DISCOVERY OF HUMAN SKELETONS IN CRETACEOUS FORMATION

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When checking over a pit in the Dakota sandstone formation, Mr. Lin Ottinger, with the help of Dr. J. P. Marwitt, discovered skeletons of two human beings just below the level where bulldozers of the Big Indian copper mine had stopped digging. The formation is considered to be part of the Cretaceous formation and given an age of about 100,000,000 years by orthodox geological considerations.

Introduction

Moab, Utah is located in eastern Utah on the Colorado River, not far from the state line. The rock outcrops there are mostly Mesozoic, ranging from the lower Triassic, or Moenkopi, up through the Jurassic to the Cretaceous, with exposures of Dakota sandstone, Mancos shale, and the Mesa Verde. Some of these formations are well mineralized, with uranium, copper and associated minerals.

The Big Indian copper mine was located on the Cretaceous Dakota sandstone of the Lisbon Valley about 35 miles south of Moab, Utah. The strata there are poorly cemented, or possibly being in the oxidized zone are weathered. The top strata of the hill were discolored a dark brown from the iron in the formation, but the lower strata where the bones were found was of a natural sandy color, whitish.

The Ottinger Find

One side of the Dakota sandstone hill had been dug away by means of bulldozers, since the rock was soft enough for that type of excavation. Apparently the quality of the ore had decreased to the point where it did not pay to dig deeper, so the digging was stopped about 15 feet below the surface of the hill. The mine superintendent stated that at least six feet had become hard rock, though still soft enough to bulldoze.

Mr. Lin Ottinger, a friend of the mine superintendent, and some Ohio visitors were given permission to dig for artifacts and azurite specimens. They soon found a tooth and bone fragments both obviously human, and Ottinger traced the bone fragments to their source, uncovering at least one whole skeleton. Without further disturbing the find, he then notified Dr. W. Lee Stokes, head of the geology department of the University of Utah, who sent Dr. J. P. Marwitt, anthropologist, to investigate.

With the cooperation of the mine officials, Dr. Marwitt and Lin Ottinger carefully removed the sandstone surrounding the bones, and discovered two human skeletons rather than one. Meanwhile volunteers were screening the loose sand near the site to recover small pieces such as teeth and finger and toe digits.

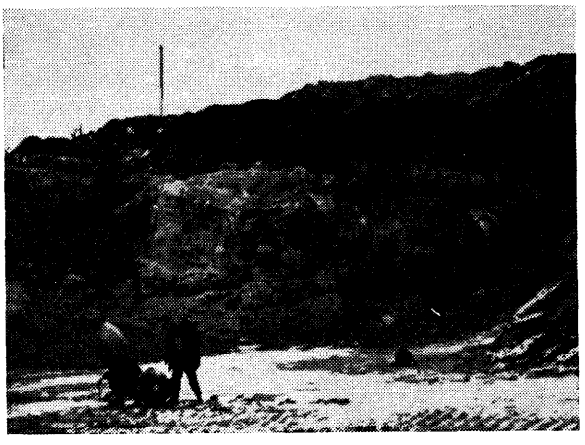

Figure 1. The mining company pit where human skeletons were found south of Moab, Utah, in Cretaceous rock, Dakota sandstone containing oxidized copper minerals.

Because the bones were: (1) in place where buried and undisturbed, (2) still articulated or joined together naturally, indicative of no pronounced earth movement, and (3) green from copper carbonate solution (of malachite), Dr. Marwitt considered them "highly interesting and unusual." He had unearthed many Indian and other skeletons but never had found one so stained by the surrounding minerals.

Although definitely *Homo sapiens,* this staining gave a suggestion of antiquity to the find. The homogeneous character of the enclosing rock appeared to rule out the possibility of prospectors being buried by a cave in.

Dr. Marwitt moved the skeletons to his laboratory for further study, but later returned them to Mr. Ottinger, not appearing to have much interest in them for a museum display. Could it be that their association with the Cretaceous rock, presumed to be very old, could be the reason? In any event this discovery is reported for what it may be worth.

(Editor's Note: Admittedly this discovery offers as much of a problem for Flood geologists as for those of the orthodox point of view. For it is difficult to explain how two men could still be alive after such a depth of strata had been deposited. And if already drowned, why were they not buried later in the Mesa Verde formation? A more detailed and clear cut concept of just how the Flood accomplished its work is

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badly needed in order to be able to see how such finds as these fit into theoretical expectations, or creationists will be guilty of the same ad hoc explanations as evolutionary minded colleagues. —W. E. Lammerts, Research Editor)

Conclusions

(1) The bones were definitely "in place." There was no evidence of the surrounding rock having been disturbed, as I dug a foot deep at the site.

(2) The skeleton was pronounced by the University of Utah as definitely *Homo sapiens.*

(3) The deep staining of the bones with malachite attest to their age.

(4) It was evident from the location of the find deep within the man-made pit that the bodies were buried at the time of the emplacement of the sandstone rock.

(5) The type of mineral alteration suggests greater age than 100 years as suggested by the mine superintendent. Black bits of chalococite, a primary type of copper ore, are still in place. Chemical alteration changes this to blue azurite or green malachite, both carbonate minerals formed in the near surface or oxidized areas of the earth's crust. This diagenesis takes time.

(6) If this were one isolated instance of such an anomaly, one might be tempted to disregard it completely; however, other similiar so called anomalous discoveries have recently come to light involving fossil remains of recently extinct mammals, even human beings, in Cretaceous rocks. Another such find has been made recently by this writer, which may soon be published.

(7) These and other evidences seem to suggest that much of the geologic column has been "built" on too meager and perhaps even a "flimsy" foundation. One solution would seem to be reduction of some of the time element associated with the geologic column.

Added Note

The University of Arizona personnel performed the Micro K Jeli Dahl or nitrogen retention test on the bones, and found them comparatively recent in origin, that is well within Biblical time limits. The result cannot be interpreted accurately in terms of years.

—Clifford L. Burdick.

RETRIEVAL SYSTEM PROBLEMS WITH ARTICLES IN "EVOLUTION"*

JOHN N. MOORE**

Introduction

Paleontologists and paleobotanists have been reconstructing evolutionary changes for many decades. Likewise, scientists in the fields of genetics, zoogeography, and numerous other fields have been studying some degree of evolutionary change for many years.

Encouragement for such studies has come especially from the Society for the Study of Evolution and the journal, *Evolution,* which has been devoted to evolutionary research ever since it was established in 1947. And because an interest in the study of evolution is the only condition for membership in the Society for the Study of Evolution, even a classroom professor may be encouraged to be a student of some kind of evolutionary change.

Though a new member of the Society for the Study of Evolution, for more than 15 years, I have been gathering xerox copies of statements by scientists on organic evolution and natural selection and related topics; and am preparing an anthology of such statements. I have given many speeches on my findings before science teacher groups and science classes at both the high school and college levels. And I have consulted and corresponded extensively with scientists in Canada, England, Europe as well as the United States. For the last 10 years I have taken a critical stance on "evolution."

As my written critiques have become known, honor students and others interested in independent study have come to me for assistance in their study of the literature on evolutionary change. They have sought guidance in their readings about the various "schools" of evolutionists that can be examined today from a historical perspective that covers the 111 years plus since publication of Charles Darwin's, *The Origin of Species.*

Just this year an interesting experience has given me a new insight into some of the literature published under titles containing the term "evolution." Bright young students aware of the possibilities of using computer techniques as aids to research have shown an interest in preparing programming for retrieval systems for "recall" of articles and books in the area of evolutionary literature. This paper is designed to give attention to results of an initial investigation of pos-

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