

ANTHROPOLOGY

More Ancient Men Found

The remains of three more ancient men have been found 27 feet below the floor of Shanidar cave in Iraq. They are about 60,000 to 70,000 years old.

► SHANIDAR CAVE, about 2,500 feet up the side of one of the Zagros Mountains in Iraq, may be the most fruitful source of remains of ancient man known to science, Dr. T. Dale Stewart, Smithsonian anthropologist, says.

Dr. Stewart has recently returned from an expedition to Iraq, undertaken jointly by Columbia University and the Smithsonian Institution under a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The expedition was led by Dr. Ralph Solecki of Columbia University. Associated with him in exploring Shanidar Cave were Dr. Stewart, Dr. Dexter Perkins Jr., Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, Dr. Rose L. Solecki, also of Columbia and the leader's wife, and Jacques Bordaz, graduate student at Columbia.

Three new skeletons found in Shanidar this past summer, in addition to three others found in 1957 and an ancient infant found in 1953, make it possible to add much to man's knowledge of early evolution.

One of this year's finds, known to the scientists as Skeleton No. 2, has been reconstructed and studied by Dr. Stewart. A difficult task faced him for this skull was



SKELETON OF SHANIDAR IV—

crushed completely flat and the head was rolled back so that the neck bones were

parallel to and behind the jaw bone. Dr. Stewart restored the neck bones so that they now constitute what is probably the finest set of neck vertebrae of Neanderthal Man known to science.

Comparison of No. 2's leg bones with those of No. 1, found last year in a layer of the cave floor laid down some 15,000 years later, showed that the earlier form, No. 2, stood in life about 5 feet, 3 inches tall—five or six inches shorter than his successor, No. 1.

No. 2 was therefore possibly more primitive than No. 1. But there is also a possibility, Dr. Stewart warns, that No. 1 was an unusually tall individual and No. 2 was just a runt. Skulls of the two were equally primitive. The finds at Shanidar will help scientists settle such questions as whether a skeleton is typical of its group or is exceptional. The three skeletons discovered in 1957 were all found at about the same depth, 14½ feet, representing an age of about 45,000 years. The three found this summer were some 27 feet under the cave floor—about 60,000 to 70,000 years old.

Measurements of these two sets of three skeletons will help show which individuals were about average for their time and which were unusual cases.

What scientists would like to find now is the remains of an individual who was definitely a woman.

• Science News Letter, 78:259 October 22, 1960

SOCIOLOGY

Dope Sales in U. S. Highest in the World

► INTERPOL'S NUMBER ONE CRIME problem is dope. And the United States is the number one center for the sale of illegal narcotics. More money is spent here for dope than anywhere else in the world.

The high standard of living is the reason given for this U. S. leadership by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury A. Gilmore Flues, chief of the U. S. delegation to the International Criminal Police Organization meeting in Washington, D. C.

There are 45,000 registered drug addicts in the United States and an undetermined number of victims of the dope habit not yet registered.

Mafia, the international criminal organization sometimes referred to as the Black Hand, and which originated in Sicily in the early 1800's, is believed to be behind most organized international illegal activities.

Currently, the center for Mafia is the United States, Charles Siragusa, U. S. Interpol delegate attached to the Bureau of Narcotics, Washington, D. C., told SCIENCE SERVICE. Chicago is an important Mafia center, he said. Among its activities are white slavery, counterfeiting, smuggling and drug trafficking.

Interpol assists the U. S. in its fight against Mafia and particularly the illegal drug traffic by the swift exchange of police information on an international scale by radio and wire.

Improvement in communications by means of wireless and radio led to the founding of Interpol in Vienna 37 years ago, Marcel Sicot, Secretary General of

ANTHROPOLOGY

Plan East African Study

► A \$200,000 RESEARCH PROJECT will send a team of anthropologists from two campuses of the University of California to the East African highlands next June.

The objective will be to discover how the basic economy of a people shapes other parts of their culture.

The project is under the direction of Dr. Walter Goldschmidt, professor of anthropology-sociology at UCLA. Dr. Edgar V. Winans, assistant professor of anthropology at Riverside, is assistant director. Both have already spent a year in East Africa.

The team also includes S. Chadwick Oliver, Riverside, anthropologist on leave from Texas University; Dr. Robert B. Edgerton, Pacific State Hospital, Pomona, anthropologist; and Dr. Charles F. Bennett, UCLA geographer.

Dr. Goldschmidt says "we believe that the nature of economic life will influence the manner in which the society is organized, the laws and customs that prevail, and even the attitudes and sentiments of the people themselves."

East Africa provides an excellent natural laboratory to test these important ideas, the UCLA professor explained. Among the tribes of the East African highlands, extend-

ing from the Sudan and Western Ethiopia through Tanganyika, there are several who are divided between sections that engage in farming and sections devoted to the herding of cattle. This makes it possible to test the effect of economy upon life modes.

The team will study several such tribes. They will not only investigate details of the economy and the custom and behavior of the people, but will give psychological and "attitude" tests to samples of each population.

The anthropologists believe that herders will tend to be more militaristic and more individualistic, and that they will display more aggressive personalities than their farmer cousins. Even the relation between the sexes and attitudes toward sexual behavior are expected to differ in the two types of communities.

In view of the ancient antipathy between herders and farmers, between nesters and cattle men, the theories tested here have bearing on the understanding of history, Dr. Goldschmidt said. The program is viewed as basic research in the forces that shape human behavior and human culture.

• Science News Letter, 78:259 October 22, 1960