

Re: Kris Hirst's page on Why Don't We Call Them Cro-Magnon Anymore? updated

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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.archaeology/2008-02/msg00375.html>

- *From:* Doug Weller <dweller@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Feb 2008 09:38:26 +0000
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On Tue, 12 Feb 2008 16:50:33 -0800 (PST), in sci.archaeology, J.LyonLayden wrote:

snip

I believe you. I know Kris and I knew that if she looked at the article again she would update it. So, yes, I wrote to her explaining that her post was being used to support the idea of giants (right?).

How fair. You have her email and can frame the "reasons" for your insistence any way you like, whereas I do not have the opportunity to present my case. She probably doesn't really care one way or the other. After all, it's POSSIBLE that cro-magnon wasn't as tall as it looks like he was from the evidence before 26,000 BC. It is CONCEIVABLE that all those tall skeletons we found were not the norm and due to lack of enough bones we cannot safely make the assertion that they were any taller than we are now...

I have her email not just because it's on About.com but because we are in touch fairly regularly.

I sent her an url to the thread as I know context is important and I didn't want her to only see a bit of it that I chose.

I asked her where she got the 6'4" figure pointing out that the ones I found were different.

And in particular, I said I wasn't happy about her having an article with the title saying we don't use the word Cro Magnon anymore and then she continues to use it in the article to describe anatomically modern humans.

I tried very hard to be fair. If I wasn't trying to be fair I wouldn't have sent her the url to the thread.

But c'mon Doug you know it is most probable that cro-magnon was taller and more robust than us. You also know that we are taller and more

Re: Kris Hirst's page on Why Don't We Call Them Cro-Magnon Anymore? updated

robust than we have been in perhaps 1000 years due to modern medicine finally compensating for the malnutrition resultant of agriculture and civilization.

Certainly you acknowledge some difference in stature between the first malnourished agriculturalists and the last of the robust huntergatherers, long before the hunter gatherers were pushed into the less fertile lands and hence suffered from malnutrition as well?

Is that what this argument is about? Since I agree than why are we arguing?

It really isn't a conspiracy. I was unhappy with the way she had a title that said Why we don't call them Cro-Magnon any more and yet continued to refer to Cro-Magnon, and pointed out that she needed to check on more current information about height.

Which she proly didn't do and instead took your "It takes a Village" policing for granted and did the ol' delete/copy/paste. She certainly didn't go out and remeasure specimens in a days time.

Now you are being unfair to her without any evidence. What did she copy and paste from?

In a 2nd post (and last before her revised article) I sent her this:

"

Early investigators were impressed by the stature of Cro-Magnon man, as some reconstructions suggest that the Old Man of Cro-Magnon may have been as much as 190 centimetres (six feet three inches) tall. A restudy, however, suggests that the stature of the original Cro-Magnon remains varied from 166 to 171 centimetres (five feet five inches to five feet seven inches). The stature of several skeletons from the Grimaldi Caves (in Italy, near the French frontier), which show clear affinities to those of Cro-Magnon, was noticeably greater, with an average height of 177 centimetres. It is thus reasonable to conclude that, on the whole, the Cro-Magnon peoples were relatively tall.

<http://clanrossi.com/Cromagnon.htm>

which is from the Britannica.

No references though, but the author was Henri J. Delporte Préhistorien french born in Tourcoing in 1920 and died in Lesigneux (Loire) in 2002. Instituteur à dix-neuf ans, Henri Delporte devient professeur d'histoire et géographie à Arras, puis à Montbrison.

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Instituteur nineteen years, Henri Delporte became a professor of history and geography at Arras, then in Montbrison. Devoir expliquer marquera toutes ses activités. Duty will explain all its activities. Sur ses différents chantiers de fouilles, il recrute couramment trente ou quarante participants. On its various excavation, it recruits commonly thirty or forty participants. Il les forme patiemment, sévèrement parfois. Lorsqu'il devient directeur du musée des Antiquités nationales de Saint-Germain-en-Laye en 1966, il modifie profondément les rapports entre le musée et la recherche.(...) He patiently form, severely parfois. Lorsqu' he became director of the National Museum of Antiquities in Saint-Germain-en-Laye in 1966, it profoundly changed the relationship between the museum and research . "

OK? Still tall, right?

In her article, she writes this:

"The physical characteristics of Early Modern Human are quite similar to modern humans, although perhaps a bit more robust, particularly seen in femora--the leg bones. The differences, which are slight, have been attributed to the shift away from long distance hunting strategies to sedentism and agriculture.

A recent study by Trent Holliday comparing early and late Upper Paleolithic skeletal materials provided an average male height of 170 centimeters (early) and 168 centimeters (late), and average female height of 157.6 cm (early) and 158.4 (late). However, Formicola and Giannecchini's data revealed that "EUP males are much taller (176.2 cm) and LUP shorter (165.6 cm), with an average difference of 10.6 cm. Similarly EUP females (162.9 cm) largely exceed LUP females (153.5 cm)." I think the jury is still out. "

Which is not what I sent her.

Note the 'much taller'. Why do you have a problem with that?

Sorry if you weren't clear, that's why it says 'updated' in the subject line, the article was updated.

As you have probably guessed, it is rare to find a complete skeleton and over time, for a species in a given time period, you will find different figures for something like height which has to be estimated from the material that is available.

So now you want the estimate to be over a WHOPPING 40,000 years instead of even the first 10,000 so that no one will be able to use

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the word giant anymore and you'll be finally, utterly vindicated for your suppositions.

Ridiculous. And even with those estimates, look at what Kris has written — early taller than later.

I think the idea of giants comes from a variety of sources, some being confusing fossils such as leg bones of other mammals with human fossils, some being the fact that there are 'sports', extremely tall people, etc, plus an explanation for giant ruins, etc.

That's what YOU think. Could we please be allowed to think as well without having the information sifted to us through a grate so that we won't get any ideas of our own?

A variety of sources. Are you really claiming only one source, which is what you seem to be doing. Because one of my 'sources' above is tall people. I still think that another origin of the idea of giants is as an explanation of who did things like raised the stones for Stonehenge, dolmens all over, etc. Evidently a large stone in Scandinavia was called the 'throw of the giant's. But yes, tall people are undoubtedly a source.

>But Nephilim? Nah, they aren't

any more real than those giants with double rows of teeth.

How do you have any idea? You don't even know what a nephelim IS, or what the word meant to those ancient people.

No, but I don't think that something written down about 2500 years ago can be used as 'real'.

Now I don't know how keen I am on oral legends lasting 10000 years, but still, how about this scenario:

Your Natufians, averaging around 5'5", run into a group of people averaging around 5'10" with of course some quite a bit taller — over 6'6" for a couple perhaps, who knows? Hell, Robert Pershing Wadlow never ever stopped growing and when he died at 22 he was less than an inch to being 9 feet tall. He was called the Alton Giant and for good reason. But that

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was a medical problem. It could have happened in the past and you'd not only have had people who had seen such a person but for a while the whole skeleton.

There's a guy 8' 6" in the Ukraine, again a medical problem.

Anyway, back to the Natufians. They run into these taller people and the story lives on. Different labels are put on the people and they are fitted into different tales at different times. And they, maybe, are the source of the 'Nephilim'. But they weren't taller than people are today in a number of Western countries.

But hold on -- look what I've done. And you've done.

The Nephilim giants?

Hm, let's look at the Bible.

I've got the New English Bible. Genesis Chapter 6. Oops, no giants.

'They were the heroes of old, men of renown'. But no comments on their height.

From the web English Standard version:

"6:1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in [1] man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.' 4 The Nephilim [2] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."

No giants there either although some Bible version do have them.

Don't despair:

Numbers:

But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, 'Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.' 31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.' 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, 'The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. 33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.'

And thus you actually get Christians claiming they were 100 feet tall.

So, what do you mean by giants?

I hope to find time to report more on what Adrienne Mayor has to say about giants at some point.

And I hope to one day find a scientist with balls. pretty hard when you get canned for reporting early tool making sites in america, utterly silenced for finding crib-bit on horses in the paleolithic,

Gotta go. Who was utterly silenced for this? Since I can find references for this on Google, what do you mean by silenced? I'll come back to it.

Doug

and harassed for giving separate heights for two different ages of cro-magnon!!

from K. Kris Hirst

Doug Weller, moderator of Skeptical Views of Fringe Archaeology and one of

my favorite archaeology webmasters, told me last week that my article Why Don't We Call Them Cro-Magnons Any More? was being used to support some

wild notion of there having been giants in prehistory—I suppose based partly on the story in the book of Genesis in the Judeo-Christian religious text known as the bible. I thought that was interesting, so I did so more poking around, and updated my page accordingly.

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Doug Weller --

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Doug's Archaeology Site: <http://www.ramtops.co.uk>

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