



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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## 6th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



### Forgotten heroes of archaeology

#### Cyrus Newton Ray, 1880-1966

David Campbell (p.3) gives an overview of the remarkable founder of the Texas Archeological Society. Dr. Ray was an osteologist (trained in the study of bones), osteopathic physician, and producer of several new breeds of iris, as well as the discoverer of many controversial artifacts and human remains in the archaeological record of Texas.



### Bamboo rafts? Canoes?

Indirect evidence for *Homo erectus* seafaring—such as ancient tools discovered on the islands of Flores and Crete—is compelling. Tom Baldwin (p.10) discusses the inspirations behind such possible ventures. Also included is a review of some of the oldest watercraft known so far.

### The Flagstaff Stone: New dating results

By Jeffrey Goodman  
PhD, archaeologist, geologist

In PCN #29, the May-June 2014 issue, I wrote an article titled, [Resolving the mystery of the Flagstaff Stone: A call for help](#).

The Flagstaff Stone (Figs. 1-2) is a small flat rock measuring about 2 x 3 x 1/2 inches. It has a number of straight lines engraved across both sides. I wrote, "Beyond the petrographic studies already done, a thin section cutting across several of the inscribed lines on the stone is desperately needed. I

added that, "Photographic (SEM) documentation and spectral analysis of the stone and its inscribed lines would give a more complete picture.

The Flagstaff Stone offers profound information on how far back in time early man goes in the Americas and what he knew." (See also [Potential of the Flagstaff Stone in the search for early man in the Americas](#),

[Rock art preservationist](#), Ray Urbaniak, offers some detail on a Utah petroglyph (p.15).



[Global perspective on Australian archaeology](#). 'Well-read' science-savvy people the world over understand the need to question political actions when found in the context of anthropology or archaeology. This is because the two fields have a long and well-documented history of being used to cattle-prod the public ideologically (p.19).

### The invertebrate fossil record

feared by all Darwinists beginning with Darwin returns for another exposé of the untenable—this time, fantasy claims of fish morphing into tetrapods. [Debunking Evolutionary Propaganda, Part 15](#) (p.16)



screens, etc.); the late Dr. Alan Bryan, Professor of Archaeology, University of Alberta;

> [Cont. on page 2](#)

Fig. 1: Sample #378 - thin section scans

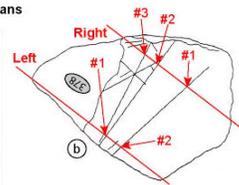
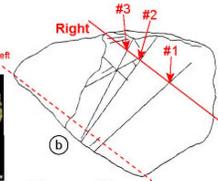
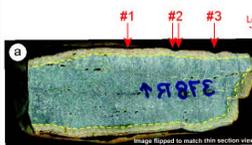


Fig. 2: Sample #378 RIGHT - overview



**Fig. 1. Parts a & b only**, from Figs. 1-2 of the September 15, 2015, electron microprobe examination of the Flagstaff Stone. **Top:** Locations of cuts for preparation of two petrographic thin sections. **Bottom:** Initial petrographic microscope photos showing a "fresh gray core" region in the center of the stone and an altered brownish outer region.

PCN #31, September-October 2014, which includes photos of the site (e.g., the 35-foot deep shaft and hoist,

## The Flagstaff Stone: New dating results (cont.)

who visited the site, with 12 or so of the other people involved at the site). This is why authenticating the stone and its age must be convincingly established and documented. I wrote that I

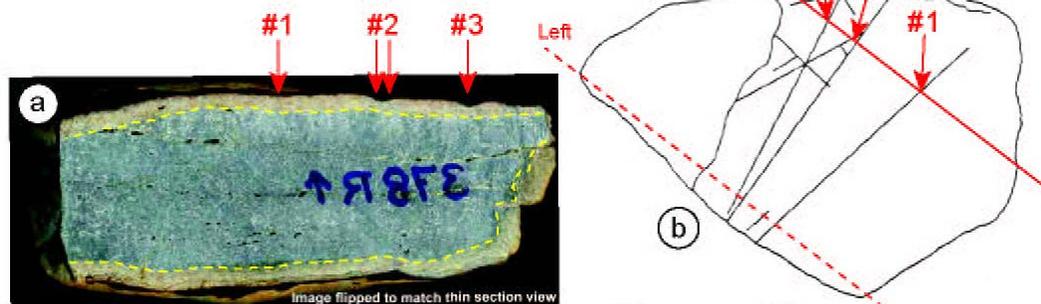
previous petrographic studies of the stone by other university geologists.

A weathering rind referred to as the alteration domain and the rim domain, was found

*More details in a later issue...*

JEFFREY GOODMAN, PhD, is an archaeologist and geologist. He has a professional degree in Geological Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Arizona, an M.B.A. from Columbia University Graduate School of Business, and a PhD. in anthropology from California Coast University. For nearly 10 years, Goodman was accredited by the former Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) from 1978 to 1987.

**Fig. 2: Sample #378 RIGHT - overview**



**Fig. 2.** Enlarged view of the original Fig. 2 photograph. A weathering rind referred to as the alteration domain and the rim domain, was found to enclose the core of the stone. A "striking feature" of the rim domain, clearly visible only under the electron microscope, is the presence of small clay patches (10-50 micrometers) that appear to be mixed with remnants of the primary minerals.

***"This confirms the opinions of the three previous petrographers that all the grooves with clay at the bottom were old."***

needed help in demonstrating that the artifact is genuine and the lines are as old as many believe they are. I am happy to announce that I recently got the analysis that I needed. A laboratory at a major American university performed the tests (to be detailed in a later publication).

Two thin sections were taken from the stone (refer back to Fig. 1). They then used an electron microprobe-equipped BSE (backscattered electron) detector for imaging, an EDS (energy dispersive spectrometer) detector for qualitative analysis, and a WDS (wavelength dispersive spectrometer) detector for quantitative analysis and X-ray element mapping. The extremely high resolution and spectral identification abilities of their state-of-the-art equipment easily solved the issues that the optical microscopes used in the three previous petrographic studies could not. The study supports the observations and conclusions of the three

to enclose the core of the stone. A "striking feature" of the rim domain, clearly visible only under the electron microscope, is the presence of small clay patches (10-50 micrometers) that appear to be mixed with remnants of the primary minerals (plagioclase, apatite, ilmenite...) and oxides (chiefly Fe-oxide...). Interestingly, clay is present both along the very rim of the sample and within the bottom of grooves, suggesting that the clay formed after the grooves were made. This confirms the opinions of the three previous petrographers that all the grooves with clay at the bottom were old. The lab work indicates that the stone experienced two periods of weathering or alteration. The first took place before the grooves were made and the second after the grooves were completed. This second time period lasted until the stone was buried in the pre-glacial context in which it was found encased in heavy mud. See **Fig. 2.**

Two of his four books, [American Genesis](#) and [The Genesis Mystery](#), included accounts of his discovery of an early man site in the mountains outside of Flagstaff, Arizona. For more information on the complete story with never-before-published photographs of the excavation site and participants (including the late Dr. Alan Bryan, Professor of Archaeology, University of Alberta) see [Potential of the Flagstaff Stone in the search for early man in the Americas](#), PCN #31, September-October 2014, the 5th Anniversary Issue. See also, [The Flagstaff Stone: A Paleo-Indian engraved stone from Flagstaff, Arizona](#), PCN #11, May-June 2011.

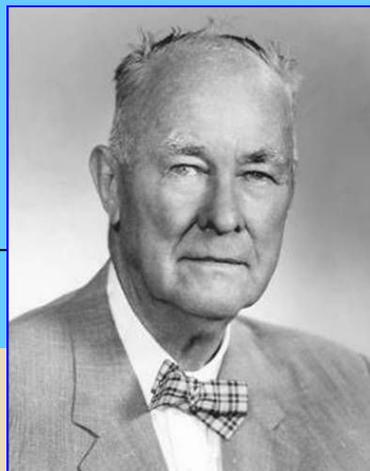
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## Forgotten heroes of archaeology

### Cyrus the Great

**Cyrus Newton Ray 1880–1966**

By David Campbell



***"Figgins' ground-breaking investigations had been diminished and dismissed by a hide-bound band of self-appointed experts unwilling to follow the evidence wherever it might lead."***

In past exchanges with founding member Virginia Steen-McIntyre I had frequently made mention of **Cyrus Ray**, founder of the Texas Archeological Society in connection with several controversial sites here in Texas.

As a consequence, Virginia urged me to write an article profiling this remarkable man. Now for the 6th Anniversary Issue of *Pleistocene Coalition Newsletter* it seems appropriate to do so.

Cyrus Ray was born in Kirksville, Missouri, January 18, 1880 and in 1897 his family moved to a farm near Frederick, Oklahoma. His early career began inauspiciously as a farmer, then as a traveling salesman and finally as a rural postal carrier. These early experiences may have broadened his horizons to the extent that he embarked upon a profession that would satisfy his wide range of intellectual curiosity and abilities.

In 1906 Cyrus returned to his birthplace and enrolled in the study of osteopathic medicine at the newly established American School of Osteopathy in Kirksville. Andrew Taylor Still, a frontier physician had established the practice of osteopathic medicine in 1874 as

a rejection of the limitations of traditional 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine. Osteopathic surgeons were fully trained in traditional medical practices but took a more holistic approach that addressed prevention and least invasive methods of bone and muscle manipulation. While osteopathic medicine is still considered alternative today, it is recognized as a legitimate medical practice and those who earn a D.O. are entitled to an M.D. as well.

Cyrus Ray received his D.O. in 1909 specializing in surgery. After brief practices in Fort Worth, Texas and Mansfield, Louisiana, he settled in Abilene, Texas in 1911. The violent Old West lingered on in West Texas in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a surgeon was never at a loss for patients. When the War to End All Wars broke out, the United States Marine Corps appointed Cyrus as the medical examiner for the Abilene region. As a Baptist, Democrat and member of an indispensable profession, Cyrus, understandably, was a well-respected and popular figure in Abilene society. In 1921 he was president of the Texas Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and in 1925-1926 served

as a member of the Texas State

Board of Medical Examiners. This is not to say that he fit the mold of conformist, conservative solid citizen.

Dr. Ray's imposing intellect and insatiable curiosity led him to branch out into a number of interests. Besides authoring booklets on medical research and public hygiene, he also wrote on hybridization, gardening, ceramics and mineralogy. In the pursuit of his hobbies, Cyrus Ray introduced several new breeds of irises.

The major turning point for Cyrus in the aggressive pursuit of his extracurricular activities was reading an article by F.D. Figgins in a 1923 issue of *Scientific American*. This article described the discovery of embedded prehistoric projectile points in the bones of an extinct bison on Lone Wolf Creek near Colorado City, Texas, not far from Abilene. Because the bones had been moved to prevent loss by an impending flood, members of the East Coast anthropology establishment dismissed the find and cited the lack of professional supervision of the

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

## Cyrus Newton Ray 1880–1966 (cont.)

**"That same year he [Cyrus Ray] and a group of like-minded associates founded the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society that would eventually morph into today's Texas Archeological Society."**

excavation. Figgins, a director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, had experienced this before in his previous examinations of similar discoveries near Folsom, New Mexico around the same year and 12 Mile Creek in Kansas as early as 1895. In a thinly veiled criticism of Ales Hrdlicka, dean of American paleoanthropology at the time, Figgins suggested that an interdisciplinary approach that took into account lithics, paleontology and geology would be better than relying upon the limited study of osteology prevalent at the time. Hrdlicka maintained with an iron fist that humans entered the Americas no earlier than 3,000 BC based upon known remains. Figgins argued that since ancient skeletal material was so scarce or nonexistent, other means had to be engaged to establish the true antiquity of man in North America. It would not be until the 1926 discovery at Blackwater Draw near Clovis, New Mexico that the 3,000 BC barrier would be broken and the new 11,500 YBP Clovis barrier established.

Figgins' account fired Cyrus Ray's interest not only because this astounding discovery had occurred in his own back yard but also because Figgins' groundbreaking investigations had been diminished and dismissed by a hidebound band of self appointed experts unwilling to follow the evidence wherever it might lead. Dr. Ray immediately began a systematic study of prehistoric man at sites in the surrounding area. His efforts met with success and in 1928 he pub-

lished his own findings in *Scientific American*. That same year he and a group of like-minded associates founded the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society that would eventually morph into today's Texas Archeological Society.

Cyrus Ray envisioned the newly formed society as a serious research group composed equally of amateurs and professionals rather than as a club for relic collectors. The following year the Society began regular publication of its *Bulletin* utilizing Dr. Ray's long experience as editor and publisher. The *Bulletin* received contributions from well-known scholars and knowledgeable amateurs. Today the *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* continues to be an internationally read science resource (**Fig. 1**). Gustav's Library has republished several out-of-print rare volumes from the earliest days.

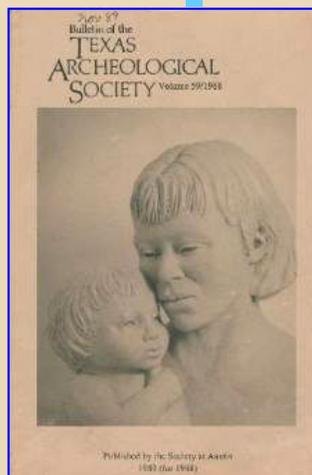
Cyrus Ray almost single-handedly kept the Texas Archaeological Society intact for the next two decades and it spawned several local societies throughout the state. As a Texas delegate in 1937 Cyrus Ray

attended the International Symposium on Early Man sponsored by the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Despite his accomplishments and those of his associates, such as

luminaries R. King Harris and Ernest Adams, Cyrus Ray never achieved in his lifetime the recognition he so rightly deserves. Many of his discoveries were minimized or credit for them was given to others. Some, such as the detailed examination of a large hominid skull discovered in a Miocene formation in Brownwood, Texas, were ignored altogether. Ernest Hooton credited Cyrus Ray and fellow members

of the Society with discoveries of five anomalous skulls in Texas in his evaluation published in the *Bulletin* as "Notes on Five Texas Crania." When Hooton fell from favor the article and the *Bulletin* became rare and almost inaccessible until Gustav's Library reprints became available a few years ago.

Cyrus Ray and others, including this author, always believed that his discoveries were discounted or ignored due to his lack of formal training in archaeology. The fact that osteology, a discipline in which he was formally trained



**Fig. 1.** *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society*. The *Bulletin* was started by Cyrus Ray and his associates the year after the Society was formed and remains today an internationally read journal.

> [Cont. on page 5](#)

## Cyrus Newton Ray 1880–1966 (cont.)

**"Many of his discoveries were minimized or credit for them was given to others. Some, such as the detailed examination of a large hominid skull discovered in a Miocene formation in Brownwood, Texas, were ignored altogether."**

remains the primary resource of forensic anthropology seemed lost on his detractors. Cyrus stepped down from his position as president of the Texas Archaeological Society in 1948 but he continued to be active in Texas almost up to his death in Abilene on June 22, 1966. Later Texas archaeologists would characterize Cyrus as "difficult to work with." That I translate to, "He won't budge an inch on what he knows to be true."

Few of Cyrus Ray's conclusions were tested using modern methods. One that was, the stone lined burials and monoliths of West Texas, was recently vindicated by Darrell Creel's reexamination of those sites previously discovered by Cyrus Ray and his amateur associates. In 2013, Walter Troell, then president of the Texas Archeo-

logical Society discovered to his dismay that no formal memorial existed to honor the Society's founder. This was corrected in 2014 when funds were donated and raised to place a suitable stone monument in the Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth where Cyrus Ray is buried beside his wife. Better late than never, I suppose.

### References

Texas State Historical Association, entry in *Handbook of Texas* (online edition)

Photo of Cyrus Ray, Bill Wright

Stone Cairn Burials of West-Central Texas. Texas Beyond History <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/cairn/investigations.html>

Gustav's Library Bulletins of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society 1929-1952

<http://www.gustavslibrary.com/btasvolumes.htm>

(I highly recommend this source for rare insights into the discoveries of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century available to the general public)

DAVID CAMPBELL is an author/historian and an investigator of geological or manmade altered stone anomalies or large natural structures which may have been used by early Americans. He also has a working knowledge of various issues regarding the peopling of the Americas. Along with Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Tom Baldwin, Campbell is one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*. Campbell has also written seven prior articles for *PCN* which can be found at the following link:

<http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#anarchaeology>

Website: [anarchaeology.com](http://anarchaeology.com)

### Enlightening historical biographies

#### Forgotten heroes of archaeology

For those who have enjoyed our historical biographies including our *Forgotten heroes of archaeology* series, here are direct links to the articles:



[George McJunkin: "Black cowboy" brings Native Americans into the Pleistocene](#)

-Virginia Steen-McIntyre  
*PCN24*, 2013

PC founding member, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, began the series with this fascinating story.

[James Reid-Moir FRS, 1879-1944,](#)



-Kevin Lynch and Richard Dullum  
*PCN29*, May-June 2014

British amateur archaeologist who challenged the mainstream w/evidence for very early man in Britain. He was vindicated 100 years later in 2013 with the discovery of 850,000-yr. old footprints in the same region.

[Dr. George Francis Carter, 1912-2004](#)



-Tom Baldwin  
*PCN30*, July-Aug 2014

One of the first proponents of 'very' early man in the Americas; Author of *Earlier Than You Think*.

[Emma Lou Davis, Mojave maverick, 1905-1988](#)

-David Campbell  
*PCN31*, Sept-Oct 2014

PhD, anthropology; discovered firmly dated 42,000-year old mammoth butchering site with two human-modified flakes at China Lake, southern California.



[Dee Simpson and Louis Leakey and the beginnings of the Calico Early Man Site](#)

-Tom Baldwin  
*PCN31*, Sept-Oct 2014

Following the evidence led Dr. Louis Leakey outside mainstream dogma.

## Kudos highlights from *PCN* readers since Issue #19



**Prior issue**  
*PCN* #36, July-August 2015:

**Newly-recovered artifacts** supporting amateur 1911 U.K. archaeologist ridiculed by the mainstream until vindicated by million-year old footprints

**More facts on the blocking of art** along with historical and archaeological evidence in Australia

**Warning for countries** to watch out for 'rock art experts' known for selling out prehistoric heritage

**Bifacial flaking** Overview of the little-known economical stone tool technology

**More proof** that mainstream 'experts' confuse the known facts of the fossil record

**Re-examining evidence** that ancient people were just as intelligent as modern people

**Continuing evidence for the Kaw River people** or American pygmies

**Facts hidden from the public** that complex multi-component tools were manufactured *hundreds of thousands of years* before supposedly 'intelligent' *Homo sapiens* arrived

We at *PCN* would like to use the occasion of our 6th Anniversary to thank all of our readers and contributors over the past "six years" and "37" issues and for the many encouraging words sent to us.

We took on a very difficult task when we started the [Pleistocene Coalition](#) and its publication, *Pleistocene Coalition News*, in 2009. We knew that we would be up against a popular science community with *millions* of adherents convinced that they had a unified belief—and prehistory pegged. As time progressed, however, the credibility of anthropology, paleontology, and biology has come into question even if the greater public is not yet aware of it. This is because those fields have turned away from a central trait of science—looking at *all* of the evidence. Misuse of terms like "fact" and "species" has caused them to lose meaning while ever-changing myths continue to be taught as though they were facts. Being completely committed to a single idea has left the community with no choice but to prevent conflicting evidence from being seen resulting in the community's increasing dependence upon legislation, propaganda, and suppression. Challenging science like this is why the Pleistocene Coalition was formed. Below, we share a few of our favorite kudos from readers. We only started compiling these after *PCN* #19 (2012) but their consistency over time is very encouraging and reminds us how far this journey has taken us all.

### First, a few responses to *PCN* #36 and #35

"An absolutely magnificent issue!"

"Best *PCN* yet! Keep up the hard focus."

"Another wonderful issue, as per usual."

"Congratulations for the new *PC* issue. ... I am near *PC*'s team in the battle against the lie."

"[I am] delighted with the new *PCN* issue."

"I admire your battle against the official paradigm and I am on your side."

"I found the new *PC* issue; was overjoyed."

"Issue 35 is a jaw drop-per! Congratulations!"

**A note about our readership:** Apart from anonymous readers, the readers of *PCN* who have told us their professions include researchers and professors, PhD students, and authors in psychology, neuroscience, linguistics (and other anthropology), biology (including MD's), microbiology, geology, paleontology (incl. *Treatise*-published), mathematics professors, physics, astronomy, paleoastronomy, philosophy, the arts (including the performance arts from music, dance and theater to film and installation art) as well as art history. Our readership also includes many engineers (a demographic we have yet to figure out), a few NASA associates, and others.

**An important observation:** We sometimes receive messages from those who have spent entire careers in mainstream science—fieldwork, teaching, and publishing in those contexts—but who said they were 'afraid' or, at the very least, reluctant to investigate conflicting evidence in anthropology, etc., until "after" they retired. That shows there is a trait in modern science that punishes objectivity and critical thinking when it comes to human prehistory. True science encourages those traits as ideals.

**The following** are a selection of our favorite words of encouragement from our readers. The issues they first appeared in are the blue links:

[From #34 \(March-Apr 2015\)](#)

"I should write back much more regularly to these sterling editions that arrive in my e-mail! Please accept my kudos and congrats on another spectacular, enlightening, and mind-bending issue of *PCN*. Your efforts, and the organization's, are so necessary to bringing awareness to the science community. Especially when, as the commentary astutely points out, religious views and political paradigms would block peoples' minds from considering something objectively. Carl Sagan's commentary on human reaction is so spot on. It helps relieve the chafing frustration, gives me a better handle on understanding why there is so much resistance in the 'mainstreamers' to accept evidence when it stares them in the face. Would that such evidence had actual teeth to bite them and make them wake up to reality! ... Keep up the superb quality of publication."

"I subscribe to this online magazine and it is a fascinating production with some AMAZING history busting evidence from the world of paleontology."

"Thank you very much again for sending *PCN*—the last issue is marvelous."

"I continue to be very impressed with the Pleistocene Coalition! It is refreshing to have such open minded scientists that contribute to the site."

"Your site continues to always impress me."

"Its pretty incredible what you have all put together."

"Re: Fifth Anniversary Issue, *Pleistocene Coalition News* ... Bravo for this exceptional issue!"

"Congratulations on reaching this landmark—it's a great achievement! History will

> [Cont. on page 7](#)

## Kudos highlights since Issue #19 (cont.)

**"Would that such evidence had actual teeth to bite them and make them wake up to reality!"**

remember you for it—in addition to the current dialogue; you, Virginia, Tom, and David have created a public record which will be evermore important as time progresses."

"Congratulations! Fifth Anniversary Issue, *Pleistocene Coalition News*. ... You do a great job!"

[From #30 \(July-Aug 2014\)](#)

"Just another great issue!! I am astounded at your dedication along with Virginia, and of course others, in producing such a great piece of work month in and month out."

"You all have done a marvelous job on Issue 29 of the *Pleistocene Coalition* publication. Each new issue shows improved skills and significant content. The weight of evidence is becoming overwhelming."

[From #29 May-June 2014\)](#)

"Probably the best journal out there for cutting edge research."

"*Pleistocene Coalition News*. I can understand what a huge commitment this is."

"You have developed a more than first class publication and resource."

"What [an] incredible job you and the others are doing. ... *PCN* is leaving behind a legacy that will probably shape what comes along in this century. Great stuff. And thanks so much for all you have done and are doing, and this goes for everyone involved. ... awesome."

"What a fantastic issue! Congratulations to all."

"The entire issue is fascinating. ... Looking forward to more issues of *PCN* hammering away at ignorance!!"

"I am in full agreement with you on our (Canada too) extremely narrow education

system. ... This seems to even extend into the universities, so even at this age our young people are not able to at least hear the various views that extend to so many areas of science. This includes the subject area as covered by your very fine publication. ... extremely valuable contribution... We have so very little to be enthused about if we are only subject to the mainstream dogma so very prevalent in science today."

"I admire very much your work and courage ... *PC* is a very important contribution to contemporary knowledge."

"You are doing a heroic job. ... I have saved every copy."

"Even some people from Australia's mainstream ... 'behind the scenes'... have often expressed admiration for the *PCN* profile, for your courage, tenacity and willingness to tackle sensitive and controversial topics, exposing dishonesty in mainstream science."

"Wonderfully done, as have been the earlier Issues."

"The last issue of *PCN* is again a masterpiece in layout and content—congratulations for you and your coworkers!"

"This was a great year for the *PCN*, sending ripples across the world."

"Thank you for the *PCN* last issue and congratulations for the new remarkable contribution to prehistory."

"A pleasure to read all the well edited and vividly illustrated papers!"

"You guys are my heroes!"

"Congratulations of your being able to continue to your most valuable publication, the *Pleistocene News*. The *Pleistocene News* serves the purpose of countering the huge

amount of dogma and rhetoric that surround so many scientific subject areas."

"You are living history—keep it going."

"The *PCN* editors formulated an unparalleled webzine-profile, the importance of which will only be fully appreciated by future generations—with the benefit of hindsight."

[From #22 \(March-Apr 2013\)](#)

"Thanking you so much for this valuable journal."

"Keep up the hard fought fight—you are making and creating history."

"I have over the past number of months become even more impressed...I believe that people like yourself...and the other volunteers at the *Pleistocene Coalition* deserve our heartfelt thanks."

"I love your newsletter. ... refreshing; not the politicized bunk we are fed continuously!"

"My thanks and wishes... I really appreciate all the effort you and your coworkers put into publishing *PCN* in this perfect way."

"Quite amazing, impressive."

"Thanks for your esteemed devotion for discipline."

"You might not remember who I am: a young archaeologist who thinks for himself. I now study as a postgraduate student at Oxford...There is a young, independent generation coming of age now. We will change this world, for the better. Keep your hopes up friends. This battle is far from over. Take care, and keep up the good work."

"Well stated and appreciated! Many of your readers and supporters, including me, appreciate your positions and what

> [Cont. on page 8](#)

## Kudos highlights since Issue #19 (cont.)

**"This is exactly the sort of thing that starts an academic revolution and attacks the suppression of knowledge. High marks to PC!"**

you are accomplishing...calling attention to paradigm short-falls and vested interest deflections. You fill a key niche in science, so keep up the good, honesty-driven, pure 'love of science' work as best you can under the intense pressures that are obviously involved."

"Objectively and critically inspiring."

"The articles are fascinating. ...You are truly in a David and Goliath situation. However... I know more and more people are reading your newsletters and spreading the word."

"An excellent edition of the PC read from cover to cover. I really don't know how you do it, but the articles that keep coming are fresh, thought-provoking and, in some cases, brilliant."

"Your newsletter material is better than *GSA Today*."

"Fascinating website and newsletter."

"There are some extraordinarily brilliant articles in all the *Pleistocene Coalition Newsletters*...and each issue deserves to be read from cover to cover."

"WOW...this is an amazing

issue. ...academics need to realize that the public is and will be informed."

"I absolutely loved the latest issue of *PCN*—really solid points of view and so well expressed."

"Perhaps with an open, public forum such as PC, honest and innovative academics will now have a light to guide their way."

"I have read every page with interest. ... It is something that will start to erode the stubborn entrenchment of the archeological establishment."

"Excellent and most interesting! Acknowledgement for the editors!"

"I have intuition this has potential to cause a stir in the greater world."

"Congratulations for the fantastic achievement! I am impressed by your energy and results."

"An awesome issue."

"I am indeed impressed by the high quality of the publication! Well done!"

"A very very impressive issue. Should make anybody start to question and rethink their understanding of ancient man. A lot to digest in just one issue."

### #19 (Sept-Oct 2012)

"This is exactly the sort of thing that starts an academic revolution and attacks the suppression of knowledge. High marks to PC!"

"Thank you very much for your very impressive *Pleistocene Coalition News*."

"Very impressive newsletter."

"I must commend you and the other editors for one of the finest Journals that tells it like it is found in nature."

"Quite a wonderful and needed cause you've undertaken."

"A most interesting and fascinating piece of work. ... Thank you and your coworkers very much for all the effort you again had to put into this publication!"

"All the articles are superb! ... I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. ...The Pleistocene Coalition represents a constructive means for getting to the new paradigm by its exposition of evidence the public would never see otherwise... and its open-ended point of view."

—The editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News* are all volunteers.

## Member news and other info

**CalicoDig.org is back online.**

**Fred Budinger, Jr.**, archaeologist and former Director of Calico Early Man site (after Dr. Louis Leakey) writes that he, Ted Oberlander, and Lee Dexter have got the [CalicoDig.org](http://www.calicodig.org) website back online after a reader wrote to us that it had disappeared. The site can be reached at <http://www.calicodig.org>

**Professor Marcella Giulia Lorenzi** writes there is still time to submit papers for Aplimat 2016, 15th Conference on Applied Mathematics, Institute of Mathematics and

Physics, Bratislava. Registration and all other information can be found at: <http://evlm.stuba.sk/APLIMAT/indexe.htm> The Mathematics and Art section is dedicated to the late Italian mathematician Professor Mauro Francaviglia (Turin University). Mauro is the one who kindly offered to do the presentations for Pleistocene Coalition members John Feliks and Matt Gatton in 2011 and 2012.

**South African "human ancestor"** dubbed *Homo naledi* is claimed to have walked

upright, climbed trees, and possibly practiced burial. No tools were found. Best to wait for mainstream hype to settle down, dates be released, and for a less emotional PBS program than *Dawn of Humanity*.

**On a related subject**, Dr. Terry Bradford sends a report on the recent proof that anatomically modern *Homo sapiens* were in China 80,000–120,000 years ago challenging many popular notions about early human migrations.

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## Member news and other info (cont.)

**"They are a huge, super-powerful, taxpayer funded organization, with hundreds if not thousands of lawyers on their books, who kept terrorizing us and threatening with legal action."**

MAIN-  
STREAM  
QUOTES  
OF THE  
DAY

**"Meaningful ways of connecting stone tools to hominid evolution are desperately needed."**

—Daniel Adler,  
PhD

**PCN writer, archaeologist and artist, Vesna Tenodi**, who has been documenting her entanglements with corrupted Australian science organizations and legal communities in a long and intriguing series (e.g., see currently relevant article citing falsehoods from IFRAO Convener, Robert G. Bednarik; [Problems in Australian art and archaeology](#), PCN #22, March-April 2013, p. 17) has just received an apology from an unexpected source, the Arts Law Centre of Australia. Here are excerpts from Tenodi's message to PCN; cited with permission:

"Dear Virginia,

... Just today I received a formal apology from the Arts Law Centre of Australia!!! ... They are a huge, super-powerful, taxpayer funded organization, with hundreds if not thousands of lawyers on their books, who kept terrorizing us and threatening with legal action for all sorts of things for the last seven years."

"At the same time, they've been constantly making derogatory comments, insulting us and our artists, and showing the images of our *Wanjina Watchers* sculpture describing it as 'unauthorized work' created 'without permission' and failing to mention the sculptor's name, calling him a 'non-indigenous artist'..."

"Earlier this year we sent yet another complaint to quite a few places. Last week, a friend pointed out there is another article on their website, also failing to mention the title of the artwork and the name of its creator, so we sent another complaint a few days ago."

"Earlier today I decided to send that again, with a bolded part included and,

lo and behold, within hours we received an apology from the Arts Law Centre, and the offensive captions were removed/replaced. Someone of those in power must have told them that they are actually breaking the law, as according to our copyright law they must include proper attribution."

"I was so surprised, because an apology can be legally interpreted as admission of guilt, these organizations know that and make a point never to apologize for anything."

"I'll forward that correspondence in separate email, so you can see our initial complaint, plus my Final Notice, and their response."

"There is still a lot of work to be done, but small victories such as this one make me happy, for all those good people who were involved in our struggle, and dedicated so much time and effort, sticking with us even in our darkest hours."

—Vesna Tenodi

### MAINSTREAM QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Meaningful ways of connecting stone tools to hominid evolution are desperately needed."

—Daniel Adler, PhD, University of Connecticut in Storrs, as quoted in "Reading the stones: There is more than one way to tell the story of hominid evolution via ancient tools," by Bruce Bower. *Science News*, April 4, 2015: 21.

"Desperately needed." Archaeologists are hoping someone can come up with a few new tricks because it is difficult to keep promoting ideas as 'fact' if the evidence you've been waiting for still hasn't come in. In the same article, another archaeologist makes the point more directly:

"Archaeologists have built evolutionary stories on a foundation of sand."

—Harold Dibble, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, *ibid.* p. 17.

### PCN Layout editor's controversial 2006–2012 mathematical constants papers hacked again

Ever since the *Phi in the Acheulian* presentation concluded during the "Pleistocene Palaeoart of the World" Session chaired by Robert G. Bednarik and Derek Hodgson at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon, 2006, the Chairs attempted to block it from publication on the grounds that it was "highly problematic." The well-received paper, 112 slides, references, innovative geometric techniques and theories were then immediately used to inform the Co-chair's resulting 'neuroscience' Phi paper which was then quickly published without citation—all while the Editor had the original materials in hand via privileged access. The Editor, who was sitting front-row-center, had never before published a mathematics-centered paper. Just like Vesna Tenodi's report about the Wanjina artwork referred to *generically* but not named—nor the artist credited—so it was with *Phi in the Acheulian*. While legitimate authors or those reproducing the figures have named the paper, a new one by another former colleague (in possession of *Phi, Five Constants from an Acheulian Compound Line*, etc.) was recently published—again, *hinting generically*, but not citing. Anthropology has a reputation for opportunist behavior. A common diversionary trick is to cite different references. However, if one compares an author's prior publications with new ones, original inspirations can often be found. Unless such practices end anthropology will remain a disreputable science.

## Early man and the sea

By Tom Baldwin

**"The sun is setting in the west and it's silhouetting Santa Catalina Island that lays some twenty miles off the coast. It looks so inviting."**



**I feel like doing a little time traveling.** Since this is the Pleistocene Coalition, I

was thinking a visit to that epoch would be in order. How about we go back

850,000 years? That's a nice tidy figure. Regrettably it's a little out of the range of my modified DeLorean, but don't despair, H. G. Wells is a friend of mine and he'll let us use his time machine.

For a destination I was thinking of a spot that in our day would be Palos Verde, California, but that long ago it will be a sun drenched strip of cliffs dropping to a sandy beach. We could picnic just above the high tide mark, do a little surf boarding, fishing, and sun bathing. Then as the day ends there's nothing like a fire, fresh fish frying, a sea breeze heavy with the scent of the ocean, and all accompanied by the sound of the surf pounding the shore.

Now imagine, if you will, evening is approaching after our day on a beach lost in time. The sun is setting in the west and it's silhouetting Santa Catalina Island that lays some twenty miles off the coast. It looks so inviting; and it would be fun to go there next. Right? (See **Fig. 1** that I've provided to help stimulate your imagination and stir up a desire to make the trip.)

There is a problem, however.

Wells' time machine can move through vast amounts of time, but stays

in the same geographical spot each trip. If we were up in our own modern day and age we could catch a ride on one of the many tourist boats that make the trip between Long Beach and Catalina on a daily basis. But, alas, we aren't. We are somewhere about 850,000 BP.

I want you to stop for a moment, before you read on, and think about how you could get yourself across that strip of open water all those long years ago... It's not going to be an easy task, is it? Unless you are a Olympic class swimmer, you'll have to construct some kind of craft capable of making the crossing. A raft would be the easiest to make. You would need some form of propulsion also, a sail or oar or both. Then too, you'll need help collecting the materials required to construct your boat.

You will need logs, plenty of logs, straight ones stripped of their branches and cut to length. Collecting and preparing those will be a great deal of work using a sharpened stone hand axe. Rope will be needed too, in order to tie the whole thing together. Someone is going to have to make lots of rope. You could use a sail too, but where are you going to get



**Fig. 1.** Santa Catalina Island off the coast of southern California. Think back to how tempting such a visible and accessible jaunt would have appeared for anyone in pre-history. Dugout canoe? Raft? Reed boat? How about just paddling a log? It's the inspiration that matters the most.

the makings of a sail nearly a million years ago? Sewn together animal hides? Probably. That means you will have to do some hunting. How are you with a spear?

All in all, this is going to require a lot of thought and preparation. There are many things you will need to ponder. One thing is for sure, it is not going to be a one man/woman task. Unless you don't care how long it will take, you will need help.

How about our ancestors, how about early man? Did they ever stand on a beach, and look out at an island on the horizon and want to get there too? Very likely they did.

850,000 years ago any man or woman you met would have been a *Homo erectus* or some variation thereof. Modern anthropologists would have us believe *Homo erectus* was just a glorified chimp. They would tell you that while *Homo erectus* had a very human body, his or her mind was much simpler than ours. He/she would not be capable of language, not capable of planning very far ahead, not capable of thinking symbolically, not capable of even wanting to cross a large stretch of open water, let

> [Cont. on page 11](#)

## Early man and the sea (cont.)

**"During the height of the ice**

alone making a boat that could get there, and all that would entail.

Are these paleoanthropolo-

the sea level by as much as 450 feet, and instead of a string of islands, it left a great deal of Indonesia dry land connected to Asia. Yet even when

land animal and one kind of fresh water fish, and on the other side of the line were different animals and fish. The islands might be only miles

apart but the difference in fauna was profound.

Wallace noted the phenomenon but could not explain it. Today we see that Wallace's line and the trench mentioned above roughly coincide. Animals on the Asian plate side have been kept apart from those on the other Australian plate side by the trench's open salt water barrier, an obstacle that kept the animals from mixing even through the coldest part of the ice ages. In fact only two large creatures man-

aged to cross Wallace's line on their own, elephants and man (see [The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature](#), by Tom Baldwin, PCN #24, July-August 2013; There is also a nice rendition of the article on the *Terra Forming Terra* blog titled, [Homo erectus in North America](#). It can be seen at:

<http://globalwarming-arclein.blogspot.com/2013/08/homo-erectus-in-north-america.html>

During the height of the ice ages a man or woman could walk thousands of miles all the way from South Africa to the shore of what today would be Bali; but if he or she wanted to get to Lombok they had to figure out how to traverse a large stretch of open water something like twenty

> [Cont. on page 12](#)



**Fig. 2.** In the 1800's, British explorer and evolutionary theorist, Wallace, noticed that a line could be drawn dividing the modern Indonesian islands. In this map, light gray shows the land area exposed at the height of the ice ages. Dark gray shows areas of the sea that would have remained open ocean even during the coldest periods.

**ages a man or woman could walk thousands of miles all the way from South Africa to the shore of what today would be Bali."**

gists correct? I think not. We now know that the surface of our planet is made up of plates of rock that float on the magma that lies below. These plates twist and turn, moving about and rearranging themselves and the planet over the course of time. For the last 100 million years the Australian Plate has been drifting north at a rate of 5.6 cm/yr. Currently it is, and has been for eons, butting up against the Asian Plate. Where the two have come together a deep trench has formed cutting through the heart of the modern Indonesian Archipelago.

Now, during the periodic Ice Ages of the last five million years, there have been times when much of the earth's water was trapped in glaciers. This resulted in a dropping of

sea level was at its lowest that deep trench between the Asian Plate and the Australian plate remained open water.

Let me draw your attention to **Fig. 2**. You can see the modern shore lines of Indonesia. The light gray area represents the land exposed at the height of the ice ages. The dark gray represents portions of the sea deep enough to remain open ocean even during the coldest periods. Notice that the group of islands stretching east from the Lombok Strait remained islands and were never connected to the mainland.

In the 1800's, British explorer and evolutionary theorist Alfred Russel Wallace noticed that a line could be drawn through the modern Indonesian islands. On one side of the line you found one kind of

## Early man and the sea (cont.)

**"Building a raft, for instance, took plan-**



**Fig. 3.** Torres Strait Islanders and one of their bamboo rafts in 1906. It gives a sense of the number of people that timeless technologies such as dugout canoes and rafts can accommodate. Seafaring by way of large canoes and rafts has a long historical tradition in the South Pacific and contiguous areas.

**ning, working together for a long period of time, gathering materials, making rope, etc. All this implies a high level of communication and inventiveness."**

to thirty kilometers across.

Are you getting a *deja vu* feeling here? Those *Homo erectus* people would be much like you staring across at Catalina, and facing the same daunting task. Yet,

they somehow accomplished it. 850,000-year old artifacts have been found on the island of Flores. Furthermore, if you look at our map again you will see that Flores is well down the chain of islands. Multiple crossings would be needed to make it that far. That being the case, it is possible crossings weren't rare and that there was regular traffic up and down the archipelago. If you follow the chain of islands to its end you are almost to New Guinea which was connected to Australia in times of low sea level. That being the case, this might even be the path followed by that continent's first immigrants.

To reiterate, the image of a chimp-like cave man jumping up and down on a beach and pointing off shore does-

n't quite cut it. Like you looking out at Catalina, they had to understand that it was another land out there, they had to want to get there, and they must have had to convince the rest of their group to want to go there too. Once the desire was taken care of the trip would still not be easy. Building a raft, for instance, would have taken planning, working together for a long period of time, gathering materials, making rope, etc. All this implies a high level of communication and inventiveness (see **Fig. 3** for an example from 1906 of the long tradition in the region of building rafts). There are so many barriers that had to be crossed (not just the water) that these voyages serve as proof that *Homo erectus* was of far greater intelligence than most paleoarchaeologists are willing to admit.

In closing, since space does not permit further discussion, I invite you to look into: **1.)** stone tools found on the island of Crete that also date to the age of *Homo erectus*. Unlike our discussion above, Crete would be an over the horizon trip. It could not be seen from the nearest land. It would take real "open water" traveling to reach. **2.)** whether travel by boat could also explain how early man reached North America a quarter million years ago.

TOM BALDWIN is an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah. He has also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. Baldwin has been actively involved with the Friends of

Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, California) since the early days when famed anthropologist Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only site in the Western Hemisphere which was excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's recent book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is an entertaining fictional story based on the true story of Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, Baldwin has published many prior articles in *PCN* focusing on Calico, early man in the Americas, and *Homo erectus*.

Links to all of Baldwin's articles on Calico and many other topics can be found at:

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

### **Some information on the oldest known boats:**

Even though ideas suggesting ancient seafaring are reasonable with some good circumstantial evidence, in archaeology we must still keep the physical evidence in mind. So far, the oldest known watercraft in the archaeological record is the 'Pesse dugout canoe' discovered in the Netherlands in 1955. It has been carbon dated to c. 10,000 years old. The 2nd and 3rd oldest-known crafts—which are dated to c. 8,000 years old—are also dugout canoes; one is from France (the Noyen-sur-Seine canoe) and the other is from Africa (the Dufuna canoe). The African canoe is actually fossilized and is of such finely and elegantly crafted streamlined quality that it has been compared to *modern-day canoes*. Certainly, this suggests that the technology for sea travel had been around for a long time. Dugout canoes have been discovered throughout the world some of which are extremely large—up to 18 meters long—and capable of long ocean voyages. Some could carry over 80 adults. Finally, the oldest known rock art or portable art believed to depict a boat was found near the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan. It is dated c. 12,000 years old.

## Following Zilhao's lead

History teaches that rock art-related defamation must be nipped in the bud and the *credibility* of accusers brought to light early on

By John Feliks

**"What happened with Portugal's rock art and**

In [Issue #36](#), I cited a portion of Dr. Joao Zilhao's exposé of defamation attempts toward himself and Portugal's prehistoric rock art and its rock art community through



**Fig. 1.** One of the author's [Oldisleben studies](#) out of hundreds of geometric studies of Bilzingsleben, Oldisleben, etc., artifacts, based on "straight edge theory." While unbeknownst to me that censorship attempts were already in process for *The Graphics of Bilzingsleben* (5-year censorship) and its Part 2, *Phi in the Acheulian*, the Chair of the "Pleistocene Palaeoart of the World" Session at the XV UISPP Congress in Lisbon, 2006, Robert Bednarik, asked me to apply the same rigorous techniques I created for the 400,000-year old Bilzingsleben engravings to the 120,000-year old (presumably Neanderthal) engravings of Oldisleben (a few km away). Fresh from the presentations, Bednarik described them *in his own words* as "single-handedly demonstrating that the cognition and intellect of these hominins may have been of an order entirely unexpected by all of us." Then, instead of detailing the Session's presenters (as expected by all) in the following issue of *Rock Art Research*, Bednarik published a repeat of his earlier Oldisleben article w/a tweak. Each contained concealed priority claims of "iconic art" completely out of character from prior publications on the intelligence of early peoples. Once he realized the implications of the geometric studies (*Musings on the Palaeolithic Fan Motif*) I submitted 2004 as per request for his *Festschrift*, etc., he used them to inform his own work without citation altering his assessment of Neanderthal intelligence. For this engraving he proposed it a likely male human depiction.

**researchers is being echoed in the U.S."**

personal attacks and implied endorsement by IFRAO. Zilhao's publications were not impulsive. They were responses to continuous efforts aimed at denigrating various researchers and organizations while also belittling Portugal's rock art.

When one or two people appropriating the name of IFRAO (*International Federation of Rock Art Organizations*)—can use the name to imply support for judging the value of a country's rock art and whether or not it is old enough to 'merit' preservation—i.e.

at least 10,000 years old!—you know there are underlying motivations. Combine those with falsified dating methods as sell-out tools to help a hydroelectric company build a dam and flood out a country's rock art heritage (Portugal's Coa Valley) and you add low scientific credibility and integrity to the equation.

### A repeat performance

What happened with Portugal's rock art and researchers is being echoed in the U.S. by the same source. It turns out that Australia's Robert Bednarik, a longtime competitor of PCN's Layout Editor with a well-documented history of scientific misconduct including suppression, false statements, and misuse of submitted materials held in privileged access as an editor, is back. This time, it is in an attempt to devalue 'American' rock art, researchers who are not committed to his causes, and the Pleistocene Coalition using uninformed PhDs to publish defamation for him. Unbeknownst to "rock art expert," Dr. Polly Schaafsma—whom Bednarik recently encouraged (as editor of *RAR*, IFRAO's "flagship") to publish false and defamatory statements via thought-terminating clichés, etc. (see [Basic Propaganda Techniques in College Textbooks](#), PCN #23, May-June 2013)—she is playing a marionette role. Bednarik started using the technique against PCN Layout Editor in 1998 when the author's *natural representations* and *fossil depictions* theories challenged his *phosphene* theory. (The theory, claiming that prehistoric artists were not intelligent enough to know what they were doing but were prompted by urges in what amounts to a form of automatic writing, was

challenged with actual physical evidence—which Bednarik did not have—in both the archaeological and fossil records combined.) Nor did Dr. Schaafsma do her homework before echoing a group of colleagues with a history of defamation including being named in defamation lawsuits.

The range of damage caused by such attempts in the past—which I will describe below—is why the credibility of those attempting defamation needs always to be addressed early—before they do something like publish defamation in the journal *Science* as the above had. (I have prior cited propaganda published in *Science* and by its AAAS CEO, as well as AAAS's role in producing the crafty [Next Generation Science Standards](#).)

### Misleading statements by Bednarik common

"Urbaniak ... pronounces it to be a mammoth." Here is what Urbaniak actually says: "May well depict a mammoth," and "Possible mammoth depiction." Instead of his long attack on the psychology of interpreters I recommend Bednarik send his readers to articles addressing his prior actions, e.g., [The graphics of Bilzingsleben series: Scientific Misconduct Over Ancient Artifact Studies and Why You Should Care, Parts 1-9](#).

### IFRAO aware

**"The IFRAO Convener [Robert Bednarik] published ... misstatements** of other's research, unfounded opinion, opinions not approved by the IFRAO member organizations, and direct personal attacks on many respected members of the international rock art community."

—[TRACCE no. 4 supplement, IFRAO proposed resolution](#), July 18, 1996

> [Cont. on page 14](#)

## Following Zilhao's lead (cont.)

**"Zilhao's publications were not impulsive. They were responses to continuous efforts aimed at denigrating various researchers and organizations while also belittling Portugal's rock art."**

### Bednarik's imaginings

Bednarik is using the current pop science fixation with the term "pareidolia" as a means to discredit certain authors in *Pleistocene Coalition News*. Nothing works better at drawing attention to Bednarik's disjunction than citing double standards. Below is Bednarik's opinion of those who see images in rock art (some *RAR* subscribers may find themselves 'diagnosed' here) followed by an example of his own imaginings:

**"Pareidolia**, in which iconographic patterns are detected in random phenomena... **is most strongly developed in individuals whose brains are suboptimally integrated and provide limited sophistication** of their cause and effect reasoning."

—Robert G. Bednarik. 2013. On the neuroscience of rock art interpretation. *Time and Mind: The Journal of Archaeology, Consciousness and Culture* 6 (1), p. 38.

Apart from a judgment of what constitutes, "random," Bednarik's focus that someone's brain is "suboptimally integrated" includes the interpreting of images.

Please refer to the 120,000-year old Oldisleben engraving in **Fig. 1**. The reader will see five 'perfectly straight' lines which I suggest were done with the aid of a straight edge. After "straight edge theory" for his *Festschrift* (submitted 2004) Bednarik requested me to present more material at the XV UISPP Congress, which I did to positive response; but it was followed by Bednarik's defamation attempts and 5-year *ensorship*. Right after the conference he produced the following contradictory writing about the engraving:

**"As a scientist I have no desire to speculate** about its meaning or purpose... **Several possible explanations come to mind**, but if this motif occurred in rock art, it would certainly be described as a

human figure, and indeed as a male human figure."

—Robert G. Bednarik. 2006. Mi-coquian engravings from Oldisleben, Germany. *Rock Art Research* 23 (1), p. 267.

Bednarik is well-known for such projections, e.g., seeing female figures in rock.

### Schaafsma's pareidolia

Rock art expert, Dr. Polly Schaafsma (oblivious to Bednarik's 18-year history of misconduct against *PCN* Layout Editor—a motivating factor in the formation of the PC) was published by Bednarik with thought-terminating clichés referring to *PCN* as "Creationist" with "non-scientific agendas." Ironically, Schaafsma's own pareidolia was just published in *Antiquity* by former *RAR* associate, Dr. Paul Bahn. It appears rock art experts have no better skills of interpretation than anyone else:

**"Creationists... have argued...that it depicts a winged monster or pterosaur.** ... Polly Schaafsma, a specialist in the rock art of the American south-west, thought she could recognize a 'beak lined with sharp teeth' ... This supposed bird was then identified as a pterosaur by the geologist Francis Audray Barnes."

—Jean-Loïc Le Quellec, Paul Bahn, and Marvin Rowe. 2015. The death of a pterodactyl. *Antiquity* 89 (346): 872–84.

Schaafsma then mentions Ekkehart Malotki, falsely citing a tongue-in-cheek title I wrote in *PCN* as Malotki's title, using it to smear *PCN*. Schaafsma had no idea I corresponded with the linguist Malotki for years in lengthy discussions about early human cognition.

### Defamation habit

IFRAO's "flagship," *RAR*, has a large readership. Concerns about how the IFRAO Con-venter uses it are not new:

**"[Bednarik] has a regrettable tendency to persecute people that he 'has it in for.'**

**... Worst of all was [his] actively seeking to destroy the career of Ron Dorn because he produced results ... that were diametrically opposed ...** Dorn has now been officially declared innocent by his university and the NSF; he is currently suing the people who actually published the accusations in *Science*" [also cited in Bednarik's current *RAR* accusations of 'American' pareidolia]. — IFRAO-affiliated expert, June 2000

**"Dorn's health has suffered...and so has his reputation, which is unforgivable. I could ... provide ... endless examples of [Bednarik's] distortions and lies about the people ... and others in print."** —*ibid*, 2000

The following shows the reverberating effect on science that Dorn's defamation has had. It is a message I received from a researcher who did not know I was writing on the topic:

**"I... corresponded with [scientist] about [rock art] dating but I think he is gun shy after the Dorn incident."** —October 2015

**"Ronald Dorn contends that the authors 'intentionally manipulated, omitted and misrepresented data for the purpose of making it appear [Dorn] engaged in professional misconduct and impropriety."** —Geographer sues critics of his rock-dating methods. *Nature* 401: 419. September 30, 1999

**"The state of Arizona ...will pay Ronald Dorn of [ASU] in Tempe \$50,000 to cover legal costs."** —Dalton, R. 2001. Dust settles on defamation case. *Nature* 411: 511. May 31, 2001.

Rock art is a crucial part of human prehistory. Its open exploration belongs to us all.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for 20 years demonstrating that human cognition does not evolve. His well-published story of censorship, etc., by competitive researchers played a role in forming the PC.

# Minor detail from Utah rock art panel with a proposed mammoth hunting scene

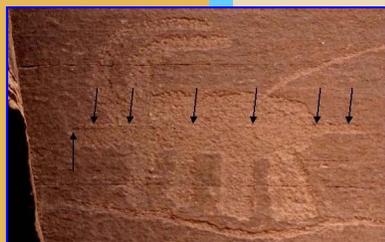
By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art photographer and preservationist

In my last article, [Ice Age Animals in SW USA Rock Art: More on their identification and protection](#)

(PCN #34, May-June 2015), I included two photographs of a sandstone petroglyph panel I had just discovered northwest of St. George in southwest Utah. The panel featured one figure which particularly interested me. It appeared to show traits resembling a mammoth or a mastodon as part of a larger composition. The larger composition shows a human figure that seems to be hunting the mammoth or similar animal with an *atlatl* or spear thrower. The hunter aspect aside for now, my interpretation of the petroglyph as



representing a mammoth includes what appear to be large curving tusks, a trunk, and a small tail, with the most defining feature being the extremely large and robust legs certainly not characteristic of any modern horned animals in the Americas (Fig. 1).



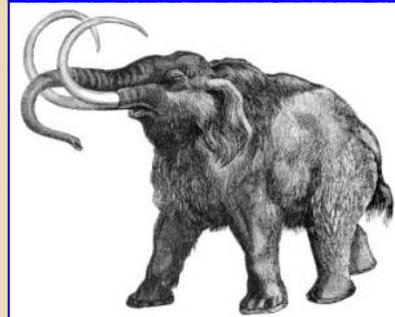
**Fig. 2. Top:** One of my several different angle photographs with arrows indicating the horizontal rock weathering feature as it extends across the animal. **Bottom:** Altered photograph. After receiving help from archaeologist Mark Willis to enhance one of the photos, I applied a subtle erasure of the horizontal line in the 'trunk' area (indicated by the 'up arrow' above) as a test. It seems to make the feature appear more like a tapering trunk.

In this installment, I would like to focus on a portion of the 'trunk' region. In my photographs, the proposed trunk of the mammoth was not altogether clear due to condition of the rock surface. So, I asked an archaeologist friend of mine, Mark Willis, to see if he could

help pull more information out of the image. (Mark is a state-of-the-art photographer specializing in gigapixel aerial photography, photogrammetry, archaeological UAVS, drone mapping, and high-resolution 3D modeling of cave sites and petroglyphs, etc. He has even made discoveries of originally invisible archaeological sites and features of rock art and has been on the cutting edge of developing Structure from Motion [SfM] technology for helping to determine rock art deterioration through time.) The resulting enhancement from Mark provided a little more detail. I then tried different lighting at the site and noticed a hard layer in the rock face. This is similar to layers in some rocks which do not patinate at the same rate as the rest of a petroglyph. See my article [More on Ice Age animals in SW U.S. rock art](#) (PCN #26, Nov-Dec 2013)

I then compensated for this 'distraction' and cloned a small section of that hard layer onto the 'trunk' where it was disrupted (Fig. 2). Although I am not saying this resolves the matter it does make the proposed trunk appear more substantial. While re-photographing the hunting scene my attention was also drawn to the line underneath the scene. I will discuss that and other aspects of the panel in a future article.

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by education and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archaeologist at heart with many years of systematic field research on Native American rock art, especially as related to archaeoastronomy, equinoxes and solstices in Utah. He has noted that standard archaeological studies commonly record details of material culture but overlook the sometimes incredible celestial archaeological evidence. Urbaniak has also played a major role in documenting and raising concerns for the accelerating vandalism, destruction and theft of Native American rock



**Fig. 1.** In PCN #34, May-June 2015, I offered an interpretation for a petroglyph I discovered northwest of St. George, southwest Utah and included this comparison. Along with tusks, a trunk and a small tail, it was the robustness of the legs that especially gave the sense the image was meant to depict a large and heavy mammal.

art. He has brought state representatives to rock art sites with the hope of at least placing labels as protected nearby what he calls "sacred art" sites as a deterrent to vandalism. Urbaniak's book, *Anasazi of Southwest Utah: The Dance of Light and Shadow* (2006), is a collection of rock art photographs which include clear descriptions with many photographs being time-sequenced as events occurred along with compass, angular orientations, and other information. His prior articles in PCN are: [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art, Part 1](#) (PCN #22, March-April 2013); [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art, Part 2](#) (PCN #23, May-June 2013); [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art, Part 3](#) (PCN #24, July-August 2013); [More on Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art](#) (PCN #26, Nov-Dec 2013); [Intriguing images from the Shaman's Gallery and some possible conclusions, Part 1](#) (PCN #32, November-December 2014); and [Part 2](#) (PCN #32, November-December 2014). [Ice Age animals in SW USA rock art: More on their identification and protection](#) (PCN #34, March-April 2015)

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# Debunking evolutionary propaganda, Part 15

*Tetrapod evolution credibility questioned via invertebrate fossils*

**A lifelong reader of textbooks in every field exposes “thousands” of examples of false statements of fact and other propaganda techniques easily spotted in anthropology, biology, and paleontology textbooks**

By John Feliks

**“We knew that tetrapods [animals with 4 limbs]...evolved from fish. ... Almost certainly no single scenario can account for all the [hindlimb] stages. ... We may never piece together the entire puzzle of tetrapod evolution.”**



**Fig. 1. The recently-sequenced genome of the famous brachiopod, *Lingula*, was used to make evolutionary claims. I reproduce (again) a composite picture from PCN #28, March-April 2014 so that readers can compare it with a quote from the Japanese paper:**

**“Unexpectedly, we find that contrary to its reputation as a ‘living fossil,’ the *Lingula* genome has been actively evolving.”**

—Luo, Yi-Jyun et al. 2015. The *Lingula* Genome Provides Insights into Brachiopod Evolution and the Origin of Phosphate Biomineralization. *Nature Communications*, September 18, 2015.

Unless evolution can mean anything one wishes, if *Lingula* has been actively evolving one should certainly expect to see a difference between a 470 million-year old *Lingula* fossil (Upper pictures) and modern *Lingulas* living in aquariums (Lower pictures). The quote (typical of such papers) shows a huge credibility problem in evolutionary genetics. Tricks like this are used to dupe the public into believing that evolution is occurring even though no one can see it. How much less believable are vertebrate evolution claims involving far more complex creatures?

**Top:** Positive and negative versions of Ordovician-age *Lingula* with soft tissue pedicle preserved. Recovered by the author, Plattin Formation, Eureka, St. Louis County, Missouri (PCN #28, March-April 2014). **Lower Left:** Living *Lingula* identical to the fossil even though 470 million years younger (Guide to the Mangroves of Singapore/Singapore Science Centre; used w/ permission). **Lower Right:** Living *Lingulas* in a Japanese aquarium (Wikimedia Commons).

—Jennifer A. Clack, PhD. 2005. Getting a Leg Up on Land: Recent Fossil Discoveries Cast Light On the Evolution of Four-limbed Animals from Fish. *Scientific American*, Dec. 2005. Quoting pp. 100 & 107.

**Question:** How does Dr. Clack—the leading tetrapod authority—go from essentially saying, “We have tetrapod evolution resolved,” to “Well, we really don’t have a clue”?

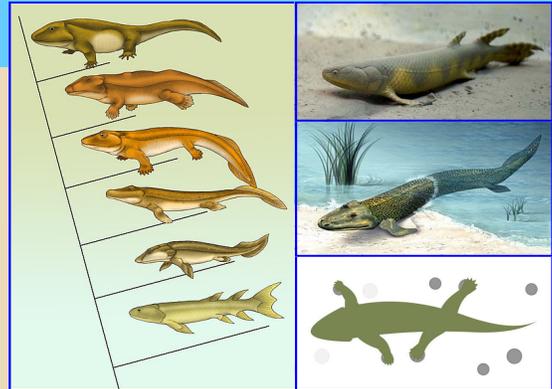
**Answer:** Evolutionary writers become bolder and less accountable the higher up the taxonomic ladder. This is even though they have a billion times less evidence than invertebrate paleontologists.

In **Fig. 1**, I show how invertebrates such as *Lingula* brachiopods (513 million years old—Present) are so perfectly preserved

in the fossil record that no one would believe it if you told them they didn’t resemble modern ones.

To counter this, modern invertebrate paleontologists now resort to genetic trickery to make evolutionary claims because the record is so packed with flawless specimens that everyone can see there has been no evolutionary change. In other words, if one is committed to evolutionism but evolutionary change is not visible, then one can turn to the trick of saying that the changes are actually genetic. Genetics is the perfect trick to use against a fossil record they can’t overcome.

In **Fig. 2**, I demonstrate how vertebrate evolutionists use another kind of untestable trick which can be referred to as the “unknown ancestors” trick. Ancestors are much larger than the Hox genes of genetics but



**Fig. 2.** The public’s lack of knowledge about the fossil record is taken advantage of by the science community. Tricks of illusion are used to convince trusting people that evolution has a basis in fact which is not so. **Left.** A standard propaganda sequence of fish appearing to morph and mutate into amphibians (Wikimedia Commons). **Right.** A composite showing the popular fantasy in reverse. The reason for this reversal is due to the recent discovery of ancient amphibian or lizard tracks in Poland (**Bottom**) dated to c. 395 million years old; Wikimedia Commons) predating by 20 million years supposed fish ancestors—including the prior excessively-hyped *Tiktaalik* (**Center**; 375 million years old; public domain). The problem the discovery makes for evolutionism is obvious. The tracks are believed to have been made by creatures approaching seven (7) feet long! Not only that, but one of the sets of prints was found to be from a creature so good at walking that it left no impressions of a dragging tail (if it had one) nor any sign that it dragged its belly through the mud (Tetrapod Trackways from the Early Middle Devonian of Poland. Niedzwiedzki et al. 2010. *Nature* 463: 43–8, January 7). The famous fish, *Eusthenopteron*, **Top**, c. 380 million years old—was long hyped as a creature that crawled out of the sea and evolved into amphibians. The vertebrate fossil record from which these forms come is sparse and spread out over millions of years; yet, bold evolutionary claims run rampant in the science community. The problem with evolutionists trying to use the vertebrate record is that it *doesn’t even come close* to the standards of the invertebrate record. The invertebrate record—with trillions of complete fossils in perfect, full-contact stratigraphic layers correlated across tens of thousands of miles—consistently and persistently shows no evolutionary sequences. What is seen, instead, is a remarkable pantheon of creatures that remained the same throughout their tenure on the earth. **Tables 1–2** challenging readers with c. 200 primarily invertebrate fossils were compiled to help bring this point home. The same can be done for vertebrate fossils.

their most useful quality for evolution promoters is that they, too, are “invisible.”

Both of these tricks should

> [Cont. on page 17](#)

# Tetrapod evolution credibility questioned (cont.)

prove to the average science aficionado that evolutionism and Darwinism—which are

now being forced on American children in captive-audience classrooms as “fact”

via the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) and [Common Core](#) (craftily devised and pushed through U.S. legislation essentially by powerful non-profit science institutions such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)—are degrading the reputation of science as an objective quest for knowledge.

Concessions as to the weaknesses of vertebrate evolutionary claims—just like those of invertebrate evolutionary claims—are subtly stated by the very proponents themselves, e.g.:

**“It’s every paleontologist’s dream to find a transitional form...between two groups...that sort of links them both.”**

–Jennifer Clack, PhD, leading fish–tetrapod evolution paleontologist

Dr. Clack’s expectation of finding—or admission of already having found—something that “sort of” links two animal groups together is a reflection of what evolutionary fantasies are about and an example of the rigor level accepted in the three sciences that sold out to evolutionism—biology, paleontology, and anthropology. Unlike unaffected sciences where many discoveries can be

stated and replicated as true observable fact, evolutionists continuously make vague statements like Clack’s. The statement on Dr. Clack’s website was presumably posted after her discovery of *Acanthostega* which is commonly promoted as an evolutionary link.

Modern scientists regularly get upset whenever Darwin is quoted for his objectivity and critical thinking about the fossil record:

**“Why, if species have descended by ... fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion instead of the species being, as we see them, well defined? ”**

–Charles Darwin. *On the Origin of Species*, 1859, p. 171

I would like to emphasize that Darwin’s “well defined species” includes not only those living today but those of the entire fossil record also.

With [Table 1](#) at left and [Table 2](#) on the following page I offer a list of the fossils published in [Parts 6–14](#) which I recovered “direct” from formations across the United States and Ontario, Canada, over a 30-year span. I’ve provided about 200 genera and species not one of which has been proven to be part of an evolutionary fossil sequence as explained in the captions. I picked these out of many fossils collected straight from formations. Not many who promote evolutionism as a fact can make a similar claim because most likely they went straight from high school into university without a break straight into lectures and textbooks telling them what to think about the fossil record. What I recommend instead is for parents to get

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

<p><b>Brachiopoda</b> (PCN #28, Mar-April 2014)</p> <p><i>Acrothele</i> <i>Ambocoelia</i> <i>Athyris</i> <i>Atrypa</i> <i>Chonetes</i> <i>Composita</i> <i>Cyrtina</i> <i>Dalmanella</i> <i>Derbyia</i> <i>Echinochonchus</i> <i>Eodictyonella</i> <i>Leiorhynchus</i> <i>Leptaena</i> <i>Lingula</i> w/pedicle <i>Marginifera</i> <i>Meristella</i> <i>Neochonetes?</i> Mesolobus? <i>Neospirifer</i> <i>Orbiculoidea</i> <i>Pholidostrophia</i> <i>Punctospirifer</i> <i>Resserella</i> <i>Rhipidomella</i> <i>Rhynchonellida</i> <i>Rhynchotrema</i> <i>Rhynchotrema</i> <i>Schizophoria</i> <i>Sieberella</i> <i>Sowerbella</i> <i>Spirifer</i> sp (large) <i>Strophodonta</i></p> <p><b>Mollusca</b> (PCN #29, May-June 2014)</p> <p><i>Allorisma</i> <i>Ambonychia</i> <i>Anadara</i> <i>Aviculopecten</i> <i>Baculites</i> <i>Belemnitella</i> <i>Caridodens</i> (a.k.a. Pterinea)</p>	<p><i>Collignoniceras</i> <i>Conocardium</i> <i>Cyclonema</i> <i>Econospira</i> <i>Edmondia</i> <i>Euryzone</i> <i>Goniasma</i> <i>Grammysioidea</i> <i>Inoceramus</i> <i>Michelinoceras</i> <i>Modiomorpha</i> <i>Mooreoceras</i> <i>Nuculites</i> <i>Orthonota</i> <i>Ostrea</i> <i>Palaeoneilo</i> <i>Parallelodon</i> actual shell <i>Platyceras</i> <i>Platystoma</i> <i>Tentaculites</i> <i>Tornoceras</i> <i>Treptoceras</i> <i>Tropidodiscus</i> <i>UI Nuculoidea</i>-type <i>Venus</i></p> <p><b>Porifera /Cnidaria</b> (PCN #30, July-Aug 2014)</p> <p><i>Agaricia</i> <i>Alveolites</i> <i>Aulopora</i> <i>Cystiphyllum</i> <i>Cystiphyllum</i> w/ Calymene and Pentameres <i>Disphyllum</i> <i>Emmonsia</i> <i>Favosites</i> <i>Grewingkia</i> <i>Halysites</i> <i>Heliophyllum</i> <i>Hexagonaria</i> <i>Lithostrotion</i> <i>Lophophyllidium westii</i> <i>Lophophyllidium proliferum</i> comparison Ord, Dev, and Penn horn corals</p>	<p><i>Manicina</i> <i>Microcyclus</i> <i>Montastrea</i> <i>Pleurodictyum</i> <i>Protaraea</i> <i>Stereostylus</i> <i>Syringopora</i> <i>UI jellyfish</i> <i>UI large horn coral</i> <i>UI Stromatoporoid</i> sponge showing internal structure <i>UI tube sponge</i> <i>Thamnopora</i> <i>Zaphrentoides</i></p> <p><b>Echinodermata</b> (PCN #31, Sept-Oct 2014)</p> <p><i>Ancyrocrinus</i> grapple-style crinoid stem anchor <i>Arthrocantha</i> <i>Delocrinus</i> <i>Ectenocrinus</i> <i>Encrinal limestone</i> <i>Eucalyptocrinites</i> crown and holdfast <i>Heteroschisma</i> (Codaster) <i>Iocrinus</i> <i>Large Mississippian</i> crinoid stem section <i>Orange encrinal limestone</i> <i>Pennsylvanian crinoid stem sections</i> <i>Pentremites</i> <i>Periechocrinites</i> <i>Phanocrinus</i> <i>Platycrinites</i> <i>Reteocrinus</i> <i>Schizoblastus</i> <i>Schizocrinus</i> <i>UI Pennsylvanian calyx and spines</i> <i>UI pinnulate crinoid</i> <i>UI starfish or bryozoan</i></p>
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**Table 1.** When evolution adherents attempt to intimidate those who question they usually have it easy. Instead of responding with proof they belittle the questioners. However, when it comes to the invertebrate fossil record, if they try and tell you it supports evolution, you know you have them; they have no idea what they are talking about and are likely just echoing back some claim they read, heard in class, or saw in a program. Challenge them with the evidence offered in this series. Ask them to provide you with papers proving evolutionary sequences for any of the groups listed. In other words, for the boldness of evolutionary claims of “fact” you have a right to see exactly what various creatures evolved “from” and what they evolved “into.” Be confident; that evidence does not exist.

# Tetrapod evolution credibility questioned (cont.)

their children into direct contact with the fossil record before they're told how to interpret it by PBS television programs or textbooks in

learning objectivity before entrusting their minds to the template-thinking of a discreditable science curriculum there is a good chance that

they will never gain those skills as far as science goes. The fact that increasing numbers of university-educated people can actually believe what is quoted in **Fig. 3** is a perfect example.

The modern science community has allowed the bar to be set so low in biology, paleontology, and archaeology that it grants them extrapolation powers without accountability to the chronologically-recorded physical facts of the fossil record. No science ignores its primary source of real-time facts. Devotees have become so frustrated with the fossil record not giving them what they

pected. So, let's just say it is so and start forcing it on children through legislation before they have a chance to think. That way, when they grow up they will lack the strength to question it and we won't have to deal with kids raising their hands in classrooms and asking stupid questions about the fossil record. After all, who do they think they are, questioning authority?"

I personally am very happy my family encouraged fossil collecting before the new aggressive breed of evolutionary fanaticism started.

It is my hope that after the facts presented in this series so far, from invertebrates to fish and tetrapods, that the reader can say they find something not quite right reflected in the many expert scientist quotes I've offered. Again, at least, that's my hope.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for 20 years demonstrating that human cognition does not evolve. Earlier, his focus was on the invertebrate fossil record studying fossils in the field across the U.S. and parts of Canada as well as studying many of the classic texts such as the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology* and *Index Fossils of North America*.

<p><b>Bryozoa</b> (PCN #32, Nov-Dec 2014)</p> <p><i>Archimedes</i> <i>Batostoma</i> <i>Constellaria</i> <i>Fenestella</i> Devonian <i>Fenestella</i> highly magnified <i>Fenestella</i> Mississippian <i>Fenestella</i> Pennsylvanian <i>Fistulipora</i> <i>Hederella</i> <i>Monticulopora</i> <i>Parvohallopora rugosa</i> <i>Prasopora</i> <i>Septopora</i> <i>Spatiopora</i> <i>Streblotrypa</i> <i>Sulcoretepora</i> <i>Trepotomida</i> colony w/ complete attachment base</p> <p><b>Arthropoda</b> (PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015)</p> <p><i>Asaphiscus wheeleri</i> <i>Calymene breviceps</i> <i>Calymene celebra</i> <i>Calymene celebra</i> external mold <i>Ceraurus pleuroxanthemus</i> <i>Crassiproteus sibleyensis</i> <i>Cryptomartus hindi</i> <i>Ditomopyge</i></p>	<p><i>Echinocaris</i> <i>Elrathia</i> <i>Eoleperditia fabulites</i> <i>Greenops</i> comparison w/ <i>Bellaertrawrightia</i> and <i>Hollandrops</i> <i>Isotelus gigas</i> <i>Paladin</i> <i>Pernopsis</i> <i>Prosaukia</i> <i>Pseudogygites latimarginatus</i> <i>Spergenaspis boonensis</i> <i>Triarthrus eatoni</i></p> <p><b>Trace fossils and graptolites</b> (PCN #34, March-April 2015)</p> <p><i>Cruziana</i> <i>Chondrites</i> type A <i>Chondrites</i> type B <i>Dictyonema</i> <i>Diplograptus</i> <i>Entobia</i> <i>Genicularaptus</i> <i>Mucrospirifer</i> clamping shell bit <i>Mucrospirifer</i> predator-crushed shell <i>Phycodes</i> <i>Petroxestes</i> w/ <i>Modiomorpha</i> clam <i>Rectograptus</i> <i>Scalituba missouriensis</i> <i>Spirorbis</i></p>	<p><i>Trypanites</i> UI Cambrian trace fossils w/<i>Prosaukia trilobites</i></p> <p><b>Plants</b> (PCN #35, May-June 2015)</p> <p><i>Alethopteris</i> <i>Alethopteris</i> or <i>Neuropteris</i> compared <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> <i>Alethopteris serlii</i> <i>Annularia</i> <i>Asterophyllites equisetiformis</i> <i>Calamites trunk</i> <i>Calamostachys</i> <i>Cyperites</i> <i>Cyclopteris trichomanoides</i> <i>Lepidodendron</i> <i>Neuropteris</i> of <i>Medullosa</i> tree <i>Neuropteris ovata</i> <i>Pecopteris</i> <i>Receptaculites</i> <i>Sigillaria</i> <i>Sphenophyllum</i> <i>Sphenophyllum majus</i> <i>Stigmaria</i></p> <p><b>Fishes and invertebrates</b> (PCN #36, July-Aug 2015)</p> <p><i>Petalodus</i> <i>Protitanichthys</i></p>
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**Table 2.** Tables 1-2 represent a list of all the invertebrate, plant, placoderm fish, and shark fossils which I personally recovered direct from formations across the U.S. and Canada over a 30-year span and published in *Parts 6-14* (and these are only a few selected fossils). What does it mean? Ask your professors to provide evolutionary sequences showing exactly what these forms evolved "from" and what they evolved "into." In other words, if you have grade school teachers or university professors trying to tell you evolution is a "fact" then have them show you how any of these creatures morphed into their forms from other creatures and out of their forms into different creatures. These tables are just a way to start learning the truth. It doesn't matter if you use these fossils or your own or even pick different ones out of books, the idea is to find out for yourself if the claims of evolution are valid. If the pursuit of knowledge is being hindered through intimidation in class, by online bullies, or U.S. Legislation, perhaps you might consider taking up this exciting and genuinely worthy cause.

grade school. Teach them to think for themselves first. Don't let over-the-top excited TV scientists tell them what fossils or anything else means. Teach them to research or ponder such things on their own because once they pass the window of

want that they've switched tactics and now just throw their hands into the air and say, "The hell with it! We're just going to say it as if it were fact. We're tired of all this work we've done for 150 years and still not having the proof we ex-



**Fig. 3.** If the *Lingula* paper cited in Fig. 1 was difficult for seeing the contradictions between evolutionary genetics and the visible facts of the fossil record, here is a quote—with visual aids—that everyone can relate to. Again, it shows how the "invisible" is used to dupe the public: **"Coelacanth [a] are actually more closely related to humans [b] ... than to ray-finned fishes such as tuna and trout [c]."**

-Woolston, C. 'Living fossil' genome unlocked: The genes of an ancient fish, the coelacanth, have much to reveal about our distant past. *Nature News*, April 17, 2013

# Global perspective on Australian archaeology

By Vesna Tenodi MA, archaeology; artist and writer

**"Morwood meant well, but I**



**was not convinced, since some of the most devious people among those who kept attacking us in our personal drama over our Wanjina artworks were highly educated white people belonging to the Aboriginal industry."**

## Stefano Diary and other pieces of the puzzle

This summer, while in Europe, I stumbled across the Stefano Diary (See "[Australian archaeology, art, and politics intertwined](#)," PCN #36, July-

August 2015). Having investigated the controversy surrounding that document and the attempts by the Aboriginal industry to refute its contents, it became clear why it poses such a threat.

The Diary details the same Palaeolithic lifestyle of the tribes on the North-East Coast of Australia as was described in other historical records. It is another confirmation of the same inconvenient facts that the Aboriginal industry has been trying to hide and deny for almost fifty years. They see such evidence as damaging to Aboriginal political ambitions and associated land claims.

I planned to concentrate on European archaeology, especially on museums and institutes in former communist countries which hold vast collections of both Palaeolithic and Neolithic material. Over the last 25 years, as the communist regimes started collapsing in a domino effect, those countries have opened their doors and are now accessible to foreign researchers. Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary—all of which I visited in the past—are now allowing access to their laboratories, archives and storerooms.

While I concentrated on the stone age in Europe, I also came across Australian archaeological material. Unexpectedly, some of the institu-

tions in former communist countries have entire collections of Australian finds, brought back by their explorers who were crew members of various expeditions sailing under different flags. Until recently, those collections were unknown.

What is also generally unknown is that hundreds and thousands of Australian archaeological finds—including stones and bones and skeletons—are now dispersed in a number of private collections in almost every country in Europe.

The material in private collections does not contain only items and samples brought to Europe in the distant past, before political correctness swept Australia in the early 1970s. Some collections were built quite recently.

## Crimes and consequences

Over the last several decades, the Australian authorities aggressively enforced a policy of giving archaeological material to the tribes, based on their spurious claims of being its "traditional owners." That practice saw most of the Australian institutions stripped of their collections. In the beginning, some archaeologists urged Australian politicians to stop this destruction of the material. They defined the practice of returning human fossils and skeletal remains to contemporary tribes as being "crimes against science."

In those letters to the Australian Government one of them said:

"Sacrifice of this material in



**Fig. 1** Detail of four fully provenanced and recorded stone artifacts from the Blunden Collection, isolated and equalized from Fig. 2 on the following page to show detail. The well-known Blunden Collection was refused by every Australian museum to which it was offered due to the controls by the Aboriginal Industry and 'running-scared' academic institutions in the country. Enhanced detail of photo © Vesna Tenodi.

the search of short term power or political expediency is criminal and should be considered an offence against all mankind."

—Peter Brown, PhD, University of New England, 29 June 1984. [Eds. NOTE: Dr. Brown is well-known for his work with—and publication of—the 2003 *Homo floresiensis* fossil skeleton finds, otherwise known as 'Hobbits'.]

Some drew an astute parallel to treatment of Neanderthal remains in Europe:

"Whilst we must believe that modern Aborigines all descended from prehistoric Aborigines, in the same way as some would argue that Europeans have genes from Neanderthal, we do not therefore need to regard all prehistoric material as the property of those descendants. There is a very real sense in which it is the property of all humans, just as the archaeology of the Neanderthals is."

—Iain Davidson, PhD, University of New England, 20 July 1984.

Some kept up their fight for

> [Cont. on page 20](#)

# Global perspective on Australian archaeology (cont.)

**"I also came across Australian archaeological material.**

decades, and accomplished little. Despite all their efforts to stop these crimes, the politically-driven laws were enforced.

As one of the unforeseen consequences of this policy, some

refuse any archaeological finds offered to them by individual collectors. The more precious the material, the greater the reluctance of Australian museums to touch it. And who could blame them?

Archaeological material from the collection included Aboriginal stone age tools, backed blades, pebble choppers, edge-ground axes, flaked cores, hammers, grinding stones, and scrapers, as well as skulls and

bones. All pieces were advertised as being collected prior to 1971, and were either directly inscribed or accompanied by a label describing location and date of the discovery.

Stone age tools and implements, tribal bark paintings, ceremonial objects, sacred artifacts and a myriad of other archaeological and ethnographic material were sold off and could have been bought for as little as a hundred dollars (*Lawsons Auctioneers*, July 2001).

I had mixed feelings when seeing the Blunden finds in European private collections. On the one hand, I was happy to see them safe. On the other hand, I felt sad to realise how the Australian policy of returning artifacts to the tribes has backfired. As a consequence, a lot of material was bought and taken overseas, and Australia irretrievably lost these important sources of cultural and historic information.

**Hiding the evidence until the truth can be told**

More material is being lost on a daily basis, caused by what most Australians today see as the Aboriginal tyranny (e.g., Paul White, Professor of Political Science, 2012).

When stumbling over anything that might be interpreted as "sacred object" or

> [Cont. on page 21](#)



**Fig. 2.** Some of the meticulously catalogued finds from the Harry Blunden Collection (totaling 50,000 pieces). The collection, which included Aboriginal stone age tools such as backed blades, choppers, scrapers, axes, hammers, flaked cores, and grinding stones, as well as skulls and bones, was refused by every Australian museum it was offered to due to fear of problems with Aborigines. Consequently, the collection which was all amassed prior to 1971 wound up being divvied out and sold in pieces to private and public collectors. Photo © Vesna Tenodi.

**Unexpectedly, some of the institutions in former communist countries have entire collections of Australian finds."**

Australian institutions regard any dealings with tribes as something to be avoided at all costs. One way of avoiding the problem is to reject any material which might bring Aboriginal groups to their doorstep and cause the museum to get embroiled in years—and often decades—of negotiations with the tribes and the Aboriginal industry.

Rather than arguing their right to keep ownership of the Stone Age material, some museums, such as the Australian National Museum in Canberra, find it easier to just

**Harry Blunden collection**

Harry Blunden (1912–2014) was an avid amateur archaeologist, who amassed a collection of thousands of pieces from all over Australia (**Fig. 2**). He and his family members offered to donate the entire collection to a few Australian museums. They refused. Perhaps they would be interested in a part of the collection? No, they wouldn't touch any of it.

So, in the early 2000s the Blunden collection pieces were offered for sale, both privately and in public.

# Global perspective on Australian archaeology (cont.)

**"As one of the unforeseen consequences of**

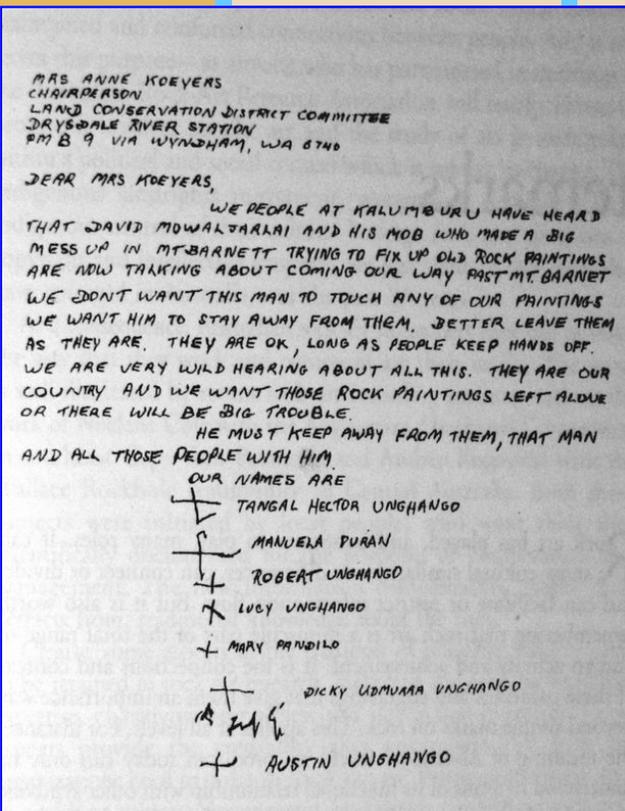
"sacred site," farmers and individual home owners just bulldoze the site, to avoid years of tug-of-war with the Aboriginal industry. Some just hide the material and

known as *Homo floresiensis*, nicknamed "Hobbit"), wanted to see for himself what all the fuss was about. In 2010, Morwood visited our gallery in the Blue Mountains and found our Wanjina Watchers sculpture, albeit heavily vandalised, "very interesting, quite intriguing." Mike advised me to stay calm, and to think of Aborigines as one would of spoiled children, unable to reason, hence the violence.

7-year struggle for academic and artistic freedom has yielded good results after all. We see more people speaking up and the Australian Government has finally acknowledged Aboriginal violence as being one of the main problems in Australia today:

[www.indigenouseviolence.org](http://www.indigenouseviolence.org)

Most importantly, Australian archaeological material and "offensive" art are safe, in the hands of incorruptible foreign agencies and individual collectors who cannot be intimidated. This is, in my mind, a happy ending to this predominantly tragic story of aboriginalisation of Australian art and archaeology. And a good beginning for another important story, about the true origins of mankind.



**Fig. 3.** Copy of a 1980s letter from Aboriginal objectors to Aboriginal rock art "re-painter," the late David Mowaljarlai. It shows that all of the signatories were illiterate. Morwood's explanation did not convince me. Some of the most underhanded people who kept attacking us regarding our Wanjina artworks were highly-educated white people who were part of the Aboriginal Industry. See, e.g., [Problems in Australian art and archaeology, PCN #22, March-April 2013.](#)

"That's what we all have to do, if we are to carry out any fieldwork in Australia. They order us around, and make threats. Wanjina is as good a reason as any. This reminds me of that letter back in the 1980s," he said.

Letter? What letter? The letter, as it turned out, was from Aboriginal "custodians" who objected to Wanjina figures being repainted, and threatened "big trouble." When I received a copy, it showed that all of the signatories were illiterate. According to Morwood, that seemed to usually be the case; the most aggressive ones rely on hearsay and gossip as their primary source of information (Fig. 3). Morwood meant well, but I was not convinced, since some of the most devious people among those who kept attacking us in our personal drama over our Wanjina artworks were not Aborigines but highly-educated white people belonging to the Aboriginal industry.

**All is well that ends well**

Having decided not to give in to pressure and threats, I am happy to report that our

**this policy, some Australian institutions regard any dealings with tribes as something to be avoided at all costs."**

keep their information close to the chest, waiting for a better time when this tyranny will have run its course and come to an end.

To me it seems that the time has come to tell the truth. When my artists and myself were attacked for our Wanjina Watchers artworks, one of the great Australian archaeologists, Professor Mike Morwood (discoverer on the island of Flores in Indonesia of the diminutive skeleton

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[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#vesna\\_tenodi](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#vesna_tenodi)



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Prehistory is about to change

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

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