



**BEST PRESERVED SKULL**

*Prof. Sergio Sergi indicates opening at base of head which makes him think Neandertal man walked upright.*

ANTHROPOLOGY

## Most Perfect Neandertal Skull Is Being Studied In Rome

Particularly Well Preserved Occipital Opening Makes Professor Sergi Conclude Neandertaler Walked Upright

**F**OLLOWING its discovery in a cave at Monte Circeo, a promontory on the Tyrrhenian sea, fifty miles south of Rome, the world's most perfectly preserved specimen of a Neandertal skull is being studied by Prof. Sergio Sergi, head of the Institute of Anthropology at the Royal University of Rome, in an effort to uncover new racial characteristics of this early man.

Both Prof. Sergi, and Prof. Alberto Carlo Blanc, who first identified the skull on the scene of discovery, say it is in an almost perfect state of preservation except for a fracture in the right temporal area. This was caused by a series of blows on the head, probably during a battle with clubs, and caused death between 70,000 and 80,000 years ago.

In addition to the anthropological importance of the skull, which is the third of its type found in Italy, fossilized bones of animals discovered in the cave give

evidence of Neandertal man's mode of life. The bones include fragments of those of prehistoric elephants, rhinoceri, and giant horses, all showing evidence of fractures. The floor of the cave was literally paved with these bones.

Discovery of the cave was made by accident on the property of Antonio Guattari, owner of a small resort hotel at Monte Circeo. While digging foundations for enlarging the hotel, workmen found the entrance which had been sealed as the result of a landslip, believed to have occurred during the last glacial period, about 80,000 years ago. The skull was found in a large open space at the end of a passage in a crude circle of stones. It had lain there untouched for all these thousands of years. Guattari notified Prof. Blanc, who completed the investigation, and brought the skull to Rome. Failure to find any bones of the skeleton leads to the belief that the skull

may have been brought to the cave and possibly used in a sacrificial ritual. Other bones found on the floor of the cave have been identified as those of bears, deer, panthers, goats, and hyenas.

According to Prof. Blanc, scores of caves and grottoes in the Monte Circeo area were formed when the sea was thirty to forty feet above the present level, and its action scooped out hollows in the soft rock. At the beginning of the last glacial period, formation of ice fields caused the sea level to drop. It was then prehistoric man found the dry grottoes and began living in them. Slowly a new change of climate took place causing sudden rises and drops in temperature. Alternating periods of freezing caused splitting of rocks and landslips, burying the caves under masses of stone and earth. In the post glacial period, melting of ice caused the sea to rise again, washing away the earth in many of the grottoes, but failing to reach the height of the cave of the Neandertal skull, leaving it sealed until the accidental discovery.

Following the finding of the skull, the cave was closed by the Italian Paleontological Society, but exploration will be continued in the fall after assembling and cataloguing the bones taken out during first excavations. Two other Neandertal skulls have been found in Italy, one in 1929 and the other in 1935, both in the Sacopastore region, near Rome, but neither is as well preserved as the new discovery. However, the occipital opening at the base of one of the skulls was particularly well preserved, enabling Prof. Sergi of the Royal University to conclude for the first time that Neandertal man walked erect, and not with an ape-like posture with head thrust forward as previously believed. The horizontal plane of the opening in the skull shows, he believes, that the bones of the neck fit perpendicularly onto the opening causing posture to be erect, as in present day man.

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PSYCHOLOGY

## It Is Not Kind to Child To Keep Reality From Him

**P**UTTING a child in a sort of pink and white padded cell of protection where he has no contact with the world's sorrows and cruelties may be a satisfaction to adults but is really no kindness to the child.

The great importance for the mental health of the child of leading him gently but firmly into contact with reality is stressed by Dr. Lili E. Peller, child psy-

chiatrist. (*American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, July)

We frequently hear the statement that "our century has discovered the child," but Dr. Peller holds that to a certain extent at least we have invented today's child.

"His playfulness, his cheeriness, his imagination, in short, his childishness is overrated," Dr. Peller said. "All the instances where he is showing apprehension, like an adult, and reasonably tries to act like one, are ignored.

"We surround him with pink and white dresses, with saucers and wall-papers with funny drawings and carefully hide all the cruel things of life.

"Why? Partly solicitude, fully justified for the immature. There are other unconscious motives."

The adult who pretends and tries to insure that childhood is entirely gay and carefree is using the child as a means of escape from the unbearable cruelties of his own life just as games and movies with a happy ending are used and just as kings in an older day turned to court jesters when the burden of the crown became too heavy.

"America's number one movie star is a child, and adolescents come next. Is this due to their supreme art or to the fact that they are children and thus more capable than any adult dramatic genius of lifting us out of this dull and oppressing world?" Dr. Peller asked.

We have no right to use our children for such purposes when it means hindering their development.

Children's fears can be relieved without shielding them from reality by teaching them to anticipate reasonably what will happen next. It is the unknown that is most alarming.

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#### AERONAUTICS

### Pick-Up Airmail Service To Include Air Express

ALL-AMERICAN Aviation, Inc., the airline now operating an experimental airmail pick-up service to small towns along two routes, is undertaking carriage of air express, Richard C. duPont, president, announced.

Packages up to 35 pounds in weight can be delivered and parcels weighing as much as 20 pounds can be taken on board in flight.

The planes do not stop at intermediate points, merely taking on and discharging mail and express by means of a grappling system invented by Dr. Lytle S. Adams, Irwin, Pa., dentist.

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#### MEDICINE

## Mayo Clinic And Foundation Organized To Carry on Work

### Son and Sons-in-Law of Founders Are on Staff; Foundation Constantly Trains Men for Clinic

THE DEATH of Dr. William J. Mayo, following by just two months the death of his brother, Dr. Charles H. Mayo, leaves the Mayo Clinic and the Mayo Foundation well organized to carry on the healing and educational work of the famous brothers who built up the institutions from the practice of their country doctor father, Dr. William Worrall Mayo.

A son of Dr. Charles, Dr. Charles William Mayo, and two sons-in-law of Dr. Will, Drs. D. C. Balfour and Waltman Walters, are active members of the staffs of the institutions. Dr. Walters and young Dr. Mayo are on the surgical staff of the clinic and Dr. Balfour is director of the Mayo Foundation. This latter is a research and teaching institution, part of the University of Minnesota. While patients are treated at the Clinic and affiliated hospitals, it is at the Foundation that young doctors and surgeons are trained to staff the Clinic and similar institutions elsewhere, and it is from the Foundation that come new methods of fighting sickness and death.

When the Mayo brothers endowed this Foundation, they arranged for its affiliation with the University because they felt that "foundations which depend on self-continuing bodies of trustees may do well for the first and second generations but there is the hazard that in later periods new trustees who are unfamiliar with the spirit and ideals of the founders may through lack of understanding defeat their purpose."

"The fund which we had built up and which had grown far beyond our expectations had come from the sick," Dr. William J. Mayo wrote to the University of Minnesota, "and we believed that it ought to return to the sick in the form of advanced medical education, which would develop better-trained physicians, and to research to reduce the amount of sickness. My brother and I came to the conclusion that this purpose could be best accomplished through the state university."

The continuation of the Mayo Clinic seems as well assured as that of the Mayo

Foundation. For several years before their deaths, the Mayo brothers had retired from active participation in the direction of the Clinic, feeling that this should be left to younger men who would not be hampered by the tendency to conservatism and clinging to tradition that is likely to come with advancing years. Dr. J. C. Masson was made chief of the surgical staff in 1936.

The two Mayo brothers continued to see a few patients in their offices and to make rounds in the hospitals occasionally. The majority of the thousands of patients coming to the Clinic in recent years, however, have been treated by other members of the staff. It is safe to say that more thousands will continue to find these same staff physicians and surgeons carrying on the battle against disease and suffering that Dr. William Worrall Mayo started more than half a century ago on the now world-famous corner of First Street and Second Avenue Southwest in the country town medical center of Rochester, Minn.

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Motion picture cameras attached to captive balloons are being used to study traffic speeds and behavior of drivers.

American farms are producing materials that go into more than 230 non-food manufactured items.

## BOOKS

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