

Re: Polynesian canoes (Re: Rat genes solve mystery of great Pacific odyssey)

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2004-07/2127.html>

From: Duncan Craig (*dunkers_at_pacbell.net*)

Date: 07/24/04

Date: 24 Jul 2004 02:15:54 -0700

benlizross <benlizro@ihug.co.nz> wrote in message news:<4101B4F8.4AED@ihug.co.nz>...

> Duncan Craig wrote:

>>

>> pashby@blueyonder.co.ruk (Peter Ashby) wrote in message news:<1ghdcy9.1jtz2n4nwq9zyN%pashby@blueyonder.co.ruk>...

>>> G Horvat <g-horvat@shaw.ca> wrote:

>>>>

>>>>> There is, however, to my mind, one possibility.

>>>>> That either Lapita, Melanesian or Polynesian in their exploration and

>>>>> settlement of the Pacific Ocean landed at places on the American

>>>>> mainland and their genes were added to the local populations.

>>>>>

>>>>> The earliest reported ancient New World haplogroup B sequence dates to

>>>>> 8,000 BP (Hourglass man, Colorado) and, therefore, predates

>>>>> Polynesians.

>>>>

>>>> And any known deep ocean technology. So how many other ways are there to

>>>> get from Asia to America as well as Asia to SE Asia without being too

>>>> silly?

>>>>

>>>> I agree that it makes sense for geneticists to steer clear of the whole

>>>> 'Polynesian' or 'Caucasian' looking skull thing, that does not mean it

>>>> is sensible to work as though there is no other evidence of prehistoric

>>>> population movements. If you find a haplotype in Tierra del Fuego and

>>>> Tasmania do you immediately tell archaeologists that they must have

>>>> missed a major ancient deep ocean capability or do you try and track the

>>>> haplotype up the Americas and down through SE Asia to Australia?

>>>>

>>>> Peter

>>>>

>>>> I Don't think one can dismiss an ancient deep ocean capability. There

>>>> was an extensive coastal network that exhibited some deep sea

>>>> capability.

>>>> See Title: TAIWAN, COASTAL SOUTH CHINA AND NORTHERN VIET NAM AND

>>>> THE NUSANTAO MARITIME TRADING NETWORK

>>>> Author(s): Wilhelm G. Solheim II

sci.archaeology: Re: Polynesian canoes (Re: Rat genes solve mystery of great Pacific odyssey)

- > > *Source: Journal of East Asian Archaeology Volume: 2 Number: 1*
- > > *Page: 273 -- 284*
- > > *and:*
- > >
- > > *Title: Maritime Adaptations in Prehistoric Southeast China:*
- > > *Implications for the Problem of Austronesian Expansion*
- > > *Author(s): Tsang Cheng-Hwa*
- > > *Source: Journal of East Asian Archaeology Volume: 3 Number: 1*
- > > *Page: 15 -- 46*
- > >
- > > *I also recall an article about the New Hebrides obsidian trade that*
- > > *was much older than the 7000–8000 BP discussed above.*
- > >
- > > *Duncan Craig*
- >
- > *There was nobody in the New Hebrides (aka Vanuatu) at 7000–8000 BP.*
- > *You may be thinking of New Britain.*
- > *One item that has been discussed here is the appearance of obsidian from*
- > *Manus at a site in Borneo, the date IIRC somewhere around 6000 BP.*
- > *But none of this (including the alleged Nusantao network) requires more*
- > *than coasting or hops of up to 200 km from island to island.*
- >
- > *Ross Clark*

Hi Ross,

Yeh, you're right. I get those neo-colonial names mixed up; New Hebrides, New Britain, New Jersey....

The hour glass man aside, I take it that you would disagree with this statement

from Tsang Cheng-Was paper:

"Some linguists (e.g. Dyan 1971, Pawley and Green 1973, Blust 1976) have inferred from the vocabulary of the proto-Austronesian languages that the ancestors of the Austronesians lived in a tropical coastal environment and that the populations of that time already cultivated yam, rice taro, millet and fruit but also practiced hunting and fishing; and their material culture comprised ceramics as well as stone, wood and bamboo artifacts, weaving, pile dwellings, tapa, the extensive use of seashells and that they possessed a highly developed sea-faring technique. Such linguistic inference has already to a large extent been borne out by archaeological work along China's southeastern coast; at the same time, it can serve to corroborate my emphasis on marine adaptations."

It's difficult to define when island and coastal hopping becomes "a highly developed sea-faring technique". Buckminster Fuller used to speak quite a bit about how seafaring, by its very do-or-die multi-disciplinary nature, developed rapidly and exponentially.

So is the work of Dyan, Pawley, Green, Blust outdated? or is it misapplied?

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Duncan Craig