

shot, on sight. It is believed the wild band may number 40 individuals, the survivors or descendants of some fierce Apache Indians who refused to surrender to white men back in the 1880's. The lost band represents one of the strangest chapters in United States history—Indians who have been driven by civilization down into primitive isolation, only one stage higher than wild animal life. These Apaches retreated into the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico, 150 miles south from Douglas, Arizona, and there they roam on foot or ride stolen horses, and eat desert plants and wear animal skins.

Rumors which drift up to the Mescalero Apache reservation in New Mexico has said that women lead the pathetic band of castaways, possibly because the men have died hunting or fighting. Dr. Ingstad reported that the

wildest of the adults he saw appeared to be women. It is also rumored that a white man, long ago kidnaped by Indians, is with the band, but this remains unverified.

Indians on Southwestern reservations have expressed concern to the United States Office of Indian Affairs over the plight of the lost band. So far, however, no official representations have been made, and any action of returning the group to the United States would have to be arranged, it is supposed, with cooperation of Mexican authorities.

Dr. Ingstad is anxious to contact the lost band in hope of learning important facts about Apache traits. He holds the theory that Apache Indians parted from Arctic tribes and moved southward, and that their ancient migration may be traced when the old type of Apache culture is better understood.

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#### ANTHROPOLOGY

## Famed Java Ape-Man Lived Past His Time

### Evidence of Cannibalism Raises Question as to Whether Neandertaloids Regarded Ape-Man as Game

**J**AVA's famed ape-man, *Pithecanthropus erectus*, was a person who was born, not "thirty years too soon" but something like a million years too late. He represented a race that belonged properly to the Pliocene geologic period (the time just before the great Ice Age of the Pleistocene) but that survived in the favoring forests of the East Indies while ice sheets lay for a million years over most of what is now the North Temperate Zone.

This is the opinion of Dr. G. H. R. von Koenigswald, discoverer of the latest-found *Pithecanthropus* remains, as expressed in a letter to Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. von Koenigswald's recent researches have received the support of the Carnegie Institution.

The total *Pithecanthropus* population now in the hands of scientists in Java consists of three skulls: the famous original find of Dr. Eugene Dubois, dug up in 1891, the new skull found by Dr. von Koenigswald last summer, and a child's skull discovered in 1936, which went largely unheralded in public notice. The brain-space in the latter is less

than that of a normal modern baby of eighteen months.

Dr. von Koenigswald's recently found adult skull gives a definite date to the Java ape-man. This has been a matter of dispute in the case of Dr. Dubois' find, for the earlier skull was excavated while the Dutch physician was away from the Trinil gravel pit and he never was able to ascertain definitely from his native assistants just where they found it.

However, the new skull was found while Dr. von Koenigswald himself was on the spot, in a gravel bed known by the elephant bones and other tropical fossils it contains to be of mid-Pleistocene date, so it appears fairly certain now that *Pithecanthropus* lived in the middle of the Ice Age—about half a million years ago.

A piece of jaw, massively built and still containing three big molar teeth, found near the braincase by Dr. von Koenigswald, has great significance in connection with the problem of human evolution, if the young German scientist's interpretation of the fragment is correct. He considers it to be definitely *Pithecanthropus*, and further holds that

it is very closely related to the famous Heidelberg or Mauer jaw found many years ago in Germany and now regarded by some anthropologists as belonging to a race ancestral to man. If this chain of opinion is sound, *Pithecanthropus* must be given a limb to roost on, in our own family tree.

An incident that combines the comic and the exasperating occurred when the native workmen dug out the new skull. Although Dr. von Koenigswald was at the site he did not have his eye on this particular group of diggers. So the men promptly broke the skull, which was whole when they found it, into forty pieces, because they thought they would get more "per piece" than they would for one big bone. So the shattered skull had to be laboriously put together again.

Meanwhile, other excavations in Java have been turning up the remains of several skulls of a heavy, primitive type with characters resembling those of the well-known Neandertal skulls of Europe and the Near East. They have the characteristic massive eyebrow ridges of the Neandertal type, and resemble the ancient European skulls also in having a narrower region behind these ridges.

Especially suggestive is the fact that none of these skulls has been found unbroken. They are intact on top, but the facial skeleton is missing and the floor of the brain cavity is broken away. Exactly the same condition is found in skulls left after cannibal feasts by certain still-wild head-hunter tribes of the present day in Borneo, who regard human brains as a special delicacy.

These shattered Neandertaloid skulls are considered by Dr. von Koenigswald as approximately contemporary with the much more primitive *Pithecanthropus*. The Neandertaloids were a more advanced physical type and they had crude but effective stone implements and weapons. Since they apparently had no scruples about killing and eating each other, an interesting speculation is suggested:

Did these Javanese Neandertaloids, perhaps, regard their ape-man neighbors not as fellow human beings but as just another kind of game animals?

Anthropology has no answer to this question as yet. But in the meantime it can add zest to the weary job of river-gravel digging.

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A European physician who has helped organize health centers in six Chinese provinces declares that modern Chinese doctors "are the equal of the medical men in any other part of the world."