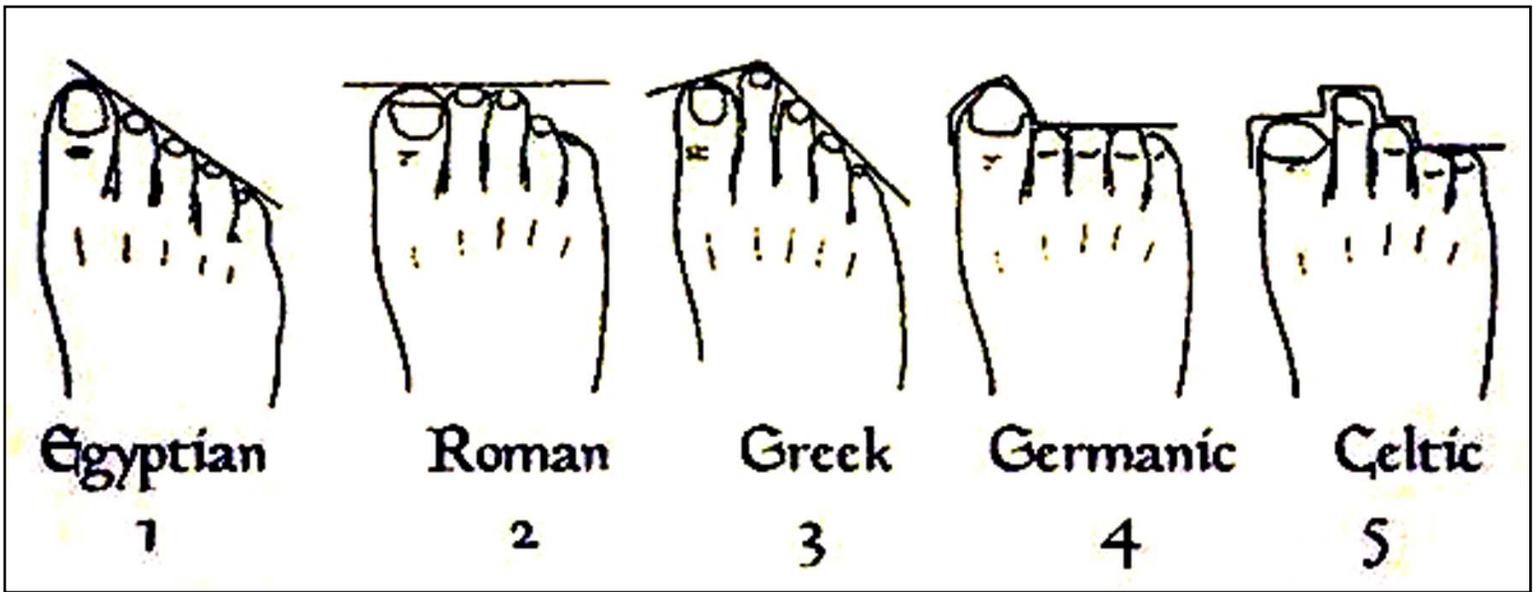


# DO TOES TELL A TALE?

Christopher L. Murphy



The configuration of human toes effectively falls into the five categories shown in the above chart. Humans are somewhat unique because they vary in some physical aspects not seen in other animals. The main human difference is in facial features; everybody is different or unique. The only exception is in identical twins (and so forth), but even then there are differences. The configuration of human feet probably rates as the next major difference, although in this case people are “grouped” into categories.

When it comes to sasquatch, the concept of possible unique facial features came to my attention in early 2000. I had asked Vancouver artist Penny Birnam to create a sasquatch head sculpture for my museum exhibit. Penny regularly created life-size head sculptures of many animals, which were displayed and sold at a popular Vancouver market. I provided her with the information we had



Sculptures created by Penny Birnam.

on sasquatch and a few weeks later she called and said she had finished the work. When I arrived at her studio, I was surprised to see that she had created four sasquatch head sculptures each with distinctly different facial features. As I stood gazing at her work, she explained that she thought sasquatch would all be different in appearance so made the four “unique” heads to illustrate this.

Penny had made a good point, although I had no way to substantiate her conclusion. The only reasonably clear image we have of sasquatch facial features are those of the subject in the Patterson/Gimlin film. Nevertheless, if sasquatch do indeed share with humans unique facial features, then this would say something about their nature.

Up to the current time, I had not given a lot of thought to the different toe configurations in sasquatch footprint casts. I inadvertently found the above chart for humans and decided to use it for sasquatch. Remarkably, from my research the toes seen in sasquatch footprint casts fall into the first three categories. The majority of casts I looked at fell into the first category (#1), but there are definite examples of the next two categories. Does this substantiate Penny Birnam’s conclusion on facial features?

The following are probable examples of the three types of toe configurations mentioned from casts I reviewed.

