



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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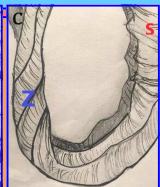
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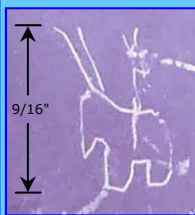
John Feliks

After decades of fieldwork Dutch stone tool production expert, **Jan Willem van der Drift** (colleague of Pleistocene Coalition founding member and archaeologist, the late Chris Hardaker), showed that Oldowan 'Mode I' tools exhibited what he termed 'oblique bipolar flaking' (OBF) in an age anthropology regards as populated by mentally inept *H. habilis*. In this **Part 2**, van der Drift brings perspective from experimental archaeology on how early humans invented advanced tools naturally. E.g., cracking bones for their marrow involved simple technology that likely led to oblique bipolar flaking. See [Van der Drift p.2](#).

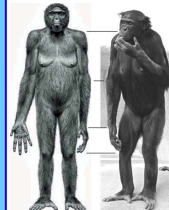


**In recent issues of PCN** we've been reiterating how problematic the 50,000-year old technological discoveries at

Denisova Cave (Siberia) have been for the tenets of mainstream anthropology calling these people 'different species' or 'archaic humans.' We might as well call our own neighbors different species. Things just got worse for this view w/discovery of c. 47,000-year old 'string' in France. The problem is seeing ourselves as an evolutionary pinnacle. Why? The string is Neanderthal. See [Baldwin p.5](#).



Engineer and rock art researcher, **Ray Urbaniak**, tests readers' vision, first with a Utah petroglyph no bigger than your thumbnail. Then, in 'Ships not seen,' Ray takes aim at mainstream archaeologists so indoctrinated they simply *cannot* see pertinent evidence even when it is staring them in the face. We follow Ray's article with '8 proofs' of the effect (by PCN editors) in mainstream science. See [Urbaniak p.12](#) and [p.15](#), followed by [8 proofs, p.17](#).

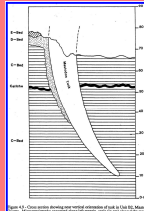


**8 proofs** ideological blindness leads to scientific errors interpreting prehistory. See [p.17](#).

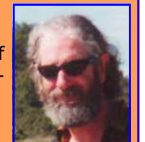
### Welcome to PCN, Volume 12, Issue #3

2020 has been an unusual year and the world's media has provided rare opportunities to see how propaganda works on the international stage. However, after 10-plus years, we editors are happy to relate that PCN readers are more skeptical of aggressively-promoted mythologies presented as fact our ancestors were 'half-human' links in a chain, realizing forced ideas only work by suppressing evidence that doesn't support them.

On a more personal note, everyone in the PC community—editors, writers, researchers, our readers and behind-the-scenes supporters—are rooting for founding member Virginia Steen-McIntyre, after her stroke and long recovery. She has been missed by all. And finally, we hope you enjoy PCN #65!



**Due to continued interest** in the 25-year Cerutti Mastodon suppression and the suppression of related American sites we have been reprinting articles from our Cerutti Mastodon Special Issue (PCN #47). The main feature this issue was supplied by Pleistocene Coalition founding member and archaeologist, the late Chris Hardaker (MA), three months before his passing. Chris, having been a 30-year California contract archaeologist and associate of



Cerutti, was in a unique position to explain *self-suppression* in anthropology and the fear of reputation or job loss the field engenders when scientists publish evidence not in accord with its dogmatic beliefs. See [Hardaker p.8](#) and [p.9](#). The Cerutti Team later weakened its own case and the goals of science in a claim to be 'first' through false representation or complete omission of other sites. See [Feliks p.23](#).

In PCN #s 61–64, a brief background, followed by Parts 1–3, were provided for a published thesis called **The Impact of Fossils**. It concerns how early humans may have been influenced in the development of rock art. The Introduction included passionate comments of defense from well-known science authorities responding to the paper's censorship by *Current Anthropology* and competitive researchers pushing the ideology that our ancestors were of lesser intelligence. Part 4 details the many uncanny similarities between 'rock art' and fossils and introduces the idea of 'race cryptomnesia.' See [Feliks p.19](#).

## How our ancestors lived, *Part 2*

### The invention of stone tools

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

**"A handaxe remains the same tool,**



**Fig. 1.** The author demonstrates how cracking bones to get at the marrow started as a simple technology that likely led to 'oblique bipolar flaking' or OBF.

**whether made by me or by a Homo erectus with a brain 2/3 the size. For many tasks, a small brain... works just as well as a large brain."**

#### Expensive brains

When you multiply 5 x 4, it really doesn't matter whether you use a counting-frame, a pocket-calculator from the 70s or a supercomputer: the result remains the same. And a handaxe remains the same tool, regardless if it was made by me or by a *Homo erectus* with a brain 2/3 the size of mine. So for many tasks, a small brain evidently works just as well as a large brain.

A supercomputer costs more than a counting-frame and large brains are also expensive: our brains are only 2% of our bodyweight but consume 20% of our energy. This means that I spend more calories when I make a handaxe than the *Homo erectus*. I.e., smaller brains perform their tasks with a better cost-efficiency! This is one possible explanation for why the brain-size of species we might cautiously call 'well-adapted' may appear not to have changed much over time. By this reasoning, apes today have the same brain-size as they had 10 million years ago because they're physically well-equipped for their lifestyle of eating fruits in trees. If our human ancestors truly left a habitat in the trees then they would hardly have been mentally equipped for their new lifestyle on the ground.

So the benefits of a large brain—improved planning, communicating and toolmaking skills—then outweighed the costs. In this line of thought it was our hardships that led to brain-growth. But the question is did that growth lead to the invention of stone tools?

#### Action and reward

How do people invent things? One well-known means is by imitation. For instance, Da Vinci and Lilienthal tried to invent flying contraptions by imitating the wings of birds. Other inventions, however, are not so easy to connect to their inspirations. Zebras, for example, do not have sickles, so we did not learn to cut by imitating animals in the wild. Rather, our early ancestors somehow invented a concept—the cutting implement—that did not yet exist! This suggests a 'brilliance' unique to human beings and many believe that it first showed itself with the genus *Homo* 2.5 million years ago. However, a relatively recent 2011 discovery shows that our ancestors—*whomever they may have been*—were already making good flakes at a site called Lomekwi-3 (Kenya) 3.3 million years ago. Although there is no direct association between artifact and maker, this is a time when the maker was presumed to have had the same brain-size as apes. **[Eds. relevant note:** Like the 3.6mya 'modern-human' Laetoli footprints (according to their excavator Dr. Tim White) yet the mainstream promotes them as 'Australopithecine' even though there is no direct association]. So were stone tools were invented by a

prehistoric-Einstein? I propose it more likely our ancestors learned to make them by action and reward.

When apes use stones to crack nuts open they may, of course, accidentally break a stone in the process, something that could itself, be used as a tool. However, apes do not deliberately make stone tools except in captivity where researchers have taught them to flake, by rewarding them.

While we do not know the makers of the oldest tools, it is likely 'action and reward' worked for them, perhaps even for Australopithecines. Australopithecines had a hard time competing for food because they couldn't climb as well as other apes nor run as fast as four legged animals. So, it is possible that to keep from starving, Australopithecines cracked bones and ate the marrow inside.

The bones were put on the ground and bashed with heavy stones (**Fig. 1**). Our ancestors used all their strength, so their fail-strikes, no doubt, broke stones on the ground and created sharp fragments. When the sharp fragments and carcasses rubbed against each-other, pieces of meat were accidentally cut from the bones. Breaking stones would thus have been rewarded with pieces of meat. This wouldn't have been just once or twice but continuously for millennia which may have led Australopithecines to break stones intentionally: cracking bones inevitably led to stone tools.

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

# The invention of stone tools (cont.)

**"Apes do not deliberately make stone tools except**

**Flaking methods and the ubiquity of OBF technique**

Around 1850, Flint Jack became famous by demonstrating how he made

these were also made by freehand flaking.

But there are reasons to believe that 'pre-handaxe' tools (specialists nowadays call these 'Mode-I') were made on the ground. An obvious reason is that making stone tools almost certainly began on the ground. The toolmakers quickly noticed that hitting stones close to one side, produced better flakes. This is the method demonstrated in Fig. 1. on the prior page. As noted in the caption, I termed it 'Oblique Bipolar Flaking' or OBF.

**Discarded flakes**

Thin flakes have the acutest/sharpest cutting edges, so they cut best. The handaxe-makers



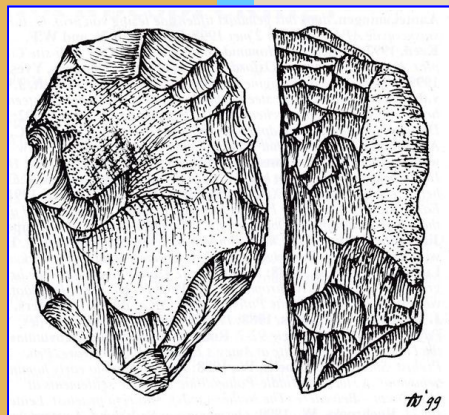
**Fig. 2.** Georgian archaeologist, Professor David Lordkipanidze (Left) with the author (Middle) and Jan Blok and an early human subadult skull (D2700) from Dmanisi. Professor Lordkipanidze is well-known for his excavations at Dmanisi and discovery of Georgian *Homo erectus* and stone tools dated at 1.8 million years (Eds. Note: This is 200–300,000 years older than the famous 'Turkana Boy', African *H. erectus*). See also the author's book, [The Paleolithic, how and why.](#)



**Fig. 4.** Working on the floor, it's easy to modify a thick flake with steep retouches. But hammering on a thin flake on the floor destroys the fragile cutting-edge; from West-Runton, U.K.

**in captivity where researchers have taught**

handaxes. We call his method 'freehand flaking' because he held the stone in one free-and-unsupported hand when he hit it with his hammer. Flint Jack's method worked so well that scholars believed all prehistoric hominids used it. So, in 1959, when the scholars turned their attention to the 'pre-handaxe' tools that



**Fig. 3.** This heavy-duty scraper from Koobi Fora (on the eastern shore of Lake Turkana, Kenya, East Africa) was made on a thick Mode-I flake and modeled with steep retouches. Drawing by Ad Wouters.

**them to flake, by rewarding them."**

Dr. Louis Leakey found in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, (East Africa) it was automatically assumed

The flakes produced using bipolar technique are similar to freehand flakes. However, on closer inspection we see characteristic fracture-signals. After experience one learns to recognize these signals and can find them in all Mode-I sites. In my paper [Oblique Bipolar Flaking, the New Interpretation of Mode-I](#), I show OBF-signals in tools made by early humans at the famous *Homo erectus* site of Dmanisi excavated by Georgian Professor and archaeologist, David Lordkipanidze. **Fig. 2** shows one of the five *erectus* skulls (#D2700) studied during my visit with Dr. Lordkipanidze in 2011. It is an example of the type human that made the tools at Dmanisi. This skull is of a subadult with a cranial capacity of 600 cm<sup>3</sup>.

Considering early hominids already used OBF technique 3.3 million years ago and *Homo erectus* still did 1.8 million years ago, OBF was the leading method for at least 1.5 million years!

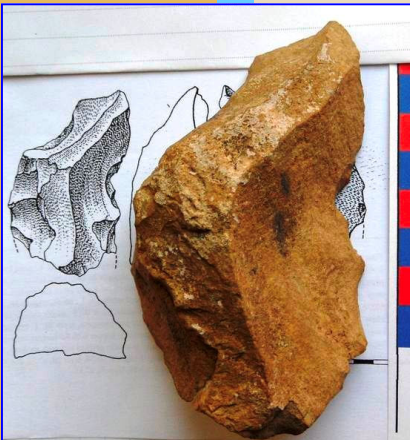
therefore valued large thin flakes so much that they did not throw these away after use. Instead they resharpened the worn flakes by removing small chips. We call this 'retouching'. But Mode-I makers never resharpened their thin flakes, they simply discarded them. Some say this proves that early-man was ignorant and too primitive to make retouches. But that is nonsense because he clearly had the skill and intelligence to retouch thick flakes, turning these into scrapers (**Fig. 3**).

The real reason why Mode-I didn't re-sharpen thin flakes is shown in **Fig. 4**. At the left we see that if you put a thick flake on the ground and hit the edge like the clay ball suggests, you can model that edge with steep retouches. But if you hit the thin flake at the right in the same way, you crush and destroy its edge! So the reason why Mode-I makers didn't re-sharpen thin flakes is their

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

## The invention of stone tools (cont.)

**"After  
experience  
one learns**



**Fig. 5:** The flake removals on this heavy-duty scraper from Dmanisi (in the country of Georgia, east of the Caspian Sea, Caucasus region—north of Armenia and south of Russia), are large and rough. The drawing of the piece is from a paper by French archaeologist, Professor Henry de Lumley, famous for his discovery of 'Tautavel Man' at Arago Cave in south-eastern France. The site had been repeatedly visited 600–200,000 years ago.

**to recognize  
these signals  
and can find  
them in all  
Mode-I sites."**



**Fig. 6** Each day my hands turned grey from the fine volcanic ash preserving thousands of bones and tools in Dmanisi.

technique: they made their tools on the ground!

The number of steep retouches is no measure for the 'development-stage'

because it depends on the quality of the available materials. At West-Runton many tools show intense retouch because they were made from flint that was highly suitable for retouching (see, e.g., illustrations in AC Lagerweij *et al.* 2009.

Werktuigen uit het Stone Bed van East Anglia 1,8 miljoen jaar B.P. In *APAN/EXTERN* 13). However, volcanic raw materials tend to

crumble away. For this reason, in Dmanisi we merely find a few coarse retouches (e.g., **Fig. 5** and **Fig. 6**).

### Choosing OBF

With OBF technique one can't make a handaxe. So it's fair to

say that the freehand method is 'better'. This makes everyone wonder why Mode-I toolmakers

used OBF, when even chimpanzees can learn to flake from the free hand. But it's fair to say OBF users actually had very good reasons!

One advantage to OBF is that working on the ground increases the effective force. One would likely not know this without firsthand experience. One can experience a similar effect by taking a piece of wood in one free-and-unsupported hand while trying to drive a nail into it with the other. This takes far harder strikes than if the wood were lying on the ground.

Another advantage of OBF technique is that it offers easy directional control. This is because all fractures run from the hammer towards the ground. Again, direct experience is the primary way one would know this.

Finally, the most important advantage is that OBF works on each and every stone. Even on completely rounded cobbles, whilst freehand flaking only works on stones that have acute edges. As early-man lived close to rivers, his raw materials came from riverbanks so these entailed mostly rounded stones. When one uses rounded stones flaking-on-the-ground is the only truly reliable method, so OBF definitely outperformed freehand flaking in Mode-I.

So, these are the likely reasons early man liked and chose OBF technique to make stone tools. But as long as he kept flaking on the ground, he could never invent the handaxe. That brings us to a new question, what made him change his mind and how did he invent the handaxe? You can read that in the coming *PCN*-issue.

### Selected earlier writings

Van der Drift, J.W. 2019. [The Paleolithic; how and why](#). *APAN/EXTERN* 18.

Van der Drift, Jan Willem. 2012. [Oblique bipolar flaking, the new interpretation of Mode-I](#).

*Notae Praehistoricae* 32: 159–64.

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

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

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

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

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

Website: <http://apanarcho.nl>

# Compelling new evidence Neanderthals were smarter than you think

By Tom Baldwin

**"Representing this normal disbelief"**



**was John Shea, Professor of Anthropology at**



**Fig. 2. Levallois flake showing location of the adhering cord fragment. Photo: M. H. Moncel.**

**Stony Brook University...**

**The preponderance of evidence, however argues for the cord being Neanderthal."**

**Rather than let paradigms and preconceived ideas rule our thoughts**, we at the Pleistocene Coalition have from the beginning, strived to let science guide us. So far, that science has shown us early humans were our intellectual equals. They may have lived seemingly more primitive lives but they were not any less smart than we are.

Once again, our 'hominin' ancestors are surprising the archaeological establishment. This past April 9 a very interesting piece appeared at *Nature.com*. It seems archaeologists working at a rock shelter in south-eastern France, the Abri du Maras, discovered some 'fibers' clinging to an *in situ* stone flake. It is very rare to find anything but bones and stone tools from Pleistocene-age sites. Wood tools, clothing and other organic materials just do not last the requisite tens of thousands of years necessary to survive until today. Only rare exceptions have been discovered. This means we have very little to give us any insight into the day-to-day lives of these people—our progenitors. The fibers were found by Bruce Hardy, a professor and paleoanthropologist at Kenyon College in Ohio.

In another article on the discovery, this time from CAPRadio (Capitol Public Radio out of Sacramento, CA) we read: "He was examining one stone tool when he saw some flecks of white that he then peered at through a microscope."

"'It was a mass of twisted fibers,' he said. 'It was clear that we had something, as soon as I saw it.'"

Additional work with a more powerful microscope revealed

what looks like a classic structure used to make string. "What we have found is a small fragment of a three-ply cord," said Hardy, adding that it was made from fibers that come from the inner bark of some kind of evergreen tree.

"There are three bundles of fibers that are twisted counterclockwise, and then those bundles, once they are twisted, are twisted back the other way, clockwise, around each other to form a cord or string" (**Fig. 1**).

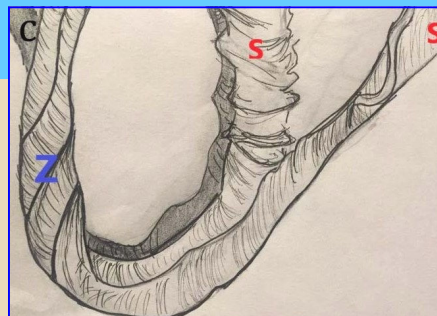
At the time of his find, Hardy was working in layer 4.1 of the deposits in the rock shelter. That area has been dated 41,000–52,000 years old. No string or cord anywhere near this age has been discovered previous to this find.

Until now the oldest known cord was less than half as old at 19,000 years, and another date of 25,000 years old for what appears to be an impression made by a cord in some hardened mud.

More surprising to mainstream scientists than finding the cord itself is the fact the rock shelter it was contained in is one that was used by Neanderthals.

Whoa there, Nellie! Neanderthals making cord? Surely, there is something wrong with this picture, as we all know from our upbringing, Neanderthals were just a bunch of grunting savages not smart enough to make something as sophisticated as string.

Representing this normal disbelief was John Shea, Professor of Anthropology at Stony Brook University in



**Fig. 1. Schematic drawing showing 's' (Middle and Right) and Z-twist (Left) of string structure. Drawing by C. Kerfant; Hirox: C2RMF, N. Mélard.**

New York, who isn't so sure the cord was made by Neanderthals. "The idea that this cordage is necessarily made by Neanderthals, that is open to question," he said, even if Neanderthal remains were found right nearby:

"You still have to keep an open mind. That just means that Neanderthals were present. It doesn't rule out the possibility that humans were wandering around this same part of the world at the same time."

So, maybe we should conclude that some *Homo sapiens* happened to be visiting his Neanderthal girlfriend and left the cord behind.

The preponderance of evidence, however, argues for the cord being Neanderthal.

The flake (G8 128) that the cord was adhering to is a traditional Levallois flake (**Fig. 2**). Not only that, it was found in a layer with literally thousands of other stone implements of the Levallois style of artifacts and flakes. Levallois tool assemblies are almost always associated with Neanderthals. Levallois is the technique of working stone that they used to make their tools. There is no evidence of *Homo sapiens* being there then, girlfriends or no girlfriends. The rock shelter,

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

# Neanderthals smarter than you think (cont.)

**"Despite his skepticism...Professor Shea does curiously say: 'There's not one shred... not even the slightest trace of evidence that Neanderthals were deficient in terms of their intelligence compared to humans.'"**

as best as we can tell, was used off and on only by Neanderthals.

Despite his skepticism, and while not ready to admit any hominids made the cord, Professor Shea does curiously say:

**"Making high-quality string and rope, however, takes some know-how. And... there's no reason to think that Neanderthals wouldn't be capable of that. There's not one shred, and I mean not even the slightest trace of evidence that Neanderthals were deficient in terms of their intelligence compared to humans"** (emphasis added).

Professor Hardy also weighs in on the intelligence of Neanderthals sarcastically saying:

"They are this sort of ultimate 'other,' this creature that is very similar to us yet somehow is supposed to be too stupid to live."

Professor Hardy feels this view does not make sense as Neanderthals were smart enough to have persisted for hundreds of thousands of years before

eventually disappearing around 40,000 years ago.

Professor Shea also points out a very important fact: twisted fibers provide the basis for clothing, rope, bags, nets, mats, boats, etc. which, once discovered, would have become an indispensable part of daily life. Understanding and use of twisted fibers implies the use of complex multi-component technology.

In addition, Shea goes on to say:

**"Added to recent evidence of birch bark tar, art, and shell beads, the idea that Neanderthals were cognitively inferior to modern humans is becoming increasingly untenable."**

And, so, we have another nail in the coffin of the dumb hominid in general. It is very likely our twine-making Neanderthals had much more than on Shea's list above.

They were smarter than you think.

TOM BALDWIN is an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah. He

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

Links to all of Baldwin's articles on Calico, *H. erectus*, and many other topics can be found at: [http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom\\_baldwin](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin)

## Neanderthal identity

**Tom Baldwin's update on the humanity of Neanderthals** is inspiring. Yet, at the same time, it reveals the need to

evidence of completely-modern capabilities of Paleolithic people published in *PCN* as far back as 2009 or by members before PC was formed (e.g., as far back as 50 years for Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre). One sign mainstream researchers are aware of the evidence is overly confident statements about Paleolithic people that appear to come out of the blue or are bolder than warranted by the evidence they provide as recently demonstrated with [Cerutti Mastodon citation issues](#) (e.g., as ID'd by Prof. of Anthropology, Andre Costopoulos, UAlberta, CA). On the other hand, Tom's update shows we must address decades-long inconsistent statements from mainstream anthropology. Most puzzling is that even when claiming

*equal intelligence* in Neanderthals anthropologists such as Prof. John Shea (SBU) still separate Neanderthals from 'humans.' The cause is paleoanthropology's focus on physical appearances (including genetics) and its core belief early people were only half human. Suppression of evidence such as that in *PCN* is part of the problem (**Fig. 1**). *PCN* reader and eclectic researcher, Ed Swanzey, in 2011 made a similar comment in a science magazine put out by New York University. In response to an article titled, "Are you smarter than a Neanderthal toolmaker?" Swanzey quotes the author then responds: "Could a Neanderthal [build a hammer] without imitating humans?" The Neanderthals WERE human!" Tom's update confirms it is time for science to fully acknowledge Neanderthal humanity with-out reservation. -jf



**Fig. 1.** Due to the field's suppression of evidence for equal intelligence to us (such as in *PCN*) Neanderthal stereotypes persist. In this depiction it is difficult to see much more suggested than that Neanderthals were fearful, tired, sick, or mentally-challenged. Image: Nicola Solic, Reuters.

*"Changes aligning with the Pleistocene Coalition are in the air."*

address a scientific classification problem that doesn't seem to go away whatever evidence is presented. On the one hand, the update shows that changes aligning with the Pleistocene Coalition are in the air—aligning with

## Member news and other info

### Quick links to main articles in [PCN #64](#):

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Jan Willem van der Drift

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[Relevant reprint: Thoughts on early man; VSM response to Cerutti Nature publication](#)

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[Elaborated documentation of the mammoth/notation panel](#)

Ray Urbaniak, Mark Willis, Todd Ellis, Braxton Ellis

#### PAGE 12

[Another possibility regarding hand stencils in France](#)

Ray Urbaniak

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John Feliks

### PCN-Cerutti timeline correction and a 'twin' suppression

Researcher [Michael Cremo](#) played a crucial role in bringing the now '50-year' suppression story of Pleistocene Coalition founding member Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre to international attention. This was done through his and co-author, mathematician Dr. Richard Thompson's *Forbidden Archeology* in 1993. Michael was also one of the people Virginia had informed about the suppressed Cerutti Mastodon site.

Ironically, it wasn't until 3 years after we published our [Cerutti Mastodon publication after '25 years'](#) timeline (PCN #47, May-June 2017) that anyone concerned noticed a mix-up between two dates involving Michael and Virginia.

In the timeline, none of us editors, contributors or Michael noticed the year that Michael met with San Diego Museum paleontologist, Dr. Tom Deméré of the Cerutti Mastodon discovery, had gotten switched with the year Virginia informed Michael about the discovery.

An unexpected side-benefit of investigating this detail reminded us even more explicitly how anthropology withholds evidence from the public 'whenever' unacceptably old dates are obtained for archaeological sites in the Americas. Here's how: Michael's meeting with Deméré actually took place in 1990 not 2005 as mis-

takenly printed though the date is related. It turns out the 1990 meeting involved *another* suppressed butchering site

in the same area, San Diego, that Michael had inquired about, known as the Miller Mammoth site. It also involved *bones cut with stone tools*. Not only that, but the mammoth bones were dated by the USGS to **300,000 years old**, the **same date given by Deméré** in the cryptic 1995 'Final Report' about the Cerutti mastodon site. And predictably, just like the Cerutti site the Miller site was also not properly published in a scientific journal.

This is where the other date comes in. It was in 2005 Virginia informed Michael about the Cerutti site, at which point, Michael published an article in the Sept-Oct issue of *Atlantis Rising* magazine, titled [California State Highway 54's Mastodon Blues](#), where he told the suppression stories of *both* sites.

[Two years later, Pleistocene Coalition founding member and archaeologist, the late Chris Hardaker—a longtime colleague of Richard Cerutti—wrote his book chapter where he psychoanalyzed suppression of the Cerutti site. We reproduce it in brief and full versions in this issue. That was published 10 years before we at PCN pulled our collaborated efforts together into the Parallel Timeline on suppression of the site, '25 years' after its discovery, and

'22 years' after its infamous 'Final Report' (1995) by lead author Tom Deméré.]

**Key takeaways:** Two completely different San Diego sites involving mammoth or mastodon bones were apparently worked by early humans using stone tools and given the same date of 300,000 years old yet the anthropology community felt neither discovery warranted being made public in a scientific journal. The Cerutti Mastodon 'Final Report,' as Michael noted in his article, is only one such report out of 'thousands' unknown to the public.

Sciences that wield influence over public beliefs, that decide what evidence the public needs to hear and what evidence it doesn't according to a field's ideological beliefs, are not sciences people can trust. Trust is additionally eroded when blinkered experts make destructive statements by way of anonymous alter-egos on blogs and forums.

Michael also reiterated what he calls 'knowledge filtration' but allowed Deméré, himself, to explain exactly how science manages problematic evidence:

"Deméré told me he did know about the finds [the Miller Mammoth] but cautioned me that a report like that would never make it through peer review into any scientific journal."

The synchronicities between these two sites, their dates, and their identical treatment are too similar to ignore. They show the negative workings of a science manipulating evidence the public has a right to be informed about. Readers of PCN #65, like others, are increasingly savvy to what—after years of reiteration—is the oxymoronic unscientific and unprofessional nature of mainstream anthropology. It is a regular employer of propaganda techniques we would not accept from other sciences.



[Link to PCN #64](#)



[Link to PCN #63](#)



[Link to PCN #62](#)



# Chris Hardaker, Cerutti suppression quick excerpt\*

**"The Arizona paleontologist made a most ominous assessment..."**

**"If the site is less than 15,000 years old then it is probably cultural; if it is older, it is probably natural."**

**\*June 2020 note:** This is part of our reprint series from [PCN #47](#), May-June 2017, due to continuing interest in the Cerutti Mastodon suppression case and falsehoods regarding other sites recently perpetuated through omission and false statements in the journal *Nature*.

## Excerpt, Chris Hardaker's "new" *New World* and psychology behind suppression of Cerutti Mastodon site

The Arizona paleontologist made a most ominous assessment to the museum crew:

"If the site is less than 15,000 years old then it is probably cultural; if it is older, it is probably natural."

Had it stayed within the 15,000y maximum, you might have heard about the site on the evening news. There would have been a monument. And *National Geographic* would have scored another cover. In 1993.

It was not even close. 180,000-300,000 years. This is what the U-Series dates originally said. What did the scientists say? Nothing. Silence. Tip-toe away? Maybe nobody will hear. More than a decade later, nobody has. A monograph was started a few years ago and then it just stopped. From all accounts, no report was ever sent to *National Geographic*. One has to wonder what NGS thought about all this when they heard the dates. Oh, no! Not another Calico! No thanks. Don't call us; we'll call you. [Recently improved Uranium-Thorium dates came up with 130,000y.]

So, instead of a world class archaeological discovery demanding its very own conference, published volume, TV show, and a national monument to commemorate the site,...nothing. Nothing is known of this site outside a very small circle of participants. The report of the fieldwork was sent to CDoT and a couple other government agencies and is not currently available for sale. What survives are some nagging memories among some of the professional geologists and paleontologists who worked and visited the site.

Robson Bonnichsen was one of a very small number of archaeologists who actually took the time to examine the materials in the lab and looked over the field notes and report.

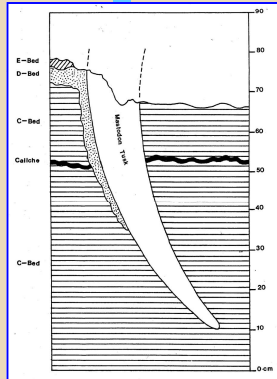


Figure 4-9 Cross section showing near vertical orientation of tusk in Unit B2, Mastodon Quarry. Microstratigraphy associated along left margin, scale (in cm) along right margin.

From a letter in the SDNHM files, he thought it was some of the most intriguing evidence he had seen regarding really early man in the New World.

Whether or not the mastodon quarry is ever resuscitated, it should draw attention to the types of problems archaeologists should learn to expect in a pre-Clovis, preModern world. It also calls to paleontologists to be on the lookout. After all, like Professor Krieger said forty years earlier, it was the paleontologists who first brought bone tools to the attention of archaeologists at the turn of the 20th century. This was how it was for me when Joaquin showed me the flattened rib fragment from his bone pit. In a preMod world, a great burden of recognition will shift to paleontologists.

In the end, it was an archaeological call. If the museum paleontologists led the charge on this site, there is every chance they would not have fared too well. There is every chance they would have suffered a drop in credibility and respect, and a drop in grants and contract work. After all, this was southern California and they all knew about what happened to archaeologists who claimed pre-Clovis sites. Archaeologists nor paleontologists would not have stood a chance in the academic climate of the day. They probably would still not stand a chance. The only chance will come from an informed public.

-See the complete chapter from Hardaker's *The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World*, on p.9.

## We sometimes receive at PCN international messages from concerned citizens

regarding destruction of their property or regions they believe may contain important historical or prehistoric evidence. Of course, as volunteers we cannot get involved in such causes though we do occasionally mention them.

It is a difficult matter for two main reasons: 1.) Beliefs of the landowners and the evidence they may or may not have, and 2.) Ideological beliefs of regional archaeologists.

Regarding landowners, often those writing us are not clear on what constitutes 'artifacts'—usually stone objects showing signs of human workmanship. Without being clear on this distinction they sometimes believe artifacts are found on their property by the hundreds or even by the thousands.

Regarding the problem of local archaeologists, even if property owners do indeed find genuine artifacts—and perhaps even some with extra significance—readers need to know what they're up against. The problem is that mainstream-educated workers in fields that are part of—or even just touched by—mainstream anthropology are seldom taught how to assess evidence 'objectively' whatever its form. Anthropology is one of the fields that fell from devotion to objectivity to devotion to an ideological belief system. The result is archaeologists are unlikely to be interested in even looking at a site if they are already convinced they know the region. The epitome of this problem is what *PCN* readers know so well regarding obstinate belief there were no early people in the Americas. It is not lack of evidence but adoption of a 19th Century evolution/migration belief system making certain evidence 'automatically' unacceptable.

Finally, as noted in Chris Hardaker's articles reputable archaeologists may fear for their jobs. Circumstances like this need to change for anthropology to regain public trust.



# The "new" New World

Chapter 7 from [The First American: The Suppressed Story of the People Who Discovered the Americas \(2007\)](#) reprinted in response to the recent Cerutti Mastodon Site announcement\*

By Chris Hardaker, MA, archaeologist

**"Now it will be up to us to explain 'why' a certain broken stone cannot be an artifact instead of blindly assuming geofacts."**



**The sooner we know where pre-Clovis horizons are, the sooner we'll know what to look for** and what to keep from being destroyed before we get a good chance to look at it.

Bone beds and stone quarries would be good first bets. Sheguindah's quartzites and Calico's semi-precious

cherts will make excellent study collections because there are so many specimens. Bone beds from the Middle Pleistocene forward are now potential goldmines.

What do kill sites look like without bifaces, without stone spearheads of any kind? Without stone? A kill site without arrowheads might look very different from the Clovis kill sites we know and love. So might the tools, like bone tools?

The puzzle pieces of human evolution are materially finite. The preClovis record is fragile and easily destroyed. That record will be largely composed of faint vestiges of human presence captured in the ancestral dust, mere fingerprints in a Clovis world that demands skulls if not skeletons.

Valsequillo could easily be one of a kind. It would be hard to imagine another region so generous in Middle Paleolithic bones and artifacts buried in sand and silts (**Fig. 1**). The Lake Manix region surrounding Calico would be a good second. But what of all those other sites that didn't quite measure up? (For Euros like Francois Bordes and Mary Leakey, Calico measured up.) These "lesser" sites might not have been strong enough to



**Fig. 1.** Valsequillo spearheads. Age: 200,000+ years old. Priceless. Missing.

bust the Clovis bubble, but things have changed and that bubble has long been popped. Now these lower tier sites don't have to prove immaculate presence. Now the pressure is on us to expect earlier, non-bifacial thinning, agnostic artifact types. Now it will be up to us to explain "why" a certain broken stone cannot be an artifact instead of blindly assuming geofacts. To this end, presence/absence recognition needs to be upgraded.

Experimenting with bipolar flaking is definitely a start [see [Bipolar Corner](#), PCN #36, July-August 2015]. A few centuries ago in Europe, flake scatters were regarded as places where witches blew up. While most all archaeologists are (or should be) hip to direct percussion and pressure methodologies, bipolar assemblages might as well be places where witches blew up Bone fractures and taphonomy could become the meat and potatoes of the new American archaeology. In the end, exposing our deep New World heritage may depend on bone beds. Where bones

survive, maybe there is some of us in the mix.

Translated: Track down your friendly neighborhood Pleistocene paleontologist. Bow. Present the customary imported six-pack. And this is what you ask: "Seen any anomalies lately?"

### Anomaly Heaven

"I met Roald Fryxell. He gave a talk at the Udden Club. I remember sitting in the laboratory afterwards and he told me about a site that he was working on in Mexico. I don't remember exactly the name of the site. He found some really early kinds of tools. He dated the site five or six different ways. It was too old for carbon-14. It was a very old site. He had primitive tools. He had volcanic ash that he dated. There was a basalt flow that blocked a lake. They were able to date that using a uranium dating technique. The fossils were much older than recent material. They did hydration studies on flints [volcanic glass-ch] to get an age. All

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

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# The "new" New World (cont.)

***"It was a cross-section of a tusk, a tusk that had been buried vertically in the ground... like a post."***

the dated material was more than 100,000 years old. Of course early humans in the new world at that time had only been dated to seven or eight thousand years. He worked on an early man site in Washington State. Nobody would believe that work in Mexico because it was way too old. I never forget him telling me that. It was just a few months after that he was killed. He was out in the field and was going to town to give a talk. They think he fell asleep and got into an automobile accident.

The reason I remember that, as a paleontologist, I always thought that if humans were chasing mammoth and mastodons and bison and large mammals up in the arctic, when those things migrated into the New World, I always thought that man would be right behind them. Just about four or five years ago we discovered a site here. It was the same kind of thing. We dated it every way possible. It was close to 200,000 years old. Nobody believes that one either. People will argue about it whether it was fossil that was deposited and then reworked into a younger deposit. So there are many academic arguments. But I have never forgotten that and tend to think

that he was probably right. It was probably that old. I think our site is as old as that. I think someday you will find somebody publishing on a paleolithic discovery in North America."

-MW Hager, PhD. Executive Dir, San Diego Natural History Museum. 2005

If monitoring behind bulldozers and bellyloaders is one's idea of a romantic profession, it ceases to be after the first day, unless you have a thing for diesel fumes. It is a marginal type of work because you usually get to do it when there is a good chance there is only a slight

chance of finding anything. For example, if there are sites in an area and they have been avoided or excavated, the contract archaeology company often leaves one or two fieldworkers behind to follow the mechanical dinosaurs in case anything else turns up. This also applies to paleontologists.

More than a decade ago, in National City, California, south of San Diego, a SDNHM [San Diego Natural History Museum] paleontologist was monitoring an area where there was a slight chance that California Department of Transportation (CDOT) roadwork would turn up old bones. Day after day it is as much your ears as your eyes that can call your attention to a possible discovery. Fossilized bone sounds different from hardened mud and sand when scraped by a bulldozer's blade, and this sounded like bone. He calls the bulldozer off the spot and brushes the ground looking for the source of the "noise."

### Anomaly 1

It was a circular outline, but it was not bone. It was a tusk, probably mastodon. It was circular. And it was a tusk. It was circular, and that meant it was a cross-section of a tusk. It was a cross-section of a tusk, a tusk that had been buried vertically in the ground...like a post (Fig. 2).

What could have naturally buried a tusk that stood it up in a vertical position?

Once excavated, the paleontologists had to append that question.

What could have naturally buried a tusk in a vertical position that penetrated at least three strata of a buried flood plain?

The deposits were made up of hardened sands, silts and clays. Like Valsequillo this meant a low energy, gentle burial, only slower. There were no gravels. This was later supported by the articulated nature of the buried remains of many other critters. From reconstructions, the burial

context seems to have been caused by a rising ocean level and the resulting back up of the local drainages creating a marsh-like zone. The gentle deposition of sediments kept the bones in place for the most part. A horse was uncovered; a near-perfect burial except the head was missing, which is not rare in paleontology.

### Anomaly 2

What is rare, is to find the remains of animals in fairly good shape while another one next to them is smashed to smithereens, like it got run over with a steamroller. This was the Mastodon. The bones were broken when they were still fresh (green).

### Anomaly 3

What was also strange was finding several small boulders (roughly about 20 pounds) and a couple of broken cobbles in a fossilized marsh. The larger stones were typified as "anvil-sized" but could also be viewed as large hammerstones, possibly using two hands. A couple of the larger stones were found amidst bone clusters. Referred to as "erratics," it means that the presence of these stones is unexplainable, out-of-place. There is no natural riverine agency that can select certain heavy stones for transport while only carrying silts and clays over flat ground. It drove a local geology professor batty. Several of the smaller cobbles were found broken, with sharp refittable bits and pieces scattered about the site. This meant they were broken up onsite in a muddy matrix. How did the boulders get there? What broke the cobbles up?

### Anomalies 4 and 5

Clusters of bones were seemingly arranged. One cluster featured the "heads" of two mastodon femurs that were found paired up, together. The other "arrangement" looked like a collection of bones in a framed context.

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

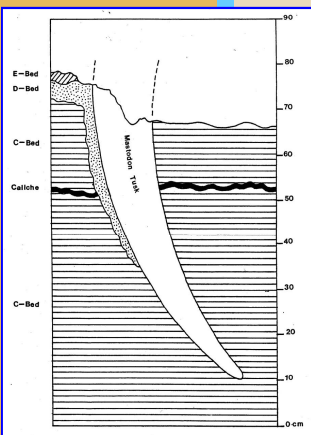


Figure 4.9 - Cross section showing near vertical orientation of tusk in Unit B2, Mastodon Quarry. Microstratigraphy annotated along left margin, scale (in cm) along right margin.

**Fig. 2. National City Mastodon tusk found buried vertically (1992 report).**

## The “new” New World (cont.)

**“This was southern California and they all knew about what happened to archaeologists who claimed pre-Clovis sites.”**

As often happens in contract fieldwork, unexpected finds tend to eat up small budgets, and paleontologists live on scanty morsels to begin with. A northern Arizona paleontologist (also present at the 1968 meeting in Tucson where the 250,000y U-series dates were first discussed) helped the museum facilitate a \$10,000 National Geographic Society emergency archaeology grant. You don’t mess with the NGS until you are fairly sure of your claims, so the features must have looked pretty archaeological to the paleontologists. Nothing else made sense.

No natural agency or forces could selectively and collectively account for the anomalies turning up among the bones. They acknowledged that there was no absolute, direct evidence, but when all the anomalies were added together, it always spelled a-r-c-h-a-e-o-l-o-g-y. (To local archaeologists, not so much.) The paleontologists got the grant quickly.

It was not a kill site but a butchering or processing site. By all counts, the mastodon was probably already dead, little more than a carcass, but still worth butchering; the tusks and bone would make for good tools plus all the other things like high-protein marrow from bones, hide, etc.

A cautious silence was the local archaeological reaction to the site by officials from San Diego’s Museum of Man. They visited the site, looked and listened, but did not say a word. The CDoT archaeologist merely scoffed. She didn’t buy it for a second. One can only wonder: had archaeologists been digging the site, would they have noticed anything strange? Most of us aren’t trained to recognize an archaeology composed of a series of paleontological anomalies. What the hell’s a paleontological anomaly?

That’s not to say there wasn’t a lot of head shaking among the crew. Though dates would not be known for many

months after they left the field, speculation on the site’s antiquity was rife. The Arizona paleontologist made a most ominous assessment to the museum crew: “If the site is less than 15,000 years old then it is probably cultural; if it is older, it is probably natural.”

Had it stayed within the 15,000y maximum, you might have heard about the site on the evening news. There would have been a monument. And *National Geographic* would have scored another cover. In 1993.

It was not even close.

180,000-300,000 years. This is what the U-Series dates originally said. What did the scientists say? Nothing. Silence. Tip-toe away? Maybe nobody will hear. More than a decade later, nobody has. A monograph was started a few years ago and then it just stopped. From all accounts, no report was ever sent to *National Geographic*. One has to wonder what NGS thought about all this when they heard the dates. Oh, no! Not another Calico! No thanks. Don’t call us; we’ll call you. [Recently improved Uranium-Thorium dates came up with 130,000y.]

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files, he thought it was some of the most intriguing evidence he had seen regarding really early man in the New World.

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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](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#the_first_american)

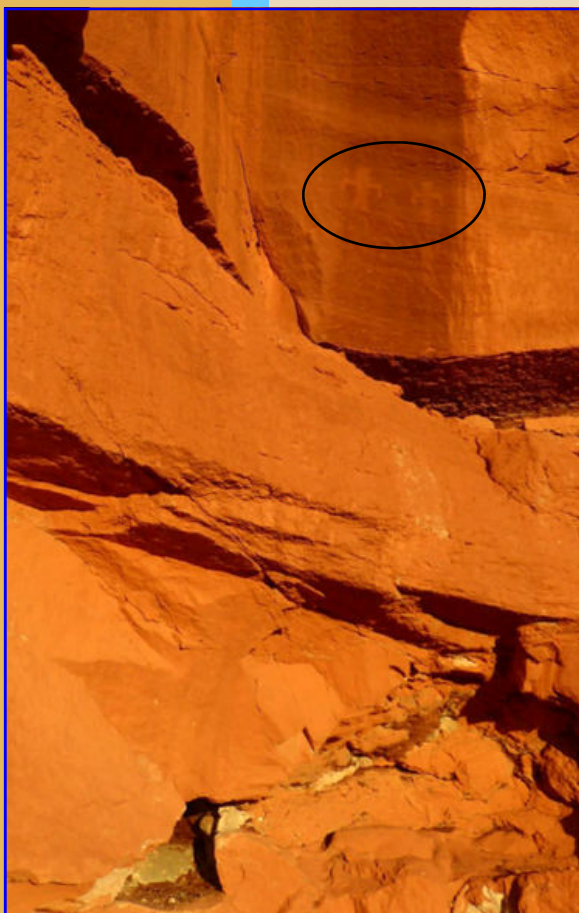
# Analysis of an intriguing micro-petroglyph in Utah

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist



Around sunset, near the 2019 winter solstice sunset (December), I went to photograph a southwest Utah panel with two faint petroglyph figures on it (Fig. 1 upper right). I thought it would look nice with the sunset light on the panel. When I got there I realized the two figures were actually facing the winter solstice sunset!

To the lower left of the figures was a cavity about 10-12 inches wide (Fig. 1 lower left)



**Fig. 1.** Overview of the southwest Utah rock art site discussed in this article. **Upper Right:** Encircled are the two human figures initially prompting my visit. **Lower Left:** The sheltered cavity I later discovered contained an unusual animal petroglyph in miniature. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

which the winter solstice sun was illuminating. Illumination

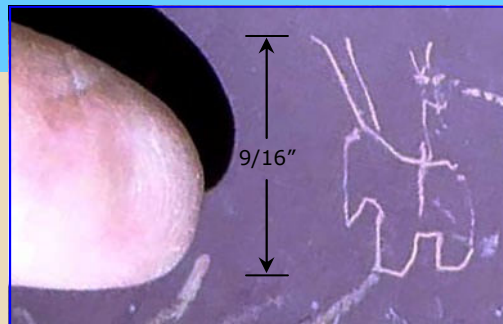
of this area only takes place around the winter solstice sunset period.

Inside the cavity was a smooth almost polished turquoise looking material; and with a little imagination, one can see it has somewhat of an animal shape to it.

This animal shape is surrounded by a large pocket of jasperish looking material. The jasperish material is shiny on its undisturbed surfaces. I found a small flake of the material that had fallen off a larger block. It was an unexpected find for a winter solstice sunset site! A few photos of these items can be seen on the last page of the article.

When I returned the fallen flake to the cavity I used a flashlight for illumination in order to photograph the cavity's interior. Two of these photos can be seen on the following page to accommodate their size.

The biggest surprise, however, didn't occur until I got home and studied the photographs. To my greatest amazement, I could then clearly see a tiny petroglyph of a very long-horned animal that some-



**Fig. 2.** Tiny petroglyph the author discovered in a small protected rock cavity in southwest Utah. The figure is about 9/16" tall or 14mm (finger at left is for reference). The animal portrayed resembles an Arabian oryx (see Fig. 9 on the following page). If the image is pre-Columbian the problem is that oryx are known naturally only in Africa and Arabia. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

one had carved inside the cavity and, very likely, a long time ago! I recently returned to the site (2020) in order to get a better feel for the size of the tiny glyph. An example of this exquisite little piece can be seen in Fig. 2. I placed my finger in the picture so one can get a real sense of the



**Fig. 3.** Handle of my hiking stick (foreground) to give a scale and external view of the cavity containing the tiny animal petroglyph. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.

petroglyph's delicacy of carving and its diminutive size. My finger is 5/8" wide.

**Fig. 3** shows the handle of my hiking stick (in the lower left corner) to give a sense of scale for the small opening of the cavity that contains the tiny petroglyph.

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

# Analysis of an intriguing micro-petroglyph in Utah (cont.)

Next, are several photos of the cavity's interior 2019–

text which is not apparent from the outside photo-



**Fig. 4.** Inside the cavity is a smooth almost polished turquoise-looking mass reminiscent of a horse such as known from several famous European Paleolithic caves. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.

likely completely natural, its shape is reminiscent of a horse or other large Ice Age mammal. In this way it is similar to formations in some famous Ice Age caves of Europe. In Europe such formations are also 'natural' but in the past they were often enhanced by Paleolithic people to increase their resemblance to living animals and creating a very noticeable three-dimensional effect. For example, see the famous 25,000-year old horse painting at Pech Merle Cave in southern France or the similar three-dimensional effects at Chauvet Cave, also in southern France (the cave I wrote about in the prior issue of *PCN*), or the famous cave of Altamira in northern Spain.

Again, not being a geologist, I also noticed that the horse-like image appears to be surrounded by what looks like a pocket of Jasper-like material as can be seen in the photograph.

2020. I wanted to include these in order to give the

graphs. **Fig. 4** shows a rock mass which to me, not



**Fig. 5.** Another view from inside the cavity as lit up by a flashlight. Notice the three duplicated pairs of animal or human marks in the lower left corner. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.

**Fig. 5** shows another area of the rock cavity. This is the area that contains the surprising discovery of the tiny animal petroglyph.

In this photo and the one on the following page I speculated the scratch marks near the glyph (lower left in this picture) could have been made by a bobcat or mountain lion reaching in to capture a small rodent hiding in the cavity. However, a *PCN* colleague thinks they are more likely deliberate being all parallel to each other along with several duplicated pairs. Those additional parallel lines can be best seen in the photograph on the following page. It is interesting that these double lines also slightly resemble the horns on the little animal.

reader a sense of the tiny glyph's location and con-

being a geologist, resembles turquoise. Though

> [Cont. on page 14](#)

# Analysis of an intriguing micro-petroglyph in Utah (cont.)

In **Fig. 6**, these duplicated groups (which are possible

horns quite unlike the mainstream's interpretation of



**Fig. 6.** The small stone surface area containing all the parallel lines and the tiny animal petroglyph. Keep in mind that this whole arrangement is only about '2 inches' across so it did surely did involve some fine detail work. Photo by Ray Urbaniak.

If it is an extinct pronghorn this would explain the animal marking the winter solstice. The glyph could have been used as a prayer offering not only to prevent the sun from going any lower in the sky, but to return the sun to a position higher in the sky. It would also be there to assure a return of the pronghorn from their more southern wintering grounds and a subsequent return to abundance.

Finally, I have never seen this 'style' of petroglyph. It looks more like a fetish (**Fig. 9**). It's bulky style suggests it could have been *traced* around a tiny flat fetish. If so, the fainter line on the rump suggests it may have been traced by a left-handed person. However, I tried it myself and the fetish would have needed to be quite tiny. I find it unlikely someone made so small a fetish unless perhaps to carry in a medicine pouch. Alternatively, a fetish could have been copied by sight rather than by tracing.

The protected nature of the cavity where I found the glyph could have easily preserved it for many millennia.

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist

and passionate amateur archaeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art of the Southwest and other topics. Urbaniak has written over 30 prior articles with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of them can be found at the following link:

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

symbols) are right next to the micro-petroglyph of the little horned animal.



**Fig. 7.** Comparing the tiny petroglyph with a larger one that appears to show a spear or dart in the middle of the body.

Even though the whole arrangement looks like it could be large it is only a total of about two inches across. So the project likely took some time and detailed effort to complete.



**Fig. 8.** Comparing the Utah petroglyph with a Saudi Arabian oryx glyph. Rock art photo courtesy of منجر لانب ع صر ان لا

Another interesting observation is that the tiny glyph appears to show a spear or atlatl dart in the center of the animal's

body. In **Fig. 7**, I compare this interpretation with a larger petroglyph.

As in my earlier *PCN* articles, I also point out the fact the animal has long 'straight'

such glyphs as bighorn sheep—even though they don't have curled horns. So, in **Fig. 8**, I compare the Utah glyph with a more likely model, an Arabian oryx. The straight horns on the glyph also suggest it could depict an extinct Ice Age animal observed when it was still alive evidence I have provided in several prior

*PCN* articles. See for example, [Refined thinking regarding Ice Age animals in rock art](#) (*PCN* #52, March-April 2018, which included discovery of what appears to be an extinct American cave lion). For instance, It could represent an extinct pronghorn antelope or a recollection of such an animal from before they came to the Americas across the Bering Land Bridge during one of its 'easy' crossing dates such as discussed in Tom Baldwin's [Breaking the Clovis barrier](#) (*PCN* #16, March-April 2012).



**Fig. 9.** Comparing the micro-glyph with a Zuni horse fetish; nativeamericanjewelrytips.wordpress.com

# Ships-not-seen and fact-denying dilemmas in Clovis-First and other mainstream beliefs

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer,  
rock art researcher and preservationist

**"Nowadays,  
'ships not**



**seen' may  
more accu-  
rately de-  
scribe sci-  
entists or  
others so**

**"Often times, scientists and modern thinkers, closed into a certain way of seeing or thinking about things, will often not 'see' what is directly in front of them."** -Hmolpedia

The idea of 'ships not seen' originally referred to Native Americans and other native peoples supposedly not being able to see Columbus' tall ships when they first arrived because nothing like them existed in their worldview (**Fig. 1**). The effect was recorded by the crews of famous European explorers such as Christopher Columbus (1492), Ferdinand Magellan (1520), and James Cook (1770) when they first visited the New World and elsewhere. A botanist named Joseph

Banks—who accompanied James Cook—gave one of the best accounts:

"The ship passed within a quarter of a mile of them and yet they scarce lifted their eyes from their employment.

... Not one was once observed to stop and look towards

the ship; they pursued their way in all appearance entirely unmoved by the neighborhood of so remarkable an object as a ship must necessarily be to people who have never seen one."

Nowadays, 'ships not seen' may more accurately describe scientists or others so absorbed in what they are convinced they 'know' they literally cannot see new evidence.

Information presented in an interesting NPR *Radiolab* Podcast May 21, 2012, while about a comparatively simple culture can just as easily be

applied to a modern science-saturated culture if it is unable to see the 'obvious.' It mentioned a tribe in Namibia (southern Africa) that was quite isolated and didn't have a word for the color blue. The Namibians were shown a computer screen with 12 squares, 11 green and one blue, and then asked to point out which square was different. As it turns out, they simply stared at the screen and could not respond, even though they were not color blind. Die-hard Clovis-First advocates are really no different in light of all the conflicting evidence provided for many decades.

Regarding literacy, the most ancient texts around the world apparently only mention black and white colors. Later texts add the color red. Still later texts, yellow, and then green. Finally, the last color of all to be mentioned is blue. The reasoning goes there isn't much blue in nature so people are naturally slow to come up with a word for it. In other words, it takes extra effort to conceive of blue.

As far as archaeological evidence goes, it is theorized that red was the first color recognized because of red ochre pigment which is common in the form of hardened mud. It is



**Fig. 1.** Columbus' tall ships were purportedly not visible to the Native Americans when the vessels first appeared being completely foreign to their 'worldview'. Image cropped from eoht.info.

soft enough to easily be used as a crayon. In fact, red ochre has been used around the world for at least 200,000 years.

Closer to home, I have noticed that I myself was unaware of certain medical conditions until I, or someone I knew, was afflicted by one of them. Once that happened, I could see the condition mentioned. Not only that but I then started hearing it mentioned everywhere! Originally, the condition was simply not in my 'worldview' until it was pointed out to me and I needed to know more about it.

About 10 years ago, the Department of Public Works in the area I live put these large power poles along an otherwise very peaceful road near me. I was horrified. They had destroyed the view corridor. Every time I drove on that road I would get angry. However, after a few years, I realized I hardly even noticed the poles anymore! They became familiar and I no longer saw them. It was as if my mind had put up mirrors so as to hide the power poles from view like the glass tree house in **Fig. 2**. In this case, my worldview had excluded the poles vs. the poles being something that had never been in my worldview.

> [Cont. on page 16](#)



**Fig. 2.** Glass tree house in Sweden almost invisible because of how it reflects its surroundings, It creates such a mental diversion observers can't imagine it is a future technology-laden home completely hidden to outside observers. Image: eoht.info.

**absorbed in  
what they  
are con-  
vinced they  
'know' they  
literally can-  
not see new  
evidence."**

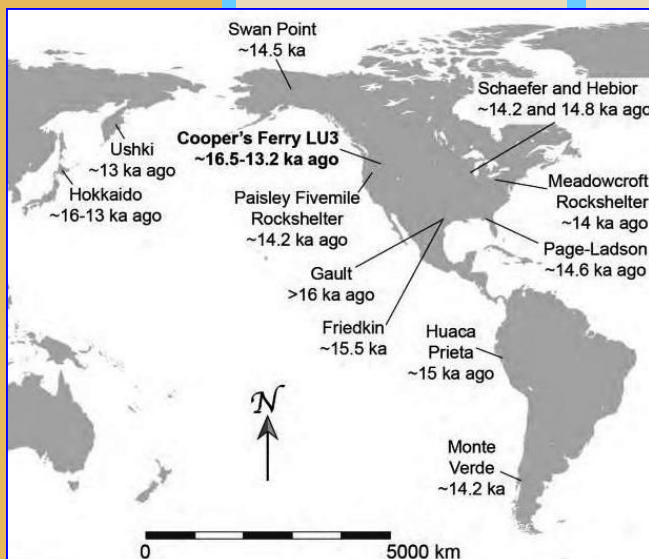
# 'Ships not seen' and fact-denying dilemmas (cont.)

**"When the Clovis First Theory was first presented and**

Visual cloaking is a popular physics project these days with several devices already made and demonstrated. What we are talking about here, however, is the kind of mental processing that can

range, their resistance to sites infinitely older is just as stifling as before. The effect is shown in **Fig. 3**. Reformed Clovis-Firsters think it is a pretty good representation of 'pre-Clovis' archaeological

Mal'ta skeletal remains in Siberia. See my article, [Some observations on the controversial subject of the peopling of the Americas](#), for more on this subject (PCN #54, July-August 2018).



**Fig. 3.** A few of the 'pre-Clovis' archaeological sites reformed Clovis-Firsters are starting to see. Of course, every one of these sites is still in the *very recent* age-range, yet they say things like these sites really push back the dates which, of course, they don't—not compared to truly ancient sites. Map is Fig. S1 from Loren G. Davis *et al.* 2019, "Supplementary Materials for Late Upper Paleolithic occupation at Cooper's Ferry, Idaho, USA, ~16,000 years ago." *Science* 365 (6456): 891-7.

sites. However, readers of this journal will straight up see that these 'accepted' sites are all in the very recent age-range. They are not at all like the much older dates for evidence in PCN, especially from the PC founding member Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, and the USGS team that dated the 250,000-year old Valsequillo and Hueyatlaco sites in Mexico. So, in reality, reformed Clovis-Firsters just starting to be open to sites like Cooper's Ferry—a Pre-Clovis site even though it dates to only 16,000 years ago—are still under the influence of the 'Ships not seen' effect. I.e. they are still unable to see the much older sites! In the Fig. 3 article, they do not mention even one of the older sites.

The older-than-Clovis archaeological finds did not fit the worldview of the Clovis-First supporters. So, either they 'couldn't' see the evidence supporting earlier peopling of the Americas or they did see it but convinced themselves it wasn't there, like the tree house mirrors-effect hiding evidence they didn't want to see because it muddied the water of their pristine view of the past. If classified as a psychological disorder it might be called 'unconscious selective attention' (see "Your hidden censor: What your mind will not let you see: Scientists probe the biases of 'unconscious selective attention,'" by K. Payne. *scientificamerican.com*, June 11, 2013).

Whatever we call it, the 'Clovis First Diehards' still do not see any of the evidence from sites that are much older than a mere 16,000 years! But there is hope. I just noticed a statement in *Journey through the Ice Age* by the very well-informed Dr. Paul G. Bahn, PhD (personally influential to some Pleistocene Coalition founders and a longtime advocate against suppression) and Jean Vertut, 1997, which states on page 26: '...once a phenomenon is accepted as real, it starts to be looked for and is found.'

**then unquestioningly accepted by the science community, it had the effect of making most people literally blind to evidence of far earlier inhabitants of the Americas."**

cause trained scientists to not see, grasp, or believe important evidence when it conflicts with their worldview. It is a fair conclusion our minds can perform a real form of optical cloaking in the same sense people no longer see the beggars in third world countries.

When the Clovis First Theory was first presented and then unquestioningly accepted by the science community it had the effect of making most people literally blind to evidence of far earlier inhabitants of the Americas. Just recently have people of mainstream-only education begun to accept there were people in the Americas long before the influx of the Clovis People.

This level of acceptance is still weak, though, because while they may be more open to sites in the 14,000-20,000-year

David Riech's book, *Who We Are and How We Got Here*, on page 178 identifies two native tribes in the Amazon region of Brazil that are 'more closely related to Australasians' than to other world populations. They estimate the proportion of ancient ancestry was small, 1-6%, with the rest being consistent with 'First American ancestry.' They concluded they had found a 'ghost' population that 'no longer existed in unmixed form.' This Ghost population may turn out to have been from a group of people who arrived before the Clovis migration.

Archaeologists may eventually find skeletal evidence for this 'ghost' population just as they did for the Ancient North Eurasian 'ghost' population when they found the

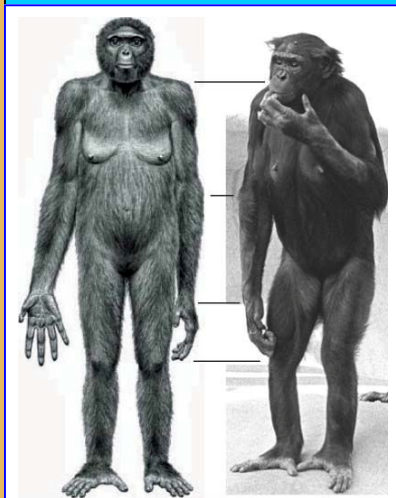
RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art of the Southwest and other topics. Urbaniak has written over 30 prior articles with original rock art photography for PCN. All of them can be found at the following link: [http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray\\_urbaniak](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak)



# 8 proofs the 'ships not seen' effect causes scientific error in anthropology, biology, and paleontology



**(Top):** Blombos Cave, South Africa, 75,000-year old *H. sapiens*-engraved ochre (Wikimedia Commons) claimed **earliest sign of symbolism**. However, blindness to other evidence does not create facts as the claim doesn't hold a candle to **(Bottom):** 500,000-year old *H. erectus*-engraved shell, Trinil, Indonesia (W. Lustenhouwer). Not only is their claim false, but worse for them, *H. erectus* were not their 'necessary' ape-men but were as capable as *us*. [The first artist: Comparing Blombos with an artifact dated half a million years older](#), Tom Baldwin, PCN #33 (Jan-Feb 2015).



**"To some researchers' surprise, the female skeleton [the 4.4 MYA *Ardipithecus* fossil known as Ardi] doesn't look much like...any of our closest living primate relatives."**  
-Ann Gibbons, quoted from the journal *Science's* biggest propaganda fiasco of all time (2009). [Ardi](#) drawing public domain; [Bonobo](#) photograph courtesy of primatologist, Frans de Waal. [Ardi: How to create a science myth](#). PCN#3 (Jan-Feb 2010).

**Ray Urbaniak's 'Ships not seen' article this issue** should be an eye-opener for those not yet convinced three fields; anthropology, biology including genetics, and paleontology; have essentially dropped out of standard academic ethics and the rigor of normal science to become completely blinded by a 19th Century fantasy myth about human origins and prehistory at all costs. And the rest of the science community is condoning it.

**This brief compilation** features easy-to-grasp proofs of the 'Ships not seen' effect in the words or actions of *misinformed modern scientists* in the above-named fields published by PCN editors V. Steen-McIntyre (PhD), T. Baldwin, R. Dullum, and J. Feliks over the past 10 years with direct links to the original PCN articles.

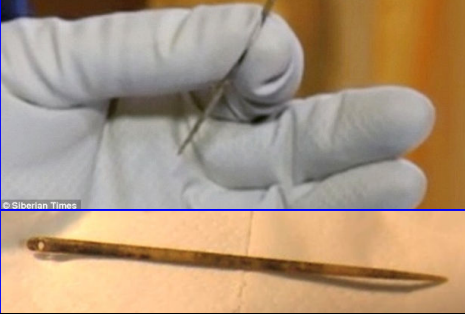
That ongoing false statements of fact over pivotal matters and propagandistic techniques (thought-terminating clichés, etc.), and general baloney are easily published in journals like *Science* and *Nature* should prove both the producers of the material and the journals promoting it are no longer 'normal' sciences but advocates of an ideology.

The reader can judge for themselves if the comparisons and quotations offered and the journals publishing the material do not prove they each 'cannot see' the ships in the harbor.

Loss of common sense or a general ability to assess interdisciplinary evidence and come to reasonable conclusions based upon the evidence should never be accepted in any science. And there can be no doubt; the rest of the science community needs to be held accountable for allowing these fields to get away with flooding academic and popular literature with millions of highly-promoted pages of propaganda while aggressively 'blocking' other evidence from public scrutiny.

This intellectually dishonest and destructive worldview is entirely dependent upon use of propaganda techniques and the withholding or vilification of conflicting evidence in order to 'convince' a trusting public. It is crucial the two leading science journals begin looking into this matter for the sake of all true science.

Created by what mainstream anthropology calls an **archaic human sub-species**.



This **remarkably-modern sewing needle**, the oldest known, was created by people at Denisova Cave, Siberia, whom the ideology-blinded science community regard as a *different species*. This is the central problem with paleoanthropology. Since the field is pre-committed to the idea of *not-quite-us* humans it is baffled by innovations scarcely improved upon in 50,000 years! Photos: *Siberian Times*, Vesti. Tom Baldwin, [Those pesky Denisovans](#), PCN#43 (Sept-Oct 2016), and [Update and review of 'modern-level' Denisovan culture c. 40,000-50,000 years ago](#), PCN #50 (Nov-Dec 2017).



Four views of manual proximal phalanx (finger bone) of OH 86. ...The authors avoid saying outright it is a modern human finger bone. **Their conclusion** based on the evidence shows their reason for this is **dogma not science**:

**"Collectively, these results lead to the conclusion...OH 86 represents a hominin species different from the taxon represented by OH 7 [*H. habilis*], and whose closest form affinities are to modern *H. sapiens*. However, **the geological age of OH 86 obviously precludes its assignment to *H. sapiens*."****

Image: M. Domínguez-Rodrigo *et al.* 2015. Earliest modern human-like hand bone from a new >1.84-million-year-old site at Olduvai in Tanzania. *Nature Communications* 6, August 18, 2015. Richard Dullum, [1.84 million-year old 'modern human' bone being promoted as 'not' \*H. sapiens\*](#), PCN#42 (July-Aug 2016).

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

# 8 proofs 'ships not seen' effect causes scientific error (cont.)



A recent invertebrate genetics paper now-sequenced genome of the famous brachiopod, *Lingula*, was used to promote already well-debunked Darwinian propaganda claiming—despite what anyone can see with their own eyes—these brachiopods are 'actively evolving.'\* This author's figure above shows the level of this 'evolution' activity over a 450 million-year span. **Upper Left:** *Lingula* brachiopod fossil recovered by author *in situ*; Ordovician Plattin Formation, Eureka, Missouri; **Tales of a fossil collector, Part 5: *Lingula* brachiopod fossil with soft pedicle preserved, PCN#28** (March-April 2014). **Upper Right:** Negative same. **Lower Left:** Living *Lingula* burrowing in sand (*Guide to the Mangroves of Singapore*; courtesy of Singapore Science Centre) identical to the fossil even though it is 470 million years younger. **Lower Right:** Living *Lingula* in Japanese aquarium (Wikimedia Commons).

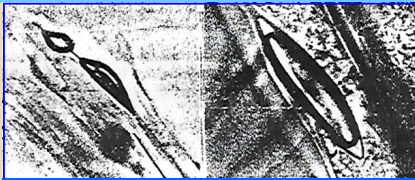
Science railroading of the public is easy when it is uninformed about the well-nigh impeccable invertebrate fossil record—the most massive readable record of any kind known to man.

**\*"We find that contrary to its reputation as a 'living fossil,' the *Lingula* genome has been actively evolving."**

—Luo, Yi-Jyun et al. 2015. The *Lingula* genome provides insights into brachiopod evolution and the origin of phosphate biomineralization. *Nature Communications*, September 18, 2015.

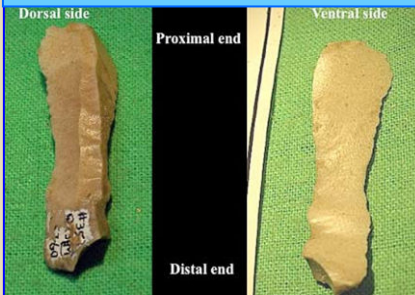
Unless evolution can mean anything one wishes, if *Lingula* has been actively evolving one should expect to see a difference between a 470 million-year old *Lingula* fossil and a living *Lingula*.

The quote (typical of such papers) shows a huge credibility problem in evolutionary genetics. Tricks like this are used to dupe the public into believing evolution is occurring even though no one can see it. As a periodic reader, the author recently finished scanning all six Revised volumes of the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology: Brachiopoda*.



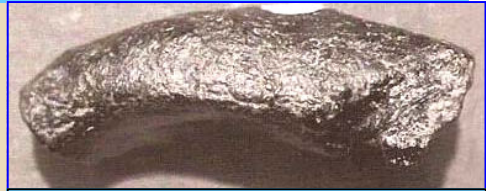
"Maize grains [from Mexico] were rough dated by me" (Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, volcanic ash specialist and PC founding member) years after using the tephra hydration/superhydration dating method on an overlying volcanic ash layer. The paper was blocked from publication, 1975, because the date was too old for maize in the Americas. "From those grains I got the same hydration curve as...the Hueyatenco volcanic ash...100 km to the east, in other words, roughly 250,000 years old." The above fig. shows the basics of how the tephra-hydration/superhydration dating method works. Details are in the article.\*

\*Farmers in Mexico a quarter million years ago? Evidence of maize grains withheld from publication; PCN #52 (March-April 2018).



**"In these cases [e.g., Calico, California], the findings could be explained as the outcome of geological or biological processes that superficially mimic human-made items."**

—E. Hovers. *Nature*. April 27, 2017: p. 421  
Statements like Hovers' in her mastodon piece inspired by Cerutti Team (same issue) are the result of anthropologists never taught to assess evidence objectively making them literally 'blind' to the obvious. [The photos above](#) compare a 'Calico' blade (Top) Hovers would call naturally-formed and an identical blade from France she would call an artifact. Discernment like this is common among mainstream anthropologists proving they are 'incapable' of seeing what is right before their very eyes.



**Possible archaic human supraorbital ridge**, Chapala Basin, Mexico. Photo courtesy of Frederico Solorzano. Archive files of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD.



The possible human supraorbital ridge (dark brow upper left) inset in cast of European *H. erectus* skull, showing how it may be derived from similar specimen. Photo courtesy of Frederico Solorzano. Archive files of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD.

Regarding 'heavily stained,' 'permineralized' skull fragments, Guadalajara area, 'western Mexico' pointing to '*H. erectus*,' anthropologist JD Irish *et al*\* discuss the facts but toe-the-party-line w/confusing conclusions reflecting ideology-manipulated American anthropology.

- 1.) "One Chapala superciliary arch deserves specific mention due to its large size."
- 2.) "Studies by Solórzano show the bone resembles...**archaic Homo sapiens**...Arago, France."
- 3.) "In an **unpublished 1990 report**, Texas A&M osteologists suggest the brow's thickness and robustness comparable to those of KNM-ER 3733 (**African Homo erectus**)."

Again, 'unpublished' for something so pertinent? This is standard anthropology mismanagement of data as covered in PCN confirming the field cannot be trusted as science.

- 4.) "Our measurements show...the brow is more like that of Zhoukoudian Skull XI (**Asian Homo erectus**).

Now compare described data with conclusion:

- 5.) "To reiterate the findings of the Texas A&M workers, **these comparisons do not imply...pre-Homo sapiens were in the Americas.**"

Excerpts from Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre PCN #2 (Nov-Dec 2009) and PCN #62 (Nov-Dec 2019) with added commentary. This was the first of Virginia's 'In their own words' series to show PCN readers the incongruous conclusions of ideology-driven science. \*Irish, JD, SD Davis, JE Lobbell, and FA Solórzano. 2000. Prehistoric Human Remains from Jalisco, Mexico. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 17: 95-96.

# The Impact of Fossils A paper on Paleolithic fossil collecting and its possible influence on early humans, text pp. 116–117

By John Feliks

**"It was in the medium of rock that**



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

**humans first observed tangible images of living forms."**

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

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

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

[Click here](#) for PCN full-text Installment 3 (PCN #64, March-April 2020).

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

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

### ABSTRACT

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

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

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

### KEY WORDS

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

PCN full-text 4th Installment continuing from [Installment 3](#) (after 'The earliest iconic image framed by a human being')...

### The medium of rock as image field

*Why create iconic images in rock?*

"Nature may be so perverse as to make it likely that we will present a stolen idea as being our own to the very person from whom we stole it." (Brown and Halliday 1991: 487)

Rock art, by way of identical medium, is irrevocably linked to natural rock imagery. Whenever prehistoric artists first carved stone images, or created images on rock surfaces, they were working in a medium which already had a long prior history of its own imagery. It was in the medium of rock that humans first observed tangible images of living forms; for hundreds of millennia, they continued to observe these images. Hence, rock was a natural medium of choice upon which to create images. The 'natural representations theory,' therefore, presents rock not as just another medium in which representational art found expression, but rather as a medium which encouraged the development of art by providing ready-made examples (consider Marshack 1991b: 57). The presence or absence of fossils at rock art sites is inconsequential to the theory because influences are not restricted by time or geography.

### Race cryptomnesia

The idea to create imagery on rock surfaces need not even have been consciously acquired, as anyone who has studied or has had direct experience with cryptomnesia well knows. Cryptomnesia, the 'unconscious influence of memory that causes current thoughts to be (wrongly) experienced as novel or original inventions' (Taylor 1965: 1111),

shows itself most dynamically in creative acts. The effects of cryptomnesia can occur almost immediately after one's exposure to an idea (Brown and Murphy 1989; Marsh and Bower 1993) or over the span of an entire lifetime (Trosman 1969; Brown and Halliday 1991).

The possibility of a cryptomnesic factor in the development of rock art cannot be ignored, for it is well known that individuals, as well as human groups of any size (including humanity as a whole), often 'forget' the influences and steps by which they came to arrive at their present ideas, abilities or conditions. Certainly, the observing of fossil plant and animal images on rock surfaces, and the collecting of fossil shells for untold millennia played a role in the development of rock art.

*Retrospective predictability #2: what rock art and fossils have in common*

If fossils were influential in the development of rock art, then we would expect rock art to have characteristics which are similar to the pre-existing imagery (see Trosman 1969: 493). And, such is the case. Both rock art and the earlier-established fossil imagery share the following virtually identical traits:

- the medium of rock
- a tangible quality (in contrast to other natural imagery such as shadows, reflections, etc.)
- the representation of three-dimensional objects free of surrounding matrix
- the representation of three-dimensional objects in *bas relief*
- images resulting from indentations in the medium

> [Cont. on page 20](#)

## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

**"The 'natural representations theory... presents rock not as just another medium in which representation of art found expression, but rather as a medium which encouraged the development of art by providing ready-made examples."**

- the representation of three-dimensional objects in two dimensions
- two-dimensional representations of a filmic nature in a range of colors
- images in colors which are different from the 'background' medium
- easily identifiable images
- images which are not easily identified
- an unorganized or randomly scattered appearance as concerns multiple images
- palimpsest effects in the case of multiple images
- multiple images in a variety of shapes and sizes

Two-dimensional representation of three-dimensional forms is well-established in the natural world, as any perusal of flat fossil images on rock matrix will attest. Such fossils are quite common, having been created in the following ways: (1) where organisms are naturally pre-disposed to flatness in fossil form (often as a mere carbon film)—fish, ferns and other plants, soft-bodied arthropods, graptolites, etc.; (2) cross-sections of fossils in broken or weathered rocks; and (3) where sedimentary rocks have been metamorphosed causing originally three-dimensional fossils to become flat. Observation of two-dimensional images in rock would have opened the cognitive door to the possibilities of engraving and painting. (It is notable that fossil graptolites were so named because they resembled writing, painting, and other markings on rock surfaces.)

Multiple rock art images on rock surfaces, particularly those with enigmatic signs and patterns, often have an unorganized or randomly scattered look (see especially Shee Twohig 1981; Dowson 1992; Delluc and Delluc 1978; and Breuil 1933, 1935). But this is the exact manner in

which plant and marine fossils have long been 'displayed' on rock surfaces. Rock art images are also sometimes superimposed one over another, creating a palimpsest effect. But this effect, too, is a standard trait of multiple fossils on rock surfaces.

The many similarities between rock 'art' and the various kinds of fossil preservation cannot be inadvertently dismissed as mere coincidence. That these two forms of representation might somehow be related is further demonstrated by the fact that various fossil manifestations are sometimes mistaken for rock art (Bahn 1998: 100). Even trained archaeologists sometimes err in distinguishing between rock art and naturally-occurring phenomena in rock (Bednarik 1994a). Since rock art mimics traits which have long been characteristic of natural rock imagery, it must be considered possible that natural imagery influenced the development of rock art.

### **The substitutional aspect of representation and the Middle/Upper Palaeolithic transition in Europe**

#### *Substitution via natural objects*

The 'natural representations theory' requires only that early people notice the obvious connectedness between living things and their duplicate existence in rock. I propose that such observation led to the most easily grasped use of representation, that which does not require any act of creativity—substitution. Following Gombrich (1961, 1963), Carrier suggests that the making of images is 'ultimately grounded in the human capacity to treat one thing as a substitute for another' (Carrier 1986, 1984).

At what point in prehistory is substitution first evidenced? It has sometimes been suggested that ochre may have been used in Palaeolithic burial rituals as a substitute for blood (e.g., Marshack

1986). But the mere presence of ochre or ochre-stained objects at Palaeolithic sites is insufficient evidence for such a conclusion (Flood 1983: 171; Conkey 1983; Bednarik 1988). The same may be said of possible synechdochical substitutions. However, that substitutive associations were made via fossils during the Middle/Upper Palaeolithic transition is supported by strong archaeological evidence.

Aurignacian people recognized the similarity between living shells and those found in Tertiary sediments for they commonly 'substituted' fossil shells for those collected from active beaches (Leroi-Gourhan 1964: 71; Oakley 1978). They even collected both living and fossil forms of the exact same species (Taborin 1993a, 1993b). Remnants of Aurignacian necklaces made of both living and fossil shells is evidence that living and fossil shells were compared, side by side.

The subtle differences (in weight, color and texture) between living shells and fossil shells were 'just enough' to be noticeable. It was the noticing that fossil shells were similar to, but not the same as, contemporary shells which would have sparked the idea of substitution. In other words, identical, three-dimensional shape and size would have assured association; differences in weight, color and texture would have taught the concept of alternate media or substitution. It is reasonable to conclude that as Aurignacian people substituted fossil shells for contemporary shells that they were, in effect, learning the *concept* of substitution.

#### *Substitution via artificially-made objects*

From the 'archaeological record' as we know it today, it is readily observed that an increase of fossil collecting occurred during the Middle to

> [Cont. on page 21](#)

## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

**"That these two forms of representation might somehow be related is further demonstrated by the fact that various fossil manifestations are sometimes mistaken for rock art."**

Upper Palaeolithic transition. This increase occurs just prior to the earliest Aurignacian three-dimensional representations. Now, if we accept the notion that fossil shells are natural, three-dimensional representations, then the possible connection between Aurignacian fossil collecting and the birth of Aurignacian three-dimensional representation must be addressed. Could the process of substituting fossil shells for living shells have led Aurignacian people to the idea of making their own 'artificial' substitutes?

White has brought attention to several early Aurignacian (c. 34,000 BP) ivory beads which, in my view, may have resulted from just such a chain of events. The beads were apparently fashioned to duplicate the appearance of exotic gastropod shells which were recovered from the same levels at the same site, La Souquette, France (White 1989b; see also 1989c). The punctuated pattern on the shell depictions is a faithful reproduction of that known from the gastropod shells themselves, e.g., *Pirenella plicata* (White 1989a). These 'gastropod sculptures,' as they may be called, predate the human and mammal sculptures from Galgenberg, Austria, and Vogelherd, Geisenklosterle, and Hohlenstein-Stadel, Germany, by as much as 2,000 years.

The archaeological context of these shell sculptures is significant. La Souquette and the two contiguous sites (Blanchard and Castanet) contained an unusually large number of shells, both contemporary and fossil forms (Taborin 1993a, 1993b). Hence, at these three neighboring sites were found all of the elements necessary to support the following developmental sequence:

- (1) contemporary shells from active beaches compared with
- (2) 'natural representations' of shells (fossils from the rocks and marls) followed by

(3) 'artificially-made representations' of shells.

Other Aurignacian gastropod sculptures were carved out of rock (White 1992, 1993a). There is also an example from the Magdalenian of France (Lascaux), a rock apparently carved to resemble a gastropod shell from the same site (Taborin 1979). Fossil gastropods and carved limestone duplicates (as well as clay models of the fossils) were discovered in the so-called Neolithic 'temple' sites in Malta (Oakley 1965, 1978). (There exists, too, a beautifully-intricate Minoan gastropod sculpture from Crete carved out of obsidian [Dixon et al. 1976].) Gastropod sculptures carved out of rock are further evidence that fossil shells may have been a stimulus in the creation of three-dimensional representations in rock. At the very least, they indicate that prehistoric people found shells to be a worthy subject for iconic imitation.

*Continued in PCN Installment 5\**

**References** for the 1998 paper for this section only follow. This Installment 4 represents pp. 116–117 of the 1998 RAR publication.

\*Installment 5 in the next issue begins with:

### Part III

#### FOSSILS AS REFERENTS FOR AMBIGUOUS PREHISTORIC ICONOGRAPHY

#### The 'fossil depictions theory'

*The basic 'non-representational' geometric shapes*

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> [Cont. on page 22](#)

## The Impact of Fossils (cont.)

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### A THOUGHT REGARDING SUPPRESSION OF DATA IN SCIENCE

"A central lesson of science is that to understand complex issues (or even simple ones), we must try to free our minds of dogma and to guarantee the freedom to publish, to contradict, and to experiment. Arguments from authority are unacceptable."

- Carl Sagan -

# Neighboring archaeological sites—The Cerutti Mastodon case would be strengthened by not distancing Calico\*

By John Feliks

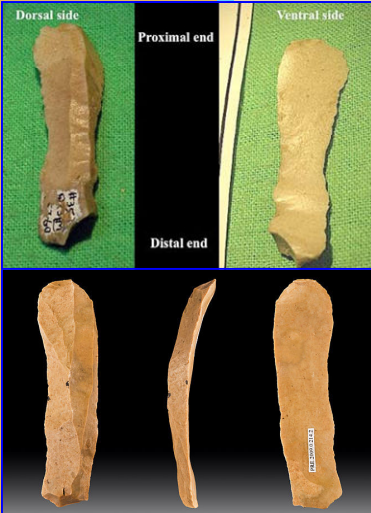
**"This is exciting for the day but to move forward**

**"In these cases [e.g., Calico Early Man Site, Barstow, California], the findings could be explained as the outcome of geological or biological processes that superficially mimic human-made items."**

—*Nature* 544, p. 421, April 27, 2017

—*Nature* 544, p. 421, April 27, 2017

This is a sample stance which the Cerutti Mastodon Team has taken regarding contemporaneous or earlier sites in the Americas. Obvious and already-identified and catalogued artifacts being referred to as findings that "superficially mimic human-made forms" would never pass peer review in normal sciences. Facts can be checked to see whether or not statements such as this are scientifically valid. Instead of taking the journal *Nature* at its word take a look at an actual artifact from Calico (**Fig. 1**).

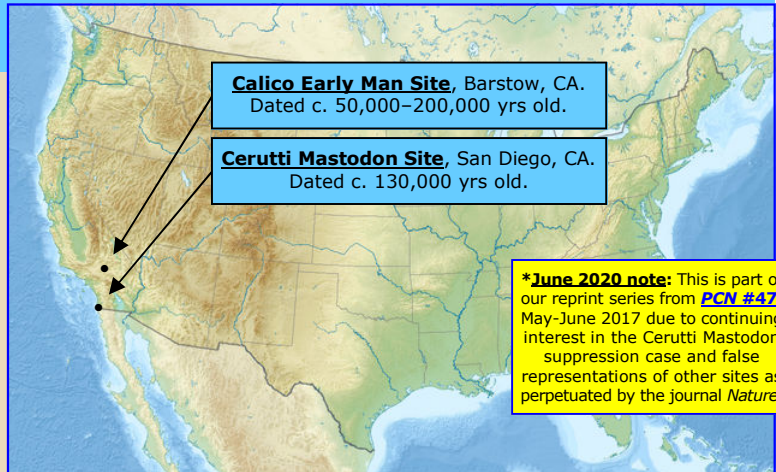


**Fig. 1.** Comparison from [Reviving the Calico of Louis Leakey, Part 1](#) (PCN #21, Jan-Feb 2013). I made this figure so that readers could see scientific bias in action by comparing a stone blade from Calico, CA, dated c. 50,000–200,000 years old (meticulously photographed and catalogued by PC founding member archaeologist Chris Hardaker) with a virtually identical blade from the famous site of Brassempouy in France, dated c. 22,000–29,000 years old. Readers can judge for themselves the objectivity of *Nature* claims recently published repeating that Calico's specimens were *made by nature* while the European specimens are fully-accepted as *made by man*. **Top:** Artifact #16605 from Hardaker's Calico Lithics Photographic Project (see PCN #6, July-August 2010). **Bottom:** a flint blade from Brassempouy (Wikimedia Commons). Dr. Leakey, familiar with artifacts worldwide, was fully confident in the artifacts from Calico despite uninformed mainstream attempts, even in 2017, to denounce them as "geofacts."

**American anthropology needs a bigger picture."**

for yourself whether or not the statement is true.

The Cerutti Mastodon Site is being promoted as the oldest



**\*June 2020 note:** This is part of our reprint series from [PCN #47](#), May-June 2017 due to continuing interest in the Cerutti Mastodon suppression case and false representations of other sites as perpetuated by the journal *Nature*.

**Fig. 2.** This map shows two long-suppressed "contemporaneous" Pre-Clovis sites: Top, Calico Early Man Site (excavated by the late Dr. Louis Leakey—renowned international expert on stone tools) and Bottom, Cerutti Mastodon Site. The two sites are a mere 188 miles apart. They are so close together that it would take a fit person less than a week to walk from one site to the other. The Cerutti Team weakens their case by rejecting contemporaneous sites such as Calico.

in the Americas without any older or contemporaneous sites acknowledged. This is exciting for the day but to move forward American anthropology needs a bigger picture. The field does not have a 'periodic table of elements' such as chemistry had which gave researchers a common objective goal to work toward. Anthropology tends to be a field full of lone wolves with the only common element being adherence to a vague evolutionary myth that early people such as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals were less intelligent than us and less capable of reaching the New World.

**Fig. 2** is a map that shows the locations of Calico Early Man Site—excavated by the late Dr. Louis Leakey renowned international expert on the manufacture and identification of stone tools—and Cerutti Mastodon Site. The two sites are a mere 188 miles apart—i.e. neighbors. The sites are so close to each other that it would take a fit person less than a week to walk from one site to the other. (For more on Pleistocene-age walking see [A prehistory of hiking: Neanderthal storytelling](#), PCN #10, March-April 2011; and

[The straight line route: A different perspective on trekking from Central Asia to the U.S. Southwest](#), PCN #23, May-June 2013. Also see, [Two contemporaneous Paleolithic cultures showing modern-level intelligence](#), PCN #46, March-April 2017.)

If American anthropology would change its focus from single sites to contemporaneous or neighboring sites it would help us preserve all of our sites. We could also gain a bigger picture of prehistory perhaps revealing many communities of interacting groups.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for nearly 25 years providing evidence that human cognition has remained the same throughout time. Earlier, his focus was on the invertebrate fossil record studying fossils in the field across the U.S. and Ontario for 30 years, as well as studying many of the classic texts such as the encyclopedic *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*. In 2009, Feliks and several colleagues formed the Pleistocene Coalition to challenge sciences that block evidence from the public in fields related to human prehistory and origins.



## The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is unlike that promoted by mainstream science.
- Explore and regain confidence in your own ability to think for yourself regarding human ancestry as a broader range of evidence becomes available to you.
- Join a community not afraid to challenge the status quo. Question with confidence any paradigm promoted as “scientific” that depends upon withholding conflicting evidence from the public in order to appear unchallenged.

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