

## Footprint Fascination

Unfortunately, sometimes footprint photographs create a bit of an optical illusion. Rather than the prints appearing to go into the ground, they appear raised above it. If we take footprint photographs and invert them (i.e., make them negatives) then they appear as they should, except the coloring or shading is incorrect.

The following print was found on Blue Creek Mountain. When the image is inverted (second image) you get a much better idea of the depth of the print.



Footprint casts also create a bit of an illusion. One cannot help but get the impress that he or she is looking at the top of the foot, rather than from beneath. Naturally, if you were looking at the top, the foot would appear totally different. To illustrate this point, I had Yvon Leclerc create the following image for my museum exhibit in Vancouver. The cast used for the sole of the foot is from the Patterson/Gimlin film site (14.5 inches long).



Now, if you want to see what sasquatch footprints might look like if the entity stepped in a puddle of black/blue ink and stood on light colored paper, what you would see is shown below. Here are Patty's feet followed by the cripplefoot prints.



None of this proves anything, it just makes things a little easier to understand. We have all heard of the expression "Seeing is believing;" however, "seeing" is "relative,"—depends on the person doing the seeing. Many men are totally or partially color-blind (not the same with women) and color shades can result in seeing something differently to what others see. In many cases our brain interprets things and we see what it tells us to see.

We also have the expression “Cameras don’t lie.” That is true, but photographs definitely “deceive.” Unless you have photographs of a number of angles of the subject (above, below, both sides), then you have to assume certain things, and you will likely be wrong.

Of course, we now have the “digital revolution” and can manipulate any image to make it appear as we wish. In many, if not most cases, it is difficult to determine if something has been manipulated (this includes videos).

Probably, the best cast on record is the Abbott Hill, Heryford cast (1982), 15 inches long. It is shown here “as is” and then inverted (note that the color also inverts—goes opposite). What makes this cast so intriguing are the toes. There were quite a few prints at the site (left and right foot) some of half-prints as the sasquatch climbed a bank. The original cast was made of plaster poured into the print. The cast seen here is from a mold of the original. To carve a wooden foot of that nature would be the work of a professional wood-carver—even then very difficult and time-consuming.

About the only way to get results of this nature would be to get an impression of a human foot this size and then mold a rubber foot to make the prints (would have to be a left and right foot).

Dr. Henner Fahrenbach thoroughly investigated the Heryford prints and concluded absolutely that they were made by a natural foot. Deputy Dennis Heryford is seen (left) in the following photograph with the original cast he made.



That more scientific attention was not paid to this particular artifact is unusual; however, Dr. Jeff Meldrum has provided a complete analysis, and again it is stated that a natural foot made the print. Humans can have a 15-inch foot size, but stature needs to be about 7 feet, 5 inches.

