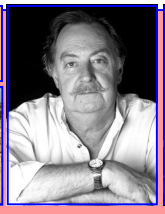
PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

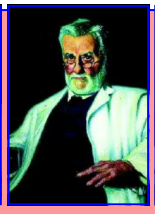
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2023

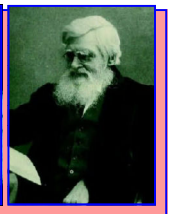
- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

Inside

Welcome to *PCN* #81



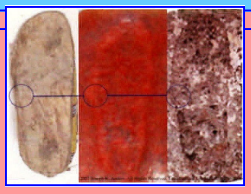




Swedish archaeologist, **Dr. Elke Rogersdotter, PhD**, provides her *Part 1* of a fascinating scholarly exploration into the importance of gaming as an integral part of human nature. She brings a unique perspective *in-between* modern culture and the remote past with her expertise in Indus Valley civilization. The quest is how we might recognize evidence of gaming without the presence of game boards. Difficulties in finding *non*-game board evidence at archaeological sites includes how to distinguish objects such as stones and shells (and perhaps even presumed tools) that might have been used as gaming pieces. See **Rogersdotter p.4**.

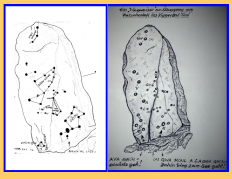
Richard Dullum, in *Part 6* of his series on U.K. eoliths, begins with an almost minute-by-minute account of how Benjamin Harrison was encouraged to dig for eoliths *in situ* by none other than friend and rival of Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace, who happened to stop in at Harrison's bookstore. See **Dullum p.15**.

Chilean researchers, **Juan Crocco** and **Patricio Bustamante**, propose a South Seas route ancient mariners could have taken from Australasia to South America. They build an interesting case partly inspired by the famous Frederick escape incident aided by the Westerlies ocean current. See **Crocco and Bustamante p.11**.



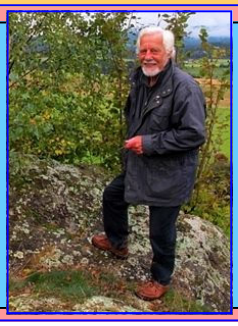
Joseph K. Anders presents *Part 4* in his scientific history of the **Strickland Stone**—a trace-fossil preserved in volcanic basalt. Despite involvement of clinical anatomist, surgeon and author in the famed *Gray's Anatomy* textbook series, Professor Brion Benninger MD, the mainstream ignored the evidence. This installment, Anders documents acknowledgement from pioneering forensic podiatrist, Dr. John A. DiMaggio (MD, DPM) and Senior research biomechanical engineer at Nike Headquarters, Dr. Gordon A. Valiant PhD, stating unequivocally: "It's a shoe print." See **Anders p.2**.

Tom Baldwin discusses the impact of recent dating results from the Meadowcroft rock shelter site south of Pittsburgh, PA. The site was used by Native Americans much earlier than Clovis—as far back as c. 19,000 years. The problem is that Meadowcroft is now another site confirming that Clovis-first theory—which for decades was taught as fact suppressing and even destroying the careers of scientists and other researchers with conflicting evidence such as the PC's Co-Founder, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, for questioning Clovis-first—is now repeatedly disproved. See **Baldwin p.21** and **Steen-McIntyre p.7**.



Engineer and rock art researcher and preservationist, **Ray Urbaniak**, offers support for what is called the Solutrean hypothesis, one way ancient peoples may have made their way to the Americas from Europe. Unlike lone wolf mainstream researchers, the Pleistocene Coalition has long argued for multiple migrations into the Americas across hundreds of millennia. See **Urbaniak p.18**.

Thomas Walli-Knofler and **Werner Kräutler** present another remarkable artifact in their Austrian cupstone series, this time a believed once-free-standing menhir possibly containing a map of the night sky. Their 4-year project also involves **Herbert Kirnbauer** (offering modern text 'translations' outside PC topics), and mapmaker **Josef Höfer**. The region is where Ötzi the Iceman was found and may date to the same era. See **Walli-Knofler and Kräutler p.8**.



The Strickland Stone A moccasin print preserved in volcanic rock; a brief history, *Part 4*

By Joseph K. Anders

"As our meeting was ending, I asked Dr. Valiant for his opinion of the stone, and he simply stated: It's a shoe print."

-Dr. Gordon A Valiant PhD, lead biomechanical engineer at Nike

The Strickland Stone (introduced in ***Part 1***) is a basalt boulder featuring the impression of a moccasin. It was discovered in Portland, Oregon, in 1929 (**Fig. 1**).

Continuing from ***Part 3*** (PCN *#80, Nov-Dec 2022)...*

Dr. Benninger and I had hoped our abstract and scientific poster—with an overview of the evidence and results—would have caused enough interest to generate a serious discussion on ancient man in the Americas. Unfortunately, of all those educated people, no one believed or accepted the evidence as they were convinced the whole matter of ancient man in the Americas was already proved otherwise. It was as though we were back to square one: Man did not exist a million years ago and certainly not in North America during such a time.

So, somewhat disillusioned, Dr. Benninger returned full-focus to his other research and teaching.

Dr. John A. DiMaggio (2010–2011)

Later, I decided to continue my quest in a slightly different direction in hopes of obtaining additional professional opinions on the Strickland Stone—experts in footwear and footprint analysis. I was fortunate to discover a professional with credentials on a par with those of Dr. Benninger, namely a surgeon of podiatry and a pioneering forensic podiatrist, Dr. John A. DiMaggio (MD, DPM) who just so happened to live in the same State of Oregon.

Dr. DiMaggio is regarded in the highest terms in the developing field of *forensic podiatry*:

> "Today, in the U.S., the most prolific advocate of forensic podiatry is Dr. John DiMaggio, of Bandon, OR. His textbook, *Forensic Podiatry, Principles and Methods* [now in 2nd Ed.], which he co-authored with Dr. Wesley Vernon of the UK is the accepted starting point for any podiatrist interested in pursuing work in the field."
>
> –Forensic Podiatry: A Subspecialty for the 21st Century? This once arcane area of study is rapidly evolving. *Podiatry Management* 32(4): 99-106, 2013.
>
> "Forensic podiatry, as it is practiced and studied in the U.S., owes much to Dr. DiMaggio..." *–ibid.*

To give some perspective on the depth and scope of knowledge he brings with his opinion of the Strickland Stone, apart from dozens of peer-reviewed papers, books (as noted above) or chapters, Dr. DiMaggio founded, and was Past President, of the American Society of Forensic Podiatry (ASFP). I should also note that Dr. DiMaggio gained vast experience by working 15 years with the Police Department in Mesa, Arizona, as a certified patrol officer.

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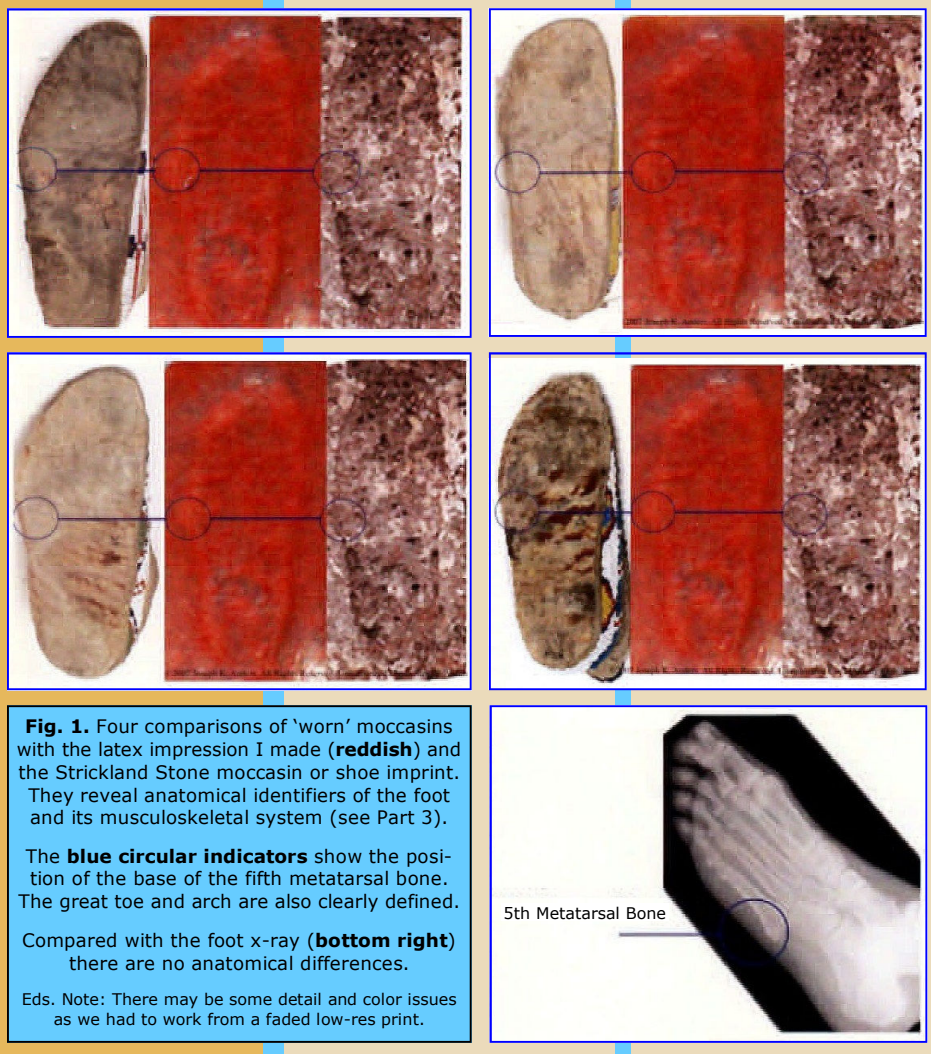

Fig. 1. Four comparisons of 'worn' moccasins with the latex impression I made (**reddish**) and the Strickland Stone moccasin or shoe imprint. They reveal anatomical identifiers of the foot and its musculoskeletal system (see Part 3).

The **blue circular indicators** show the position of the base of the fifth metatarsal bone. The great toe and arch are also clearly defined.

Compared with the foot x-ray (**bottom right**) there are no anatomical differences.

Eds. Note: There may be some detail and color issues as we had to work from a faded low-res print.

Strickland Stone moccasin print in volcanic rock (cont.)

"Later, I decided to continue my quest in a slightly different direction in hopes of obtaining additional professional opinions on the Strickland Stone—experts in footwear and footprint analysis."

Meeting Dr. DiMaggio

As it turned out, DiMaggio lived in Bandon, OR, a mere four-hour drive from my home in Portland. In the Summer of 2010, I met with Dr. DiMaggio in Bandon, bringing the Strickland Stone and the latex impression. After a thorough live examination of the stone and after almost a year of studying the latex impression and several more impressions of various widths, and discussions with his colleagues, Dr. DiMaggio was ready to give me his conclusion. Although he gave himself some wiggle-room language-wise, in a sentence:

> "I think the consensus is that it appears to be a shoe print but there is no way to prove it."

Dr. DiMaggio's conclusion, although reserved, is from a leading international forensics expert and pioneer in the field with a longtime police background. Combining these with the fact he has likely examined more footprints and shoe prints than any anthropologists and does not have their preconceptions, he appears very open to the possibility the Strickland Stone is, indeed, a shoe print.

Dr. Owen Lovejoy (2006)

In contrast to Dr. DiMaggio's and colleagues' objective consensus on what the Strickland Stone could possibly be, the first *forensic anatomist* I consulted, the well-known evolutionary anthropologist and popular expert in the mainstream's "evolution of bipedality" school of thought (see **Eds. Note**), Dr. C. Owen Lovejoy PhD (Kent State University), was not so accommodating. This was two years before I met with anatomist Dr. Brion Benninger (see Part 1, *PCN* #78, July-August 2022; Part 2, *PCN* #79, Sept-Oct 2022; and Part 3, *PCN* #80, Nov-Dec 2022). I sent the Strickland Stone basic details and photographs to Dr. Lovejoy. In hindsight, I realize Dr. Lovejoy's response was predictable as in his field everyone already believes a certain way. Below are a few responses from Dr. Lovejoy's 2-7-06 email regarding feasibility of the Strickland Stone being a human shoe or moccasin print. I don't think any *PCN* readers will be surprised:

> "[It] is highly and almost fatally improbable that *H. sapiens* was here prior to 20,000 or so."
>
> "There is no evidence of any occupation [in the Americas] prior to 35,000 at all."
>
> "The age of 'man' is not 'theorized'—*H. sapiens* and its predecessor, *H. erectus*, are world-wide (except North and South America) in distribution with a definitive progressive record… The progression is very clear cut."

Eds. Note: The author sent a 350-word quote from an external source debunking Dr. Lovejoy and *Ardipithecus ramidus*. However, we at *PCN* prior covered Dr. Lovejoy's *Ardipithecus* error in a couple of early articles. See the Eds.' Ardi: How to create a science myth (*PCN* #3, Jan-Feb 2010) and Fig. 5 of Evolutionists are not qualified to assess 'any' evidence (*PCN* #25, Sept-Oct 2013).

Dr. Gordon A. Valiant, PhD, at *Nike* Headquarters

In early Summer of 2011 while waiting for Dr. DiMaggio's synopsis I secured an appointment with senior research biomechanical engineer, Dr. Gordon A. Valiant, PhD, at Nike Headquarters in Beaverton Oregon. Dr. Valiant earned his PhD (1984) from Pennsylvania State University with his dissertation titled: "A determination of the mechanical characteristics of the human heel pad in vivo (impact, viscoelastic pressure)," *Pennsylvania State University ProQuest Dissertations Publishing*.

Dr. Valiant joined Nike immediately after receiving his doctorate and was the principal scientist of Nike SHOX and other innovations (employment at Nike Valiant Labs is a much sought after goal for many in the U.S.).

I brought the Strickland Stone to the famous "Innovation Kitchen" at Nike World Headquarters. Over the course of an hour or so, I discussed all of our early research, including geology Professors Dr. Duncan and Dr. Grunder at OSU College of Atmospheric Sciences, and Doctors Benninger and DiMaggio. Dr. Valiant discussed his work at Nike and also his mentor, Professor Grover Krantz—University of CA, Berkeley and Washington State University—(a well-known "evolutionary" anthropologist who faced criticism for his interest in the problem of Bigfoot or Sasquatch) he said would be very interested in our Strickland Stone research. As our meeting was ending, I asked Dr. Valiant for his opinion of the stone, and he simply stated:

> **"It's a shoe print."**

All science should be rooted in evidence and facts, logic, and common sense. Dr. Carl Sagan famously stated,

> "Absence of evidence does not mean evidence of absence."

The Strickland Stone offers physical and testable trace fossil evidence that "man" existed over one million years ago in North America. If, with confirmations and support from leaders in podiatric sciences, skeptics just follow routine and insist the Strickland Stone's shoe print (in naturally-solidified basalt rock) is not a shoe print, what is it?

Links to prior installments:

Part 1, *Part 2*, *Part 3*

Games over board! *Part 1*

By Elke Rogersdotter, PhD, Archaeology

Ruins at Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan, in upcoming *Part 2*. Photo: Elke Rogersdotter (crop).

"It is...no secret that stones, shells and other things from 'nature's pantry' might often have been used as gaming pieces or the like, something that would naturally make any attempt to archaeologically identify these types of activities difficult."

It is my belief that the tendency of our time to always want to draw a line between *games* and *children's play*, together with the fallacy of extrapolating our modern terminology with its typical divisions into *sports*, *games* and *play* back through the generations to older times, may risk leading to an unnecessary fission, and thus actually also to a concealment of an elementary part of human existence which is precisely varied, diverse and broad by nature. The following article intends to address this, as well as the importance of a potential return or recognition of this vital part of human history even to temporally very distant cultural complexes.

Already in the 18th century, Friedrich von Schiller pointed out the paradox in the expression that something is *just* a game, when in fact it is in play, and only there, that man becomes fully man (Schiller 2006 [1795]:61). The fact that games and play constitute something essential to life is something that has recently received increasing attention from researchers in such widely different disciplines as, for example, history, anthropology, and psychology, besides neuroscience and other fields of cognitive research. Here, of course, the question arises concerning the very oldest traces of this form of cultural expression, but the truth is that archaeological finds that have been suggested to be possibly deriving from playing and gaming activities seem to become increasingly rare, if not non-existent, the further back in time we move. The theologian and archaeologist Ulrich Hübner tries to provide a possible explanation: although man has always enjoyed playing and gaming, as he maintains, this does not mean that people have necessarily always surrounded themselves with objects explicitly intended to play games with (Hübner 1992:7–10, 134). It is, of course, no secret that stones, shells and other things from 'nature's pantry' might often have been used as gaming pieces or the like, something that would naturally make any attempt to archaeologically identify these types of activities difficult.

But is this the whole explanation? Or could an additional reason possibly lay in what we like to put into words like 'play' and 'games' today, values which are then allowed to rule, and thus may also limit us in our search? It can be noted that when it comes to the theme of 'prehistorical games,' there is a preference to search for obvious games, such as board games. Certainly, one reason may be that finds of possible board games, in the form of gaming pieces or game boards, as well as dice, are relatively easy to identify and thus more robust in terms of their interpretation. However, another explanation can be sought in the advanced position that has traditionally tended to be given precisely to board games at the expense of other types of games, crowned not least and in the Western context of the game of chess at the top of the (board) game hierarchy. In this connection it can also be assumed that the magnificent discoveries made in Egyptian tombs, for example, of complete board games in precious materials have influenced what is implicitly meant by the question of prehistoric games. But there is also a third conceivable explanation. It can be traced in the transformation that has taken place in modern time of many of the games that people have long played for fun, for the sake of entertainment and social togetherness, to, on the one hand, serious sports, while other traditional types of games are now almost exclusively seen as belonging to children's play repertoire. More pointedly, it can be said that today's world of games is characterized by narrow boundaries between (serious) sports and games on the one hand,

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Games over board! *Part 1* (cont.)

"There is thus the risk that temporally more distant—i.e. significantly early—cultural complexes, which lack... evidence reminiscent of the more obvious (board) game implements, will be interpreted and understood on possibly incorrect grounds as societies more or less without (traces of) games."

and games and (children's) play on the other. The category of games has thinned out to the extent that, by and large, only the games that take place on the explicitly drawn, demarcated 'board' appear to be representative of the category in question, while games that take place beyond the board, 'in the air and on the ground,' have to a large extent tended to fall away from the games historian's field of vision. The result risks becoming a scanty and marginalized history of a common human phenomenon that is *de facto* characterized precisely by both diversity and inventiveness. Thus, with the transformation of more playful gaming activities into standardized, internationally uniform sports, another important dimension of the former also risks being overlooked: influenced by the world of professional sports, we seem above all to search for the regulated and standardized, what we might call the formally 'recorded' game, while the gaming that for thousands of years was rather orally passed down, the adaptable and varied gaming, with its different local ways of playing, tends to fall into oblivion or might even remain undiscovered. In the end, there is thus the risk that temporally more distant—i.e. significantly early—cultural complexes, which lack material evidence reminiscent of the more obvious (board) game implements, will be interpreted and understood on possibly incorrect grounds as societies more or less without (traces of) games. It is easy to see how this in turn goes hand in hand with, and perhaps further strengthens, traditional perceptions of playing and gaming as something inferior, which, so to speak, did not exist 'from the beginning' as both a biologically and socially fundamental part of human life, but rather as something that has been added secondarily.

Games for the sake of playing, and for the benefit of being together

Can, then, 'non-sport-related' gaming in the hands of adults, or at least not in the hands of children specifically, be described in any other way than in negations? What are its characteristics? There are many different ways to answer this, depending on where we look in the research literature and whether we focus on the activities themselves or their wider context and effects. The philosopher Immanuel Kant, for example, was one of the first to emphasize the free and self-chosen nature of these kinds of activities, as well as their ends in themselves. In contrast to the pursuit of perfection and record achievements typical of professional sports, the non-sport-related gaming further allows for unskillfulness, and thus also for a dimension of unpredictability, as games historian Christiane Racine notes in an essay on the history of skittles (Racine 2007). The ethnologist Carl-Herman Tillhagen, together with Nils Dencker (1950), in a comprehensive study of traditional Swedish folk games, point out that in many game contexts, qualities such as ingenuity and humor may be as much in demand among the participants as, for example, skill or physical strength. Focusing on traditional games in the Low Countries, the games and sports historian Erik De Vroede (1996) in turn emphasizes the local nature of this type of game, as well as the combination of elements of physical challenge, strategy and/or luck *with* the aspect of recreation; competition may occur but is never the main element, while the character of festivity that sometimes surrounds these kinds of gaming activities can be at least as important as the game itself. In other words, the 'ludic element' dominates over the aspect of achievement (cf. Buland & Schädler 2009:8). From a historical sociological point of view, this type of playful gaming has primarily served to strengthen group affiliation and social identity, as claimed by sociologist Jean Camy (1995). A practical, if unspoken, task, at least as far as Swedish folk games were concerned, if we are to believe Tillhagen and Dencker, was in addition to provide an opportunity for young men and women to come together in the strictly regulated farming society of old. Historically speaking, a not inconsiderable part of gaming activities have also taken the form of gambling, which, for example, skittle games during the European Middle Ages is an excellent illustration of; countless prohibitions and banishments on the part of the officials also testify to this (Endrei 1988).

How, then, can we find traces of this non-sport-related type of gaming if we go deeper back into history, beyond the era of documents and written sources, and without having to resort to the clearly distinguishable 'board' as the only option? In what follows, a few examples from the Indus Civilization (urban period *c.* 2600–1900 BCE) will form a starting point with the aim of trying to concretize my above-described, more general line of thinking regarding the fact that archaeological find contexts, at least theo-

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Games over board! *Part 1* (cont.)

"Non-sport-related gaming further allows for unskillfulness, and thus also for a dimension of unpredictability."

retically, could be thought to harbor significantly more, as well as more varied, game-related materials, in addition to the more traditionally recognized, and thus relatively more well-documented, finds in the form of, above all, the board game and its associated paraphernalia. Certainly, this vast Bronze Age cultural complex may seem relatively young from the *PCN*'s point of view. So why is this ancient urban society worth taking a closer look at? One reason is the relatively extensive and multifaceted assemblage of finds with a possible connection to play and games that has come to light (something that was noticed by, among others, the archaeologist Ernest J. H. Mackay already at the end of the 1920s). However, the traditional handling of these types of object can also be seen as a representative example of common divisions of today in terms of *game*-related material as separate from, say, *toy*-interpreted finds. In other words, the find material is mainly intended to serve here as a thought-provoking case. The material as such is more or less difficult to interpret, as is often the case with archeological material of older date for which there is a lack of, for example, written sources to support one's assumptions, and the purpose here is not to try to substantiate one or the other position. Rather, I intend to use parts of the find material as illustrative examples that, by analogy with a selection of different historical and ethnological cases from different parts of the world, can contribute to a freer way of thinking about games and game artifacts that might be viable even for significantly older sociocultural complexes—at least this is my hope.

To be continued in Part 2...

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

Selected publications

Rogersdotter, E. 2022. Principles, Pitfalls, and Possibilities. On the Archaeological Art of Documenting Engraved Game Boards. In K.F. Dalal, D. Kamath and R. Joshi (Eds), *Playing with Memories: The Journey of Games*: 250–67. Mumbai: India Study Centre (INSTUCEN) Trust.

Rogersdotter, E. 2020. Small Objects Difficult to Catch: An Archaeological Reconsideration of Harappan Gaming Pieces. In M.A.J. Eder (Ed.), *Mission Kannauj 2020: Arbeitspapiere/ Working-Papers: A Collection of Papers and Contributions for the Chess-Historic Meeting, February 27th–28th, 2020, in Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh, India*: 34–38. Kelkheim/Taunus: Förderkreis Schach-Geschichtsforschung.

Rogersdotter, E. 2020. City Tales in Dialogue: Vijayanagara through Travelogues and Archaeology, in: L. Ameel, J. Finch, S. Laine and R. Dennis (Eds), *The Materiality of Literary Narratives in Urban History*: 222–42. New York: Routledge.

Member news and other info

"The archaeologists report finding a 'well-dated artifact assemblage' containing 14 stemmed projectile points. The artifacts have been dated to a surprising ~16,000 years old."

Aside from the recent superb series on rare Clovis artifacts by **Dr. Richard Michael Gramly** culminating in The oldest absolutely-dated sled in the world (*PCN* #80, Nov-Dec 2022) and the two Clovis and pre-Clovis articles by Tom Baldwin and Ray Urbaniak in this issue we received pre-Clovis-related emails from readers as well. One example is from Kevin Callaghan with news on the important Cooper's Ferry Clovis site in Idaho (**Fig. 1**). The archaeologists report finding a "well-dated artifact assemblage" containing 14 stemmed projectile points. The artifacts have been dated to a surprising ~16,000 years old. That is several thousand years older than the popularly-accepted dates for Clovis.

The archaeologists say that the assemblage includes an "array of stemmed projectile points that resemble pre-Jomon Late Upper Paleolithic tools from the northwestern Pacific Rim dating to ~20,000–19,000 years ago." That has led them to speculate the region may have been where some of the first technological traditions in the Americas originated.

Fig 1. Area of Cooper's Ferry archaeological site, Lower Salmon River near Cottonwood, Idaho; Photo: Roger Peterson, U.S. Forest Service photo; Wikimedia Commons.

Davis, Loren G. *et al*. 2022. Dating of a large tool assemblage at the Cooper's Ferry site (Idaho, USA) to ~15,785 cal yr B.P. extends the age of stemmed points in the Americas." *Science Advances* 8, Issue 51.

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Member news and other info (cont.)

Quick links to main articles in *PCN* #80:

Historical reminder reprint of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's 2011 Hueyatlaco site's destruction announcement. From *PCN* #10, March-April 2011. Figures added Feb. 2023:

Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Co-founder of the Pleistocene Coalition.

Mexican Hueyatlaco site gone

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, volcanic ash specialist

On April 1 we learned that Hueyatlaco, one of four ancient archaeologic sites located on the north shore of the Valsequillo Reservoir, Puebla,

Fig. 1. The only artifact (a bifacial spearhead) of archaeologist Cynthia Irwin-Williams' Valsequillo artifacts and fossils the location of which is known. After having been lost it was re-discovered in 2003 *unlabeled* in a case of common Paleo-Indian artifacts at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico city.

Mexico [see **Fig. 1** artifact] is essentially no more.

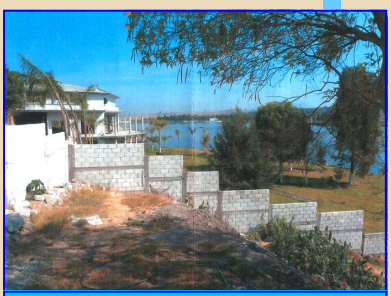


Fig. 2. From *PCN* #13, Sept-Oct 2011. Valsequillo archaeological site after being plowed over showing concrete block wall crossing a path to the Hueyatlaco site on the other side of the wall by a recently-built house. Note the presence of guy ropes still attached to large palms planted by the house. 2011 photo courtesy of Marshall Payn.

Where the 2004 excavations had been is now a smoothed-over park-like area, fenced in by 2 meter high concrete block walls and planted with full-size palm trees [**Fig. 2**].

This is the latest pot hole in the always rough and bumpy road of the Valsequillo saga, where for close to 40 years we have tried to bring to public attention the incredibly important and very old archaeologic sites (ca 250-400ky) first discovered and excavated by Cynthia Irwin-Williams and Juan Armenta Camacho in the early 60s.

Fortunately, trench profiles, sediment samples, and reference slides of the diatoms from Hueyatlaco have been preserved in the USA and Mexico, and the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia (INAH) Mexico City should also have in storage a full set of stratigraphic monoliths (stabilized sediment columns), taken from the trench walls in 1973, as well as the original artifacts and fossil bone samples.

Hueyatlaco may be gone, but it won't be forgotten! –VSM

The broader picture

Like a similar reminder in Tom Baldwin's article this issue Virginia's announcement illustrates one of the worst effects of suppression by American anthropology—the destruction of irreplaceable archaeological sites due to dogma and professional neglect. The result is an aggressively-promoted fixed idea of where Paleolithic people were living at various times in prehistory. However, this is not the only effect of suppression in anthropology. There are many others. As only one example, it negatively impacts the careers of highly-reputable scientists and other researchers. See also our special issue on the destruction of Calico Early Man Site (*PCN* #72, July-August 2021).

Link to *PCN* #80

Link to *PCN* #79

Link to *PCN* #78

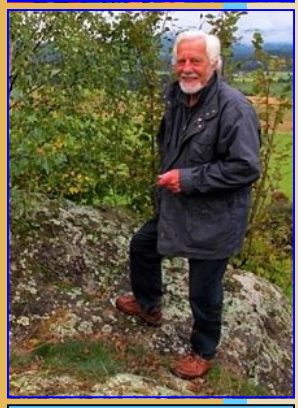
Finally, suppression keeps from the public evidence of the intellectual capabilities of Paleolithic people including *H. erectus* and Neanderthals such as *PCN* Editor's linguistic analysis of the Bilzingsleben artifacts, Urbaniak's and other *PCN* writers' discoveries and confirmations of the Pleiades star cluster in rock art and other evidences published in *PCN*. These are suppressed by the anthropology community as they demonstrate how far off-base the field is, causing the public to accept a very narrow view of early human capabilities. Were it not for this community, all such evidence combined and objectively reported has the potential to completely change our view of the past. *–jf*

News from the Austrian cupstone research team

Cupstone Menhir A path marker with proposed star map on the Issboden—in the Viggar Valley near Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria

By Thomas Walli-Knofler and Werner Kräutler

"The terrain in the region is an extremely avalanche prone. …We believe the menhir may have been carried down about 100 feet or so into its current location by an avalanche."



Top: Thomas Walli-Knofler and Werner Kräutler. **Middle:** Josef Höfer. **Bottom:** Herbert Kirnbauer at a Styrian cupstone.

Continuing from The cupstones of the Pitztal valley (*PCN* #80, Nov-Dec 2022)…

Through our team's combined studies and knowledge of the region, we believe that the complex cupstone shown in **Fig. 1** was once a large freestanding 'menhir,' hence our naming it the Cupstone Menhir. It is on the ancient upper connecting path from Issboden, Boscheben, to what is known as the "Written Stone" and suncult campsite.

The terrain of the region is extremely avalanche prone. And for additional reasons, we believe the menhir may have been carried down about 100 feet or so into its current location by an avalanche.

It made little sense to us that these clearly intelligent people would have erected two signposts on the same path. It makes more sense that they would have erected a visible signpost on the frequently used path from south to north, and a separate one on the lower path leading into and out of the valley into the Wipptal Valley—a smaller signpost right next to the path.

The top photo in Fig. 1 (by teammate Josef Höfer) shows the view from the Cupstone Menhir to the plateau at the end of the Viggar Valley—where the 'Written Stone' monolith (the largest monolith in the Alps at 60 tons) is located. It is a 'Sun cult' place with glacial lake. The lower photo of the two pictures can be zoomed in somewhat to see the cupmarks more clearly.

Fig. 1. Top: View toward the "Written Stone" plateau sun cult place from the Cupstone Menhir (we believe was originally free-standing) in its current position; Viggar Valley Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria. **Bottom:** Closer picture providing a clearer view of the cupmarks. Photos by Josef Höfer.

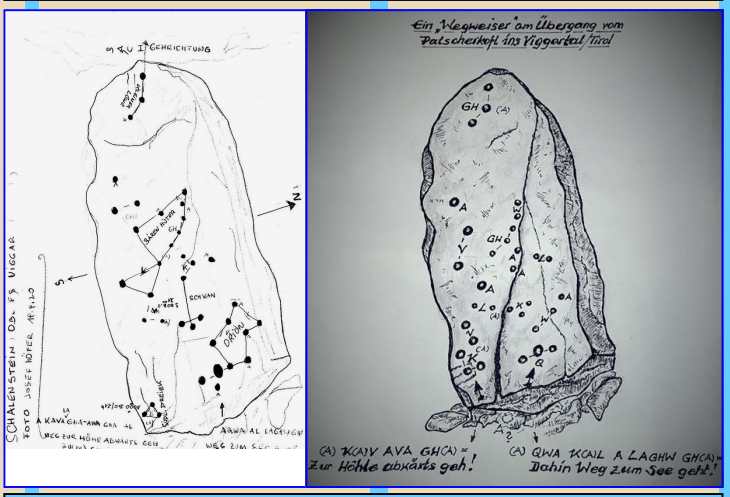


Fig. 2. Left: 'Cupstone Menhir' astronomical interpretation by Thomas Walli-Knofler per Stellarium astronomy software and constellations visible 5,000 years ago. **Right:** Sketch and modern language interpretation of cupmarks by Herbert Kirnbauer. By the type of evidence available, our team is taking an open-ended approach to the cupstones exploring both Neolithic and more contemporary interpretations. See enlargement of this figure on the next page.

Fig. 2 shows our two interpretations of the Cupstone Menhir. Our team is taking an open-ended approach to the cupstones exploring both Neolithic and more contemporary inter-

> Cont. on page 9

Cupstone Menhir (cont.)

"They also appear to have taken advantage of the surface of the rock which is divided by a crack...It may have served as a natural divider line, i.e., to separate two different kinds ...of information."

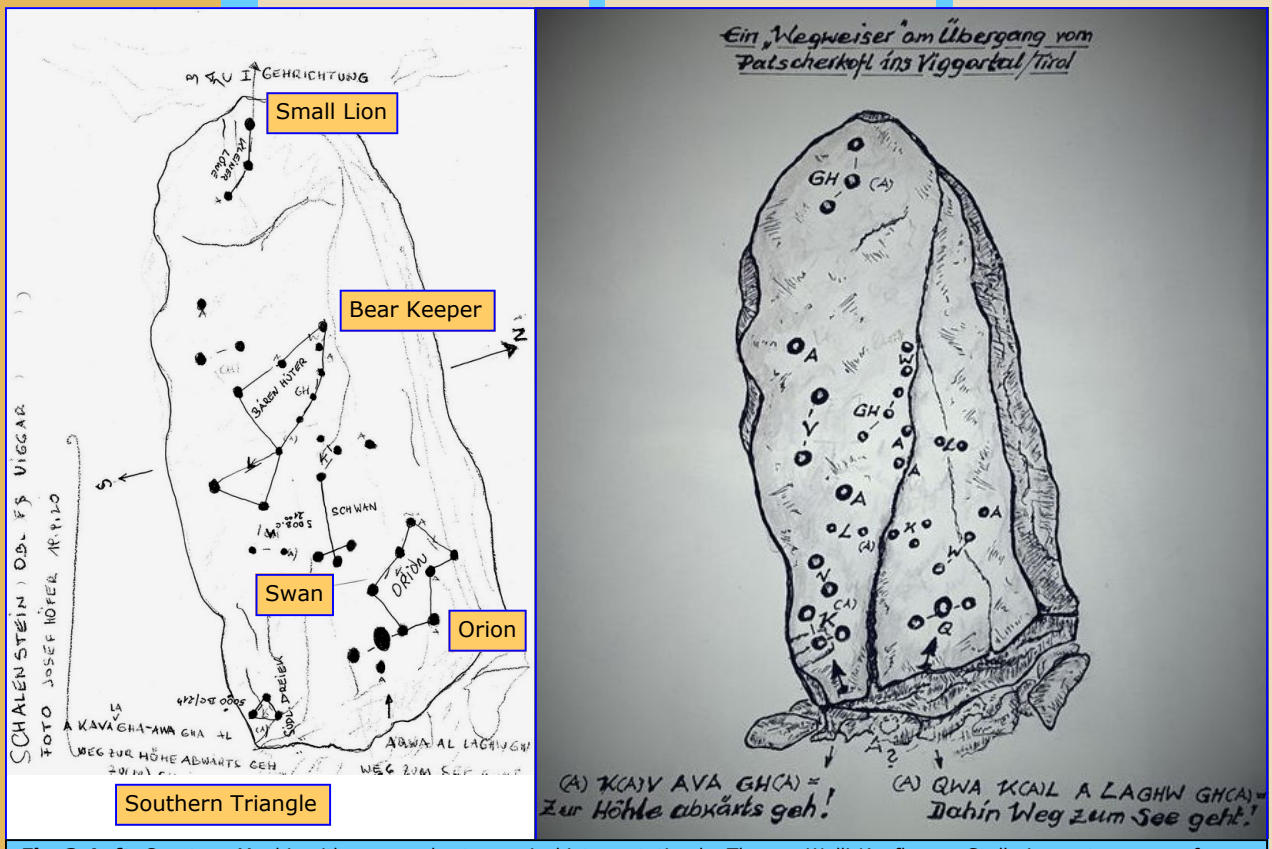


Fig. 3. Left: Cupstone Menhir with proposed astronomical interpretation by Thomas Walli-Knofler per Stellarium astronomy software based on constellations (Small Lion, Bear Keeper, Swan, Orion and Southern Triangle) visible 5,000 years ago. **Right:** Sketch and modern language interpretation by teammate Herbert Kirnbauer. Our team is exploring both Neolithic and contemporary interpretations.

pretations. We understand that the latter—involving what we have called 'translations,' 'decoding' or 'decipherments' of the cupmarks fall outside the more scientific focus of the Pleistocene Coalition. However, *PCN* kindly provides links to our website where those interested can explore such interpretations further.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged version of Fig. 2 (on the prior page) so the reader can better see the details. As noted above, the Cupstone Menhir may originally have stood upright so as to be easily seen from afar. In this way it would certainly have served our clever Stone Age people as an extremely useful signpost in the mountains. We say, "clever," because they also appear to have taken advantage of the surface of the rock which is divided by a crack nearly its entire length. It may have served as a natural divider line, i.e., to separate two different kinds (or pieces) of information. For instance, as best seen in Fig. 3. Right, the left half of the menhir features primarily 'large cups' perhaps to indicate the importance of a safe shelter such as a cave or *abri* (a natural structure such as a sheltered area beneath an overhanging rock). By contrast, the right half of the cupstone features primarily 'small cups,' perhaps indicating the way to a small lake that may not have been deemed as important at the time. It should be noted that such cup variants occur relatively frequently.

When looking at the photos on prior page one should keep in mind that 12,000 years ago the region was most likely a dense forest—a perfect summer hunting ground (per pollen analyses/Bortenschlager/University of Innsbruck).

Star map on the menhir

A few star constellations appear to be clearly visible on the Cupstone Menhir.

What I believe are the most clearly visibile constellations are: Small Lion, the Bear Keeper, the Swan, Orion, and the Southern Triangle. These are according to Stellarium astronomy software and constellations known to be visible at this location around 5000 B.C.

Those who would like to read more about this 'biggest monolith in the Alps' can visit my homepage https://www.raetiastone.com/ to the

> Cont. on page 10

Cupstone Menhir (cont.)

"Next issue, we will discuss a cupstone in the Mutbichl, in Vent-Ötztal Valley, Tyrol which, evidence shows, was almost certainly visited by Otzi the Ice-

free pdf book, *The cupstones of Tyrol/Austria*, page 102.

Next issue, we will discuss a cupstone in the Mutbichl, in Vent-Ötztal Valley, Tyrol which, evidence shows, was almost certainly visited by Otzi the Iceman.

Eds. Reminder: Herbert Kirnbauer, part of the Austrian cupmarks team, provides very interesting 'textual' interpretations of the cupstones. However, it is a topic area outside the purview of the Pleistocene Coalition which for reasons of rigor must be cautious about items regarded as 'translations,' 'decoding,' etc. However, we did publish one of them in Walli-Knofler's and Krautler's *Part 1*. For those interested in this topic area details can be found on Thomas Walli-Knofler's website (www.raetiastone.com) and in his new 250-page ebook titled, *The Cupstones of Tyrol/Austria*. It is available as a large PDF in the University of Innsbruck's Digital Library at https://digital.obvsg.at/urn/urn:nbn:at:at-ubi:2-40161

THOMAS WALLI-KNOFLER was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1950. Since 1972 he has been an inventor (incl. ship designer and boat builder), entrepreneur and independent businessman. He was founder of the first nonfood C&C Market in Austria with the first Datapoint Computer system for C&C markets, a wholesale gardener and greenhouse builder as well as mushroom grower with his own patents (1985 owner of the largest greenhouse project worldwide in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with just shy of 100 acres; 1989 largest mushroom factory of *Pleurotus ag* in Weiden, DE, covering nearly three acres. Experiences that have contributed to Walli-Knofler's passionate amateur archaeology work involve things relatable to early human history such as trade routes, orientation aids and astronomical abilities. These include numerous expeditions, e.g., to the pygmies of Ituri rain forest, Congo, 1970, Afghanistan-Whakan, 1972, and twice crossing the Sahara. Among his seafaring-related projects, in 1997, he was involved in construction of the renowned research sailing ship, NOVARA—a state-of-the-art 18m 2-mast schooner—participating in its 1998 four-year circumnavigation of the North Atlantic to the ice border 82° North and down to South America. Aside from his cupstone research, Walli-Knofler has also developed the more unconventional hobby of dowsing, learned from his grandfather (having confidence in human intuitions) regardless of its status in modern science.

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

Note: This article is brief so as to fill the available space.

What our children aren't being told does matter... especially if it's anthropology, biology or paleontology.

Neanderthals and humans

Perpetuation of a false distinction

In *PCN* #78, I did a quick space filler (as this one also is) on how mainstream-educated scientists, no matter how well-meaning, often have no capacity to resist or question long-held beliefs such as the idea of 'natural selection' even if they're holding conflicting evidence right in their hands. They readily *echo back* whatever they were taught as kids by PBS, in grade school, then university even if they have no idea what they're talking about (e.g., no real experience with the invertebrate fossil record in the field). I used Dr. Carl Sagan as an example. His bold claims about natural selection peaking to, "Evolution is a *fact* [his emphasis]," in his 1980 TV series, *Cosmos*, were not helped by his shaking a *Phacops* trilobite as though it were *somehow* supporting his claim. In reality, it was the opposite. He missed the profundity that what he was holding was actually a big problem for the whole idea of Darwinian evolution. See **Fig. 1**, from What Carl Sagan wasn't about to tell you (*PCN* #78, July-August 2022) and its Part 2 (*PCN* #79, Sept-Oct 2022). The way to mislead the public that Neanderthals were something other than human is to hide from them all the evidence they were our intellectual equals (countless pages in *PCN* and published papers by PC authors). Don't get tripped up by genetics in this area. Human culture is what matters. Still, in the mainstream, unstated assumptions otherwise are ubiquitous:

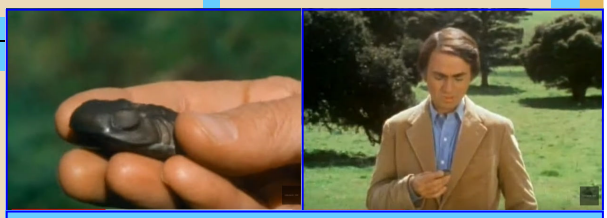


Fig. 1. Imagined: "The schizocroal compound eyes of these Phacopid trilobites **far more complex than modern arthropods** are turning out to be a real pain. I wish I had studied this problem closer before making bold statements about 'natural selection' in this *Cosmos* TV show. Everything else is 'science' but I might be stepping out of bounds with this one." –Fantasy of what Carl Sagan might have thought when filming this unscientific scene while shaking the *Phacops* trilobite and making the foolish statement that pulled a fast one over two generations of PBS-trusting viewers: "Evolution is a *fact*, not a theory."

"Scientists answer these questions by comparing genomes… between humans and Neanderthals."

–"Ancient DNA and Neanderthals." 2022. What does it mean to be human. *Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History*. humanorigins.si.edu

"While it can be tempting to infer… Neanderthals had similar complex language capabilities, there is not yet enough evidence for such a conclusion." *–ibid.*

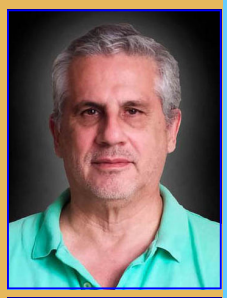
That is not so. The problem is the evidence is suppressed. *–jf*

Follow-up to The South America—Australia link

A possible paradigm shift on the settlement of the Americas

By Juan Crocco Ábalos* and Patricio Bustamante Díaz*

"The Beringia crossing into North



***America is the currently accepted paradigm of the peopling of the Americas by* Homo sapiens."**

* Juan Crocco Ábalos
Sociedad Chilena de Historia y Geografía, Fundación Altura Patrimonio.

* Patricio Bustamante Díaz
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Addendum to The South America—Australia link (*PCN* #77, May-June 2022)…

Introduction

A trans-Pacific route to explain a migration into the Americas is at present ruled out by the scientific community. However, new genetic studies may eventually lead to a paradigm shift, according to which a contingent of seafaring Australasians were able to navigate vast stretches of the Pacific along the Westerlies and reach South America over 15,000 years ago. Such a possibility is supported by research on myth dispersions and the striking similarities in Australian and South American star lore, as proposed by Bustamante & Crocco (2022).

Genes and myths: Similarities between Australasia and South America

Spatial distribution of mythological motifs correlates with the distribution of mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome haplogroups. Although analysis of myths confirms geneticists' findings—which identified South Siberia as the main migratory wave into the Americas—it also shows a secondary migration from Australasia revealed by the distribution of mitochondrial DNA and similar mythological motifs in Melanesia and Amazonia that suggest the possibility of an ancient mythology brought to the Americas by the bearers of those genes. Relics of this mythology survived in Australia and Melanesia, both parts of Australasia, in Eastern South America, and to a lesser degree in Tierra del Fuego (Korotayev, Berezkin, Borinskaya, Davletshin and Khaltourin 2017).

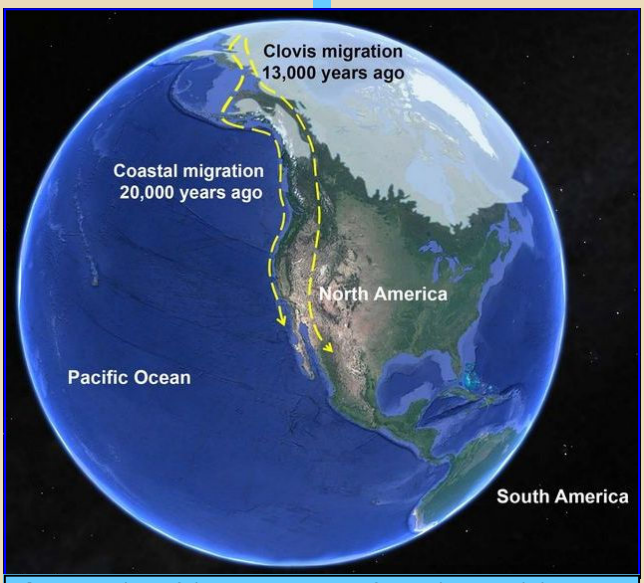

Fig 1. Peopling of the Americas route from Siberia and the Bering Strait land bridge per longtime popular current paradigm.

The Beringia crossing into North America (see top of **Fig. 1**) is the currently accepted paradigm of the peopling of the Americas by *Homo sapiens.* Proposed by Alex Hrdlicka in the 1920s, it states that 13,000 years ago ancestors of Native Americas reached North America by walking south across an ice-free corridor. New evidence in the same vein tells of an earlier migration by boat along Alaska's west coast 20,000 years ago.

Other possible migrations into the Americas by *Homo sapiens* have been proposed as well. About 1925, Portuguese anthropologist, physician and scientist Mendes Correia suggested a possible migration from Australia into South America across Antarctica. Based on archaeological, linguistic and anthropological data, French ethnologist Paul Rivet—famous for his founding of the Musée de l'Homme (Museum of Man) in Paris, proposed four waves coming from Asia, Australia and Polynesia, and Imbelloni proposed six waves of migration.

Mounting evidence of Oldowan, Acheulian, and Mousterian-type tool findings in unexpected places in the Americas convey of earlier migrations by other *Homo* species (*PCN* #48, July-August 2017).

Current genetic research provides new insights into the problem as Native Americans trace their genomes to Ancient North Eurasians and to an ancient East Asian group.

As Campelo dos Santos, *et al*., 2022 state, an increasing body of archaeological and genomic evidence has hinted at a complex settlement process of the Americas by humans. In South America unexpected ancestral Australasian genetic

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Follow-up to the South America—Australia link (cont.)

Mounting evidence of Oldowan, Acheulian, and Mousterian-type tool findings in unexpected places in the Americas convey of earlier migrations by other* Homo *species (*PCN *#48, July-August 2017).”

Fig 2. Proposed trans-Pacific crossing from Melanesia south along the East Australian Current and then east along the Westerlies.

signals have raised perplexing scenarios for the early migrations into the continent.

Geneticists refer to this Australasian ancestry as Population Y. It is seen scattered inconsistently in genomes throughout the Amazonian and Pacific coastal regions and has been found in genomes as early as 10,000 years ago and is traced to a 40,000-year-old individual from Tianyuan Cave in China, whose genetic signal is also present among Australasian ancestors (Raff 2022). At the moment no sample from North America contains these Population Y markers.

A trans-Pacific migration from Australasia to South America seems to offer an easy explanation. However, the paucity of the signal and the endemic and apparently random pattern of detection of Population Y, has raised the possibility that it could be a false-positive detection, likely due to the strong genetic drift effects experienced by indigenous South Americans. Still, it might be the other way around, a scenario in which the signal went below the significance level in some populations, due to the high drift effects they experienced (Araujo, Ferraz, Bortolini, Comas, & Hunemeier, 2021). This is one of the main reasons scholars think the Australasian signal reached America, thorough Beringia.

Seafaring capabilities of ancient Australasians

It must be noted that sea level in Southeast Asia fell to a low of -120 m during the Last Glacial Maximum, 20,000 years ago. Large areas of the Sunda and Sahul shelves now submerged were then exposed. The Sunda shelf corresponds to a wide peninsula that extends south and east of Southeast Asian mainland joining Sumatra, Borneo and Java. The Sahul shelf corresponds dry land connections between Australia, New Guinea, and Tasmania.

Sunda and Sahul shelves remained unconnected even during the Last Glacial Maximum. Migration by humans into Sahul required of seafaring capabilities by Australasian, since the sea presented a major barrier between the Oriental and Australian biogeographical provinces that hindered west–east movement. No large-bodied terrestrial mammal managed a successful transit of this threshold before the arrival of modern humans.

The overall distance between the exposed Sunda and Sahul shelves measured 1,000–1,500 km. Island hopping required multiple crossings, including one over 70 km. Strong north–south ocean currents complicated passage on some of these routes. Crossing to the northern Solomon Islands, ≥140 km distant from the nearest departure point on the Bismarck Archipelago, was accomplished 34,000 years ago. (O’Connell, *et al*., 2018). Archaeological sites on the offshore islands of the Bismarck Archipelago at the northeast periphery of Greater Australia indicate that transportation and/or exchange of West New Britain obsidian over distances greater than 350 km occurred during the late Pleistocene (Rowland & Kerkhove 2022).

Such seafaring voyages suggest paddle or sail-powered rafts or canoes capable of maintaining headway in contrary currents were developed over 50,000 years ago, as are complex planning and organizational skills. Simulation studies suggest that in vessels of this type, crossings in the 50–100-km range might have required as many as 4–7 days (O'Connell *et al*., 2018).

A trans-Pacific crossing by a contingent of Australasians navigating to the east carried by the Westerlies over 15,000 years ago is a controversial theory but cannot be ruled out and should thoroughly investigated (**Fig 2**).

The Westerlies, known as the “Roaring Forties,” are strong winds that blow from west to east between the 40

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Follow-up to the South America—Australia link (cont.)

"Due to the strong Westerlies, arrival into South America would have been well within the capabilities of ancient Australasian mariners."

and 50° South parallel. These winds circle the globe without interruption and are perfect for sailing around the world as fast as possible. Discovered by Europeans in the 15th century, the "Roaring Forties" was known as the Clipper route in the late 19th century, since they were used by Clipper sailing ships to reach their destinies as fast as possible (Generalist Academy 2021).

Due to the strong Westerlies, arrival into South America would have been well within the capabilities of ancient Australasian mariners, as the Frederick escape incident shows. In 1834, ten Australian convicts escaped from Macquarie Harbour Penal Station, Tasmania, and traveled over 11,000 km to Valdivia, southern Chile on the *Frederick*. Only one of the convicts was a sailor, but they managed to sail in a precarious boat along the 50° south parallel to South America—a voyage that took about six weeks (per Courtenay 2018). See **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 4**).

Modeling of prehistoric transoceanic crossings into the Americas (Montenegro, Hetherington, Eby and Weaver 2006) suggest that the Australia to South America route would have a duration of 80–165 days. Moreover, some climate models show that the Southern Westerly Winds were weaker in the early Holocene than today (Varma, et al. 2012) (Kohfeld, et al. 2013). If so, ancient Australasian would have experienced more favorable ocean conditions to navigate to South America than today.

Fig 3. Over 11,000 km route (6,800+ miles) taken from Tasmania to Valdivia (southern Chile) across the Pacific Ocean during the Frederick escape incident, 1834. Information per Courtenay 2018. Map: Patricio Bustamante.

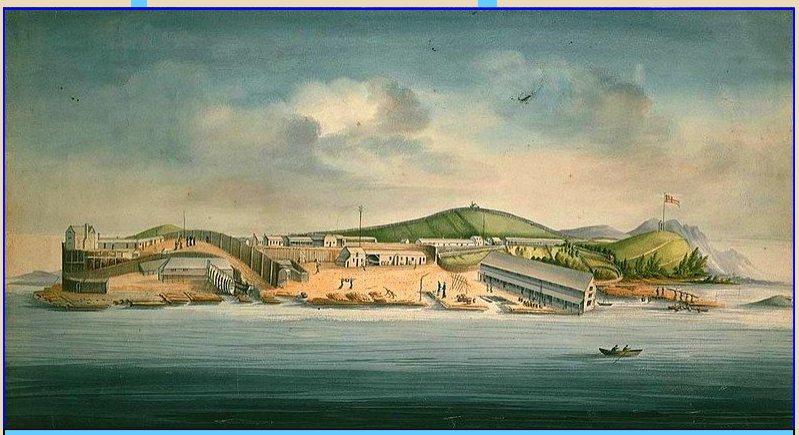

Fig 4. Macquarie Harbor Penal Station, Sarah Island, Tasmania, from where the escaped convicts sailed across the Pacific to southern Chile. Only one of the convicts was a sailor yet they all survived the c. six-week voyage. Painting by convict artist William Buelow Gould, 1833; public domain.

Conclusion

Recent research shows a strong signal of Australasian mitochondrial DNA in ancient South American individuals, that is supported by myth relics and similarities in star lore. At the moment no sample from North America contain these markers.

> **Cont. on page 14**

Follow-up to the South America—Australia link (cont.)

"Only one of the convicts was a sailor, but they managed to sail on a precarious boat along the 50° south parallel to South America—a voyage that took about six weeks."

A trans-Pacific migration from Australasia to South America seems to offer an easy explanation to solve this paradox. However, mainstream science favors the idea that both Australasian and Population Y carry genetic markers originated in China 40,000 years ago and the marker reached America through a Beringia crossing—a 22,000 km journey along Asian and American coastline—without leaving traces of Australasian genetic material along the way.

The ephemerality of sea voyage combined with the lack of direct evidence for prehistoric seafaring has defied the understanding of the role of early seafaring (Blankshein 2022). Critics of a trans-Pacific crossing argue that early Australasians likely did not have the technology or navigational knowledge to safely cross the Pacific along the Roaring Forties. The winds and waves in this area can be treacherous, and traditional seafaring vessels such as canoes would not have been able to withstand the conditions.

However, the possibility that ancient Australasians were skilled seafarers and capable of building ocean-going vessels cannot be ruled out, since boat building and navigation were practiced in Australasia at least 55,000 years ago, as the peopling of Australia shows.

As the 19th century Frederick escape incident and modeling of maritime crossings to explain the peopling of the Americas imply, such a journey could be well in the survival capacities of ancient Australasians, with a time span as low as five weeks to reach South America from southern Australia, especially if the Southern Westerly Winds were weaker than today. This route is shorter and faster than a Beringia crossing owing to west-east winds and currents along the Roaring Forties.

More research is needed to determine the feasibility of this theory and to understand the capabilities of ancient Melanesian seafarers.

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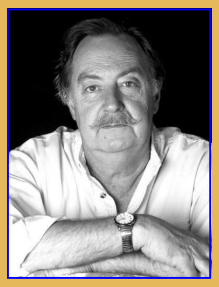
Benjamin Harrison, of Ightham, Part 6

Harrison's reputation spreads as debate over eoliths continues

By Richard Dullum

"I was very greatly interested in your collection of the oldest paleoliths."



–Alfred R. Wallace to Benjamin Harrison, 1891

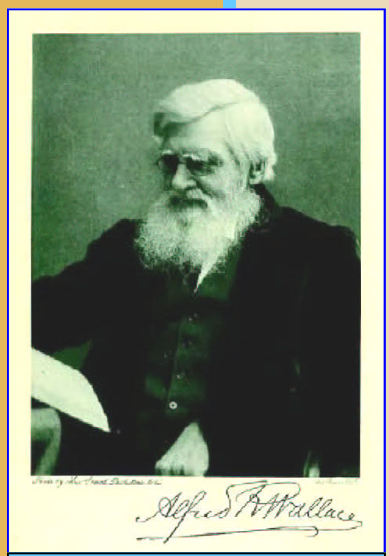


Fig. 1. Photo of Alfred Russel Wallace from the frontispiece of, "My life," 1905. Courtesy of Pitt-Rivers Museum collection.

Continuing from ***Part 5***...

It was 10:30 A.M, 2 November 1891. Benjamin Harrison stepped out from behind the counter in his store, seeing two men alight from a carriage and enter his store:

"Dr. A.R. Wallace, accompanied by Mr. Swinton of Sevenoaks, dropped in unexpectedly at 10:30. I had previously purchased Dr. Wallace's *Travels on the Amazon*, and from his portrait, which framed the frontispiece to this work, I recognized him before he entered my shop. I therefore greeted him with 'Dr. Wallace, I presume,' a recognition which puzzled him until I explained that I had many times studied his portrait. This evidently pleased him."

After Wallace made a 'patient examination' of the 'old types of implements,' he accompanied Harrison for a walkabout on the high gravels around Ightham (U.K.), getting a feel for Harrison's environs, his reasoning and his knowledge of the geology of the region.[1]

Fig. 1 is a famous photo of Alfred Russel Wallace from the frontispiece of, "My life," 1905; courtesy of the Pitt-Rivers Museum collection.

On the 3rd of November 1891 Wallace wrote to Harrison:

"I was very greatly interested in your collection of the *oldest* paleoliths. Could you not write a popular article, giving an account of your discovery of them, with all the main features of their form and peculiarities, and the special areas in which they are found, illustrated by outline sketches of all the chief types of form, and laying particular stress on the fact that each of these *types*, however made, is illustrated by numbers of specimens showing how natural flint pebbles of suitable form have been selected, and by being chipped on one side only have been brought to the required shape and edge. If you could write as you speak, I think such a paper would be published by one of the good reviews."[2]

Harrison did this quite a bit later in 1904, publishing a pamphlet on the rude implements, but Wallace's visit did prompt him to make an index of all his notebooks at about this time. Harrison was happy to let Prestwich work out the formal presentation, happy to have such a partner.

After the Prestwich eolith papers came out in 1892, with their age being likely but not as firmly as some would like—pre-glacial—many in the scientific community took notice. In a letter dated November 8, 1893, Wallace urged Harrison to dig. I added italics to emphasize its importance; he wrote:

"I suppose you have not found any of your old flints yet, in situ, by digging, or in the undisturbed gravel at some distance below the surface. When you do that, you will have more converts.[3]

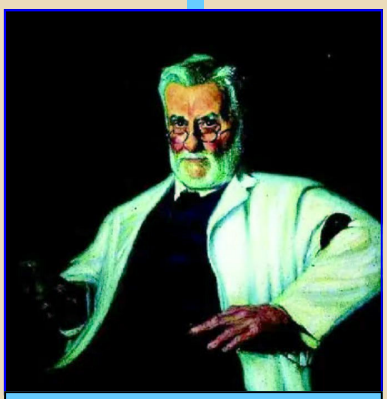


Fig. 2. Portrait of Benjamin Harrison by Cyril Chitty, inscribed:"Benjamin Harrison, Archaeologist of Ightham." He was 60 years old at the time.

Fig. 2 is a painted portrait of Benjamin Harrison by Cyril Chitty. It is inscribed with: "Benjamin Harrison, Archaeologist of Ightham."[4] Harrison was aged 60 at the time.

Harrison did just that, excavating at Parsonage Farm in October, 1894. Eoliths, at depths

> Cont. on page 16

Benjamin Harrison, Part 6 (cont.)

"The specimens are positioned to show the unifacial chipping—highly unusual in nature."

"Leland Patterson, a lithics expert of the modern day, related that parallel flake removal around edges, on one side only, is a sure sign of human manufacture."

between 10 and 12 feet were found, heavily patinated and relatively unworn edges, compared to the 'plateau' specimens. Harrison sent several specimens to Wallace during their long correspondence, from Parsonage Farm and other excavations. **Fig. 3**, for instance, shows several distinctive eoliths donated to the Pitt-Rivers Museum by his son, William Wallace[5] after A.R. Wallace's death. The specimens are positioned to show the unifacial chipping—highly unusual in nature. Note, also, the parallel flake removal, a certain sign of human workmanship. Does it really make a difference if they cannot be classified into *popularly recognizable tool types* by the mainstream authorities?

Fig. 3. Eoliths donated to the Pitt-Rivers Museum by his son, William Wallace, after A.R. Wallace's death. They were positioned to show the *unifacial* chipping—highly unusual in nature. Also note the parallel flake removal which is a clear indication of human workmanship. Standard-trained mainstream archaeologists reject these obvious Eolithic tools as they don't resemble *popularly-recognized* tool types, etc.

Many influential scientists of the time in England who were involved in flint tool analysis really didn't have much knowledge about how to tell human work from various likely natural means, such as frost fracturing, or pressure flaking from adjacent rocks in a formation.

As can be seen from Harrison's specimens in Fig. 3, very clearly parallel flake removal on one side only is practically impossible in nature. And given the number of such finds, Leland Patterson, a lithics expert of the modern day, related that parallel flake removal around edges, on one side only, is a sure sign of human manufacture.[6]

One scientist who did, however, know a great deal about stones was William James Lewis Abbott, the well-known archaeologist.

"He was, by calling a jeweler, and early in his career took up the scientific study of gem-stones, a subject on which he instituted classes and became a lecturer at the Polytechnic. Extending his studies to geology, his interests centered particularly on the more recent deposits of the south coast of England. It was inevitable at that time that he should be attracted to the investigation of the earliest evidence of man's handiwork, and the associated animal remains, in these deposits. As one of the pioneers in the study of man's first efforts in the shaping of stone implements, Abbott's views were those of a practical man and based upon his experience and study of the character of the material in which he himself had worked. He maintained that a scientific knowledge of the nature of stone was an essential preliminary to argument based upon technical considerations of form. Throughout his life a lover of a specialized terminology, he coined for this study the name lithoclasiology, as he had christened his earlier researches 'gemmology.'"[7]

W.J. Lewis Abbott frequented the Ightham area, researching the Basted fissure frequently for paleontological specimens and often accompanied by Harrison. They had frequent conversations about Harrison's plateau eoliths. Abbott was convinced they were man-

> Cont. on page 17

Benjamin Harrison, Part 6 (cont.)

"E.T. Newton, FRGS, is already quoted in my previous article (PCN #80, Nov-Dec 2022) as agreeing that the specimens put forth by Harrison were man-made."

made and possibly pre-glacial. Abbott was quickly convinced that the tools of eolithic man had been discovered on the plateau. E.T. Newton, FRGS, is already quoted in my previous article (*PCN* #80, Nov-Dec 2022) as agreeing that the specimens put forth by Harrison were man-made.

F.C.J. Spurell, FRGS, a notable British archeologist of the day, corresponded with Harrison in August 16, 1904:

> "What if you live in a quiet country village, and heap up no millions for a Chancellor of the Exchequer to tax. At least the village is one of the most delightful in Kent. You have the society of the most charming scientific people, and your name is a household word, and is even becoming known outside scientific circles. What could any man desire more? If you were rich, even in so moderate a way as my old friend Roach Smith, you would be to a certain extent not so easily accessible. Now, living like a Kentish Thoreau, you are resorted to by scores who wish to gain your wisdom, and they do not fear a rebuff from an unsympathetic or a liveried lackey…."[8]

The positive views these previously mentioned scientists had of Harrison and his work were taken seriously enough for the mainstream to examine some of the protagonists' again. Roy Ellen writes Harrison was a 'diffident autodidact' in the British journal *The Linnean*.[9] A fancy way of saying Harrison was modest and shy, lacking self-confidence and self-taught. All true, but saying nothing about the finds themselves.

It sounds like a statement intended to demean Harrison, a favorite tactic for establishment opponents of Harrison, and everyone else going against the popular Out-of-Africa theory. It seemed to me, reading Roy Ellen's article, that he meant no compliment to Alfred Russel Wallace when he wrote Wallace was always an 'outlier.' Keeping company with Harrison was fully in keeping with his prior acceptance of Miocene and Eocene human remains from North America and Europe. Wallace also split with Darwin over natural selection in human brain development. Wallace also explored spiritualism, being fearless as he was, caring not for public opinion on the matter. Wallace is called a loser, just like many scientists who couldn't outlive the eolith debate, or out-shout the detractors.

A list of several more of Harrison's supporters

–G.G. McCurdy, Harvard

–Henry Stopes, FRS

–Archibald Geike, FRGS

–E.T. Newton, paleontologist, FRGS

–A.M. Bell, FRGS

–William Topely, FRGS

–Sir E. Ray Lankester, FRGS

–T. Rupert Jones, FRGS

–W.J. Lewis Abbott, FRGS

–F.C.J. Spurrell, FRGS

–Dr. N.P. Blackmore, FRGS

–Dr.Max Verworn

–James Reid-Moir, FRS, Prehistoric Society of East Anglia

–Sir John Lubbock, FRGS

–Ernest Westlake, FRGS

In the next part of the series, I will investigate the objections to the artificiality of the Plateau Implements collected by Harrison, given by his scientific contemporaries, and why the Eolithic debate was never ended, but simply forgotten away. The catalyst for this forgetting was an infamous fraud, the Piltdown skull.

Endnotes

1."Harrison of Ightham", B. Harrison, 1928

2. Ibid.1, pp.171.

3. Ibid.1., pp. 189.

4. Portrait of Harrison by Cyril Chitty, from the Maidstone Museum Gallery.

5. Ellen, Roy, "The place of the eolithic controversy in the anthropology of Alfred Russel Wallace." Sketches of eoliths by Benjamin Harrison, were sent to Wallace and featured in *The Linnean*, 2011, Vol. 27(1): 22-3,

6. Patterson, L.W. 1983. Criteria for determining the attributes of man-made lithics. Journal of Field Archeology 10: 297–307.

7.Abstract from *Nature:* 132, pp. 306, (1933).

8.Ibid. 1, pp. 255.

9. Ibid. 5, pp. 24.

RICHARD DULLUM, retired as a surgical R.N. working in a large O.R. for the past 30 years, is a researcher in early human prehistory and culture. He is also a Vietnam veteran with a degree in biology. Aside from his work with Kevin Lynch, he has written many additional articles for *PCN* and is also a *PCN* copy editor. All of Dullum's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

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

Another thought on Clovis caches and migration

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist

Fig. 1. From *PCN #54*. This is the general migration idea of how Clovis and Solutrean people may be the same. Description: **1.)** Ancient North Eurasians migrated both East and West more than 15,000 years ago, **2.)** Pre-Clovis peoples could have reached North America's east coast if they had increased genetic presence of the dopamine receptor known as 'D4' crossing the kelp highway and, **3.)** The Solutreans could be the same people as population "2" perhaps crossing the ice bridge to North America. Graphic by Ray Urbaniak.

"A band of the Solutrean people from

the Iberian Peninsula could have returned to their North Eurasian homeland then continued on across the kelp highway by boat."

The Clovis culture has fascinated me, as well as countless others, primarily because of the beauty of the lithic points, and the caches they left behind. This Clovis culture was long thought to be evidence of the first inhabitants of North America, but that theory has finally been proven wrong by many discoveries of evidence of much earlier people in both North and South America. Even though the Clovis are now known not to be the first inhabitants of the continent the idea that a Paleolithic culture could spread across the entire continent in 300–400 years is intriguing.

Dennis Stanford in his book, *Across the Atlantic Ice: The Origin of America's Clovis Culture*, argues the case for the Solutrean peoples from the Iberian peninsula as the source of the Clovis 'lithic' culture. This hypothesis has been strongly disputed but I believe it contains much credible evidence. Therefore, in a couple of earlier articles I considered possibilities that might support this theory.

First, is that the Solutreans and the Clovis could have basically been the same people migrating across the Bering land bridge and/or by boat along the 'kelp highway' around Beringia and southward (**Fig. 1**). [The kelp highway is a remarkably rich oceanic food source accessible along the coastlines containing not only the nutritional algae but also fish, marine mammals and invertebrates such as crustaceans and mollusks.]

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/july-august2018.pdf#page=17

Secondly, a band of the Solutrean people from the Iberian Peninsula could have returned to their North Eurasian homeland then continued on across the kelp highway by boat (**Fig. 2**).

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/september-october2020.pdf#page=18

In a 2010 paper titled, Early Paleoindian big-game hunting in North America: Provisioning or politics? (John D. Speth *et al*. 2010. *Quaternary International*, 285, 111–39), the authors question various standard ideas about Early Paleoindian adaptations. Some of the issues questioned include presumptions about their mobility, how high-quality stone tools play into this, and to what degree early Americans hunted large animals as a major food source. The team studied these and other issues using various methods of traditional anthropology comparing Early Paleoindian evidence related to mobility, hunting, weaponry, etc.

They explain their following research steps and surprising conclusions thusly:

> "We then construct an alternative explanation for the Early Paleoindian record based on the premise

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Fig. 2. From *PCN #67*. There is no reason anthropology has to see everything from so stiff a view that once a group migrates to another place they then just stop. Some conundrums might be resolved adopting a more open view such as groups returning back to their origins.

Another thought on Clovis caches and migration (cont.)

Fig. 3. The Fenn Clovis cache discovered on the Utah, Idaho, Wyoming border. Compare with Solutrean-age artifacts (eastern France) below in Fig. 4. The Solutreans and the Clovis—on opposite sides of the Atlantic—are the only peoples known to have left this type of caches. Photo courtesy of Peter A. Bostrom.

Fig. 4. C. 20,000-year-old Solutrean tools, Crot du Charnier Solutre-Pouilly Saone et Loire, eastern France similar to nearby Volgu. Wikimedia Commons.

that the hunting of large mammals, presumably by men, may have been motivated more by social and political factors than by the need to regularly and reliably provision a family or band with food."

Yet, they did hunt big game with the beautiful points even if the points had more of a spiritual value, in addition to a "social and political value" rather than a hunting value only. It is obvious these were extremely important to the culture of Clovis people.

It is noteworthy that the paper downplays the role of humans in the extinction of megafauna in North America, while a new paper on South America expresses the opposite popularly-held opinion:

"In the 1970s, Paul Martin proposed that big game hunters armed with fluted projectile points colonized the Americas and drove the extinction of megafauna."

They point out that even 50 years later, the role humans played in the extinction of large animals is still a major issue of debate in North American archaeology but is hardly touched in the archaeology of South America.

One result of their analysis is the opinion—or agreement with pre-existing opinion:

"We propose that the direct effect of human predation was the main factor driving the megafaunal decline, with other secondary, but necessary, co-occurring factors for the collapse of the megafaunal community."

When competitive researchers find a problem with a theory—such as the Solutrean hypothesis—they tend to throw out the entire theory only to revisit it many years later and build upon it.

North America was occupied well before the Clovis/Folsom traditions and there is evidence of migration east to west by the Clovis. This fits with the Solutrean hypothesis where they came across the ice bridge or, per my thoughts on the subject, Solutreans indirectly coming across Beringia since there is no conclusive evidence of direction of migrations. Even if lithics were not really needed for hunting, they were a very important component of the culture. Therefore, I suspect a Clovis group may not have migrated until a good source of lithics was found in the direction of planned travel. I believe this would apply only after they had been semi-settled in an area. I don't believe they would have made caches during a rapid cross country migration.

I believe it possible that a scouting party was sent ahead to look for a lithics source before they migrated from a semi-settled location. Once the source was found, and they returned with samples, they may have used some of the material to make points and they may have left a cache as an offering for a safe migration including freshly made blades from the sample material (cache offering for a safe migration and a back-up if migration not successful). This could also appear that these tools were obtained through trade or that they were migrating in the opposite direction from the direction which they were actually heading (example: Points out of a material with its source to the east, found to the west of the source, when they were actually migrating east).

Speth *et al* also suggest:

> "Similarly, the link between fluting and migration dissolves if one sees Clovis arising first in the south or southeast and then spreading northward from there into Canada and eastern Beringia..."

The oldest Clovis cache yet, was dated 13,500 years old and was found in Texas. This does not mean Clovis culture originated in Texas. The Solutreans and Clovis are the only peoples known to have left these types of caches.

As seen in the Fenn Clovis cache (**Fig. 3**) of the Utah-Idaho-Wyoming border and of the Volgu Solutrean cache of eastern France (see **Fig. 4**), I believe the fact both cultures cached similarly-crafted beautiful lithics is a compelling rea-

> Cont. on page 20

Another thought on Clovis caches and migration (cont.)

"When competitive researchers find a problem with a theory… they tend to throw out the entire theory only to revisit it many years later and build upon it."

son to further explore the probable connection between some of the Solutrean people and the Clovis.

It is interesting the Volgu cache was found in Eastern France (eastern limits of the Solutrean culture). Is it possible this group was migrating leaving an offering for a safe and successful return trip to their ancient North Eurasian homeland? Could they have been leaving their familiar territory and retracing in reverse the path their ancestors had taken?

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/newsletter/september-october2020.pdf#page=18

I would like to point out that in a 2018 paper titled, "A North American perspective on the Volgu biface cache from Upper Paleolithic France and its relationship to the 'Solutrean Hypothesis' for Clovis origins" (*Quaternary International* 2018, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2018.06.019), author JD Kilby takes exception to the cache similarities.

I think, however, that due to the fact the Solutrean cache was made long before Clovis the long period between the caches could easily account for their differences or evolution of the Clovis points over time, into the points we know so well from the literature today.

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archeologist with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 30 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of Urbaniak's *PCN* articles can be found at the following link:

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

Excerpts from Tom Baldwin's "The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature"

"Modern day dogmatists in the archaeological community tell us the most widely traveled of the Pleistocene's creatures failed to make that crossing."

Coming next issue: With so much rekindled interest in Paleolithic migrations in the air, we realized at the last minute how a timely reprint of Tom Baldwin's 2013 logical perspective on criteria in the migration of humans and animals, "The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature," would be useful. We plan it for Issue #82.

Excerpts:

"**I just was reading where they sequenced the genes of a 700,000-year-old horse.** Seems they found it frozen in some permafrost in the Yukon Territory of Canada. Prehistoric horses really got around. They were found from Europe to North America. A lot of other large animals: saber toothed cats, bison, buffalo, camels, wolves, mammoth, mastodon, and the list goes on, managed to wander back and forth across the Bering Sea land bridge called Beringia. They called both Asia and North America home.

Yet while these megafauna were wandering between continents modern day dogmatists in the archaeological community tell us the most widely traveled of the Pleistocene's creatures failed to make that crossing. *Homo erectus* (and/or a few of his contemporaries) managed to leave his bones scattered from Europe to Indonesia, from China to South Africa, from India to England, from Siberia to Spain." …

Fig. 1. About 500,000 years ago, elephants were the first large animals to cross the Wallace Line and live on either side of the line. They were followed by *Homo erectus*.

"Only two large creatures managed to cross the Wallace Line and live on either side of it. The first was elephants (**Fig. 1**), and the second, *Homo erectus*.

Both accomplished the feat about a half-million years ago. And we are not talking some unlucky individual washed out to sea on a tree during a flood. Sufficient number of *Homo erectus* crossed to form viable groups or tribes. This took both daring and planning. Evidence is now surfacing that *Homo erectus* also found his way to Crete in the Mediterranean, an even greater trip by water." …

"The animals mentioned in the first paragraph above, as well as many others, were going back and forth between Alaska and Siberia—the land bridge becoming a veritable megafauna superhighway—yet we are led to believe by archaeological authorities that early man stopped and did not make that same crossing, at least not until a relatively few thousand years ago when the Paleo-Indians did. In other words, the Wallace Line (twenty miles of open sea) couldn't stop early man but Beringia did." *–jf*

Another coffin nail in Clovis' casket

By Tom Baldwin

Fig. 1. Meadowcroft rock shelter, southwest of Pittsburgh, PA. Wikimedia Commons.

"I imagine that 'continuously occupied'

actually means as a hunting camp used every summer...during the height of the last ice age."

Recently, I was reading the fall issue of *American Archaeology* where I found an article by Julian Smith titled "Meadowcroft Revisited." Meadowcroft (**Fig. 1**) is the name of an archaeological site about 30 miles southwest of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. It is a *rockshelter*, not a cave, a sandstone overhang in a bluff above Cross Creek which is a tributary of the Ohio River.

Meadowcroft was continuously occupied by Native American peoples as we now know as far back as 19,000 years ago. It was finally abandoned during the American Revolution. Why, I do not know, although one can speculate that those Native Americans living there then, allied themselves with the wrong side in that war and found it expedient to leave when they realized the mistake they had made.

I imagine that "continuously occupied" actually means as a hunting camp used every summer. This occupation took place during the height of the last ice age, the Laurentide Ice Sheet was a mile thick and busy scooping out the Great Lakes only a few hundred miles away. A rockshelter might keep off the summer rain, but, it would offer little comfort when the ice age's winter winds were blowing. However, I expect the Native American people would have migrated south for the winter long before the chilling winds blew, not to return again until spring.

Fig. 2. Clovis points from the Rummells Maske Site 13CD15, Cedar Co. Iowa (Office of the State Archaeologist. Photo Bill Whittaker; Wikimedia Commons). These are similar to some of the artifacts from Meadowcroft rock shelter (in Pennsylvania) now dating as much as 19,000 years old.

Workers at the archaeological site have found pre-Clovis artifacts as much as eleven and a half feet below the overhang (**Fig. 2** shows Clovis-style points from a site in Iowa that are similar to some of the tools found at Meadowcroft). Meadowcroft has yielded many tools, including pottery, bifaces, lamellar blades, and a lancelate projectile point.

The archaeological site was discovered accidentally in 1955 when the local farmer found pottery and a flint knife in a woodchuck hole. The old tongue twister asks "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck wood?" Well, the farmer now had a new version of the tongue twister, "How much pottery would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck would chuck pottery?"...or flint knives? Not as poetic as the original but maybe more significant.

The farmer, knowing pot hunters and the like would swarm the site if they found out about it, did not tell anyone of his find. He covered the hole up and went looking for a professional archaeologist to investigate the site. It took 18 years to find one who would dig the site. His name, Dr. James Adovasio, agreed to do it as part of

> Cont. on page 22

Another coffin nail in Clovis' casket (cont.)

"If you were an archaeologist and went against Clovis dogma you were seen as a heretic. You risked loosing everything including the respect of your peers and your ability to get grants for field work or artifact studies. Your chances for advancement in the field, or having your articles published in the important journals, just about everything you'd worked for would be taken away."

the field work portion of a college archaeology class he taught. Adovasio approached the dig without expecting to find anything old or significant:

> "We had absolutely no idea that the deposits at the site would be deep or old. We assumed that occupation would be shallow and relatively recent based on other excavations in Ohio and West Virginia."

However, over the years they have uncovered over 20,000 artifacts in 11 layers as deep as 16 feet. (**Author's note:** I cannot explain the difference in the depths cited. I am just quoting the magazine article. It apparently was not closely edited. If the figures are correct, an explanation is in order, and if not then the one in error adjusted.)

If you are a Clovis firster, one who holds to the theory that the first humans to occupy the Americas came from Siberia only about 10,500–11,000 years ago then that 19,000-year figure I cited above will have stuck in your craw. When the early date for Meadowcroft was first published it drew an unusual amount of scrutiny from the archaeological establishment because it went against the dogma that ruled archaeology at the time.

I choose the word "dogma" on purpose because its definition reads:

> a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true.
>
> –Oxford English Dictionary

That is what Clovis was, a dogma almost religiously held. If you were an archaeologist and went against Clovis dogma you were seen as a heretic. You risked losing everything including the respect of your peers and your ability to get grants for field work or artifact studies. Your chances for advancement in the field, or having your articles published in the important journals—just about everything you'd worked for—would be taken away.

Dr. Adovasio himself was a believer in Clovis and doubted the early dates they were getting for the Meadowcroft site when they first started to come in:

> "At first we tried to figure out how we had made mistakes in the dating, or how the labs had miscounted. Then as we got more and more dates, we realized, somewhat reluctantly, that they must be correct."

The Clovis dogmatists weren't convinced and came howling around. Adovasio says, "The amount of scorn and abuse the site has undergone through the years has been breathtaking."

The chief criticism of the dates has been based on the idea that "dead carbon" leached into the site (there are coal seams in the area but they are half a mile from Meadowcroft. However an independent researcher studied the Meadowcroft site and found that, "there was no evidence of ground water percolation or particulate contamination."

Other tests have been done including tests performed via accelerator mass spectrometry that also support the earlier dates.

To quote Adovasio again,

> "The bottom line is that if you are still Clovis first, all those dates have to be wrong."

This includes not only dates from Meadowcroft, but those coming out of digs like Pailsey Caves in Oregon, Chesrow in Wisconsin and Cactus Hill in Virginia.

So then, those sounds the Clovis firsters hear coming from the archaeological digs are not, as they suppose, hammers striking awls to loosen artifacts. They are in fact, hammers driving coffin nails into Clovis' casket.

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

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PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS, Vol. 15: Issue 1 (January-February)

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***Pleistocene Coalition News* is produced by the Pleistocene Coalition bi-monthly since October 2009. Back issues can be found near the bottom of the *PC* home page.**

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