



PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- 10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE -

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



A natural pumice raft.



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

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



RELEVANT REPRINT. Until discovery of Gobleki Tepe and its 12,000-year old date ideas of Pleistocene civilization or megalithic stonework were denigrated by the mainstream presuming people back then were incapable. PC founding member and 30-yr archaeologist the late **Chris Hardaker** discussed its significance (**p.14**).



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

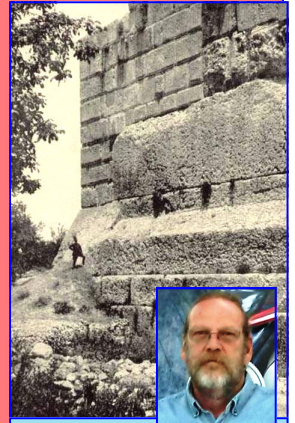
FOUNDATIONS OF PCN

"It has been very difficult to bring to public attention the scientific data for the ancient archaeological sites from the Valsequillo area of east central Mexico. ... These type of problems have been going on for forty years!"



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

When Virginia wrote her first words in the first issue of *Pleistocene Coalition News* ten years ago this month she brought to the Coalition decades of experience fighting against suppression by the mainstream anthropology community. Since that time *PCN* has kept her story current, and if all goes well, it will soon appear in a mainstream journal. *PCN* has now also provided over 1000 pages by perceptive and inspired researchers and writers with evidence regarding early human migrations and the artistic and intellectual capabilities of Paleolithic peoples equal to our own. It is not a story the mainstream wants to tell as it goes against 150 years telling the public a very different story. We hope you enjoy Issue #61.



The Pleistocene Coalition, challenging mainstream presumption, has as one of its tenets the idea early people were as capable as modern people. Readers are now more aware that the wrong criteria have been applied ever since Darwin. In this light, **Rockey Whipkey** brings 'Paleolithic' perspective to the famed megalithic site of Baalbek, Lebanon, which he visited in 2018. See **Whipkey p.11**.

Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition, at 83 is the last-surviving original USGS Hueyatlatco dating scientist. In light of her many recent illnesses and especially her stroke (and inability to catch up with her 1,600 e-mail backlog) we look forward to her vindication as a geologist insisting on truth in the field of anthropology. **p.16**.



Archaeologist **Vesna Tenodi** has been caught between two seemingly irreconcilable worlds—preservation of science as an objective field and compromises to freedom of research and expression. See **Tenodi p.25**.

Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms, Part 1

By Tim Holmes

"Some of the 2005 Sumatra tsunami victims were found alive in the high seas as much as nine days later."

CURRENT NEWS

"The pumice is currently drifting westwards towards Fiji, and is likely to pass New Caledonia and Vanuatu. It has also been forecast to reach Australia."

–Vast 'pumice raft' found drifting through Pacific Ocean. *BBC News*, August 26, 2019

Searching for Pleistocene Huck Finn

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

As far as indirect evidence of humans traveling the sea in one way or another during the Pleistocene we have an abundance. It includes the progeny of likely Paleolithic sea travelers living in Australia, New Guinea, and Melanesia. And much older than these we know from human remains and stone tools early humans somehow traveled fairly long distances over deep water, occasionally almost certainly without line of sight. The oldest Pleistocene instance of this involves Flores island in Indonesia with human arrival dating to about 850,000 years ago with the Philippine island of Luzon dating shortly afterwards. The island of Sardinia apparently had 'hominin' arrivals c. 8.5 mya, 250 kya, and 20 kya, and Crete as well 5.7 mya, 130 kya, and 12kya (note however, the 5.7 mya Trachilos footprints were in the time of the Messinian Event, so the group likely arrived by land).

Perhaps we will soon find some Paleolithic relict in locations conducive to preservation similar to the Black Sea dead zone (e.g.



Fig. 1. A large pumice raft. Pumice (floating rock) is produced by underwater volcanoes. The largest such rafts can be thick enough to walk on. Image, USGS.

nearly perfectly intact 2,400-year old shipwreck), or petrifying wells for rapid travertine preservation. According to present knowledge, though, Indonesia would certainly have been the happening place for Paleolithic 'natural rafts' considering its protected warm waters.

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

"The important thing about these migrations, whether deliberate or a series of unfortunate/fortunate accidents, is that they were successful... in that their descendents are still here."

–Jane Balme. 2013. Of Boats and string: The maritime colonization of Australia. *Quaternary International* 285: 68–75.

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

water. Balme further suggests:

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

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

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

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms (cont.)

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

for over 800,000 more years, accidental voyaging seems much more likely than deliberate voyaging." –*ibid*

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

Modern analogues

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

Three types of natural rafts

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

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

VOLCANIC categories are believed to be only pumice

rafts, which are globally a fairly regular occurrence, including in the navigation center of Sunda (present-day Indonesian EEZ).

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

Qualities of natural rafts

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

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

Indirect evidence, DNA

Another possibility deals with the Australian DNA of certain Amazon tribes (Suruí and Karitiana) came from rafting events of one sort or another,

including ice during the glacial maximum stadial periods—probably via birding in Tasmania via flocks, accidental drift to Auckland Islands, and from there another, separate trip up to five months to the tip of Patagonia. Back then, ice flocks were common around Tasmania (nowadays, even icebergs do not frequent the sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island very often, which is half the distance to Antarctica).

Objective competition

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

Steering and other subjects

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

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

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

Paleolithic human dispersals via natural floating platforms (cont.)

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

later passengers, likely only a log with a runner (believed to be the first boat and reportedly still used for taboo reasons in the last century).

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

'Natural raft' skills, customizations, and math

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

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

Natural raft shapes

By no means perfect, a likely shape of natural rafts would be oblong. It is hydrodynamically poor with a lot of drag. It is also hard to have any control. Speeds are slow and the rafts are prone to breaking up regard-

less of strengthening, and loads low compared to similar sized ships. Prongs would project, particularly at first. And fresh water might be a problem in the stadial inter-monsoon periods.

Advantages of a good NR

A way to make natural rafts less risky, and in support of other functions, is a modified raft. Sunda had numerous examples of long, indented shorelines, with many dozens of rises and falls. During optimum periods, a natural raft could have considerable potential such as developing trade long before other groups or have a permanent fire for cooking food, drying emergency staples, etc. Carrying items such as turtles, dried food, luxury goods, etc., need smaller craft which can be perfected over time. Multiple small rafts floating in general areas where they can periodically meet might eventually even lead to form a sense of *religio loci* or 'sanctity of place.'

Human group sizes are believed to have been about 240 back then with intermixing largely done by raiding for females or perhaps outcasts during a low period. A floating island platform changes the odds. Contacts are at the discretion of the visitors, and groups more hostile rather easily avoided. Over time, sophisticated interlinks develop, in particular relating to surplus food in lean times.

Experience shows larger floating islands are notoriously hard to remove, much less steer. However, smaller ones can use certain techniques. The author has done it as have many others. A middle ranking ONR of about five hectares.

Some discoverable evidence

Most evidence of organically-composed rafts (e.g., of trees) would have quickly decomposed. However, if mooring stones on shore or anchors were used made out of durable volcanic rocks these could have survived either on shore or underwater close to the surface. If so, their composition could show if they had been transported

from another location. An example of a region worth exploring is near the present-day city of Singapore. While not an anthropological center, it is only 10 km away from the shallowest part of the Singapore Strait. This was a shallower channel at least for a while in the past with pole depths around 3–4 meters during some interstadial Pleistocene times. Two other well known straits do have indications of travel by some kind of floating rafts or boats: Gibraltar and the mouth of the Red Sea. If such Paleolithic mooring or anchor stones are not found, just like actual constructed craft, the alternative of unaltered floating rafts—used mainly in emergency situations—would have left very little substantiation. That's why we should investigate the easiest leads first.

There is no reason to think that any of the above means of travel in addition to man-made boats and rafts could not have been accomplished by determined people in Paleolithic times especially in light of *PCN's* long demonstrating that early peoples were of considerable intelligence.

In *Part 2*, I discuss more about ice and natural pumice rafts.

TIM HOLMES is a passionate researcher with an eclectic background which includes four years as lead editor of a textbook publishing company, six years in the military—visiting 45 countries, and writing articles in such as the *Skeptical Inquirer*. He is also a former instructor at Chaoyang University of Technology in Taiwan, as well as producer of a newsletter for the Taiwan Skeptics. Former background that helped hone his skills in research included several years in professional private investigation and security. He has also maintained running dialogues with leaders in aerospace technology including planning the human exploration of Mars, Saturn's moons, etc. Holmes lives in North Dakota.

The unusual findings of the Ameghino brothers in Argentina, *Part 1*

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



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

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

Introduction

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

For us, Moir might seem an isolated example, but according to Cremona and Thompson in their controversial book, *Forbidden Archeology*, this was not at all the case. Between the late 19th and early 20th centuries few prehistorians released findings that supposedly "anomalous" remains could delay the first appearance of humanity by hundreds of thousands or even millions of years. Among this casuistry, I would like to highlight the work of the Ameghino brothers, Florentino and Carlos, two Argentine scientists revered as the most important founding fathers of South American paleontology. Their most controversial find-

ings have been cornered by academic orthodoxy because acceptance would challenge the theories of human peopling of the Americas and human evolution in general. But let us get to the facts [1].

Paleontological work of Florentino Ameghino

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

For what concerns us here, we can say Ameghino was particularly devoted to exploring the coastal provinces of Argentina looking for fossils and traces of human presence (*Homo sapiens* or his ancestors), because he sought to identify evidence of the existence of a certain *man-fossil*, in their terminology. Thus, in 1887, in Monte Hermoso (about 60 km northeast of Bahía Blanca, in the province of Buenos Aires) he located an interesting paleontological site characterized by the presence of bones of *extinct* animals as well as indications of human activity in the zone. This evidence is made up of a human vertebra, remains of fires, baked clay, slag, broken bones worked and charred, and many very rough stone tools. The problem is that all these materials were together in the same strata and were therefore

contemporary with each other and during tremendously ancient times. According to Ameghino's geological observations these layers should be dated Pliocene [2] (5.2 to 1.6 million years old), which is the last period of the Tertiary. These early findings were published in the Buenos Aires newspaper, *La Nación*.

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

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

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

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

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

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

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

Ales Hrdlicka intervention

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

Indeed, in 1910, shortly before the death of Ameghino, Hrdlicka traveled to Argentina to see for himself the remains and issue a final verdict. To start, Hrdlicka examined the vertebra found in Monte Hermoso (*atlas*, the first vertebra at the base of the skull) and admitted it was not like primitive or simian believed his Argentine colleague but be-

longed to an anatomically modern human. Despite this, he was not willing to acknowledge a great antiquity for the first Americans; in any case, a few thousand years [5]. Thus, after a thorough inspection of the evidence, he did not question the artificiality of rough implements but the interpretation of the geological formation (called Puelchense) where they had found the materials, which he considered erroneous. In his book *Early Man in South America* (1912), Hrdlicka disputed the dating of Ameghino's discoveries with the support of qualified geologist opinion Bailey Willis, who suggested a non-conformity stratigraphy, and prehistorian William H. Holmes of the Smithsonian who insisted on the supposed modernity of the strata in question suggesting Ameghino had confused native artifacts with artifacts created by men of a very remote past.

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

Carlos Ameghino's discoveries in Miramar

After the death of Florentino Ameghino in 1911, his brother Charles (1865-1936), who had accompanied him on most of his expeditions [6] continued the paleontology work and initiated and undertook further explorations along the south coast of Buenos Aires. The site that stands out by far the most is the site of Miramar.

As it goes, between 1912 and 1914 Ameghino was digging in that area under the auspices of the Buenos Aires Museum of Natural History and the Museo de la Plata. It specifically focused on a canyon that stretched off the coast, where he found numerous stone tools. To determine their dating he turned to four renowned expert geologists from the Directorate General of Geology and Mines of Buenos Aires and the Museo de la Plata. After examining the area, the geologists established the artifacts were in undisturbed sediments of Chapadmalalan age, a typical formation of the Pliocene lasting about 2–3 million years (according to recent estimates by geologists such as Anderson and Marshall). In addition, during his visit could see the extraction site of burnt ground slag and 'ball' (small spherical stone with a central groove used as projectile).

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

> [Cont. on page 7](#)

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

"Boman eventually abandoned the idea of fraud and left the door open to the hypothetical existence of a human population in Miramar during the Pliocene."

Skeptical reactions to the findings of Carlos Ameghino

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

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

self had told him that Parodi was a person you can trust.

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

ENDNOTES

1. Most of the content in this article is based on the work of Cremo and Thompson which many will surely consider biased as it gives the benefit of the doubt to some proposals currently or directly ignored or that are considered nonsense by the academic establishment.
2. In fact, Ameghino incorrectly identified the sestrata, attributing the Miocene, but today is believed to belong to early and middle Pliocene.
3. In regard, some have argued that Ameghino made an exercise of "scientific nationalism" but it should be remembered that throughout the twentieth century other prehistorians Africa, Russia and China have made similar claims about the "only" source (or at least shared) human in their respective territories.
4. This would, according Ameghino, the ancestor of *Homo sapiens*, which would have happened in South America to northern Europe and then to Asia and Europe.
5. In contrast, European prehistorians of the time seemed more receptive to the idea of an extremely ancient humanity (also in Latin), in view of some discoveries.
6. In fact, Carlos made more fieldwork than his brother, traveling to Patagonia and other regions for fossils and then send to Florentino.
7. Ameghino described as "a slice of quartzite obtained by percussion, one stroke, and retouched at its lateral edges, but only on a surface, and then pointed at both ends by the same finishing process, giving a approximate willow leaf, and therefore like split ends of Solutrense type."
8. In this respect, anthropologists have identified some blanks in

Africa today carved by tribes that have a great similarity with artifacts found in the same territories with antiques of upto two million years.

9. TONNI, E. ; Zampatti, L. The "Fossil Man" Miramar. Comments about matching Carlos Ameghino to Lorenzo Parodi. Journal of the Geological Association Argentina. vol. 68 no.3 Buenos Aires, September 2011.

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

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

12. BONOMO, M. *The fossil man Miramar*. Intersections in anthropology, No. 3. Jan-Dec. 2002

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

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

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

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

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

<https://laotracaradelpasado.blogspot.com/>

The unusual findings of the Ameghino brothers in Argentina, *Part 2*

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

"What I have seen



in a cursory examination of their work, their most controversial findings—those referring to the existence of human beings in the Tertiary—are seldom mentioned in modern sources."

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

Reflections on the Ameghino's research

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

- 1). errors occurred in the interpretation and dating of geological formations observed, which moved to an incorrect interpretation of archaeological remains. For many experts, what the Ameghino's interpreted as Pliocene in age was actually Pleistocene (i.e. in the Quaternary).
- 2). The Ameghino's "anomalous" findings were very possibly due to simple intrusion displacements of modern materials into older lower strata by the action of natural agents.
- 3). The Ameghino's were heavily influenced by the

incipient popularity of evolutionary ideas and various prehistoric finds and were certainly obsessed with discovering extremely ancient ancestors of man such as Java Man or *Pithecanthropus* identified in the late nineteenth century. In addition, at that time the possibility of tracing the origin of Tertiary-age humans was still a subject of serious debate in the circles of prehistorians.

Thus, paleontologists Eduardo Tonni and Laura Zampatti [9], consider that this obsession with finding the *man-fossil* was the cause of the acceptance of evidence inconsistent from the beginning. On the other hand, they believe that in its time the Miramar findings were the subject of debate and controversy, and even of suspected fraud or manipulation, as noted in *Part 1*. As for the supposed great antiquity of the findings, Tonni and Zampatti say that even at that time it was *inadmissible* based on the assumption the lithic artifacts had not undergone change over hundreds of thousands of years when European prehistory itself had clearly shown evolution through the various lithic industries, including those Florentino Ameghino had recognized on a journey to Europe. And in the case of "femur flechado" they deny that the tip was embedded in the bone. In their view, it really was a fragmented raedera, similar to others that have been found in surface layers of the region and have a maximum age (radiocarbon) of about

5,700 years BP [10]. Finally, Tonni and Zampatti end up regretting that while Britain investigated and uncovered the truth about the *Pittdown Man* fraud, in Argentina similar facts were hidden or forgotten for decades [11].

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

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

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

> [Cont. on page 9](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusions

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

Reviewing the exhaustive work of Cremona and Thompson, I realized the case of the Ameghino's was by no means unique in those days. In various parts of the world, including Old Europe, several well-prepared researchers with solid geological knowledge found remains attributable to modern humans (*H. sapiens*) or artifacts or bones whether or not in ancient strata hundreds of thousands or even millions of years old. These findings were accepted by much of the academic community. However, they also received

strong attacks which eventually caused them to disappear almost entirely from the scientific literature. This included the cases of Monte Hermoso and Miramar. It is possible, of course, that the scientists were wrong, but all of them?

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

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

> [Cont. on page 10](#)

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

"It is clear that at some point in the early 20th century there was a break with 'anomalous' data; and from that point on, human evolution was modeled from certain findings with certain datings, forming a picture in which all should fit."

dence of human presence in very ancient times. For example, it suffices to mention instances of Monte Verde (Chile) with 33,000 years, Sheguiandah (Canada) between 65,000 and 125,000 years, Texas Street (USA) between 80,000 and 90,000 years Calico (USA), about 200,000 years; Toca da Esperanca (Brazil) between 200,000 and 290,000 years; and Hueyatlaco (Mexico), between 250,000 and 400,000 years.

In most of these cases it should be noted that the scientists in charge of the excavations—or involved in the datings in particular—themselves were ignored, marginalized, repressed or ousted. Among these victims of dogmatism was none other than Dr. Louis Leakey, the world-famous paleontologist who supported the very old dates obtained for Calico, where he worked several years in front of a large majority of "experts" who told him he was mistaken about the strata where they had found the 'objects,' that the 'objects' were not as old as he believed, or that the 'objects' were not artifacts but *geofacts* (stones modified by natural processes, and not by man).

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

should be thoroughly re-considered.

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Original article in Spanish:

<https://laotra-caradelpasado.blogspot.com/2016/12/los-insolitos-hallazgos-de-los-hermanos.html>

ENDNOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[9] Tonni, E., and L. Zampatti. 2011. The "Fossil Man" Miramar. Comments about matching Carlos Ameghino to Lorenzo Parodi. *Journal of the Geological Association Argentina* 68 (no.3) Buenos Aires, September 2011.

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

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

[12] Bonomo, M. 2002. The fossil man Miramar. *Intersections in Anthropology* 3, Jan-Feb. 2002.

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

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

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

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Putting megalithic sites into Paleolithic context: Part 1, Baalbek

By Rocky Whipkey

"It gave me the immedi-



ate sense the massive Trilithon stones were



already in place long before the Romans... arrived... and then saw how convenient it would be to just build their Jupiter temple on top of them."

Through the decades archaeologists have regarded megalithic or massive stone architecture as the work of Neolithic or later peoples.

Even though actual dating of the stones themselves has not been possible they have usually been happy to combine the context of megaliths—e.g., datable organic materials nearby, etc.—with the assumption earlier peoples were not capable of such work. Well, people are starting to realize that assumption took a nosedive in 2014 when the site of Gobekli Tepe in

Turkey—that contains not only megalithic stonework (the largest still in the quarry weighs 50 tons) but also excellent relief carvings of animals—was dated as much as 12,000 years old placing it into Pleistocene times. [Eds. Note:

See Chris Hardaker relevant reprint this issue, [p.14.](#)]

Baalbek's massive stones

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

ples there. The massive stones came from a quarry about a half mile away. While there are many estimates about the weight of these stones they are generally thought to exceed 1,000 tons each. (some conservative estimates suggest about 880 tons each).

What makes the feat of transporting and placing these massive stones even more remarkable is that they are quite high up and that the whole platform is on top of a hill!

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

Mainstream archaeologists have been accustomed for a long time to thinking about Neolithic and modern people as smart enough to start civilizations and Paleolithic people as definitely not-as-smart "hunter-gatherers." Despite knowing about the extreme weathering and pitted quality of the Trilithon stones con-



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

trasting with the smoother stones around and above them they have tended to talk about the Trilithon as simply part of the "Roman Jupiter Temple," built by the Romans. However, one thing I noticed right away when I was there was how different in style were the stones stacked atop and around the Trilithon *obviously* added at a much later date. The heavy weathering of the Trilithon stones by wind and sand is very apparent.

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

> [Cont. on page 12](#)

Putting megalithic sites into Paleolithic context, Baalbek (cont.)

"Whatever was on top during the

ing them and then saw how convenient it would be to just build their Jupiter tem-

Whatever was on top during the original time of the purposeful large platform

weigh 1,820 tons.

Baalbek and Gobekli Tepe

The fact that Baalbek is only about 350 miles from Gobekli Tepe, Turkey (about the distance from Detroit to Lexington, a 5-hour drive) and that both of them involve megalithic stone construction also suggests they might have been part of similar or even contemporaneous cultures since they are each presently being considered to be in the neighborhood of "12,000 years old." Other researchers suggested this idea early on.

Everyone knows about the cultural diversification throughout the Mediterranean in ancient and modern times. With Lebanon being on the east Mediterranean (Baalbek is currently about 37 miles from the coast) and in a location between Egypt, the Middle East, Turkey and Asian regions early Baalbek would have made a perfect centrally-located cultural center or distribution point in what was once a lush environment.

Inside the Jupiter Temple

When I made my way around the different temple interiors, I noticed the unmistakable alternate methods that were used in the additions or intentional reconstructions done by these varying cultures over the millennia. Even the current restructuring being done within the Baalbek complex is available for perusal to modern visitors.

On the following page are photographs I took inside the Jupiter Temple to show the stone floor that is laid over the top of the Trilithon stones. My personal observation of the wear on this floor is that it is much more severe than anywhere else in the complex.

Even though these photos > [Cont. on page 13](#)

appears to no longer exist.

Despite how remarkably massive the Trilithon stones are, they are not the largest carved monoliths at Baalbek. In fact, the largest humanly-cut, quarried, and 'moved' stone anywhere on earth is a short walk from the Trilithon. It is called the "Stone of the Pregnant Woman" and weighs an unbelievable 1,200 tons (Fig. 2). Again, no one knows how old the stone is and I am equally doubtful this was a project of the Romans.

As if the Trilithon and Stone of the Pregnant Woman weren't large enough, in 2014 scientists uncovered the largest humanly-cut stone monolith yet found at Baalbek (Fig. 3). Unlike the prior examples, however,

it does not appear that this largest stone has ever been moved. By one reckoning it is believed to

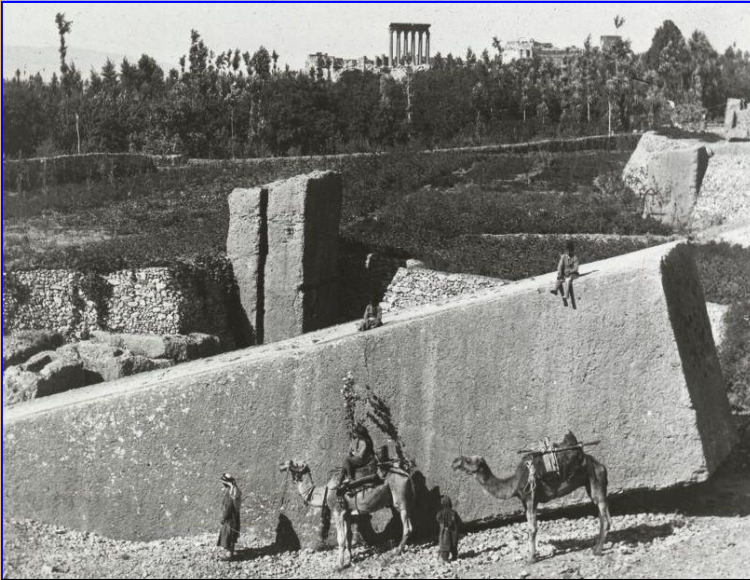


Fig. 2. The "Hajjar al-Hibla" (Stone of the Pregnant Woman), Baalbek, Lebanon is 71 feet long, 14 feet high, and 13 feet wide and weighs about 1,200 tons. It is the largest carved and moved stone on earth. I doubt the Romans would have wished to bother with anything this formidable. Image: Public domain.

original time of the purposeful large platform appears to no longer exist."

ple on top of them. Another reason this idea makes sense is because everyone



Fig. 3. The largest cut stone at Baalbek, Lebanon. It is 64 feet long, 20 high, and 18 feet wide and is an estimated 1,820 "tons." Different sources give different estimates for all of the Baalbek megaliths. Image: Wikimedia Commons.

knows different groups commonly build right on top of sites or buildings of earlier ethnic groups.

knows different groups commonly build right on top of sites or buildings of earlier ethnic groups.

Putting megalithic sites into Paleolithic context, Baalbek (cont.)

"What makes the feat of transporting and

graphs don't give a sense of the Trilithon structure's antiquity underneath the well-worn floor is clearly seen and does give a sense of

experience of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, a founder of the Pleistocene Coalition, whose work has been suppressed now for over 50 years because it gave "too early" dates for ancient sites in the Americas I can see this is the same kind of resistance and response to Paleolithic interpretations of megalithic sites. I reference Virginia's work because we can see the reality of discoveries and test conclusions made by "professionals" as written about in the *PCN* and how even the best professional work, as told about in the journal, is held back by mainstream academia! Apparently this limited approach to science is practiced worldwide.

So, whom do we believe, Virginia or the mainstream? After all my research and seeing what mainstream academia is really like since I first wrote in *PCN* years ago (my better article is the one called [How deep do we dig? The pros and cons of a controversial ceramic figurine,](#)

PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012), I believe Virginia, of course! Apart from what the physical evidence might show the writers in this journal over the years have given evidence that Paleolithic people had the ability to create such things as megalithic monuments if they wished. Virginia's work and that of many others in this group supports the idea I am promoting that many megalithic sites are Pleistocene like Gobekli Tepe at their roots and were used by Paleolithic people.

Final thoughts

There is evidence at all megalithic sites showing many visitations and habitations in the areas surrounding them. The areas could have been quite large like smaller metropolitan areas today. To most people living back then who got around on foot these sites could have seemed equal in stature to our cities today. Baalbek could have been an area of much cultural exchange. One can get a birds-eye sense of the area using Google Earth to see the Baalbek complex from above.

I believe we are approaching a major change regarding human prehistory and that recent reassessments of megalithic sites worldwide will lead to major changes in the 'prehistoric' timeline. It is fascinating that structures built so long ago are still here today. Some are even cited in ancient texts from around the world even if some think these texts are only myths. Myself? I would think a wise man or woman would be open-minded and read the words between the lines and research as much as they can for themselves.

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

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

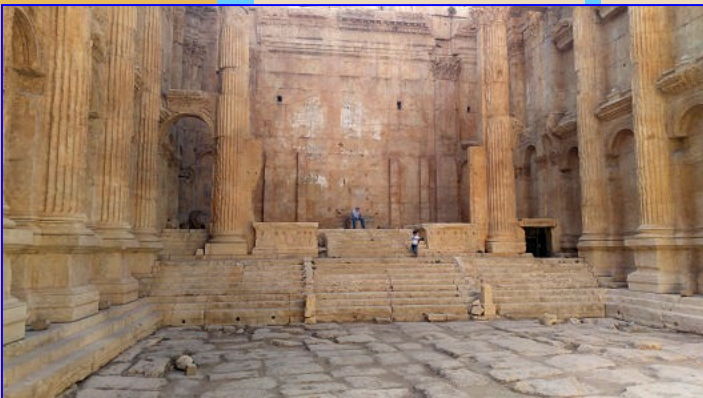


Fig. 4. Two shots inside the "Roman Jupiter Temple" to show the heavily-worn floor that sits upon the Trilithon stones. My observation: the wear is more severe than anywhere else at Baalbek. Photos, Rocky Whipkey 2018.

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

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

Interpretation suppression

I understand well that there is much skepticism about the possibility the Trilithon stones are Paleolithic in age. However, when believers that the whole construction was done by Romans or Phoenicians try and use science to discount evidence that these actually built on a much older foundation even when the evidence is strong, that's where I see a science fallacy. Like with the

Relevant reprint series: Revisiting *PCN* #40, March-April 2016

Pleistocene civilizations Gobekli Tepe and Gunung Padang

By Chris Hardaker, MA, archaeologist

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



Older than agriculture or pottery

It was not long ago that putting together the words, "Pleistocene" + "civilization" would have destroyed your academic credibility forever among the professional class of archae-

ologists, prehistorians, historians, and history-of-science professionals, and almost anyone else who matters. However, that reaction is in the process of rapid change.

Gobekli Tepe

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

Since the turn of the millennium, Turkey's Gobekli Tepe has stunned the world's experts and gratified the rest of us. At 12,000 years old, that means it is also 10,000 BC. Mammoths and



Fig. 1. Gobekli Tepe in southeastern Turkey. It is located approximately 12 km (7 mi) northeast of the city of Şanlıurfa. Wikimedia Commons.

temple edifices—like the movie, *10,000 BC*, except now it could actually be knock-your-socks-off real. Sunken shorelines 300-400 feet deep are now fair

game; previously they were regarded as ridiculous wastes of time.

Paradigm shifts are like that.

Dr. Robert Schoch has been the geological go-to guy for Gobekli Tepe and a number of other ancient sites around the world including the Great Sphinx in Egypt and Gunung Padang in Indonesia. His website is a great take-off point for those concerned with the fundamental issues surrounding these

incredible archaeological developments. The world of archaeology is still feeling the tremors of Robert's identification of water erosion in and around the

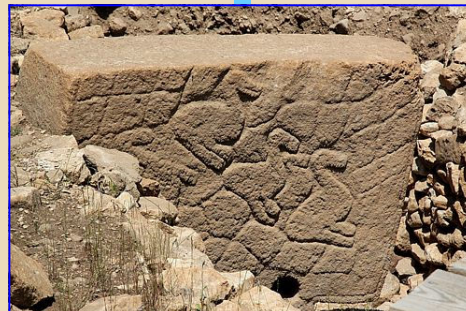


Fig. 2. One of the many unexplained engraved animal relief panels at Gobekli Tepe. Wikimedia Commons.

Sphinx indicating a very wet time after the Sphinx was carved out of its limestone massif. Last

time it was that wet at Giza was the terminal Pleistocene. Shoots straight from the hip. A great first or last word on some of the most incredible evidence for Pleistocene civilizations.

<http://www.robertschoch.com/>

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

Pleistocene civilizations (cont.)

Gunung Padang

Another candidate for a Pleistocene civilization—possibly twice as old as the Turkish site—is Gunung Padang in Indonesia (Figs. 3–5).

The situation here is not so open and shut. While megaliths at the site seem to have been fashioned out of lava columns back to 12,000

years ago there is the possibility that a 22,000 year old carbon date suggests a much older occupation. The general context of the site itself looks to be a multi-story pyramid.

One of the important factors making Gunung Padang highly credible is that it too is championed by Schoch. (As mentioned briefly above, Robert shocked the world with his pronouncements of water erosion in and around the Sphinx. To fill in the details this was specifically on the profiles of the wall of the Sphinx’s enclosing pit as well as on its own core limestone blocks. Again, the last time water of this amount was present on the Giza Plateau

was 10–12,000 years ago or thereabouts. It was certainly older than the 2000 BC date antiquity folks thought it was.) Robert has been in-

Bon Voyage

CHRIS HARDAKER, BA, MA, was an archaeologist working in California and was one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition.

He reviewed and catalogued the data from the massive artifact collection of Calico. For details, see the series, [The abomination of Calico](#), Parts 1-3, beginning in PCN #6, July-Aug 2010, and [Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts: Original 2009 paper updated and serialized for PCN](#)

(PCN #24, July-Aug 2013) and its [Part 2](#) (PCN #26, Nov-Dec 2013). For additional in-depth

information and quality photographs of tools recovered from the Calico Early Man Site excavations see [Calico’s “Double-notched” blades from T-22](#) (PCN #30, July-Aug 2014) and [Calico’s only classic handaxe](#) (PCN #31, Sept-Oct2014). Hardaker is also author of the book, [The First American: The sup-](#)

[pressed 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



Fig. 3. Gunung Padang’s main stair. Wikimedia Commons.

“Another candidate for a Pleistocene civilization—possibly twice as old as the Turkish site—is Gunung Padang in Indonesia.”



Fig. 4. Gunung Padang’s 5th terrace. Wikimedia Commons.

volved with many fascinating sites from this time period. By no means does he agree



Fig. 5. Gunung Padang site. Wikimedia Commons.

with all of the ancient civilization claims made for them; but Gunung Padang he likes. And where there’s one there must be more! If you run a check on YouTube or Google you will find a number of competing theories out there, especially for the earlier dates. Science in action!

Member news and other info

Quick links to main articles in [PCN #60](#):

PAGE 2

[Presumed Clovis industry at Harvard Hill, San Bernardino Co. CA](#)

Michael Gramly

PAGE 5

[They are still looking for man's origin without much success](#)

Xavier Bartlett

PAGE 8

[Artifact types of the Lake Manix lithic industry](#)

Richard Dempsey

PAGE 11

[Member news and other info](#)

Ray Urbaniak,
Virginia Steen-McIntyre,
John Feliks

PAGE 12

[Denisova Cave, Siberia: Art, Craftsmanship, and telling DNA](#)

Tom Baldwin

PAGE 13

[Tattoos as Clovis/ Folsom portable "rock art"](#)

Ray Urbaniak

PAGE 14

[Possible steppe bison petroglyph, Moab, Utah](#)

Ray Urbaniak

PAGE 15

[Publication bias in anthropology: Roald Fryxell](#)

John Feliks

Kortik Tepe, Paleolithic civilization older than Gobekli Tepe

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

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

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



[Link to PCN #60](#)



[Link to PCN #59](#)

Older artifacts curated by Paleolithic people

Ray Urbaniak

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

Virginia's health and recent stroke

–info and repost excerpts

For those inquiring, Virginia's general health has been an ongoing concern to those who know her or work with her. John spoke with Virginia recently and she is doing much better. However, along with catch-

ing up on years of domestic paperwork, she is still unable to keep up with her PC commitments and her 1600 e-



Fig. 1. Ibex depicted on pottery from 12,500-year old site of Kortik Tepe resemble well-known rock art depictions of the animals in both Old and New Worlds.

mail backlog. So, please do keep these things in mind if you have written Virginia but not heard back even after months. Good news is that Virginia has 24-hour live-in help and several other helpers so she is well cared for. For other details see this column in the last two issues, e.g., [Member news, PCN #60](#), July-August 2019.

For new readers of *PCN*, Virginia is the last of the USGS, NASA, and other geologists who dated the Hueyatlaco, Mexico, site to c. 250,000 years. Not one ever backed down from their dating of the site.



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

Pleistocene Coalition News

10th Anniversary

At right: PCN pages running total from our archives

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

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

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

Updates on proboscidea, step bison, and tattoos

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer,
rock art researcher,
and preservationist

Proboscidea, vigilance in rock art research



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

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

My first questions concerned whether or not the panel was sheltered enough to have survived the elements this long. I also wondered what direction

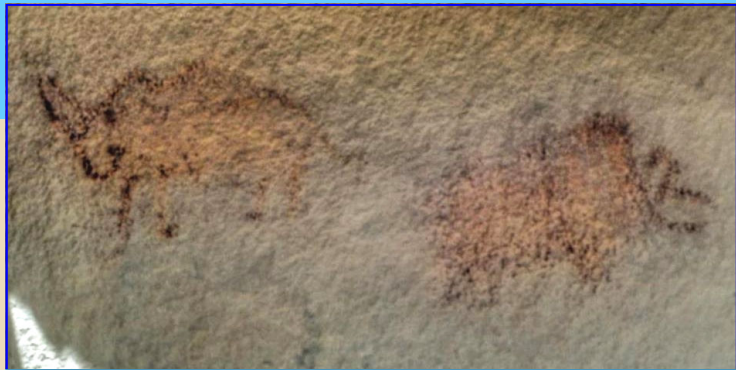


Fig. 1. Potentially exciting Native American rock art "discovery" that turned out on deeper research to have been painted in the 1960's. The story is a reminder that we need to be vigilant and objective with exciting finds.

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

suggested to me that the body lines also resembled the now extinct Caucasian wisent (**Fig. 3**). This is an image of a taxidermed Caucasian wisent in Russia. Sadly, the world's last three (3) Caucasian wisents were killed in 1927.

The reason I decided to show this picture and tell the story

The most intriguing point is that this species is also not

is to show that you have to be objective as possible and do your homework before sharing something as a possible discovery of ancient art something that potentially isn't really old.

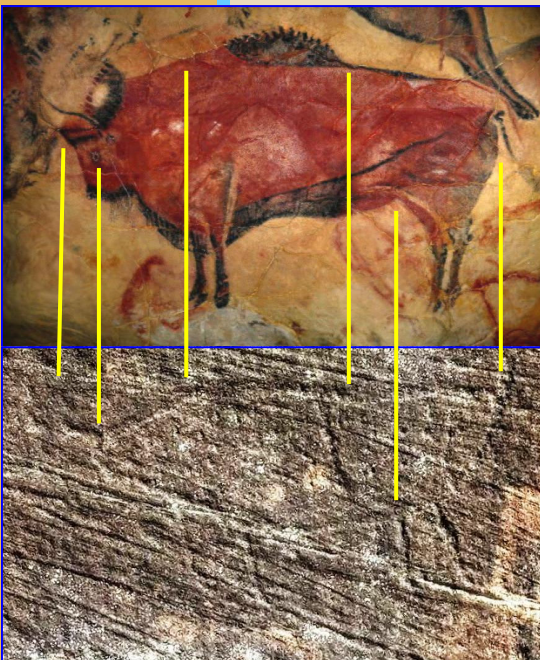


Fig. 2. Circa 16,000-year old (Magdalenian) steppe bison painting, Altamira, Spain (public domain), compared with petroglyph from Moab, Utah (photo: C. Massingale). Compare horns, body, legs, hump, and hind quarters with tail.

Step bison

Earlier, I compared a petroglyph from Moab, Utah with the depiction of a step bison from Altamira, Spain, nicely laid out in [PCN #60](#), July-August 2019 **Fig. 2**).

I believe many who have seen it have found it persuasive so I wouldn't have expected to improve upon the comparison. However, further research



Fig. 3. Caucasian wisent Russian museum (Wikimedia Commons) compared Moab, Utah, petroglyph (C. Massingale). Again, horns, body, legs, hump, etc., all appear to match.

the prevailing wind came from and whether or not there were Clovis points found in the area.

believed to have lived in the Americas. However,

> [Cont. on page 19](#)

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

"Also in in PCN #60... I discussed

questioning beliefs when new evidence comes into play is what science is all about. It is possible that

Both describe a large aDNA dataset covering a wide geographic range, with the oldest samples dated more than 50,000 years ago. ..."

Americans retained memory of animals that later became extinct perhaps aiding in the depiction of such animals in southwest U.S. rock art.



Fig. 4. Ibex tattoo on arm of a Lorastan Nomad exactly as commonly seen in rock art. Still-frame from YouTube post by archaeologist, Dr. Mohamed Naserifard, PhD.

–J.A. Lenstra and J. Liu. 2016. The year of the wisent. *BMC Biology* 14 (100).

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

In David Reich's book, "Who We Are and How We Got Here,"



Fig. 6. Mammoth tattoo superimposed on arm of an unidentified Native American suggesting a way early Americans could have retained animals in memory even if extinct. B/W photo public domain; Eds. crop.

Tattoos

Also in *PCN #60*, I discussed support for the possibility that the Nomadic Clovis people may have carried their artwork on their bodies in the form of tattoos. I showed

support for the possibility that the

the Caucasian wisent actually did migrate from what is now Russia to North

a modern-day example of a traditional rock art-style antelope as worn on the arm of a Lorastan Nomad which I reproduce in **Fig. 4**.

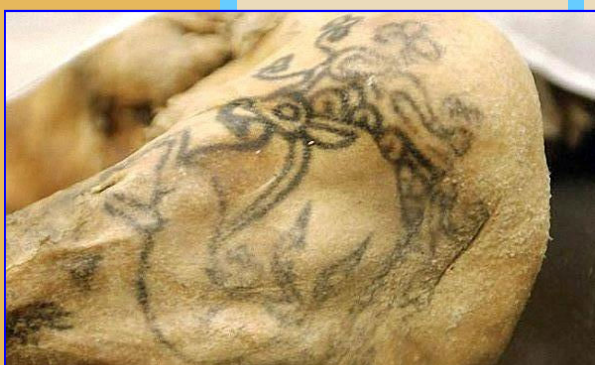


Fig. 5. Well-preserved tattoo of a fantastic animal made on a shoulder of the mummy of a woman called the "Altai Princess." Image: Tattoos found on Siberian Shamans mummies. Facebook.

Here, in **Fig. 5**, I offer further support for this hypothesis. It is the tattoo of a fantastic deer-like animal well-preserved on the shoulder of a Siberian mummy of a prehistoric woman nicknamed the "Altai Princess."

in Chapter 7—"In Search of Native American Ancestors," "Origins Stories"—he says: "In the origins story of the Surui tribe in Amazonia, the god Palop first made his brother, Palop Leregu, and then created humans. Palop gave the Native American tribes hammocks and ornaments and told them to tattoo their bodies." It is important evidence that the use of tattoos goes back to Native American origin stories.

Nomadic Clovis people may have carried their artwork on their bodies in the form of tattoos."

America living there long enough to be observed and depicted by an interested Native American artist or that it was remembered by migrant from Siberia.

Image source: Tattoos found on Siberian Shamans mummies. *paleo shamans* (facebook group). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1731969163699531/permalink/2813943465502090/>

"This gene flow occurred most likely after the divergence of cattle and aurochs, but preceded the captive breeding that revived the wisent population. The two most recent studies, however, dig much deeper into the wisent past.

Finally, in **Fig. 6**, I reproduce my proposal of how the Siberian tattoo tradition might have been carried across the Bering Strait Land Bridge millennia ago as a means by which Native Americans retained impressions of what various Asian animals looked like. One of the options I proposed is that tattoos might have also been a means by which Native

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

Sequel to Pleiades articles

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher, and preservationist



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

Recently I noticed Peter D. Bowden's (University of Salford Centre for Health Sciences Research) Facebook photo appears to show yet another rock art Southwest U.S. depiction of the Pleiades cluster that supports our re-

"What I am suggesting is that the crescent moon seen on both the Moab, Utah, panel in Bowden's photograph and the Nebra Sky Disc may indicate the nova star first appeared dur-

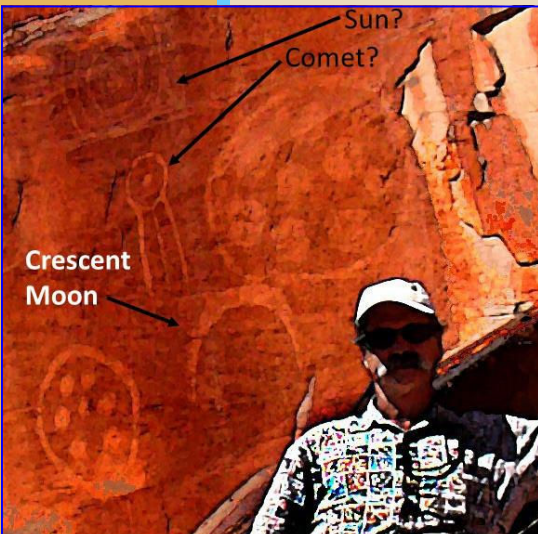


Fig. 2. Peter D. Bowden's Facebook photo appears to show another rock art depiction of the Pleiades supporting reported findings in the prior two PCN articles. Bowden photo used with permission.

ing a crescent moon."

another rock art Southwest U.S. depiction of the Pleiades cluster that supports our re-

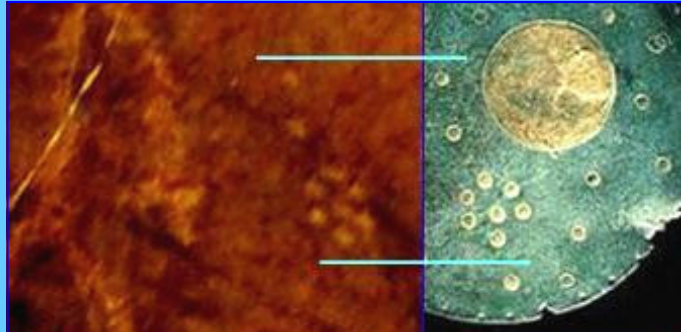


Fig. 1. The European Nebra sky disk (Right) has been called by UNESCO the "oldest concrete depiction of a cosmic phenomenon worldwide." However, I discovered a duplicate of the disk's Pleiades cluster (7 stars) on an Arizona Paiute Reservation petroglyph (Left). What this example and similar non-European examples says about the presumed greater scientific skills of Europeans over other cultures at the beginning of astronomy is an open question. It can extend even back into prehistoric times. Petroglyph photo: Ray Urbaniak. Nebra sky disk: Wikimedia Commons.

ported findings in the prior two PCN articles (**Fig. 2**). The panel is near Moab, UT, and includes the crescent moon, as well as a Sun image as does the Nebra Sky Disc.

The uncanny similarity between these three depictions alone (see **Fig. 3** for a view of the Nebra Disk showing the crescent moon) adds strong support to the suggestion the Pleiades 7-star cluster actually looked exactly like the Arizona Paiute Reservation petroglyph shown in PCN #50 and #54.

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

The Nebra Sky disk is from a site in Germany near Nebra, Saxony-Anhalt, and dated by association with other artifacts to c. 1600 BC.

Since the Utah panel was painted on the rock face *mirroring* the heavens I have flipped the Pleiades image (Sky depictions on rock art. are either painted or pecked as observed, others are painted or pecked mirroring the heavens.) On the following page, the star in this circled area of **Fig. 4**, I suspect went Nova at the time of the rock face panel was probably painted approx. 1600 BC.



Fig. 3. Nebra Sky Disk showing the 7-star Pleiades cluster, sun, and crescent moon.

Astronomer R. J. Trumpler of SAO/NASA

Astrophysics Data System, Harvard, in an article simply called, "The Pleiades," had the following to say regarding an 'invisible' star in *Publications of the Astronomical*

> [Cont. on page 21](#)

Sequel to Pleiades articles (cont.)

"The Archaeology article says the de-

Society of the Pacific 56 (329): p.65:

"What is remarkable is that most of these stories have

note a couple of them below: Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin has observed that the Pleiades contains several white dwarf stars.



Fig. 4. Pleiades star cluster. The star within the red circle is the one I suspect went visually nova at the time the Utah rock face panel was most likely painted. According to Nebra Sky Disk dating this would have been c. 1600 BC.

pleiade.org/pleiades_03.html

Astronomer Ken Crosswell offers the following:

"An ultramassive white dwarf in Eridanus may have escaped from the Pleiades star cluster, say astronomers in England. If so, the lost Pleiad was once a bright blue star that outshone all the current cluster members."

<http://kencrosswell.com/GD50.html>

The Utah panel appears to include other stars as does the Australian depiction (**Fig. 5**). In one photo study not

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

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

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

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

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

(Quoted with permission.)

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

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

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

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

iction of the Pleiades dates to 1800 BC. If true, the nova would have

one feature in common: the idea that there were once seven stars where now only six are visible. Perhaps the old tradition of the 'Lost Pleiad' is merely an expres-

sion of the fact that the number of stars visible is one short of the holy number seven. There is the possibility, however, that one of the many fainter stars revealed by the telescope may actually at some time have been bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye."

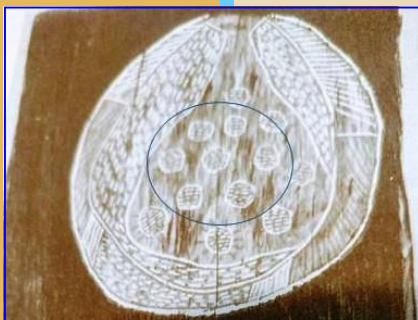


Fig. 5. Horizontal-flipped version of the Pleiades star cluster as depicted in an Australian Aboriginal painting in Dr. E.C. Krupp's 1992 book, *Beyond the Blue Horizon*. I flipped it to make for easier comparison with the Utah petroglyph.

sion of the fact that the number of stars visible is one short of the holy number seven. There is the possibility, however, that one of the many fainter stars revealed by the telescope may

actually at some time have been bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye."

actually at some time have been bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye."

<http://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu//full/1944PASP...56...65T/0000077.000.html>

Astronomers have been pretty vocal about novae in the Pleiades. Due to time constraints, however, I just

And they go on to say:

"Until the Sky Disc was discovered, no one thought prehistoric people capable of such precise astronomical knowledge."

<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/337-1905/features/7543-maps-germany-nebra-sky-disc>

occurred at this time, making these two Native American depictions most likely 3,800 years old."

Natural representations theory

What the experts really think

By John Feliks

"What distinguished the natural rep-

Back in May, PCN author, engineer, and rock art theorist, Ray Urbaniak, sent me a note about a new 2013 theory on the origins of representation.



The author at the Permian-age sea floor diorama, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. My lifelong study of fossils began at c. age 8. Photo May 1962 by V. Feliks.

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

It was based on shadows and was apparently being ignored by the science community. It wasn't until pulling together the first layout of our 10th Anniversary Issue I considered it again. The subject brings back memories of a very trying academic time and a paper close to my heart for the past 25 years. In fact, trying to publish my thesis, [The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation](#), which included shadows and a central element called the *natural representations theory* (Figs. 1–2) was my first experience with dogma-driven suppression in anthropology, plagiarism, and denigration by competitive reviewers including editors with conflicts of interest. The above and others were anthropology traits I was soon made aware of by leaders at the top of the field who were disconcerted and baffled by the scientific censorship of *Current Anthropology*. (BTW, there have been many theories about shadows and art origins which I cited in the 1998 paper.) As it turns out, evidence that early human intelligence was like our own was not acceptable. The *natural representations theory* challenged what became the destructive science fad of entoptic phenomena theories that early artists—compelled by hallucinations—had no idea what

they were doing but were acting out a sort of unconscious 'automatic writing.' Entoptics and 'phosphene' theories were aggressively promoted as the "final word" on the origins of art. The paper was censored from mainstream publication by way of competitive researchers whose identities were concealed by anonymous peer review. When the journal promoting the debate determines in secret what rigorous work the public can or cannot see those who place trust in science lose the right of seeing all the evidence. That's how propaganda, not science, works.

The problem of evidence blocking in anthropology is that some peer reviewers are so invested in their "own" theories that they will take opportunities to block a competitor's work while being informed on the latest ideas. Such ideas some then apply to adjusting their own work without citing what prompted changes or, in worst case scenarios, *complete about-faces* or the presenting of ideas as their own which they actually lifted from submitted materials they were invited to review. These problems in anthropology are common knowledge. Each happened to the author multiple times.

What distinguished the *natural representations theory* was its connection to actual physical evidence preserved in the

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Back Art Research 1998 • Volume 15, Number 2 • J. FELIKS

multaneously, thus encouraging association. By such experience, the mind of early man could have been opened to the possibility of symbolic representation (Fig. 1).¹

been known from England (e.g. Phillips 1871). In France, fern fossils are found on the same localities containing early representational art (Abard 1948; Fenelon 1951; Debelmas 1974; Feyes 1975; Auzan and Pennington 1980). The proposed fern/fossil experience may be echoed in the fact that a few prehistoric cave paintings, and/or engravings etc., in France and Spain appear to represent plants with fern-like leaf patterns (Marshack 1991a: 170–99; Bahn 1997: 156).

Well-preserved fossil ferns as well as living ferns are also known in many parts of another early art region, Australia (Laseron 1969; Whitehouse 1948). White (1990) provides photographs of Australian fern and other plant fossils which are so remarkable as to resemble paintings. That the Aborigines observed such fossils may be echoed in myths relating that animals and plants were 'painted' on rock surfaces in primeval times (e.g. Lommet 1967: 146).

Iconic recognition

I suggest that the moment a prehistoric person first observed any well-preserved invertebrate, plant or fish fossil, he would have grasped the obvious visual association between the fossil and its familiar living counterpart. In other words, he would have had the most basic experience of noticing absolute similarity between two physical objects in two completely different media of nature. By comparing the fossils he saw in rock with living forms, early man would have learned the same lesson that modern children learn when exposed to photographs — iconic images of living things can exist in non-living materials.

Credit to Palaeolithic people for recognizing the iconic nature of fossils cannot be withheld if we accept that an oddly-shaped stone artefact from Berekhat Ram, Israel, was comprehensible as a "human figure" to Acheulians (see Goren-Inbar and Peltz 1995; Marshack 1997 etc.). When compared with the iconic accuracy of fossils, this "figure" looks very little like a human being. A similar comparison is made with the naturally-formed Makapansgat cobble thought to have been recognisable as a "face" to australopithecines (see Oakley 1981; Bahn 1997, 1998; Bednarik 1998). If fossils may be recognised by *Homo erectus* (or archaic *Homo sapiens*) and Australopithecines, then it must be admitted that abundant stone objects which are virtual replicas of living forms (fossil shells, fern etc.) would certainly have been recognisable by the same hominids as iconic images. In this light, I suggest that prior awareness of the iconic nature of fossils primed the capacity for 'mental projection' of human forms into oddly shaped stones.

Paleo-cognitive and ethnographic analogy
Potential clinical testing of the
'natural representations theory'

Because chimpanzees are, biologically, our closest of kin, results of cognitive testing with chimpanzees have long been used to infer ideas about our own ancient

¹ For more on shadows and the origins of representation see Oakley 1986: 129–30; Carter 1984, 1988. For more on ambiguity of perception and the origins of representation see Davis 1986, 1987; Bednarik 1996a, 82.

Fig. 1: The natural representations theory as represented in Fig. 1 of *The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation*, by J. Feliks, *Rock Art Research*, November, 1998. The paper challenged neuroscience fads of the 80's and 90's and was blocked from publication by competitive researchers insisting Paleolithic people were *not intelligent enough* to recognize images. Since evidence like this is blocked from the public many still see *H. erectus* and Neanderthals as incapable of symbolism. The idea of 'natural representations' began with the author's field experience of mistaking fern shadows at a fossil locality for fern fossils.

archaeological record. This evidence was fossils collected, curated, and worked as personal ornaments, etc., by Paleolithic people all the way back to the Acheulian of *H. erectus*.

Reasons to reproduce reputable comments and full text

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

> [Cont. on page 23](#)

Natural representations theory (cont.)

From the text next issue:

"If, in the natural world of prehistoric

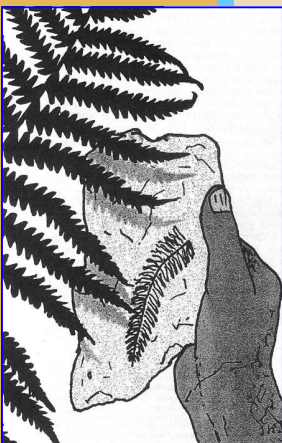


Fig. 2: Living fern, fossil fern and fern shadow observed simultaneously.

Fig. 2 computer assistance from Shekinah Errington and Gerry Hermann 1995.

people, there were 'images' for which there could have been no doubt as to the identity of their referents, then the concepts of icon and referent could have been learned via simple observation of the natural world."

This has created an additional problem when attempting to circulate the paper as many over the years have requested a 'published' PDF which I have never been able to provide. When they find a print copy they are faced with negative attached comments including

Robert's 'no value' comment and an invited reviewer's sardonic comment that would never be published in any reputable journal. These provide buffer for Robert's 'phosphenes' theory. Since Robert has dealt with the paper as competitive theorist, reviewer, reviewer selector, and Editor-in-chief dictating PDF access he has had control over the paper's reception. So, after 20 years, I finally decided to try and transcend the circumstances choreographed by Robert by offering meaningful comments on *The Impact of Fossils* sent to me and *Current Anthropology* by objective international scientists and at the same time offer the paper as installments in *PCN*. It may be awkward but at least *PCN* readers will have access if they have the interest.

Along with the experts' comments after *Current Anthropology* censored the paper, I showcase two examples of what Robert actually thought which he hid in some obscure text. Hopefully, after 20 years all these comments will help readers who care about science see how the story of early humans as inferiors is done by blocking evidence of their intelligence. The reader will see a consensus questioning the scientific integrity of the field's leading journal.

Finally, at the time of my *CA* and *RAR* experiences, anthropology had not yet required statements from reviewers on *conflicts of interest*. It was also before general awareness the field could not be trusted with *anonymous* peer review and resulting calls for transparency. Had these protections existed

when I submitted *The Impact of Fossils to CA* (1995–1997) it would have weeded out many competitive reviewers not wanting the paper to see the light of day. Anthropology has long exercised control like this over beliefs about the nature of humanity. For this reason alone the field should be held to a high standard of accountability.

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

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

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

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

—**Dr. Christy G. Turner II**, renowned sociocultural anthropologist, pioneer of dental anthropology, linguistics, perimortem taphonomy, and expert on the populating of the

Americas, genetics, and the interaction between humans and animals during the Ice Age.

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

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

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

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

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

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

> [Cont. on page 24](#)

Natural representations theory (cont.)

Excerpt from Part 1:

"By comparing the fossils he saw in rock with living forms, early man would have learned the same lesson that modern children learn when exposed to photographs—iconic images of living things can exist in non-living materials."

Side note:

Being blocked from proper scientific publication by *Current Anthropology* the natural representations theory made its unintended first appearance in a theatrical, live performance, multimedia program in May 1996, called [Sojourns Antiquitus: Paleolithic Journeys through Time, Mind, and Space](#).

later with Robert started a record '5-year censorship' of [The Graphics of Bilzingsleben](#)—also by the author.

"Richard Fox does it again!"
—**Dr. Randall White**, anthropologist, NYU, author [Prehistoric Art: The Symbolic Journey of Humankind](#). Reaction message from a leading *Current Anthropology* reviewer to censorship of The Impact of Fossils after two years review of being 'ping-ponged' by CA's Editor. Dr. White, intrigued by the paper, broke anonymity to discuss it and update me on his excavations at La Souquette and other famous Aurignacian sites in France. He filled in gaps regarding competitive problems in anthropology Dr. Bahn may have missed. *The fact that 22 years have passed and anthropology is still duping the public by blocking important evidence of fully intelligent Paleolithic humans shows the field seriously lacks scientific accountability.*

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

—**Dr. David Branagan**, Australia's foremost geologist.

"I am impressed—both with the comparison sketches you offer, and by the hypotheses."

—**Dr. Ted A. Maxwell**, geologist; Senior Scientist National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution; expert early human migration. Assoc. Dir. Collections and Research, NASM. Associate Editor, *Air & Space—Smithsonian*, more than 50 publications planetary research.

"Your hypothesis is...highly provocative."

—**Dr. David Premack**, renowned behavioral psychologist of chimpanzee symbolism fame and author, *Original Intelligence: The Architecture of the Human Mind*.

"A fascinating argument that observations of plant and invertebrate fossils inspired the invention of rock art."

—**Adrienne Mayor**, celebrated science historian, mythology expert, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford; *Fossil Legends of the First Americans*.

"Startlingly original and very convincing."

—**Adrienne Mayor**

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

—**Robert Bednarik**, IFRAO Convener; Editor, *RAR*; and major 'censor' of the author's work.

"Feliks' use of fossils offers a superb bridging argument... fossils appear to be the only external phenomena that happen to be referrer and referent rolled into one..."

This would solve one of the major problems in the development of human cognition."

—**Robert Bednarik**

Below are the Abstract and Key words for the paper:

The Impact of Fossils on the Development of Visual Representation

By John Feliks, *Rock Art Research*, November 1998. Submitted 1995, 1997, 1998

[First PCN installment]

ABSTRACT

The origins of visual representation have been debated primarily in terms of human activity and psychology. This paper proposes that man-

made representation was preceded by a natural, already quite perfected representational system, the products of which were observed and collected by early humans. The author suggests the following new hypotheses:

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

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

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

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

KEY WORDS.

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

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

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

PART I

PRIMING THE DEPICTIVE MIND:

AWARENESS OF FOSSILS AS PRECURSOR TO DEPICTION

the "natural representations theory" -jf

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately depends on honest non-politicized research

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

Politics of deception

Ten years ago, in 2009, my book, *Dreamtime Set in Stone: The Truth about Australian Aborigines*, was published. A group of Aborigines were "outraged" and promptly vandalized my house.

Their anger was enough to set the Aboriginal industry in motion—its taxpayer-funded lawyers were dissecting every word, demanding a retraction of my claims and sending me threats of legal action.

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

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

[BTW, the famous controversial Bradshaw paintings (Fig. 1) represent only part of the evidence there were other people besides the Aborigines in Australia during the Pleistocene. They give an immediate sense of a refined social hierarchy commonly seen in agricul-



Fig. 1. Left: Bradshaw paintings at least 17,000 years old from the Kimberley of NW Australia compared with similar paintings from Tanzania, Africa, **Middle and Right.** See my article [Wanjina and Bradshaw-style rock art in other parts of the world](#) (PCN #19, Sept-Oct 2012).

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

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



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

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

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

We've created a monster

After half a century of constant brainwashing with stories about a culture that never

> [Cont. on page 26](#)

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

"In order to elevate the tribes to something other than Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, the first priority was to destroy archaeological material which didn't fit the desired narrative."

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

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

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

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

—Keith Windschuttle, *The Break-up of Australia—The real agenda behind Aboriginal recognition*. 2016.

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

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

Paleolithic culture reinvented as a "civilization"

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

In order to elevate the tribes to something other than Paleolithic hunter-

gatherers, the first priority was to destroy archaeological material which didn't fit the desired narrative, and in order to make the new paradigm sustainable, also to ignore those finds which prove the existence of pre-Aboriginal races and cultures.

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

"This carefully excavated cemetery was unique in that the large sample was dated from 8000 to 14,000 years, came from one locality and their cranial features suggested either descent from *Homo*

erectus or an early cultural practice of head binding."

—John Mulvaney. Reflections. *Antiquity*. 1998.

We appealed on television for the bones not to be returned. So, in his frustration, he pointed a finger at the real culprits who are always willing to lie, defining them as "those consultants who are inexperienced or less qualified who

may report in a manner their employer hopes for, regardless of reality."

He wanted all fossilized human remains saved for scientific reasons, for DNA testing, which could easily prove who is who in this land of identity politics. That was exactly what the Aboriginal industry would never allow—to have the genetic proof of whether any of the bones have

anything in common with contemporary tribes. They knew the land claims policy would be proven to be baseless. In the end, Professor Mulvaney started ridiculing the decisions which destroyed our archaeology, especially the decision that the Kow Swamp remains "must be 'returned'—to a community some 400 generations removed" (*Ibid*).

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

> [Cont. on page 27](#)



Fig. 2. Kow Swamp skull. Due to political claims involving the Aborigines Australia has permitted the destruction of its prehistoric heritage. However, like Neanderthal remains of Europe, such are world heritage not just the country of discovery and is world loss. Photo courtesy of J. Vanhollebeke.

Understanding Australian prehistory accurately (cont.)

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

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

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

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

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

But the Aboriginal industry is now committed to spinning this new lie that Aborigines built cities and were organized as its citizens (hence 'civilized'). We all know that Aborigines as the British settlers found them in 1788 never made the transition to the Neolithic—the New Stone Age—and never invented any of the markers of what is known as the Neolithic Revolution. Unlike some advanced ancient cultures elsewhere in the world, Australian Aborigines never invented clothes, pottery, metalwork, never built settle-

ments nor had agriculture, and never made any of the discoveries that are typical for Neolithic cultures elsewhere.

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

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

Fossil skulls available for study via 3D scanning

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

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

We are already able to share the print-ready scans of skulls, digital morphology data, and 3D STL files—ready for 3D printing, as soon as they are

uploaded online. With 3D printers being quite affordable these days, many of us will soon be able to print a model of any ancient skull, in our own home.

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

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

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

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

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

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#vesna_tenodi



The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

- Learn the real story of our Palaeolithic ancestors—a story about intelligent and innovative people—a story which is unlike that promoted by mainstream science.
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- 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 entering its eleventh year of challenging mainstream scientific dogma.