

THE FIRST MAN'S OWN STORY

Here is His Hand, Just as He Drew it 200,000 Years Ago, His First Portrait Scratched on Rock All the Details of His Every Day Life Read at Last by Science.



200,000 YEARS AGO A MAN PLACED HIS LEFT HAND AGAINST HIS CAVE'S WALL AND TRACED IT. — HERE IS ITS PHOTOGRAPH. — THIS REMARKABLE PICTURE IS THE ONLY RECORD SCIENCE POSSESSES OF THE ACTUAL HAND OF PREHISTORIC MAN. ITS SHAPE IS ANALYZED IN THE TEXT.

A SERIES of wonderful prehistoric wall paintings found in the cavern of Font de Gaume, near Eyzies, in the Department of Dordogne, France, contains nothing less than the story of the first man told by himself.

The discoveries in this cavern are already famous. All the researches here have been carried on at the expense of Prince Albert of Monaco, and the results are published by him in sumptuous volumes.

The first man's story of himself begins with a picture of his own hand drawn by himself, showing that he was as powerful as a wild beast, yet possessed of very considerable artistic skill. Then there is a head, also drawn by himself. He has the tremendous protruding chin of the great ape, but he has also a remarkably long nose, indicating great intelligence, an inquiring mind and a tendency to acquire property. Then we can tell from these drawings how he grew tired of cave dwelling and learned to build outside. It is estimated that he lived over 200,000 years ago.

It is a left hand that the prehistoric man traced from his own body, this fact alone proving that even so early man was using his right hand more easily than the left. He put the left hand down on the rock, traced around it with a sharpened bit of ochre, and after lifting his hand filled out the outlines, so as to give a real picture of the hand of this first man.

This hand is in itself a wonderful clue to the character, utility and appearance of this first man, according to scientists, who analyze each feature of it and draw a conclusion therefrom.

The thumb indicates by its well-developed tip the strong will power and tremendous physique of this man. The heavy base is particularly an indication of his strong animally He

gave full rein to his animal passions, and enforced them by his enormous will. Only death could prevent him from securing the mate for whom he was looking.

To the surprise of science it is seen that the first finger is longer than the others. The second, though smaller, is a surprisingly artistic and cultured finger, going to show that the owner of this hand was the artist who drew many of the pictures on the walls of the cave, and that he was, indeed, the architect who was capable of designing the first house built outside the cave as well as the wall which was to serve as the defence against wild animals or other men.

The third finger is strong and well developed, showing a strong tendency toward culture, and the little finger is surprisingly well grown. Taken altogether, the hand shows the scientific student that this man was a composite being, strong in passion and will, yet advancing on the road to culture. It is one of the most interesting and valuable discoveries bearing on the character of prehistoric man that have ever been made.

It was this hand that crudely drew the picture of the man's face, cutting it into the rock so that it has lasted all these many centuries.

This first man, who lived in the caverns of the Font de Gaume, in France, survived because of his strength and his brain. He trapped and slew the mighty cave bear with his rude stone implements, and his mate sewed the skin together with sinews of animals to keep him warm in that icy air.

When he sought a mate it was not with the gentle wooing of modern man. He watched the cave of some other man, and, seeing there a "female of the species," he waited perhaps until the man had gone away, and then with many a blow and struggle he dragged the fighting, scratching woman to his cave and held her there. Often he had to fight her whole family.

He won because he had the strength, and from that day she served in the

IN THOSE TIMES MOVING DAY WAS USUALLY AN IMPORTANT EVENT, WHEN A MAN AND WIFE LEFT THEIR CAVE, IT WAS BECAUSE TOO MANY HOSTILE OUTDOORS WERE DESIGING IT.

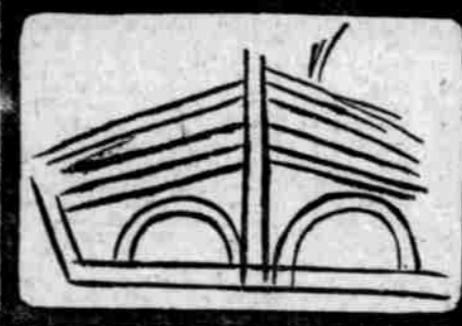


THE EARLIEST PORTRAIT OF PREHISTORIC MAN DRAWN BY HIM IN THE CAVERN OF THE FONT-DE-GAUME.

did. When the first man entered the cave under the mountain he drove out the bears that had found shelter there and then hastened to close the entrance with branches of trees that he dragged in front of the opening, so that the bears might not come in again.

The man with this powerful hand and remarkable face was soon domesticated first one, then another of the animals about him, that might help to drag his burdens home and serve in any way he wished. So he designed a corral, and laid out special quarters for his animals, that they might always be at his disposal.

A CAVE MAN'S SKETCH OF AN UNDOMESTICATED BEAST—PROBABLY THE GIANT SLOTH WHICH HE DOMESTICATED.



CAVE MEN'S SKETCHES OF THE FIRST OUT-DOOR HOUSES SCRATCHED ON THE WALLS OF THE CAVERN.

cave, keeping the fire alight, cooking what the male had slain, often aiding him to bear home the heavy carcass of the bison, cut up where it fell, some distance from the home.

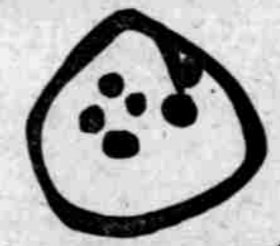
From the hard flint he knocked off sharp splinters and made them sharper still to tip his arrows and lances, and as the little ones came it was the mother that made the skin clothes to keep them warm.

Only in the depth of Winter did he live deep in the cave. He soon sought the sun when Spring came, and if the cave was shallow this first man learned to build a roof, just over the entrance, to let the woman and her children have more of the air and sunshine, weaving the branches of trees together and stinging their ends by the aid of his stone tools.

He left pictures of these first houses, which disprove the theory of

some modern scientists, who thought that he had not brains enough to make a home, but could only utilize the ready-made homes he found in caves. He was architect as well as hunter, artist and father of the family.

That the making of the roof was a great triumph for the first man is evident from the fact that it is pictured frequently. That he knew how to bar the entrance to cave or dwelling was taken for granted, for this was the very earliest constructive work he



ONE OF THE FIRST MAN'S PLANS OF HIS OUT-DOOR FORTIFICATIONS.

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