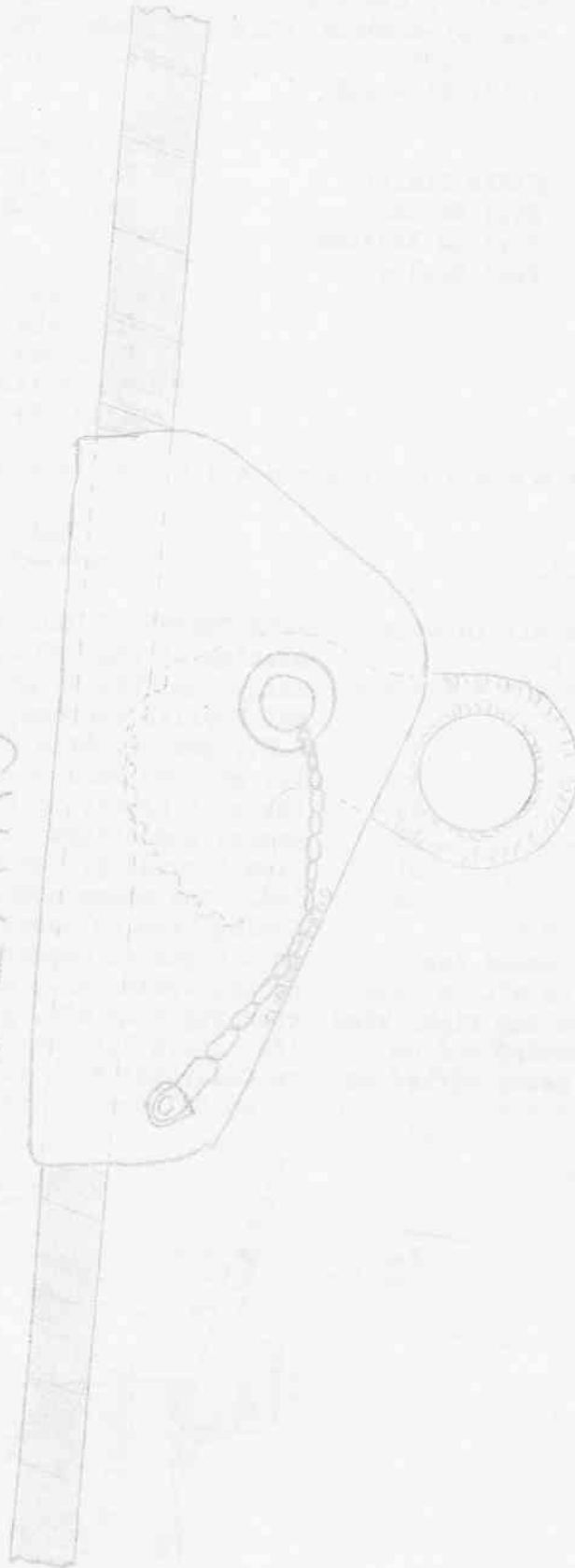


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SQUEAKS



APRIL 1980

VOL. 23. NO. 4

THE CENTRAL OHIO GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Apologies for the abortive Squeaks last month. I got a new toy at the office, but unfortunately, it didn't have the right kind of ribbon, and all the ink washed off on the press. This problem is being worked on.

MEETING NOTICE

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE (AGAIN)!!!! The June meeting of the COG will be held one week early, on JUNE 6, at the home of Dean and Phyllis Redshaw, 3085 Cedarhill Road S.W., Amanda, Ohio 43102, at 8:00 p.m. For any who want to stay overnight, there is plenty of floor and camping space, and things to do on Saturday, like bicycling, canoeing, etc. If you get lost, the phone number is 969-4009. Coming from Columbus, take I-70 E to Hwy 33, turn right on Gender Road, to "T" junction on Lithopolis Rd., turn left; at blinker, turn right on 674, go approx. 8 miles to 188. Turn left on 188, approx. 2 miles to Cedarhill Rd., turn right, in the middle of an "S" curve, and go down the hill.



BOOK REVIEW

(The following book review appeared in Scientific American, Vol. 242 (4), April, 1980.
The review was by Philip Morrison)

SECRETS OF THE ICE AGE: THE WORLD OF THE
CAVE ARTISTS

By Evan Hadingham. Walker & Co. (\$14.95)

It is just a century since modern eyes first looked at the painted bisons of Altamira, a decade since the magnificent compilation and effort at analysis of cave art was published by Andre Leroi-Gourhan, and the archaeologists do not rest. Our attention was drawn within that decade to the value of microscopic study of the engravings, and here in the U.S. we know a little of the remarkable finds that have been made by Soviet workers from the Ukraine to Lake Baikal. This personally written, judicious and well-illustrated volume surveys the topic as a whole in the light of reason rather than iconoclastically. Above all, it brings a general reader up to date with the novelties that have emerged in the decade just past.

Evan Hadingham is a young British writer-scholar who has himself worked in the caves of Europe. These 15 chapters take a reader past the time of our very distant forebears, the hominids of the Rift and their kin, to the Mousterians with the Neanderthal label, and then for most of the volume into the Upper Paleolithic. Careful discussion of the ecological and economic issues, comparisons with ethnographic realities today, the details of cave art, painting, sculpture and engraving, and the final fadeout as the forests came back to Europe follow; this is the story of a few hundred centuries. It is Hadingham's special and readable style to put the issues in the form of a struggle among interpretations held by one or another worker in the field, so that the reader emerges with a sense that in prehistory, too, each generation rewrites the facts to suit the needs of the day, always with a few new documents and a few new ideas.

Most valuable, perhaps is the wealth of new material from the French, German and Russian workers that even the attentive reader of this magazine [Scientific American] may have missed. Some taste of that

treasure can be given by a quick account of a few new findings. There is a photograph of a model of a hut of the mammoth hunters, dated to about 20,000 years ago, found at Mezherich near Kiev. It was a round hut framed in mammoth bones, the foundation a ring of interlocking jaws. The arching roof supports three dozen tusks, some even joined by an ivory sleeve. Caves are scarce in eastern Europe but mammoths were plentiful. In western Europe the pollen students have made plain the remarkable local diversity of climate even in the time of the ice. In one French site the settlement holds many reindeer bones, but the simultaneous pollen record shows lime trees and hazels, which require temperate conditions. A German site of similar age looked out on a Rhine valley forested in pine, although the plateau above the valley was devoid of trees except for a few birches.

Europe was then a mosaic, not like the unrelieved flat tundra of the present Eskimos or the Siberians. Reindeer were the main source of food for the artists, although the animals are rare in their art. A fascinating discussion develops around the issue of semidomestication, because the long settlement assumed for the painted-cave regions does not fit with the migratory caribou over today's tundra. The answer is not fully in; the most plausible new work, by Derek Sturdy of Cambridge, shows that the reindeer hunting sites now found, sometimes 500 kilometers apart, can be interpreted as paired summer or winter camps at each end of a long seasonal migration. The scheme is alive in Greenland today; it is "the discreet practice of herd following, always one step behind the animals, which left them to their own devices as much as possible" but did not lose sight of them for an entire season, thereafter to return or not unpredictably, as the tundra hunters always fear.

In the 1960's there arose a widespread view of the hunter's life as an idyll, free of work and want. It seems more accurate to bear in mind that the key point is apt

BOOK REVIEW (continued)

to be the unusual or even seasonal lean periods, not the seasons of abundance. Even the easygoing (Kung of the Kalahari turn out to be chronically underweight; the dry spring is a hungry season, without their staple food, the mongongo nut. The Magdalenians had to work to survive, as far as we can tell; a fine-tuned steady balance is after all, not the only rhythm possible for cultures long persistent. Some groups could not have had it easy; the evidence tends to suggest that the handprints of the Gargas cave, with so many missing finger joints, were not the result of curled up fingers or of re-touching. The casts of fingerholes found in cave clay also show scarred stumps of fingers. There are various medical causes postulated; none is certain.

Nearly 500 human figurines are now known throughout ice-age Europe. They are not uniform in style, and most of those in western Europe are sexless, hardly support for the view of a universal cult of a pregnant Mother Goddess such as the famous little Venus of Willendorf.

The rock shelter at La Marche has yielded 1,500 limestone slabs brought into the shelter from farther up the valley. They are covered with superimposed hairline scratches, which turn out after years of ingenious decipherment by a team led by Leon Pales, published in 1976, to include more than 100 human heads and bodies, "well over a quarter of all the human figures known in Paleolithic art." They are fully human, individualized, caricatured, by no means masterful. A few show sexual intercourse, conventionally, even reticently, rendered. Five sites are now known to hold one or another such "intense and peculiar artistic activity, concentrated on small pieces of stone." In one side the slates used are broken and dispersed, reused "without concern for problems of space and composition." Were they perhaps drawn and redrawn at significant times? Some of the sites lie far from other decorated caves and show mediocre designs.

The slow enrichment of the data has not fulfilled any of the simpler hypothe-

ses. We are looking at a diverse world, its landscapes complex, its cultures differentiated, shifting, by no means isolated from one another. We see 10,000 years illuminated by haphazard flashes that offer snapshot detail for a few days and then darkness again. No wonder our ideas, like the images themselves, are superimposed and tangled. Finally, the strong art faded into the striated pebbles and the warring stick figures of the world after the ice. Almost the last of it is found in the cave of Addaura in Sicily, dated to some 11,000 years ago, where an engraved panel outlines a dozen well-drawn lively human forms, clearly participants in some strange and vividly composed scene.

By 5500 B.C. at the latest, farmers of eastern Europe were working their land, and before 4000 B.C., their way had spread to the Irish Sea. We have grown in number four-hundredfold since the dwindling of the ice. We look back here to a time when human beings were manifestly as subtle as ourselves, albeit few on the face of ice-fringed Europe.

(contributed by Richard Hand)

VERTICAL PRACTICE

A number of grotto members would like to have vertical practice sessions. I will be happy to hold several sessions this spring at Hayden Run Falls, in Columbus. With the approach of more daylight and Daylight Savings Time, I can hold these sessions either after work or on Saturday.

All participants must wear hardhats, gloves and boots. All participants who rappel are required to climb. Obviously, if one rappels into a cave, one must be also able to climb out of it. In other words, there is equal emphasis on getting in and out.

(Beer is taboo at vertical practice).

For further information and dates for practice sessions, call Bill Walden -
(614) 268-5865
223 Fallis Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43214

C.O.G MAILING EXCHANGE LIST

(The following is a list of current Internal Organization publications with which the Squeaks is exchanged. OTHER GROTTOS PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS AND LET US KNOW IF CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE.)

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Dave Socky 3422 W 97th St. Cleveland, OH 44102	R79	FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S MESS	
Doug Stecko Dept. of Chemistry U. of Cincinnati Cincinnati OH 45221	R79	The membership list was several months in the making, so please excuse the errors. (I haven't proofread it, so I know it must be full of errors. [I did, and yes, it was, but it probably still is, even though I corrected as many as I found. -Ed.] Those who haven't paid their dues are urged to do so. For the price of just	

MESS (continued)

two Big Macs, you and your loved ones can receive this nifty publication for an entire year!

As many of you know, I took the "big" step last April 12. The honeymoon trip included a visit to Mammoth Cave National Park. We took the "Historic tour." The cave is as majestic as ever, but on the whole, the tour was a bore. It is now a guided tour, and the Indian mummy is off display. The intact TB cabins were not included in the tour, only some of the remains of some of the others. However, I still feel that Mammoth is a must for the non-cavers in our families.

TENNESSEE CAVE SURVEY
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Announcement has been received of the publication of the 3rd edition of the Tennessee Cave Survey's Bibliography of Tennessee Speleology. This enlarged edition will list 1,482 different arti-

cles and books, which are cross-referenced with 1,599 cave names, and 200 subject headings.

This announcement is being published somewhat late in the Squeaks, and price now is \$15.00.

Order your copy from Larry E. Matthews 105 Stillhouse Dr., Hendersonville, TN 37075.

SPELEOFEST 1980

On the off-chance that the Squeaks may get to you in time to do any good, the Speleofest is being held in Pulaski County, KY May 23-26, at the Pulaski County Park, 7 miles southwest of Somerset, off Rt. 80. Among the many attractions of the area, this year's Speleofest will feature Sloan's Valley and Cave Creek Systems, as well as many others of the Pulaski Co. cave country.

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