

Viewpoints on Dr. John Napier

by John Morley, BSc (Independent Biologist)

Background: Dr. John R. Napier was a British primatologist, paleoanthropologist, and physician, who is notable for his work with Homo habilis and the Olduvai hominoid fossils discovered in 1960, as well as on human and primate hands and feet.

In his book, Bigfoot, published in 1973, on page 204, Dr. Napier wrote the following:

But if any one of them (bigfoot footprints) is real, then as scientists we have a lot to explain. Among other things, we shall have to rewrite the story of human evolution. We shall have to accept that Homo sapiens is not the one and only living product of the hominid line, and we shall have to admit that there are still major mysteries to be solved in a world we thought we knew so well.

Question: Why does Dr. Napier write, "We shall have to rewrite the story of human evolution?"



Dr. John Napier holding a cast from a footprint left by the hominoid in the Patterson and Gimlin film. The cast would have been provided to him by René Dahinden when he went to England in 1971.

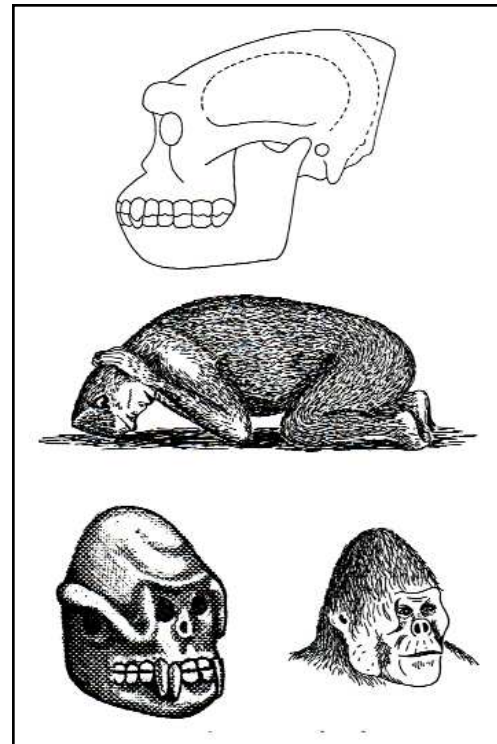
Answer: Because a bigfoot footprint (which is what he is writing about) has an adducted hallux, five toes in parallel alignment, and an hourglass shape indicating medial and lateral longitudinal arches. These are the physical characteristics of a human foot, not the foot of an ape.

Question: Why does Dr. Napier say, "we shall have to accept that Homo sapiens is not the one and only living product of the hominid (human) line?"

Answer: When these words were written in 1973, the term hominid meant human, and only human. The point that Dr. Napier was making is this: In 1973 Dr. Napier recognized that a bigfoot was a hominid (human) as determined by his professional & scientific knowledge. He recognized that no longer would Homo sapiens be the single remaining evolutionary species (or have a monopoly) within the line of primates called hominids and assigned to the genus Homo.

End

Note: Dr. Napier ((1917–1987) founded the Primate Society of Great Britain, He later became Director of the Primate Biology Program at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, (1967–1969).



(Top) Hypothetical skull of the ksy-giik type of abominable snowman as reconstructed by Russian scientists.

(Center) A drawing made by Prof. Khakhlov of the almas type of abominable snowman from native descriptions. (Homin was observed sleeping—CLM.)

(Bottom, left) An ancient mask from the great Mongolian plateau.

(Bottom, right) Reconstruction of head and face of the creature on the mask, drawn by Russian scientists.

Ivan Sanderson provides this illustrative plate on page 316 of his book, Abominable Snowman: Legend Come to Life. It follows considerable documentation of witness and researcher testimony in Mongolia. Please note that "almas" is the Mongolian name for the hominoid. It is not the plural for the Russian name "almasty."

Sanderson laments that the volume of information in Mongolia is so vast he can only provide highlights. Unfortunately photographs and drawings are few, or they have not been published.



The following are entries from the on-line version of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on the sasquatch and the yeti. The first four are dated about 2000, the last (under the image) is the latest for the abominable snowman.

There are obvious discrepancies with what we know, and have known for many years. It is no use taking issue with what has been said. I just hope that Britannica uses a different and more efficient standard for other material, especially that which might make a difference in critical matters. As to the image provided, this is simply a human with off-white fluffy hair or fur. I have not seen a witness description of that nature.

Sasquatch (from Salish se'sxac, "wild men"), also called Bigfoot, a large hairy humanlike creature believed by some persons to exist in the northwestern United States and western Canada. It seems to represent the North American counterpart of the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti.

The British explorer David Thompson is sometimes credited with the first discovery (in 1811) of a set of Sasquatch footprints, and hundreds of alleged prints have been adducted since then. Visual sightings and even alleged photographs and filmings (notably by Roger Patterson at Bluff Creek, Calif., in 1967) have also contributed to the legend, though none of the purported evidence has been verified.

Sasquatch is variably described as a primate ranging from 6 to 15 feet (2 to 4.5m) tall, standing erect on two feet, often giving off a foul smell and either moving silently or emitting a high-pitched cry. Footprints have measured up to 24 inches (60cm) in length and 8 inches (20cm) in width. A Soviet scientist, Boris Porshnev, suggested that Sasquatch and his Siberian counterpart, the Almas, could be remnant of Neanderthal man, but most scientists do not recognize the creature's existence. (*Wrong, Almas is Mongolian; Almasty is Siberian--CLM.*)

Abominable Snowman: Tibetan Yeti, mythical monster supposed to inhabit the Himalayas at about the level of the snow line. Though reports of actual sightings of such creatures are rare, certain mysterious markings in the snow have traditionally been attributed to it. Those not caused by lumps of snow or stones falling from higher regions and bouncing across the lower slopes have probably been produced by bears. At certain gaits bears place the hindfoot partly over the imprint of the forefoot, thus making a very large imprint that looks deceptively like an enormous human footprint positioned in the opposite direction. (*Wrong, the direction remains the same CLM.*)

Bigfoot or Sasquatch: Large, hairy, humanlike creature that reportedly lives in isolated areas of the northwestern U.S. and western Canada. Descriptions of Bigfoot are similar to those of the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas. It is said to be a primate 6-15 ft. (2-4.5m) in height, walking upright and either moving silently or emitting a high-pitched cry. Footprints have measured up to 24 in (60cm) in length. Despite many reported sightings, there is still no solid evidence that Bigfoot exists.

Abominable Snowman (Student Encyclopedia Article): A legendary creature, the Abominable Snowman is said to inhabit the Himalayas above the snow line. Although several attempts have been made to sight it, the Abominable Snowman has so far proved elusive. Strange tracks found on the snow, believed to have been made by the Abominable Snowman, are said to actually be footprints of bears.

The Abominable Snowman is known as the Yeti in Tibet and the Neegued in the state of Sikkim in northeast India. Its North American counterpart is called the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot; the Siberian counterpart is called the Almas. (*Wrong, Almas is Mongolian; Almasty is Siberian--CLM.*)

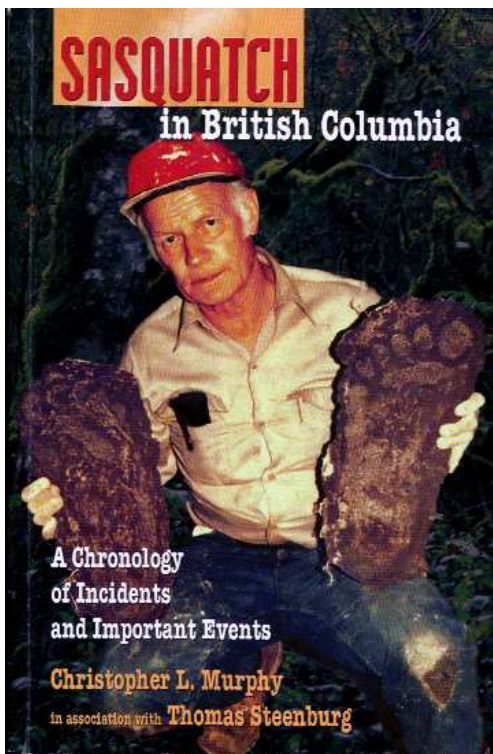


Abominable Snowman MYTHOLOGY

WRITTEN BY: The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica
LAST UPDATED: Mar 17, 2020
Alternative Titles: Nee-gued, Yeti, bear-man

Abominable Snowman, Tibetan Yeti, mythical monster resembling a large, hairy, apelike being supposed to inhabit the Himalayas at about the level of the snow line. Though reports of actual sightings of such a creature are rare, certain mysterious markings in the snow have traditionally been attributed to it. Those not caused by lumps of snow or stones falling from higher regions and bouncing across the lower slopes have probably been produced by bears. At certain gaits, bears place the hindfoot partly over the imprint of the forefoot, thus making a very large imprint that looks deceptively like an enormous human footprint positioned in the opposite direction. (*Wrong, the direction remains the same—CLM.*)

NOTE: The model does not have a conical head. The errors are typical, although Britannica should be more efficient.



My incentive to write this book was based on three factors:

1. I consider British Columbia (BC) the “homeland” of the sasquatch.
2. The great number of recorded sasquatch-related incidents in BC.
3. The fact that I, along with five (5) of the main field researchers, lived or live in BC: John Green, Bob Titmus, René Dahinden, John Bindernagel and Thomas Steenburg (who worked with me on the book).

I commenced working on the book in about 2010. I selected the image of Bob Titmus for the front cover and went up to see John Green. He was very pleased with my decision, stating that Titmus was not given enough credit for all the things he did. I superimposed the Titmus image on a photo I had taken of the rain forest at Harrison. I remember taking it about a year or so earlier and thinking it would be great for a book cover background.

Although the recording of sasquatch-related incidents is the most important part of the book, I reasoned that other related important incidents and events should be included. I never met Bob Titmus, but was reasonably close to both Dahinden and Green, spending quite a bit of time with both of them.

The fact that I had been documenting

sasquatch related material since about 1994 and Thomas Steenburg since the late 1970s greatly facilitated things. I provided the sources for all material used in the book. Such includes all of Green’s books, his large database, Dahinden’s book, Steenburg’s books and the BFRO reports. On top of that, I had a massive collection of newspaper articles that belonged to John Fuhrmann, who died in the late 1980s. Thomas Steenburg also provided, a great collection of his own unpublished reports on recent investigations in BC.

The 526-page book is probably one of the heaviest standard books created. As it was not practical to produce the entire book in color, I asked for semi-gloss paper to improve monochrome (black and white) images. In my opinion the paper makes a big difference with photographs. However, David Hancock said he did not like gloss for print because it reflects light. He is right, but I don’t have a problem with that. Hence, the heavy gloss paper was used. A 32-page color section is the book’s crowning glory (absolutely astounding color printing).

The book was published in 2012 and I introduced it at my exhibit at Yale, BC (Yale Historical Society). Yale is a very small town along the Fraser River on an old highway. It is noted in sasquatch lore for Jacko, the alleged sasquatch boy captured in 1884.

At one time, the old highway was the

only one for travel to the interior of BC. In 1986, the first phase of the Coquihalla Freeway was completed and the old highway sort of faded away to those who like a less hectic ride (although considered a little dangerous with twists and turns)) and astounding scenery.

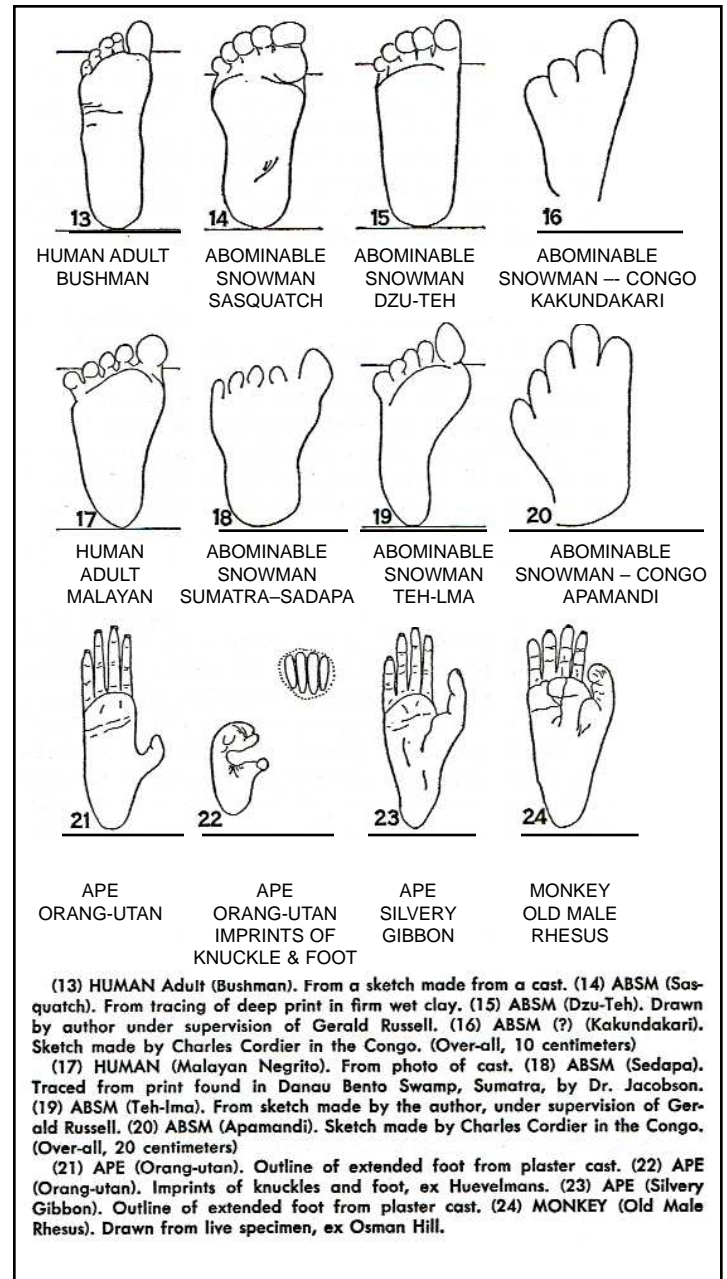
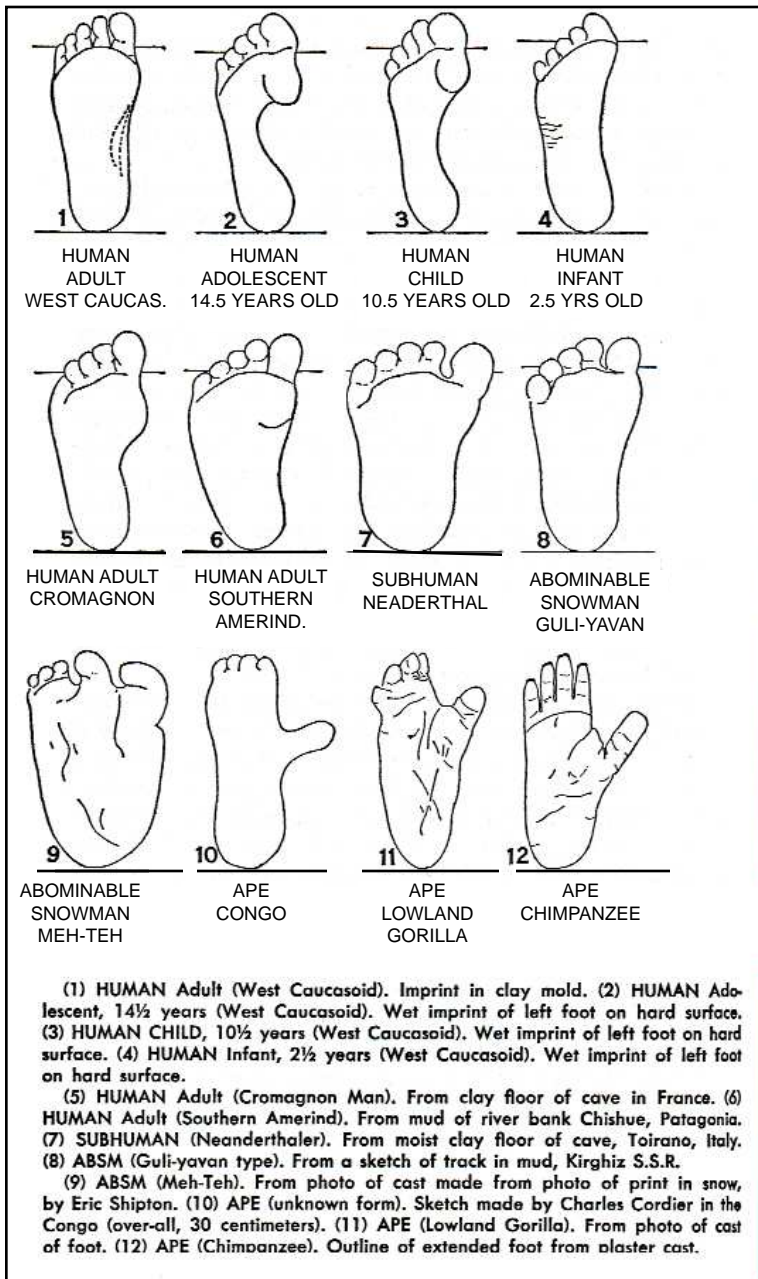
Yale had the exhibit for two summer seasons and over 7,000 patrons made their way to the little museum as seen in the following photos.



The Historical Society ladies had a lot of fun fitting the exhibit into the little house. I provide photos on the Sasquatch Canada website in the Museum presentation.

Just for the record, Thomas and I got up into the museum attic and went through a lot of stuff, but nothing sasquatch-related was found.

Abominable Snowmen: Legend Comes to Life — Footprint Identification Chart



Ivan Sanderson provides this chart in his book on page 316. I have direct-labeled the illustrations to make reading more convenient. However, there is other information so be sure to check the descriptions.

Footprints are the most important physical evidence we have of modern-day hominoid existence. There can be no doubt that something with substance (weight or pressure) made a footprint. The vast number and remote location of footprint findings essentially eliminates any form of hoaxing.

The fact that hominoids start off as infants and go through childhood, adolescence, youth, and adulthood, results in different footprint sizes for the same individual. As a result, one cannot use size (length and width) as a deciding iden-

tification factor. A small print may simply be that of a young hominoid.

Sanderson created his chart to identify primates throughout the world and thereby compare various footprints. There are no recognized primates in North America (other than modern humans) so identification is not as involved or complicated.

I created the chart on the right for my museum exhibit. It shows the best-known sasquatch or bigfoot footprint casts. Although the prints are all somewhat different, they are all reasonably similar and could be from the same species. The chart is on the Sasquatch Canada website with a link to the identification sheet.

You might note that Sanderson has various very different prints for his “abominable snowmen.”

