

APAN

aktieve praktijkarcheologie nederland

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AVEBURY

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uw kenmerk:

onderwerp:

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ons kenmerk:

bijlage(n):

Dear prof. de Grazia,

Thank you for your positive and informative letter, it is good to hear about the further developments that take place around your new organisation.

Like you have already noticed, we come forth out of a tradition of a traditionalist view about the past, work with the accepted framework of "glacials" and "interglacials". Even then experience heavy opposition from the established archaeologists and other government bodies here. In fact, we started as a counter movement against the abuse of power and science. There is however the possibility for open discussion and study of non-traditionalistic views, and also a re-discovery of old findings like the observation that sculptures accompany the left-overs of ancient campsites. Of enormous value is the experience and the reconstruction experimental work by men like Mr. Wouters that enables us to distinguish the accidental works of nature from the intentional chipping done by the ancient craftsmen. We place much value on the whole context in which "finds" turn up, and try to discourage the "pot hunting" approach of the looting of sites and burials for "keepsake". The denial of certain cultural traditions to exist here in intact situations; both in England and in The Netherlands brings that out of reach of the laws that make independent fieldwork a criminal offence. We do some excavations, where sites are under the threat of destruction, but take care to properly register the exact location of items in their matrix and buried living-surfaces, or redeposition in for instance mud-slide deposits of "glaciations". The wear on exposed artefacts often enables to detect some of the events that took place since their abandonment in a fresh state. Like the "black box" in an airplane-crash, or an expert investigating the cause of an arson. In our schemes, we of course think it in many 10.000ds of years, but indeed it may have happened more intense in less time. Still this does not alter the order of events, just makes the magnitude and time variables; mostly time should then be seen as flexible.

The position we take, is to try to stay independent from too rigid frameworks propagated and enforced by most western universities, but also from groups that propagate their views about the past that counter the established ones. We have however chosen to encourage the free investigation of private persons in an idealistic way, and to go to the established institutions to try to rethink their present views upon inspection of the material evidence itself. There is also a minority that would rather like to isolate our finds completely from the often hostile indeed-universities in the western world.

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1. Abandonment
or
2. Ritual
left-behind

who &
where

Needed
a survey
of law.

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But it was with support of a great majority, that we sent an APAN contribution upon the invitation of the organizers of World Congress 1986 in Southampton this time; when it was relatively easily accessible in terms of distance and transport. This congress stood strongly, more than ever in the token of "minority groups", of countries that became de-colonized, or are still suppressed politically but mostly also culturally and spiritually. Here, the subject of the sculptures was warmly welcomed and openly received for own inspection. Preconceived ideas about if not these "objects" were to be merely accidental formations, misnomer tools or rejects or products of fraud, we were able to alter into surprise, respect, inspiration to go over old collections with new eyes, to go into the fields to look for more in one's own working area. The people that came and inspected, got convinced that the finds were of tremendous importance for all of us, and for the re-valuation of the Ancients as being full, able and sensible beings with a special attitude towards their world. All expressed that care should be taken that no commercialism should spoil this field of study. They of course stressed the importance of the archaeological context in which the specimen were to be found, that for instance the distribution-patterns and types and numbers, relative frequency, repetitions should provide info about the activities and the spiritual meanings (tape finished) from which the objects are the result.

Some of the most enthusiastic supporters however, knew "Primeval Sculpture", but were already opposed to the way of presentation; the whole scenery. They were not opposed to the idea of the earliest sculptures, just that they were unable to get in grips with what was actually presented in that magazine.

Further it is not so, that the sculptures are in such full support of Q.; they disprove the "Darwinist" view of an emergence from "low", slowly upto "superior" from "inferior" till "superior", but the traditional views that have "art" starting only around 40.000 or so, are in itself contradictory to the evolutionistic, Lyellian dogma's. They implicate a sudden start of "Sapiens" out of nowhere, a rapid reach of a peak in painting, and a sudden collapse at the end of the last "glaciation", when the "Mesolithic" people only drew some flimsy doodles.

What may happen, is that some people, trying to save some of their theory, will try to accept that the oldest industries are not the ca. 2.5 milj. yrs. old, and adapt a time-sceme that is only a few thousand years old., who knows.

The found fact however, that "Sapiens" type of people apparently were about at the same time of "Erectus" people, when "Neanderthaler" yet had to emerge, does to my opinion only implicate that the "linear evolution" idea of the one type "evolving" from the other is found to be untrue, but it does not implicate Q. to be the only possible alternative. We cannot expect our APAN-members to become true followers of Q., nor of Gaietto all of a sudden, but we will provide the publications to be studied and to be tested and thought over.

We too have lost track of Doeko Goosen; he apparently got "put on ice" when he as one of the very first took up the defence in the courtcases against the teamwork of the Vermaning-family; the "coup d'état" by some academians and politicians with low integrity; an absurd action because they were and still are in high places, and their victim was and is not to overthrow their rule. They only aborted their options to fruitfully explore the past without losing face and admitting false oaths, admit accusations to be falsely, knowingly and willingly producing slander. They have eradicated the IN SITU backbone for all Archaeology, taken up illegal and immoral conducts.

However, a few new generation academians are now taking up the case to study the finds and the soil on them, the soil at the sites, the exchange of elements in time from the soil into the artefacts, from the artefacts into the soil; the soil turbulence effects sworn to be "electrical grinding machinery" work; the patina on the artefacts sworn to be absent.

But it is an altogether different matter, that also in these sites we now see sculptures of animals and humans even the discoverer Mr. Vermaning does not believe in. Those disprove his "mammoth hunter" designations; there are forest elephants, "warm rhino", "warm" type horse depicted; once even hippopotamus; which fits with Last Interglacial fine, matches the soil provenance.

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LUNSENHOF 17; ANLOO; 9467 PL: The Netherlands

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Anloo, augus 17; 1986,

Dear prof. de Grazia,

Your present adress was obtained through an associate in Britain, who also informed us about the plans being made to give the study of early sculptures a hopefully good chance for wide acceptance.

Within APAN; an independant group of researchers in the Netherlands busy with exploring mainly the Older Stone Age, the subject of lithic sculptures in quantities occurring also way before the accepted date of ca. 30.000 (French/Spanish mural paintings & things), and continuing till late Bronze Age (after which it deteriorated as a pagan tradition; perhaps coins were substituted); this subject we also met. Not all members here are as yet fully acknowledging this subject, that upsets several established theories about the abilities of the ancients and their attitudes. But over 30 persons, mostly APAN-members here, make it a regular task to investigate the now many thousands of examples from surface-sites and excavations. Through prof. Walther Matthes from Hamburg, who informed Mr. Gajetto, who contacted Mr. Ron Williams, we became aware of this pioneer in Britain who in his own has "dug himself deep into the matter". Williams also came to suspect certain traditionalistic views. We have however criticized mr. Gaietto's views and selections and ways of presentation several times. Not as a personal offence, or in the sence of competition. At the one hand we have reservations about the possible effects of bringing archaeological sources of information into the hands of commercial traders of "ancient arts". The Etruscan tradition, and many Meso- and South American precolumbian tradition and many more, became much of an enigma, because sites and burial grounds got looted for the sake of to have; not of to investigate and to see where it is at. At the one hand, the normal channels of funding research do not encourage investigation of potentially threatening subjects to the holy theories, at the other hand, bringing in funds from the open market can bring in involvement with the illegal (because of Unesco treaties) market in "precious art objects"

In the Netherlands, there is no market really of Older Stone Age material, because it is so plenty for anyone interested to be collected for free, at the other hand the museums in gouvrenment hands do not buy anymore because that would mean recognition of the heretics; recognition of items that were sworn in court-cases to be falsified and nature products.

Another objection we have about the presentation in "Primeaval Sculpture" is that it merely brings plain statements, and hardly any clear representation of how the alledged "sculptures" got artificially sculptured; in what technique, for what parts of the objects; it is more a "believe it or not" presentation. It sure is a subject to become carried away in; we all have the ability to see shapes in (to) whatever irregular form. But of course, it is the artificial, intentional chipping; modification of the people of the time that does it. Not the creative abilities and obsessions of the modern observer. The ancient techniques appear to are standardized, so are many of the stylisations and motives. There is no mystery as to how these things were artificially modified; there is no indication yet found of secret lost techniques to make natural stones soft and plyable and/or cut with laser-beams or such. We do have examples of people imagening sculptures from pure unaltered or natural worn rock, there are ones who want to make financial profit, there are ones who accuse us of over-imagination.

Personally, I have read all of Velikovski's works, and as a consequence of that, ordered the full series of your quantavolution books. They stand next to hundreds of books by the traditionalists. Prof. dr. Doeko Goosen I met several times; when he took a firm stand in the court-cases against a believed heretic here. I, in 10 years at an official arch. inst. had sometimes doubts too about theories, and wondered about deposits in the field and cultural collapse where I was taught to see "progress" and "evolution". I feel that some time-tables may be way too long, that the ape climbing from the tree at the equator to become human step by step over millions of years is plain "b...s..t" like you Americans say. But sofar I am not yet converted to a 12.000 years scenario like you bring.

The found fact however, that by probing into the non-literate accounts, one encounters lively portraits of the ancients, together with their totem-representations and symbolic representations, brings in indeed hard evidence that "Sapiens" was so from the beginning, and altered through time only as a consequence of "disasters"; be it long-term "ice ages",

or short-term cataclysms. Ape-men may as well be mutants, or slow evolutions, from the proto form we all preserve quite well, into the direction of a more adapted form that is more docile to the environment. Piecing together the evidence, it is more logical, to reconstruct a distribution of proto-humans all over the globe; mostly along sea-shores in the Pliocene, with along the polar circle the populations where first took place the most pressure to either retreat towards the tropics, or to stay and develop "cultural" compensations: clothing, artificial shelters, other extra-corporal "tools". This "Homo compensator" then even made some of their aggressive raids through the tropics; pacing back and forth in the scenario of glacial extensions and glacial retreats. Russian archaeologists just released the news, that they have excavated remains of fire-using human populations near Yakutsk in Siberia living there in rockshelters but also in the open fields at an average temperature of minus 10° below the freezing point of water. By conventional time-reconing this would be 2. milj. yrs ago about; the start of the long cycle of "ice ages"; the end of the subtropical vegetation along the north polar sea, just as predicted in a paper I happened to release at the time that their excavations started in all silence.

No. 1
Talk
9/27
John

In the Netherlands, we have a relatively well preserved succession of sediments, that do cover the entire range of the Quarternary and before that. It makes it difficult for me to accept a short time-table for the whole, just as I feel that some of the time will be much overestimated. For the memory of Mankind, the 12.000 scenario will do; the Holocene, but it still leaves plenty of events only delivered by prehistory. Sand-sheets, clay and loess, iron deposits, scoring, knocking over of forests, rapid growing peat, cultures collapsing, refuges in rockshelters, everything is here indeed in the Holocene. Some of Velikovski I read in S-France near Arles; an area very rich in Ares-Mars-Nergal, Hercules, the dragon-man eater, the white-horse spear-man chasing black bull, the bright shining star, the fresh lime-rocks, the Greek settlements crushed, tilted, the alluminium-ores (red), the fissures with bauxite or red clay with crushed bones, the pebble strewn fields, it is all there.

But it also appears to my mind, that there is A: a time within memory that is only some thousands year long.

B: a time before that, some gifted seers (Shamans) explored in their dream-trips; capable to even explore the times of dinosaur and emergence of solar system. Time and place are irrelevant as boundaries in visions, giving sufficient energy and ability to let the vision travel.

So from your books, I often feel that a succession of events in your reconstruction gets equalized; the birth of the solar system, the emergence of life in the seas, the great reptile days, the emergence of animal world, the emergence of mankind, in your books equalized in time, because within reach of oral myth or written accounts. I am not ready to accept this. This confusion also occurs at a smaller scale in archaeology; you quote Leroi-Gourhan who has a scenario of Sapiens-people to spring up suddenly at about 30.000 in his time-reconing, and the people working in Africa with Australopithecines of 2 milj. yrs about. The fact, that Sapiens apparently was around (with larger dentition and smaller but round brain-case next to the Australopithecus) does not make "therefore" Leroi-Gourhans scenario equal that of the African scenario. The fact, that one can reconstruct from the ancient texts a binary system, does not implicate for me, that indeed the binary system is seen by life populations and not in the wandering internal eye of many generations of shamans trying to find the answer about "how did it all start".

I however firmly agree, that things should be investigated properly, and that surpressing of fundamental research and reconstructions is unscientific; but we are at unease also about possible negative side-effects of putting first-hand hard evidence of the past into the international art-market.

In Sympathy,

J. E. Musch-ex-technician of establishment institute, now elected secretary APAN;

J. E. Musch

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I hope you can understand, that we are not hasty in taking up other peoples battles completely. We did not do so with the man, who with the original documents disproved most of the highlights of early history Netherlands not to have taken place there, but in N-France. How Charlemagne never set foot in our country, nor did the various missionaries. How the raids of the Norsemen came in part from our country, and not towards it, how the tribes in the Roman army came from N-France and are not our ancestors. So that the first chapters of all history-books here have to be re-arranged to match the authentic documents of the time, and archaeology has to look for the unwritten evidence. We are in support, but that is it. Just with the native-movements trying to get their religious objects back from the museums and diggers to respect their burial-grounds. The feminists, who want to reconstruct the matriarchical cultures, and stop male-biassed interpretations in archaeology and antropology.

But sure you would have found in Southampton a lifetimes work in rearranging all the nonsense produced about the origin of religions, the start of "domesticating" plants and animals, the start of employing first gold and pure copper, then of bronze, then of iron, the meaning of the shapes of monuments etc. etc.. None apparently has read Vel. or your work, at least has not given it a fair thought.

Upon visiting Avebury monument, I was impressed by the sight of Venus and Mars becoming just visible in the falling evening. The whole lay-out can be seen as a re-enacting of the trajectory of Venus knocking over Mars's orbit, so that it could be seen with its two satellites, and Venus disappearing till a harmless shiny planet. Which would make the re-arrangement of an old monument to fall into a few centuries before point zero; Jezus birth. Avebury once had a winding lane of rows of upright columns, leading to a circular compound with a ditch around, and an earthen bank around that. In the large circle were two circles of standing stones. A lane was leading from that over miles towards a small circle. Just like Stonehenge and plenty more of these "henges" it was abandoned and forgotten. Lots of speculations arose about the possible meaning; and all kinds of phantastic explanations were sought. Now it gets more and more accepted, that the alignments have something to do with the observation of movements of celestial bodies. However (like Vel. rightfully remarked for Stonehenge) there are re-arrangements, and no line-ups with any obvious points in the heavens calculated retrograde. In Vel.'s reconstructions, one can find plenty answers as to why and when these things got made with such effort, same goes for the human and horse figures in the same area that got cut in the slopes of chalk mountains; some are prehistoric. Several are young, and done without a cultural background, showing that no high tech or flying saucers are needed to produce them and get impressed by their sight.

About the shaman's: I base myself upon the plenty recordings of what the shamans themselves had to say for instance some 60 years ago in Siberia, when there were dozens still alive and willing to give accounts about their work. Actual sessions have been recorded, in which individuals or groups travelled in time or space.

It will be nice to hear about any further developments of the Gaietto movement; he once sacked Madame de Vialfont for reasons unknown, but we have now exact counterparts of the lively portraits she has collected in many Mesolithic and Neolithic context, and we have too found promising contacts with scholars from all over the earth that got enthusiastic to explore the sculptures info. One anthropologist told us that he is willing to take up a study of the repressing behavior of archaeologists; he plans to come to the Netherlands to study some fine specimen of this cultural tradition,

In sympathy,

J.E. Muis