution commitment re-

strictions. The Chilean tools are comparable to those presented in nearly 50 issues of *PCN*, not only Val-sequillo, Mexico, or Calico, CA but similar specimens we've published are being found here in the U.S. by avocational collectors from middle and eastern U.S. states. See also Dullum and Lynch this issue for more evidence of the same tool types known from the U.K. Similar tools of the different "modes" are found both by professionals and amateurs throughout the world.

Of additional interest to *PCN* readers, San Pedro de Atacama, the region where these Lower and Middle Paleolithic-type tools have been discovered is only 440 miles south of the famous controversial site of Tiahuanaco (Tiwanaku), Bolivia ([PCN #40, March-April 2016](#) and [PCN #42, July-August 2016](#)). That's only about a 2–3 week walk or just over twice the [walking distance](#) between Cerutti Mastodon Site (California) and Calico. –jf



Fig. 2. From "Cleaver and chopper. Oldowan tools in Atacama Desert," north Chile, South America. Ana María Barón Parra.



Fig. 3. Biface industries. Left: Koobi Fora, Kenya. Right: Ghatchi, Chile. Ana María Barón Parra.



Fig. 4. From "Large flakes and denticulates," Atacama Desert, Chile. Ana María Barón Parra.



Fig. 5. Flat skull of Tambillo, Atacama Desert, superimposed over Neanderthal by Gustavo Le Paige. *Anales de la Universidad del Norte* 4, 1965, Antofagasta—Chile.

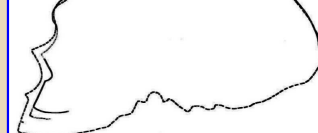
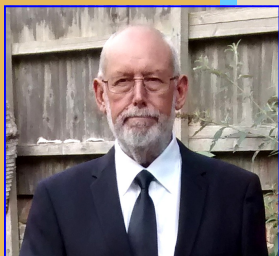
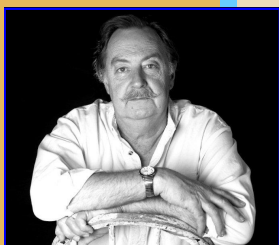


Fig. 5. Flat skull of Tambillo, Atacama Desert, superimposed over Neanderthal by Gustavo Le Paige. *Anales de la Universidad del Norte* 4, 1965, Antofagasta—Chile.

Hand-axes dredged up onto North Essex beach and who might have made them, *Part 1*

By Richard Dullum and Kevin Lynch

Clactonian hand-axes in Lower and Middle Paleolithic styles (e.g., **Fig. 1**) are now being dredged up onto the beaches of North Essex just south along the North Sea coast from Suffolk and Norfolk. This is all part of a restoration of leisure beaches that have been eroded away over the years.



Large dredges operate from near shore to vacuum sand and shingle from the sea-bottom and throw it onto the shoreline. One is left to wonder from what archaeological horizon are the dredged up artifacts from? In appearance the stone tools are typical of those

from the Hoxnian Interglacial which occurred starting c. 450,000 years ago and lasting until c. 330,000 years ago found *in situ*, near Hoxne, and at Clacton-on-sea in southern East Anglia, Britain.

Easily, mammoth ivory shards, teeth, animal bones, and stone tools are being found by yours truly, tried and true, at low tides, on these replenished beaches. This is an excellent example of how widely distributed such tools (Mode 2 type tools) are along the East Anglian coastline, and especially how archaeological horizons extend inland from there where they lie relative to securely dated geological formations. It is generally the strata which documents age of implements, not the style; but in this case, a stone tool culture (Clactonian) was apparently widespread enough to reach southeastern Britain by at least 330,000 years ago and is previously shown to have been at Happisburgh around 900,000 years ago.

According to established theory, it was *Homo erectus* that carried Mode 1 and Mode 2 stone tools into Europe from Africa, which includes Clactonian-style tools. Reaching at least Southern Europe by 900,000 years ago, Britain would have been quite habitable in the Lower Paleolithic as well, and we do have flake tools and human footprints from that time period at Happisburgh (see [James Reid-Moir was right on track 100 years ago proven by 850,000-year old footprints recently discovered in Happisburgh, Norfolk, U.K., PCN #28, March-April 2014](#)). Is it characteristic of older stone tool cultures to have been more advanced than their descendants? The Happisburgh flints found by the British Museum were CT scanned to get higher resolution and to highlight the edge work on these specimens, showing that they fit into Mode 3 or even Mode 4 stone tools, with retouch seen along the working edges. The Clactonian hand-axes as shown here are decidedly more crude, therefore, how does lithic refinement reflect any relative age at all?

Who were the real makers of the Happisburgh stone tools? Various 'early humans, *Homo ergaster*, *Homo heidelbergensis*, and *Homo antecessor* (whose remains from Sima de los Huesos date to around 900,000 years old), have all been suggested as well as *Homo erectus* as the manufacturing candidates for Clactonian and later Acheulian and Mousterian tool-styles found in post-Anglian Ice Age Britain into the Upper Paleolithic. During our research in East Anglia of yesterday's Golden Age at the turn of the 20th Century to today's Suffolk and Norfolk Counties, all of the



Fig. 1. Two hand-axes of Early-Middle Paleolithic style from beaches of North Essex on the North Sea coast, England. Photos by Dullum & Lynch.

categories of stone tools known to have been found then are being found now. These include:

Mode 1. pebble cores and flake tools, early Lower Paleolithic

Mode 2. large bifacial cutting tools made from flakes and cores such as Acheulian hand-axes, cleavers and picks, 1.7 million years old in Africa, spreading to Eurasia

Mode 3. flake tools struck from prepared cores, Levallois, Middle Paleolithic

Mode 4) punch-struck prismatic blades, backed blades and points

Mode 5. Retouched microliths and other retouched compo-

> [Cont. on page 9](#)

"Large dredges operate from near shore to vacuum sand and shingle from the sea-bottom and throw it onto the shoreline."

Hand-axes of North Essex beach (cont.)

"The main de-



Fig. 2. Left: The estuarine deposits associated with the Cromerian (c. 1.75 million to 850,000 years old), West Runton in background, standing near Happisburgh. Right: A bone hand-axe; Happisburgh. Photos Dullum & Lynch.

nents of composite tools in formations which date from 1.75 million years old to 850,000 years old, long before they were

pisburgh with West Runton in the background. Right is a bone hand-axe from Happisburgh estuarine deposit (1.75 mya to 850,000 years old).



Fig. 3 shows several objects from the estuarine deposits: a pierced flint hand-axe or amulet compared with a shark tooth, and a backed knife/scrapper with a knob handle.

terrent to consider-



Fig. 3. Objects from the estuarine deposits. Left: a shark tooth—compare size with, Middle: a pierced flint hand-axe amulet, Right: a backed knife/scrapper with a knobbed handle. Photos Dullum & Lynch.

supposed to have evolved with the intelligence of their makers.

a discoidal scrapper.

ing Ipswich Man was his



Fig. 4. Objects from the estuarine deposits. Left: a multifiform tool that could have been hafted, Right: a discoidal scrapper. Photos Dullum & Lynch.

The problematic 'mode' classification of stone tools gives a structure that fits only in the scheme of evolution. Even

Connecting our East Anglian finds to who might have made these artifacts—an actual human being from that era—we did some intensive research into the Ipswich tibia, from one of the very few skeletons which may date to the Early Pleistocene in British East Anglia, the Cromerian Era, which has recently been excavated at Happisburgh and other sites. The main deterrent to considering Ipswich Man was his 'modern' appearance. The main reason we considered Ipswich Man is because he still exists, and can be further studied (see [The Ipswich Skeleton: a possible link to Happisburgh](#), PCN #31, Sept-Oct 2014, the Fifth Anniversary Issue).

of Ipswich Man is shaped like a 'D', and has no visible crest, notch or line. It is nearly 50% more massive than modern humans, all along the entire bone. Other bones of interest here are the cranium frontal bone, which has a modern brow ridge, a flattened vault and is wider at the occipital than moderns. Still, to the eyes of its early 20th-Century discoverers, this skeleton was essentially modern. Lying on sands called mid-glacial (as between glaciations), there was no firm reason to date Ipswich Man further back in time than to the first interglacial after the Anglian Ice Sheet started retreating northwards, from roughly 450,000–330,000 years ago.

Moir thought the sands Ipswich Man was lying on were glacially deposited, but, as we've stated before, there is good reason to believe these are not glacial sands. Prior assessment of these sands in the Ipswich area had been done before Moir's time, with all geologists agreeing the shelly sands were deposited by a cold sea (Pleistocene) from the species of shells identified with the clearly layered sand deposits which were quite deep going to nearly forty feet, with numerous deposition bands visible. An eminent geologist named Sir Charles Howarth, said in 1896, "Only flowing or tidal waters can sort and layer sands. Glaciers churn sand into the earth giving a mixture of sand, rocks, chalk and land surface soils," which is what glacial chalky boulder clay is. In other words, glaciers can't sort particle types they pick up as they move along, but flowing and tidal waters do. Howarth re-examined the cold water shells and found them all to be of Pliocene types, when warm waters were prevalent. That would make the sands truly Tertiary, and not glacial, since terming them 'mid-glacial' depended

'modern' appearance."

modern Native American Choctaw Indians of the 18th Century used pebble choppers, a.k.a. Mode 1, and finely made Neolithic style arrowheads and portable stone art.

Fig. 2 Left shows the estuarine deposits associated with the Cromerian standing near Hap-

Ever since reading about Ipswich Man in *Forbidden Archeology*, I noted the illustrations in James Reid-Moir's, *The Antiquity of Man in East Anglia* opposite page 131. We have included also from Arthur Keith's, *Antiquity of Man*, a plate of comparisons of mid-level cross-sections of various tibiae or shin-bones with the Ipswich Man's (see next page). The anterior tibial crest is the shin we feel running down from our knee to nearly our ankles. In mid-shaft cross-section, our tibia is a definite triangular shape, but, as you can see, the tibia

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

Hand-axes of North Essex beach (cont.)

"The problematic 'mode' classification of stone tools gives a structure that fits only in the scheme of evolution. Even modern Native American Choctaw Indians of the 18th Century used pebble choppers, a.k.a. Mode 1."

on the proper identification of the shell species found in the sands. Moir also did not know that only one glaciation in the Ice Age of Britain reached the Ipswich area, the Anglian, c. 450,000

years ago and was probably quite Arctic for some years previously as the glacier approached, uninhabitable until the Hoxnian Interglacial, c. 330,000 years ago which made southern England habitable for the first time since c. 850,000 years ago around Hap-pisburgh.

his book that the bones of the right hand were not damaged, lying under the body and in the sandy loam. Since the remains are *en bloc* they could be x-ray microtomography scanned. If the proximal third metacarpal of the right hand can be identified and visualized, a styloid process could mark its relatedness to modern humans.

We contend that modern-type humans like Ipswich Man had been living in Britain since Plio-Pleistocene boundary times, and possibly earlier. This is supported by the skeleton being found, already having been buried in non-frozen earth, the grave-soil which formed the brain endocast measuring a modern 1450 cc. The skull was slightly wider toward the posterior and somewhat flattened crown. The brain endocast is composed of the grave-earth filling the inside of the skull. The cast was distinct from the reddish-brown glacial mud that covered the top of the skeleton, meaning Ipswich Man wasn't buried in the glacial mud. Otherwise, the endocast would show reddish-brown, not the gray we see in the photos of the actual specimen which resides in the Ipswich Museum. Since objections to the burial theory had been raised upon discovery, Keith noted that the hyper-flexed position could not have been obtained while alive, lying down to die in the open. Bones from two other individuals were also found nearby, adding to burial proof. The clincher came a year afterward, when, in the same horizon 11 miles away, at Charlesford-on-Woodbridge, mammoth tusk and bones were found in a trench where a human skeleton had been unearthed (and boxed up into a coffin, being of modern appearance). If mammoths had been contemporary with Ipswich Man, they must all have lived on a land surface, which was liquid enough to have created the brain endocast discovered with Ipswich

Man, and to have permeated through all the marrow cavities. Even the teeth in the root canals contained sand grains from the grave-soil. For the former to have happened, such a constant but very high pressure (perhaps a Glacier on top) would have been necessary in the vicinity for a very long time.

If Ipswich Man was buried in boreal soil (as in boreal Happisburgh up to 850,000 years ago), this endocast formation would have been possible. Any time after that the ground would have been frozen. So far, only 'modern' humans have shown the capability to survive in boreal conditions with appropriate shelters, clothing, etc. We already have the evidence of modern human footprints found on a Happisburgh beach dating to as much as 950,000 years old. No creature has thus far been proved to make footprints like modern humans except modern humans. No human tibiae, ancestor or modern, lack an anterior tibial crest.

What to say of modern humans in Plio-Pleistocene Britain? I had a very interesting online conversation with Eric Trinkaus on the topic and the significance of a tibia without an anterior crest.

-To be continued...

RICHARD DULLUM, a surgical R.N. working in large O.R. for the past 30 years retired this July though remains a researcher in early human prehistory and culture. He is also a Vietnam vet with a degree in biology. In addition to his work with Kevin Lynch, he has written eight prior articles for *PCN*.

KEVIN LYNCH is a retired British businessman, amateur archaeologist, archivist and member of the Prehistoric Society of Britain. He and his wife live in Hadleigh, Suffolk, UK. An avid collector of flints from his local countryside and beaches, Lynch's speciality is British archaeology of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the life and works of J. Reid-Moir. He and Richard Dullum have blended their interests in prehistory to write informative articles related to the hey-day of British archaeology at the turn of the 20th Century.

All of Dullum and Lynch's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link: http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch

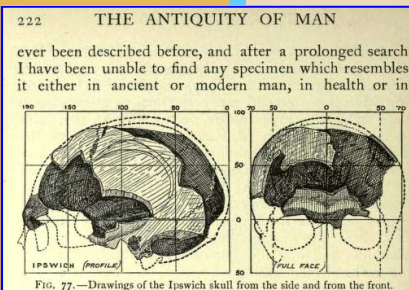


Fig. 77.—Drawings of the Ipswich skull from the side and from the front.

disease. As regards the Ipswich tibia, there is no sign of inflammation, nor is there any reason to attribute its peculiar features to either a freak of growth or to an

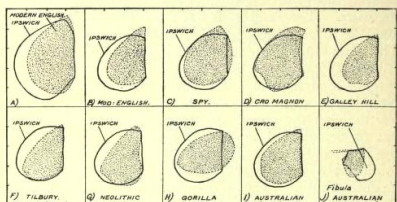


Fig. 78.—Sections across a series of tibiae of various races. A. A section across a modern English tibia at the junction of upper third with lower two-thirds, compared with similar section of the Ipswich tibia. The others represent sections at the mid point of the tibia, except the last, which represents a section of the fibula.

individual peculiarity. I expect it to prove a character of the race.

To give a clear idea of the peculiar characters of the Ipswich tibia, I reproduce in fig. 78 a series of sections

Fig. 5. Sir Arthur Keith's 1915 illustration of the tibia and fibula of Ipswich Man compared to other humans and a primate.

Fig. 5 shows Sir Arthur Keith's illustration of the tibia and

fibula of Ipswich Man compared to other humans and primates. Looking at the anatomical structure that is the tibial crest, we find apes with a short, diagonal crest, which only runs 1/4 the length of the bone from the proximal epiphysis, mediolaterally (diagonally). The mid-shaft cross-section shows nearly round, with an interosseous line as a blip on the otherwise rounded mid-shaft cross-section. Every other hominid whose tibiae have been cataloged show at least an interosseous muscle attachment line. Neanderthals and early *Homo sapiens* also have the anterior tibial crest. Keith agreed that the tibial rounding could represent a primitive characteristic and that it was not the result of a deformation. We found interesting remarks by Keith in

sification of stone tools gives a structure that fits only in the scheme of evolution. Even modern Native American Choctaw Indians of the 18th Century used pebble choppers, a.k.a. Mode 1."

Avocational archaeology

Eoliths, figure stones, and found art revisited

By Brett Martin

"Nearly all of these finds were catalogued for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database which is run by the U.K. government."

From the Eds. 1.) *Avocational Archaeology* is a section started by Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre in *PCN* #9—nearly 40 issues ago (Jan-Feb 2011). The idea was to encourage the amateur collecting community to upgrade their collecting, preparation, and documentation practices in order to increase the value of their finds. Another aim was to provide a venue for showing selected discoveries without mainstream knee-jerk dismissal but at the same time exercising restraint that matches the quality level and documentation level of the evidence. In early articles Virginia covered important basics of archaeology that most collectors did not know. These include: not to wash their finds clean so that original adhering matrix material might assist in dating them, how to photograph finds including a scale in standard increments (inches or millimeters) rather than with internationally-variably-sized objects such as coins. The most important advice Virginia gave was for collectors to record the *in situ* context of their finds even if they were surface collected. **2.)** Unlike the mainstream we at *PCN* are not so quick to discredit what are popularly known as 'figure stones.' However, whenever the subject comes up it is time for *PCN* disclaimers, qualifiers, and added restraints. This is because the figure stones community tends to treat their subjective interpretations with the same kind of undue confidence the evolution community does its ape-to-man mythological stories. **3.)** The mainstream should keep in mind that *PCN* has provided nearly 50 issues worth of evidence concerning prehistory which does not align with the idea that early people were less intelligent than us. This can impact the figure stones debate. As hard to believe as it may seem, figure stone collectors presuming that their prehistoric counterparts were like them in what they visualized, if properly documented and organized, may be more valid than evolutionary claims. We encourage the amateur community to persist and to keep raising the bar.

My name is Brett Martin. I am an amateur archeologist living in Hampshire, Southern England, specializing in Paleolithic flint tools and 'figure stones' (see below). I am

author of the blog, *Eoliths* (eoliths.blogspot.com). and found my first flint tool at the age of seven.

In 2004, my passion for ancient stone tools was reignited when I gained access to a field strewn with many flint tools from different eras, from bronze age tools to Paleolithic.

Nearly all of these finds were catalogued in the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database (<https://finds.org.uk/>) which is run by the U.K. government. [**Eds. Note:** Of special interest to *PCN* readers, the U.K.'s PAS was set up to record and catalog the increasing numbers of small archaeological finds being made outside the professional community. Finds Liaison Officers or FLOs are locally available at county councils and museums to whom finders can report their objects; they are qualified to examine the discoveries and provide more information on them. FLOs also record the finds including their functions, discovery locations, dates of discovery, and general composition. Finally, they place this information into a database where they can be compared with other finds.]

In 2011, while on a country walk, I discovered a find that seemed clearly figurative with excellent tooling properties. I then realized that many of my older finds also contained figurative elements or qualities.

My find site is a wooded hillside in Hampshire, where erosion and damage to the thin soil layer over Cretaceous chalk layers has concentrated the flint tools and 'figure stones.' Almost all of my specimens—both flint tools and figure stones—are surface finds, although I have found a few within the chalk strata.

Figure stones

Sometimes known as *pierres figures* or portable rock art, figure stones are stones that show resemblances to living



Fig. 1. Fossil echinoderm from the site showing examples of ochre etching. Photo: Brett Martin.

forms. These can be flat, 3-dimensional and even anamorphic or stretched out. Most often these are of animals such as elephants, birds, bears, felines, apes, monkeys, and 'hominids,' as well as humans. The stones show evidence of human workmanship and modification and are thus believed by many to have been manufactured by ancient cultures as genuine prehistoric artworks.

For the most part mainstream archeology does not accept figure stones. One reason for this is that they create contradictions for mainstream theory as the creatures believed to be depicted often fall outside the mainstream-accepted time-line for the theory of human evolution and the emergence of cognition.

One typical mainstream claim made against the existence of figure stones are accusations of 'pareidolia' or 'apophenia' which are put forward to dismiss figurative observations professing they are imagined only by the finders and do not represent deliberately created or found and then modified art, in effect, saying: "You're just seeing things," or "Your mind is playing tricks on you." Another means of dismissal is to simply say that they are all produced by natural processes and are not artifacts at all.

Fig. 1 is a fossil echinoderm from the site showing examples

> [Cont. on page 12](#)

Eoliths, figure stones, and found art revisited (cont.)

"For the most part

of ochre etching. The dark lines in the center of the fossil were produced by sustained force in multiple strokes from an iron rich 'stylus.' This surface find

representing elephant-like creatures showing trunks, ears, and eyes [Eds. Note: The main unwritten suggestion in figure stone interpretations appears to be that if modern collectors interpret figure stones in such a way then there is a good chance that prehistoric collectors would have as well. It is based on the non-mainstream idea that early people would have had cognition similar to our own. This is very reasonable, much more so than the idea that the

eoliths-flint-tools-and-figure-stones.html] for discussion of five reasons why not.

Other signs on flint artifacts? I have observed iron patches, etchings and staining on many flint tools; most likely not there by chance. I usually refer to this as ochre, as it covers all of the types of this material, whether from applied natural deposits, iron pyrite, prepared materials or iron-rich meteorites. Prehistoric peoples are well known for their use of ochre, and patches, etchings or staining can be found on the majority of recognized prehistoric flint tools of a certain age.

Patina on genuine artifacts, and examining flake removal

Patinas naturally build up over long periods of time on flint surfaces. This is one key feature in determining validation of flint objects as manufactured long ago and ruling out almost all natural processes in tool shape creation.

1. Flints are naturally formed nodules in chalk, completely cortex covered, so any flake removal of the cortex would indicate some kind of physical action in order to have done so, natural or intended. These show little evidence of large flake removal or disturbance, and all broken pieces are present, although breakage would be uncommon.

2. Genuine artifacts should have a mainly coherent patina, not many differing patinas on differing surfaces. However, sometimes a stone can be rediscovered, reworked and reused, which can cause anomalies in patinas, possibly not be a common occurrence but would be an interesting feature by itself.

3. An even surface patina on removed surfaces suggests no flake removal since the original occurrences have

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

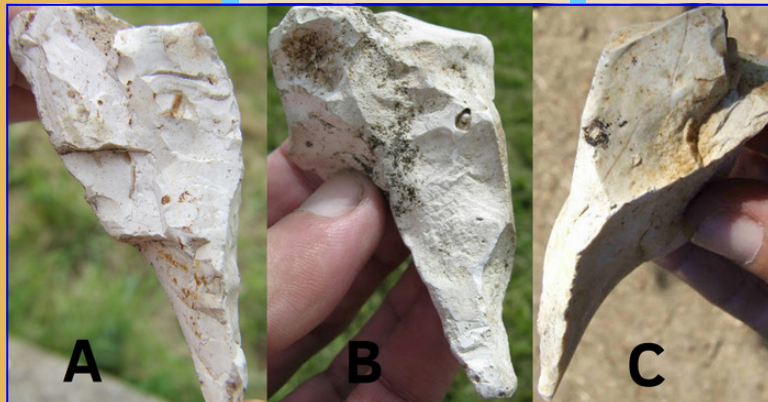


Fig. 2. Three examples of found stone objects that could be interpreted as representing elephant-like creatures showing trunks, ears, and eyes. Some show possible ochre etching and flake removal as well as a tar-like substance. While certainly not a fact the idea that prehistoric people would have seen such objects in a similar way to modern collectors is reasonable. Photos: Brett Martin.

main-stream archaeology does not accept figure stones. One reason is that they create contradictions for main-stream theory...the...time-line for the theory of human evolution and the emergence of cognition."

was likely originally dug from deep chalk deposits while mining flint. This type of fossil has other uses besides decorative or figurative; they make excellent hammer stones.

So, why are ochre etchings on flint considered a sign of a genuine artifact and not there by random chance? Quite simply because sustained, localized, and precise linear pressure from an iron rich source needs to be applied to the surface of the flint in order to produce an ochre-etched line. This is clearly not a natural phenomenon, and often there are many such etched lines on individual specimens.

Another common feature in my figure stone finds is the presence of what looks to be a tar-like substance. Prehistoric people are known to have made birch tar. This appears to have been used as an aid in figure design, rather like we would use paint today, but also applied and etched away.

Fig. 2 shows three examples of what figure stone collectors might interpret as rep-

representations suggested are "obvious" as is commonly believed in the figure stones community.] The distance from ear tip to trunk tip (which are the longest dimensions) in each of the objects were measured: **A**, 76mm, **B**, 72mm, **C**, 75mm. Differing found-art techniques were possibly used in creation of the eye shapes suggested as follows: **A**, ochre etching and flake removal, **B**, exploitation of natural inclusion and flake removal, **C**, many tiny flake removal scars and application of a tar-like substance.

Recognizing worked flints and signs of modification.

As for flint artifacts, two common points for assessing them are the presence of:

1. Bulbs of percussion and conchoidal fractures.
2. Repeated flake removal scars on the flattened surfaces of the flint.

Unfortunately, many modified stones do not have those indicators. See my original article on eoliths and figure stones [<http://eoliths.blogspot.com/2017/05/>

Eoliths, figure stones, and found art revisited (cont.)

**"Some-
times a
stone can
be redis-**



Fig. 3. Two flint tools from my find site from which flakes have broken off revealing the underlying material and thickness of the patina. This kind of flake removal event is rare in my finds. Patina build-up is a very slow process, microns of thickness taking hundreds of thousands of years to form. Thick patina like those shown suggest great antiquity. Photos: Brett Martin.

**covered,
reworked
and re-
used,
which can
cause
anomalies
in patinas,
possibly
not be a
common
occur-
rence but
would be
an inter-
esting fea-
ture by it-
self."**

happened. So a patina has built up with no further flake removal, over some considerable period of time.

4. Probability rules out a sequence of natural events having

produced multiple flake removal scars in one proximal time period as no additional flake removals had happened since.

5. The fact that further 'natural?' occurrence of flake removal is absent from such ancient pieces would indicate that random chance, and natural flake removal on flint pieces are rare.

6. Crashing wave action or water flow rolling flints produce a worn, smooth effect where tiny flakes are removed over long periods of time and shapes are worn to produce pebbles; large flakes are not present.

7. Erosion, removal or a violent gravitational effect on flint nodules from any resting place would also be a rare event. If a flake or sequence of flake removal scars happened, patinas would also encapsulate that event. Linear and logical flake removal does not happen in this way. This can be tested if someone were to repeatedly drop nodules off cliffs or roll them down hills, although that in itself would be intent and agency, and not a natural event.

8. Trampling and plow damage, marking or flake removals have been found to be rare events.

9. Glacial fracture events, temperature, 'starch fracture' damage could be investigated but I believe these are largely false flags: surface finds are very rare where they should be common. There are glaciers today, yet nobody is witnessing linear flake removal, or scale frost damage.

Conclusions on patinas

Flints contain "stratigraphy" in the form of layered patinas. Breakage events leave a chronology; the less the patina build-up the more recent the break or chip event.

Fig. 3: These two flint tools from my find site have some damage, a flake has broken off revealing the underlying flint material and the thickness of the patina. This kind of flake removal event is very uncommon in my finds. From my observations of flint tools of certain age, patina build up is a very slow process, microns of thickness being formed over hundreds of thousands of years. A thick patina like the ones shown could suggest great antiquity on the order of tens of millions of years.

Natural large flake removal is a rare event in flint. Collectors and museums hold many flint tools that demonstrate this because they have an even patina, are unbroken or further chipped (from initial creation or usage). Weathering, tidal action and other natural processes have not produced further large flake removal. So, a short succession of

multiple flake removals made the shape of the item, which then over time was covered with a patina, the patina is unbroken and no other effects have produced flake removal. This counts massively towards recognizing genuine artifacts and we can produce statistics for probability.

My understanding of figure stones has led me to believe that although they are artworks in their own right showing incredible skill and forethought, they can have more practical uses as well. Common topology of motifs, conventions, repeated combinations of shapes and a common species lexicon are observed. In my view, this represents a visual language which can be recognized almost world wide. Many factors suggest them to be genuine, the primary ones being topology and probability. Flake removal, even-spread patinas, deliberate modification, and ochre and tar usage also support their indeed being artifacts rather than geofacts.

As for 'eoliths' I believe that many are genuine stone tools found in Tertiary layers right through to Cretaceous layers. They are no different than other recognized and accepted stone tools on display in museums all over the world, the only difference being that these do not align with current evolutionary theories of ape and man emergence timelines. These artifacts can also have figurative content. Topology of flake removal, blade retouch, bulbs of percussion and surface patina strongly suggest that these, too, are genuine artifacts rather than geofacts.

BRETT MARTIN is an amateur archaeologist living in Hampshire, Southern England specializing in paleolithic flint tools and 'figure stones.' He is author of the online blog, *Eoliths* (eoliths.blogspot.com).

Ice Age animal descriptions passed down through oral tradition

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist

"This profound cultural discovery goes quite a distance toward making the idea of extinct Ice Age animals and even Asian or African animals depicted in U.S. rock art much more feasible."



Apart from my profession as an engineer, I am a long-time petroglyph researcher specializing in solstice and equinox markers. In *Pleistocene Coalition News*, I have

also written many articles in an ongoing series about Ice Age animals depicted in SW Utah rock art and the Arizona strip beginning with the first article in the series, [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art, Part 1](#) (PCN #22, March-April 2013). See also the most recent, [Oral tradition and beyond](#) (PCN #47, May-June 2017).

One of my theoretical proposals has been that animal depictions in indigenous U.S. rock art which do not resemble present-day animals and are commonly simply referred to as 'stylized' versions of local presently-living animals are, in reality, representations of extinct animals or animals known from Asia or even Africa the descriptions of which may have been passed down in oral tradition across thousands of years. Supporting this idea, in [PCN #44, Nov-Dec 2016](#) and [PCN #45, Jan-Feb 2017](#), I recommended several current reports which included evidence of very accurate Australian Aboriginal oral traditions going back many thousands of years.

In my recent correspondence on the topic with Pegi Jodry (a Paleoindian archaeologist and research associate with Dennis Stanford at the Smithsonian in Washington) to find out what they knew regarding the possibility of such ancient oral tradition in the Americas she stressed the need for me to contact Native American Elders directly for information. Later, she shared with me another article on the accu-

racy of the Australian oral traditions titled, "Revealed: how Indigenous Australian storytelling accurately records sea level rises 7,000 years ago" (*The Guardian*). The article goes into more detail regarding what they call the "extraordinary accuracy" of 21 stories related to dramatic sea level rises 7,000–18,000 years ago. Even though this extends back into what we call Paleolithic times it is increasingly being regarded as part of a "continuous" oral tradition. This profound discovery goes quite a distance toward making the idea of extinct Ice Age animals and even Asian or African animals depicted in U.S. rock art much more feasible.

After reading the article, I wondered if the oral traditions of Native American people might also date back that far. So, as one who has maintained many contacts in the Native American community I wrote to Benn Pikyavit, a highly respected elder of the Kaibab Band of Paiutes in northern Arizona:

"Yesterday I saw an article on the Australian Aborigines which states that their oral history remembers the sea level rise 7,000 years ago (link below).

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/sep/16/indigenoustralian-storytelling-records-sea-level-rises-overmillenia?CMP=share_btn_fb

More supporting research on oral tradition...

<https://theconversation.com/the-memory-code-how-oral-culturesmemorise-so-much-information-65649>

In *The Memory Code*, Kelly provides new insights into how oral societies are able to

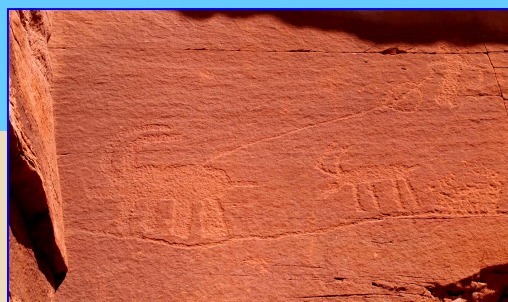


Fig.1. Rock art panel in SW Utah with proposed mammoth hunting scene. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

store vast quantities of knowledge to memory without it degrading over time.

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/british-columbia/archeological-findaffirms-heiltsuk-nation-s-oral-history-1.4046088>

B.C. archaeologists have excavated a settlement in the area—in traditional Heiltsuk Nation territory—and dated it to 14,000 years ago, during the last ice age where glaciers covered much of North America:

'This find is very important because it reaffirms a lot of the history that our people have been talking about for thousands of years,' Housty said.

Recently I wrote an update to my articles on Ice Age animals in rock art. In it, I mention that a Mammoth hunting scene petroglyph panel could have been passed down orally for many generations before being depicted. In this way I explain that the tusks look more like horns since the depicting person never actually saw tusks so he depicted them to look like what he was familiar with, which is horns (link below).

<http://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/september-october2016.pdf>

I haven't taken anyone to this panel, but I would love to take you. Is there any description of such animals in your oral tradition?" –end of e-mail

Fig. 1 shows a cropped photo of the SW Utah rock art panel with the proposed mammoth hunting scene as it appears.

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

Ice Age animal descriptions—oral tradition (cont.)

Fig. 2 shows the SW Utah rock art panel with the horns rotated to resemble tusks as a visual to my idea is about oral-tradition-related tusks seen by someone in the past being possibly influenced by the lack of tusks but the presence of horns in animals when the depiction was actually made.



Fig. 2. The SW Utah rock art panel with the proposed mammoth's horns rotated to resemble tusks. The idea is that oral tradition-related mammoth stories portrayed by someone who had never actually seen a mammoth might be inclined to portray tusks in the manner of similar things they had seen, namely, horns. Top photo and image manipulation: Ray Urbaniak. Lower image source unknown.

Much to my surprise, I received the following reply:

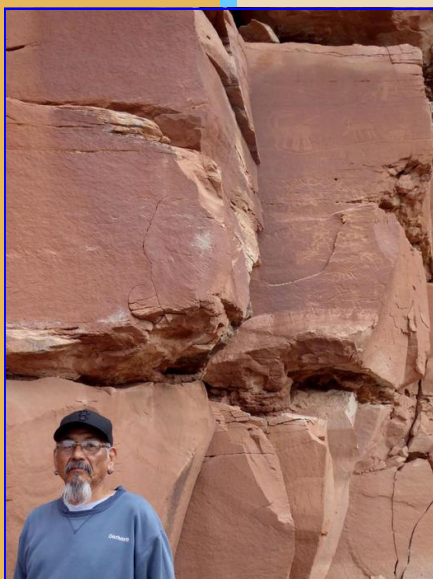


Fig. 3. Paiute Elder, Benn Pikyavit, at the 'Mammoth atlatl hunting scene' panel (panel is in upper right). Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

thanks for the additional information. Later, my Friend, Benn."

"Ray, Funny that you would ask. We do have song about a Mammoth. I am trying to run down my cousin, who knows of this song and get it from her. I would like to see the panel in reference to the Mammoth. Oh,

The following quotation is from, *Pahute Indian Legends*, by William R. Palmer, 1946, Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, Utah, Introduction xi:

"These Indians have exercised great care in the preservation of their traditions. Such legends as deal with their relationship to a supreme being are endowed with all the sanctity of a page of scripture. The telling of the sacred stories by the narro-gwe-nap is listened to with all the reference of a religious service. Narro-gwe-nap is a title and means 'keeper of the legends.' The man who bears it holds a sort of priestly calling, and must memorize all the tribal stories and be able to tell them clearly in their proper order. One section of So-par-o-van, the annual tribal council meeting, is called 'Um-pug-iva Shinob'—talks about god. Here the storyteller recites the legends to an attentive and critical audience which promptly corrects any errors, omissions, or changes he might either purposely or unconsciously make."

This passage confirms the sacred responsibility of accurately relating the oral tradition.

It is known that the Anasazi (Ancestral Puebloans) were in this area prior to the Paiutes migrating in. However, we don't know if the Paiute people are the descendants of the Archaic and Paleoindian residents. The Paleoindians certainly didn't have the same culture as the later Paiutes, but the Paiutes could very well be the direct descendants of the Paleoindian and Archaic Indian inhabitants of this region. They could have moved out of this area during the Anasazi period then back again toward the end of the Anasazi period. Benn Pikyavit (**Fig. 3**) agrees it was most likely his ancestors that lived in this southwestern Utah area in the archaic and Paleo periods.

Benn also believes that his ancestors could very well have

created this panel, and he agreed with my interpretation of why the tusks look more like horns. He is interested in this project. He hasn't located the song yet, but is committed to tracking it down. However, he did share a song about a *red hot lava flow*. The last flow in this area was 800 years ago. I asked him to try and figure out the location of the flow in the song, since depending on location, it could be much older.

If any Native Americans reading this article have any songs or stories depicting events from the far distant past I would appreciate hearing from you. Accurately recorded ancient songs and stories passed down through oral tradition may help instill a sense of pride in the young tribal members.

Although Benn Pikyavit hasn't as yet located the song about mammoths, I recently found an article by Cynthia J. Wiley, "Collective Memory of the Prehistoric Past and the Archaeological Landscape" (*Nebraska Anthropologist* Vol. 23, 2008), which appears to confirm that descriptions of Ice Age animals were passed down by way of oral tradition!:

"On the other hand, a narrative collected by Strong (1934:84) from the Naskapi, an Algonquin tribe living in Labrador at the time, speaks of a monster with large, round footprints, 'a big head, large ears and teeth, and a long nose' and was very large overall. These characteristics could not be solely observed from fossilized remains, indicating that a prehistoric memory persists and is contained in this oral narrative—making it a myth of historical traditions."

In a section titled, *Memories of the Pleistocene*, Wiley says:

"Beck (1972) has examined connections between various Northeastern Algonquian stories of a giant beaver that escaped the diminution proc-

> [Cont. on page 16](#)

Ice Age animal descriptions—oral tradition (cont.)

"At least five different peoples in the area transmitted the narrative of Gluskap and the giant beaver."

—Wiley 2008

ess (executed by the culture hero, Gluskap) and was chased through the landscape. At least five different peoples in the area transmitted the narrative of Gluskap and the giant beaver, although the landscape of the adventure was modified to match the traditional territory of the tribe (Beck 1972). This indicates that each group was not only mapping onto the landscape through landmarks such as boulders, islands, and water features, but that they shared a common experience, a common memory. The territory and physical description of the giant beaver of myth roughly corresponds to the distribution and attributes of *Castoroides ohioensis*—the largest rodent ever found in North America (Beck 1972)."

Perhaps most importantly as far as the possibility of Pleistocene oral tradition is concerned Wiley emphasizes that the giant beaver went extinct about 10–15,000 years ago.

Wiley then goes on to discuss a sacred myth that was part of the Osage Indian tradition. In that myth they spoke of 'large and monstrous beasts' that migrated along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to bluffs known as Rocky Ridge in Missouri. It was there that they met and did battle with the beasts that already lived in the region (as per Montagu 1944). Most interestingly, the location where the migrating beasts were defeated according to the myths corresponds to a site of mastodon bones excavated by Albert Koch of the St. Louis Museum in 1838. The American Mastodon (*Mammuth americanum*) died out c. 10–11,000 years ago. Wiley goes on to say:

"Koch was aware of the local traditions and mentioned them in his original report of

the 'Missouri Leviathan' and Montagu supports the suggestion that the Osage myth was an inherited memory of a long extinct, but real mammal (Montagu 1944)."

Although scholars are still debating whether these stories relate to animals actually seen alive or to stories based on bones they discovered, in 1979 the Illinois State Museum excavating at the Kimmswick site south of St. Louis, Missouri, found a Paleolithic spear point in contact with a mastodon bone. It was the first stone weapon found in the U.S. that linked early Americans with mastodons. It was a strong indication that the people in the area had hunted mastodons.

One final thing I would like to point out that Wiley explores which is most intriguing as concerns the potential of oral traditions in U.S. rock art is that the kind of language used in relaying oral tradition may have differences to how language is used in other types of communication. For instance, she explains that the Lakota language presently has words for the three-toed horse, the woolly rhinoceros, and other Pleistocene mammals (as per a personal communication from Albert M. LeBeau III to her in 2007). Her conclusions regarding this are thought-provoking:

"The continued presence of such words suggests that they were necessary at one time and that they are actively maintained within the language. Did stories about these Pleistocene creatures carry down through the generations, with the language to tell the stories outliving the actual narratives? This example suggests that words contained in a vocabulary for extinct features of the landscape (including animals) may also demonstrate prehistoric memory."

Next time I will explore these topics in more detail providing more examples of Southwest U.S. rock art that may show signs of being influenced by oral tradition, in other words, oral traditions expressed in visual form.

—To be continued...

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 on Native American rock art, including as related to archaeoastronomy, equinoxes and solstices in Utah. He has noted that standard archaeological studies commonly record details of material culture but overlook the sometimes incredible celestial archeological evidence. Urbaniak has also played a role raising concerns for the accelerating vandalism, destruction, and theft of Native American rock art. He has brought state representatives to rock art sites with the hopes of placing "protected" labels near what he calls "sacred art" sites as a deterrent to vandalism. Urbaniak's book, [Anasazi of Southwest Utah: The Dance of Light and Shadow](#) (2006), is a collection of rock art photographs including time-sequenced events with clear descriptions, compass, and other information. Urbaniak has written many prior articles with original rock art and petroglyph photography for *PCN* which can all be found at the following link:

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak

Two perplexing big news items 1.) The Balkans—cradle of humanity? 2.) Australian Madjedbebe shelter—find of the Century?

By Vesna Tenodi, MA archaeology; artist and writer

1.) A new mainstream proposal now places the first 'human ancestor' not in Africa but in the Mediterranean.

According to the theory, the lineages of chimpanzees and humans may have 'split' several hundred thousand years earlier than previously assumed, says an international research team headed by Professor Madelaine Böhme (Senckenberg Centre for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment, University of Tübingen) and Professor Nikolai Spassov (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).

As many mainstream scientists believe, the paths of humans and apes parted in Africa, with the development of the first hominins. But now we see a case being developed by the Tübingen team that the Balkans is the true birthplace of mankind. And on goes the quest for where humans first appeared and then, in scientific terms, evolved. So far it's been suggested that humans evolved in one way or another in Indonesia, China, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas, and now, Eastern Europe. These, along with similar ideas, pretty much cover the globe.

The press release and two articles published in the journal *PLOS ONE* on May 22, 2017, by the University of Tübingen in Germany, sent the scientific community into a flurry, announcing archaeological finds that seem to fly in the face of the long-time popular paradigm.

Human evolution could have happened outside Africa too—dental roots give new evidence

The team of researchers analysed the two known specimens of the fossil hominid *Graecopithecus freybergi*: a lower jaw from Pyrgos in Greece, found in 1944, and

"The ever-growing list of suspect sacred customs recently invented to support land claims is something that no one is allowed to question."

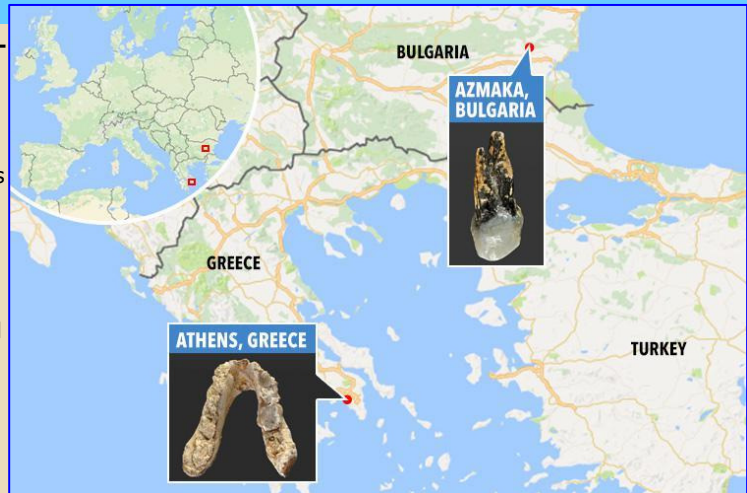


Fig.1. The jawbone, which included teeth, was found in Greece (1944) and the recently-discovered tooth was found in in Azmaka, south-central Bulgaria (2009).

an upper premolar from Azmaka in Bulgaria, found in 2009 (**Fig. 1**). Using state-of-the-art methods of computer tomography, the researchers visualised the internal structures of the fossils and demonstrated that the roots of premolars are widely fused. The team's reasoning goes like this: "While great apes typically have two or three separate and diverging roots, the roots of *Graecopithecus* converge and are partially fused—a feature that is characteristic of modern humans, early humans and several pre-humans (*Ardipithecus* and *Australopithecus*)," said Madelaine Böhme.

[Eds. NOTE: A disclaimer is necessary here. The term "pre-human" is a popular though unqualified presumption continuously used as a scientific axiom. The *PLOS ONE* article—like most in physical anthropology—uses the term in just such a way. The same applies to the team's use of the term "hominin" which presumes that the whole idea of apes and humans as evolutionarily connected is already proved true. It has not been so proved. As a reality check, we have uncountable brachiopod fossils direct from perfect stratigraphic layers miles high (Cambrian-Recent) and across the whole earth yet not a shred of undisputed evidence connecting brachiopods with any other group including bryozoans.

Specialist papers which claim otherwise are full of trick rhetoric and presumption. The same is true for all other invertebrate groups. In light of facts like this it is hard to believe anthropology continues to build cases based on scattered about pieces of bone and teeth.]

The team's paper came to the conclusion that these finds belong to pre-humans. They believe their findings and new theory support the idea that the split between apes and humans occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean and not—as customarily assumed—in Africa.

[Eds. NOTE: Another necessary disclaimer is that the so called "split between apes and humans" is also an evolutionary presumption presented to the public as an axiom. Normal sciences do not make ideas synonymous with fact.]

The 7.175-million-year-old mandible of *Graecopithecus freybergi* from Pyrgos, and the 7.24-million-year-old tooth from Azmaka represent the first hominids of Messinian (upper Miocene) age from continental Europe.

The lower jaw, nicknamed 'El Graeco' by the scientists, has additional dental root features which suggest that the species *Graecopithecus freybergi* might belong to the pre-human line-

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

Two perplexing big news items (cont.)

"Was this really objective, scientific research, or do we have yet another example of a goal set in advance, a predetermined result, and a group of people funded to engineer a way to reach the intended objective?"

age. "We were surprised by our results, as pre-humans were previously known only from sub-Saharan Africa," says Jochen Fuss, a Tübingen PhD student who conducted this part of the study.

David R. Begun, PhD, a co-author of this study from the University of Toronto, adds: "This dating allows us to move the human-chimpanzee split into the Mediterranean area" (laboratoryequipment.com; 5-23-17). [Again, "human-chimpanzee split" axiom.]

"During the Miocene epoch, as many as 100 species of apes roamed throughout the Old World. New fossils suggest that the ones that gave rise to living great apes and humans evolved not in Africa but Eurasia" (D.R. Begun *et al*, Planet of the Apes, *Scientific American*, June 1, 2006). Since 2003, David R. Begun and his team have been "working on the hypothesis that the African ape/human lineage arose from a European or Western Asian ancestor that moved into Africa about 7-9 million years ago, probably in response to global climate changes. The same changes forced the ancestors of the orangutan south into the tropics from China at about the same time" (Dr. Begun's bio page anthropology.utoronto.ca). Their field work led them "most recently to Turkey, which has a rich record of several lineages of fossil great apes from all the relevant time periods, as well as a spectacular record of climate change and mammal evolution during the Miocene, when apes evolved" (*ibid*).

2.) Australian "find of the century." Or is it?

Two months later, there was a big hullabaloo in Australia over the results ostensibly obtained by a team researching the Madjedbebe rock shelter in the Northern Territory, pushing the date from 40,000 to 65,000 years old.

The announcement made on 20 July 2017 by Chris Clarkson,

who represented the team, claimed that it sets a new minimum age for the dispersal of modern humans out of Africa and across South Asia, and the subsequent interactions of *Homo sapiens* with Neanderthals and Denisovans—and that stone age tribes which migrated to Australia were "innovative, dynamic, and artistic."

He also said that the new date of 65,000 would have a big impact on our understanding of when humans left Africa and moved through what is now South-East Asia.

Was this really objective, scientific research, or do we have yet another example of a goal set in advance, a predetermined result, and a group of people funded to engineer a way to reach the intended objective? Independent search for the truth? I would like to believe so, but am sceptical.

Why should we be wary of such announcements? Because in the same breath Professor Clarkson is quick to tell us that "Aboriginal involvement, Aboriginal permission, Aboriginal rights over the excavation itself are very important in this kind of endeavour." And that excavation at the site was conducted under a landmark agreement between the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation representing the traditional owners, and the researchers.

Under the agreement, the Mirarr people have had a right to veto the excavation at any time, control over the artifacts and final say about findings announced about the site. A representative of the tribes said that the agreement ensured the Mirarr people could have control over how the excavation was conducted (Indigenous rock shelter in Top End pushes Australia's human history back to 65,000 years. *ABC News*, Australia; July 20, 2017).

For those of us who know enough about Australian archaeology being about politics more than about science, and who can read between the

lines, it was yet another indicator that, with this "landmark agreement" we will never be allowed to know or speak the whole truth. We can rest assured that any future research will, more often than not, be manipulated and fabricated in line with what the tribes want the results to be presented as.

What was actually discovered?

Researchers found more than 10,000 artifacts buried in the basal (or first occupation) layer under the Madjedbebe rock shelter. Artifacts included stone axes, seed grinding tools and stone points that may have been used as spear tips. They also found ochre traditionally used to paint bodies and rock art, although it is not known how old it is.

"The site contains the oldest ground-edge stone axe technology in the world, the oldest known seed grinding tools in Australia and evidence of finely made stone points which may have served as spear tips," Professor Clarkson said.

He enlisted a geochronologist Zenobia Jacobs. She used optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating technology to establish the age of individual grains of sand/quartz from the site and estimated these were 65,000 years old. She was promptly hailed as "an international guru of dating ancient materials."

To cut a long story short, the news about the "sensational new dating of artifacts at Madjebebe" was repeated many times, on every station, for days on end, and presented as an earth-shattering event.

Something about that story made me quite uneasy. I knew something was wrong with the way it was fed to the public. So I went back to my notes of conversations with Rhys Jones in the mid 1980s.

Old news presented as new

Professor Clarkson said that for

> [Cont. on page 19](#)

Two perplexing big news items (cont.)

"Could it be that Malakunanja was re-named for exactly that purpose, to make sure that people do not make a connection, and when researching the Madjedbebe site never come across Malakunanja and Rhys Jones' name?"

decades he believed the Madjedbebe site was much older than previously thought. And now we know he was right!

Had he read Rhys Jones' research he would have known that $61,000 \pm 13,000$ BP is exactly the result that Jones and his team had reached in the 1980s, applying then very new OSL technique.

Madjedbebe was discovered in 1972 and first excavated in 1973. In the 1980s, it was one of the first times optically stimulated luminescence dating was put into action in Australia. The initial findings, published in *Nature*, suggested that people had been living in Australia for at least 50,000 years. Rhys Jones often spoke of a human antiquity in Australia of 60,000 years plus (M. H. Monroe, April 2016).

Jones was criticised by his detractors, for the use of then relatively new method of luminescence dating, as well as for the fact that the 1989 dig was never written up with a full site report.

So, thermoluminescence (TL) and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) resulted in ages of 52 ± 11 and 61 ± 13 ka BP brackets for the lowest artifacts in the Madjedbebe site (Roberts *et al*, 1990a).

Excavations in the 1980s established Malakunanja as the oldest dated site in Australia. The first signs of human occupation appear 2.6 m below the surface. The layers showing signs of human occupation were TL dated 61,000–52,000 BP. Humans apparently appeared abruptly, dated to 61,000 +9,000/-13,000. The sand below this layer was devoid of any signs of human activity. From a depth of 2.5-2.3 m there was dense occupation, from between 52,000 +7,000/-11,000 BP and 45,000 +6,000/-9,000 BP. More than 1500 artifacts were found in the lowest occupation layer (Jones & Johnson, 1985b; Jones & Negerevich, 1985; Chaloupka, 1993).

What is Malakunanja, a reader might ask? We are talking about Madjedbebe, aren't we? Well, yes. Because it is one and the same! What is now called Madjedbebe (MJB for short), was previously known as Malakunanja.

Rhys Jones was one of very few intuitive scientists one could have come across in Australia and was routinely attacked by his rigid-minded colleagues who wanted him to stick to one uniform story of Australian prehistory as reached by consensus among his peers.

Today he is being properly acknowledged for the part of his work which is of lesser importance. However, when it comes to his most important theories—those are still deemed to be too controversial or too politically incorrect to be even mentioned. Such as his theory of advanced pre-Aboriginal races occupying Australian continent long before arrival of Aboriginal tribes, as he proposed by comparing the advanced non-Aboriginal skeleton (known as Mungo Man) dated to 62,000 years $\pm 6,000$ BP, with robust, pre-sapiens (*Homo erectus*) skeletons found at Kow Swamp site, dated 13,000–9,000 BP. Contemporary tribes knew nothing about Mungo Man, but have claimed the Kow Swamp remains as their ancestors.

Jones' findings and unconventional theories are today deemed as politically incorrect and "culturally offensive to Aborigines," and are dismissed as being the fantasies and daydreamings of an eccentric. Could it be that Malakunanja was renamed for exactly that purpose, to make sure that people do not make a connection, and when researching the Madjedbebe site never come across Malakunanja and Rhys Jones' name?

It is interesting to see world archaeology opening its collective mind to alternative theories of human evolution, while Australian archaeology re-

mains bogged down, adhering to the same old Out-of-Africa paradigm. Which seems quite irrational, since the mounting genetic evidence and DNA research contradict the Out-of-Africa theory, and are pointing to multiple, multiregional origins, and cyclic evolution/devolution of mankind.

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

Website:

www.modrogorje.com

E-mail: ves@theplanet.net.au

All of Tenodi's articles published in *Pleistocene Coalition News* can be found at the following link:

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#vesna_tenodi



The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a cosmopolitan 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.

**PLEISTOCENE COALITION
NEWS**, Vol. 9: Issue 4
(July-August)

© Copyright 2017

PUBLICATION DETAILS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/LAYOUT
[John Feliks](#)

COPY EDITORS/PROOFS
[Virginia Steen-McIntyre](#)
[Tom Baldwin](#)
[David Campbell](#)

SPECIALTY EDITORS
James B. Harrod, Rick Dullum,
Matt Gatton

ADVISORY BOARD
[Virginia Steen-McIntyre](#)

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

Chris Hardaker
Patricio Bustamante
Brett Martin
Richard Dullum
Kevin Lynch
Ray Urbaniak
Vesna Tenodi
Virginia Steen-McIntyre
John Feliks

***Pleistocene Coalition
News is produced by the
[Pleistocene Coalition](#)
bi-monthly
since October 2009.
Back issues can be found
near the bottom of the
[PC home page.](#)***

To learn more about early
man in the Pleistocene visit
our newly redesigned
website at

pleistocenecoalition.com

The Pleistocene Coalition is now in
its eighth year of challenging
mainstream scientific dogma. If
you would like to join
the coalition please write
to the editors.