

PALEONTOLOGY

# Best Known Ancient Human Introduced to Geologists

## Discoverers of "Peking Man" Describe Rise of Fossil From Cave Rubbish Heap to Link in Ancestry of Man

**T**HE FAMOUS fossil "Peking man" whose unearthing during the past few years in a cave near Peiping, China, has added an early chapter to human pre-history, was introduced to the International Geological Congress in Washington by the group of scientists responsible for his discovery.

Sinanthropus, as this fossil man is known scientifically, is now recognized to be one of the earliest of humans, rivaling the famous ape-man of Java, Pithecanthropus, in antiquity, and dating from the earliest stage of the Pleistocene, that portion of the record of the rocks that included the great Ice Ages. Although relatively young in the history of the earth, this time is hundreds of thousands of years in the past; just how many, geologists do not as yet attempt to say with accuracy.

Dr. Davidson Black, Canadian by nationality, anatomist by profession, and directing the Chinese Geological Survey's inquiries into the recent geological past of China, acted as spokesman for the group.

More is known about Sinanthropus, China's fossil man, than any other extremely ancient human creatures, Dr. Black said. Skulls and nearly complete jaws of an adult and child have been found, and out of the debris of Choukoutien cave where Sinanthropus must have lived for thousands upon thousands of years, a large quantity of other bones and teeth has been dug.

### 120 Feet Underground

Only in this one locality, a cave uncovered in limestone quarrying near the little village of Choukoutien about 25 miles from Peiping, has evidence of Sinanthropus been found. There in 120 feet of layered dirt of ages are found mingled the bones of Sinanthropus, bones of extinct animals, man-made tools of bones and stone, charcoal from fires that burned and cooked Sinanthropus' meals ages ago.

In scientific language Dr. Black explained how excavations and studies had

caused China's fossil man to arise from this cave rubbish heap and become a link in man's common ancestry with the rest of the animals.

Not a great-ever-so-great grandfather, but rather a remote uncle, is Sinanthropus to modern man. Dr. Black and his associates feel sure Sinanthropus was not a direct ancestor of our own particular Homo kind of human being, but that he was nevertheless human in the true sense of the word. He was in a blind evolutionary alley, an off-shoot from the main stem of mankind's evolution that died out sometime later in the course of time.

### Skilfull Despite Antiquity

Despite the remote antiquity of Sinanthropus as measured by the geological layers of the earth, the chert, limestone and quartz implements that he fashioned are relatively advanced and have some characteristics that indicate that he might have been as skilled as the Mousterian men in Europe who were by no means the earliest of the inhabitants of Europe.

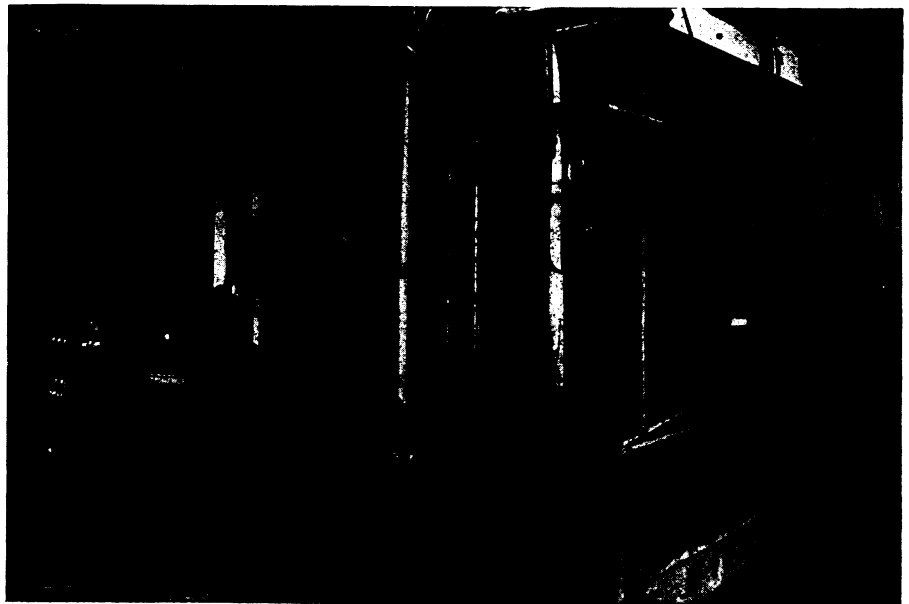
Truly international is this search for ancient man in China organized by the National Geological Survey of China. At this International Geological Congress is Dr. Black, honorary director of the Cenozoic Research Laboratory, a special department of the National Geological Survey of China, generously supported by funds of the American Rockefeller Foundation. There is Pere Teilhard de Chardin, Jesuit priest and native of France, late president of the Geological Society of France, whose paleontological researches are world famous. He greeted with affection Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, the British scientist, with whom he was working when he found the canine tooth of the famous Piltdown man. Also representing China at the congress is Dr. V. K. Ting, scholar and gentleman of the world and honorary director of Cenozoic Research in China. He is a leader in Chinese science and an authority on the relationships between fossils and rocks in China.

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The spring call of the hylas, very tiny tree frogs in Maine, can be heard nearly a quarter of a mile away.

A chemist says that lacquers made from wood pulp and cotton waste are taking over \$100,000,000 from the paint and varnish industry's business.

Roman orators so repeated themselves that the short-hand reporter Marcus Tullius Tiro often devised a single sign to stand for a well-known sentence.



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