

LONG RANGER

NEWSLETTER



FORMERLY *MOTHER TONGUE* NEWSLETTER
Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory

ISSUE 32

(LR 32)

Fall 1999

Long Ranger : Newsletter
of the Association for the Study
of Language in Prehistory.
(formerly **Mother Tongue Newsletter**)
Issue 32. Fall 1999.

The Association for the Study of Language in Prehistory (ASLIP) is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its purpose is to encourage and support the study of language in prehistory in all fields and by all means, including research on the early evolution of human language, supporting conferences, setting up a data bank, and publishing a newsletter (*Long Ranger*) and a journal (*Mother Tongue*) to report these activities.

Membership: Annual dues for ASLIP membership, including subscriptions to *Long Ranger* newsletter and *Mother Tongue* journal, are U.S. \$25 in all countries, except those with currency problems (e.g., Russia). Please send membership fees to:

Peter Norquest
ASLIP Treasurer
1632 Santa Rita Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
U.S.A.

tel: 520-903-0648
e-mail: Norquesp@U.ARIZONA.edu

* * * * *

Long Ranger Editors:

John D. Bengtson
ASLIP President
156 15th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413 U.S.A.
<john.bengtson@co.hennepin.mn.us>
tel: 612-782-9009

G.R. Foote
2793 16th Road
Frankfort, KS 66427
U.S.A.
<GRFoote@aol.com>
tel: 785-292-4504

Alvah M. Hicks
9788 Random Canyon Way
Creston, CA 93432
U.S.A.
<alvah@thegrid.net>
tel: 805-438-4142
fax: 805-438-4156

Roger W. Wescott
ASLIP Vice-President
16-A Heritage Crest
Southbury, CT 06488
U.S.A.
<whilro@aol.com>
tel: 203-264-1716

Readers: Please inform us of news items that might be of interest.

ASLIP Website: <<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~witzel/aslip.html>>

Long Ranger Newsletter No. 32 (LR 32) Fall 1999

The editors have decided to change the name of ASLIP's newsletter from *Mother Tongue* Newsletter to *Long Ranger* Newsletter, to avoid confusion with *Mother Tongue* Journal. Henceforth, the Newsletter can conveniently be referred to as, e.g. LR 32, LR 33, etc., *versus* MT IV, MT V (the Journal). "Long Ranger" (coined by ASLIP Vice-President Roger Wescott) has of course been used as a self-designation for paleolinguists and paleolinguistic buffs throughout the history of ASLIP/*Mother Tongue*.

Editors: John D. Bengtson, G.R. Foote, Alvah M. Hicks, Roger W. Wescott

* * * * *

OBITUARIES

We have been informed from Moscow that another ASLIP Council Fellow has died. **Igor M. Diakonoff (1915-1999)** was a world-renowned authority on Afroasiatic languages, and on ancient languages of the Middle East (Sumerian, Hurrian, Urartian, etc.) Among his publications, we can mention his survey volumes on the Afroasiatic (= Hamito-Semitic) macro-family: *Semito-Hamitic Languages* (Moscow, 1965), *Afrasian Languages* (Moscow, 1988). Diakonoff collaborated with another ASLIP Council Fellow, Sergei A. Starostin, on a monograph demonstrating that two ancient languages of Asia Minor were affiliated with Caucasian languages (*Hurro-Urartian As an Eastern Caucasian Language*: Munich, 1986). His most recent contribution to *Mother Tongue* was an article proposing a genetic relationship between Sumerian and the Munda languages of India ("External Connections of the Sumerian Language," *Mother Tongue* III:54-62, 1997). His voice and leadership will be sorely missed.

* * *

Professor **Karl Heinrich Menges** of the University of Vienna was an expert on the Turks and other central Asians. He was a bold *Long Ranger*, supporting the Nostratic hypothesis, and promoting the publication of an article on Dene-Caucasian in the *Central Asiatic Journal*. A recent article of his (in the Shevoroshkin *Festschrift*: see review in MT IV) displayed Menges' erudition and breadth of vision. For example, the observation on "Samoyed *qam/käm* etc. ['blood'] and Ainu *kem* ['blood']" that "these two etyma ... transcend the boundaries of Nostratic and demand thorough further investigation as they might well be considered traces of a more distant ancient genetic relationship." [Re Ainu *kem*, see MT IV, p.35] I met Professor Menges in 1988, at the Ann Arbor "Language in Prehistory" Symposium. When he heard that I lived in Minnesota, we talked about climate and environmental quality, of all things. I suppose Minnesota reminded him of Siberia. We shall miss him. [JDB]

* * * * *

ASLIP Announcements

ASLIP Website Refurbished!

Thanks to fine work by new ASLIP member Professor Michael Witzel (Harvard University), ASLIP Board member Mary Ellen Lepionka, and *Long Ranger* Editor Randy Foote, the ASLIP website is now up and running again. Until recently it had languished in cyberspace, bereft of maintenance and updating, under the address <www.leonline.com/aslip/index.html>. Please delete that from your address book, and make note of:

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~witzel/aslip.html>

Take a look, and get back to us with your comments and ideas.

* * *

Late-breaking News!

ASLIP Discussion Website / Mailing List Now Open

Our discussion website / mailing list is now officially open for discussion. We owe this site to the graciousness of webmaster Michael Witzel's friend and *commilites* in Indian matters, Dr. John R. Gardner of ATLA-CERTR and Emory University, Atlanta. Michael and John are running a number of text and electronic database initiatives together, which ultimately will also become interesting for ASLIP members: they will allow easy search, cross-listing, and special restricted searches that will make the large-scale comparisons necessary to Long-Ranging much easier. (Provided the data have been put in, by us!)

We should make it one of our Discussion Site objectives to assemble such data and make them freely accessible to ASLIP members. (For example, Michael Witzel is working on an annotated substrate list [some 400 items] for Oldest India, and may put it on the site later this year. Diacritics are a perennial problem.) Readers' thoughts on such an initiative are welcome. The site address is:

<http://204.156.22.2/cgi-bin/demogate/mothertongue/lwgate/MOTHERTONGUE/>

Since this site is restricted (for the time being) to members of ASLIP, there is no need for extensive rules of net etiquette. (Of course, no flaming!) For any technical and practical questions please write to:

John R. Gardner jrgardn@emory.edu

and/or

Michael Witzel witzel@fas.harvard.edu

* * * * *

Archaeological and Biogenetic Notes

Selected Quotes and References

Compiled by Alvah Hicks and Randy Foote

Amanda B. Spurdle and Trefor Jenkins, **The Origins of the "Lemba Jews" of South Africa: Evidence from 12F2 and other Y-Chromosome Markers** *Am. J. Hum. Gen.*, 1996

The ability of Y-chromosome polymorphisms to provide a record of male specific gene flow and human variation has long been recognized, and numerous studies using different Y markers have indicated the value of this approach. P. 1126

The Lemba population of southern Africa constitutes a group of Bantu speakers who claim Jewish ancestry. Historically, the Lemba were distinct from their Bantu-speaking Negroid neighbors by their means of livelihood, physical appearance, customs and rituals (Van Warmelo, 1974), and even nowadays the cultural differences between the Lemba and other Bantu-speakers are recognized. P. 1126

More detailed descriptions of Lemba oral history by Professor Mathivha of the Lemba Cultural Association (Mathivha 1992) suggest that the Jewish ancestors of the Lemba, as traders in the 7th century BC, migrated from "the north" to Yemen, where they established both a large community at Sena (Sa'na), and several trading posts along the Eastern African coast. The Jewish community of Sena, termed "Basena", was later expanded by exiles escaping the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. At some later stage, "trouble broke out between the Basena and the Arabs", resulting in migration of some Basena to Africa. Here the group split in two, one moving westward to settle in Ethiopia (the "Falashas"), the other ("the Lemba") moving southward, finally to establish communities in southern Africa. Dates for the migration from Yemen appear to be inconsistent, and those quoted for settlement en route to southern Africa range from 450 BC to 50 AD (Mathivha 1992). P. 1127

The Lemba exhibit a frequency of .26 for the p12F2/TaqII 8-kb allele. Since this allele is absent in Africans and also was not observed in a sample of 60 Polynesians (A>.B.S., unpublished data), it would appear to be specific to Caucasoids. The p12F2 data suggest, therefore, that the Lemba gene pool has received contributions from Caucasoid males. P. 1127

The currently available Y-chromosome genetic data do not support a close genetic relationship between the Ethiopian Jews and the Lemba. In conclusion, the historical facts are not incompatible with theories concerning the origin of the Lemba, and the Y-specific genetic findings presented here are consistent with Lemba oral history.

Alvah's comments: This paper demonstrates the value of historical myths and cultural identity and genetic collaborations that help verify tribal accounts of the past. With this in mind we should see greater value in testing other models based on Myth from other cultures, including Siberians being descendents of Native Americans as identified by Boas. Alternatives to anthropological "givens", as to whether present populations in Siberia are/or ARE NOT the ancestors of Native Americans, should be assessed anew.

JD Bengtson comment: See earlier discussions by Hal Fleming and Jan Vansina in MT 28 (Spring 1997, pp. 16-17) and MT 29 (Fall 1997, p. 7). If the Lemba are descended in the male line from Hebrew Qohanim (priests), it seems incredible that they would not pass on the scriptural heritage (Torah, etc.) that was so important to them. It would be interesting to know if Lemba, a Bantu language, has any of the Hebraisms and Aramaisms typical of Jewish languages like Yiddish, Judezmo (Ladino), etc. According to Tudor Parfitt, "if the Lemba ever had any knowledge of Hebrew, there is no trace of it.... Within this [Hiberu=Karanga] language there is a number of Semitic words.... Every time I asked for concrete examples of Hiberu, my informant.... would refer me to someone older and wiser." (Journey to the Vanished City: The search for a lost tribe of Israel, New York, St. Martin's Press, 1992) The same author lists a number of vaguely "Semitic" cultural traits of the Lemba: veneration of sacred hills, animal sacrifice, ritual slaughter, food taboos, circumcision and endogamy, but at least some of these could just as well have native African origins. Certain overtly Jewish practices (wearing yarmulkes or displaying the Star of David) have been adopted by some Lemba in recent times. More information from Long Ranger readers would be welcome. This might be a worthy topic for full discussion in the MT Journal.

Relethford, J.H. Evolution of Skin Color in Yemenite Jews. *Current Anthropology* (1998), Vol. 39, No.1, pp. 150-152

How long did the evolution of human skin color take"? Does skin color change rapidly (on the order of a millenium or so), or does it represent evolution over much longer periods of time? On the basis of computer simulation, Livingstone (1969) suggested that modern differences in skin color could have arisen in as few as 800 – 1500 generations (roughly 20,000 – 37,500 years). However such simulations show us only what *could* happen and not necessarily what actually *did* happen. P. 151

Haldane proposed something along this line when he suggested that, because American Indians near the tropics are not as dark as tropical populations in the (Old World, they had not yet fully adapted to their new environment and therefore the evolution of modern human skin color differences took longer than the time since the initial habitation of the New World (cited in Livingstone, 1969). This paper uses similar logic and extends it to a qualitative analysis of a specific human population with a known history of movement into a different latitude – the Yemenite Jew p.151

The predicted latitude for the Habbani Jews based on their skin color is roughly 32 degrees north latitude, which is the geographic center of Israel. Even though the Habbani Yemenite Jews spent between 1500 and 2600 years in a different environment, there has been no change in skin color. It seems that the evolution of human skin color requires greater time depth and is not indicative of a rapid microevolutionary change. Other populations, also with known histories, must be examined to provide further insight into the rate of microevolution in skin color. The basic method here can also be applied to other traits that show a strong geographic relationship. P. 152

Alvah's comment: Archaeological evidence for the initial expansion of humans~45,000 years ago could, if one looks outside of Africa for the source of this migration, dictate

that Old World variation in skin color, from white in Europe to dark in Africa and India, are primarily climate related.

Lum, J.K., Cann, R.L., Martinson, J.J., and Jorde, L.B., **Mitochondrial and Nuclear Genetic Relationships among Pacific Island and Asian Populations**, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* (1998), 63:613-624

By examining different genetic systems from the same individuals, we have generated patterns consistent with both views. As described above, our mtDNA data are correlated with linguistic data and suggest island Southeast Asia as the origin of Remote Oceanic Islanders. These data are consistent with the express train model. Our STR data, in contrast, are not correlated with linguistic data and highlight affinities between Near Oceanic and Remote Oceanic populations. We have argued that the differences between these patterns result from postcolonization male-biased gene flow. Genetic interactions between populations after initial colonization may have been mediated by a predominantly male segment of voyaging societies, engaged in the control of resources. This bias served to preserve pre-existing linguistic differences, lines of status, and hierarchical divisions along matrilineal kinship groups. Thus, we see female settlement as an express train and male gene flow as an entangled bank. P. 622

Alvah's comment: Did the mtDNA express train come from the Americas or is this idea too unscientific to address? Certainly nuclear DNA would indicate admixture with Native Oceanic Peoples who had previously colonized Southeast Asia (and beyond) ~40,000 years earlier.

Holdaway, S. **Stone artifact assemblage variability and scales of temporal resolution at Bone Cave, Tasmania, Australia**. *Abstracts for the Paleoanthropology Society Meetings*. P. A9

Bone Cave is one of a number of limestone caves in the southwest of Tasmania, Australia that have produced a rich record of Pleistocene human occupation spanning the period from 10,000 to 35,000 BP. This paper reports the results of a technological analysis of 23,000 stone artifacts excavated from Bone cave. Artifacts found on the site were manufactured from both local and imported stone, and suggest a variety of reduction strategies. Twenty-nine radiocarbon determinations from the site permit a precise chronology to be constructed that indicates the site was abandoned for substantial periods between occupations during the late Pleistocene. Stone artifact assemblages constructed on the basis of the radiocarbon determinations are compared through time to determine the significance of these periods of abandonment. Also considered are the effects of differing temporal scales of resolution on measures of assemblage variability. P. A9

Alvah's comments: Human arrival in Tasmania is consistent with a 35 – 40 thousand-year age. The conservative dates associated with the radiation of Homo Sapiens throughout the Old World should rely on this timing by scientifically discriminating the consistency of this modern human boundary for our arrival into the Old World as it continues to be consistently dated as being.

B. J. Johnson, G. H. Miller, M. L. Fogel, J. W. Magee, M. K. Gagan, A. R. Chivas, **65,000 Years of Vegetation Change in Central Australia and the Australian Summer Monsoon**, *Science*, Volume 284, Number 5417 Issue of 14 May 1999, pp. 1150 - 1152

Carbon isotopes in fossil emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) eggshell from Lake Eyre, South Australia, demonstrate that the relative abundance of C4 grasses varied substantially during the past 65,000 years.

Over the past 65,000 years, environmental factors other than climate have substantially influenced Australian ecology. Vegetation change in northeastern and southeastern Australia, brought about by an increase in fire frequency, has been attributed to the arrival of the first human immigrants at ~60 ka and has been suggested as the cause of extinction of *G. newtoni* at ~50 ka. Our isotopic data are consistent with a human overprint on natural climate change. The effectiveness of the summer monsoon at Lake Eyre decreased substantially at approximately the same time as megafauna extinction and never fully recovered, despite an invigorated planetary monsoon during the early Holocene. The transfer of moisture from the biosphere to the atmosphere is an important feedback mechanism that enhances the penetration of monsoon moisture into the interior of other continents. A change in vegetation type across northern Australia brought about by the burning practices of the first human colonizers may have reduced this wet-season feedback and, consequently, diminished the effectiveness of the summer monsoon at Lake Eyre during the early Holocene. Continuous records of vegetation change from the semiarid interior of central and northern Australia, such as the one presented here, are required to evaluate the magnitude of human impact.

Randy's Comments: This research indicates that settlement of Australia may well be earlier the standard estimates of 40,000 years BP. A recent article in J. Hum. Evo. also notes that: "Fresh analysis of the skeletal remains found at Lake Mungo in NSW 25 years ago indicate he may be up to 68,000 years old - making him 28,000 years older than earlier scientific estimates.... But the researchers add that the location of the Mungo skeleton, deep in Australia's south-east, suggests Homo sapiens arrived in the north-east much earlier, taking time to migrate inland and adapt to desert conditions before travelling down the continent."

In that the settlement of Australia is the first definitive use of boats, and likely indicates human cognition levels that correlate to true human language, this research could place the beginning of language at no later than 60,000 ya.

Terry Melton, Stephanie Clifford, Jeremy Martinson, Mark Batzer, and Mark Stoneking, **Genetic Evidence for the Proto-Austronesian Homeland in Asia: mtDNA and Nuclear DNA Variation in Taiwanese Aboriginal Tribes**, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 63:1807-1823, 1998

Summary: Previous studies of mtDNA variation in indigenous Taiwanese populations have suggested that they held an ancestral position in the spread of mtDNAs throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania (Melton et al. 1995; Sykes et al. 1995), but the question of an absolute proto-Austronesian homeland remains. To search for Asian roots for indigenous Taiwanese populations, 28 mtDNAs representative of variation in four tribal groups (Ami, Atayal, Bunun, and Paiwan) were sequenced and were compared with each

other and with mtDNAs from 25 other populations from Asia and Oceania. In addition, eight polymorphic *Alu* insertion loci were analyzed, to determine if the pattern of mtDNA variation is concordant with nuclear DNA variation. Tribal groups shared considerable mtDNA sequence identity ($P > .90$), where gene flow is believed to have been low, arguing for a common source or sources for the tribes. mtDNAs with a 9-bp deletion have considerable mainland-Asian diversity and have spread to Southeast Asia and Oceania through a Taiwanese bottleneck. Only four Taiwanese mtDNA haplotypes without the 9-bp deletion were shared with any other populations, but these shared types were widely dispersed geographically throughout mainland Asia. Phylogenetic and principal-component analyses of *Alu* loci were concordant with conclusions from the mtDNA analyses; overall, the results suggest that the Taiwanese have temporally deep roots, probably in central or south China, and have been isolated from other Asian populations in recent history.

Randy's Comments: This corresponds to linguistic analysis that also locates Taiwan as the homeland of Austronesian and Polynesian languages.

Alan J. Redd, and Mark Stoneking. Peopling of Sahul: mtDNA Variation in Aboriginal Australian and Papua New Guinean Populations, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 65:808-828, 1999

Abstract: We examined genetic affinities of Aboriginal Australian and New Guinean populations by using nucleotide variation in the two hypervariable segments of the mtDNA control region (CR). A total of 318 individuals from highland Papua New Guinea (PNG), coastal PNG, and Aboriginal Australian populations were typed with a panel of 29 sequence-specific oligonucleotide (SSO) probes. The SSO-probe panel included five new probes that were used to type an additional 1,037 individuals from several Asian populations. The SSO-type data guided the selection of 78 individuals from Australia and east Indonesia for CR sequencing. A gene tree of these CR sequences, combined with published sequences from worldwide populations, contains two previously identified highland PNG clusters that do not include any Aboriginal Australians; the highland PNG clusters have coalescent time estimates of 80,000 and 122,000 years ago, suggesting ancient isolation and genetic drift. SSO-type data indicate that 84% of the sample of PNG highlander mtDNA belong to these two clusters. In contrast, the Aboriginal Australian sequences are intermingled throughout the tree and cluster with sequences from multiple populations. Phylogenetic and multidimensional-scaling analyses of CR sequences and SSO types split PNG highland and Aboriginal Australian populations and link Aboriginal Australian populations with populations from the subcontinent of India. These mtDNA results do not support a close relationship between Aboriginal Australian and PNG populations but instead suggest multiple migrations in the peopling of Sahul.

Possible Ainu Site Creates Buzz, *Science*, Random samples, Volume 284, Number 5414, 23 April 1999

In 1996, biologists working in the wild Kuril Islands north of Japan came across the undisturbed remains of several large, circular dwellings sunken into the ground next to a stream. News of the find--probably an ancient site for the Ainu, a seafaring people who

still live in Hokkaido--is only now trickling out. And archaeologists are clamoring for a look at the site that, they say, could shed light on everything from the peopling of the Americas to how early human occupation may have altered the fragile balance of species on the rugged islands.

Intent on gathering specimens of everything from lichens to frogs, the biologists only late last year showed photos of the structures on Onkotan, a northern, uninhabited island, to archaeologist Karl Hutterer, director of UW's Burke Museum, who then spread the word. Insights into Ainu life in the Kurils and the Ainu's possible spread to Alaska's Aleutian islands "would have a major impact on our interpretation of northeast Asian and, potentially, North American prehistory," says anthropologist John Olsen of the University of Arizona, Tucson. He says it would bolster the theory that the earliest Americans may have found their way to the continent not only via the Bering land bridge but also by sea more than 10,000 years ago.

Randy's Comments: Research into pre-10,000 year old Ainu/Jomon settlements may well have great impact on the first settlement of the Americas. Note below the recent news that preliminary skull analysis of the man found in Kennewick, Washington, dated to 9,300 years ago, indicates relationship to the Ainu and Southeast Asians, rather than to Native Americans:

Expert Panel Recasts Origin Of Fossil Man In Northwest, New York Times, October 14, 1999: The ancient bones of Kennewick Man, found in the banks of the Columbia River in Washington State three years ago and hailed as one of decade's most significant archaeological finds, cannot be linked to any modern American Indian tribes or to Europeans, a scientific panel has concluded. The remains, estimated to be about 9,300 years old, most closely resemble Asian people, particularly the Ainu of northern Japan, and Polynesians from the South Pacific, the scientists said. Both groups are descendants of people from southern Asia, they said.

Randy's comments: Note from C. Loring Brace, Professor of Biological Anthropology at U. of Michigan:

"I concur in part because, while I was not on the panel, that was my initial guess after looking at the photograph printed in the New York Times on Sept. 30, 1996... That was what got me associated with the group that became the plaintiffs in the suit against the government. My first reaction was that it looked just like the prehistoric Jomon from Japan, but it needs to be metrically compared just to see if the initial impression is correct. Some years earlier I had proposed, on quantitative grounds, that the Jomon of Japan were the source from which the Polynesians were derived prior to their settlement of the Pacific Islands. That is where the idea that Kennewick might resemble Ainu and Polynesians came from, and I have been telling people that for a decade now (see "Reflections on the face of Japan: A multivariate craniofacial and odontometric perspective," with M. L. Brace and W. R. Leonard, Amer. J. Physical Anthropol. 78(1):93-113, 1989). The person who did the craniometrics for the government panel is Joe Powell of the Department of Anthropology at the U. of New Mexico, and he knows what my feelings are because I told him. He does not have Ainu, Jomon, or Polynesian

data himself, so his suggestions concerning those relationships are at least in part derived from what I have said. The "southern Asia" tie does not follow. Yes, there is a longstanding archaeological interpretation to the effect that the people of the Pacific came from Southeast Asia, and one part of that school of thought has suggested that the Japanese archipelago was initially settled from the South. There are too many reasons why that cannot be sustained, and I deal with many of them in the paper mentioned above."

Dennis Normile , **Genetic Clues Revise View of Japanese Roots**, *Science*, Volume 283, Number 5407, 5 Mar 1999, pp. 1426 – 1427

Conventional wisdom traces the peopling of the Japanese archipelago to two waves of migrants. The first, the ancestors of the Jomonese, a people who lived cut off from the Asian mainland for 10,000 years and presumably account for many of the distinct cultural and ethnic traits of modern Japanese, are thought to have originated in southeast Asia and island-hopped to southern Japan about 30,000 years ago. The second wave, the Yayoi, originated in northern Asia and traveled down the Korean Peninsula to Kyushu some 2300 years ago, bringing with them rice paddy agriculture and metal tools. What happened next is not clear, including whether the Yayoi mixed with, displaced, or were overwhelmed by the Jomonese.

But a new study of the origins of the Jomonese and Yayoi turns that explanation on its head. Speaking at a conference [in Kyoto, Japan] last week, Michael Hammer, an anthropological geneticist at the University of Arizona, Tucson, suggested that the early Jomonese likely originated in central Asia and crossed over a northern land bridge, while the Yayoi may have had roots in southeastern Asia before they headed north and arrived in Kyushu from the west. At the same time, Hammer's work, which is based on an analysis of the Y chromosome in some 2500 men in 60 populations around the world, reinforces the prevailing view that modern Japanese are a hybrid of these two earlier cultures. "These are extremely interesting results, and I expect they will stimulate further work using the Y chromosome," says Keiichi Omoto, an anthropological geneticist at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (IRCJS) in Kyoto.

One of the Y variants, called YAP, is highly represented in the Ainu of northern Japan and in Okinawans. These two groups are believed to have been the least affected by Yayoi immigration and, thus, seen as possibly characteristic of the Jomonese. Hammer figured a different haplotype, designated as 1J and common among both Koreans and Japanese, might be a Yayoi indicator.

.....Relying on blood samples already collected around the world for other purposes, he found that YAP, or a closely related variant, only showed up in populations from Japan, Tibet, and sub-Saharan Africa. Hammer believes that the sub-Saharan variant evolved after the variants found in both Tibet and Japan. Variants of the 1J haplotype were common in Japan and Korea, but also appeared in Manchuria and Southeast Asia. To explain these patterns, Hammer theorizes that YAP originated in central Asia 50,000 years ago. People carrying YAP dispersed across the east and west, perhaps under pressure from new waves of immigrants. Eventually YAP peoples were pushed to the fringe areas of Tibet and Japan, and all traces of YAP in central Asia were subsequently obliterated by mixing. The ancestors of the Jomonese crossed a land bridge to Japan about

30,000 years ago and were cut off from the mainland when water levels rose about 12,000 years ago. Another group migrated all the way to Africa, he speculates.

The 1J haplotype emerged in Southeast Asia and was carried north and east, Hammer believes, eventually spreading to the Korean peninsula and Japan. Tracing the Yayoi to southeast Asia "needs much more work," he admits, adding that his theory nevertheless is consistent with the origin 8000 years ago of paddy rice agriculture in south Asia.

Even harder for everyone to swallow is the premise of a migration to Africa. "There is no fossil evidence for any migration [of any type] into Africa," says Chris Stringer, a physical anthropologist at the Natural History Museum, London. Omoto says a more convincing theory would posit that YAP originated in Africa and was somehow retained in a few isolated populations. Hammer's answer is that it may be time to reexamine the conventional view that migrations were always out of Africa and never back in.

Scientists hope to find ways to resolve this and other conflicting evidence being gathered by geneticists, anthropologists, and archaeologists. William Wang, a linguist at the City University of Hong Kong, says, "Each discipline provides just one window to the past. We need several viewpoints to get an accurate picture." Stringer says that finding a way to blend the genetic and anthropological evidence into a consistent picture of Japanese origins, which is presumed to rest on two distinct waves of migrants, "could set an example for [work on] other regions" with more complex migratory patterns.

Randy's Comments: As Wang noted – Each discipline provides just one window to the past. This genetic and archeological research relates back to the work discussed in MTIV on Ainu genetic and linguistic relationship with either Austronesian / Southeast Asian vis-à-vis Altaic/ Central Asian peoples. This article does not contradict the possibility that the Ainu represent a relic of a population that inhabited Central and East Asia ca 40 – 50,000 years ago and was overwhelmed in most areas by agricultural peoples. See also C. L. Brace's comment above.

Diego Hurtado de Mendoza and Ricardo Braginski, Y Chromosomes Point to Native American Adam, Science, Volume 283, Number 5407, 5 Mar 1999, pp. 1439 - 1440

A man who lived some 20,000 years ago carried a set of genetic markers that are now found in up to 85% of Native American males. Many of the native peoples around the Americas--from southern Argentina to North America--can trace their heritage back to a single founding father, according to a group of Argentine researchers. Three years ago these researchers, along with another group, discovered the traces of a single common ancestor in the Y-chromosomes of Native American men in South and Central America. Now they have traced this ancestral father's influence throughout the Americas. The studies by Nestor Bianchi and his colleagues at the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Celular (IMBICE) of La Plata suggest that the Native American Adam lived roughly 20,000 years ago and is the common paternal ancestor of at least 85% of all native Americans in South America and almost half those in North America.

"We now know that if you are a Native American individual and you have [a particular Y chromosome] mutation, you can trace your ancestry back to a single

individual who came to the Americas sometime during the settlement of this continent," says Peter Underhill of Stanford University, who led the other group that discovered this common Y chromosome variant. The age of the ancestral New World father falls within the broad range of other genetic estimates for when the Americas were first thought to be settled, although there's no undisputed archaeological evidence for settlement before about 12,500 years ago. And the mutation's abundance suggests that many of the first Americans arrived in a single migration from an ancestral Siberian home--a home that other researchers are identifying.

Three years ago, the La Plata researchers and Underhill's group independently announced the discovery of a common Y haplotype--a common set of markers--among indigenous groups in Central and South America. They proposed then that most extant male aborigines in this region are the offspring of a single patrilineage. Now Bianchi and his colleagues have broadened their search, analyzing Y-chromosomes from a much larger sample--a total of 200 men--from North America as well as South and Central America.

..... By using the mutation rate seen in other parts of the Y chromosome, they figured that the New World Adam had lived, very roughly, 22,500 years ago. (The results have wide error bars, from a minimum of 13,700 years to a maximum of 58,700 years).

Bianchi and his colleagues note that Native Americans in North America are less likely to carry the telltale combination of markers than are South American natives, perhaps because North American natives have a greater admixture of African or European genes. The presence of other Y types could also indicate that the first Americans arrived from Asia in several different waves, as some anthropologists have proposed. Indeed, in work that is in press, Andrew Bergen, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute, reports that he has identified a second, less common Y chromosome, suggesting that the New World Adam had a rival.

Two papers in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*--one published in February and the other this month--compare the Native American Y chromosome with genetic material from natives in Asia. The researchers who led the two teams--Fabricio Santos of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and Tatyana Karafet of the University of Arizona, Tucson--say that they have identified a set of chromosome markers that looks like the ancestor of the New World Y in two small Siberian ethnic groups: the Kets from the Yenisey River Basin and the Altaians from the Altai Mountains. And in Y chromosomes from populations in other parts of Asia and Europe, they have found clues that the ancestral Y's own precursor originated in central Asia, then in ancient migrations spread eastward into Siberia and as far west as England.

Other genetic evidence has also hinted at a central Asian population that spread both east and west (*Science*, 24 April 1998, p. 520). Says Andrew Bergen, one of the researchers: "In essence, the ancestral founding Y chromosome found its way to America, and also supplied Europe."

Elizabeth Pennisi, **Genetic Study Shakes Up Out of Africa Theory**, *Science*, Volume 283, Number 5409, 19 Mar 1999, p 1828

A new DNA analysis is casting doubt on the popular notion that all modern humans descended from one small population of ancient Africans.... But a few anthropologists have always questioned this tale, and this week the skeptics added new

data to their cause, as population geneticist Jody Hey and anthropologist Eugene Harris of Rutgers University in Piscataway, New Jersey, presented evidence that two human populations dating to at least 200,000 years ago left their genetic legacy in modern people. One group gave rise to modern Africans and the other to all non-Africans, Hey and Harris report in the 16 March Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Multiple analyses of mitochondrial DNA and Y chromosome variations have bolstered the Out of Africa hypothesis. But Hey and Harris found a different pattern when they compared different versions, or haplotypes, of a gene on the X chromosome called PDHA1, which codes for a key enzyme in sugar metabolism. They gathered DNA from six French, seven Chinese, five Vietnamese, one Mongolian, six Senegalese, three African Pygmies, three members of the Khoisan tribe near Angola, and four South Africa Bantus.

By assuming that the number of sequence differences between two haplotypes corresponds to the time since populations carrying them split apart, Harris and Hey built an evolutionary tree for the gene. To turn the sequence differences into an absolute measure of time, they calculated the gene's mutation rate, based on the number of differences between chimp and human PDHA1 genes, which are assumed to have split 5 million years ago. Such molecular clocks have come under fire lately (Science, 5 March, p. 1435), but the team notes that other analyses show that PDHA1's clock appears to keep steady time.

The tree showed that modern variants of the gene go back to two ancestral haplotypes. One gave rise to several modern haplotypes found only among Africans. The other ancient haplotype eventually gave rise to one variant seen today in some Africans, and another variant that--some 200,000 years ago--evolved into the two haplotypes seen today in non-Africans. What's more, the team found a so-called "fixed difference" between Africans and non-Africans: At one spot in the sequence, all the Africans had one base, while all the non-Africans had a different base. This is the first time such a fixed regional difference has been found in human genes, and it "is a strong indication of an historical division" in the population, says Hey.

All this offers a serious challenge to the Out of Africa hypothesis, says Rosalind Harding, a population geneticist at the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford, United Kingdom. Although the previous studies may have accurately traced particular genes, a given gene may not accurately reflect a population's movement. Moreover, the new work isn't the only one questioning Out of Africa. Harding's previous work revealed ancient, non-African haplotypes in the beta globin gene. And work by Michael Hammer of the University of Arizona, Tucson, showed that a haplotype on the Y chromosome apparently arose in Asia and then moved back to Africa in an early migration (Science, 25 April 1997, p. 535). But the new study, with its finding of a fixed difference, offers more clear-cut evidence of multiple ancient populations.

But both Hey and Harding say Out of Africa isn't yet obsolete. For one, "[our study] is just a one-gene view of human history," Hey cautions. For another, he thinks that the two ancestral populations both could have lived in Africa, close enough for some interbreeding, so that the traits that distinguish modern humans emerged in both groups. Then, perhaps 100,000 years ago, one group left Africa. Thus humans "could still be out of Africa," Harding says.

Southern African, *Science*, Briefs: Volume 286, Number 5438, 8 Oct 1999, p 229

Twelve years ago scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, concluded from DNA studies that "Eve," an ancestor common to all modern humans, was an African. Now scientists in South Africa have tracked "Eve" to the **Khoisan** peoples, who are the oldest indigenous group in southern Africa.

.... The researchers drew blood from 100 people from two Khoisan groups and compared the mtDNA sequences with those from 50 other sub-Saharan Africans. Soodyall says the study found that some 84% of the mtDNA types they looked at were "unique" to the Khoisan and could be dated back to 120,000 years ago. This demonstrates that "some of the most ancestral signatures in mtDNA are still found in living Khoisan people," she says. The same sequences have been lost due to random mutations in other, later populations.

The findings, presented at a recent human evolution meeting at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, complement data from the male side: Y chromosome studies had previously pegged the Khoisan among a handful of groups with Y chromosomes most closely resembling those of a common ancestor who lived in Africa 145,000 years ago. Mike Hammer of the University of Arizona, Tucson, who took part in the Y chromosome study, says the latest mtDNA work provides "important confirmation" of the team's work.

Randy's Comments: This is in line with what L. L. Cavalli-Sforza presented in History and Geography of Human Genes – that the Khoisan/African break was the first division among modern homo sapiens.

Li Jin, Peter A. Underhill, Vishal Doctor, Ronald W. Davis, Peidong Shen, L. Luca Cavalli-Sforza, and Peter J. Oefner, **Distribution of haplotypes from a chromosome 21 region distinguishes multiple prehistoric human migrations** *PNAS*, Vol. 96, Issue 7, 3796-3800, March 30, 1999

Despite mounting genetic evidence implicating a recent origin of modern humans, the elucidation of early migratory gene-flow episodes remains incomplete. Geographic distribution of haplotypes may show traces of ancestral migrations. However, such evolutionary signatures can be erased easily by recombination and mutational perturbations. A 565-bp chromosome 21 region near the *MXI* gene, which contains nine sites frequently polymorphic in human populations, has been found. It is unaffected by recombination and recurrent mutation and thus reflects only migratory history, genetic drift, and possibly selection. Geographic distribution of contemporary haplotypes implies distinctive prehistoric human migrations: one to Oceania, one to Asia and subsequently to America, and a third one predominantly to Europe. The findings with chromosome 21 are confirmed by independent evidence from a Y chromosome phylogeny. Loci of this type will help to decipher the evolutionary history of modern humans.

Randy's Comments: The articles quoted above show the extent to which genetic studies of human origins and migrations are still in the process of bringing forth interesting and often contradictory results.

Laurent Excoffier and Stefan Schneider, **Why hunter-gatherer populations do not show signs of Pleistocene demographic expansions**, *PNAS*, Vol. 96, Issue 19, 10597-10602, September 14, 1999

The mitochondrial DNA diversity of 62 human population samples was examined for potential signals of population expansions. Stepwise expansion times were estimated by taking into account heterogeneity of mutation rates among sites. Assuming an mtDNA divergence rate of 33% per million years, most populations show signals of Pleistocene expansions at around 70,000 years (70 KY) ago in Africa and Asia, 55 KY ago in America, and 40 KY ago in Europe and the Middle East, whereas the traces of the oldest expansions are found in East Africa (110 KY ago for the Turkana). The genetic diversity of two groups of populations (most Amerindian populations and present-day hunter-gatherers) cannot be explained by a simple stepwise expansion model. A multivariate analysis of the genetic distances among 61 populations reveals that populations that did not undergo demographic expansions show increased genetic distances from other populations, confirming that the demography of the populations strongly affects observed genetic affinities. The absence of traces of Pleistocene expansions in present-day hunter-gatherers seems best explained by the occurrence of recent bottlenecks in those populations, implying a difference between Pleistocene (1,800 KY to 10 KY ago) and Holocene (10 KY to present) hunter-gatherers demographies, a difference that occurred after, and probably in response to, the Neolithic expansions of the other populations.

Randy's Comments: The dates for late-Pleistocene migrations generally correspond to what Cavalli-Sforza presented in HGHG (and that are generally accepted), with the exception of the American divergence of 55 KY. The dates for the Americas could either indicate genetic (and corresponding linguistic) drift due to isolation, or rather point to the earlier maritime settlement along the Pacific Rim.

Alban Defleur, Tim White, Patricia Valensi, Ludovic Slimak, Évelyne Crégut-Bonnoure, **Neanderthal Cannibalism at Moula-Guercy, Ardèche, France** *Science*, Volume 286, Number 5437 Issue of 1 Oct 1999, pp. 128 - 131

The cave site of Moula-Guercy, 80 meters above the modern Rhone River, was occupied by Neanderthals approximately 100,000 years ago. Excavations since 1991 have yielded rich paleontological, paleobotanical, and archaeological assemblages, including parts of six Neanderthals. The Neanderthals are contemporary with stone tools and faunal remains in the same tightly controlled stratigraphic and spatial contexts. The inference of Neanderthal cannibalism at Moula-Guercy is based on comparative analysis of hominid and ungulate bone spatial distributions, modifications by stone tools, and skeletal part representations.

Randy's Comment: This certainly says nothing about how different Neanderthal was from modern homo sapiens, who have a long history of both ritual and nutritional cannibalism.

N. Izagirre and C. de la Rúa, An mtDNA Analysis in Ancient Basque Populations: Implications for Haplogroup V as a Marker for a Major Paleolithic Expansion from Southwestern Europe, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 65:199-207, 1999

Summary: mtDNA sequence variation was studied in 121 dental samples from four Basque prehistoric sites, by high-resolution RFLP analysis. The results of this study are corroborated by (1) parallel analysis of 92 bone samples, (2) the use of controls during extraction and amplification, and (3) typing by both positive and negative restriction of the linked sites that characterize each haplogroup. The absence of haplogroup V in the prehistoric samples analyzed conflicts with the hypothesis proposed by Torroni et al., in which haplogroup V is considered as an mtDNA marker for a major Paleolithic population expansion from southwestern Europe, occurring 10,000-15,000 years before the present (YBP). Our samples from the Basque Country provide a valuable tool for checking the previous hypothesis, which is based on genetic data from present-day populations. In light of the available data, the most realistic scenario to explain the origin and distribution of haplogroup V suggests that the mutation defining that haplogroup (4577 *NlaIII*) appeared at a time when the effective population size was small enough to allow genetic drift to act and that such drift is responsible for the heterogeneity observed in Basques, with regard to the frequency of haplogroup V (0%-20%). This is compatible with the attributed date for the origin of that mutation (10,000 - 15,000 YBP), because during the postglacial period (the Mesolithic, 11,000 YBP) there was a major demographic change in the Basque Country, which minimized the effect of genetic drift. This interpretation does not rely on migratory movements to explain the distribution of haplogroup V in present-day Indo-European populations.

Randy's Comments: This research seems inconsistent with Cavalli-Sforza's theory that the Basque are relics of the Upper Paleolithic ("Cro-Magnon") hunters, who lived in the same Southern France / Northern Spain region. C-S hypothesized that Dene-Caucasian had been the language of these peoples, in part because of the connection between Basque and D-C. The rise of the U.P. was the Aurignacian, ca 35,000 years ago, prior to the time frame indicated above. This would leave two possibilities: that the Magdalenians (the "high art" of the U. P. — ca. 13 – 10,000 yrs BP) were associated with the Basque, or alternately that the Basques were part of the population that replaced the Magdalenians as the climate ameliorated. In either case, the research points to a Southwestern European origin of Basque, although SW Europe could well have been a transit point from the Caucasus or other points in Asia.

JD Bengtson's Comments: If Basques are directly descended from Cro-Magnon hunters, it does not necessarily follow that the present-day Basque language has to be directly descended from whatever the Cro-Magnons spoke. The great vasconist René Lafon thought that the ancestors of the Basques adopted the language of a technically superior superstratum, most likely of Anatolian or Caucasian origin.

Paleolinguistic News

Nostratic Conference in Moscow - Postponed

The conference *Nostratic Linguistics at the End of the Twentieth Century: Results and Perspectives*, originally planned to be held in Moscow in December, 1999, has been postponed until May, 2000. Some of the workshops being planned are:

The Tower of Babel Project: State of research.
Nostratic and Distant Linguistic Family Relationships: in Commemoration
of Vladislav M. Illich-Svitych (1934-1966)
Comparative Linguistics and Ancient History: In Commemoration of Igor M.
Diakonoff (1915-1999)
Comparative Linguistics, Archaeology and Genetics
Glottochronology and Cross-checking by Other Dating Methods
Use of Computer in Comparative Linguistics
The Altaic Etymological Dictionary: Presentation
The First Volume of the Semitic Etymological Dictionary: Presentation. In
Commemoration of Solomon S. Maisel (1900-1952)

Submission of Abstracts: The full paper has to be presented in e-mail form before the end of February, 2000, after which it will be published on the Conference site, unless you wish otherwise. Submission of abstracts is not obligatory, though the organizers would be grateful if you could at least submit the main subject of your paper before the end of 1999.

All information about the Conference is published on the official Conference site:

<http://starling.rinet.ru/confer>

* * *

Conference in Tomsk, Russia

The Tomsk State Pedagogical University is organizing a conference entitled the XXII-nd Annual Conference "Dulson's Readings", dedicated to the 100th Birthday Anniversary of Professor Andreas Dulson, to be held in Tomsk, Russia, June 19-21, 2000. The conference is hosted by the Institute for Foreign Languages, Laboratory of Siberian Languages.

[Editor's note: Dulson (Dul'zon in Russian) did extensive work on Yeniseian languages. See the Yeniseian section of MT Journal IV, especially the map on p. 10, based on Dulson's work.]

The general theme for the Conference is "Comparative-historical and typological studies of languages and cultures," including the following problems for discussion:

Remote relationships of languages and cultures (formulated by A.P. Dulson)
Problems of documentation of endangered languages and cultures
Comparative-historical studies

Typological studies of languages and cultures
Methods of the complex study of ethnogenesis
Morphology and phonology of languages of Siberia (and nearby regions)
Problems of lexicography and creating educational literature for national (ethnic)
schools and classes
Problems of foreign and national (ethnic) language teaching
The data of comparative-historical and typological studies of languages and
cultures in teaching

Interested scholars should contact the organizers at:

Tomsk State Pedagogical University
Komsomolski av., 75
Tomsk 634041 RUSSIA

Kim@tspu.edu.ru
(Dr. Alexandra Kim)

* * *

Long Rangers at SSILA/LSA Meeting

The January 2000 meeting of Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of America (SSILA) and Linguistic Society of America (LSA) will feature some interesting topics on the possible relationships between Siberian and Native American languages. ASLIP member Edward Vajda (Western Washington University) will speak on "Evidence for a genetic connection between Na-Dene and Yeniseian (Central Siberia)." *Mother Tongue* readers will recall Professor Vajda's article on Yeniseian in the last issue (MT IV). Alexandra Kim of Tomsk State Pedagogical University (see above) will present "Indians of Siberia: database on Siberian languages." In a note to *Long Ranger*, Edward Vajda explains that Professor Kim's paper will "introduce Americans to the work done in Russia on Native Siberian languages, as well as summarize some of the theories of Siberian-American linguistic connections." On the same program we see Eric P. Hamp, speaking on "Why long-range genetic comparison isn't easy." Professor Hamp has frequently acted as an "Anti-Long-Ranger," but we understand he does in fact accept one formerly controversial hypothesis: the genetic relationship of Chukchi-Kamchatkan (=Luoravetlan) + Eskimo-Aleut.

* * *

Exploratorium Features Long Ranger View of Language Classification

The *Exploratorium*, a science museum in San Francisco, recently featured an exhibit on the languages of the world. Thanks to veteran Long Rangers Joseph H. Greenberg and Merritt Ruhlen, the classification of languages (and companion map) agrees by and large with the emerging consensus among paleolinguists, Nostraticists, and other Long Rangers. On the *Exploratorium* chart, all the world's languages are divided into the following twelve (macro-) families:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. KHOISAN | 7. EURASIATIC |
| 2. NIGER-KORDOFANIAN | 8. DENE-CAUCASIAN |
| 3. NILO-SAHARAN | 9. AUSTRIC |
| 4. AFRO-ASIATIC | 10. INDO-PACIFIC |
| 5. KARTVELIAN | 11. AUSTRALIAN |
| 6. DRAVIDIAN | 12. AMERIND |

Editor's Note: Naturally, this roster will meet the disapproval of many historical linguists, whose list of language families would be closer to 12² than 12. The only uncontroversial families on this list are Afro-Asiatic, Kartvelian, Dravidian, and perhaps Australian (though even this is doubted by some extreme splitters). Khoisan (if Hadza and Sandawe are excluded), Niger-Kordofanian, Nilo-Saharan, and Austric (at least Austronesian + Kadai, or Austronesian + Austroasiatic) are widely accepted, but the remaining four (Eurasianic, Dene-Caucasian, Indo-Pacific, Amerind) are the most controversial of all. Long Rangers will agree (generally) with Greenberg and Ruhlen. Václav Blažek, for example, proposes a list even shorter than G & R (see MT Journal III, p. 165):

1. KHOISAN
2. CONGO-SAHARAN (includes NIGER-KORDOFANIAN
+ NILO-SAHARAN)
3. NOSTRATIC (includes EURASIATIC + AFRO-ASIATIC +
KARTVELIAN + DRAVIDIAN)
4. SINO-CAUCASIC
5. AMERIND
6. AUSTRIC
7. INDO-PACIFIC
8. AUSTRALIAN

Exploratorium Magazine 23:1 (Spring 1999) is devoted to the topic "The Evolution of Languages," and features articles by Ruhlen and others. A special insert to the issue is a multicolored 33"x21" wall poster depicting the Greenberg-Ruhlen classification. The issue is now on the web, at <www.exploratorium.edu>, complete with RealAudio (where available).

* * *

Lord Renfrew on Linguistic Prehistory of Greece

ASLIP member and Council Fellow Lord Colin Renfrew (Director of the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research) has recently published an article on the "supposedly pre-Greek language or languages of the Aegean," known mainly from traces left in the Greek language, as we know it. Examples of such words (cited by Renfrew) include familiar "Greek" (but apparently not Indo-European) words such as: βασιλεύς [basileus] 'king', βόλινθος [bolinthos], βόνασσος [bonassos] (both) 'wild ox', κίθαρις [kitharis] 'kithara' (ultimately > *guitar*), ξανθός [xanthos] 'yellow, blond', ῥόδον [rhodon] 'rose',

oŭkov [sukon] 'fig', etc. Attempting to coordinate linguistic and archaeological findings, Renfrew proposes that Minoan (Linear A) be regarded not as a substratum to Greek, but rather an *adstratum*, "which developed during their coexistence in the Aegean during the Bronze Age." ("Word of Minos: the Minoan Contribution to Mycenaean Greek and the Linguistic Geography of the Bronze Age Aegean." *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 8/2:239-264. 1998)

* * * * *

Book Notices

Blažek, Václav. 1999. *Numerals: Comparative - Etymological Analyses of Numeral Systems and Their Implications*. Brno: Masaryk University. vii + 337 pp.

The subtitle reads [numerals in] *Saharan, Nubian, Egyptian, Berber, Kartvelian, Uralic, Altaic and Indo-European languages*. This leading Long Ranger catalogs attested forms, reconstructions, etymological proposals, and finally his own hypotheses for the development of numeral words in each of the named families. In addition, Blažek cites examples from other languages (e.g., Telefol, Sumerian, Chumash, etc.), elucidating various counting systems (binary, ternary, vigesimal, etc.).

Dixon, R.M.W. 1997. *The Rise and Fall of Languages*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press. vi + 169 pp.

Despite some sections that are instructive and informative (especially one dealing with the crisis of disappearing linguistic diversity), this is at heart an "Anti-Long-Ranger" treatise. Dixon is prone to sweeping pronouncements such as "There is no reputable historical linguist, anywhere in the world, who accepts the claims of Greenberg and the Nostraticists" (p. 44), etc.

Jones-Bley, Karlene, Martin E. Huld, Angela Della Volpe, and Miriam Robbins Dexter (Eds.). 1998. *Proceedings of the Tenth UCLA Indo-European Conference; Los Angeles, 1998*. (JIES Monograph No. 32.) Washington, D.C.: Institute for the Study of Man.

Includes articles by Watkins, Ivanov, and a dozen others. Editor Angela Della Volpe is an ASLIP member of long standing.

Kirk, Neile A., and Paul J. Sidwell (Eds.). 1999. *From Neanderthal to Easter Island: A tribute to, and a celebration of, the work of W. Wilfried Schuhmacher. Presented on the occasion of his 60th Birthday*. (AHL Studies in the Science & History of Language2.) Melbourne: association for the History of Language. x + 165 pp.

This Festschrift for long-time ASLIP member W.W. Schuhmacher was assembled by his friends of the Association for the History of Language (formerly Melbourne Association for the History of Language). The volume includes a number of Schuhmacher's own writings (note intriguing titles such as "The best English is spoken in ... Copenhagen," "Lingua Neanderthalensis," or "A New Easter Island Hypothesis"), as well as book reviews by editors Kirk and Sidwell, and other articles by Long Rangers (John Bengtson, Václav Blažek, Vitaly Shevoroshkin, Theo Vennemann), and Austronesianists (Charles Randriamasimanana, Marit Vamarasi).

Polomé, Edgar C., and Carol F. Justus (Eds.). 1999. *Language Change and Typological Variation: in Honor of Winfred P. Lehmann on the Occasion of his 83rd birthday*. Vol. 1 (*Language Change and Phonology* = JIES Monograph No. 30); Vol. 2 (*Grammatical Universals and Typology* = JIES Monograph No. 31). Washington, D.C.: Institute for the Study of Man.

The two volumes contain some thirty articles by prominent names (e.g., Ivanov, Hoenigswald, Gamkrelidze, Bynon, Birnbaum, Klimov, etc.), mostly involving Indo-European, but also touching on Pre-IE substrates (Polomé) and Kartvelian (Klimov).

Renfrew, Colin, and Daniel Nettle (Eds.). 1999. *Nostratic: Examining a Linguistic Macrofamily*. (Papers in the Prehistory of Languages.) Cambridge, England: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. vii + 419 pp.

This volume contains the proceedings of the Symposium on the Nostratic Macrofamily held in July 1998 at the McDonald Institute, Cambridge University. (See the report by Vitaly Shevoroshkin in *MT Newsletter* No. 31, pp. 28-32.) Articles were penned by prominent Nostraticists/Long Rangers (Dolgopolsky, Bomhard, Shevoroshkin, Starostin, Ehret, Décsy, etc.), along with some "Anti-Long-Ranger" views (Trask, Campbell, et al.).

Shevoroshkin, Vitaly, and Paul Sidwell (Eds.) 1999 *Historical Linguistics and Lexicostatistics*. Melbourne: Association for the History of Language. ca. 550 pp.

Not yet seen by *Long Ranger*, but our old friend Vitaly assures us it is coming out, as part of the AHL serials (see Kirk & Sidwell, 1999, above). Thus far, all we know is that the book contains articles on lexicostatistics and language classification by Ilia Peiros and Sergei Starostin. This Melbourne series will pick up where Vitaly's Bochum series (*Dene-Sino-Caucasian Languages, Reconstructing Languages and Cultures*, etc.) left off. All this material is from the rich mother-lode of paleolinguistic research stimulated by the Ann Arbor Conference (Language in Prehistory, 1988) and its aftermath.

Wescott, Roger W. 2000. *Predicting the Past: An Exploration of Myth, Science, and Prehistory*. Deerfield Beach, FL: Kronos Press.

This new book by ASLIP Vice President Wescott is "a study of global prehistory, based on a quantalist, rather than a uniformitarian, paradigm." Intriguing chapter titles include "The Golden Age," "Split Living," and "Prospects for a Troubled Species."

>>> **Reviewers needed!** Please contact Review Editor Roger W. Wescott if interested.

For information on AHL Monographs contact Paul Sidwell, LPO Box A22, ANU 0200, Australia; e-mail: Paul.sidwell@anu.edu.au

Anthropological News

by Mary Ellen Lepionka

"Anthropology in the News" is a daily news clipping service maintained by the anthropology department at Texas A&M University. This column in the ASLIP newsletter will select and report briefly on news from this source from the four fields of anthropology and related specialties that may be relevant to long rangers. No claims are made for the accuracy or veracity of this news, especially as much of it comes from popular science print and broadcast media. The intention merely is to identify possibly relevant data or discussions that may contribute ultimately to understanding language origins. If members would like to see any change at all in the way I am selecting or reporting news, please let me know at mlepionk@ma.ultranet.com.

—Mary Ellen Lepionka

NEWS BRIEFS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1999

Paleoanthropology and Bioanthropology

- According to R. Wrangham (Harvard) and G. Laden (U. Minnesota) and colleagues, cooking tubers is what led to the anatomical changes (tooth size, body size, female sexual attractiveness) and changes in social behavior (pair bonding, cooperation to centralize and defend food stores, hearth-centered families/bands) that distinguished *H. erectus* from the australopithecines about 1.9 million years ago. This is being reported in *Current Anthropology*. See summary at <http://unisci.com/stories/19993/0809992.htm>.
- Divergence of genus *Homo* from Miocene apes is unknown, but a 15 million year old stem hominoid fossil is being given the status of a new primate genus, *Equatorius*, reported in the August 27 issue of *Science*. As a consequence of reclassifications, *Kenyapithecus wickeri* is now regarded as a species of *Equatorius* that is possibly the closest derived ancestor of modern apes, leaving *Kenyapithecus africanus* as the species possibly divergent with or closer to the hominid line. See <http://www.eurekalert.org/>.
- A team of scientists from the American Museum of Natural History has concluded that "Madeleine," the Javanese *H. erectus* skull with *H. sapiens* features (found in 1997 on the Solo River near Jakarta, lost, and recently recovered from a Manhattan curio shop), "had a capacity for language close to that of modern humans," i.e., "already had the capability for proto-modern human language." This conclusion is based on interior casts of the skull showing bilateral asymmetry and swelling of the Broca cap. If Madeleine proves to be young (100- to 200,000 years old), it is interpreted as meaning that she was part of a remnant *H. erectus* population in Indonesia coterminous with and replaced by modern sapiens, who also radiated from Africa, following the same Asian route of *H. erectus* of more than a million years earlier. The alternative (less favored) is that she represents an independent evolution of early modern humans in different parts of the Old World.
<http://abcnews.go.com/sections/science/DailyNews/hominid990906.html>.
- Debate continues about the dating and significance of the Serra Da Capivara site in northeast Brazil. Cave paintings there show Pleistocene armadillos, with similar cave art at other southern sites, most notably in Tierra del Fuego. W. Neves' analysis of the 9- to 12-thousand year old fossil "Lucia," compared to more recent fossils at the same site, suggests that she was

“negroid” vs. “mongoloid,” most resembling Australian/Melanesian phenotypes. Speculation has it that northern Australian Aborigines had sea-going boats (also suggested by rock art), reached Brazil accidentally and populated eastern South America, were displaced or absorbed by mongoloid peoples from the north, and had pre-European Fuegians as their surviving descendants. The BBC had fun with this. See http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_430000/430944.stm

- Based on both archaeological and DNA evidence developed since the 1980s, the Japanese apparently are starting to acknowledge the 400 B.C. invasion of Japan by Chinese food producers via Korea against the Ainu hunter-gatherers, who constituted the aboriginal Japanese population. See <http://www2.nando.net/>.
- According to paleoclimatologists, About 9,000 years ago Earth’s perihelion (point at which the planet passes closest to the sun) occurred in July, which gave stronger summer sunlight to the Northern Hemisphere and thus longer and wetter monsoons to the Sahara. Today the perihelion occurs in January, and the gradual shift in the tilt of the Earth’s axis away from the sun is what precipitated desertification, which occurred in a self-reinforcing (vs. man-made) cycle fed by the death of biomass (plants, specifically grasses). In this cycle, grasses gave back less and less moisture to the atmosphere through evaporation, progressively reducing rainfall. Desertification accelerated very rapidly from about 5,500 years ago, evidenced by the disappearance of lakes and large mammals. This was reported in *Scientific American*. See <http://www.sciam.com/1999/1099issue/1099scicit5.html>

Archaeology and Prehistory

- Discovery of sherds at Harappa allegedly confirm dates for discoveries of Early Indus script on pottery and in the impression of a square seal on a lump of clay.
- Discovery of a letter-sized bronze tablet contributes to the understanding of Etruscan.
- Exploration of Chauvet Cave in France allegedly has yielded the oldest footprints of modern humans.

For more information on the above stories, see “Archaeology Online” at <http://www.archaeology.org/>, operated by the Archaeological Institute of America.

- For updated information on Walter’s recently discovered hominid site (*H. erectus*) on “Handaxe Hill” in Eritrea, see <http://www.exn.ca/hominids/handaxehill.cfm>.
- Evidence of the earliest advanced steel production, dating to 1,000+ BP, has been unearthed in Gyaur Kala in Turkmenistan on an ancient east-west trade route. See *Materials World*, journal of the Institute of Materials, <http://www.materials.org.uk>.
- A team of Austrian archaeologists has found a 3,200 year old site in the Alps with Roman artifacts that supports the theory of the existence of a far-ranging north-south salt trade during Roman times. (Salzburg = “salt castle”) Roman salt trade in Europe was linked to salt caravans of the Sahara. See <http://www.discovery.com/news/archive/news99090913/>.

- Rock paintings in Eastern Uganda allegedly have been identified as rainforest pygmy or Khoi-San in origin (?), predating the Iteso expansion by unknown time depth and showing fishing activities, watercraft, and crocodiles as well as hunting. Non-Iteso pottery of unknown age and origin also is found below the painted rockfaces. See http://www.africanews.org/east/uganda/stories/19990817_feat23.html.
- For more on the discussion of Jared Diamond's Pulitzer-prize winning work, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, see <http://www.edge.org>, in which Diamond is accused of "dabbling" in fields in which he is not trained. This is a splitter's complaint, but even as a lumpner I also disagreed with some of Diamond's facts and assumptions, especially regarding evidence from sites, fossils, and artifacts. I'm not entirely convinced about the Australians and New Guineans either. The overall point is persuasively made, however, and the suggestions about continental axes and their effects on diffusion were new and exciting to me. It would be interesting to discuss on this website the implications of Diamond's theory for language origins.

Anthropological and Historical Linguistics

- According to Chinese historians at Nanjing University and Texas Christian University, Chinese inscriptions (Jiaguwen) dating to the Shang dynasty (1600-1100 B.C.) on Olmec artifacts suggest that Chinese arrived in the New World more than 3,000 years ago and influenced Mesoamerican culture and civilization. Apparently, Olmec and Shang symbols for agriculture, crops, astronomy, rain, religion, sacrifice, sky, sun, trees, and water are nearly identical. Cultural correspondences include common religious practices, such as sacrificial altar tables and the worship of jade. See <http://www.discovery.com/news/archive/news990903/>.
- Studies of paralanguage suggest that quasilexical segmental utterances may have formed the basis for the first spoken languages. In all cultures children and second-language learners apparently learn these utterances (e.g., "uh huh" for "yes") first, before they learn the words. As another example, "the interjection 'Duh!' may derive from the same ancient root that links 'dumb,' 'dull,' and 'dunce.'" Language historians (unnamed) claim that "uh-huh" and "uh-uh" (for affirmative and negative) came into English from the language of West African slaves (?) See <http://www.bergen.com/home/lang199909127.htm>.

Cultural Anthropology and Cognitive/Neuro-Psychology

- See *Brain and Language* at <http://www.apnet.com/b&l>. "An interdisciplinary journal, *Brain and Language*, A Journal of Clinical, Experimental, and Theoretical Research, publishes original research articles, theoretical papers, critical reviews, case histories, historical studies, and scholarly notes. Contributions are relevant to human language or communication in relation to any aspect of the brain or brain function." Research areas include linguistics, neuroanatomy, neurology, neurophysiology, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, speech pathology, and computer science. They include Language and Language Behavior Abstracts and Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts in their database coverage.
- In the September issue of *Scientific American*, musical ethnographers reported on the harmonics and formants voiced (via stylized/enculturated onomatopoeic mimesis) by Mongolian-speaking pastoralists (horses)--the throat singers of Tuva, Siberia. Tuvan legends

identify throat singing as the first human language, based on beliefs in animism. Imitating nature magically endowed early humans with attributes of nature's spirits. See <http://www.sciam.com/1000/0999issue/0999levin.html>. This site includes movies and music clips in addition to technical information on sound formations in throat singing. This singing (diffused/invented/cognatic?) apparently also occurs among Turkic-speaking peoples, in Tibetan Buddhist chanting, in Xhosa women's music, and in (Germanic?) yodeling.

- Debate continues about Steven Pinker's *The Language Instinct* and *How the Mind Works*, in which the cognitive psychologist applies Darwinian principles to explain Noam Chomsky's theories of deep language in terms of evolutionary psychology. According to Lyle Jenkins of the Biolinguistics Institute in Cambridge, Mass., researchers are still struggling to understand the language faculty, and he is not prepared to say that it is an evolutionary adaptation. Others, such as evolutionary biologist George Williams, say that Pinker has successfully and definitively made the case for seeing language as an adaptation. (FYI: In a 1989 issue of the *Mother Tongue Newsletter*, I suggested that language was a biocultural adaptation in human evolution and that the effect of having language was as sweeping and advantageous as receiving a transformative new technology. I guess now that makes me pro-Pinker. I always was a fan of Chomsky.) See <http://www.sciam.com/1999/0799issue/0799profile.html>.

ASLIP Business: Reminder

Readers are reminded to pay their 1999 dues, if they have not done so already. Only those who have paid 1999 and prior dues will receive the 1999 *Mother Tongue Journal* (MT V). To make payments, or to clarify your membership status, please contact ASLIP Treasurer **Peter Norquest**. (See inside front cover for his addresses.)

***Mother Tongue Journal*, issue V, forthcoming**

MT V is now in preparation. Preliminary contents include:

"A Discussion of Climatic Influences on Language" – Randy Foote

"An Enquiry About Sumerian Words" – Liny Asoka Srinivasan

"The Evolution of Archaeological Perceptions of the First Americans" –
Alvah M. Hicks

"Bipeds, Tools and Speech" – Marc Verhaegen

"A Comparison of Basque and (North) Caucasian Basic Vocabulary" –
John D. Bengtson

(with discussion articles by William H. Jacobsen, W.W.

Schuhmacher, Paul Sidwell, R.L. Trask, Edward Vajda, Paul
Whitehouse, et al.)

LONG RANGER

Newsletter No. 32

(Formerly *Mother Tongue* Newsletter)

Fall 1999

Table of Contents

OBITUARIES	Igor M. Diakonoff Karl Heinrich Menges	p. 1
ASLIP ANNOUNCEMENTS	ASLIP Website Discussion Website	2
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BIOGENETIC NOTES	Lemba Jews (?) Skin Color Pacific Islands – Tasmania Australians – Austronesians Australians - Papuans – Ainu Kennewick Man Japanese Roots Amerind Adam Out of Africa – revisited Khoisan – Gene migrations Pleistocene - Neandertal Basques	3-15 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11-12 13 14 15
PALEOLINGUISTIC NEWS	Conferences in Moscow, Tomsk SSILA - Exploratorium Renfrew on Minoan	16-18 16 17 18
BOOK NOTICES		19-20
ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS	Mary Ellen Lepionka	21-24
ASLIP BUSINESS	<i>Mother Tongue</i> V	24