

ANTHROPOLOGY

# Distinct Racial Types Found In Skulls of Single Family

## Ancient Remains of Old Stone Age Discovered in Choukoutien Cave Shows Racial Mixture Is No New Thing

Here is detailed first-hand report on new discoveries of "modern" type human skeletons, apparently of a family violently murdered, in the Chinese caves of Choukoutien, already famous as the home of the extremely ancient race of Peking Man.

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**T**HE NOW world-famous caves and clefts of Choukoutien housed not only the very ancient *Sinanthropus* population but also, though separately in a cave located on top of the hill—known as the "Upper Cave"—quite a different population who lived there at a much later period. This Upper Cave was discovered in 1930 and excavated systematically in 1933 under the supervision of Dr. W. C. Pei, but the results have only now been worked out.

The population of the Upper Cave already represent modern mankind. In accordance with their physical appearance they were the bearers of a relatively advanced culture, as is evident from the discovery of stone implements, a bone needle, a bone implement and necklaces or other ornaments made from beads of perforated teeth, shells, worked stones, fish and bird bones.

The fauna in the cave, composed of thousands of animal skeletons, conforms to the physique and culture of the man under discussion. Bear, hyena and ostrich found there have become entirely extinct since, whereas the tiger and hunting leopard have disappeared completely from this part of China and Asia.

All these facts indicate that the period during which the Upper Cave population lived corresponds to the Late or Upper Palaeolithic time of Europe, determined as the Aurignacian, Solutrean, Magdalenian, implying approximately 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. For the first time, representatives of an Upper Palaeolithic population have been discovered to occur on the soil of Asia, outside of Palestine.

The Upper Cave population possibly consisted of one family only: an old man, a younger man of indeterminate age, two relatively young women, an adolescent, a child of five years and a newborn baby—perhaps even a fetus. The

condition of the preserved skulls proves that all of them were killed by heavy blows with pointed and blunt weapons, possibly while being attacked by hostile tribes.

Three of the skulls, however, are sufficiently well preserved as to permit a determination of their special character. Though all three show certain features of the face in common, nevertheless they differ in others, thus giving the impression that they belong to three different racial groups. One of the women looks like a modern Melanesian of New Guinea, the other like an Eskimo.

The old man is of special interest in several respects. According to the form of his braincase he has to be considered a very primitive type, not too far removed from the stage of the Neanderthal Man. Again in other features he recalls the European Man of the Upper Palaeolithic, whereas the face points more to recent Mongolian types, though not actually identical with any one of them.

The skull of the Melanesian-like woman also shows a deformed forehead such as is found in consequence of artificial deformation among American Indians and other Eastern people of later times.

From all these facts certain conclusions may be drawn in regard to the racial history of mankind, general as well as special:

(1) The widespread belief, that racial mixture constitutes the product of modern civilization and that the physical appearance of the human groups become the more uniform the further they are traced back, turns out to be in contrast to the existing facts. It rather seems that the tendency to produce and cultivate more uniform types is a secondary acquisition fostered by progressing exclusiveness and isolation.

(2) Mongolian types like those of the modern North Chinese population are not represented among the Upper Cave people. But this does not imply that they did not exist during that early period,

for the presence of Melanesian and Eskimo types proves that a finer differentiation had already taken place. Possibly that special racial group had settled in other regions, then, or the Upper Cave population does not represent the actual settlers but belonged to a migrating tribe foreign to the country.

(3) Skulls with the appearance of Melanesian, Eskimo and even primitive types similar to the Old Man of the Upper Cave are not infrequently found among the pre- and post-Columbian American Indians. The analogous findings of Choukoutien prove that long before any immigration from Asia to the New World really took place the same types which compose the American native population were settling in or migrating through the eastern part of Asia.

People with a good sense of imagination may think that we had the luck to catch in Choukoutien the first Indians on their way to the new continent.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

## Unearth Caliph's Palace In Dry Jordan Valley

**C**ALIPH HISHAM, who wanted to spend his winters in a warm, dry climate—and who never got his wish—is now gaining belated fame on the subject a thousand years after his death.

This Caliph of the eighth century found the damp and chilly winters in Damascus were bad for his health. So, he began building a delightful winter resort palace in the warm, dry valley of the Jordan River, north of Jericho. But he never had a chance to hold audience in the throne room or to entertain visitors at banquets or enjoy the bathing pool, or worship in the palace mosque.

When Hisham died in 743 A.D., the winter resort was unfinished. An earthquake not long after shook down part of the construction, and Hisham's successors ignored the whole project.

Dug up now by the Palestine Department of Antiquities, the winter palace is a revelation of the extravagant beauty at command of old Moslem potentates. Hisham himself has long been a bone of historic contention. Some writers denounce him for a coarse and grasping Bedouin. Some praise him highly as an able prince and the enemy of luxury.

The winter resort suggests the work of an able prince, but not exactly the enemy of luxury. The foundations and broken columns and walls are ornately decorated with mosaic, frescoes, and