

Heuvelmans & The Iceman

The more I review the Iceman issue, the more amazed I become with the contention that Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans and Ivan Sanderson were “taken in” on the reality of a fabricated corpse. I have listened again to what Heuvelmans said on camera, as seen in the images shown here, and I present below exactly what he said (quoted from an interview with Bernard Heuvelmans by Arthur C. Clark—Mysterious World #6).

There was no doubt that we were looking at some sort of man, not Homo sapiens, but some sort of strangely hairy man who was judged by many things—the enormous hands and the enormous feet; and also more especially the features of the face, because it was absolutely unlike any man on earth. It was obvious that this creature had been killed because the one eye was completely missing, and the other was hanging out of the socket, and it had blood all around, so we thought it was probably shot in one eye and the bullet made the other eye pop out.

From seeing it, there's no question that the Iceman could be a hoax—a faked dummy, rubber dummy, or what have you, as they told in the press when you have seen something. We examined this creature for three days, very carefully, and we were very suspicious I can tell you at the start, but after a while that was quite ruled out. Now there is absolutely no doubt for me that I have [had] been examining a Neanderthal man, a surviving Neanderthal man."

What bothers me the most here is that the iceman was examined in 1968. So if it was a fabrication, then it was created in or before that year. Granted, the “body” was frozen in a block of ice so it could not be seen clearly, but certainly clear enough for a reasonable examination as the photographs of it reveal. In essence, what we have here (given it was a hoax) is a bit of a testimony to the “state of the art” at that time; obviously far beyond what we believe.

Personally, I am really not so sure it was a hoax, but I am sure it was not a sasquatch. My conclusion is, if it were real, then it was a North American almasty. Also, that Frank Hansen (the carnival man who displayed the frozen corpse) shot it and was fearful of repercussions (charges) if anyone got “too close.” I would say he had the dummy made as a safeguard in case he was forced to produce the



corpse to authorities. It appears he thought this out, and what he feared would happen, did happen. We can reason that the dummy was made (designed) by providing photographs of the actual creature. Here Hansen would simply say that they were photos of a dummy that had been destroyed.

The book written by Boris Porshnev and Bernard Heuvelmans (*L'homme de Néanderthal est toujours vivant*, 1974, was translated to English in recent years. This book details Heuvelman's examination of the corpse; it totally confirms his belief that the Iceman was real.

That the actual corpse has never been found, to me is hardly a mystery. Frank Hansen's son was studying to become a lawyer at the time and when the authorities got too close, as it were, he would have advised his father to destroy it, or bury it. I believe it is buried on Hansen's farm.

You might be somewhat dismayed here that anyone would destroy evidence of this nature, but it was obviously a human of some sort and if the “murder” were confirmed, Hansen would have been charged, possibly jailed, and his life would never be the same. Many of us would have likely done the same thing—science is simply just not worth it.