



Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 122

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The Explorers Club's New York headquarters houses around 1,000 artefacts collected by its members.



Dr. George V.B. Cochran, Club president 1981–1985.

The following write-up accompanies the above photo and caption (Explorers Club website). Please note the reference to the “yeti scalp.”

One floor up, past the Hall of Fame and the Sir Edmund Hillary Map Room, is the extraordinarily detailed Gallery. A drop-in visitor can see trophies of cheetah and lion from Smithsonian expeditions; a yeti scalp and prayer wheels from Tibet; a first edition of Napoleon’s description of Egypt; an Alaskan mammoth tusk, moose heads and stuffed penguins; a pelt from a man-eating Nepali tigress; and the remarkable ivory of a four-tusked elephant, a rare genetic anomaly from Congo. The horde of artefacts is so exact – so remarkable – that, at first, it feels like a film set suspended in time.

I will venture to say that the yeti scalp is the fabricated goat-antelope version that Edmund Hillary had made when he was in Nepal in 1960. He simply had local craftsmen make one for him. The other scalp that he borrowed was definitely returned to the Tibetan monastery where it was obtained.

The Explorers Club also measures in sasquatch lore as a result of a finding by an expedition to British Columbia in 1954 led by Club member Dr. George V.B. Cochran (shown above). The team reported finding large, unshod human-

like footprints high in a snowfield above Chilco Lake, BC, and thereby named the area “Sasquatch Pass.”

When I wrote *Know the Sasquatch* (2010), Russ Kinnee, a past aerial photographer for the Smithsonian Institution, contacted me and said he had flown over Sasquatch Pass and had a photo, which he kindly sent to me for my book. It is shown in the center on the right.

I recall years ago, when Google Earth first came on-line, checking to see if Sasquatch Pass was mentioned—nothing came up. Today, July 12, 2020, to my surprise, it came up. The current map is shown on the right, last image.

I have never seen a photo of a footprint or series of prints found by the Explorers Club team. I am positive one would have been taken. I doubt the Club would respond to me, but a scientist might get a reply.

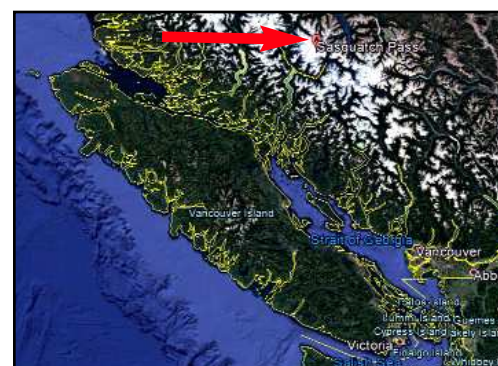
Anyway, here we go again. We have a scientist with a PhD, who was later president of the Explorers Club, stating that he and many others observed what appeared to be large hominoid footprints in snow on a desolate mountain top. I wonder what the guys at the Club said when members sat around comparing notes? Obviously, not much, but at least Cochran and his team knew what a sasquatch was—1954 was a bit early for professional attention to this hominoid.



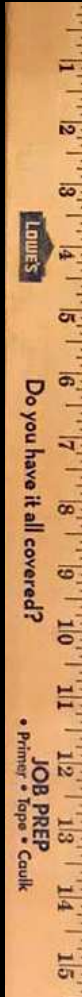
Chilco Lake, BC.



Sasquatch Pass in a photo by Russ Kinnee.



Google Earth map showing Sasquatch Pass.



Great examples of brown bear print casts found by Loren Coleman at a flea market. Someone obviously took the trouble to do a proper job; it's not that easy, believe me. Flea markets, garage sales, and yard sales are likely the best sources for artifacts of this nature. Generally, the cost is very low on everything at such markets so one does not take a significant chance in buying things.

Loren Coleman found a great set of brown bear footprint (hind foot and front paw) casts at a flea market. They are shown on the left and I have compared the hind foot to the Abbott Hill, Washington (1982), sasquatch footprint cast. This comparison has been shown before, but not with a brown bear related cast of this quality.

Generally, brown bear hind footprints range between 9 inches and 12 inches, and black bear prints, 7 inches to 9 inches, including claws. However, the Kodiak bear's (which is a brown bear) hind foot ranges up to 18 inches long. Nevertheless it is found only on the islands of the Kodiak Archipelago, Southern Alaska, USA. As such it does not apply in our studies.

Years ago, I found a nice image of the underside of a black bear's hind foot and superimposed it on an image of the Patterson and Gimlin film subject's foot as seen here:



René Dahinden once noted that bears have hair at the base their toes (underside). He said he wondered if the dark area at the base of the film subject's toes was hair.



About 18 years ago, I created this image. I know a little more now than I did then, but not very much and I am still looking for technical answers. I posted the following on Sasquatch Canada about 4 years ago.

Credit Where Credit is Due

The photograph from frame 350 of the Patterson/Gimlin film seen here, and variously credited to me, has brought about a lot of speculation—some far beyond logic; some very logical.

While I agree that this photo is very clear, and that I have been lucky in some of my photographic endeavors, I wish to make it clear that what I started with for this photograph was NOT my work. It was Jeff Glickman's work. Here is the story.

Jeff provided me with a color printout of his report, *Toward A Resolution of the Bigfoot Phenomenon*. I don't know what kind of a printer he used; however, all of the images are very clear. I have found that taking a real 35mm photograph of a good digital image often produces an image better than the original. Sometimes, the image is so good it is hard to tell it from an actual photograph (i.e., a photo taken in real life). A strong magnifier does not reveal pixels in the print. (Incidentally, you need special lenses, a copy stand and proper lighting for such work. I did not use direct daylight).

Jeff's report contained a good digital image of frame 350 and I took a 35mm photo of it. I was surprised at the clarity of the print and shared it somewhere down the line. It eventually ended up on the net and the rest is history. I will mention here that it was this photo that got Marlon Davis vitally interested in bigfoot. Marlon has subsequently done a lot of great work in the bigfoot field, so the photo indeed served a very useful purpose. (NOTE: Marlon's contributions in the field eventually became totally unsupportable. He is no longer taken seriously in anything he does.)

If there are any professional photographers reading this, I would like your input. I have considered the possibility that photos produced in the manner outlined could fool some people (indeed, I fooled myself in one case). Specifically, I would like to know your thoughts on the credibility of details in such photographs.

Davis went on to create a very large image of this film frame, about 8 feet high, and then just the head about 8 feet high as shown below:



Although he used my image as previously stated, it needs to be noted that the head of the subject in the original film frame is about one-sixth of 1.2 millimeters (about 20% of a millimeter). This would hardly be visible to the naked eye.

Davis did this work when he was well-respected and working with mainstream researchers. He then became a notorious fabricator, so it is possible he faked this image. I have never seen the original print.

I will, however, give him the benefit of the doubt. What I believe happens to allow such enlargement is due to the fact that the original image is on movie film.

The density of the chemicals is such that it does not break up when printed and photographed (35mm real camera) digitized and enlarged.

When I took a 35mm photo of a printed image, the camera compressed the print pixels. Shown below is a direct scan from the actual print in the report by Jeff Glickman. Obviously, pixels are very evident and further enlargement would make the image worse.



I mention in my write-up that the reality of images thus produced fooled me in one case. This is what happened in 1999 when I took a 35mm photo of a printed image and subsequently found unusual details. I thought the original image was a film frame Cibachrome, not a printed image in a book.

The question that must be asked is: What is the credibility of details seen in images of this nature (i.e., printed images that have been photographed)? From a mathematical standpoint, in actual photographs from the film frames, if a detail is smaller than about one-half the size of the subject's nose, it has no credibility. This is based on a camera distance of 151.4 feet. If you believe the camera distance was closer (i.e., 102 feet as originally thought) then the full size of the nose applies.

Of course, many people will just say what they want. Perhaps there will one day be a word for them.



BUCK'WAS (Wild Man of the Woods)



GAGIT (Land Otter man)



D'SONOQUA (Wild Woman of the Woods)

The first two Native masks seen here were loaned to me by Robert Alley in Alaska for my Museum of Vancouver exhibit in 2004. I was amazed when I opened the plastic tub he had used to send them to me. They are not the original masks; they are exact copies, but quite old. The craftsmanship was remarkable, and it was a bit of an experience just to hold the masks. As I recall, I featured them in two museum exhibits, and I am sure about 50,000 people looked at them.

The first mask on the left is a Buck'was, or Wild Man of the Woods, which we call the sasquatch. After many years I have reasoned that when Native masks are painted they represent the spiritual or non-physical sasquatch. Masks that are simply natural wood or stained wood represent the physical sasquatch. I don't have any information to support this idea, but it seems to make sense.

I wanted near perfect photos of both masks so, very soon after I got them, I put them on the floor and took photos (film camera—before digital) from above; somehow manipulating a tripod and natural daylight. I originally used the images in *Meet the Sasquatch* (2004), and the first (Buck'was) has certainly got around since then.

A few years ago I was looking for a good monochrome (black/white) logo for Sasquatch Canada. I made the Buck'was mask image monochrome and then inverted it (black becomes white, and

white becomes black). I needed to do a little touch up and after all was done, the resulting image is far more fearful than the actual mask. Have a look next time you on the opening page of the Sasquatch Canada website.

The mask in the center is called a Gagit, which means Land Otter Man. We were a little skeptical originally about it being sasquatch-related, but we have reasoned that a sasquatch in water would be like a land otter, and might result in it being called a "land otter man." Robert Alley stated in a note, "The spines in the lips are representations of sea urchin and fish dorsal spines, which the Gagit suffers in eating such foods."

The third mask shown is a D'sonoqua (various spellings) or Wild Woman of the Woods. It is the female sasquatch. She is highly prominent in Native lore, and I have discovered that she was both a good and bad omen in Native culture. On the good side, it is probable she was regarded as a "giver" of good things (food, life's necessities). Large wood carvings of her have the body portion hollowed out and used as a receptacle for food at feasts. Even her face lifts off and forms a bowl.

I acquired the D'sonoqua mask at a Native carving shop is Sechelt, BC. The shop is run by a father and his son, who both do remarkable carvings. I went into the shop and mentioned that I was interested in sasquatch-related masks. The father asked me if I knew René Dahinden, which made me smile. René

had been dead for about 7 years at this time. I was told that he would drop into the shop when he was in Sechelt and would sometimes buy little things. I gave the father a copy of *Sasquatch in British Columbia*.

After this interesting little back-and-forth, the father said to me, I think the sasquatch mask you would want is in the back; I have just finished it and will get it. He brought out the mask seen here and he was right. I immediately knew that was the mask I wanted for my sasquatch exhibits.

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A Little Tidbit from Thomas

Thomas Steenburg phoned me the other day and said that the Schneiders (David and Deborah) still live in the Ruby Creek house they built. They plan to turn the property (which is very large) into a trailer park, certainly a great idea. Perhaps we will be able to have a little display as to the history of that little corner of the world. I am sure the sasquatch who paid a visit would probably be over 100 by now and long gone.

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