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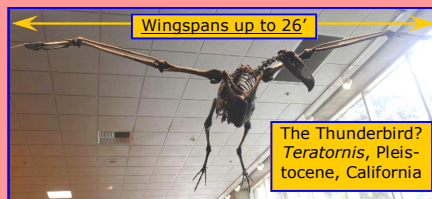


Lifelong Norfolk U.K. flint collector, **Glenister James**, sends an overview of a remarkable incised

artifact he discovered in the famed Cromer Forest Bed, Sidestrand, U.K. It features what are clearly human-engraved straight lines, angles and quadrilaterals. James compares it to *PCN* Editor's suppressed geometric studies of 400,000-year old artifacts from Bilzingsleben, Germany. See [James p.9](#).



Joseph K. Anders presents Part 2 for what is known as the "**Strickland Stone**"—a scientifically-studied trace-fossil preserved in volcanic rock. He begins with the qualifications of those who studied it with expertise both in *shoes* and the *human foot*. Aside from the only controversial part—the dating at c. 1.2 million years old—the turning point was its confirmed identification as a shoe print by clinical anatomist, surgeon, and U.K. Olympic Team physician Professor Brion Benninger MD, MSc of Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine and author in the famed *Gray's Anatomy* textbook series. See [Anders p.2](#).



The Thunderbird? *Teratornis*, Pleistocene, California



Engineer, **Ray Urbaniak**, continues to discover fascinating correlations between SW U.S.



Giant ground sloth?

rock art and animals known only from the fossil record. See [Urbaniak p.8](#). and [p.14](#).

Welcome to *PCN* #79

We are pleased to bring you our 13th Anniversary Issue

with continuing evidence the prehistoric past was more complex and fascinating than you may have

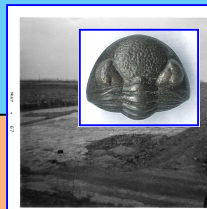
thought. Since 2009, *PCN* features evidence often suppressed by the mainstream community as it challenges beliefs long held as fact. *PCN* offers a fresh mix of widely-varied but interrelated subjects. We hope you enjoy *PCN* #79!



Tom Baldwin continues trying to break through the public's acceptance



of an obvious anthropological fallacy. It involves promoting the Denisovans as a subspecies of archaic human less intelligent than modern man. The fallacy conflicts with drilled bracelets, pendants, modern-quality sewing needles, and standard tool fare nearly 50,000 years ago. The problem is a field preoccupied with physical appearances and genetics. It needs to be held



accountable for discounting evidence of identical intelligence in all Paleolithic people be they *H. sapiens*, Neanderthals, *H. erectus* or Denisovans. See [Baldwin p.11](#).

Teaching the gold standard invertebrate fossil record will help to create a more realistic and objective view of the 'human' past. See [Feliks p.16](#).

Thomas Walli-Knofler and **Werner Kräutler** introduce *PCN* readers to their 4-year research project involving cupstones of the Ötztal valley, Tyrol, Austria, beginning with the Burgstein cupstone.



For those unfamiliar with the region it is the same area the remains of Ötzi the Iceman were found and may date to the same period. See [Walli-Knofler and Kräutler p.5](#).



Archaeologist, **Dr. Sachin K. Tiwary**, sends news Banaras Hindu University (declared 'Institute of Eminence' in India) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research—Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology—joined hands to study the biodiversity of India's Ladakh region. A joint team expedition with multidisciplinary aims explored Ladakh August 1–11, 2022. See [Tiwary p.10](#).

The Strickland Stone A moccasin print preserved in volcanic rock; a brief history, *Part 2*

By Joseph K. Anders

"I have over 20,000 hours of variable experience in the shoe industry."

"Dr. Benninger took one look at the impression in the Strickland Stone, turned to me, smiled and said, 'That's a shoe print.'"

"The Strickland Stone is a basalt boulder featuring the impression of a moccasin discovered in Portland, Oregon, in 1929."

Continuing from [Part 1](#)
(PCN #78, July-August 2022)...

Some of my background

Beginning in 1973, I spent eight years in retail shoe sales. I have over 20,000 hours of variable experience in the shoe industry from stock boy to salesman, to department manager and merchandiser, and finally to buyer. In the process, I have sold everything from simple moccasins to the prestigious Church's handmade English shoes (whose history goes back to the early 1600s, and founded as an official brand in the 1870s) for both men and women.

Scientific approach

When I saw the impression on the Strickland Stone ([Fig. 1](#)), I saw a clearly-defined shoe print. But I needed to prove it, to demonstrate this scientifically

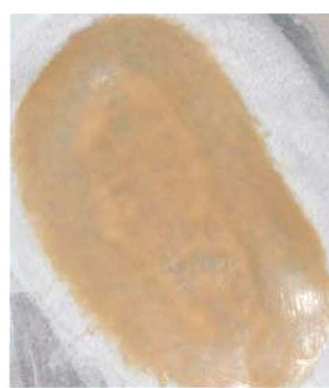


Fig. 2. Left: Initial latex impression of the Strickland Stone print. **Right:** Print color saturated for definition. Photos © Joseph Anders et al 2009.

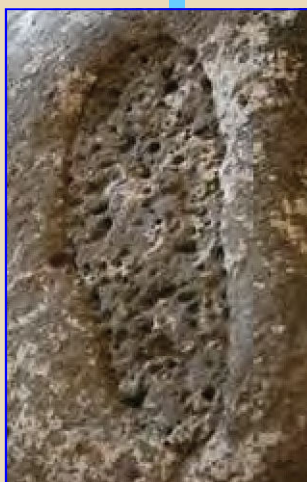


Fig. 1. The largest of two imprints on the Strickland Stone (discovered in 1929) showing the clear impression of a shod human footprint. As noted in Part 1, our team of specialists demonstrated the bubble holes were caused by the *Leidenfrost effect* when a vapor barrier separates an object such as a shoe from a hotter substrate. Photo by Joseph K. Anders © 2006.

in order to get others, especially the more skeptical, to see this 'print' as clearly as I did.

The very first thing I did was to make a latex impression of the shoe print (see [Fig. 2. Left](#)). I then digitally increased the color saturation to bring out a more distinct image of the foot's anatomy ([Fig. 2. Right](#)).

The result was that even to the naked eye viewers can clearly see a human shoe print emerge.

If one can picture an old pair of flip-flops one can gain an even better sense of the well-known shape.

Dr. Brion Benninger

In the spring of 2008, I contacted clinical anatomist and surgeon, Dr. Brion Benninger MD, MSc at Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine in Portland Oregon.

At the time I met Dr. Benninger he was a faculty member at the Department of Surgery, Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, Department of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, and Department of Integrated Biosciences within the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Physical Assistants at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Benninger is a co-author of *Gray's Clinical Photographic Dissector of the Human Body (Gray's Anatomy)*, inventor of the joint proprioception machine for the upper limb and served as a member of the British Olympic Team of Physicians. He has also won several awards for his research work in human anatomy. He is currently Professor of Anatomy and Vice Chair of the Departments of Clinical and Anatomical Sciences at Western University Health Sciences in Lebanon, Oregon.

Dr. Benninger's response

Dr. Benninger took one look at the impression in the Strickland Stone, turned to me, smiled and said, "That's a shoe print." He then spent over an hour taking precise measurements and studying the distinctive pressure deformation caused by an indi-

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

Strickland Stone moccasin print in volcanic rock (cont.)

vidual who was a pronator or "pigeon toed." His initial analy-

had to be off, and that we needed to establish a more

State University's College of Atmospheric Sciences

"His initial analysis was later proved in photo-graphic studies and CT scans."

Dating must be a separate matter to what interpretations may be given regarding what the feature might actually represent.



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November 10, 2008

Mr. Joseph Anders

Tigard, OR 97224

Dear Mr. Anders:

I have received the geochemical analysis for your boulder from the GeoAnalytical Laboratory at Washington State University (see attached major and trace element abundance data). From these data I can be certain that your rock is not from the Columbia River Basalt (CRB) Group, but is most probably from the Boring Lava (BL) formation. I base this on several observations:

1. The Al_2O_3 content (18.0 weight%) in your rock is much higher than in CRBs (predominantly 14.2-16.2 weight%), and in the range of published BL data.
2. The $\text{FeO}_{\text{total}}$ content (9.5 weight%) in your rock is lower than in CRBs (9.7-12.5 weight%), and in the range of BLs.
3. The V content (237ppm) is lower than typical CRBs (250-320ppm), and in the range of BLs.
4. The Nb content (5.4ppm) is much lower than in CRBs (15-30ppm), and in the range of BLs.
5. The MgO content (6.8 weight%) in your rock is considerably higher than the main CRB lavas (3.4-6.1 weight%), and in the range of BLs.

With respect to your question about age, this means that your boulder cannot be Columbia River Basalt (age 15-16 million years), and is much more likely one of the Boring Lavas (age 1.3-2.1 million years).

As you'll remember from your visit to Oregon State University, both Dr. Anita Grunder and I examined the boulder and concluded that the pattern of darker, vesicular rock surrounded by lighter gray, compact rock (which has the appearance of a "footprint") is a vesicle pipe resulting from a stream of gas bubbles frozen into the lava flow at the time of cooling. It is now on the surface of the rock due to later erosion.

Please contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Duncan, Professor

Fig. 3. Letter portion of composition and radiometric dating report from R. Duncan, Oregon State University.

sis was later proved in photo-graphic studies and CT scans.

Dating of the rock material

We both agreed that the initial dating of the stone (i.e. 15-16 million years)

accurate date for the stone if we were to publish a paper on this one of a kind find.

The closest argon geochronology lab is located 85 miles south of Portland at Oregon

(COAS). I contacted Professor Anita Grunder at COAS and arranged a meeting with her to inspect the Strickland Stone. At the meeting, I was

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

Strickland Stone moccasin print in volcanic rock (cont.)

"Dating must be a separate matter to

introduced to Professor Robert Duncan, who agreed to conduct the geochronological dating of the stone and recommended a geo-

sion. Because there are two areas of vesicle impressions in the stone, Duncan and Grunder speculated the impression was nothing more

true age of the stone lies between 1.14 and 1.22 million years with an analytical uncertainty of 40,000 years.

The chemical composition of the stone was measured by X-ray fluorescent spectrometry at Washington State University and is compatible with the lava flows that were rubbed it [sp?] in the eastern part of Portland which are called the Boring lavas (for details of the Boring Lava vents see Fig. 4).

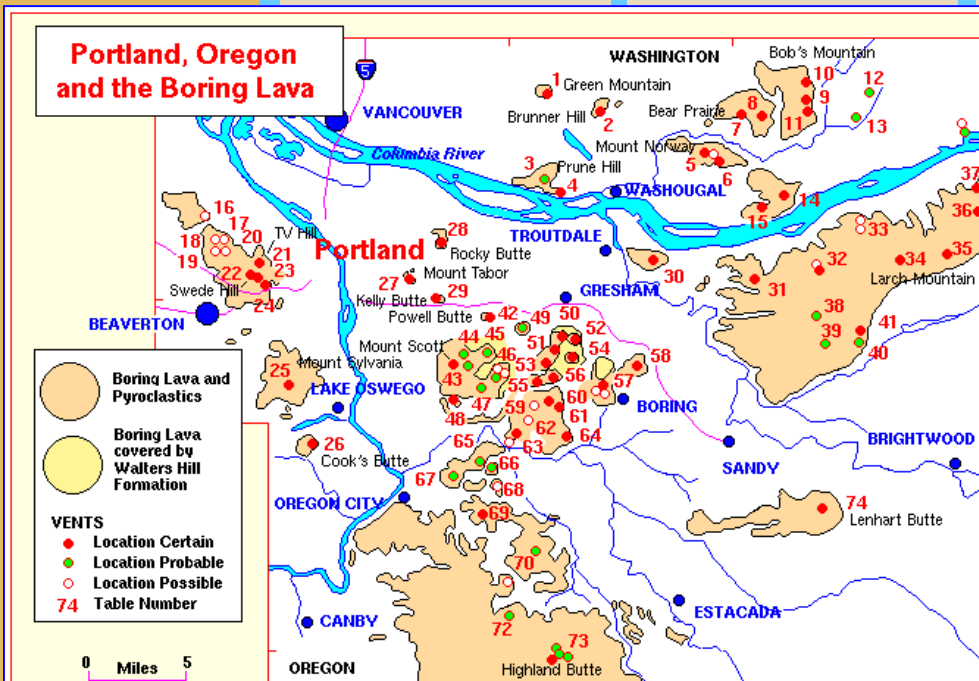
One of the dating responses

The matter of how old the Strickland Stone imprint might be was approached from several different angles. Dating must be a separate matter to what interpretations may be given regarding what the feature might actually represent. That issue will be dealt with more thoroughly later. For example, as the reader may recall from Part 1, the interpretive response I received from Dr. Paul E. Hammond, PhD (Professor Emeritus, Geology, Portland State University) in 2004 regarding the possibility of the Strickland Stone as being a human shoe print was colored by his prior ideological belief there could not have been any humans in the New World at any early dates declaring:

"That is not a footprint, the stone appears to be a 'Columbia River erratic' six to ten million years old; man wasn't alive then."

Dr. Hammond's response is a perfect example of how even scientists' interpretations of evidence can be colored by what they believe in general.

...To be continued in Part 3.



Location Map of 95 Boring Lava vents in the Portland area, named and unnamed

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Green Mountain | 21. TV Hill | 36. Palmer Peak |
| 2. Brunner Hill (2 vents) | 22. Swede Hill | 37. Nesmith Point |
| 3. Prune Hill (West) | 24. Elk Point (2 vents) | 40. Walker Peak |
| 4. Prune Hill (East) | 25. Mount Sylvania (2 vents) | 41. Lookout Point |
| 5. Mount Norway (2 vents) | 26. Cook's Butte (2 vents) | 42. Powell Butte |
| 6. Nichol's Hill | 27. Mount Tabor | 43. Mount Scott (2 vents) |
| 7. Bear Prairie | 28. Rocky Butte (2 vents) | 44. Willamette National Cemetery |
| 8. Pohl's Hill | 29. Kelly Butte (2 vents) | 46. Scout Camp (2 vents) |
| 9. Bob's Mountain | 30. Chamberlain Hill | 48. Mount Talbert |
| 10. Bob's Mountain (South) | 31. Ross Mountain | 69. Hunsinger Peak |
| 11. Bob's Mountain (North) | 32. Pepper Mountain (2 vents) | 73. Highland Butte (4 vents) |
| 14. Mount Pleasant | 33. Devil's Rest (2 vents) | 74. Lenhart Butte |
| 15. Mount Zion | 34. Larch Mountain | |



Topinka, USGSICVD, 1997, Modified from: Allen, 1975, Volcanoes of the Portland Area, Ore-Bin, v.37, no.9

Fig. 4. "Location Map of 95 Boring Lava vents in the Portland area." USGS; public domain.

what interpretations may be given regarding what the feature might actually represent."

chemical analysis to establish the stone's origins.

The geochemical analysis was performed at Washington State University's GeoAnalytical Lab. Both tests were performed in the summer of 2008.

Both Duncan and Grunder were skeptical about the idea of a shoe print impres-

than a 'vesicle pipe' and the appearance of a shoe print was coincidental (see Fig. 3, preceding page).

The stone's radiometric dating revealed its measured age as 1.18 million years, with an analytical uncertainty of 40,000 years. Professor Duncan stated that they were 95% confident the

The cupstones of the Ötztal valley, Tyrol, Austria

The Burgstein cupstone

By Thomas Walli-Knofler
and Werner Kräutler

[Editor's note: This article is condensed from a much longer submission.]

On October 1, 2021, Werner Kräutler and I drove into the Ötztal valley to Burgstein above Längenfeld, on a beautiful autumn day to study again the Burgstein cupstone (Fig. 1). The cupstone (Fig. 2) had already been described in detail by Dr. Hans Haid in his *Ötztal* guidebook (Sagen & Mythen-Tyrolia publishing house 2006).

"This stone not only has a mighty central SOL sun bowl—which was also used



Fig. 2. Birds-eye view of the Burgstein cupstone. The dark stained area at the bottom can be seen at the right of Fig. 1. Photo Thomas Walli-Knofler.

as a sacrificial bowl—but also depicts the Pleiades."

Haid had the cupstone almost completely uncovered and wanted to have it officially brought to the Längenfeld Museum of Local History, but this was prevented.

Werner had prior lived professionally in Umhausen for five years and therefore knew most of the Ötztalers, as well as Mrs. Marie-Luise Reindl from the former inn, Siggis Jausenstation, in Burgstein. The remarkable cupstone is located on the Reindl family property between the lower path and the upper path looking out of the valley.

Although Werner had already cleaned and documented this stone last year, we decided to take another look at it and, lo and behold, in the shadow of the rising sun at 10:30 a.m., we discovered two more



Fig. 1. Werner Kräutler (Left) and Thomas Walli-Knofler at the Burgstein cupstone above the valley, Tyrol, Austria. Photo W. Kräutler.

'shells,' which are, however, badly weathered.

have been chipped once later, if at all, and seem to

This stone not only has a mighty central 'SOL' or sun bowl (see Fig. 3 sketch) which was also used as a sacrificial bowl, but also appears to depict the Pleiades.

As always, I sent a copy of the drawing and photos to fellow researcher, Herbert Kirnbauer and as so often, Herbert promptly offered his translation or speculation of what the cupmarks might mean. These are, of course, his own interpretations, but they are interesting and seem to have perhaps some meaningful insights—which the reader can relate to the drawing—as follows:

"The three tiny holes on the left side of the stone [see upper right of my Fig. 3 sketch in this article] may

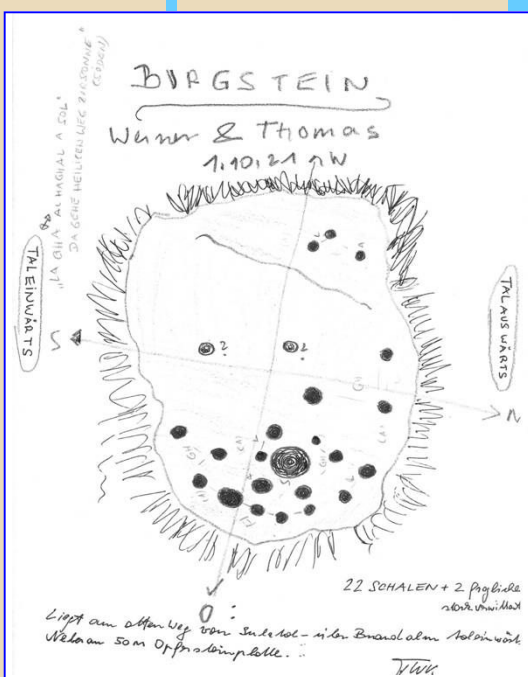


Fig. 3. My sketch of the Burgstein cupstone which is on the old path from Sulztal valley over the Brand Alm pasture southward. This caption is my first attempt translating the German notes on the drawing. Left side aims toward the valley, looking South (S)—Italy border today. Right aims away from the valley or North (N). "LA GHA A HAGHAL A SOL" means "There go holy way to the sun (South). Thomas Walli-Knofler.

have nothing to do with the large clearly rubbed shells. They are also much too far from the focal text to belong to it.

You've quite rightly given the two dotted bowls ques-

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

The cupstones of the Ötztal valley, Tyrol, Austria (cont.)

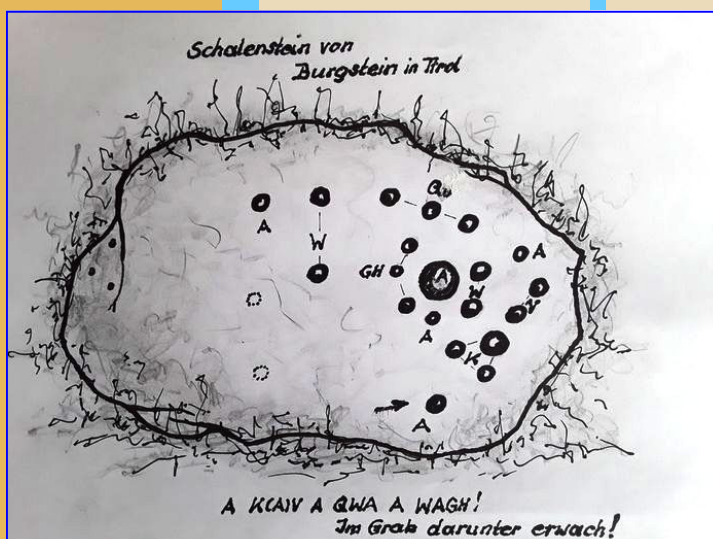


Fig. 4. Herbert Kirnbauer's study-sketch per his interpretation of the cupmarks. Translation of his "A KAV A QWA A WAGH!" at the bottom: "In the grave under awake (again)!" followed by, "Looking north over the stone!"

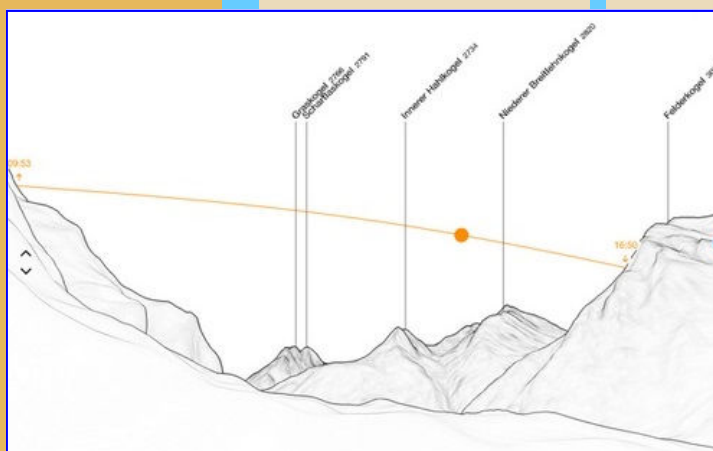


Fig. 5. Computer-generated view of the Tyrol mountain peaks looking south from the cupstone + sunrise to sunset (L to R in red) on 1-10-21; condensed.



Fig. 6. Stellarium-generated Pleiades visible at Burgstein c. 5,000 BC. (Cropped for PCN visibility, plus large text and arrows overlay, PCN ed.)

tion marks—they just don't make any tenable sense in relation to the overall text; so I didn't include them [See Herbert's sketch in **Fig. 4**], and they don't come off. And already the Gordian knot seems to be unraveling. All the signs, plus my decoding and its location to a sacrificial stone/site 50m away, assign the function of a gravestone to the Schalenstein von Burgstein.

The inscription runs like a spiral from the outside to the inside, where the large central bowl will certainly have functioned as a sacrificial bowl.

But you could be right with your sun idea regarding a celestial orientation of the coordinates because who says that there is actually a corpse under the stone? It could just as well mean the sun at the winter solstice, which may awaken from its solar grave."

Only about 50m out of the valley, in the middle of a clearing framed by ancient gnarled larches, lies a stone slab covered in moss. As we took a 360° radiesthetic bearing (dowsing, that is, a hobby of mine learned from my

grandfather) from the cupstone as usual, we both came to this exact point.

We assume that this is a sacrificial stone as there is a dangerous path in and out of the valley that lies in front of the traveler. Also, Herbert's interpretation of the stone suggests to us a 'sacred way.' However, it could also mark the grave of a politically or other important person. **Fig. 5** shows a view of the mountain peaks looking south of the cupstone + sunrise-sunset on 1-10-21.

The Pleiades

As in Urbaniak's (and Al-balawi and Crocco's) PCN articles, on this stone as on many others in the region (especially at Vinschgau) the Pleiades also appear to be depicted. So, I started to look for the time when the Pleiades could be seen from this location. The Internet software, Stellarium, makes this possible—though with a great deal of meticulous search—and behold, the Pleiades were visible in the constellation Taurus. According to Stellarium, the starry sky should be c. 5,000 B.C. at 11 p.m. on April 10 (see **Fig. 6**).

The representation of the Pleiades on the bowl stones can be interpreted as a fertility symbol because likely every Neolithic farmer knew that when the Pleiades appeared in the east, it was time for sowing. If the Pleiades set in the west in early autumn, then it is harvest time. In the middle, Orion, in the upper right of the western sky, the Pleiades are just visible.

Ötzi, 'The Iceman'

Not far from southwards into the Ötztal valley one reaches over the small village Vent the Nedervallkogel and up to the Tisenjoch at 3,200 m altitude, Ötzi, a 5,200-year-old mummy, was found in 1991. Being in the same

> [Cont. on page 7](#)

The cupstones of the Ötztal valley, Tyrol, Austria (cont.)

"The inscription runs like a



Fig. 7. Reconstructed clothing of Ötzi the Iceman. Wikimedia Commons.

spiral from the outside to the inside, where the large central bowl will certainly have functioned as a sacrificial bowl."

region it could also be roughly the same time the Burgstein cupstone was drilled. **Fig. 7** shows a reconstruction of what Ötzi's clothes might have looked like.

The two categories of similarly located and dated, though seemingly unrelated evidence—the cupstones and the remains Ötzi the Iceman—could have some very interesting correlations.

To be continued in Part 2: Cupstones of the Pitztal valley...

Addendum

This article represents only part of our four-year research. One can also read the full PDF upon which it is based on my homepage to better understand the complex subject:

www.raetiastone.com

It is also part of a joint project including not only the authors but also Ing. Josef Höfer and Herbert Kirnbauer.

Abridged Abstract

This is an overview of the whole project compiled at Innsbruck Summer 2020:

Through our discovery of many hitherto unknown cupstones from Innsbruck/Tyrol to the Pfitscher Joch/Border South Tyrol, as well as in the Pitztal and Ötztal valleys, it has been possible for us to retrace the Neolithic paths from north to south. The main paths led from Innsbruck-Tyrol along the Wipptal valley, as well as through the Pitztal valley over the Piller Sattel and the Ötztal valley to the south and were well marked by cup stones and menhirs.

Cup stones were first dated by archeologist Josephine Flood in Bhopal/Central India at around 100,000 years old,

in Europe in the Le Ferrassie/France, rockshelter dated to 41,000 BC. The cupstones in Tyrol probably range from around 10,500 BC (reference finds in Fotschertal valley/Schäfer) to the early Bronze Age about 4,000 years ago, as at Goldbühl/Igls (Tomedi/Castellan/Müller).

The cupstones found could be described with interpretations through the linguistic work of the late Professor Barry Fell, Canada; Professor Knauer, Germany; and OstR Herbert Kirnbauer, Germany, for the first time.

The Tyrolean finds can be divided into Alpine signposts, with precise information about rock shelters, caves, water, lakes, salt licks, as well as astronomical functions such as representation of the summer/winter solstices and sun-cultic references, and burial slabs with impressive inscriptions.

The differently graded altitudes of the sites suggest that repeated climatic changes (pollen analyses/Bortenschlager), may have altered some paths and tracks from their originally once higher or lower locations. These paths can be found in a range of max. 600 m between 1,600m and 2,200 m altitude.

Maps are being produced by Josef Höfer.

We are striving to have this Tyrolean cultural heritage from the Stone Age listed by Austria's Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments, which has already been done in Canada, Germany, Sweden, and Denmark.

THOMAS WALLI-KNOFLER was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1950. Since 1972 he has been an inventor (incl. ship designer and boat builder), entrepreneur and independent businessman. He was founder of the first nonfood C&C Market in Austria with the first Datapoint Computer system

for C&C markets, a wholesale gardener and greenhouse builder as well as mushroom grower with his own patents (1985 owner of the largest greenhouse project worldwide in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with just shy of 100 acres; 1989 largest mushroom factory of *Pleurotus ag* in Weiden, DE, covering nearly three acres. Experiences that have contributed to Walli-Knofler's passionate amateur archaeology work involve things relatable to early human history such as trade routes, orientation aids and astronomical abilities. These include numerous expeditions, e.g., to the pygmies of Ituri rain forest, Congo, 1970, Afghanistan-Whakan, 1972, and twice crossing the Sahara. Among his seafaring-related projects, in 1997, he was involved in construction of the renowned research sailing ship, NOVARA—a state-of-the-art 18m 2-mast schooner—participating in its 1998 four-year circumnavigation of the North Atlantic to the ice border 82° North and down to South America. Aside from his cupstone research, Walli-Knofler has also developed the more unconventional hobby of dowsing, learned from his grandfather, having confidence in human intuitions regardless of its status in modern science.

MAG. WERNER KRÄUTLER, a native of Vorarlberg, Austria, studied archaeology early on at the University of Innsbruck, and later, economics and political science. He worked for several years in the valley of Ötztal as a tourism manager and 'spiritual father' of the Ötzi-Dorf. In his retirement Kräutler writes the exciting blog www.tirolischtoll.at and is widely known for his pilgrim blogs. This year he was on an over 2,000 km pilgrimage from Tyrol, Austria, to Finistère, Portugal. Kräutler also founded the [School of the Alm in Vaserthal](http://www.schuleimalm.at) (association for preserving alpine culture, pastures and mountain meadows) with his friends in 2016. For the past 4 years Kräutler has been working with Thomas Walli-Knofler, and their other associates—Ing. Josef Höfer and OstR Herbert Kirnbauer—on their Tyrol cupstone project toward which Kräutler is in the process of planning a book.

The Thunderbird

By Ray Urbaniak, engineer,
rock art researcher and
preservationist

"This episode, they were talking about the



'Thunderbird' and speculated that it could be

I recently stumbled on a TV show that explores Native American myths and legends called *Red Earth Uncovered*. This episode, they were talking about the Thunderbird (e.g., **Fig. 1**) and speculated that it could be based on the prehistoric *Teratornis* that apparently went extinct about 10,000 years ago, i.e. the end of the Pleistocene.

This imposing bird—with *Teratornis merriami* being the best known species—is represented by many fossils and had a truly remarkable estimated wingspan of up to 12 1/2 feet (**Fig. 2**). They are believed to have been about 1/3 larger than modern-day condors.

As if that wasn't large enough, in 1999, the first species found north of the La Brea Tar Pits—in Woodburn, Oregon—is believed to have had an astounding wingspan of over 14 feet. It dates to the late Pleistocene, 12,000 years ago found in

a stratum including mammoth, mastodon, and ground sloth remains. The most significant aspect of the site, however, is that it also contained evidence of early human occupation!

According to the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Library, the wingspan could have been a remarkable 18 feet! And a species from Argentina could have had a wingspan of as much as 26 feet!

based on the *Teratornis* that apparently went extinct about 10,000 years ago."



Fig. 1. The Thunderbird portrayed on a First Nations totem pole; British Columbia, Canada; Wikimedia Commons.



Fig. 2. *Teratornis merriami* skeleton from the La Brea tar pits outside Los Angeles, California, mounted as if in flight; Wikimedia Commons.

In Native American mythology the Thunderbird is said

to create thunder by flapping its wings, and lightning by flashing its eyes. NW coast peoples, for instance, believed they created storms and that lightning bolts shot out of their eyes. To Pacific Northwest Indians Thunderbirds were the most powerful of all spirits." <https://pnsn.org/outreach/native-americanstories/>

It is easy to understand such a myth were any one of us to witness one of these flying beasts during a thunderstorm. It would be easy to believe it was creating the thunder and lightning. I took several photos of a large bird we saw while visiting Peru many years ago (e.g., **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4**). Our mouths were open when we saw the size of this bird. I can just imagine the impact of seeing one three times larger!

Such birds are surely yet another probable Ice Age animal depiction passed

down through oral tradition and myth.

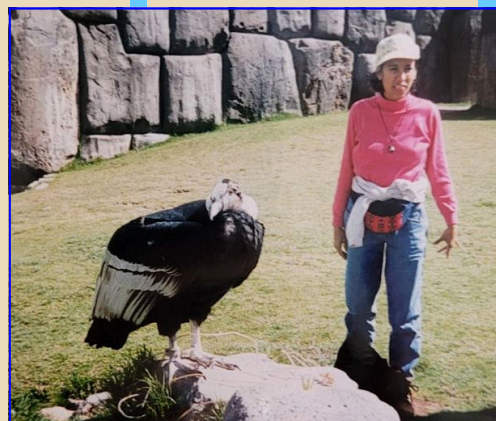


Fig. 3. While visiting Peru a few years ago our mouths were agape at the size of this Andean condor we saw. How must people have felt that witnessed birds two to three times larger?



Fig. 4. Early Americans witnessing a bird such as this flying with a wingspan of 20 feet would definitely be long etched in their memories.

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archeologist with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 65 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for PCN. All of Urbaniak's PCN articles can be found at the following link:

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

Member news and other info

"I believe the markings speak for themselves"



Fig. 1. Location of Sidestrand in northern Norfolk, U.K. Wikimedia Commons.

that there is clear inten-



Fig. 2. The flint nodule as it first appeared. Sidestrand. Photo: G. James.

tionality here."

Flint artifact with incised cortex from Cromer Forest Bed, Sidestrand, U.K.

Glenister James

I am writing with news of a discovery I believe will be of some interest to you. First some background: The home where I grew up, in Norfolk, is a scheduled monument—the site of a Saxon pottery kiln. That situation from my early childhood onward kindled

an interest in all things ancient. However, my real passion—some might say, obsession—is flint. I've been an avid collector for nigh on 50 years.

The flint I refer to in the heading was found while searching an exposed section of the Cromer Forest Bed at Sidestrand

(**Fig. 1**). I should stress this is without question a secure find.

Fig. 2 shows what first drew my attention. Exposed was what appeared to show a negative flake removal. Hence, I elected to take photos before disturbing it. I had no idea of its actual size at this point, and with the clay being so dense and highly compacted, it proved to be somewhat recalcitrant! I moved slowly, and with caution however, so as not to risk any damage. (BTW, about 10 years ago, I recovered an *in-situ* flake from the Forest Bed at Happisburgh, recorded by the local museum and dated at c. 500,000 years old). [**Eds. note:** [Happisburgh](#) is the locality where the 850,000-year-old modern human footprints, written about in several

prior issues by *PCN* writer and copy editor, Richard Dullum, were later recovered.]

Fig. 3 shows what greeted me when I finally pulled the piece of flint free. I must admit; I was very startled to say the least. **Fig. 4** shows the flint at home after a quick wash and a bit of processing in Photoshop.

The condition of the flint is very fresh. This is often the case with any flint from the Cromer Forest Bed. On examination (though not detailed here other than the pictures) I observed some demonstrably anthropogenic features. So, my initial interpretation on sighting as a flake removal appears correct, also what appears to be some retouch along one edge. I plan to take some photos of these particular features, and will gladly send them later.

As for the markings, I've ruled out a tribological origin. Under a 10x eyeglass they appear incised. [*Tribology* is the study of friction, wear and lubrication, etc., it is the science of interacting surfaces in relative motion. -sciencefirect.com].

I believe the markings speak for themselves that there is clear intentionality here. Having read your work on the Bilzingsleben artifacts some years ago [**Eds. clarification:**



Fig. 3. The large flint nodule after removal from the hard clay matrix. Photo: Glenister James.

[The Graphics of Bilzingsleben](#) and "Phi in the Acheulian" presented at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon (2006) with the former censored five years by the competitive Session Chairs, their



Fig. 4. The flint nodule after a quick wash at home. Photo: Glenister James.

Australian organization, IFRAO and its flagship journal *Rock Art Research*, the UISPP Congress' Editor, the European Archaeological Association; and the *Journal of Human Evolution* via New York University—details published in *PCN*], I must say it feels incredible, ridiculous even, to suggest I appear to have discovered a parallel here in the U.K. And yet, here is this strange piece of flint with its curious markings beside me as I write.

Member news and other info (cont.)

"Ladakh is an example of long-term human occupation"

BHU-CCMB launched the Ladakh Biodiversity project

News from **Dr. Sachin K. Tiwary** (author e.g., Petroglyphs in the Kaimur Range of Eastern India, PCN #35, May-June 2015)

The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) declared as Institute of Eminence located in India and Council of Scien-

indigenously or resulted from gene flow from the above mentioned distinct geographic regions. That is why one can observe that the Ladakh region is home to diverse ethnicities. In a unique multidisciplinary approach involving archaeologists and geneticists from various institutions in India,



going back at least to the Paleolithic period."

tific and Industrial Research-The Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) have joined hands to study Ladakh's biodiversity. In this regard, a joint team of both institutions explored Ladakh August 1-11, 2022, and met with the relevant experts and administrators.

Ladakh

Ladakh is the highest inhabited region of India and has unique biodiversity. With a population of nearly 300,000 people, Ladakh is an example of long-term human occupation going back at least to the Paleolithic period. Geographically, it is situated at the trinexus junction of three distinct geographic ancestries, i.e. South Asian, Central Asian and East Asian. It is largely unknown whether genetic and archaeological diversity in this region has been developed

the team would search for the footprints of the first settlers.

The Team

The number of members of this Ladakh project was 13:

Prof. Vasant Shinde, Archaeogeneticist, Bhatnagar Fellow, CCMB, Hyderabad

Prof. Gyaneshwar Chaubey, Geneticist, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Dr. Chandana Basu, Biological Anthropologist, Centre for Genetic Disorder, BHU

Dr. Sachin Kr. Tiwary, Archaeologist, Department of AIHC and Archaeology, BHU

Dr. Naagarjuna, Geneticist, CCMB, Hyderabad

Dr. Rahul Kr. Mishra, Post Doc, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Anshikaa Srivastava, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Audditya Bandopadhyay, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Debashruti Das, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Vanya Singh, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Rudra Kumar Pandey, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Prajwal Prataap Singh, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Dr. Sonam Spalzin, Himalayan Institute of Archaeology and Allied Science (HIAAS), Ladakh

Objective of the Expedition

The team consisted of experts from two different institutions. First BHU, Varanasi and second CCMB, Hyderabad. In which 2 members were from CCMB and 10 members were from BHU. 01 more local member from HIAAS. In this 10-member BHU team, one was from the Faculty of Arts and the remaining nine belonged to the Institute of Science, BHU. The project had its own specific objectives due to which various institutions and subject experts participated:

To interact with the local inhabitants.

To understand the Sociocultural aspect of the Laddakhis.

To understand the utilization of natural landscape of Ladakh by the Laddakhis.

To identify and document the local genetic diseases and their causal mutations.

To understand their demography and population in a geographical setting.

Who may have been the first inhabitants of Ladakh region?

Quantification of genomic ancestry?

How many genomic ancestors present in this region have been developed indigenously or imported from neighboring regions?

Understanding who makes petroglyphs across East Eurasia, West Eurasia and South Asia.

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

Member news and other info (cont.)

"The team also studied the petroglyphs scattered in Ladakh and mapped the settlements of the Changpa tribe."

Identifying local genomic signals of positive selection and genomic introgression from archaic humans?

Identification and documentation of local genetic diseases and their causal mutations.

Exploring the possibilities of dating petroglyphs.

Study the continuity of petroglyphs.

The basic objective of this Ladakh expedition of our first round was to understand all the above mentioned possibilities as well as to create such a way from which we can start our plan successfully. The joint team visited various regions of Ladakh, mapped the settlements of the Changpa tribe located in the Puga Valley (MSL-4400 m) and its neighbors. The team collected some *Environmental* samples such as hot water from Chumthang (MSL-

3950 m) and alkaline water from Pangong lake (MSL-4225 m) water samples; *Zoo-logical* samples such as ants from Ranbirpura (MSL-3600 m), horse bone from Puga Valley (MSL-4400 m), hair of Bactrian double-humped camel from Hunder, Shyok Valley (MSL-4522 m), bone of ibex from Likir (MSL-3651 m); *Archaeological* samples from Domkhar (MSL-3100 m) and ceramic samples from Likir (MSL-3651 m). They have met with Prof S.K. Mehta, Vice Chancellor of Leh University, who expressed signing an MoU. The team also studied the petroglyphs scattered in Ladakh and mapped the settlements of the Changpa tribe. It is crucial to know that many genomic ancestries in the region developed indigenously while others were imported from neighboring regions.

DR. SACHIN K. TIWARY is an archaeologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology at Banaras Hindu University (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India). From 2009–2015, he was Assistant Archaeologist and Deputy Superintendent Archaeologist at the Archaeological Survey of India. Dr. Tiwary is a prolific researcher and writer publishing over 65 articles and research papers in international, national, and regional journals and three books. He has written several enlightening articles in *PCN* over the years including [Petroglyphs in the Kaimur Range of Eastern India](#) (a.k.a. Newly discovered petroglyph sites, Kaimur Range, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar States, India), *PCN* #35, May-June 2015; [The 30th memorial for India's eminent archaeologist Prof. V.S. Wakankar](#) (*PCN* #53, May-June 2018); [The life of Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar Milestone of Indian rock art, Parts 1-2](#) (*PCN* #54, July-August 2018), and [Raghubir Singh Thakur June 1948–November 2020](#) (*PCN* #69, Jan-Feb 2021).

Denisovan savants?

By Tom Baldwin

"Those who could not accept that a Neanderthal could have made rope postulated that some *Homo sapiens* must have visited the cave and dropped, lost, or maybe forgot the rope while there."



It's been a while since I wrote about Denisovans and there have been some

interesting developments in what we know about them. So, I thought an update would be in order.

First, as might be expected, there are those in archaeology who—despite evidence such as seen in **Fig. 1**—want to reduce the Denisovans to the level of a bunch of grunting savages. For years in North American archaeology we had to deal with the 'Clovis Firsters' who refused to believe that any human could have found their way to this continent prior to about 11,000 years ago. Now the theory is discredited with dozens and dozens of pre-Clovis sites having been discovered and worked.

Worse still for the Clovis Firsters are sites discovered in the



Fig. 1. Reminder from *PCN* #70, March-April 2021 ([The fittest creatures, the innovators, the survivors—not necessarily the same](#); by Tom Baldwin). IET photo shows paradigm-busting sophisticated artwork and tools incl. carved and drilled bracelets and pendants, modern-quality sewing needles, etc., made by Denisovans nearly 50,000 years ago—millennia before similar by modern *H. sapiens*; yet, the Denisovans disappeared. Photo: *Siberian Times* (IAET SB RAS).

Americas that are in the 200,000-year range—e.g., see Calico Early Man Site, Hueyatlaco, and the Caltrans site (renamed "Cerutti" hiding 25 years of suppression) which suggest that the first people to walk this continent weren't even *Homo sapiens* but were likely, instead, *Homo erectus*.

One can imagine how sites with ages in the six-digit

range strike terror into the hearts of the Clovis Firsters. But, this is to be expected. It just seems to be human nature for some to look for ways to put down others that are not followers of their own particular belief systems though, in science, we might expect there to be a qualitative difference. Look at the religious wars of a

> [Cont. on page 12](#)

Denisovan savants? (cont.)

"Homo sapiens' bones are discovered some 600 miles from the cave ... so—to the deniers—it naturally follows that the fantastic Denisovan artifacts were actually the work of Homo sapiens."

few hundred years ago where we fought and killed each other over a god who loves us all. More recently millions have died because of their ethnic background. I could go on but it is too depressing.

The thing is; some modern-day archaeologists just can't bring themselves to accept that a race of people such as the Denisovans—who've been placed on a lower branch of the popular human ancestral tree than us—could in any way be superior to us who, of course, sit at the top.

So, when artifacts are discovered that are way more sophisticated than what *Homo sapiens* were producing at the same time, some explanation must be found.

The most idiotic explanation I've read is that Denisovans have a gene that is believed to be a cause or at least present in those suffering from autism. That being the case, the Denisovans might be expected to have a high incidence of savants in their number. These Denisovan savants would be the source of all the fantastic artifacts being found in Denisova Cave that they called home. It follows that the average Denisovan must be the brutal beast they need all non-*Homo sapiens* to be.

Some time ago in this newsletter I dealt with a situation where some woven string or rope fibers were found in a cave inhabited by Neanderthals (see, [Compelling new evidence Neanderthals were smarter than you think](#), PCN #65, May-June 2020). There was no evidence that the cave had ever been the home of *Homo sapiens*, but those who could not accept that a Neanderthal could have made rope postulated that some *Homo sapiens* must have visited the cave and dropped, lost, or maybe forgot the rope while there.

So it is with the Denisovans, a *Homo sapiens'* bones are discovered some 600 miles from the cave where the Denisovans lived and the bones date to about the right time, so—to

the deniers—it naturally follows that the fantastic Denisovan artifacts were actually the work of *Homo sapiens*. After all, they want you to ask yourself, could such beautiful works come from the mind and hands of a non-*Homo sapiens*? Could they? Yes, but they want to put doubts in your mind.

The fact is there is again no evidence of *Homo sapiens* occupation of Denisova Cave, either. In fact, an interesting development came from study of that cave. It is located in Russia, not too very far from the Arctic. Hence the cave is cold, its average temperature just above freezing. DNA normally disappears pretty quickly when kept at normal temperatures, but in the freezing environment of the Denisova Cave it lasts. What's more it can actually mix with the dirt in the cave, then be later collected, the dirt tested and the DNA of the different creatures that lived in the cave discovered. Guess what, the tests show the cave was the home to many animals, and get ready for it, Denisovans and Neanderthals too, but alas—no *Homo sapiens*.

Outside the cave no Denisovan bones have been brought to light except for a jaw bone found in Tibet. Again, a cold environment that preserved the DNA so that we can say with complete confidence that it is Denisovan. We may have other Denisovan bones but they were discovered in warmer climes and the DNA in them has degenerated to the point of being useless for testing purposes.

Inside the Denisova Cave marvelous things continue to be found. Half a headdress made of bone, rings and other jewelry made of ostrich shell and even stone. One of the first things found was a stunning bracelet. The world's oldest sewing needle was discovered there.

Another discovery is that Denisovans as well as other branches on the human tree seemed only too happy to spread their DNA around. Monogamy, it would seem, was

not a word heard very often in the caves. As if to prove this one discovery recently made was of a young girl who was half Denisovan and half Neanderthal. This was probably a pretty common occurrence, and a lot of mixing went on such that if you are of European decent your DNA is probably about 4% Neanderthal, and, 2% Denisovan. Whereas Melanesians' found on the other side of the world are about 6% Denisovan. Not only were they brainy, they got around.

On another front, one wonders why the Denisovans would choose to live in a cave that was so cold. One thing is for sure, they weren't the "naked savages" lots of archaeologists want us to believe them to have been. Too cold. However, some scientists have studied certain portions of the Denisovan DNA that they believe helped them tolerate cold. They find those same genes in the Sherpas that live high in the Himalayas and interestingly that same gene is found in almost all Inuits who live in Greenland.

So let's leave it there, but who knows what marvels the Denisovans have in store for us. I posted Fig. 1 reminder especially for those who might be new to the newsletter.

TOM BALDWIN, an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah, also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. He has been a central writer and copy editor for PCN since 2010. He was actively involved with the Friends of Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, CA) since the early days when famed anthropologist Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only Western Hemisphere site excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is an entertaining fictional story based on Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of PCN, Baldwin has published over 50 prior PCN articles focusing on the intelligence of early humans, including *Homo erectus*, as well as early man in the Americas. Links to all of Baldwin's articles about Calico, *Homo erectus*, and many other topics can be found at:

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

Member news and other info (cont.)

Quick links to main articles in [PCN #78](#):

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[Archaeological evidence below the Saudi Desert](#) Materials supplied by [John Pint](#), selected and compiled by [John Feliks](#)

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[The Strickland Stone](#)

—a moccasin print preserved in volcanic rock

[Joseph K. Anders](#)

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[Lutz Fiedler](#), [Herbert Preis](#) and [Hartmut Thieme](#)

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Timeless animal behavior depicted in rock art

[Ray Urbaniak](#)

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[Benjamin Harrison series, Part 4](#)

Prestwich's argument for eolith artificiality

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[On the origins of astronomy, Part 3b](#)

Western astronomy

[Patricio Bustamante](#) and [Juan Crocco](#)

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[Ireland petroglyphs](#) Further support for a nova in the Pleiades

[Ray Urbaniak](#) with contributions from [Abdulrahman Albalawi](#) and [Juan Crocco](#)

Responsibility to the public

American Anthropological Association (AAA) *rules of ethics* disregarded by the field.

As readers of *Pleistocene Coalition News* know, the following ethics guidelines are well-shown to be ignored by the modern anthropology community. One should be aware the need to even write such guidelines demonstrates the problem has long been known.

Source of quotations:

<https://www.americananthro.org/ParticipateAndAdvocate/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=1656>:

"Anthropologists are... responsible to the public... To them they owe a commitment to candor and to truth in the dissemination of their research results and in the statement of their opinions as students of humanity."

"Anthropologists should not communicate findings secretly to some and withhold them from others."

So-called "peer review"—especially anonymous—is well-known for attracting corruption in anthropology. It is an easy way for competitive researchers—i.e. *the bulk of reviewers*—to both plagiarize and simultaneously suppress original or innovative work they wish was their own. Deliberate plagiarism (as opposed to inadvertent plagiarism or 'cryptomnesia') results from an inability to come up with one's own original ideas; it has to do with mainstream education teaching students only how to *echo back* dogma rather than how to innovate for themselves. Surprised they weren't taught to innovate they still recognize meaningful

contributions from others to which they're given a secret means to *incorporate without citation* by handing them unpublished new evidence and ideas on a silver platter.

[A former associate who repeatedly plagiarized the Ed's and others' work via *Rock Art Research*, *Current Anthropology*, the UISPP, IFRAO, etc., when I complained, wrote back: "It can be assimilated." Clearly, too much *Star Trek: N. Gen.* Competitive reviewers using this technique move quickly to publish other's ideas as their own often in obscure or foreign-language journals to claim 'priority.' They change references to conceal their actual sources. The practice has been documented for several journals and anthropological organizations. It is one way new evidence is communicated "secretly to some" as the AAA quote describes while plagiarists' *double roles as reviewers* enables holding back the original authors' work from publication. One red flag is when researchers boast of countless innovative papers. It is unacceptable science.

All people have a right to know the true state of accumulated evidence regarding the prehistory of humanity. However, *they don't get it from anthropology*. Pleistocene Coalition founding member, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, endured 60 years of suppression maintained right up through

her two debilitating strokes. That was the apex of a problem so entrenched most who receive a mainstream education only (i.e. no autodidactic learning) from K-12 grade school to university PhDs have no idea. Worse, having been taught only dogma they have no idea even how to look at challenging evidence—seeing it as a threat. Children must be taught otherwise early on.

"Anthropologists should not knowingly falsify or color their findings."

As well-proved in *PCN*, deliberately falsifying discoveries is common practice in the field.

"In providing professional opinions, anthropologists are responsible not only for their content but also for integrity in explaining ... opinions and their bases."

[The recent Cerutti mastodon fiasco](#) shows how researchers are willing to mislead the public. See [Timeline](#) in *PCN*, 30-year contract archaeologist Chris Hardaker on self-censorship and why colleagues might have withheld important evidence for decades, and [Virginia's efforts in PCN](#) (and sharing with other researchers since 1995) to periodically remind readers about the 25-year concealment.

"As people who devote their professional lives to understanding people, anthropologists bear a positive responsibility to speak out publicly... individually and collectively, on what they know... gained in the study of human beings... they bear a professional responsibility to contribute to an 'adequate definition of reality' upon which public opinion and public policy may be based."

As we have noted regularly in *PCN*, anthropology has long been used to control the beliefs of both individuals and entire social groups. The field does a disservice ignoring its own rules by promoting fads or 19th century ideas as fact while blocking opposing evidence from the public. —jf



[Link to PCN #78](#)



[Link to PCN #77](#)



[Link to PCN #76](#)



Possible giant ground sloth pictograph

By Ray Urbaniak, engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist

"Interestingly, Bill said this site is a mere 16 miles from the other pictograph site and the image seen in Fig. 1."



In [Giant ground sloths and rethinking the life expectancy of pictographs](#) (PCN #62, Nov-Dec 2019),

I reviewed the photo of a Grand Canyon pictograph taken by Bill Woodland (Professor Emeritus at Eastern Michigan University) which appears to be the depiction of a giant ground sloth (*Megatherium*), **Fig. 1. Fig. 2.** shows a c. 12,600-year-old South American pictograph of a ground sloth compared with a modern scientific illustrator's depiction based on skeletal remains known from fossils.

2022 update: Bill just recently posted on Facebook his photograph of a somewhat surreal rock art panel

also taken in the Grand Canyon of which I noticed in the center what may actually be another depiction of a giant ground sloth, this time, with its mouth open. **Fig. 3-Top** is a detail from Bill's larger picture showing what I propose is another depiction of a giant ground sloth. One can see this image in context in the center of the wider photograph as **Fig. 4** on the following page. Interestingly, Bill said this site is a mere 16 miles from the other pictograph site and the image seen in Fig. 1.



Fig. 3. Top: Detail of proposed giant ground sloth with its mouth open; Detail from recent Grand Canyon pictograph photo by Bill Woodland; used with permission. Be certain, also, to compare the the short tail with that in Fig. 1 and with the scientific illustrator's reproduction in Fig. 2. **Bottom:** Mounted ground sloth skull and jaw with mouth open. Wikimedia Commons.

Taken on its own, I probably wouldn't even have consid-

ered it being a ground sloth. However, given Bill's other image, I then homed in on the details.

1.) The general body shape is sloth-like with a sloth-like tail.

2.) The back feet depicted are similar to the South American depiction of a giant ground sloth.

3.) The front limbs look a lot like sloth hands with the claws curled in from a Britannica rendition (see **Fig. 5** lower right, circled in red on the following page). And the Britannica depiction also shows the one back claw splayed like the two pictographs (circled in blue).

After re-viewing all the evidence I believe there



Fig. 1. Top: Adapted from PCN #62, Professor Bill Woodland's photo of an enigmatic animal pictograph he took in the Grand Canyon; used with permission. **Bottom:** Since Woodland's photo appeared to have been taken at an angle somewhat squeezing the image I decided to try compensating for the effect vertically. The result was a greater resemblance to the body of a giant ground sloth.



Fig. 2. Adapted from PCN #62, Top: Pictograph depiction of an apparent giant ground sloth, South American Amazon, c. 12,500 years old; U. of Exeter. **Bottom:** Scientific illustrator's depiction of *Megatherium*.

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

Possible giant ground sloth pictograph (cont.)

"After re-viewing all

is a very good chance this is, in fact, another giant ground sloth depiction.

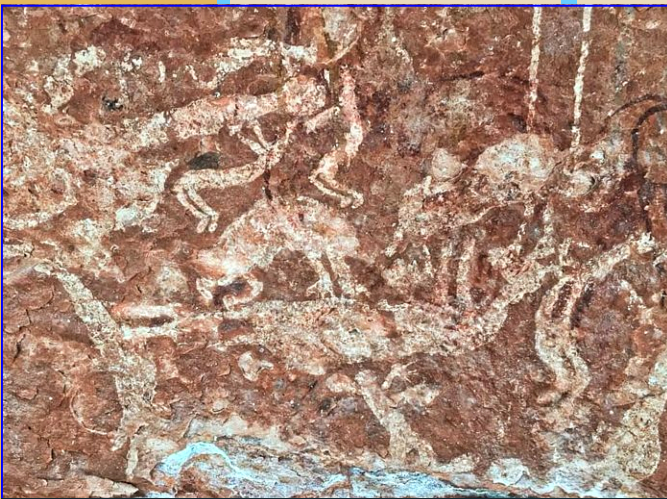


Fig. 4. Photo of the surreal Grand Canyon rock art panel recently posted on Facebook by EMU Professor Emeritus Bill Woodland. Used with permission. **Center** is the figure I propose may be yet another depiction of a giant ground sloth. I believe it notable that this panel is only 16 miles from the image in Fig. 1 apparently depicting a giant ground sloth.

the evidence I believe there is a very good chance this is in fact another giant ground sloth depiction."

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archeologist with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 65 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of Urbaniak's *PCN* articles can be found at the following link:

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

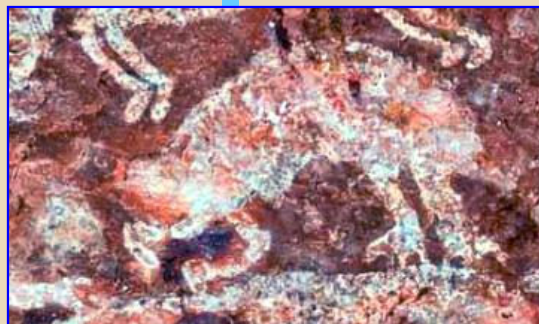


Fig. 5. Two pictographs and a scientific illustration compared: **Top:** back feet depicted are similar to the South American depiction of a giant ground sloth. 3.) The front limbs look a lot like sloth hands

"If Ray Urbaniak's claims for giant ground sloths in American rock art turn out to be true the dated tunnel discoveries might help confirm an age of 10–12,000 years for the rock art."

Related to giant ground sloths and their possible depiction in ancient rock art some remarkable evidence has been mounting in South America. Recently, geologist Amilcar Adamy—working for the Brazilian Geological Survey—discovered the largest known *palaeburrow* in the Amazon (**Fig. 1**). With side tunnels considered it equals two-fifths of a mile in length. It may help to think of that as well over a quarter mile.

The most startling proposal is that it was dug out by giant ground sloths (*Megatherium*) about 10,000 years ago. The

animals are actually believed to have gone extinct by 12,000 years ago. If Ray Urbaniak's claims for giant ground sloths in American rock art turn out to be true the dated



Fig. 1. Largest known paleoburrow in the Amazon recently discovered by the Brazilian Geological Survey. It is believed to have been dug by giant ground sloths 10,000 years ago. Note persons in the distance. Photo: Amilcar Adamy/CPRM.

confirm an age of 10–12,000 years for the rock art.

What Carl Sagan wasn't about to tell you, Part 2: Learning the gold standard invertebrate fossil record can help temper unbridled claims about human fossils

By John Feliks

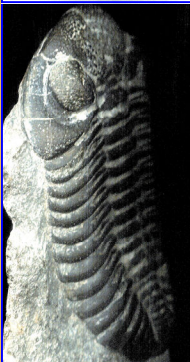


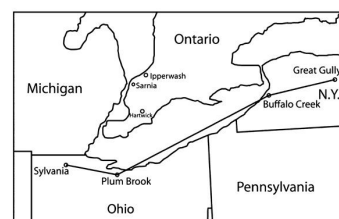
Fig. 1. *Phacops*—a constantly split genus. See [Name-changing, Hair-splitting, Creating new genera](#) sub-heads (PCN#33, Jan-Feb 2015). **Top:** Enrolled. **Bottom:** Flat. Rec. direct from strata by author 1967–69. Medusa Quarry, OH.

Continuing from [Part 1](#) (PCN #78, July-August, 2022) about the *modern-level* compound eyes of the ancient trilobite *Phacops*.

It is surely a coincidence, but I began collecting fossils as a child at the Devonian age outcrops of Alpena, MI, where my family from southeast MI vacationed. It just so happens, Alpena was the same small town in which Niles Eldredge (of *punctuated equilibrium* fame) had his well-known attack of despair while studying what he called “an especially beautiful, complete, rolled-up specimen” of *Phacops* he had just found that day (The early “evolution” of “punctuated equilibria,” 2008: 110). See **Fig. 1** for two examples of *Phacops* I recovered at another of Eldredge’s collecting localities, Sylvania, OH—one enrolled (like Eldredge’s) and one flat (angled vertically to fit the space).

The emotional reaction Eldredge had was due to a realization after studying the specimen: “It was the very same creature I had been seeing all through the Appalachians and all over the Midwest” (*Time frames: The rethinking of Darwinian evolution and the theory of punctuated equilibria*, 1985: 59). Still, like Darwin’s devotees his solution had to fit the presumption of ‘speciation.’ He found it in micro-interpretations of the number of *Phacops* eye facets (see Part 1). As regular reminders in PCN, dog-breed-level or human race-level differences are *not* evolution or speciation. Even dog breeds with varying #s (6–23) of vertebrae in their tails are still ‘all’ *Canis familiaris*. How much less speciation with uncorrelated human fossils featuring differences no more profound than the shapes and sizes of their bones? As described in [Devonian](#) (PCN #41, May-June 2016), the invertebrate fossil record contains

900 thousand trillion invertebrate fossils in full-contact fully-correlated chronological stratigraphic layers (e.g., **Figs. 2–4**) on the x, y, and z axes worldwide with formations sampled in



4 points = OH-NY locations of the columns. Similar correlations are made for entire world.

Medusa North Quarry, Sylvania, OH, Silica Fm.

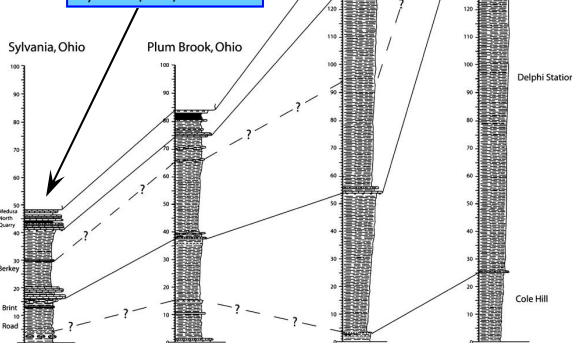


Fig. 2. Formations are correlated via natural exposures, quarries, railroad and road cuts, etc., confirmed via [drill cores](#) between. **Arrow:** Medusa N. Quarry, Sylvania, OH (Fig.1 *Phacops* source). Image: ‘Correlation of...Hamilton Group-equivalent strata...NA...’ Lyell Collection, Geological Soc. of London. Marietta, Upper R., also owned the Milan, MI, quarry a back access to the Silica Fm.

Often small layers of topsoil conceal fossil abundances worldwide.

Access to fossils in horizontal seabed living position (ledge) *in situ*. See Fig. 3.



Fig. 4. Wide shot, Medusa North Quarry during its heyday in 1967; photo by the author. **Left arrow:** Layer of top soil. Just a few feet below in many areas worldwide are zillions of invertebrate fossils. Darwin knew the problem (no transitions) in 1859. Minor differences, whether by Darwin’s gradual changes or Eldredge and Gould’s sudden changes do not equal ‘speciation’ any more than dog breeds do. Each camp successfully debunks the other. Normal science would have dropped speciation 150 years ago but paleontology, biology and anthropology reacted like deer in the headlights and never recovered. To this day, they use the paltry human fossil record to make unrelenting unsupported claims.



Fig. 3. The world famous Silica Formation, Middle Devonian shale ledge at Medusa North Quarry, Sylvania, OH, during its heyday in 1967. While excellent fossils (even fossil fish armor) could be found all over the quarry, collectors went to this ledge when looking for flat *Phacops* trilobites *in situ*, e.g., the person in white, Lower L. At right can be seen those working in the freshly blasted shale. Photo by the author (age 13); Kodak Starflash camera.

a trillion [cores](#). After 150 years of Darwinism, no evolutionary sequences. And the human record, consisting of a few skeletons and scraps of bone and teeth, pales by comparison.



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The Pleistocene Coalition celebrates its thirteen-year anniversary September 26, and the anniversary of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, October 25. *PCN* is now entering its fourteenth year of challenging mainstream scientific dogma.