



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 5

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**Remarkable mammoth sculptures** discovered by Dr. Richard Michael Gramly, PhD, in Pioneer Museum, KY. See [Gramly p.7](#).



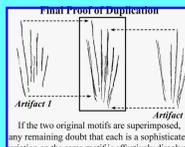
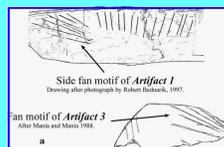
**Enigmatic ibex skull**—still missing— See [Urbaniak p.10](#).



**Engineer, Ray Urbaniak,** further develops his case for rock art symbols found in association with each other on opposite sides of the earth as a set with perhaps agreed-upon meanings. This is in stark contrast to the aggressively-promoted anthropology neuroscience fad that it's all phosphene hallucinations, a fad responsible for blocking alternative ideas and evidence. See [Urbaniak p.22](#).



**Language origin theories are back in the news** Archaeologists using simple motifs for evolution claims



are unwilling to acknowledge the complex motifs of *Homo erectus* at Bilzingsleben. See [Feliks p.25](#).

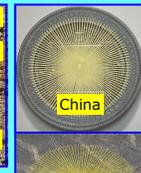


**Montana megaliths, Part 3.** This increasingly complex story goes further up against mainstream presumption. Sometimes the smallest piece of evidence may turn out to be one of the most important. See [Dullum and Harasymchuk p.2](#).

**Gobekli Tepe's 12,000-year-old date** snapped a lot of dogmatically-educated researchers out of the ideology that



Pleistocene people were incapable of civilization rekindling interest in the oddly synchronistic



12,000 BP date for Plato's myth of Atlantis—or similar. Plasma physicist and former Acting Director (National Security) Nuclear Nonproliferation, **Dr. Anthony Peratt** (PhD), and colleague, **Fay Yao** (LMS, M.A.) decided to look at some of the old—including rejected—evidence as well as other evidence pioneering a few new approaches via such as plasma physics and international rock art. See [Peratt and Yao p.19](#).



Swedish archaeologist, **Dr. Elke Rogersdotter**, PhD, continues with Part 5 of her scholarly exploration into the history and ultimate potential prehistory of gaming and its roles in human social interaction. See [Rogersdotter p.14](#).



**On recent discoveries** and claims involving *Homo naledi* at Rising Star Cave, **Tom Baldwin** asks an important question

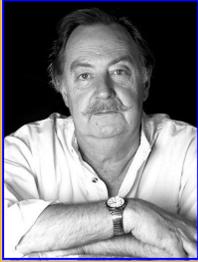


regarding the people being called a "new species." In light of people exhibiting skills *Homo sapiens* would not acquire for eons, what does it take to be considered "human"? See [Baldwin p.12](#).

# Montana megaliths, Part 3

## A closer look at Sage Wall and Tizer Dolmen

By Richard Dullum B.A. Biology  
and Sean Harasymchuk B.Sc. Mathematics



In [Montana megaliths, Part 1](#) (PCN #83, May-June 2023), I presented our first installment of a remarkable set of discoveries showing that part of the North American landscape includes *dolmens* by the dozen and a possible *cyclopean wall* above ground in a practically pristine untouched archeological context (**Fig. 1**). As detailed in Part 1, 'dolmens' are structures consisting of at least two standing stones and a capstone.

After learning of the Pleistocene Coalition's interest in the site known as "Sage Wall," its co-

discover and owner Christopher Borton (along with Linda Welsh), formed a society called The Sage Mountaineers, to learn more about and to care for the Sage Wall site. In a team with Mike Collins, Sean Harasymchuk, others and myself he is participating in the Montana project work-group online.

Chris recently updated me regarding the current state of research at Sage Wall. He noted that various reports are now in process after a summer of getting GPR and electro-magnetic mapping done, as well as the soils and granite stone analyzed for detailed mineral composition (GPR is 'ground penetrating radar'). Chris added:

"When the time is right, we will be releasing all the data and reports to the public domain. This will probably take place this winter and will also be included in our 'Chronicles.'"

Therefore, much more data regarding this remarkable site will soon be available.

### Directional orientation of Sage Wall—GPS

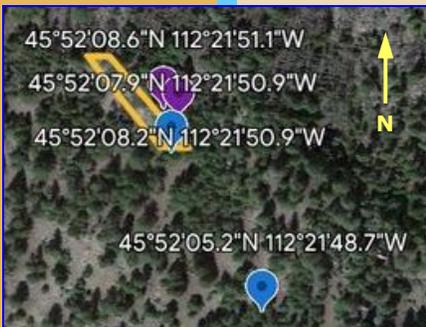
Until then, we thought it would be informative for readers to see how Sage Wall is oriented to the cardinal directions on the batholithic landscape. A GoogleEarth map developed by Sean Harasymchuk of the Montana Project using his GPS proof-points at a visit to the Wall shows the Wall's NW-SE orientation and also its relationship to Tizer Dolmen.

First though, **Fig. 2** is a detail focusing on Sage Wall's orientation by way of the yellow parallelogram and GPS coordinates—blue markers. This orientation is different from what people commonly expect in such alignments, e.g., N-S or E-W. Below and to the right of Sage Wall is another blue marker. That one references the Sage Wall retreat center which is about 1/3 mile away.

We also thought it would be informative to let readers see how Sage Wall is associated with Tizer Dolmen geographically in **Fig. 3**. Between these two, lie most of the Montana dolmens, almost



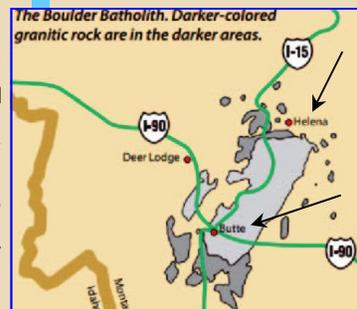
**Fig. 1. Top:** A portion of Sage Wall whose largest dimensions are 24-ft. in height x 275-ft. in length. It was discovered by Christopher Borton and Linda Welsh in 1996. **Bottom:** Tizer Dolmen, 28-ft. tall, composed of two massive stones rotated 90° into an upright position, one 79 tons, the other 49 tons—and the pair capped with a 23-ton lintel stone. Discovered by Julie Ryder in 2012. Photos courtesy of Julie Ryder.



**Fig. 2.** Detail of GoogleEarth map showing the NW-SE (Northwest to Southeast) orientation of Sage Wall near Butte, Montana—the yellow parallelogram and three GPS coordinates. The blue tab below these locates the Sage Wall retreat center. GPS plotting by Sean Harasymchuk.



**Fig. 3.** Location of Sage Wall (Bottom) as related to Tizer Dolmen (Upper Right) within the geological area known as Boulder Batholith, Jefferson Co., Montana.



**Fig. 4.** This simpler map shows Butte—general location of Sage Wall—and Helena—general location of Tizer Dolmen—as they relate to Boulder Batholith (the two shades of gray).

spanning the entire length of the batholith (**Fig. 4**). As a reminder, refer to Part 1 for the definition and details about [Boulder Batholith](#).

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

# Montana megaliths, Part 3 (cont.)

**"This is clear intentional work,**

Tizer Dolmen is located in the northern Elkhorn Mountain foothills, east of Helena, about 1 1/2 miles NW of the

Giant's Playground, and in Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest contain other megalithic structures. One of several examples is Evergreen Dolmen featured in [PCN #84](#).

## Dolmens

**Fig. 5** shows a new dolmen, i.e. recently discovered, not far from Tizer Dolmen by Trevor Stoltenberg. One just has to ask, is this structure really naturally-constructed as mainstream skeptics claim whenever something doesn't line up with their dogma? (Per our founding goals, *PCN* has 14 years bringing similar evidence to the public that the mainstream ignores.) We think this dolmen compares well with features commonly seen in dolmens outside of the U.S., such as especially in Europe.



**Fig. 5.** Is this accidental? "Hearth Dolmen" recently discovered by Trevor Stoltenberg near Tizer. Crop of photo by Trevor Stoltenberg.

Comparing the maps of Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 one can see that Sage Wall (blue tab east of Butte) is well into the southwestern end of the batholith and that Tizer Dolmen (blue tab east of Helena) is at the northeastern end. On ground level one can see that Tizer Dolmen is on the slopes of Elkhorn Mountain. That represents the center of volcanic eruptions that created the batholith 81-74 million years ago. Boulder Batholith was created in the upper crust below the surface and cooled there, fracturing and eventually getting thrust up through the surface by crustal movements and erosion.

Geologists say that the jumble of stones on Boulder Batholith is common to exposed batholiths elsewhere. Hikers in the area see so many of these it's assumed fortuitous shapes such as 'dolmen-like' formations must also be natural. That idea is also encouraged by long hearing it is just so.

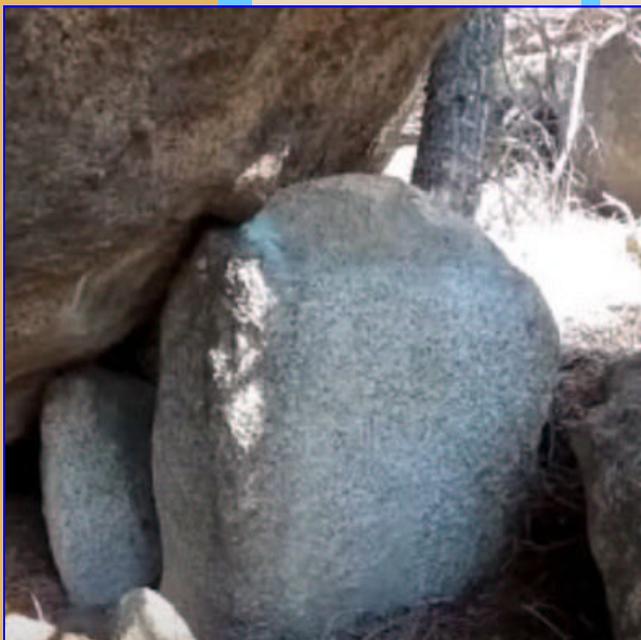
**to say nothing of the curved rock**

abandoned gold-mining ghost town, Elkhorn. The country between the two contains many dolmens. If

**A brief mining history**  
European settlers moving into the area recognized the potential of the area and eventually mined the batholith around Butte for the rich mineral deposits, sometimes occurring in large veins up to 50-ft. wide and 4500-ft. long. This is the site of the former Anaconda Mining open pit west of Butte that supplied nearly all of the telegraph and telephone cables made with copper wire in the U.S. Nearly all of the Batholith has been explored for mining in the past century, with metals

## Challenge of Tizer Dolmen

A closer look at the 'base' of Tizer Dolmen, however, is unexpected support it was deliberately constructed. We look into the 'base cradle' for the right upright stone. To throw a little water on the automatic doubters, let's look very closely at Tizer Dolmen's base (**Fig. 6**):



**Fig. 6.** Remarkable evidence of the deliberation of Tizer Dolmen comes in the form of a nub-and-gouge base locking system.

This is the base of the right-hand upright stone. Note the large oval 'nub' on the bottom of the upright fits perfectly against a gray boulder propped under it. Further into the joint, you can see a gouge in the base rock accepts another smaller stone, angled into the groove and resting on the 'cradle'. This is clear intentional work, to say nothing of the curved rock bases of the uprights matching the 'cradle' platform it rests on.

**bases of the uprights matching the 'cradle' ...it rests on."**

one puts the Tizer GPS coordinates into GoogleEarth and zoom in the road approaching it becomes visible.

Some areas close by to Tizer Dolmen are south of the Fig. 3 map, e.g., Pipestone and

and minerals spread out through the mass. It's a wonder it took this long to find out about the Megaliths. Locals seemed to discount it all as natural and didn't really explore with archeology in mind.

## Megalithic Sage Wall construction features

What about Sage Wall? Is it also just another jumble of rocks or an exposed eroding dike of volcanic material thrust out of the earth to

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

# Montana megaliths, Part 3 (cont.)

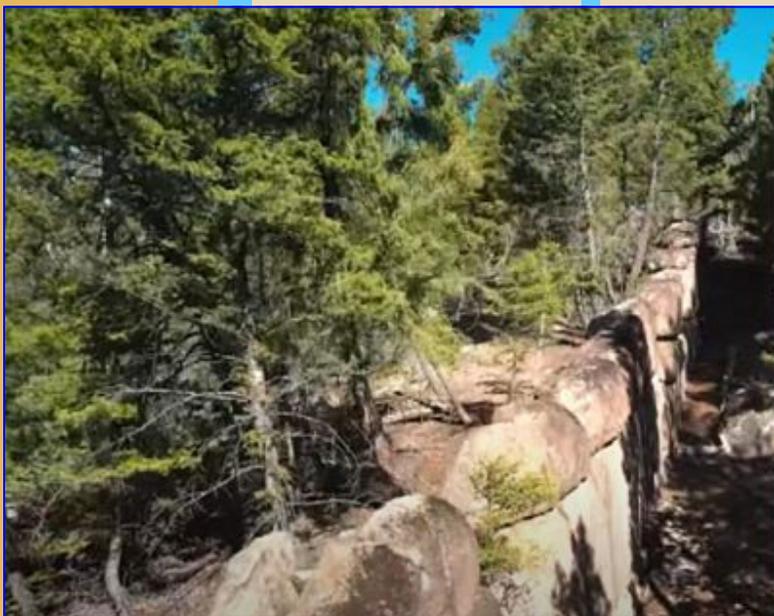
**"Nearly perfectly straight and plumb and rising up 24**

weather into a wall-"like" structure? Nearly perfectly straight and plumb and rising up 24 feet, Sage Wall is as tall as Stonehenge and as long as a football field (Fig. 7).

roots growing into the blocks from the top of the Wall. Weathered as it is, this part of the Wall shows *it was made*; this is joinery like we see at other mega-

lithic walls, comparable in size to the blocks at Mycenae, Greece and definitely *not* natural. We haven't seen any better views of the visual similarity to other known megalithic sites, of which Mike has visited many around the world.

- 1.) The right edge of the small block is weathered to the same extent on its corner as the block's corner above it.
- 2.) The left edge of the small block is rounded by erosion to the same extent as its neighbors, telling us that it was not fractured off the block above or below it.



**Fig. 7.** A short section of Sage Wall which is 24-ft. in height x 275-ft. in length. Sage Wall features many qualities nothing like naturally-occurring rock structures.

**feet, Sage Wall is as tall as Stonehenge**

If one watched Mike Collins' *Wandering Wolf Productions* first Sage Wall video (Fig. 8), one saw the fitted joinery of the stones. This type of

stop here. Going further down the Wall, we encounter one of the most startling pieces of evidence regarding Sage Wall courtesy of Julie Ryder. She took an important, if unwitting, photo of another proof of Sage Wall's artificiality.

lithic walls, comparable in size to the blocks at Mycenae, Greece and definitely *not* natural. We haven't seen any better views of the visual similarity to other known megalithic sites, of which Mike has visited many around the world.

We're not going to stop here. Going further down the Wall, we encounter one of the most startling pieces of evidence regarding Sage Wall courtesy of Julie Ryder. She took an important, if unwitting, photo of another proof of Sage Wall's artificiality.

**Fig. 10** is a more recent and more face-on view of the same area. It clearly shows that the small block insertion continues the straight horizontal line of the course above it. Certainly, this is *not* a natural process. How could any natural process of erosion or fracturing account for the small block insertion?

**Addendum: No cultural context is yet known** for the Montana megaliths

Even though evidence of human occupation of North America in dogmatic pop science terms is predictably pushed back in regular increments of several thousand years as explained often in *PCN*, and presently hovering c. 20-30,000 BP, the Pleistocene Coalition was founded in 2009 on two primary tenets. These were

- 1.) the intelligence of early people was on a par with our own, and
- 2.) the presence of early people in the Americas was on the order of hundreds of thousands of years based on the suppressed work of PC Co-founder Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD,



**Fig. 8.** Important scene from Mike Collins' *Wandering Wolf Productions* in his first Sage Wall video. The fitted joinery of the stones clearly shows it was manmade. The type of discontinuous fracturing seen here is not the natural splitting caused by tree roots. Like the obvious stone tools of Calico covered for years in *PCN* and praised by famed anthropologist, Dr. Lous Leakey, while being rejected by the mainstream for appearing in the "wrong place," this is clearly a megalithic wall discovered in the "wrong place." Found in Greece it would be instantly accepted as what it obviously is.

**and as long as a football field."**

discontinuous fracturing isn't seen in the natural fractures caused by tree

guest is resting his hand on. Could there be any consideration that this is the result

Each of the above are consistently supported with evidence in (now) 85 issues of *PCN*. In light of all prior evidence it is fitting to surmise the possibility that some or even just one group developed a civilization

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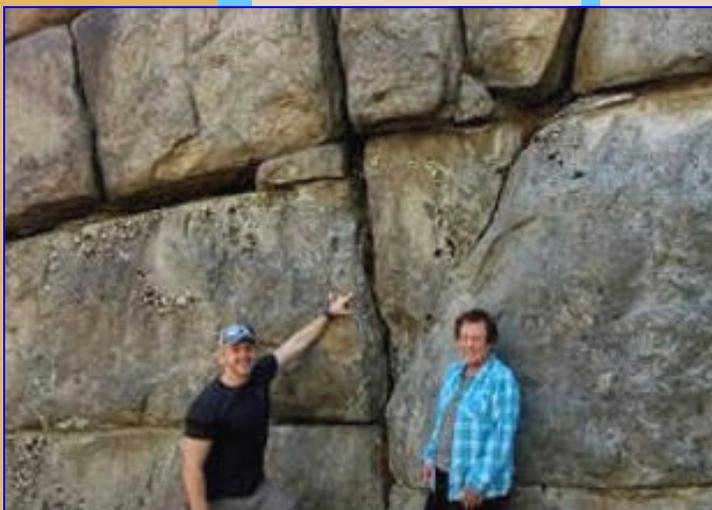
# Montana megaliths, Part 3 (cont.)

**"In light of... evidence, it would be un-**

in that time span up to the end of the last ice age. We should remember that our modern civilization developed

In light of all the accumulated evidence, it would be unwise for us to rule out the possibility of some kind of

North America is now the only continent where dolmen construction can't be attributed to any known civilization; and must be pre-Ice Age at least.



**Fig. 9.** Note the small block on top of the large block Julie's guest is resting his hand on. Natural process? The small block's right edge is weathered to the same extent on its corner as the block's corner above it. The small block's left edge is rounded by erosion to the same extent as its neighbors, telling us it was not fractured off the block above or below it.

**wise for us to rule out early**

within a mere five millennia. The occupiers before us had 20 to hundreds of millennia to

and Europe. Megalithic structures are found at the very points where humans

RICHARD DULLUM, retired as a surgical R.N. working in a large O.R. for the past 30 years, is a researcher in early human pre-history and culture. He is also a Vietnam veteran with a B.A. in Biology. Dullum has written many articles for PCN since 2009 and is also one of PCN's copy editors. As of 2023, he is an officially-enrolled undergraduate at a local university. All of Dullum's articles in PCN can be found at the following link:

[https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum\\_and\\_Lynch](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch)

SEAN HARASYMCHUK, is a mathematician and computer software designer by background. He is Chief Technical Officer, Co-founder and Co-Chief Software Designer and technology partner for PointVerge, Ltd., and the world of Materials Management, resulting in the development of their QuBR™ software. He lives in South Alberta, Canada. Aside from working for several decades working in measurement and controls automation for the oil and gas industry and later—present, as an expert in modern management techniques and technologies for large company projects (incl. Materials Management, Design, Drafting, and Custom CAD Specs in the world of industrial data communications and storage, etc. Harasymchuk has recently taken a great interest and is involved in the documentation of archaeological sites specializing in collecting data on the nature of sites such as Sage Wall using state-of-the-art techniques and technologies. His data collection for Sage Wall is balanced against the presumed natural features of eroded batholiths. Harasymchuk holds a B.Sc. with a mathematics major supplemented by computer science."



**Fig. 10.** Above is a more recent view of the same area as seen in Fig. 9. It shows very well how the small block insertion continues the straight horizontal line of the course above it. It appears this is *not* a natural process. How could *any* natural process of erosion or fracturing account for the small block insertion or its relationship to the triangular block to its right? Photo courtesy of Julie Ryder.

**civilization in the Americas."**

create a civilization capable of moving multi-ton stones.

many continuing on top of many of these sites.

# Member news and other info

## Quick links to main articles in [PCN #84](#):

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[Montana megaliths, Part 2](#): a site region with potential game-changing implications

*Richard Dullum*

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[Games over board!](#) Part 4

*Elke Rogersdotter*

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Links to Issues 81–83

[Readers inform us](#) on continuing suppression of prior discoveries

*PCN readers, Editor*

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[The problem of priority-fixation in paleoanthropology](#)

*PCN readers, Editor (John Feliks), Reprint*

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UPDATE

[The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature](#): Taking another look

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[Pleistocene civilizations](#), Part 3

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[Modern-era steppe bison, giant sloths and ibex](#)

*Ray Urbaniak*

### PAGE 17

[Foundations of modern science](#): The most under-acknowledged contributor class (updated)

*John Feliks*

## Sage Wall and Coral Castle

Seeing Mike Collins' YouTube still of Sage Wall in Rick and Sean's "Montana megaliths Part 3" (this issue) I instantly recalled the visit a friend

and I made to Coral Castle in South Florida way back in February 1988 (**Fig. 1**). Coral Castle was a perfect destination for my friend and I as her main interests were exploring Florida, snorkeling the Keys,

Limestone—out of which, in fact, Coral Castle was built.

[As an aside, this was the trip where I collected the Pleistocene mollusks and corals included in a PCN series subtitled, "The inconvenient facts of living fossils."]



**Fig. 1.** Comparing deliberation evident in Montana's Sage Wall (the mainstream calls 'nature-made') with Florida's Coral Castle. **Top:** YouTube still, from Mike Collins' Wandering Wolf video. **Bottom:** Edward Leedskalnin's living quarters (window) and tool-room (doorway) of self-cut and placed coral rock. Coral Castle's stones total 1,110 tons. Photo: John Feliks, February 1988.



**Fig. 2. Left:** Clearly artificial shim between massive stones of Sage Wall (detail of Rick and Sean's Fig. 10 this issue; Photo Julie Ryder). **Right:** Modern tile spacer (Wikimedia Commons). Related: "That is what carpenters do- we shim doors, walls, windows and trim to match existing rather than the ideal..." -Philip Rabe; Former movie construction coordinator (quora.com).



[Link to PCN #84](#)



[Link to PCN #83](#)



[Link to PCN #82](#)

For those who are not familiar with the story, Coral Castle is a walled compound of multi-ton megalithic stones (averaging 14 tons, the heaviest being 27 tons) enigmatically cut and built from Florida's Pleistocene-age limestone bedrock by a 5ft. tall, 100 lb. immigrant and self-taught engineer from the European country of Latvia, named Edward Leedskalnin, during the 1920s–1951.

The part of Sage Wall seen in the Mike Collins still, gives a sense of planning like one can see in the Coral Castle tower shot below it or, as a minimum, a sense of improvisation.

As Rick and Sean explain, the "fitted joinery" of the blocks is not like seen in nature where tree roots grow from the top and split the blocks of stone indiscriminately.

Finally, it is said that Leedskalnin demonstrated to local high school students how he used wedges as part of a toolkit for moving heavy rocks. He likely also used them as shims or

and driving Miami to Key West, and mine especially included collecting marine fossils in the Key Largo Limestone and Miami

spacers at various times in the construction of Coral Castle. **Fig. 2 Left** is a detail of Rick and Sean's Fig. 10, showing an apparent shim at Sage Wall compared with **Fig. 2 Right**, a modern tile shim.

Sage Wall is a compelling site. The evidence Rick and Sean discuss (and there is more) shows it may indeed be at least in part—manmade. -jf

# A recent discovery at the Pioneer Museum, Lower Blue Licks, Kentucky

By Richard Michael Gramly, PhD

FRAI (Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute)



**"My recent visit to the**



**Pioneer Museum was not to re-examine the ancient sled... but rather to inspect a cabinet full of loose proboscidean teeth that had been brought to light by Thomas Hunter during the late 19th century."**

**A recent stint** (August 28–September 12, 2023) of archaeological field-work at the privately-owned Lower Blue Lick site, Nicholas County, north-central Kentucky (**Fig. 1**) included a visit to the nearby Pioneer Museum at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park (**Fig. 2**). This half-day visit to inspect the Museum's collections in storage was arranged through Ms. Jennifer Spence, Curator of State Park Collections, working from her office in Frankfort—Kentucky's state capitol.

The Pioneer Museum features:

- 1.) memorabilia of the Lower Blue Licks spring-water bottling operation dating to the 19th century,
- 2.) relics of the hotels that once stood there,
- 3.) Indian artifacts from the general region, and
- 4.) paleontological specimens unearthed during the 1890s by a local resident—Thomas Hunter.

Mr. Hunter recovered many bones and teeth of mastodons, mammoths, bison, and deer during his excavation of the principal spring-pool that had begun to "go dry" during the late 19th century.

Unappreciated by Mr. Hunter, among the many proboscidean tusks, both intact and fragmentary, he had discovered during excavating were six runners and several cross-members belonging to a sled—the oldest dated conveyance of that

sort in the world (Gramly, 2022). The Lower Blue Lick sled, which had served as a hearse for transporting human remains to Lower Blue Licks for burial within the spring-pool, was discussed recently in an essay authored by Gramly and Harrod (2023) in the scientific journal *L'anthropologie* (See **Fig. 3** on the following page).

My recent visit to the Pioneer Museum was not to re-examine the [ancient sled](#) in storage there (currently undergoing con-

servation in preparation for exhibiting it) but rather to inspect a cabinet full of loose > [Cont. on page 8](#)

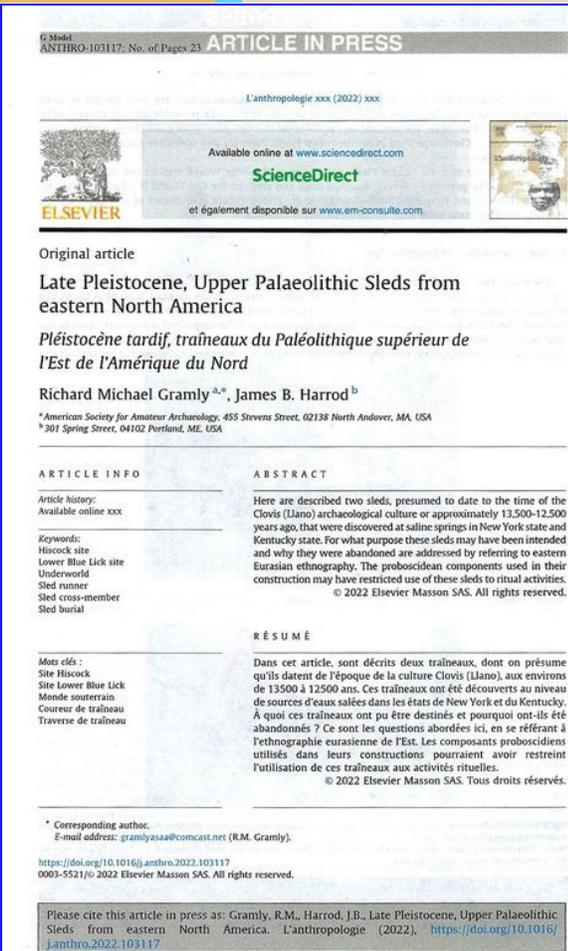


**Fig. 1.** View (2021) of the Lower Blue Lick site as seen from grid SSW. Photo: R. M. Gramly.



**Fig. 2.** Pioneer Museum at Blue Licks Battlefield State Park. Its collection features the oldest sled in the world and Ice Age zoomorphic sculptures.

# Recent discovery at the Pioneer Museum, Kentucky (cont.)



**Fig. 3.** Cover page of essay authored by Gramly and Harrod for *L'anthropologie* 127(2), appearing in 2023.



**Fig. 4.** Photo by Gene Maner of a deposit of five artifacts discovered during 1954 explorations of Lower Blue Lick by Willard Rouse Jillson and colleagues. Note the superb proboscidean sculpture made of mastodon tooth (arrow).

proboscidean teeth that had been brought to light by Thomas Hunter during the

late 19th century. I hoped to identify proboscidean sculptures that had been made from mastodon teeth similar to an intriguing find during 1954 field-work at Lower Blue Lick by palaeontologist Willard Rouse Jillson (Maner, 1954; Jillson, 1955; See **Fig. 4**). The present whereabouts of this magnificent Ice Age sculpture are, alas, unknown, and both its finder and reporter are deceased.

To my delight I observed four more sculptures made from mastodon teeth within the storage cabinet—mute confirmation of the 1954 find by Jillson. They had been made by laboriously grinding down both sides of the largest mastodon molar, which erupts late in life and is equivalent to a "wisdom tooth" of a human being—see **Fig. 5** for a drawing of large mastodon molar appearing in Charles Warren's classic 1852 work about mastodons.

Due to rough digging or handling, several roots had broken away from three of the four tooth sculptures—leaving only their "hind-legs" and "trunk/tusks" in place. However, for one tooth-sculpture the "front legs" still survived, although its domed "head," which had been cut down from an anterior cusp-pair had suffered severe weathering and battering (**Fig. 6**).

The proboscidean sculpture that I found to be most impressive of the four within the Pioneer Museum collection is shown in **Figs. 7–8** on the following page. Although the "front legs" are missing (there

are freshly-broken stumps to prove where they once had been), the well-fashioned



**Fig. 5.** Largest molar of a mastodon, which erupts late in this animal's life. The anterior cusp-pair (pair farthest to the right), when rounded by a sculptor, is taken to portray a proboscidean's domed head; while, the anterior root-pair becomes a proboscidean's trunk and tusks. Illustration copied from Warren, 1852: Plate X.

domed "head" expresses perfectly a canon of Upper Palaeolithic (Gravettian) art.



**Fig. 6.** Views of both sides of a proboscidean sculpture made from the largest molar of a mastodon. Its domed head has suffered damage.

The dominance of the mammoth's domed head in paintings and sculptures of it throughout Eurasia cannot be over-emphasized. Note how prominent it is in the painting depicted upon the walls of Pech

> [Cont. on page 9](#)

# Recent discovery at the Pioneer Museum, Kentucky (cont.)



**Fig. 7.** Two views of a proboscidean figurine made from a mastodon tooth in the collection of the Pioneer Museum. Length = approximately 21 cm.



**Fig. 8.** Same figurine as shown in Fig. 7. Note the wonderful domed head created from the anterior cusp-pair.



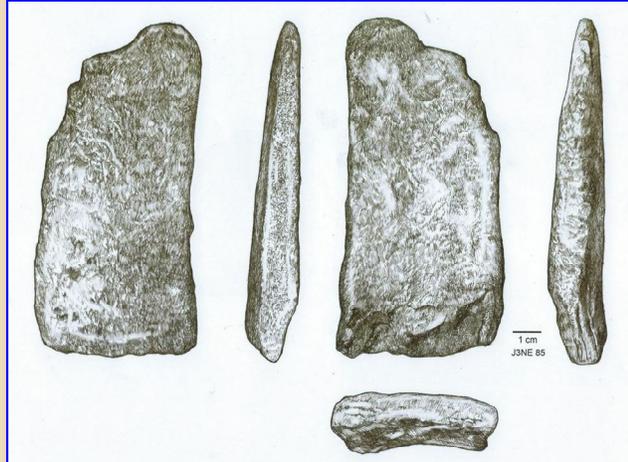
**Fig. 9.** Copy of a stylized mammoth painted upon the walls of Pech Merle Cave, France (after Leroi-Gourhan). Greatest dimension = 80 cm approximately. Note the strong, continuous line (in the manner of Matisse) beginning at the domed head.

Merle cave, south-central France (Leroi-Gourhan 1967: Fig. 100) represented here (crudely) as **Fig. 9**.

This essence of human perception about mammoth was transferred to early sculptural art of the Western Hemisphere without any compromise and it persisted even after New World mammoths had become extinct—witness the ivory adze recovered from the Hiscock late Clovis site, New York State (**Fig. 10**). For all intents and purposes, Ice Age art of the New World and Old World are the same. The full meaning of the domed head, however, eludes us and may never be known.

Proboscideans of the New World, whatever the species, must have been venerated and ritually important. This essential truth was first taught us by discoveries at the Bowser Road Mastodon site in New York State and is being re-taught by our continuing field-work at Lower Blue Lick, Kentucky. *Veritas!*

Note: **Fig. 11** is a “dummy” for the cover of a



**Fig. 10.** Ivory adze with a domed proboscidean head and profile sculpted upon its poll from the Hiscock site. Length = 12.6 cm. Originally in PCN # 75 (Jan-Feb. 2022).

new book to be entitled *Guide to the Palaeolithic Artifacts & Features of the Americas*. Its publishing date will be after May, 2024, and will appear among a series of anthropological works offered by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. Estimated number of pages is 250–300 with nearly 150–160 figures. This thorough treatment of archaeological discovery across an entire hemisphere has been a long lifetime in the making.

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**Fig. 11.** Dummy cover for a new publication by R. M. Gramly. Work is still underway.

RICHARD MICHAEL GRAMLY, PhD, is an archaeologist with a BS in geology (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and an AM and PhD in anthropology (Harvard University). He has conducted archaeological and geological field-work in six countries and 30 states. His PhD dissertation (1975) focused on Kenyan and Tanzanian prehistory. Dr. Gramly worked for six years in East Africa two years of which he was an Exhibits Planner at the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, under famed anthropologist Richard Leakey, being well-acquainted with the entire Leakey family. Dr. Gramly feels a great sense of gratitude for the amateur archaeology community and is the Organizer of the American Society for Amateur Archaeology which has been active in his excavation work. Links to all of Dr. Gramly’s articles in PCN can be found at: <http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#richard-michael-gramly>

# Evaluation of a 1964 paper on an ibex skull from Iowa

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer,  
rock art researcher and preservationist

**"Reed concluded that the skull**



**from Iowa was probably a species that was endemic to North America before going extinct."**

**"If I am interpreting it correctly, the 1956 skull most closely resembles that of *Capra hircus* which is a species of domesticated goats.**

**However... the actual skull that matched the skull from Iowa was that of a wild goat."**

**This investigation** is regarding the 1956 paper by Harris A. Palmer, "Ibex iowensis, First evidence of fossil goat in North America (*Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science* 63[1]: 450-52. See [PCN#82, March-April 2023](#)).

This past May, I contacted John Doershuk, PhD, State Archaeologist, University of Iowa regarding the ibex skull. He sent out a couple of feelers. However, I never received a reply. I then sent out numerous e-mails and text messages, made several phone calls, and sent a handwritten letter to the person I felt was the skull owner's son or grandson.

I received no responses.

My next step was to contact Dr. Doershuk again at which point he sent out another request. The persistence was worth it, with the topic perhaps striking a chord, as this time I received quite a few replies. These were from:

John F. Doershuk, PhD, State Archaeologist and Director, Office of the State Archaeologist;

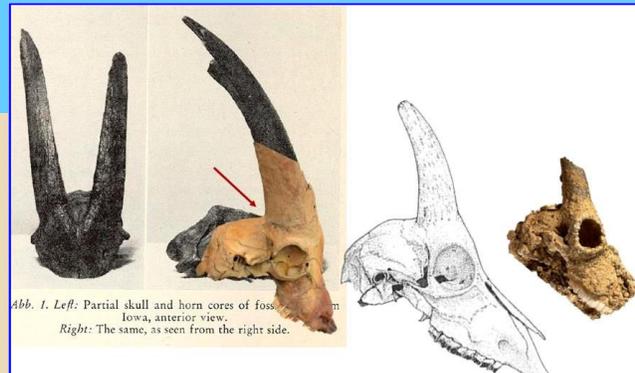
Mathew Hill, PhD, who "works at the intersection of archaeology, vertebrate paleontology, and ecology to address questions about the people who lived on the eastern Great Plains and Upper Midwest at the end of the last Ice Age (c. 12,000-9,000 years ago)";

Kay Coats, Adjunct Associate Professor, Anthropology Collections Coordinator, State Historical Museum of Iowa;

Tiffany Adrain, Collections Manager, Paleontology Repository Instructor, Museum Studies Certificate Program Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Iowa;

Cindy Opitz, Director of Research Collections, Museum of Natural History; and Old Capitol Museum Instructor, Museum Studies Certificate Program The University of Iowa.

The extra work had positive results for they actually found a follow-up article on the



**Fig. 1.** Comparing by overlay and arrow the Iowa ibex, **Left** (from Reed and Palmer 1964), with notably dissimilar skull/horn angle of Alpine ibex overlay. **Right:** Two other examples of Alpine ibex. Not a good fit. See Fig. 2 for surprising comparison with Iraq wild goat.

subject from 1964: "A late Quaternary goat (*Capra*) in North America?" by Charles A. Reed and Harris Palmer. (<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AgV3fjAVdBrniKY6s73R2h81jzbUw>)

Palmer, the author of the 1956 paper had brought in expert, Dr. Charles A. Reed, PhD, to coauthor the 1964 paper. The closest comparison Reed found is to a *Capra hircus* Aegagrus from the Zagros Mountains of northern Iraq. It is supposedly a *domesticated* goat. However, the skull they used is from a *wild* goat with a few of those attributes. However, Reed concluded that the skull from Iowa was probably a species that was endemic to North America before going extinct.

This is what happened to the Harrington goat from SW U.S. as well. As the climate of the Southwest grew drier, the goat's preferred food sources became scarce. It is thought the changing climate at the end of the Ice Age coupled with human hunting drove the Harrington goat to extinction.

The 1964 report is a bit vague, but if I am interpreting it correctly, the 1956 skull most closely resembles that of *Capra hircus* which is a species of domesticated goats. However, as I pointed out above, the actual skull that matched the skull from Iowa was that of a wild goat.

I think this means that the herd of wild goats interbred with some domesticated goats that escaped captivity within the last 10,000 years. It is notable that goats have been domesticated in Iran for the past 10,000 years.

Yet Reed concludes the Iowa specimen is a species simply similar to a domesticated goat.

In the 1956 paper, Palmer explains that the cranium was submitted to Frick Laboratory of the American Museum of Natural History for identification. In the words of Dr. Frick himself:

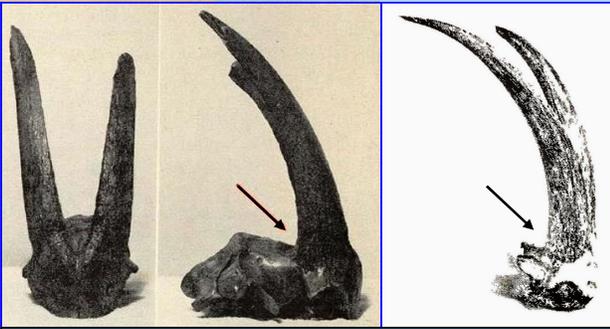
"This partial cranium with horncores is indeed an exciting find in that it seems to represent nothing less than that of an Ibex. If the specimen, as it would seem, is a Pleistocene fossil, it is the first definite evidence known to me of the presence in America of a member of the Ibex group. In a preliminary comparison with the museum's series of Recent Ibex, this specimen comes nearest to examples from Italy."

This means Dr. Frick concluded it was the skull of an "Alpine" ibex. However, based on Reed's assessment, I thought I would compare the two for myself (see **Fig. 1**).

I then compared the Iowa skull with a skull from Iraq.

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

# Evaluation of a 1964 paper on an ibex skull from Iowa (cont.)



**Fig. 2.** Comparing the Iowa ibex with a similar species in Iraq. **Left:** The Iowa ibex skull and horns (Fig. 1 from Reed and Palmer 1964) compared with, **Right:** The partial cranium and horns of a wild goat from Iraq (*ibid.* 1964: Fig. 3 detail). They show a well-matched similarity suggesting similar species.



**Fig. 3.** Reproduction of a goat-like animal petroglyph near Wishram, Washington (photo by Dr. Carl G. Heller who said it appeared "very old") that Reed and Palmer included in their 1964 article *admitting* it was unlike a sheep.

The shape matches remarkably close the skull from Iowa, so the species should be similar (see **Fig. 2**).

In his final analysis and overview, Dr. Reed stated:

"In spite of these numerous and widespread rock-drawings of animals which appear to be definitely goat-like, we have finally concluded that most probably the Indians were actually drawing sheep. We have reached this conclusion, one exactly opposite to that of our first assumption, for the following reasons: 1. Nowhere did we find such a goat-like figure clearly represented with a beard" (see **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4**).



**Fig. 4.** Many petroglyphs of ibex in Mongolia, Iran, etc., depict them *without* beards. 'Alpine ibex' do not usually have beards—similarly possible for the Iowa species.

This popular stance about the Native Americans depicting only sheep is straight up

wrong as I have demonstrated in several issues of *PCN*. **Fig. 5** appears to show an alpine ibex with little to no beard. **Fig. 6** is rare but does appear to show a goat beard in a rock art photo I took in 2007.

It should be noted that in the 1964 paper, one reason Reed gave for thinking the petroglyph was a goat is because the tail was depicted up. He said "the tail is UP (not down, as is universally true of sheep)."

Reed also said,

"For observations on this fact that *Ovis canadensis* does not hold its tail up we are indebted to W. B. Davis, A. F. Halloran, L. F. McCann, H. B. Mills, F. M. Packard, R. E. Pil-MORE, and C. C. Spencer. Each of these gentlemen has studied *Ovis canadensis* for years, and not one has ever seen one sheep with its tail up. A sheep will raise its tail slightly to defecate, or sometimes slightly when alarmed, but never is the tail carried upright as it is typically in goats."

This statement was used to help support their initial belief that the depiction was of an ibex. However, even though I agree with their initial belief, the reason they give I do not agree with! See **Fig. 7** photo I took of big-horned sheep with their tails up.

In their final summary they said: "We have attempted to balance the available evidence...we think that most probably the skull of *Capra [sp.]*... here discussed represents an extinct native North American population. However, the evidence is not conclusive and we must render the Scotch verdict of NOT PROVED..."

This is why I want to locate this skull to do dating and possibly check DNA. These tools were not



**Fig. 5.** An alpine ibex with little or no beard.



**Fig. 6.** A Utah petroglyph photo from 2007 that appears to show a goat with a beard. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.



**Fig. 7.** A Utah photo from 2007 showing big-horned sheep with their tails up. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

available when the Iowa ibex skull was found.

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 80 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of Urbaniak's *PCN* articles can be found at the following link: [https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray\\_urbaniak](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak)

Sacred Rock Art—Archaeology, rock art, archaeoastronomy (naturalfrequency.net)

# What does it take to be considered "human"?

Excitement and caution regarding Rising Star Cave

By Tom Baldwin

**"When you see people**



**displaying skills Homo sapiens would**



**Fig. 1.** Dr. Lee Berger highlights a few of the clearly *manmade* engravings in the cave.

**not acquire for eons to come, you might be asking yourself: "Well then, what does it take to be considered 'human.'"**

**About ten years ago now,** archaeologists started finding wonderful artifacts in the [Denisova Cave in Siberia](#).

Some of the things that the so-called 'hominids' living in that cave made were utilitarian, others were works of art that were years ahead of things being made by *Homo sapiens*. That's right, ahead of *Homo sapiens*. Here were works of art being done by people who archaeologists would've presumed were just a bunch of grunting troglodytes sitting around a fire throwing skulls in the air. And maybe they were throwing skulls. However, when they tired of playing with skulls they settled down and made artworks so sophisticated we humans would not master the ability to do the same for another 10 or more millennia.

When you see people displaying skills *Homo sapiens* would not acquire for eons to come, you might be asking yourself: "Well then, what does it take to be considered 'human' or be entitled to the scientific designation '*Homo*'?" The *Encyclopedia Britannica* offers a definition. It says:

"*Homo*: ...characterized by a relatively large cranial capacity, limb structure adapted to a habitual erect posture and a bipedal gait, well-developed and fully opposable thumbs, hands capable of power and precision grips, and the ability to make standardized precision tools."

As one might imagine, the Denisovans created quite a stir in the archaeological community, especially when genetic studies showed they had mated with *Homo sapiens*, and Neanderthals too, and that we today were hybrids of these three types of 'hominid.'

**A new discovery and the challenge of access**

Lost in all the hubbub the Denisovians were making in the archaeological world,

there was another significant happening in South Africa at about the same time. There, two spelunkers exploring the Rising Star Cave found some bones in a very hard to reach section of the cave. They reported the find to Professor Lee Berger of Wits University who was working a dig nearby.

Fossilized human bones are scarce and yet the floor of the cave was littered with them. Of equal if not greater importance were the clearly man-made engravings found there (**Figs. 1–2**). No place in Africa could equal this concentration of fossil bones. Plans to go in, however, were delayed because neither Dr. Burger nor those he was working with would fit through the narrow entrance to the room where the fossils were to be found.

Dr. Berger then advertised on Facebook for archaeologists or archeology students that were short enough and thin enough to fit down the entrance. There was enthusiastic response, and he soon had a team. Interestingly, they were all female.

To get to the bones the team members had to make their way in about 40 meters (just over 130 ft.). They then had to drop another 10 meters down a tall shaft (that's about 33 ft. down). In the final room they dropped into they found the remains of 15 or more individuals. 15 sets is an unheard of number. Careers in archaeology are often made by finding only a small part of a single individual. Here were the remains of multiple individuals.

**Dating**

Naturally, Dr. Berger and his team wanted to know how old their finds were. They anticipated an age of 30–40,000 years. So, specimens were sent to multiple testing labs. The dating technicians were given no information, just asked to provide an age range.

The answer came back dating the bones to an average of 300,000 years! As a crucial reference, that is about when the oldest known *Homo sapiens* were in South Africa.

**Now, for the big questions**

First of all, Berger wanted to know how the bodies got into this deep dark cave in the first place. Well, assuming the structure of the cave hadn't changed any in 300,000 years—an important consideration that seems unlikely to me—the bodies would need to have been dragged through the very same tunnel system the fit young researchers had crawled through. There is only one way in and one way out of the cave, at least, as it is today.

However, much more daunting than the tight-squeeze aspect is that it is pitch black inside the cave. So the use of fire in the form of torches or lamps is indicated (again, assuming there was no other entrance). No one could navigate that cave without a light source. In such circumstances, there can be little doubt these people were highly skilled at fire use. One can be assured the practicalities involved in carrying (or lowering) active flames in such an environment involves more than rudimentary ability as though they were simply wearing headlamps as we conveniently do today. More facts may help temper some of the team's hasty speculations.

> [Cont. on page 13](#)



**Fig. 2.** More engravings in the cave certainly made by the hand of man. Saying they were made by human "relatives" is not scientific.

## What does it take to be considered “human”? (cont.)

**“We also need to keep in mind that**



**Fig. 3.** An apparent scraper with the team’s arrows pointing to apparent use-wear. It was found clutched in the hand of a youth.

**despite omissions by the Rising Star researchers there are many *Homo erectus* engravings older including those of Java Man, Trinil, Indonesia; Bilzingsleben, Germany; Kozarnika Cave, Bulgaria, etc.”**

### The biggest question, why?

Although there has been much criticism that speculation and conjecture have gone too far too soon regarding the excitement about Rising Star, at present, the archaeological team is pretty much agreed the ‘reason’ *Homo naledi* went down into this nearly inaccessible chamber, if true, is remarkable. It is believed the bodies had been brought into the cave to be buried. According to this interpretation, excavations

suggested that oval holes had been dug in the floor of the cave then the bodies of the dead—placed in fetal position—were laid in the hole and covered up. The bones that lay scattered on the cave floor’s surface are explained as probably being washed out of their graves by periodic flooding of the cave during heavy rains.

These burials were astonishing. Until their discovery the oldest known graves were of *Homo sapiens* (‘wise’ man) dating to c. 100,000 years ago. To state the point more directly, *Homo naledi*—a name assigned to what is being called a ‘new species’—were supposedly burying their dead 200,000 years before the idea even crossed our species’ mind.

One grave was small, suggesting a youth was buried there. It was decided to dig around the body and cover everything in plaster of Paris. Once it was encased the whole block was CT scanned to see the bones inside. The results showed something nobody anticipated. The young person had been buried clutching an artifact in their hand. He/She held what I would call a scraper. The tool shows what appear

to be signs of use or wear on its working edge (**Fig. 3**).

After a few years of just being able to watch work being done in the cave via photos and TV, Berger became so frustrated he went on a diet, lost 40 pounds and was able to squirm his way into the place where they were finding the graves. The trip through the cave was only about half a football field in length, but was so craggy it took Berger an hour to complete.

While in the cave, Dr. Berger was the first to notice the walls had been scraped smooth in spots and then engraved with geometric designs (again, see Figs. 1–2). We need to keep in mind that despite omissions by the Rising Star team there are many *Homo erectus* engravings older including those of Java Man, Trinil, Indonesia; Bilzingsleben, Germany; Kozarnika Cave, Bulgaria, etc.

### Conclusions

Why would *Homo naledi* bury their dead? What use would a dead person have for a tool? Why decorate their tomb with designs on the walls. These actions must be meaningful to those who performed them, but in what way? Minus corroborating evidence, my inclination is that they are demonstrative of a belief in spirits, and, if so, of an afterlife as well. They likely did not have a sophisticated religion such as we have today. But I believe their actions showed a respect for the dead and that they were pioneering a belief that this life is not all there is.

Finally, we’ve all been taught to believe the bigger the brain of a creature, especially a so-called ‘hominid,’ the smarter they are. This is what archaeologists and paleontologists have been telling us for decades. It is accepted dogma. But hold on, *Homo naledi* has punched a big hole in that theory. *H. naledi* was just a little shorter than our average worldwide height of 5’ 7”. The average height of

*H. naledi* was about 5’, and they were apparently quite thin. However, their brain was not 90% the size of ours as popular dogma might expect. Nor was it 75%. It was not even 50% our brain size! In fact, despite the act of human burial or the creation of complex engravings, it was only about one-third our size comparable in volume to the brain of a chimpanzee.

Well, so much for the brain-size-equals-intelligence theory. Here we have individuals that use fire, honor their dead by burying them in a very dangerous and hard to reach place (a place perhaps picked because to them the bodies were sacred and in the far reaches of the cave they would be safe from scavengers), burying them with tools to use in an afterlife, and decorating their tomb with engravings, oh and does all this with a brain a third the size of ours.

*Homo naledi* is just another discovery forcing a change in suppressive mainstream ideology and presumptions about early man. In other words, they are back to the drawing board.

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 a very well received and 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 can be found at:

[https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom\\_baldwin](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin)

# Games over board! Part 5

By Elke Rogersdotter, PhD, Archaeology

**"Without always being expressed**



**explicitly... there is an implicit understanding of these objects as toys ...and they are rarely specified fur-**



**Fig. 1.** Ball in light red ware, "very well shaped" and ornamented with evenly spaced, engraved circles with a dot in each. Surface find, Mohenjo-daro (modified after Mackay 1938: 566 and Pl. CVI, 15).

**ther. Exceptions...have tended to be given other... interpretations, such as... some type of ritual purpose."**

Continuing from [Part 4](#) (PCN #84, July-August 2023)...

BACK TO THE ANCIENT INDUS VALLEY:

**Balls or bowls; marbles, pebbles or nothing but sling pellets?**

Regarding the Indus archaeological material: Among the recreational types of artifacts often seen in connection with what is more explicitly called 'gaming equipment' (in museum displays, etc., but usually not mentioned in terms of specific, plausible gaming implement) are objects that are traditionally cataloged as 'balls' and 'small balls' or 'marbles.' Without always being expressed explicitly, in this type of presentation there is an implicit understanding of these objects as toys, playing equipment in the hands of children, and they are rarely specified further.

Exceptions are certain subtypes that have tended to be given other, non-play-related interpretations, such as, in the case of some particularly well-made specimens, some type of ritual purpose. This includes, among other variants, balls made of shell roughly 3 cm in diameter and decorated with engraved, regularly placed groups of concentric circles commonly cut in relief, as well as marbles of soft stone such as alabaster and limestone. The latter were already pointed out by Ernest J. H. Mackay, the archaeologist who led the later period of large-scale excavations at Mohenjo-daro, as probably unsuitable for marble games due to their more fragile material (Mackay 1938:565). Balls of a more simple kind and undecorated, as well as marbles of fired clay, have instead been suggested to have had more practical purposes (e.g., as weights, sling balls/pellets, or for record keeping).

Balls and marbles constitute relatively well-represented finds in Indus excavations, regardless of settlement size or geographic location within the area. Particularly detailed descriptions can be found from the era of the major excavations in the 1920s and 1930s. From Mohenjo-daro and Harappa finds are reported of balls in pottery, several perfectly spherical and all solid, as well as in faience (Mackay 1931a, 1938; Vats 1940). Specimens in these materials have in several cases also been decorated, such as notched or engraved with similar patterns to the shell balls (**Fig. 1**). Other balls have been made of various kinds of hard stone, the material from which most marbles are also made, such as, for example, agate, hornblende, rock crystal, carnelian, flint or onyx; these have often been finely polished with some specimens shimmering in different shades of color. In terms of size, the objects vary from roughly 1 to 4.5 cm in diameter. (soft stone balls can be slightly larger). As for Mohenjo-daro, the above-mentioned shell balls are said to derive only from the higher levels, while other balls and marbles are noted to have been found at all levels, although for that reason not as an overly common type of find. They are also said to have rarely appeared in pairs or groups (with some interesting exceptions, such as four stone marbles found together in what was interpreted as a courtyard). Mackay (1938:565) therefore believes that if they were involved in game play, probably only one implement per player (or game round) would have been used. From Harappa, however, it is reported that terracotta balls were found in particularly large numbers (Vats 1940:455). The marbles are suggested to have been used for the playing of *marbles* not unlike the ways in which games of marbles are played today. As for the balls,

on the other hand, the Harappa report only says that they must have been used for some other purpose as they are too large for marble games, while Mackay in the later Mohenjo-daro report actually puts forward the suggestion that they may have been used to knock down small miniature skittles or rolled through small gates, at the same time as he notes that no traces of such implements have been found in connection with the balls (Mackay 1938:565).

On the basis of their both solid and hard, and in some cases relatively fragile nature, and not least with the broad categorization by De Vroede before our eyes, it seems more fruitful, however, in line with Mackay's thinking rather to think about these balls in terms of 'bowls,' generally more suitable for rolling towards a target than being thrown the way players would throw a malleable type of ball between them. For the same reasons, these objects should also have generally been better suited as gaming implements than as toys, if by the latter we refer to items that must be able to withstand children's sometimes rough handling, as well as be suitable for small children. The same argument could of course also be made with respect to the marbles, regardless of the age of the possible marble players. With this interpretation, it also appears relevant to consider whether the ornamentation that can be seen on several of the specimens may have had reasons other than purely decorative. Game technical motives are another conceivable possibility, for example with the aim of more easily distinguishing the bowls from each other during play. An engraved pattern of some kind may possibly also, to some extent, have facilitated the actual grip of the bowl, or been thought capable

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

# Games over board! Part 5 (cont.)

## "Balls and marbles constitute

of having that effect (similar to what is sometimes mentioned for the patterns applied to the bowls used in e.g. *boules* [cf. Blattmann 2015]).

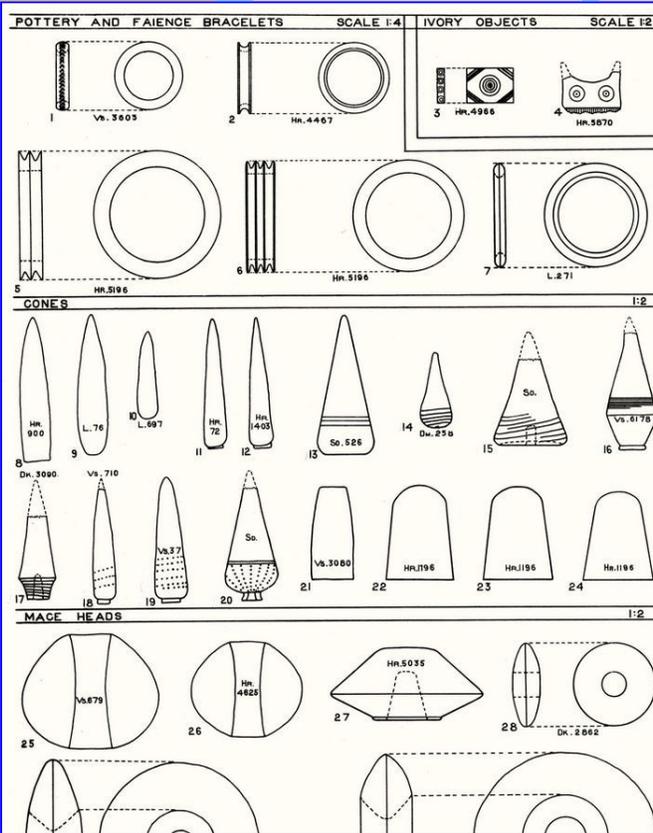
we concentrate exclusively on the *shape* of the various types of find, and with this in mind look more closely at the many sub-groups of small,

cone-shaped objects that have from time to time tended to be grouped and presented as possible 'pawns' or 'game pieces', we find at least one category of artifact which we—at least at first sight—might rather think of as presumptive 'pin' rather than 'game piece.' Yes, compared to many other cone-shaped objects that have been categorized as possible 'game pieces' and which are usually of a much smaller and neater format, this pronounced pointed type even in some cases even quite unstable to really be suitable as game piece, at least if set up on a game board with a hard and flat, and limited, surface (**Fig. 2**). Perhaps it was precisely their shape that actually led Mackay to suggest, on another, later occasion, these particular objects as possible skittles, "perhaps to be knocked down by the little

pottery balls frequently found" (Mackay 1943:173). This information is found in another excavation report, in which the results of an excavation carried out in 1935–36 were published; an excavation that concentrated on the Indus urban settlement of Chanhu-daro, which, like Mohenjo-daro, is also found in present-day southern Pakistan. This line of thought, however, does not seem to have been followed up in later reports, or to have been more closely examined for its archaeological credibility by, for example, Mackay or any of his successors. In museum exhibitions and similar contexts, this type of find can sometimes be found lined up together with other presumptive game pieces; in other cases it has tended to be placed at some distance from the 'proper' gaming material—so to speak 'flanking' it—in the manner described at the beginning of this article series, together with more pronounced toy-interpreted objects such as rattles, ox-drawn small carts and similar items, and usually without any further specification of its supposed connection with game- or play activities in more concrete terms.

This type of artifact is also described in the excavation reports for Mohenjo-daro, where it is said to be consistently very common (Mackay 1931b, 1938). However, in accordance with the standard of report writing of the time, no further information has been provided regarding a possible contextual association between these cone-shaped objects and finds of balls. For Mohenjo-daro, a possible spatial correspondence has been discernible for a smaller proportion of specimens of these two object categories (only for balls in terracotta, however), which in connection with the large-scale excavations of the time were unearthed in one of the smaller neighborhoods of the settlement, and which in more recent times have been investigated with regard to spatial aspects (Rogersdotter 2011:229 and Figs. 5.29, 5.31). However, the investigation was quite small in scope and fringed with some inevitable uncertainties due to shortcomings in the way of documenting small finds at the time, so the results would need to be confirmed by further studies.

The function or functions of this specific category of small cones is still not clear today, and widely differing interpretations have been proposed over



**Fig. 2.** Excerpt of original page from excavation report relating to Mohenjo-daro with line drawings of various small finds. Figures 8–20 show different profiles for the type of 'pointed cone' discussed in the text (cropped, from Marshall 1931: Pl. CXXXIV).

**relatively well-represented finds in Indus excavations, regardless of settlement size or geographic location within the area."**

### Any traces of possible skittles?

With the idea of at least the decorated terracotta balls from Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, and other Indus cities as suitable implements for *bowling games*, it is hard to resist thinking whether in the archaeological material left behind there might also be traces of some kind of obstacle or 'target' intended to be struck with these objects. The idea of some kind of presumptive 'skittles' is tempting, although nothing of the sort was allegedly found with this type of artifact according to the report from Mohenjo-daro, as quoted above. If, on the other hand,

pottery balls frequently found" (Mackay 1943:173). This information is found in another excavation report, in which the results of an excavation carried out in 1935–36 were published; an excavation that concentrated on the Indus urban settlement of Chanhu-daro, which, like Mohenjo-daro, is also found in present-day southern Pakistan. This line of thought, however, does not seem to have been followed up in later reports, or to have been more closely examined for its archaeological credibility by, for example, Mackay or any of his successors. In museum exhibitions and similar

## Games over board! *Part 5* (cont.)

**"More unusual specimens may have other bottom parts, such**



**Fig. 3.** Very hard fired pottery cone in light chocolate color. Of the tall and narrow subtype, with projection on the underside. Ornamented with spiral line of incised dots. Tip is missing. Mohenjo-daro (modified after Mackay 1938: 410 and Pl. CIX, 33).

**as tapering. This means that some of the varieties that are tall and narrow can stand with some difficulty... others cannot stand at all unless the surface, for example a soft or sandy one, can provide some support."**

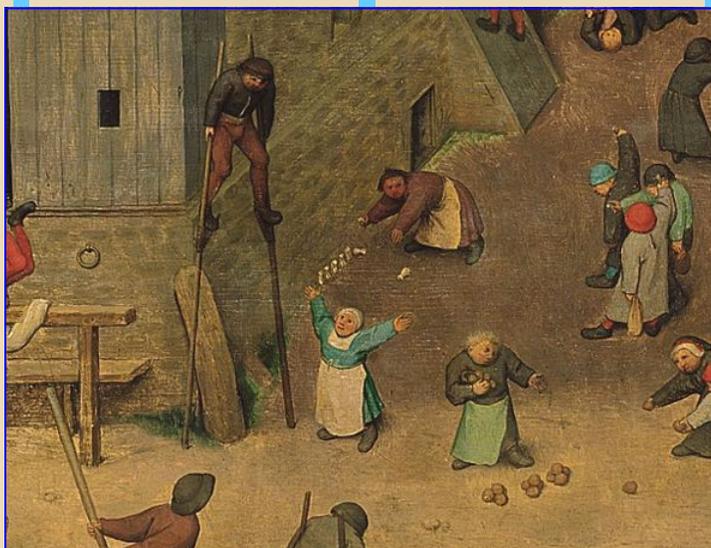
the years. However, it seems a reasonable possibility that at least some of the types of object within this group of finds could (also) have functioned as some form of skittles, even if this line of thinking cannot, at the moment, be seen as anything other than hypothetical, at the same time as it is based solely on the shape and material properties of the objects. The majority of these objects are made of ceramic, but there are also examples of shell and, in Mohenjo-daro, stone or lead in occasional cases. What has been particularly noted in the Mohenjo-daro reports is that many pottery varieties are of a particularly compact clay, and fired so hard as to be almost vitrified (Mackay 1931b:477). Regardless of the material, they are also found in a few different variants in terms of shape, although all are conical and end with a pronounced point at the top. Some specimens are relatively tall and narrow, others more heavy and wide (as shown in Fig. 2). The latter have, in the case of Chanhudaro, a flat underside and can then stand firmly; in Mohenjo-daro they are either flat or rounded at the bottom. The former, the tall and narrow ones, have a flat underside or an underside with a small projection in the middle, in Chanhudaro they also appear with a rounded base (Fig. 3). More unusual specimens may have other bottom parts, such as tapering. This means that some of the varieties that are tall and narrow can stand with some difficulty, while others cannot stand at all unless the surface, for example a soft or sandy one, can provide some support (an instability which, according to Mackay, in turn would possibly have made them particularly attractive as skittles). Some specimens are well made, others rougher in appearance. The majority of the ceramic cones have been covered with a red, brown, grey or black slip. In addition, some have engraved,

pitted or painted decoration near the base, usually in the form of a spiral or 3-6 horizontal lines (Mackay 1931b, 1938, 1943). The published specimens measure from just over 3 cm in height (the heavy and wide) to just over 10 cm (the tall and narrow), which in terms of size could make them consistent with the bowls presented above.

### Bowling games in 'table format'?

How, then, do these putative playing implements compare more generally with accesso-

ry quite rightly that this type of playing can also take place in much more modest, small-scale formats. Among the previously mentioned, traditional bowl games in the Low Countries, for example, games such as *trou-madame*, *pijbol* and *beugelen* also occur in smaller so-called table variants (De Vroede 1996). There are also plenty of examples of pin games in the smaller format; two such have already been touched upon in the examples taken from Ancient Egypt and Greek Antiquity. Regarding knucklebones, it can



**Fig. 4.** Small pieces of bone are used as pins, other ones as throwing implements, in this game of skittles. Detail from *Children's Games* by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (between 1559 and 1560). Pieter Bruegel the Elder; public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

ries that we know have been used in connection with bowling games? In the light of the examples that have been brought up so far—wooden bowls weighing 4 kg or more, 70 cm high pins, heavy bludgeons, and similar robust objects—they appear undeniably small in size, even somewhat fragile. As some of the other previously cited examples have already indicated, weight- or material-related differences, on the other hand, need hardly be decisive. A somewhat more nuanced look at the diverse world of bowling games shows

additionally be mentioned that such and similar items, such as ox-toes, were also widely used above all in northern Europe as skittles and or throwing implements (Racine 2007). Bone pins could in turn be filled with lead for better stability. Such a skittles game in the small format, with bone skittles lined up in a row, can actually be seen in the aforementioned painting by Bruegel (Fig. 4) which appeared in full in PCN #84. Another example of a smaller type of skittles game is found in Mexico. In the game, wooden sticks, turned so that

> [Cont. on page 17](#)

## Games over board! *Part 5* (cont.)

**"Such implements as nuts, pebbles, and**



**Fig. 5.** Skittles game in miniature format from 19th-century Switzerland (drawing by Anke Jönsson, after photograph in Racine 2007: 98).

**similar organic or inorganic ecofacts must be left out, which either have not been preserved or, with some exceptions such as shells, fossils, a few isolated knucklebones and similar objects, have generally not been recognized and included in find registers or excavation reports."**

they rested on their preserved branchlets, served as skittles, while stones, cocoa beans or coins were used to knock them over. By the way, in this particular game, a mutual differentiation of the pins by means of 1-6 notches

can also be noted. The game was known by the name *wāk pel pul* ('to throw six'), and is said to have been a traditional game among the Maya (Yucatán

Peninsula) according to the informant, a Dr. Alfred Tozzer, in a letter to Culin dated 1903 (Culin 1992 [1907]:783-84). Real miniature skittles, finally, appeared in 16th Century France, among other places, with skittles the size of chess pieces, which were set up on a wooden plate and thereafter knocked down with a small spinning top (Endrei 1988:145) (**Fig. 5**).

Of course, no conclusions can be drawn on the basis of this handful of widely scattered examples, other than that the examples together may point to the rashness of dismissing the plausibility of the Indus artifacts as possible implements for bowling-like games simply because of their fine-limbed constitution (indeed, wouldn't that be tantamount to being distracted by a certain, preconceived form or type of material, when what is really central in this context is the formal structure of the game?). Whether the objects were manipulated in a way similar to the relatively lightweight bone skittles is, of course, difficult to say. Several of the pointed cones certainly show

a hole on the underside but this may also have had something to do with the manufacturing process, although the remains of a filling of unknown substance was actually reported from an examined specimen found at Chanhudaro (Mackay 1943:173). In this context, however, it is equally essential to think about *where*, in which environments, people might have played games. In Mohenjodaro, for example, the principal spaces to play in, apart from possibly the wide streets (provided that these were not too busy), should have been made up of the courtyard which was a central element for several of the private residential buildings, and most likely also the flat roofs. In other words, it is about relatively limited areas, compared to the larger spaces that public places, for example market squares, or rural open fields and deserted country roads, have been able to provide for games – or else it is precisely the 'table variety' that has been preserved for posterity!

### The throwing of skittles?

The above-discussed, hard-baked pointed cones, which are still regarded as difficult-to-interpret objects, have, as mentioned, given rise to various suggestions for interpretation. One of these suggestions includes that they would have been implements for some type of throwing game (gaming pieces, spinning tops, or some type of architectural detail or construction engineering tool are examples of other interpretations put forward). This suggestion was presented relatively early, and indeed by the same archaeologist, Mackay (1931b:478), who somewhat later thought of them in terms of skittles. At the same time, Mackay admits the difficulty of knowing what such a possible gaming procedure might have looked like more concretely, except that the

idea of throwing the cones might have been to make the pointed end point in a certain direction. His assumption is based, among other features, in the fact that a majority of the finds—despite their strength due to the high degree of firing—show clear traces of heavy-handed treatment, including almost without exception a broken or otherwise damaged point. As far as can be ascertained, Mackay's interpretation does not appear to have been followed up or investigated more systematically. Consequently, at least for the time being, it may be considered as reasonable or unreasonable as the other suggestions for interpretation. However, since we are discussing the objects in question in the context of possible bowling games, and more precisely as presumptive skittles, it can be added (perhaps not without some astonishment on our part) that in the encyclopedic history of bowling games it is even possible to find variants where the players have also thrown the skittles themselves. Endrei (1988:145) informs on such a procedure for some types of skittles game in 16th-century Poland. The same *modus operandi* was also found in certain skittles games in the Scandinavian countryside not too long ago. For the region of Jämtland, in the interior of northern Sweden, we find some more detailed descriptions. Local variants of skittles games, called *kloter* (or *klotter*), were played here well into the 20th century (yes, are still played today in some places), often with large, home-made bowls and skittles made of roughly hewn wood. In some variants of *kloter*, skittles that had already been knocked over could in turn be used as throwing implements, apart from the bowl itself and with the aim of knocking out skittles that had not yet fallen or to knock down the opponents' skittles, depending on

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

## Games over board! *Part 5* (cont.)

**"It cannot naturally be**



**Fig. 6.** Skittles and bowls ready for play in accordance with a variety of *kloter* in which fallen skittles were reused as projectiles. This version village of Lockne, Jämtland, Sweden (modified after Karlholm 1979: 135).

**ruled out that presumptive traces of past bowling-type gaming may also reside in completely different kinds of archaeological find material."**

the local rules (Göranson 1976; Karlholm 1979) (**Fig. 6**). The examples reproduced here, of much later date and native to more northern

latitudes, cannot of course be used in any truly analogical sense, but may be worth mentioning if nothing else as (somewhat amusing) eye-openers.

With all this said, however, it cannot naturally be ruled out that presumptive traces of past bowling-type gaming may also reside in completely different kinds of archaeological find material. As we have seen in some of the previously presented examples, a number of different materials have been employed, and more types of accessories have been utilized than just bowls and marbles, for this type of playing. For obvious reasons, of course, such implements as nuts, pebbles, and similar organic or inorganic ecofacts must be left out, which either have not been preserved or, with some exceptions such as shells, fossils, a few isolated knucklebones and similar objects, have generally not been recognized and included in find registers or excavation reports, especially not within the early Indus archeology

when the largest number of artifacts were unearthed. On the other hand, there is another type of find in the archaeological record, which is found in virtually all Indus settlements and which, by analogy with some gaming practices in later time, could also be discussed in terms of presumptive bowling paraphernalia. In the next part, I touch on this group of finds in a little more detail.

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ELKE ROGERSDOTTER holds a PhD in Archaeology from the University of Gothenburg (her PhD thesis, *Gaming in Mohenjo-daro—an Archaeology of Unities*, 2011, concerned social aspects of ancient gameplay with a particular focus on the Bronze Age Indus urban center of Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan). She has been working as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University. The fellowship has concerned the late medieval city of Vijayanagara in present-day Karnataka, South India, as traced through material remains of game boards. Among other places, Dr. Rogersdotter has conducted archaeological fieldwork in India, Pakistan, Russia and Romania.

# Pleistocene civilizations, Part 4

By Anthony Peratt, PhD., and W. F. Yao, LMS, M.A.



**Fig. 1.** Modern map comparing South America and Antarctica with earlier maps. **Left:** U.S. Navy satellite composite (2015). **Middle:** Oronce Fine's 1531 map (pre-ice detail)—rotated 180° for a more traditional view (counterclockwise: South America, Antarctica, Africa). **Right:** Controversial stone carving Ica, Peru, labeled by Prof. Javier Cabrera: A.) South America, B.) Mu, C.) Antarctica, and D.) Africa.

**"What we found especially inter-**



Fay Yao during their team's research on Easter Island.

**esting is the possible correlation of a high mountain, provisionally known as 'Vinson.'"**

Continuing from [Part 3](#), (PCN #84, July-August 2023). Part 4 consists of Section 6 of the outline provided in [Part 1](#) (PCN #83, March-April 2023)...

### An early geographical description

Plato asserted that the Egyptians described Atlantis as an island consisting mostly of mountains in the northern portions and along the shore and enclosing a great plain in the south "extending in one direction three thousand stadia [about 345 miles or 555 km] but across the center island it was two thousand stadia [about 230 miles or 370 km] (excerpts from Jowett's translation of Plato's Critias)." It is also said that 50 stadia (just under 5 miles or 9 km) from the coast was a low mountain that broke off around the central island. The center itself was said to be 5 stades (just under a half mile or .92 km) in diameter.

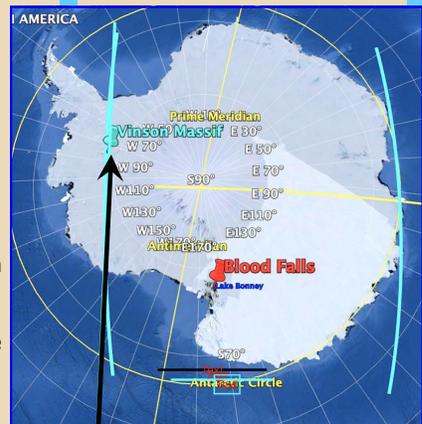
**Fig. 1** and **Fig. 2** show a couple of studies comparing a modern satellite composite of Antarctica with three well-known, though controversial, maps of what appear to represent Antarctica at a time when

it was *ice free*. If Plato, when writing his account, somehow correlated what may already have been known about Antarctica in his time with Atlantis—per what he learned in Egypt—it would seem to be describing the geography in ice-free terms. This also appears to be the case in how it is portrayed in the Patroclus Kampanakis fictional map of 1891 as published in his 1893 book, *The Procatclysm Communication of the Two Worlds via Atlantis*, as seen in Fig. 2.

### Mount Vinson

What we found especially interesting is the possible correlation of a mountain, provisionally known as "Vinson," that was long suspected to be in West Antarctica (Fig. 2). This mountain (**Fig. 3** on next page) was not actually seen in modern times until January, 1958, when it was spotted by aircraft from Byrd Station. It was named after Carl Vinson, a United States Representative who was a supporter of funding for Antarctic research.

The first known measurement of Vinson Massif was



**Fig. 2.** Another study based on the modern satellite composite of Antarctica. **Top:** U.S. Navy photo of Antarctica (2015) compared with, **Bottom:** Fictional map of Atlantis created by Patroclus Kampanakis and published in 1893 in his book, *The Procatclysm Communication of the Two Worlds via Atlantis*. Especially interesting is depiction of a mountain possibly representing what is today known as Mount Vinson.

established in 1959 at an elevation of 5,140 meters. Mt. Vinson cannot be seen

> [Cont. on page 20](#)

# Pleistocene civilizations, Part 4 (cont.)



**Fig. 3.** Mt. Vinson, the tallest mountain in Antarctica, was not actually seen in modern times until 1958. We find it interesting its location on Navy map resembles mountain of 1891 fictional map by Patroclus Kampanakis as we show in Fig. 2.



**Fig. 4.** "28-ray" (1st multiple of 28), Dharma wheel, Chakra; Amaravathi, Andhra Pradesh State Museum, India. Photo: K.C. Velaga; Wikimedia Commons.



**Fig. 5.** "56-ray" (2nd multiple of 28) Dharma wheel, 3rd Cent., Buddhist 'railing pillar' from Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India; British Museum. **Left:** As in life. **Right:** Overlay for sense of Birkeland current spokes (PCN #84, July-August 2023).

from the sea. Nevertheless, something similar seems to be described by the Greek Philosopher Plato, c. 437–360 B.C., and later represented in such as the map by Kampanakis described above (likely after reading one of Plato's accounts in the Critias or the Timaeus), and others, such as a fictional map by Athanasius Kircher who placed it in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean between Africa and the Americas in *Mundus Subterraneus* 1669 (published in Amsterdam). That map was oriented with south at the top, labeling it 'Atlantis' (in Greek), whose map location (again, see Fig. 2, blue lines) places it in relation to the city-state.

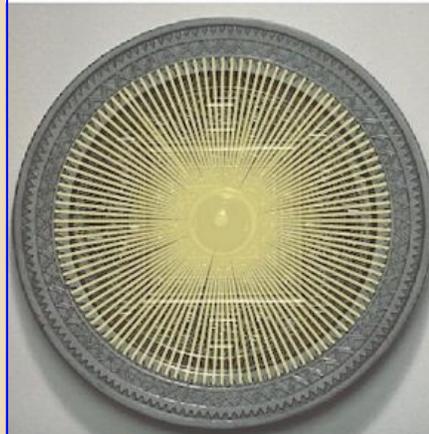
**Clarification:** While the Ica stone in Fig. 1 appears to be correct in content as concerns South America, Antarctica and Africa, the information Plato relayed purportedly from 9,000 years before his time, reads like a near photographic description, as if he had been there himself. Note that Plato's Atlantis is *ice-free* as is its apparent portrayal in the Ica stones and controversial or fictional maps.

### Archaeological multiples of the 28-ray Birkeland currents

[Mathematical interpretations of archaeological discoveries can be a very subjective area especially if there are limited or no contemporaneous writings about them.]

In **Figs. 4–7**, we show that there does, at least, seem to be some kind of mathematical continuity between several early Indian (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist) and Chinese artifacts from the same era as well as a Peruvian earthwork opposite side of the globe. We know each of these could symbolize many different things simultaneously along with more practical uses such as sundials or calendars with the hubs, spokes and rims of wheels having many possible meanings such as religious or philosophical. The dharma wheel, etc., for instance is one of the most ancient in the history of India. The wheel symbol is known all the way back to the Indus Valley civilization. As a solar

symbol it even appears on Indus Valley clay seals as far back as 2,500 BCE.



**Fig. 6.** "112 ray" (4th multiple of 28). **Top:** Cosmological backside of Chinese Han dynasty mirror for calendar calculations, etc. 1st–2nd Cent. **Bottom:** Yellow overlay for sense of Birkeland current spokes.

In our next installment we will present some of our rock art field research and research data sets from around the world.

*To be continued in Part 5...*

### \*Addendum

My 1991 (2015; 2nd Edition) book, *Physics of the Plasma Universe*, explains in more detail many of the physics topics touched upon in this series. Also, throughout the series, and as a reminder of how the series is organized regularly refer back to our page 1 of Part 1 (PCN #82, March-April 2023). It will remind readers that these new installments, together, serve as a prequel explaining

> [Cont. on page 21](#)

## Pleistocene civilizations, Part 4 (cont.)

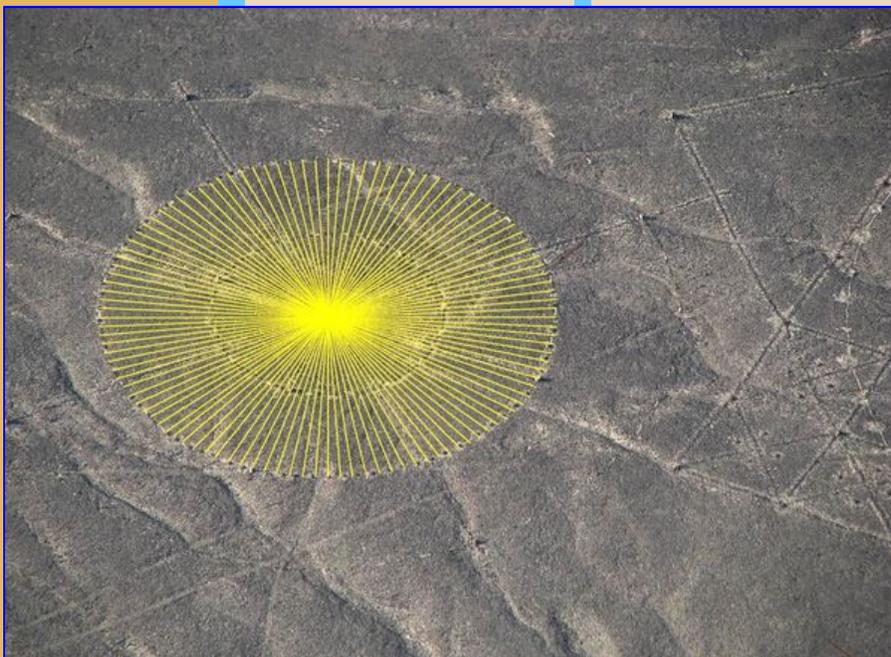
**"There does, at least, seem to be**

portions of the research studies that led to the ideas I originally published in [PCN #63](#) (Jan-Feb 2020) and to help show how the

man, Stanford U. (of Bletchley Park fame) Peratt ran the Tridimensional-Stanford fully-3D gravitational and plasma teraflop

started him on a course of studies he could not have foreseen.

Website: [plasmauniverse.info](http://plasmauniverse.info)



**Fig. 7. "112-ray"** (4th multiple of 28 like Chinese mirror) wheel structure; Nazca, Peru; yellow overlay for sense of Birkeland current spokes. The structure is kilometers wide with boundary holes a meter deep.

**some kind of mathematical continuity between several early Indian (Hindu, Jain, Buddhist) and Chinese artifacts from the same era as well as a Peruvian earthwork opposite side of the globe."**

archaeology and physics topics are interrelated or overlap.

### Abbreviated bios below

([full bios are at start of Part 1](#)):

ANTHONY LEE PERATT, PHD, received his BSEE from California State Polytechnic University, 1963, followed by his MSEE from the University of Southern Cal, 1967. Assigned for two years to Professor Hannes Alfvén, Peratt translated Alfvén's seminal book, *Cosmic Plasma*, into English. Peratt received his PhD in 1971, after Alfvén was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. Peratt then joined the UC National Laboratories (Lawrence Livermore in 1972 and Los Alamos in 1981), receiving his 30-yr. UC Alumnus Award in 2005. He spent sabbaticals at the Max Planck Inst. for Plasma Physics, Garching, DE 1975-77 and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden 1985/1988. In 1986, he gave the prestigious Norwegian Acad. of Science and Letters Birkeland Lecture. Dr. Peratt later received two U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) awards for his experiments and computations. With Prof. Oscar Bune-

galaxy code for 14 years in a Stanford-Los Alamos collaboration. 1995-99 Dr. Peratt served in the Dept. of Energy Defense Programs and as Acting Head of Nuclear Nonproliferation. Since then, he served in the Los Alamos Assoc. Laboratory Directorate for Experiments and Computations. Subsequently his research involves the source of petroglyphs as an ancient above-Antarctic intense outburst, with ground GPS measurements and their distribution-orientation with earth-orbiting satellites, in the Americas; Australia, Polynesia (incl. Easter Island), the Alps and Mongolia. 2004-11 Peratt worked with UPenn Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology. Dr. Peratt is Senior Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Plasma Science and an IEEE Life Fellow, a member of the American Physical Soc., American Astrophysical Soc., and Archimedes Circle. He acknowledges his tenure at the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Washington D.C., 1995-2000, Dept. of Defense Programs (DP) and Nuclear Nonproliferation (NN). Dr. Peratt is indebted to Professors Hans Kuehl, EE Dept. USC and Zohrab Kaprelian, Dean of Engineering USC, who

FAY YAO completed post-graduate course work toward a PhD in multi-disciplines; received M.A. in Lib. Science and Sec. Education, UNM, 1971; B.A., Chinese Lit. and Hist., Philippines CKS College, 1969; studied Bus. Admin. and Mathematics, University of the East, Philippines, 1966-69. She is an affiliate member of the Intl. IEEE Computer Soc., IEEE Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Soc., and NM Museum of Science and Hist. Ms. Yao is fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Haisanese, Fujanese, and reads Tagalog and Spanish. Yao co-founded the Albuquerque Chinese Arts and Language School, 1978, founded the Acad. of Chinese Performing Arts, 2015, and NM Chinese American Speaker Series, 2016. Ms. Yao was Sec. of a UN Model Collegiate Students Organization of the Philippines, 1966-69; Sec., NM League of Women Voters, 1988; Rep. in the Alliance for Better Community Relations, Albuquerque Jewish Fed., 1988-9; State Sec. NM Elem. School Librarians Assoc., 1989; and served as Nat. Rep. to the Nat. Chinese American Citizens Alliance, San Francisco since 2020. She received the 2016 Spirit of NM award by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for her "outstanding leadership, service... to our community, state, and country." Yao received the 2008 U.S. Congressional Women's Art, Woven' Vision Award. Among others, she has done lectures for the UNM Maxwell Anthropology Museum. Yao has co-authored papers in the Trans. Plasma Sci., the European Physica Scripta, and IEEE Spec. Issue. Latin American Workshop on Plasma Physics, 2018, works representing her GPS and Magnetic Transit petroglyphs orientation investigations interpreting cosmopolitan symbols. She served as a petroglyph archeologist with field work for the Museum of NM Rock Art Recording Project to GPS log Petroglyph Natl. Mon. and other sites. Dr. Yao was first to decipher a Chinese petroglyph panel as describing the evolution, shape, dynamic properties and observational location of the Axis wadi emanating from Earth's surface. She has special interest in how symbols relate to each other world wide.

# Case for a worldwide early written language

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer,  
rock art researcher and preservationist

**"I compared a few complex geometric patterns and other elements shared by two different rock art sites that are on opposite sides of the globe."**



**terns and other elements shared by two different rock art sites that are on opposite sides of the globe."**

A few years back, I wrote an article titled, [Fascinating similarities between the rock art of Australia and the Arizona Strip](#) (PCN #58, March-April 2019). See the lead-page teaser, **Fig. 1** at right. In that article, I compared a few complex geometric patterns and other elements shared by two different rock art sites that are on opposite sides of the globe.

Recently, I came across a post by Mustafa Nazem Mohammed Khader (Iraq) on his Facebook page called *Civilization, art and history of creators*.

One photo in the post (see **Fig. 2**)—which was on the topic of possible early written rock art language—had nearly all of the very **same elements** as the panels in both the Arizona Strip and Australia, including many in the same context with each other, e.g., radial patterns, crosshatch, what are popularly called 'bird tracks,' deeply-incised lines and rows of drill-holes or cup-marks. **Fig. 3** shows a near identical

association between two such elements: cup-marks and deeply-incised straight lines.

### Neanderthal rock art

The posting by Mustafa Nazem Mohammed Khader described the photos as "Neanderthal." He did include a well-known



**Fig. 1:** Engineer and rock art researcher, Ray Urbaniak, makes intriguing comparisons between the rock art of Australia and that of Arizona which he located and photographed. Not the least significant are clusters of diversified 'signs' which appear in association at each site. Urbaniak also transcends popular theories presuming the artists didn't know what they were doing to explore evidence-based representational meanings.

BTW, I would note that many of the photos are of



**Fig. 3.** Comparing the same associated rock art elements (cup-marks and deeply incised lines) on three continents. **Left:** Italy, Andrea Muran Nuragando Sardegna (used with permission); **Middle:** Arizona Strip, U.S., Ray Urbaniak; **Right:** Australia, Paul Taylor.

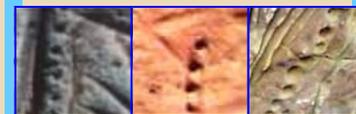
Neanderthal photo from Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar. Upon contacting him, Khader suggested that thinking in terms of language, the source would be Iraq as it is "present in the civilizations of Iraq." He noted that Iraq has many sources of languages and is a treasure trove of information. Khader also believes it likely that these arrangements as spread throughout the world represent a language and "not just isolated symbols, as some have indicated."

However, Andrea Mura (Nuragando Sardegna), the source for most of Khader's photos—doesn't make any claims that they are Neanderthal, or even ancient writing, since he doesn't believe it has been verified.

artifacts at the Municipal Antiquarium in Irgoli, Italy.

### Incised lines and rows of small drill-holes/cup-marks

Several incised lines (which I call 'prayer grooves') in the Fig. 2 rock art panel are also associated with rows of 'small' drill-holes or cup-marks virtually identical to those in the Arizona



**Fig. 4.** Comparing the three rock art panels' rows of 'small' drill-holes or cup-marks in context with deeply-incised lines, showing again, the same contexts around the earth. **Left:** Italy, Andrea Muran Nuragando Sardegna (used with permission); **Middle:** Arizona Strip, Ray Urbaniak; **Right:** Australia, Paul Taylor.

Strip and Australian rock art panels. **Fig. 4** shows an example of each in magnified detail.

> [Cont. on page 23](#)



**Fig. 2.** This ornate panel (Italy) contains most of the same elements as the panels in both the Arizona Strip and Australia. Many elements are in the same context: radial patterns, cross-hatch, 'bird tracks,' deeply-incised lines and rows of drill-holes or cup-marks. Photo courtesy of Andrea Mura (Inset detail, PCN).

## Case for a worldwide early written language (cont.)



**Fig. 5.** Comparing one of the fan patterns of the Fig. 2 Italian rock art panel (**Top**) with similar patterns from both the Arizona Strip (**Middle**) and Australian panel (**Bottom**).

**All in all, we seem to be**

### Fan patterns and 'bird tracks'

At the top of the Fig. 2 rock art panel, especially, one can see a clear fan pattern. In **Fig. 5**, I compare this example with those on the Arizona Strip and Australian rock art panels. The panel also has figures similar to the "bird-tracks" of the Arizona Strip and Australia. See for example **Fig. 6**. All in all, we seem to be looking at the same symbols used in similar contexts on three different continents.

### Parallel lines and cross-hatches

Also visible on the large outdoor rock art panel of Fig. 2 (see first page) and rock artifacts in the Mu-



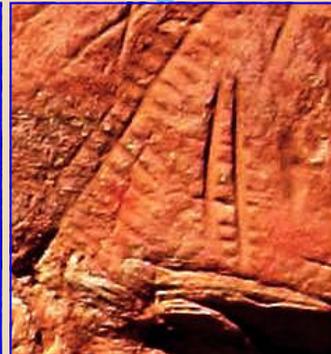
**Fig. 6.** Although not as exactly reproduced, 'bird-track'-type symbols in the Italian rock art panel, e.g., **Left**, show similarities with the Arizona Strip panel, **Upper Right** (photo: Ray Urbaniak) and two details of the Australian panel, **Lower Right** (photo: Paul Taylor). Notice that *up*, *down*, and *angled* forms are represented in the panels.

courtesy of the photographer, Andrea Mura (Nuragando Sardegna).

All of the similarities of so many specific details makes one wonder how

tions or other involuntary neurological issues untenable. My examples of such a variety of symbols in similar context to each other literally around the world obviously prove

they were all made by equally intelligent people worldwide. Language is like that. It is more logical than the ideas pop science has told everyone for the past several decades.]



**Fig. 7.** Comparing parallel lines and cross-hatch patterns in artifact of the Municipal Antiquarium in Irgoli, Italy (**Left**: Detail of photo courtesy of Andrea Mura—Nuragando Sardegna), with the Australian panel (**Middle**: Detail of photo by Paul Taylor), and the Arizona Strip panel (**Right**: Detail of photo by Ray Urbaniak).

**looking at the same symbols used in similar contexts on three different continents.**

nicipal Antiquarium in Irgoli, Italy are groups of parallel lines—though most appear random—and crosshatch patterns. In **Fig. 7**, I compare just a few of these patterns or symbols with those of the Australian and Arizona Strip panels. Again, the new photo is provided

far back in time what appears may be a form of early writing goes! Does it derive from something in our DNA?

[Like most others in the Pleistocene Coalition, I count mainstream explanations for such patterns as representing meaningless hallucina-

### Ogham-style patterns in world rock art

Another picture-post from Andrea Mura in Tula, Italy, looks surprisingly similar to Oghamish-style engravings in my region of the SW USA. I am not saying that it actually is Ogham (a somewhat

> [Cont. on page 24](#)

# Case for a worldwide early written language (cont.)

strange ancient Irish form of writing that has still not been satisfactorily explained re-

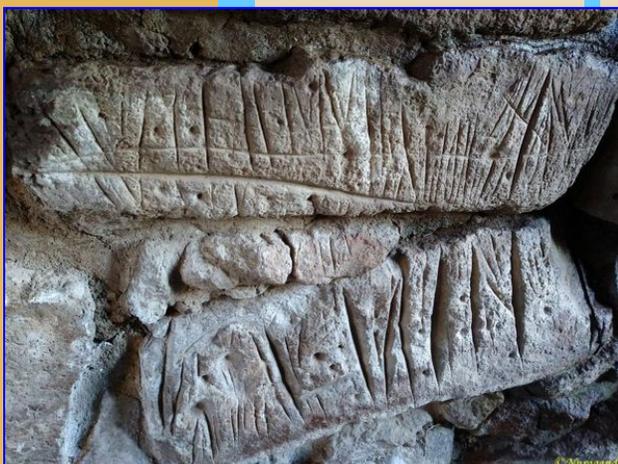
for writing meaningful characters against in Ogham. They are also similar to certain Ogham-style rock art I have discovered in Utah and in the Arizona Strip (**Bottom**) that do resemble quite a bit certain styles of Old World Ogham.

Some comments in the Iraqi post mention pre-Ogham writing, Ogham is something I have studied extensively. I even had some of my finds what one might call 'translated,' such as the petroglyph in the bottom photo of Fig. 8,

though I can only put so much credence on such, as I know well, the engravings may equally have nothing to do with Ogham. Like similar attempts at 'translations' of ambiguous material the translations did seem to make some believable sense. E.g., the Fig. 8 photo I am told translated to "mining near by," and I did indeed find a large area covered in chert and jasper flakes from mass production of arrowheads at some time in the past, though "near by" does sound a little vague. However, there wasn't enough proof or corroboration to convince me they were Ogham. So, I decided to be creative and weave my actual findings into a science fiction novel, *The Shaman and the Cult of Ogham*, with live links to my research and historical facts on the subject of Ogham. (PCN researcher, writer and copy editor, Tom Baldwin, did similarly several years prior with his working knowledge of Calico Early Man site in California—while the famous anthropologist, Dr. Louis Leakey, was its Director.)

Finally, **Fig. 9** shows a comparison on Netflix between presumed Neanderthal and *Homo naledi* engravings. The program made many claims but more actual science would have been better.

Knowing the amount of evidence that is out there and with my own longtime access to the U.S. Southwest, I hope to cover this topic with more evidence in a future article.



May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (found as a result of bad GPS coordinate conversion)

**Fig. 8. Top:** Rock art panel with Ogham-like stemlines; Andrea Mura (Italy); used with permission. **Middle:** Arizona Strip panel with similar lines and cup-marks but no stemline; Photo: Ray Urbaniak. **Bottom:** Ogham-like Utah panel with stemline; Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

garding its origins), only that the other rock art resembles it in certain ways. See **Fig. 8**. The photo by Andrea Mura (**Top**) shows what resemble the guides known as 'stemlines'



**Fig. 9.** Still from *Unknown: Cave of Bones*, Netflix.

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 80 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for PCN. All of Urbaniak's PCN articles can be found at the following link: [https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray\\_urbaniak](https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak)

Sacred Rock Art—Archaeology, rock art, archaeoastronomy (naturalfrequency.net)

**Eds. Note:** PCN has a long history covering the topic of early human language including in the context of equal intelligence with modern people. They range from early scientific approaches e.g., [At the core of language and culture](#) (PCN #5, May-June 2010) by Dr. Lutz Fiedler, PhD, former State Archaeologist of Hesse, Germany, and discoverer of the artifact known as the Tan Tan figurine; and many geometric studies about the *Homo erectus* engravings of Bilzingsleben, Germany, e.g., [The graphics of Bilzingsleben series—Part 2: Censoring the world's oldest human language](#) by PCN Editor-in-Chief, John Feliks (PCN #13, Sept-Oct 2011); to more philosophical approaches such as [Ancient art and modern language](#) by language theorist and conceptual installation artist Michael Winkler (PCN #5, May-June 2010), and historical [Louis Leakey's view on indigenous languages and age of the earliest Americans](#) by Tom Baldwin (PCN #31, Sept-Oct 2014).

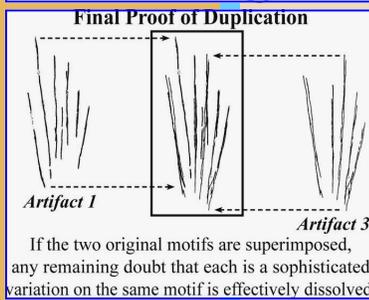
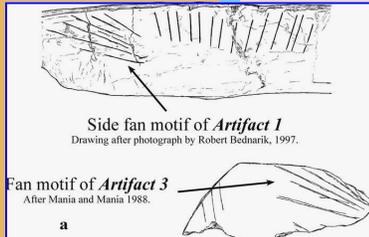
# Language origin theories are back in the news

However, linguists are still ignoring archaeological evidence

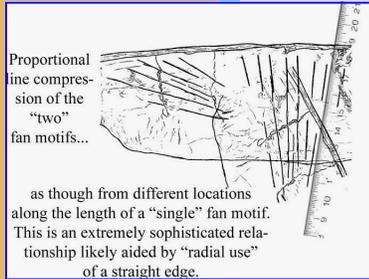
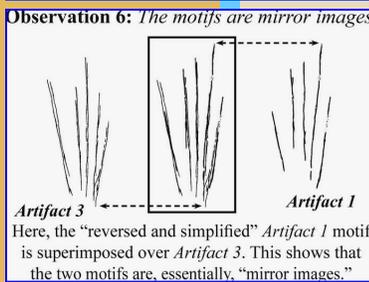
By John Feliks

Relevant reprint of PCN #44, Nov-Dec 2016.

**The more dogmatic they are that there must be some evolutionary explanation**



**Fig. 1.** Conference slides #17 and #25. Superimposition shows two motifs as variations on a core motif. Duplicated motifs are a hallmark of language.



**Fig. 2** Conference slides #24 and #14.

PCN #85 note: Bilzingsleben is in Germany.

the more frustrated language origin theorists become by the fact that there are no "primitive" languages today by which to make ethnographic analogies toward presumed primitive languages in the past and the accompanying presumption that early people were less capable than us. Famed linguist, Noam Chomsky, has long acknowledged that all languages are complex (even those we think are simple) and that language could not have had a half-way-there stage but must have appeared instantly as a capacity already fully-developed.

Languages themselves, like any cultural traits, constantly evolve but not the capacity for language. They are two very distinct issues that experts get stuck on due to pre-commitment to evolutionism and because they are unaware that evidence of modern-level language capability 400,000 years old already exists (e.g., **Figs. 1-3**).

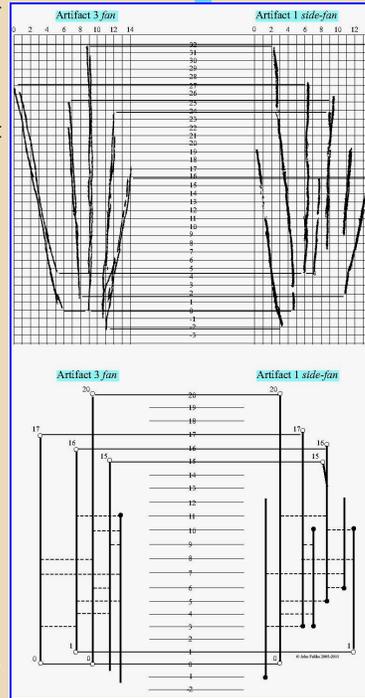
The lack of awareness of evidence such as this is one of the effects of suppression in anthropology and can cause researchers to spend years going down paths which have already been geometrically

refuted. Even though most linguists are aware that the subject of prehistoric languages needs to be multi-disciplinary, most continue to hypothesize and speculate without any reference to symbolic evidence recorded in ancient bone engravings—possible representations of Paleolithic language.

*To be continued...*

JOHN FELIKS learned the basics of drafting (straight edge, compass, triangles, etc.) at an early age from his father who was a traditional pre-CAD tool and die designer. That background led to noticing what appeared to be straight-

edge-drawn lines in ancient bone engravings and to many implications for early human capabilities.



**Fig. 3.** Cartesian grid studies demonstrating conceptual links between motifs; Base grids of a suppressed *Homo erectus* knowledge system.

**Below:** The story of suppressed Lower Paleolithic linguistic evidence suggesting that language capability is recorded 'visually' in the archaeological record (much like a musical score records pitches on paper). The graphics of Bilzingsleben series, Parts 1–9, is available in PCN and is also available online as [interlinked html](#). Many include references to Chomsky's ideas, innate language capability, representation, evidence of analogy, scale-based modal syntax, etc. At the bottom are the three original 2006 externally-published papers on the topic:

- [Part 1: Proof of straight edge use by \*Homo erectus\*](#) PDF ([html](#) to full series)
- [Part 2: Censoring the world's oldest human language](#)
- [Part 3: Base grids of a suppressed \*Homo erectus\* knowledge system](#)
- [Part 4: 350,000 years before Bach](#)
- [Part 5: Gestalten](#)
- [Part 6: The Lower Paleolithic origins of advanced mathematics](#)

- [Part 7: Who were the people of Bilzingsleben?](#)
- [Part 8: Evidence for a \*Homo erectus\* campsite depiction in 3D](#)
- [Part 9: Artifact 6 'Lower tier' in multiview and oblique projections](#)
- [The graphics of Bilzingsleben - full text html](#) (aft. *Musings on the Palaeolithic Fan Motif*)
- [Phi in the Acheulian - abstract & selected figures - and link to full text html](#)
- [Five constants from an Acheulian compound line](#) (2012) *Aplimat - Journal of Applied Mathematics* 5 (1): 69-74

Since first presented in Lisbon in 2006 the papers *Graphics and Phi* (*Musings*, etc.) have inspired several extrapolations without citation. Recently, e.g., ideas based on the core rigorous angle studies have prompted claims just short of *H. erectus* astronomers being capable of routing ships to Mars. This is an effect of censorship where venues are blocked in anthropology by competitive researchers.



## The Pleistocene Coalition

Prehistory is about to change

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

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