Two Million Years of Art in Human Evolution

AH 224 Paleolithic Art, Spring 2012

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MYTHO-STRATIGRAPHY

Mythic III
Eurasian
‘shamanic’

Mythic II
‘Southern Route’

Mythic I
‘Khoisan’

Complex Idea
Modeling

Conceptual
Symbolic
Modeling
### 4 Meme Model: 2MY Evolution of Art, Symbol & Myth

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Era and Techné</th>
<th>Four Meme Model (James Harrod)</th>
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| **Oldowan**    | 'Rudimentary Symbolic' = 2.0-3.5 yrs // human = great ape cognition (A. Russon 2004)  
= *Australopithecus* (similar cognitive level by triangulation to common great ape ancestor)  
First 'art object': ‘animacy in stone’, ‘animated spirit that inhabits the body’  
**Conceptual-Symbolic Modeling** = *Homo habilis/rudolfensis* (*out-of-Africa*)  
First Metaphor = 'core-seed-sustenance-essence in interpersonal interaction'; ‘rhomboids of the mind’  
First Ethos = carnivore axis  
First Joke:’ hit the baboon head’ anvil (drill cupules) |
| **Acheulian**  | **Complex Idea Modeling** = *Homo erectus/ergaster* (*out-of-Africa*)  
Biface pairing of complementary shapes (*contraria sunt complementa*, Niels Bohr; *coincidentia oppositorum*, C. G. Jung; ‘co-poiesis’, Bracha Ettinger)  
Sheath, the Womb Source of Animacy (Life-Giver) & Vehicle, Cutting Spirit, Energy of Initiative (Death-Giver)  
colorants, marking traditions, mortuary practice, adornments, anthropomorphs & zoomorphs |
| **Middle Paleolithic / Middle Stone Age** | **Mythic I &II**  
EMP =*archaic Homo sapiens* / MMP = *Homo sapiens sapiens* (*out-of-Africa*)  
Beings of the Dreaming, Creatrix of Life-Forms, stone arrangements, landscape art, image representation,  
mortuary practices with grave goods; geometric ‘signs’  
I. ‘Gaia’ (M. Witzel) = Khoisan  
II. ‘Gondwana’ (M. Witzel) = ‘Southern Route’ Africa to SE Asia & Australia |
| **Upper Paleolithic / Later Stone Age** | **Mythic III** = *Homo sapiens sapiens* (*out-of-SW-Central-Asia*)  
‘Eurasian’ (Y. Berezkin) ‘Laurasian’ (M. Witzel) = Shamanic  
6 Worlds Shamanism; Soul Journey, Soul Retrieval; Mother-of-Animals, Master-of-Animals;  
Geometric Protolanguage, UP(E) array of 12 female and 12 male spiritual transformations (J. Harrod) |

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Templeton (2010, 2002): genetics = 3 waves out-of-Africa – 1.9 Ma; 650 ka; 130 ka; 1 out-of-Asia (recent)
A New Paradigm

• Wave I: Dispersal of Homo rudolfensis/habilis, with classic Oldowan pebble-core tool tradition, out-of-Africa, ~2.0 Ma to 1.7 Ma

• Wave II: Dispersal of Homo erectus, with Middle Acheulian or Developed Oldowan-like tool tradition, out-of-Africa, ~1.0 Ma to 800 ka

• Wave III: Dispersal of Homo sapiens sapiens out-of-Africa or SW Asia with Mid-Middle Paleolithic technology, ~150 to 60 ka

• Wave IV: Upper Paleolithic → 60 ka Global Rock Art Heritage
Later Acheulian

Symbolic Behaviors

• Collection/manuporting of exotic objects: Wonderwerk Cave; Hoxne; Swanscombe

• Use of pigment: ocher nodules and wear faceted crayons: Wonderwerk Cave; Ambrona; Terra Amata; Maastricht-Bélvèdere; Ede II NL

• Self-adornment: Bedford UK; El Greifa Libya; Repolusthöle Austria

• Pecked, abraded, incised, serrated or notched objects: Wonderwerk Cave; Port-Launay;

• Marking traditions, including ‘cupules’: Bilzingsleben; Bhimbetka; Daraki-Chattan; Pampau

• Geometric artifacts: Maihar India; Bhimbetka; Jabeek NL; Ede II NL; Pampau;

• Image/Representation: Decorated biface, at least 9 sites: Israel, UK, France, Monaco, NL; Figurines: Berekhat Ram; Tan Tan; Erfoud; also Swanscombe; Clacton; Vértesszöllös, Hamburg-Wittenbergen; Pampau; Boukoul NL; Beegden NL

• Stone/bone arrangements/depositions: Bhimbetka handaxe cleaver flakes in crevice

• Exotic tools (too big, too heavy, too many, unused, exquisite): Boxgrove; Shrub Hill; Furze Platt; Cuxton

• Mortuary practice: Bodo (defleshing); Atapuerca (biface deposition); Pontnewydd (caching)
"You know, I used to like this hobby. ... But shoot! Seems like everybody's got a rock collection."
Later Acheulian – Northwest Europe
If this came from a craft shop in Nairobi, what do you see?
Forest Elephant / Lion polymorphic sculpture
Boukoul, Netherlands, Holstein or Cromer IV Interglacial, ~360-520 ka

Interpretation: 2 ‘elephants’ (perhaps mother and juvenile) attacked by 2 ‘lions’ (bottom 2 heads?); and also ‘elephant giving birth’, thus ‘death/life complementarity’; also ‘vulva’? under belly elephant

Collector: Jan van Es; Photo: Jan van Es; Interpretation: Jan van Es, James Harrod; Collage James Harrod
Elephant / Lion / ‘core mystery’ or ‘egg’ combination

Boukoul, Netherlands, Holstein or Cromer IV Interglacial, ~400-500 ka

Interpretation (Jan van Es and James Harrod): ‘elephant’ or ‘mammoth’ attacked by ‘lion’ (possibly lion-headed human hunter with human legs); trunk curves up to a mineral inclusion, metaphorically ‘core or inner mystery’ or ‘egg nucleus’.

Collector: Jan van Es; Photo: Jan van Es; Interpretation: Jan van Es, James Harrod; Collage James Harrod
Discussion on the cast of the Hamburg-Wittenbergen female figurine, Hamburg 1989

Cast of figurine on table. L: Werner Ehrich, Research Assistant to Walter Matthes, Hamburg University; C: Urself Benekendorff; R: James Harrod; the week prior to our approved visit to the HU Archaeology Lab to see Matthes artifacts, HU sent 6 crates of Matthes’ artifacts from storage to be crushed into gravel (UB personal communication 1989); Harrod on AAR Research Grant, 1989.
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Elbe River Valley, excavated Walther Matthes, University of Hamburg
Clactonian, Treene interglacial, geologic dating, Alfred Rust and Gustav Steffens (1962)
photo Matthes, W. (1966 Abb. 1)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Exhibition case, hominin heads and profiles, Walther Matthes, University of Hamburg
Clactonian, Treene interglacial, geologic dating, Alfred Rust and Gustav Steffens (1962)
photo Matthes, W. (1963: Tafel 1.2)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Identified by Walther Matthes as as sculptures of (top) bison; (bottom left) calf; (bottom right) bear. Matthes, W. (1963: Taf. 7.1,2,3)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP
Stereotypical profile heads, Matthes, W. (1963: Tafel 2.1)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Stereotypical profile heads, Matthes, W. (1963: Tafel 2.2)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Stereotypical profile head, Matthes, W. (1964/65: Bild 38.1)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP
Stereotypical profile heads, Matthes, W. (1966: Abb. 5, 18, 19, 22, 23)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP
Stereotypical one-eye open one-eye closed mask, Matthes, W. (1966: Abb. 20)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP
Stereotypical one-eye open one-eye closed mask, Matthes, W. (1966: Abb. 20)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP
Stereotypical one-eye open one-eye closed mask, Matthes, W. (1966: Abb. 20)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Feline head, Matthes, W. (1963: Tafel 4.2)
Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Hamburg-Wittenbergen, Germany, ~250,000 BP

Bear’s head, Matthes, W. (1963: Tafel 4.1)
Archaeologische Berichten Group, Elst, NL

L: Ben Duppen, Editor, *Archeologische Berichten* (Elst, NL); Center L: Ursel Benekendorff; Center R: Jan Evert Musch; R: James Harrod; Harrod on AAR Research Grant, 1989.
‘Bears’, NW Europe, Later Acheulian Period


Nr. 10, 11: ‘Bears’, Eexterveld. Discovered J. E. Musch 1983; collection J. E. Musch. From a glacial outwash layer that locally only contains pre-Mindel artifacts (VOA, Abbevillian) and older.

Nr. 12, 13: ‘Bears’, Neer (sandpit), Limburg, NL.; Heidelbergian found in profusion with many microlithic artifacts. Found J. Beeren; collection J. E. Musch.

NW Europe Later Acheulian Period ‘On-Anvil’ Techniques

1a, 1b: ‘Egg-in-cup’ anvil
2a, 2b: ‘Contracoupe’ or ‘bipolar’ technique; mainly used in Acheulian traditions
3: ‘Buffer’ technique, snapping off of a straight facet; 4: Notching on pointed (conical) anvil
5: Small notches, pressure along crest of flint (several portraits retouched in this way)
6: ‘Curling’ flake due to ricochet blow (requires long training)
7: Pressure flaking along rough polymorph anvil; 8: Pecking (mainly with metamorphic rock)

Ohle Pit, Gross Pampau, Germany
~525,000 to 400,000 BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP

Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany

Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP

Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany

Jan Evert Musch and Ursel Benekendorff, Ohle Pit. Photo: James Harrod.
East Wall, Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, 1989

East Wall, Miocene Clays, Fossil Whale Site, Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, 1989

‘Baboon and Macaque Heads’ possibly used as anvils

Pampau, Germany, Mindle glacial moraine gravels, ≥ 400 kya
Collection - Ursel Benekendorff; photo Ursel Benekendorff
‘Macaque and Baboon-Like Heads’, Pampau, Germany ≥ 400,000 BP

Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindle glacial moraine gravels, ≥ 400 kya
Collection - Ursel Benekendorff; photo Ursel Benekendorff
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
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Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP

Stereotypical motif 'one-eye open, one-eye closed.' Without interpretation, I once asked an actor to look at this and tell me what he saw. He said, 'one-eye open, and one-eye wounded, the tragic motif, the pain of Lear.' The figure also has a paradoxical quality, both old wise man and, side view, a child or infant.

Photo James Harrod; collection James Harrod, courtesy Ursel Benekendorff
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP

(Photo: (left) Ursel Benekendorff)

Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, $\geq 400,000$ BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, $\geq 400,000$ BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
Ohle Pit, Groß Pampau, Germany, Mindel gravels, ≥400,000 BP
‘Boukoulian’, Microlithic Later Acheulian
Boukoul, Netherlands, ~400,000 BP (?)
‘Boukoulian,’ Microlithic Later Acheulian
Boukoul, Netherlands, ~400,000 BP

Workbenches stylized as waterbirds, baboon-heads

‘Boukoulian,’ Microlithic Later Acheulian
Boukoul, Netherlands, ~400,000 BP


Photo: B Duppen, Van van Es, J. E. Musch. Special issue on Boukoul/Coquelles. AB19: p. 130.
Workbenches and egg-in-cup anvils
‘Boukoulian,’ Microlithic Later Acheulian
Boukoul, Netherlands, ~400,000 BP
Rhenen, Netherlands, Treene Interglacial, ~180-250,000 BP
Rhenen, Netherlands, Treene Inter-Interglacial, ~180-250,000 BP
Rhenen, Netherlands, Treene Interglacial, ~180-250,000 BP