

ANTHROPOLOGY

Man Evolved Like Animals

The discovery of a possible third species of pre-man has led a noted anthropologist to believe that modern man emerged by competitive evolution—By Charles A. Betts

See Front Cover

► **EVOLUTION OF MAN** has been the same as evolution of animals—a competitive society with the strongest surviving.

Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, British anthropologist, drew this conclusion from his discovery that three different types of prehistoric man existed together within one hundred miles of each other in what he considers the cradle of civilization, the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, East Africa.

Dr. Leakey told a symposium on the origin of man at the University of Chicago that his finding of a skull, the LLK skull, is evidence of a new heretofore undiscovered "cousin" of modern man. The skull reaches back to about 600,000 years. It was unearthed at the same level as stone hand axes similar to those found in much of Africa and southwest Europe, and referred to as Chellean. At first, the skull was also called Chellean Man. Now, Dr. Leakey calls it simply the LLK skull, using the code letters of the discovery site.

At Olduvai Gorge, Dr. Leakey has found fossils of the near man *Zinjanthropus*, and a more human-like species, *Homo habilis*. The oldest fossils have been dated back to two million years ago.

In describing the competitive evolution, Dr. Leakey said, "this is exactly what the animals have been doing. It follows that man should do the same."

Dr. Leakey's claim was disputed by other scientists at the symposium.

The competitive society reconstructed by Dr. Leakey consisted of three distinct pre-human beings carving out existence within 100 miles of each other. Dr. Leakey said that each "developed its own needs for survival."

Dr. Leakey's thesis contradicts the concept that man's evolution was a step-by-step and carefully ordered process.

A colleague said that "it was reasonable to assume that each species was competitive first with nature but quite possibly also with each of the others in a combative way."

The location of the LLK skull compared with the location of stone hand axes, revealing approximate comparable ages, gives some scientists cause to believe that apes were able to fashion tools.

Moreover, some anthropologists deduct that the ability to make tools and even to stand erect did not depend upon an enlargement of the brain. In fact, many say that the manual skills were developed before the brain enlarged.

Asked if what is known as modern man still is evolving, conference participants said that the physical structure appears to be constant but "remember, we are talking about time in terms of millions of years. And we have new factors.

What will be the effect of his susceptibility to radiation?

"What scientist in his right mind would say what is ahead 10 years, much less a million years from now?" they said.

Seen on this week's front cover is modern man's skull in the upper left with its comparatively enormous brain capacity, two Olduvai skulls recently found by Dr. Leakey (upper right and lower left), and casts of the Far East's Java Man (lower center), and Peking Man (lower right). The two Olduvai skulls seem to be related, although the one at the upper right is much older and smaller.

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Third Species Questioned

► **THE DISPUTED CLAIM** of finding a third species of prehistoric man in East Africa is just the first of a series of new discoveries expected to shed more light on the origin of man.

Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, British anthropologist, let drop the forecast of things to come out of his diggings at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, East Africa. He also defended the validity of his belief that he discovered a third species of pre-man living at the same time as two other types, *Zinjanthropus* and *Homo habilis*. Dr. Leakey told colleagues that "this is only the beginning."

The existence of a third species of pre-man was sharply attacked by some of the world's leading anthropologists in Chicago and as sharply defended.

Dr. John T. Robinson, University of Wisconsin, said he doubted the newly found "LLK" skull represented a different species. He said there "is room for variance (of physical characteristics) within a species."

Dr. H. Basil Cooke, Dalhousie University, Halifax, supported Dr. Robinson, saying, "the firmness of Dr. Leakey's statement exceeds the accuracy of the information."

A middle position was taken by Dr. Sherwood L. Washburn, University of California, who said, "It should be expected that there would be two or three or more kinds of man. The remarkable thing is that just one kind of man finally evolved."

Despite the debate, Dr. Leakey insisted his finding is a major advance in anthropology. We now have three separate species of early man."

He challenged his colleagues to run all the tests they chose and visit his work site.

"We're open for investigation," he added, "but don't rush in quickly where angels fear to tread."

Basically, the issue is the academic theory of evolution. The traditional concept is that the process was a step-by-step development from animal to man.

Dr. Leakey says that the concept is incorrect. "The time has come to get away from the 1, 2, 3, 4 idea of man's development. Man developed just like the animals did, with various species living side by side until the weaker died out or were annihilated, leaving the stronger until eventually modern man emerged," he said.

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American Museum of Natural History

EARLY TOOL—This fluted point with its grooves or channels extending from one-third to almost its entire length is characteristic of the work of Folsom Man, who roamed North America approximately 10,000 years ago. It was found on the farm of Alex Pitke, Ziegler, Ill. The Folsom Man is named for Folsom in New Mexico.

ETHNOLOGY

African Tribal Discards Now Museum Treasure

► **SOPHISTICATED**, highly complex masks, effigies, urns and weapons—symbols of old African tribal ceremonies—are now being discarded by Africans but sought by museums and other collectors.

As some African tribes adopt modern political and economic ways, they discard tribal symbols, pointed out Dr. Herbert Friedmann, director of the Los Angeles County Museum.

About 100 rare ceremonial objects from Central Africa, Nigeria and other African countries are being shown for the first time in the new Hall of African Ethnology, part of the museum.

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