

ANTHROPOLOGY

World's Oldest Cemetery Found in Palestine Caves

Stone Age Man Chiseled From the Rock of Caves Almost a Foot Taller Than European of Same Time

THE WORLD'S oldest discovered burying ground is in caves of Mount Carmel, Palestine. Stone Age men, women and children more than fifty thousand years ago were laid to rest there with deliberate system and care.

That human beings so early buried their dead in a fixed manner—lying on their stomachs, arms folded with hands toward face, legs doubled up—has been learned by examination of skeletons removed from the cave-cemetery, Theodore D. McCown, American anthropologist, stated to Science Service.

"Whether or not the cave dwellers believed in after life," said Mr. McCown, "they recognized some ritual difference between the living and dead."

When discovered, the ancient skeletons were encased in limestone and breccia which hardened about them in their cave-cemetery. Blocks containing twelve of the earliest Palestinians were cut out and shipped to the Royal College of Surgeons in London, where Mr. McCown is drilling the bones out of their matrix.

Nine Inches Taller

The most complete skeleton that has so far emerged from the rock shows a Palestine man who stood almost a foot taller than his contemporaries in Europe. This skeleton, Mr. McCown explained, is five feet, ten inches tall, compared with an average of five feet, one inch, in Europeans of the time. The big Palestinian's legs were extremely long, adding at least two inches to his height.

Tall and impressive as he was, however, the Palestine man is not rated as a member of the race of modern man, *Homo sapiens*. Mr. McCown points to the beetling eye brow ridges and the low vaulted skull of the Palestine man, and calls him a kinsman of the ungainly, stooping Neandertal race of Europe. It is now believed that at least two different types of Neandertal men were living in the Old World, fifty to sev-

enty thousand years ago. Mr. McCown calls the Palestine type *Paleoanthropus Palestinus*, meaning Ancient Man of Palestine.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Discover Bronze Age Chief In Great Oak Coffin

WITH an oak tree weighing well over a ton for his massive coffin, a warrior of 1000 B.C. has been discovered at the village of Fels, Denmark.

At the Danish National Museum, coffin and contents have just been examined by museum scientists who pronounce the discovery a relic of Denmark's Bronze Age. The oak tree coffin, because of its size and remarkable preservation, is of exceptional interest.

The oak, felled 3,000 years ago for funeral use, is practically as hard in its hollowed interior as though cut yesterday. From its 43-inch diameter, the tree was 700 to 1,000 years old when

cut. The coffin is over ten feet long and has been figured to weigh approximately 3,300 pounds.

To make the rounded box and lid, Bronze Age woodsmen split the trunk in equal halves, leaving the bark untouched. With flint or bronze axes they hollowed the log, and the two halves fitted together without fastenings.

To the disappointment of museum examiners, contents of the tree trunk coffin have not been preserved so well. Fissures in both ends of the coffin unfortunately admitted ground water, corroding the contents.

There remain a man's woolen cap of coarse weave, remnants of a cowhide in which the body was wrapped, the disintegrated skull, and what seems to be a cloak clasp consisting of a bronze ornament in the well-known Nordic scroll-shield design.

Fels, where the great oak was found, is a village on the southwest coast of Denmark, a port for steamers sailing for England.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Stone Age Germans Had Their Beer

BAVARIAN honor, in the matter of beer, stands vindicated at last. No more can the alien lands of Babylonia and Egypt claim to be the birthplace of the great German beverage. Beer has flowed in Bavaria ever since the Stone Age. A recent archaeological discovery proves it.



A WARRIOR'S COFFIN

Bronze Age woodsmen hollowed out a 7-century-old tree to make this coffin weighing about 3,300 pounds for an honored chief.