

Was Man in America During Ice Age?

Primitive man lived in America at a vastly earlier time than has been generally believed by most scientists. This is the conclusion that has been drawn from "new and striking" evidence gathered by J. D. Figgins and Harold J. Cook, scientists of the Colorado Museum of Natural History at Denver, who have investigated three Western discoveries of arrowheads and other artifacts showing human handiwork.

Instead of dating back only some 8,000 to 25,000 years, the time when most archæologists say the Indian came to America from Asia, these human relics, because of their association with extinct animals and geological deposits of known antiquity, are assigned to the geological period that scientists know as the Pleistocene. That was the time of the great Ice Age; when northeastern America was periodically covered with an immense glacier and when prehistoric elephants and mastodons roamed the land. It was from 25,000 to a million years ago.

From three localities have evidences of human antiquity on the American continent been obtained. Frederick, Tillman County, Okla.; Colorado, Mitchell County, Texas; and Folsom, Union County, New Mexico. Investigations at the site of the Oklahoma discovery have just been completed and none of the findings have yet been announced, even to the scientific world. Publication of the full scientific details will be made by the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, about July 1 in its magazine, *Natural History*.

From all three sites, arrowheads have been unearthed in close association with extinct animals. Along Lone Wolf Creek, near the town of Colorado, Texas, flood waters exposed the bones of an extinct species of bison, and while large blocks of the earth in which they were embedded were being removed for transportation to the museum, three arrowheads, totally unlike those in any known collections, were found beneath a nearly complete skeleton. The arrowheads were of grayish flint, thin and not notched.

At Folsom, New Mexico, fossil bones were discovered at the extraordinary altitude of 7,000 feet, and among the fossil bones were found two arrowheads similar to those

found in Colorado. The bones were identified as those of three hitherto unknown and extinct species of bison and an ancient deer-like animal. Discovery of this deposit was made through the interest and observation of Fred Howarth and Carl Schwachheim. An exact geological determination of the age of the deposit has not been made but it is believed to be late Pleistocene.

The locality richest in evidences of ancient man in America is near Frederick, Oklahoma. F. G. Priestly read an article by Mr. Cook, calling attention to the possibility of ancient man having existed in America. He realized that arrowheads and stone grinding implements that were being uncovered from time to time by steam shovels in a sand and gravel pit might be of some interest. With the cooperation of A. H. Hollman, owner of the gravel pit, he reported the discovery to Mr. Cook, who with Mr. Figgins, promptly investigated. There they found three distinct layers of deposits, and in a very short time, two arrowheads and some seven metates, primitive grinding instruments, were excavated from the pit. Those working in the pit remembered other worked stones that had, before realization of their significance, been thrown away. With the artifacts, as in the other cases, remains of extinct animals were found, and eight feet above the level at which the grinding stones nearest the surface were discovered, there were found remains of the mammoth, including numerous teeth. This is considered strong evidence of the great antiquity of the arrowheads and the metates. A representative of the Colorado Museum of Natural History is now located at the gravel pit to collect and preserve any other such finds.

Inspection of the arrowheads discovered shows them to be primitive, and yet the man who made them must have progressed considerably in culture, according to Mr. Figgins. Mr. Cook has made a careful study of the geology of the three places where discoveries were made and he has expressed himself as "convinced of contemporaneous association" of the artifacts with Pleistocene deposits and animal remains "surprising as such a culture at that time may seem."

Many of the bones of prehistoric

animals found in association with human artifacts have been sent by the Colorado Museum of Natural History to Dr. O. P. Hay of the U. S. National Museum in Washington for identification and determination of their age. Dr. Hay described the bones as "interesting" and, although not yet ready to make a formal report, he revealed that they contain several new species.

Reports of the discovery of early man on the American continent have been made on numerous occasions in past years, and scientists are not agreed as to the authenticity of the claims that have been made. Charcoal evidence of a prehistoric fire was unearthed beneath a mastodon in New York State, an arrowhead was reported discovered in close association with an extinct bison in Kansas, and more recently human remains from Florida have been put forward as being of equal antiquity to prehistoric man of Europe. A tooth ascribed to a hitherto unknown ancient man was discovered by Harold J. Cook in Nebraska several years ago. In 1914 human remains were discovered at Vero, Florida, and in 1925 Dr. J. W. Gidley unearthed in Pleistocene strata what is known as the Melbourne skull. At both Melbourne and Vero the human remains were found in association with the bones of extinct animals.

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SOCIOLOGY

More Men Suicides

Henpecked husbands may be surprised to know it, but suicide is more frequent among the unmarried than the married, according to a study of 307 cases made by Dr. S. Serin, a physician of Paris, and reported by the French correspondent of the American Medical Association.

Suicide is resorted to as the way out of life's problems more frequently by men than by women, and more often by the elderly rather than the merely adult, Dr. Serin finds. He divides the causes of suicide into five classes: insanity, alcoholism, severe grief, incurable disease, and poverty.

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Regular airplane service between Belgium and the Congo for passengers, goods, and mail, is being considered.