



4-1-2007

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The Editors

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Recommended Citation

Editors, The (2007) "On Reading Europe's Paleolithic Writing," *Comparative Civilizations Review*: Vol. 56 : No. 56 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/ccr/vol56/iss56/9>

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ON READING EUROPE'S PALEOLITHIC WRITING

What follows is the third and final article by Prof. Burgy. The editors have presented this series because of the unorthodox challenge it poses to previous and prevailing thought amongst comparative civilizationists.

In a discussion with the author, he notes: The Bilzingsleben and Stranska Skala art from 330,000 and 600,000 years ago is evidence that human cultural evolution may not coincide with human anatomical evolution. Modern minds may have existed in anatomically archaic skulls.

According to the "out of Africa" model of modern human origins, after an initial spread of Homo Erectus throughout Europe and Asia, humans with anatomically modern skulls spread from a single source in Africa to replace Erectus in the various regions of Europe and Asia.

According to the "multiregional model" of modern human origins, there was local indigenous evolution of moderns from Erectus in the various regions of Europe and Asia. In order to claim local regional evolution without replacement of Erectus by moderns from Africa, there needs to be evidence of a continuity of anatomic traits in the regions. There needs to be a sequence of fossil skulls that show a transition of cranial traits from Erectus to Modern.

Both anthropological models are based upon the morphology of fossil skulls.

In Europe, evidence seems to point to a replacement of archaic populations at about 35,000 years ago by an east-to-west migration of Aurignacians with modern skulls who make art. They are thought to be the first makers of art.

The Bilzingsleben and Stranska Skala art by Homo Erectus is evidence of art in Europe before the Aurignacians. It supports the requirement of regional continuity with cultural evidence independent of the argument for anatomically modern skull traits.

No evidence of art or other forms of modern cognition have been found in Africa prior to the Bilzingsleben and Stranska Skala dates. This may falsify the claim that culturally modern humans originated in Africa.

The "single African source" model and the "multiregional" model, both of which base origins on the morphology of Paleolithic fossil skulls, may be irrelevant if the symbol-making of Erectus in Europe precedes the evolution of high foreheads, small molars, and widely separated eyes.

----The Editors