

## Ape-Men Fiction, Fraud, and Fantasy

### Case #1

#### Nebraska Man:

In 1922, a tooth was discovered in Nebraska. With a little imagination the tooth was connected to a mythological jawbone, the jawbone was connected to a skull, the skull was connected to a skeleton, and the skeleton was given a face, features, and fur. By the time the story hit a London newspaper, not only was there a picture of “Nebraska man” but there was also a picture of “Nebraska mom.” All from a single solitary tooth!



**OOPS!!**

Some time after the initial discovery, an identical tooth was found by geologist Harold Cook. This time the tooth was attached to an actual skull, and the skull was attached to the skeleton of a wild pig. Thus, Nebraska man, known by the “scientific” designation *Hesperopithecus haroldcookii*, has been unmasked as a myth rather than a man in the making.

### Case #2

#### Java Man:

Java man (*Pithecanthropus Erectus*) was initially discovered by a Dutchman named Eugene Dubois on the Dutch East Indian island of Java in 1891. What is not so well known is that Java man consists of nothing more than a skullcap, a femur (thigh bone),

three teeth, and a great deal of imagination. Even more disturbing is the fact that the femur was found fifty feet from the skullcap and a full year later.



### A SMALL DETAIL...

Most unsettling of all is that for almost thirty years, Dubois downplayed his discovery of two human skulls (the Wadjak skulls), which he found in close proximity to his original “finds.” This alone should disqualify Java man as humankind’s ancestor but unfortunately the Java man myth still lives on.

### Case #3

#### Pitdown Man:

The two most eminent paleoanthropologists in England during the “discovery” of Pitdown man, Sir Arthur Keith and A.S. Woodward, declared that Pitdown man “represents more closely than any human form yet discovered the common ancestor from which both the Neanderthal and modern types have been derived.”



### CREATIVE SCIENCE

Pitdown man may be factually described as a fraud. While the fraud may have been cleverly conceived, it was crudely carried out. The jaw of an ape was stained to make it appear as though it matched a human skull; the Pitdown fossils along with accompanying bones were not only stained but

also reshaped using a file. In 1953, after the Nature Conservancy had spent a considerable amount of taxpayer money to designate the Piltdown site as a national monument, Piltdown man was formally declared a fake.

## Case #4

### Peking Man:

Like Nebraska man, Peking man was based on a dusty old tooth. It was conveniently discovered in China, just as Canadian physician David Black was about to run out of funds for his evolutionary explorations in 1927. The Rockefeller Foundation rewarded this discovery with a generous grant, permitting Black to continue digging. Two years later, he discovered what he fervently believed was Peking man's braincase, and he estimated Peking man to be half a million years old. By the time World War II broke out, the evolutionary community had "discovered" fourteen skulls and an interesting collection of tools and teeth. By war's end however, all fourteen skulls were "missing in action."



## SAY IT AIN'T SO

The photographs and plaster casts that remained had some interesting similarities. Apart from the fact that the lower skeletons were missing, the skulls had all been bashed at the base. It seems the tools found with Peking man were used *on* him, not *by* him. As it turns out, while monkey meat is difficult to digest, monkey brains are delicious. To this day, natives of Southeast Asia lop off the heads of monkeys, bash them in at the back, scoop out the brains, and eat them as a delicacy. It is now clear to anyone who looks at the evidence with an open mind that Peking man was not a distant relative but rather dinner.