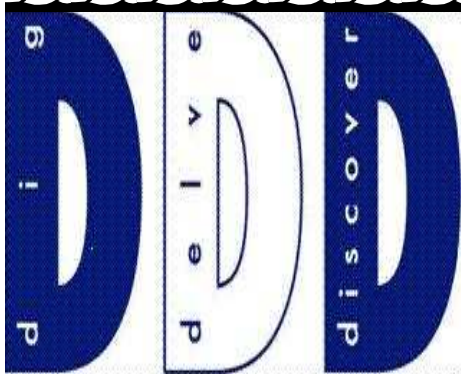




April 2007

Volume 3, Issue 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF
3D ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Dig This!



3D Squadron visit Eden Camp ...

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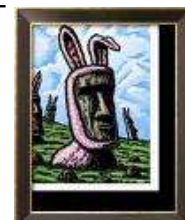
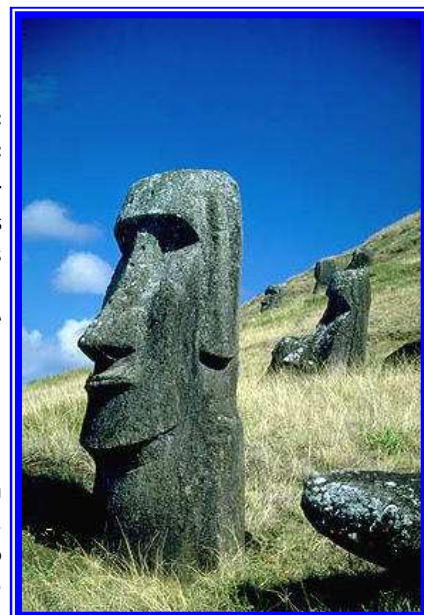
Some of our members were transported back in time when they visited Eden Camp, near Malton; an award winning Second World War museum which is an original Prisoner of War camp built in 1942.

'Broadsword calling Danny boy ...' (Sorry, couldn't resist it!! ~ Ed.)

Easter Island

... is over 2,000 miles from the nearest population centre, (Tahiti and Chile), making it one of the most isolated places on Earth. A triangle of volcanic rock in the South Pacific; it is best known for the giant stone monoliths, known as Moai, that dot the coastline. The early settlers called the island "Te Pito O Te Henua" (Navel of The World). Admiral Roggeveen, who came upon the island on Easter Day in 1722, named it Easter Island. Today, the land, people and language are all referred to locally as Rapa Nui.

There has been much controversy and confusion concerning the origins of the Easter Islanders. Thor Heyerdahl proposed that the people who built the statues were of Peruvian descent, due to a similarity between Rapa Nui and Incan stonework. Some have suggested that Easter Island is the remnant of a lost continent or the result of an extra-terrestrial influence. Archaeological evidence, however, indicates discovery of the island by Polynesians at about 400 AD ~ led, according to legend, by Hotu Matua. Upon their arrival, an impressive and enigmatic culture began to develop. In addition to the statues, the islanders possessed the Rongorongo script; the only written language in Oceania. The island is also home to many petroglyphs (rock carvings), as well as traditional wood carvings, tapa (barkcloth) crafts, tattooing, string figures and music.





Knights of the Solway ~ An Ancient castle Hidden in the Mists of Time by *Chris Williams*



Excavation of the high status Medieval Palace (top site)

Photo: C Williams



How did the ancient
Romans cut their
hair?
With a pair of
Caesars !!!



'Mesolithic man, hunter-gatherer, would leave the wives, children and the elderly (30 years old!) whilst they went hunting up in the Ayr hills and lowland forests...'



The history of the castle location can be traced back to Mesolithic times. Situated on a promontory projecting into the river Ure, the area was heavily wooded, full of wild boar and deer and surrounded by hills with an ample supply of freshwater running down from the hillsides. The river was tidal twice a day with its confluence flowing into the Solway, only a few miles away to the south. It was obviously a great place to put down sticks. Mesolithic man, hunter-gatherer, would leave the wives, children and the elderly (30 years old!) whilst they went hunting up in the Ayr hills and lowland forests. Artefactual evidence in the form of flint tools from both the Mesolithic and Neolithic have been recovered from the site. Evidence of Bronze Age occupation was identified in the form of barbed and tanged arrow heads. The next occupational evidence came from the Romans, who occupied the site between approximately 150 - 200AD with Romano - British occupational influence extending to around 300AD from which the excavation recovered at least 10 coins, medical instruments, plus a considerable amount of pottery. Some evidence exists to suggest a Romano-Celtic shrine may also have been present on the site, dedicated perhaps to a river god. This must remain of course only a hypothesis.

Following the Romans we move into an undefined precise chronology of

occupation. It is believed that prior to possible Viking occupation their predecessors had been the Anglians. Evidence for this lies not at the castle site but in the surrounding area.

We now move on to a more documented and instrumental period of occupation.

The 'Lords of Galloway' particularly Fergus (1125-1161). It was probably Fergus who created the first timber built castle. A motte was constructed from the upcast provided by digging a defensive ditch and inner bailey identified as the Moat or Fosse (part of the ditch contained a watercourse). There then followed a series of 'Lords' such as Gilbert then Roland followed by Allan. Allan was a respected ruler and was responsible for much shipbuilding and promoting commerce along the Solway, probably Ireland and the west coast of Britain. Allan was succeeded by his daughter Dervorguilla, following his death in 1235. In 1233, Dervorguilla married John Balliol of Barnard Castle County Durham. They enjoyed a very happy marriage and brought forth 10 children. Dervorguilla was also responsible for signing the first statutes of Balliol College Oxford in 1282. So devoted was she to John that on his death she had his heart removed from his body and carried it around in a casket. Also with her husband John, she founded Sweetheart Abbey where

she was interred in 1289. The youngest of the children also called John became the Interregnum king of the Scots ruling from the castle in 1292 - 1296. Alas his kingship was of poor quality and he was eventually overthrown by the Scottish Lairds and exiled.

During the Bruce-Balliol wars (the Scottish Wars of Independence) it was Robert de Bruce who eventually crowned himself king in 1307. One of his first tasks was to eject the English out of Scotland. The English survivors gathered at the castle and this action initiated the beginning of a 5 year siege. Finally, Robert de Bruce took the castle on 31st March 1313 and destroyed the castle buildings and balustrades probably by burning.

In 1323-24, Sir James Douglas, King Robert's right hand man was gifted the Borough, on a price to be paid of one pair of spurs which were to be laid on the altar in the local church annually. By 1332 **King Edward Balliol** re-established himself in Scotland and made frequented visits to the castle, where he had constructed a high status mansion or possibly palace, from the foundations of which many artefacts have been recovered during the 10 years of excavation.





Continued ...



In 1994 I joined the excavation for a weekend; it was a long one because I remained a seasonal digger until its closure on the 27th June 2002. It was my responsibility to excavate the fighting ditch, more specifically, to prove the presence of a drawbridge believed to link the North and South baileys. The ditch when finally excavated proved to be 8 metres deep on average and in places up to 17 metres across. I was fortunate in that I always had a team of diggers available to me. In fact the site was so popular we had applicants from as far afield as New Zealand, Eastern Europe and bucketfuls of Americans, along with many local people. On any one day in summer you could find 20-30 diggers beavering away on both the South Bailey and the Fosse. The site also attracted much media attention. As an accolade to our endeavours, the site was recognised with two Pitt Rivers awards in 2002/3. The current incumbents of the tower, (the tower was built alongside the remains of the castle, probably around the 1700s) thought it was a great idea to dress up on open days. The female diggers looking somewhat unnatural wearing medieval dress with a pair of boots sticking out at the bottom!

As the years of excavation progressed the fighting ditch became more interpretable. At the point where the Fosse interfaced

the North and South baileys, the ditch narrowed to about 6.5 metres across and at this point the footings of the drawbridge became readily apparent in the form of revetted block Greywacke stonework.

For an enemy to cross the defensive ditch they were faced with quite a formidable obstacle. From outside the ditch the enemy was faced first with an 'abattis' which was a staked fence covered with gorse bush and bramble, once over this they were faced with an averaged 10 metre steeply sloping side which would have been covered with greased hides and sharply pointed 'greywacke' stone. Then if that didn't wipe the smile from their faces they had to drop into the ditch bottom which consisted of a quagmire covering sharp rocks and pointed stakes. The next challenge was to clamber up the inside of the ditch again strewn with smile diminishing obstacles before the attackers were finally faced with a probable 5 metre balustrade, on top of which, stood archers raining arrows down on you complemented with vats of boiling liquids. However, fall it did on the 31st of March 1313 when Robert de Bruce finally took the castle.

By the time the excavation had terminated, the excavators had proven beyond doubt that this was the site of the drawbridge and the overall dimensions of the ditch had been recovered

and recorded.

The Stewartry Archaeological Trust, directed by Alastair Penman, worked with great enthusiasm during the excavation at the castle, along with many hundreds of diggers over the 10 years and it was sad to see it end. However all was not lost, about 10 miles down the road we started on a new site called 'Newbarns.' This site has so far revealed probable early Bronze Age burials (about 16 so far) and a Broch of which the diggers have exposed the base.

Information can be found by contacting Chris Williams at any DDD meeting or e-mail to:

Christopher.williams700@ntlworld.com. Acknowledgement must be paid to Alastair Penman for his interim reports from which extracts have been drawn, and all his diggers who made the excavation a success.

NB: The castle is located in private grounds, to which the public no longer have access. At the specific request of the landowner and site director, the exact location must not be revealed until on-going politics have been resolved, and the final report scheduled for perhaps later this year, has been published.



Above: The Fosse or 'fighting ditch' Photos: C Williams

Below: Emma, displaying a medieval boot!





The First Steam Locomotive by Elizabeth Newby

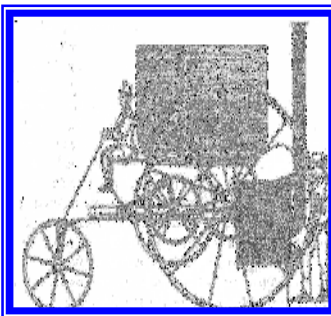


Richard Trevithick
1771—1833

The archaeology of the railways began just over 200 years ago with the invention of the steam locomotive which ran on rails.

The inventor was Richard Trevithick, born in 1771 near Redruth in Cornwall. He was the son of a mining engineer and had grown up in the steam engine tradition. Known locally as Captain Dick, he grew up to be a fine 'strapping' young man, 6' 2" in height with a formidable strength.

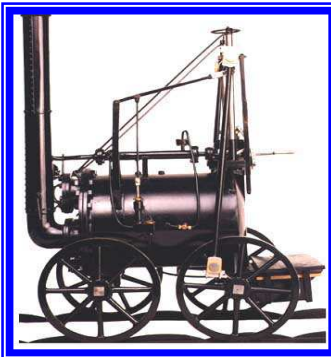
He began his fascination with powered locomotives at a young age and in 1796, developed a model steam engine on wheels which he ran on his dining table. Whilst his main interest was locomotion, he continued improving the static steam engine. By 1800, he had developed a smaller but far more powerful static engine. He continued his experiments with locomotion and on Christmas Eve, 1801, he took 7 friends a short journey in his steam locomotive, 'Puffing Devil'. This was the first passenger-carrying steam land carriage using a high pressure steam engine and sporting an 8' fly wheel. He shipped this invention to London where he charged people for a ride. It carried passengers with ease at a top speed of 8 miles per hour until it strained itself on bad roads, overturned and eventually became a stationary engine at an iron works.



Road locomotive, demonstrated in London in 1803

In February 1804, Richard Trevithick was given an order for a stationary engine by an iron company near Merthyr Tydvil which, had miles of train rails laid down for horse drawn traffic. When the engine was completed, Trevithick, captivated by the idea of rail locomotion, clapped wheels on his engine and put the locomotive on the rails. Drawing fine wagons, it 'whizzed' along carrying 10 tons of iron and 70 men at 5 miles per hour. This was the world's first steam engine to run on rails! Eventually, a broken rail overturned the engine which was then converted to a static steam engine, never to run again.

Work then began on the development of a passenger-carrying steam locomotive on rails. By 1808, he was again ready to try his fortune in London. He set up a 'steam round-about' ~ a circular rail track in Euston Square, where he ran his engine, 'Catch-Me-Who-Can', which reached a speed of 12 miles per hour, for one shilling per ride, (see below). Sadly, there were few takers as the public were afraid and the venture ended in financial ruin when again, a rail broke, overturning the engine.



Catch-Me-Who-Can

Richard Trevithick was one of our greatest inventors. He developed the steam engine for rails and introduced the horizontal cylinder to work the crank axle, he made the first steam threshing machine, he gave us the idea of the double and triple expansion engine and was one of the first to invent a screw propeller for steam ships, amongst many other innovations.



Sadly, all his business ventures led to financial ruin and he died at Dartford in 1833, deeply in debt. He was saved from a paupers grave by the generosity of friends and workmen at hall Engineering Works. He rests in an unmarked grave in Dartford graveyard; one memorial, a window dedicated to him and his inventions in Westminster Abbey.



Reverse of £2 coin, commemorating Trevithick's steam locomotive

The cast iron rails used by Trevithick were the cause of the failure of his rail locomotives. They were too brittle and could not support the weight of the engine. It was not until the invention of wrought iron rails, lighter and able to be joined on site, that rail locomotion began to develop into the railways that we know today.

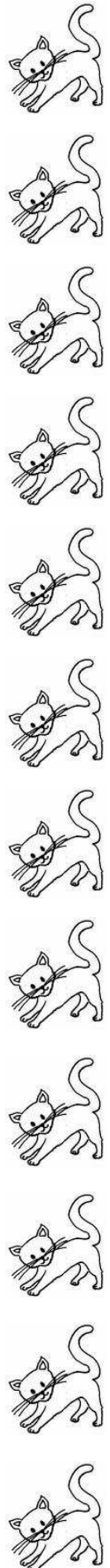




A Feline Serial , Part V: Ritual Deposition by Rachel Bithell

In archaeological excavation, ritual deposits of cats that have been placed in buildings are infrequently recovered. Although the significance of this is uncertain, deliberately placed, dried cats have been discovered. There are about fifty dried, or mummified, cats on record at present. However, there are probably many more anecdotal records. There are cases where it is difficult to tell if the animal was purposely concealed or if it merely crawled away to die. However, when a cat is found concealed in a wall or bricked into a cavity, human intent is usually the reason. Furthermore, when the creature is found to be in a life-like pose, the likelihood is that it was dried in this position prior to internment. The skin is still intact although the fur has long since decayed. In Tyseley, Birmingham, a cat had been set up to face a similarly dried bird within the hollow wall of a medieval house. In Southwark, a cat was found under the floorboards of a Sixteenth Century house. It had a mummified rat in its jaws and another beneath its forefeet. Similar finds have been made at Lothbury in the City of London, Pilton in Northamptonshire, behind the organ in Dublin Cathedral and at a house in Bloomsbury in London. Archaeologist, John Buglass, whilst working at the Museum of London, was called to the demolition site of a medieval house in Beak Street, Soho in 1997 to retrieve a mummified cat that also appeared to have been ritually placed.

These incidents are not isolated to the British Isles; similar finds have been made in areas of Gibraltar and Sweden. While these occurrences have previously been interpreted as being an aspect of the ancient custom pertaining to building sacrificial superstition, they have since been rationalised as vermin deterrent, albeit on a more spiritual plane. Perhaps it was hoped that the family cat, who served so well in life, could exercise its hunting prowess and assumed psychic abilities in the afterlife also. Ritual incidents are not isolated to the medieval period. At the Iron Age site at Danebury, England, the complete skeleton of a young kitten was found in a burial pit and interpreted as a ritual sacrifice due to the nature of location and associated finds.





The 'Time Team' Drinking Game

A game that gives you a good reason to get drunk and argue about archaeology!



Preparation:

Assemble a group of mates in front of the TV just before Time Team begins. (Alternatively, video a few episodes and have a mammoth session; be warned, this may cause psychological damage.) Make sure that all the necessary equipment is present.

You will require:

Alcohol: Strong spirits have the best results, but beer is more authentic; (If you're feeling adventurous, why not join in with the 'Time team' by matching the alcohol to the period being investigated. You could even brew your own using traditional methods. This is interactive TV.)

Assorted snacks, mixers, and ice cubes (for sustenance and variety);

Glasses;

Archaeology reference books: For research and refutation purposes.



The Game:

Everyone must have a drink to hand. Then, merely watch the programme, taking the required number of sips as events unfold!

Take 2 sips if:

They open another trench; Tony Robinson interrupts someone else in the middle of a sentence or train of thought, or obviously isn't listening; Resistivity meters or magnetometers are shown;

People working feverishly on computers to no obvious end are shown; Tony steps into a recently cleaned trench; Phil frets until he is allowed to do some digging; Volunteers and non-team members are seen trowelling; Volunteers are seen using spades, mattocks or shovels;

The historical re-enactment group are shown; Sweeping generalisations are made; Archives are shown or mentioned.

Take 3 sips if:

The inflatable tent is used; The local archaeologist is asked to comment on the excavation; 'Time Team' members are seen digging; The historical re-enactment group recreate one of the artefacts found on site or otherwise associated with the dig; The geophysics results are amazingly clear and beautiful; We see the 'Time team' 'discussing the day's events' in a pub or round a fire (with alcohol); Someone gets to go for a jolly in the helicopter; Members of the public are involved in events at the site; Celebrity guests attempt to dig or understand the archaeology; Artefacts or costumes or the site are recreated in great detail on computer from a few fragments or ideas.

Take 5 sips if:

Anyone is shown planning or otherwise recording a trench or feature; Any of the volunteer diggers is referred to or questioned; The preliminary summary of what they expect to find is proved to be completely wrong; Any major questions are answered by the 3 days' excavation; Any member of the team is dressed in 'traditional period costume' at some point in the programme; Any of the team is injured, ill or incapacitated during the programme (hangovers count in this category); Deturfing is done manually by members of the team; Any exotic technique is used during the course of the excavation (eg diving, dowsing).

Take 7 sips if:

The 'Time team' actually finish and backfill the site at the end of the programme; You see a context sheet at any point in the programme; Tony makes a valid point.

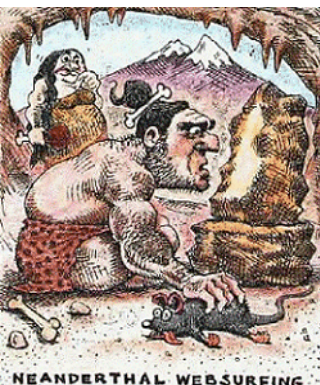


How do you ring an

Egyptian doorbell?

Tutankhamun !!

(Toot and come in)





‘Toros! Toros!’ by Robert Morgan

Modesto Cubillas, a hunter, was out walking with his dog on the estate of Don Marcelino de Sautuola, a nobleman from Santander in the Cantabria province of Spain. Suddenly, the dog disappeared down a hole in the middle of a meadow on a gently sloping hillside. The hunter cleared away some vegetation around the hole and whistled for his dog. Eventually the dog appeared but not before Modesto had realised the hole could not have been dug by any animal, but it was the entrance to a cave. The year was 1868.

The hunter reported his find to Don Marcelino and on further investigation, the nobleman dismissed it as ‘just another cave’ although this one was unusual because it was neither on a mountainside nor in the side of a deep ravine, but on a low flat hillside at Altamira.

Whilst visiting the World Trade Fair held in Paris in 1878, Don Marcelino was drawn to the displays of prehistoric tools and other objects made from stone and bone. Some of the objects were beautifully carved with depictions of animals, especially bison, horses and woolly mammoth.

On returning home, Don Marcelino carried out more in-depth investigations of the cave at Altamira which proved to be ‘S’ in shape with several rooms and alcoves leading off it. The main chamber was 18m x 9m and situated about 30m from the cave entrance. With the

belief that this cave could have been a dwelling for a family during the ice age, Don Marcelino started to dig up the floor of the cave, eventually coming down on a habitation layer containing a bone point, flint scrapers and a piece of bone with drawing on it. These he sent off to Juan Vilanova y Piera, a prehistoric archaeology professor at the University of Madrid who congratulated him on his finds and encouraged him to continue digging and promising to visit soon.

It was November 1879, Don Marcelino, as he often did, took his five year old daughter to the Altamira cave with him, and whilst he dug, Maria his daughter took a candle and wandered around the cave. Suddenly, the little girl shouted ‘Toros! Toros!’ (Bulls! Bulls!). Don Marcelino rushed from where he was digging to the small side chamber from which Maria’s voice had cried out and found his little girl staring at the wall. At first the nobleman could not see what had caused the girl to cry out, but once he had crouched down to her height and looked up at the low ceiling at which the girl was pointing, he saw the dying agony of a bison with its big eye staring down at them. The bison was red with a black circle around its eye and the flickering candlelight made it appear to move!

Further careful examination of the ceiling and walls of the cave by a good light allowed Don

Marcelino to find over a hundred more paintings of bison, horses, deer and boar. Professor Vilanova visited the cave and suggested the paintings were at least 10,000 years old!

Don Marcelino and the professor worked together to record the cave paintings and published a book ‘*Breves apuntes sobre algunos objetos prehistóricos de la provincia de Santander* (Brief notes about some prehistoric objects of the Santander province)’.

This prompted King Alfonso XII of Spain to visit and gaze in awe upon the spectacle that was Altamira cave.

Professor Vilanova then went to Lisbon, Portugal to a seminar of eminent archaeology professors and experts in the field to give a lecture about the Altamira cave paintings, but although the professors accepted the artefacts found in the cave were Palaeolithic in date, the paintings were too fresh to be very old. Some even went so far as to accuse Don Marcelino of deliberate distortion.

They considered that the paintings had been made by one of his friends, an artist, who stayed in his castle, even though this friend had never entered the cave.

Don Marcelino continued to work in the Altamira cave, even though his word as a Spanish nobleman had been so publicly called into question, and died 15 years before his opponents had to admit that the Altamira paintings are really Palaeolithic. The prehistoric chronology of the Altamira paintings was recognised in 1902.

Today, the paintings are thought to be 15,000 years old and considered to be so fragile and easily damaged by the CO₂ expelled in visitors breath that the cave has been closed to general access and a weekly number of 160 visitors only are allowed to tour the cave. The waiting time for tours bookings is now about 3 years.



The most famous Altamira paintings are on the plafond - a low ceiling in one of the cave “vestibules” to the left from the entrance. The total area of the ceiling is about 100 sq. ms. Here the artist had skilfully combined pigment painting with the ceiling relief. The majority of more than 20 animal figures, (mainly bison, though there are also a horse, a boar and a deer) is depicted on the natural bosses of the ceiling and so there comes out an impressive picture of bas-relief, embossed figures.





HAPPY EASTER

This is the membership page ... if you would like letters, jokes, comments, book reviews, photographs, notices and even birthday dedications posted here, please send them by email to;

pergamond@blueyonder.co.uk

Dates For Your Diary 2007

3D Meetings

18 April Speaker: Linda Smith ~ What does a rural archaeologist do?

16 May Speaker: Brian Beeken ~ Medæval Heraldry

20 June / 18 July / 15 August / 19 September / 17 October / 21 November / 19 December: Speakers TBA



3D Outings

17 June Visit: Byland Abbey and Coxwold Village to include Shandy Hall and St Michael's Church, the home and workplace of the Reverend Laurence Stern who wrote *Tristram Shandy* and *A Sentimental Journey*.

29 July Visit: Castle Howard. There is also a Jazz afternoon in the gardens.

9 September Visit: Helmsley Archaeological Store. Tour and artefact handling. Also time to visit Helmsley Castle or look around the village.

This is the list so far. More to be published when they have been booked.



Horsing Around ...

From March to the end of October the Royal Armouries offers a unique experience for visitors in the daily horseshows, which include:

The Joust: Saturdays & Sundays

The Royal Armouries' riders demonstrate military skill at arms with sword and lance, culminating in a spectacular 15th century style Joust.

Horse archery: Wednesdays

Riders demonstrate a variety of weapons used by mounted archers from around the world.

Cavalcades: Tuesdays & Thursdays

The Royal Armouries' riders demonstrate mounted military skills from various historical periods. See horses and riders in uniforms and equipment from several periods through history, testing their skill showing the development of weaponry through to the advent of firepower and its awesome effects.

Tudor Riding: Mondays & Fridays

Royal Armouries riders demonstrate mounted sword, javelin and lance skills of the 16th-century in Tudor styles and costumes. Riders compete against each other in military and hunting techniques to test their skill and martial prowess and for the honour of being a 'Tudor Champion.'





And Finally, Australopithecus Barbie - Refuted

The following allegedly relates to a reply sent to the late Dr Herman Smith after he submitted an artefact to the Smithsonian Institute.



Dear Dr. Smith,

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labelled "93211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post-Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that represents conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Belize two million years ago. Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety that one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be "Malibu Barbie." It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings.

However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1. The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.
2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately nine cubic centimetres, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-homonids.
3. The dentition pattern evident on the skull is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time.

This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that:

- A. The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.
- B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon-dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon-dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon-dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results.

Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation with the concept of assigning your specimen the scientific name *Australopithecus spiff-arino*. Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated, and didn't really sound like it might be Latin.

However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a Hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will happen upon next in your digs at the site you have discovered in your San Pedro back yard.

We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it. We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the iron rod that makes the excellent juvenile tyrannosaurus rex femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,
Otis T. Thudpucker
Chief Archaeologist

I hope you have enjoyed this April edition of 'Dig This!'. If you have any stories, articles, photographs, etc that you would like including in the next edition, (approximately July 2007), please forward them to me at:

pergamond@blueyonder.co.uk

RAY xxx