

WILLIAM J. MEISTER DISCOVERY OF HUMAN FOOTPRINT WITH TRILOBITES IN A CAMBRIAN FORMATION OF WESTERN UTAH

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Early in June, 1968, I was introduced to Mr. Meister by Burton Tew, Research Scientist, Baccus Works, Hercules Incorporated. Mr. Meister had with him a most remarkable fossil specimen of a human footprint embedded in which were two very distinct and easily recognizable trilobites and several smaller, less distinct ones.

The specimen comprised two approximately inch thick slabs displayed in a plaster-of-paris cast. One slab contained the footprint and its associated trilobites and the other its mold. The footprint was that of the right foot of a human wearing a sandal. The rock in which the print was impressed was obviously natural, genuine, and characteristic rock.

Since Mr. Meister's interesting discovery, other persons have found similar but less spectacular specimens in the same area, two of which have been shown to me.

In late August, Dean Bitter, educator in the public schools of Salt Lake City, showed me a specimen of rock with two sandal-shod footprints he claimed to have found in diggings in a hill at Antelope Springs near that where the Meister

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fossil was discovered. Later Mr. Meister showed me a specimen he said was discovered by George Silver, a friend, in the same location as the original discovery.

While neither of these specimens revealed trilobites in the footprints themselves, one of them showed a small trilobite in the same rock. The sandals appeared to be of the same vintage in the five prints that have been exhibited to me.

In a telephone conversation with Dr. Clifford Burdick and Mr. Meister, I learned that Dr. Burdick had discovered the footprint of a barefoot child when he went with Mr. Maurice Carlisle to the site of the Meister discovery to check the authenticity of it.

While I am by no means an authority on fossils and footprints, the Meister specimen seems to me clearly to speak for itself. Even aside from any doubt as to the identity of the formation in which the discovery was made, it is a serious contradiction of conventional geology. That is, the feature of this specimen is the intimate simultaneous occurrence of modern (sandal-shod) men with trilobites. Furthermore, no intellectually honest individual examining this specimen can reasonably deny its genuine appearance. Finally, in my judgment, Mr. Meister is a fine gentleman of complete honesty and integrity.

DISCOVERY OF TRILOBITE FOSSILS IN SHOD FOOTPRINT OF HUMAN IN "TRILOBITE BEDS"-A CAMBRIAN FORMATION, ANTELOPE SPRINGS, UTAH

WILLIAM J. MEISTER, SR.*

As a trilobite collector and "rockhound," I have often enjoyed searching "the trilobite beds" of Antelope Springs, about 43 miles northwest of Delta, Utah, for my favorite fossil. Although I had previously found many excellent trilobite specimens in this so-called Cambrian formation, none can compare with my astonishing discovery of June 1, 1968.

I arrived at Antelope Springs on Decoration Day in company with my wife and two daughters and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shape and their two daughters. We all remained at this location four days. Upon arrival we immediately began chiseling at the rock in search of trilobites.

Trilobite Within Footprint

On the third day while the Shapes were relaxing in camp (the four girls were with us), I

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broke off a large, approximately two-inch thick slab of rock. Upon hitting it on the edge with my hammer, it fell open like a book. To my great astonishment I saw on one side the footprint† of a human with trilobites *right in the footprint itself*. The other half of the rock slab showed an almost perfect mold of the footprint

†Editor's Note: In telephone conversation, Dr. Melvin Cook has reported that, according to William J. Meister, the trilobite beds are located about halfway up a 2000 foot fairly high, mountain face. (See Figure 6.) The strata are horizontal. Meister was forced to stop many times as he climbed up the face of the mountain. He had to make footholds in order to climb and to work in the area which was about halfway up the side. There was a ledge-like protrusion from the face below the working area.

Quite obviously this footprint could not be the result of any carving since, until found by Meister, it was covered by the strata above.