

ANTHROPOLOGY

New-Found Fossils Prove Pithecanthropus Was Human

Lower Jawbone Containing Wisdom Tooth and Many Fragments of Skull Cap Identify as Oldest Man

EARLIEST human being that ever walked the earth.

This title is restored to the Ape-Man of Java, *Pithecanthropus erectus*, after years of doubt, by the discovery of a new skull, reported by Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, to the Institution trustees. The discovery was made by Dr. G. H. R. von Koenigswald of Bandoeng, Java, a research associate of the Institution.

The new skull, hailed as one of the most sensational finds in the history of human evolution, was in more than forty pieces when it was picked out of its age-long resting-place in the ancient gravel beds and has not yet been fully patched together. However, Dr. von Koenigswald has determined that it is definitely human, a point hitherto considerably in doubt. Only last spring, the discoverer of the first skull, Dr. Eugene Dubois, declared his conversion to the opinion that the Ape-Man was an ape and not a man.

The new-found fossils consist of a lower jawbone and a much broken skull-cap. The jawbone still contains several teeth and the sockets from which others have fallen out. Of particular importance is the third lower molar, or wisdom tooth. This is very large, showing no trace of the reduction common in most human jaws, and is characterized by Dr. von Koenigswald as an ape-like feature. On the other hand, the socket of the eyetooth is small, therefore not ape-like. The wrinkling of the crowns of the molars is more complicated than in modern man but less than in Peking Man, and is more similar to that of Neanderthal Man.

Human Skull

The skull cap is definitely human in the position of the ear, and in the way the lower jaw was jointed to the skull, but lacks a well-developed mastoid process, and in this respect it is ape-like.

Summing up, Dr. von Koenigswald says, "By these new finds it can be definitely proved that *Pithecanthropus* is human."

The age of the Java Ape-Man, Dr. Merriam commented, is not as great as was supposed when Dr. Dubois discovered the first skull cap, more than forty years ago. Then, the fossils were stated to belong to the period before the Ice Age, and to have an antiquity of more than a million years. Recently discovered fossils of extinct animals in the same gravel beds indicate that *Pithecanthropus* existed some time near the middle of the Ice Age, and is therefore not much more than half the formerly supposed age.

Back of discovery is a romantic little story dating back to a Munich beer garden. Something over a dozen years ago, two young German graduate students at the University of Munich, about to get their Ph.D's in geology, were sipping their seidels of *Münchener Helles* (or maybe it was *Dunkles*). Half-jocularly, they divided the world between them, for their scientific conquest.

One of them, Hellmut de Terra, now on the Yale faculty, told the other, "Your job is to go to Java and find another *Pithecanthropus* skull." To which his companion gravely agreed.

Dream Came True

Unlike many such student daydreams, however, this one actually came true. For the second student was G. H. R. von Koenigswald, discoverer of the second skull and jawbone of this most ancient and primitive of human beings.

Dr. von Koenigswald didn't have an easy time of his search for the Ape-Man. He went to Java all right, but to make a living had to take a job as an economic geologist which allowed him no time for *Pithecanthropus*-hunting. Finally, however, the Carnegie Institution provided funds and gave him the status of Research Associate. That happened just last March.

By August, Dr. von Koenigswald turned in his Ape-Man skull fragments.

In the meantime, the original *Pithecanthropus*, discovered in the 1890's by Dr. Eugene Dubois, has lost some of his property. The teeth found in the same layer of river gravel with the first skull

cap, and presumed to belong to the Ape-Man, have been definitely proved to be those of an extinct species of orangutan. And the thighbone, with its peculiar diseased outgrowth, is now believed to be probably the remains of a different, more advanced, type of human being.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

White Man's Funny, Too—As Natives See Him

FOR years, white men have been staring at natives and making frank remarks about how funny they are.

But the tables have been turned. If you can take it, you can see how funny white men look to the natives.

Prof. Julius E. Lips, one of Germany's exiled scholars, has come to this country, and published a book in which he shows and explains a rare collection of such pictures. (*THE SAVAGE HITS BACK*—Julius E. Lips—Yale Univ., 254 p., illus., \$5.)

He shows you, for example, Queen Victoria carved in wood by various African subjects, and you observe she is generally a puffy-cheeked, stout lady with trailing veil and a sawed-off body. Why? Because the Empire's African subjects



QUEEN VICTORIA

As her native African subjects depicted her.

knew the Queen from pictures, particularly one famous half-length portrait. It left them uncertain whether she had feet like an ordinary woman.

Likewise, the German Emperor, whom one wood carver portrayed with proudly lifted head and outflung chest—and his legs attached backward.

To understand primitive art, always think of it in relation to the artist and his cultural background. This is emphasized by Prof. Lips.

Primitive art is not childlike, he finds. Nor is it similar to the art of the insane. In its own way, it is adult and healthy, and often shrewd. One South Sea

islander carved an Englishman in precisely our comedy fashion, with one glassed eye, gaping mouth with buck teeth, blank look, all complete. To the islanders, the image was a bogey for warding off spirits. But whether intended to be funny or frightening, the point is the native caught a penetrating portrait.

Prof. Lips' wide array of this art leaves no doubt that the so-called simpler peoples of earth have taken the white man's measure, often. The German anthropologist believes we can learn about ourselves, as well as about the natives, from studying them.

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MEDICINE

Gonorrhea Cured In 3 Days By Sulfanilamide Treatment

In 830 Cases Treated, Not a Single Complication Occurred Although Usually They Are Common

CASES of gonorrhea cured within three days by sulfanilamide were reported by Prof. E. P. Alyea of Duke University School of Medicine at the meeting of the Southern Medical Association. Prof. Alyea treated 158 patients with this new potent drug and four-fifths of them made these rapid recoveries.

A striking feature of this new treatment for gonorrhea is that the complications of the disease, which may cause untold pain and suffering, have almost disappeared.

"We are not seeing one-fifth as many complications in the dispensary because of the general acceptance of the drug for the treatment of gonorrhea," Prof. Alyea said.

Out of 1,000 cases treated by the generally accepted method of a few years ago, nearly half had complications. Sulfanilamide was only introduced into American medicine a year ago and so far 830 cases of gonorrhea treated with it have been reported in scientific journals. In these 830 cases not a single complication of gonorrhea has been reported. Prof. Alyea called this "a most striking result."

Patients who came to the Duke dispensary with gonorrheal complications such as arthritis, prostatitis and urinary tract ailments, were also treated with sulfanilamide. At least half of these patients recovered and others were improved.

A new drug, di-sulfanilamide, cured one patient after long treatment with large doses of sulfanilamide had failed to help him. The new drug, closely related to sulfanilamide, is being studied further.

Because serious complications may result from sulfanilamide treatment, Prof. Alyea stated that patients given this treatment should be constantly under the care of a physician. White blood cell counts and hemoglobin determinations should be made every other day so that the first sign of dangerous blood changes can be caught.

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GEOLOGY

Man Discovered America In Ice Age, Is Verdict

THE MOST baffling question in America's prehistory—whether man discovered this continent as early as the Ice Age—is at last definitely answered by geologists: Yes.

Man was here in extreme northern Colorado "some thousands of years ago while glaciers still lingered in the mountains and when the climate was somewhat wetter and colder than now," is the verdict of two Harvard geologists, Prof. Kirk Bryan and Louis L. Ray.

Humans who endured that chilly and damp climate were the famous Folsom hunters, whose peculiar stone weapons

have been discovered by archaeologists in many parts of the United States. The extinct glaciers, whose deposits were studied by the Harvard geologists, advanced and retreated over a region in northeastern Colorado near where Folsom Man's only known campground and workshop lie. This camp is the extraordinary archaeological site excavated by Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., of the Smithsonian Institution.

Scientists have hotly debated whether Folsom Man hunted the mammoth and an extinct form of bison, which were Ice Age mammals, during the Ice Age itself, or whether some of these beasts survived their era and were hunted at a comparatively recent date by Folsom Men, who might have just arrived on the continent.

The two geologists now say that Folsom Man's stone tools and weapons in Colorado can be linked with glacial deposits laid down when the most recent ice sheet had passed its climax and was retreating. This most recent glacial retreat in North America, according to geologists, began about 20,000 years ago, but the process was uneven, and in the eastern foothills of the Colorado Rockies, 5,000 feet above sea level, it may have started a few thousand years later.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Don'ts for Santa Claus On Children's Toys

WHEN Santa Claus fills his toysack before his annual trip to the homes of all good little children, there are a number of do's and don'ts that doctors, psychologists and safety experts wish he would remember.

High on the Do Not Give list are shooting games, pop-guns, air rifles or so-called BB guns and other firearms. Aside from the hazard to life from the deadly firearms, there is great danger of blindness from the so-called safe air rifles and shooting games. They are only safe in the hands of an older boy who appreciates their danger and uses them carefully.

Dangerous also are lead soldiers, whistles and other toys small enough to be put into the mouth. All too often such toys are accidentally swallowed or sucked back into the throat and air passages, and unless they can be dislodged they may be the cause of a child's choking to death. The bronchoscope has enabled surgeons to save many children from this fate, but it is not always possible