

I should do so, as Mr. Holmes has discussed somewhat fully these designs in the second annual report of the Bureau of ethnology. But I may add that these figured copper plates and engraved shells present a problem very difficult to solve, as is evident from the following facts:—

1°. A number of the designs bear too strong resemblance to those of Mexico and Central America to warrant us in supposing this similarity to be accidental. 2°. The indications of European workmanship are too evident to be overlooked. 3°. The fact that some of them were found in connection with articles of European manufacture is unquestionable. 4°. The evidence that some of the engraved shells can be traced to the Indians is well-nigh conclusive.

Mr. Rogan sank a large shaft, seventeen feet square, to the bottom of the second mound (marked *B* in Jones's plate, and also in Col. Whittlesey's figure). No burials or objects of interest were found in it, except the remains of four posts, extending four feet below the surface, placed in the form of a parallelogram, two feet one way, and six feet the other. The strata were as follows: first, a bottom layer of white sand two feet thick; next, between nine and ten feet of dark red clay; then two feet more of white sand; and, lastly, a top layer of some six or seven feet of dark sandy loam.

Mr. Rogan found in one of the small, low mounds east of the large one (those marked *FF* on Jones's plate), the fragment of a stone image. This fragment, which shows most of the form of the bust, is represented in our fig. 11. It is made of a coarse white marble: and the part shown in the figure is ten inches and three-quarters long; the length of the head, seven inches and a fifth; and width of the head, five inches and three-quarters. The face is entirely wanting, and from appearance, I judge, was broken off designedly.

CYRUS THOMAS.

A HUMAN SKULL FROM THE LOESS OF PODBABA, NEAR PRAGUE.¹

AMONG collections of bones from the diluvium of the vicinity of Prague, human skulls are often found. From the color of the earth adhering to them, however, it is evident that they come from graves of the stone and bronze age, which here frequently occur in the top layer of the loess deposit, and are filled with dark loam. I also once received a normal skull found at a great depth in a lime-kiln at Tyrolka, not far from Prague, but in such relations that the overlying strata were presumed to have obtained their present position from a slide down the steep sides of the valley.

In the winter of 1883 some workmen brought me numerous bones of the reindeer, the rhinoceros, and

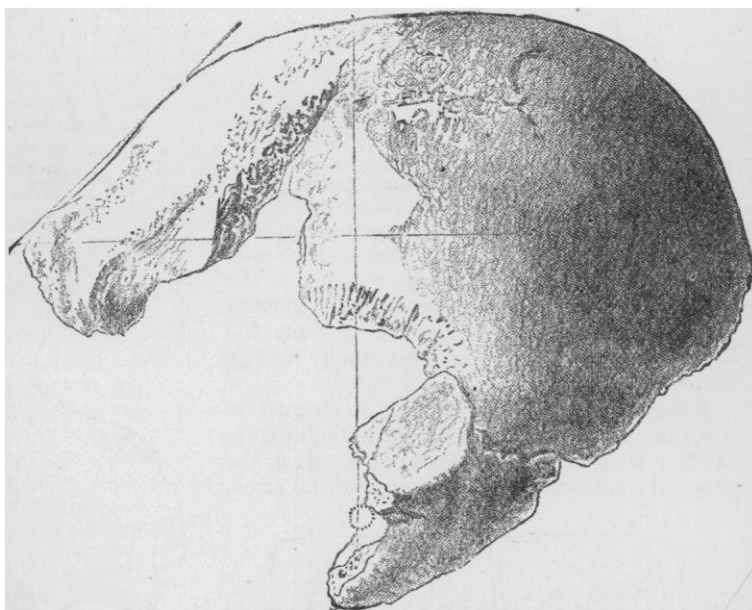


FIG. 1.—LATERAL VIEW OF HUMAN SKULL, FROM DELUVIAL CLAY NEAR PRAGUE (ONE-HALF NATURAL SIZE.)

the mammoth, from the clay behind the brewery at Podbaba, and, on the 30th of November, the remains of a human skull. After carefully putting together the newly broken parts, a skull was apparent, the remarkably depressed shape of the forehead of which must surprise every one. As this came from the same strata as the bones of ancient mammals obtained from this place, I immediately went there in order to determine more definitely the state of things. The skull was found by a workman named Hlavatý, in undisturbed brick-clay (loess) two metres thick, lying under one metre of dense loam, and at the same level at which, about a week previously, I had obtained the tusk of a mammoth.

¹ Abstract of a communication to the Bohemian society of sciences, by Dr. ANTON FRITSCH.

The skull consists of the frontal bone, the whole left parietal, a fragment of the right as well as a part of the left temporal bone, with the petrosa. The occipital bone, the face, and the base of the skull, are lacking; but freshly broken surfaces indicate that the skull was complete, and that the missing fragments are lost. On this account, measurements according to the accepted rules could not be given.

I therefore sought for lines which would permit a comparative measurement with a modern skull. I joined the point of the upper edge of the orbit with that in which the parietal bones are connected at the end of their median suture, and from it drew a line perpendicular to the lower end of the mastoid process of the petrosa (see fig. 1). I did the same, also, to a normal skull, and ascertained by this means the great difference in the shape of the forehead, and the lowness of the skull arch. A measurement made in the same way, of the slope of the forehead in a normal brachycephalic Bohemian, amounts to seventy-two degrees, while the skull from Podbaba measures fifty-six degrees. In a normal skull, the height of the crown above this horizontal line is 7.2 centimetres; in the skull from Podbaba, 5.6 centimetres. The position of the outer opening of the ear may be reconstructed with some exactness by means of the channel running diagonally across the temporal bone. A further remarkable characteristic of the skull is the very strongly developed eyebrows, which, in their

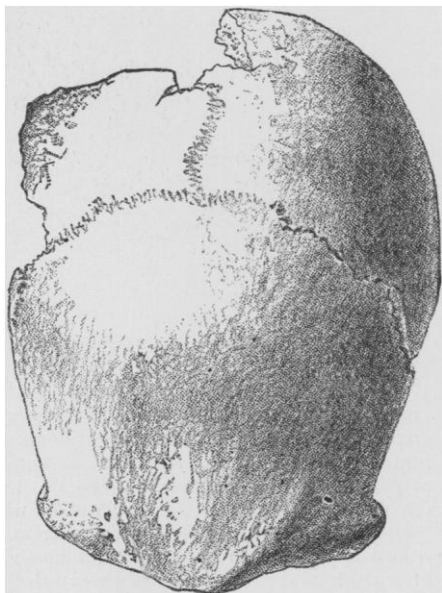


FIG. 2. — THE SAME, TOP VIEW.

inner half, are little inferior to the Neanderthal skull. A cross-section of the stoutest portion of the parietal bone shows that only the middle third is porous. The bone has nearly the same appearance as those of the diluvial mammals found in the same clay, commonly considered fossil. A few small fragments of

the bones of the extremities were obtained with the skull, but their inter-relation would be difficult to prove.



FIG. 3. — THE SAME, FRONT VIEW.

From the same clay a skeleton of a girl of the bronze age was recently brought to me, one hand still holding a bracelet, which had turned the distal end of the arm green. A few days later I obtained two nearly perfect skeletons of full-grown men from a neighboring lime-kiln. All these skeletons came from graves situated in the top layer of the loess and in the loam. All are typical dolichocephali, with beautifully arched foreheads. The bones are soft and fragile, and are at once distinguishable, on a glance, from the skull with low forehead found deep in the loess.

After repeated visits to the locality, I succeeded in determining that it was in precisely this layer, two metres below the loam, that all the mammal remains obtained at this place had been found; viz., a tusk of a mammoth seventy-five centimetres long, two skulls of *Rhinoceros tychorhinus*, reindeer, and horse. Since this is the same level from which the human skull came, it may be considered as established beyond doubt, that the mammoth, the rhinoceros, and man lived in Bohemia at the same period.

As I am no craniologist by profession, and am especially occupied with other paleontological material, I think I act agreeably to all anthropologists in sending the skull for further examination to Professor Schaafhausen. This high authority, to whom I have already sent a plaster cast, declares it very interesting, and will be prepared shortly to report on it.

PRIMITIVE COMMUNITIES.

DURING the year 1883 three books were published which were of so great importance in the early history of institutions, that it seems worth while to examine them with some care in their relation to one another, in order to determine the precise extent and value of their contribution to this study. These books are, Sir Henry Maine's 'Early law and custom,' Mr. Frederic Seebohm's 'English village community,' and Mr. D. W. Ross's 'Early history of land-holding among the Germans.' Sir Henry Maine's book, being a collection of essays of a considerable range of discussion, will be touched upon only incidentally: the other two, those of Mr. Ross and Mr. Seebohm,