



AFRICAN COUSIN OF JAVA APE-MAN?

One of the African skulls, after the fragments had been pieced together. The *Pithecanthropus*-like profile, with its low arch, massive eyebrow ridge, and heavy back portion, is easily recognizable.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Fossil Bones May Belong To Kin of Java Ape Man

ASSEMBLY of fossil bones found by a German explorer in East Africa, may reveal their possessors to have been close relatives of *Pithecanthropus erectus*, the famous Java Ape Man.

Fragments of two skulls have been assembled by Dr. Hans Weinert of Kiel, Germany. The remains were discovered in 1935 by Dr. F. Kohl-Larsen in the gravel at the northeast end of Lake Eyassi, Tanganyika Territory, thousands of miles away from the Ape Man it is said to resemble so closely, and in another continent altogether.

They were found associated with bones of a number of animals, antelopes, pigs and hyenas resembling those now living in the same country, but completely fossilized. It is maintained, therefore, that they date back about 100,000 years.

The animals found with the human bones also give an idea of the appearance of the East-African highlands at the time when Eyassi Man lived. The country then was an open savannah interrupted by scattered trees and by groves, and not so dry as it is at present.

The task of assembling the fragments was a very difficult one. There were about 200 of them, and, as Dr. Weinert says, a piece larger than a silver dollar was something extraordinary. Still the result has revealed a good deal of the skull cap of one, and part of the face of a second individual. The critical examination is still in progress.

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ETHNOLOGY

America Was News to Sixteenth Century China

THERE is an old story that dies hard, to the effect that a Chinese Buddhist monk discovered Mexico a thousand years before 1492.

Competent scientists and historians find nothing to uphold such a yarn. Yet it persists. A United States Congressman recently inquired about it at the National Library in Peiping.

In the circumstances, there is public interest in a new check-up on the facts

by Dr. L. Carrington Goodrich, of Columbia University, reported to the *Geographical Review*. America, it appears, was news to China in the sixteenth century.

Syphilis was first noted in China in 1505; corn was accurately described there in 1573. The corn must have come from America, and the disease possibly did, though medical historians disagree keenly on the origin of syphilis. In any event, Chinese did not think of these things as betokening a strange New World.

America burst upon cultured Chinese in 1584, when Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci, assisted by a Chinese interpreter, prepared a world map including the New World.

Dr. Goodrich says, "The map caused a sensation, not only in South China, but in the great centers of culture in the Yangtze Valley as well."

Several editions of the map were needed. In 1608 the emperor demanded a dozen copies.

Chinese must have got a strange first impression of the New World from notes on the map. Regarding Mexico, they were simply told:

"Mexico produces birds' feathers of divers colors. The people use them to make wonderful pictures: landscapes and portraits."

Patagonians were "not more than ten feet tall."

All this, as Dr. Goodrich emphasizes, does not mean that Chinese influences did not reach America, carried by Asiatic wanderers across Bering Strait. But there was no Chinese Columbus, and no knowledge of America's people in China until after 1492.

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PHYSICS

Magnetic Forces Aid Swedish Traffic Control

THE INVISIBLE but very real forces of magnetic fields are the best means which soon may be used in Sweden to solve that perennial traffic problem of getting vehicles from side streets across a main arterial highway with a maximum of safety and a minimum of delay to the main traffic flow.

From the American consulate at Stockholm comes word that a "sensitive road" signal is expected soon to be installed that solves the problem.

Buried in side streets near arterial highways would be covered electromagnets which radiate a small magnetic field. As automobiles, horse drawn vehicles,