

Recensions – Book Reviews

Homo Erectus: Papers in Honor of Davidson Black, edited by Becky A. SIGMON and Jerome S. CYBULSKI. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. 271 pages, map, bibliography, index.

This book is a belated *festschrift* to Davidson Black, the Canadian medical doctor who in 1927 identified and named *Sinanthropus pekinensis* on the basis of fossil remains found in China at the site of Chokoutien. This so-called “Peking Man” is now considered a form of *Homo erectus*, a grade or stage of human evolution intermediate between more ancient Australopithecines and more recent *Homo sapiens*. Remains of *Homo erectus* are found widely throughout the Old World and are generally believed to date between about 1.4 and 0.4 million years ago.

The remarkable story of the discovery of Peking Man is well known, although Black’s role in it has not been so clearly acknowledged. This is in part because Black died in 1934 only a few years after the first discoveries at Chokoutien and before the finds were accepted by the scientific community of the Western world. This volume thus pays tribute to this “forgotten Canadian” through papers that acknowledge his contributions, place him in historical perspective, and consider the current state of knowledge regarding *Homo erectus*.

The majority of the papers in the volume were first presented at a symposium held in 1976 at Cedar Glen, Ontario. Papers by Shapiro and von Koenigswald recall Black as man and scholar, while Cybulski and Gallina provide an inventory of Black’s published work in order to round out the historical and biographical aspects of the volume.

Along with acknowledging Black’s work, the volume also attempts to refocus anthropological attention on *Homo erectus*. To some extent, *Homo erectus* has been “upstaged” by finds of more ancient hominids. However, new discoveries of *Homo erectus* remains require reassessment of currently held views. Of particular importance are questions regarding the relationships of *Homo erectus* populations to both more ancient and more recent ones.

A paper by W. W. Howells provides a good starting point for such a reassessment. Despite the title of the volume, Howells does not consider the taxon *Homo erectus* to be carved in stone. Instead, he provides a critique of *Homo erectus*, as both a taxon and a concept, and he warns that *Homo erectus* must not become a wastebasket category that prevents attention to the diversity of the known finds.

The following papers in the volume consider regional developments. Jacob considers the Southeast Asian remains and provides as well an inventory of finds made

there since the original discoveries by du Bois in 1890. Jacob emphasizes the diversity of these remains, naming three species, two of which are put forward as over-lapping in time.

European finds are considered in four papers. Clark Howell addresses general questions regarding the evolutionary sequence in Europe, while Thoma focuses on remains from Eastern Europe, particularly those from the Hungarian site of Vértesszöllös. M. de Lumley also discusses Europe, presenting a case for regional morphological continuity of the hominid populations. Mania and Vlček consider remains from the German site of Bilzingsleben.

Four authors consider African materials. Jaeger reviews Northwest African finds, while Rightmire offers a preliminary report of two fossils from Olduvai Gorge in East Africa (OH 9 and OH 12). Walker considers possible interpretations for East Turkana remains, and Protsch provides an up-dated discussion of Tanzanian finds from Eyasi and Garusi that were discovered in the 1930's.

Finally, although there are no papers about more recent finds from the People's Republic of China, Mann offers new interpretations of the Chokoutien remains that are based on studies of casts, the originals having been lost during the Second World War. Mann also provides an inventory of these casts and their locations.

In general, these regionally focussed papers emphasize biological issues and pay more limited attention to cultural data. One would like to see more attention paid to possible selective pressures that might have brought about diversity – even possible speciation – among these Middle Pleistocene culture bearing hominids. There is, furthermore, little agreement among the various authors regarding nomenclature or over-all evolutionary relationships among the regional populations or with earlier and later forms, although a number of hypotheses are offered. However, as volume co-editor Sigmon notes in her useful introduction to the book, these various perspectives point to the dynamic nature of “populations of hominines spreading throughout the Old World, adapting, and evolving” (p. 11). They also drive home Howells' point that the diversity of *Homo erectus* remains must be carefully considered.

A final paper by volume co-editor Cybulski provides an extremely helpful overview of remains, including a chronological chart, thus presenting a synthesis that was not possible in the more regionally focussed papers.

Valda BLUNDELL
Carleton University

Kenelm BURRIDGE, *Someone, No One. An Essay on Individuality*. Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press. 1979. xi-270 p.

In 1940, Ogborn and Nimkoff devoted several chapters of their sociology textbook to socialization, “the process whereby the individual is converted into the person.” In this process, the assertion to autonomy and self-willedness are pitted against the traditional moralities of a given social order. Anthropologists and sociologists tend to focus on that which to them reveals normalcy and the normative: the person. If becoming a person, in the sociological sense, would be the only avenue open to human beings, we would all become the automated creatures of our