

*When comes another?*

# GIANT APE: Clue to Human Evolution

A "MAGNIFICENT" photograph of a jaw of a giant ape that lived in China half a million years ago has been received from a Chinese scientist.

The giant apes roamed the forests when the cannibal called Peking Man was alive.

Whether these fearsome-looking ancient apes and ancient men preyed on each other is not known. But the existence of both at the same period of pre-history has been established beyond doubt by fossil relics.

The giant ape is called Gigantopithecus. It is estimated that it stood between twelve and thirteen feet in height.

This correspondent has now received a description and a photograph of the ape's jaw, the first to be seen outside China, from Dr. Pei Wen-chung of the Academia Sinica. Dr. Pei was the man who found the first skull of Peking Man in 1929.

Besides the jaw and fifty teeth of the giant ape, Dr. Pei says, "there are five more or less complete skulls of Peking Man, fourteen jaws and a hundred and fifty-two isolated teeth."

This is the first news heard about the famous relics since 1941, when a major of the United States Marines tried to bring them back to the United States in his personal baggage. He was interned by the Japanese and the baggage was lost.

DR. PEI stresses the fact that in appearance the new jaw is more like that of a man than any other ape alive or dead.

It was found recently in a high cliff cave at Liucheng in Kwangsi province, South China, by a peasant, Tan Hsiu-huai, who was digging for bone manure.

Thinking that the jaw was a "lung-ku" (dragon bone), used in certain Chinese medicines, he tried to sell it at the local marketing co-operative, where officials had been warned to look out for anything of scientific or cultural value.

Dr. Pei writes:

"My opinion concerning the giant ape of Kwangsi at the present time before finishing the excavation and studying the specimen in detail can be condensed as follows:

"The geological age of Gigantopithecus is Middle Pleistocene" (400,000 to 600,000 years ago by

Dr. Pei's reckoning, but 200,000 to 400,000 years ago on the more conservative European time-scale).

"It is fundamentally a giant ape, therefore I endorse Koenigswald's first idea." (The Dutch paleontologist Dr. G. H. R. von Koenigswald found and named the first teeth of the giant in Hong Kong and Canton drug stores in 1935 and 1939. He said they were the relics of a manlike ape. Others thought they were the teeth of an ape-like man.)

"Gigantopithecus possesses more

human characteristics than any other known fossil of recent age.

"It is contemporary with *Sinanthropus* (the scientific name of Peking Man). That means that during the Middle Pleistocene there lived a branch of human ancestor which developed gradually toward the stock of recent man while one line of anthropoid ape struggled with nature but, due to its gigantism of body and inferior skill in primitive labor or hunting animals for food, became extinct."

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### Antique Phonograph

*WHAT is believed to be one of the oldest phonographs in the world was discovered among piles of junk at the National Science Museum in Tokyo, Japan.*

*Records showed that the machine, named the "sound reviving machine" was made in 1878, just one year after Thomas Edison invented the talking machine.*

*Creator of the machine is believed to have been a British physicist then visiting Japan at the invitation of Tokyo Physical Science University.*

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