

# Biggest Mess up in Homin Research History

*The following is a direct translation of Professor Boris Porshnev's account of Professor Yuri Ivanovitch Merejinsky's botched encounter with a Russian snowman or "kaptar" on September 18, 1959. The account is in the book entitled, L'Homme de Neanderthal est Toujours Vivant, by Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans and Professor Porshnev (Plon, 1974), pages 167, 168, and 169. The translation was provided to me by Liza Jane. Many thanks, Liza, great work.*

## Caucasian Encounters

Having heard about a Kaptar sighting up north of Azerbaijan, in the Alazan's valley, where it's possible to visit all the villages on foot, and also climb the steepest slopes of the Caucasus main chain. Yuri Ivanovitch Merejinsky, a collaborator in the Kiev university ethnography and anthropology department managed to obtain what he wanted to know from the close-mouthed locals while visiting the area. The results of his investigation led him to meet a special old man and therefore Merejinsky became friend with one of the most expert night-hunters of Bielokany's wild boars.

It was known for a fact that this man had encountered several times a white kaptar in the past. It was probably a member of a group of albinos roaming the area, feeding all sorts of rumors.

It was said that some fully white specimens appeared in several locations looking like hairy savages which seemed to be coming from a direct mutation. This well-known old man agreed to bring Merejinsky to a night cache, on the sole condition that if a kaptar appeared, he wouldn't shoot it but only take a picture of it.

Hadji Magoma was his name, he wanted to defy all the skeptics. Believing that it's far better to show a picture to all the world than one man saying that he saw it! Merejinsky arrived on location at the set date with two people, one of which was Marie-Jeanne Koffmann.

Unfortunately! The irresistible desire to sweep all mockeries that he had endured caused him to commit a regrettable mistake. He decided to bring a loaded pistol in his pocket. Under a full moon, on September 18th, 1959, Hadji Magoma conducted a small group on the river shore covered with bushes. Splitting the team in two, he and Merejinsky then went into the chosen cache in which they

had a clear sight of the river. The guide was confident that this was the night.

In no time, by Merejinsky's account, the kaptar splashing in the water broke the silence of the night. After a while, it came out of the water walking like a dog on the shore. Then, it stood up on his hind legs revealing a meager body with slender members covered from head to toe with perfectly white reasonably long hair. While this is going on, the swimmer produced a series of jerky laughs, something like: "he! he! he!"

Magoma whispered to Merejinsky "take a picture." Instead, an unexpected gunshot was heard. Merejinsky's hands were in tremor, he couldn't control himself. They just barely heard the noise that the animal produced diving in the water trying to get away in a hurry. Hadji was angry at Yuri, all three parted abruptly and never saw one another [again]!

Since the very beginning of the investigation until his death, which came prematurely ending his enthusiastic flame, Yuri was a devoted and dedicated hunter on and about the hominoids Caucasus legend. With a group of student he traveled through the high mountain villages looking for eye-witnesses, asking everyone on his path as far as the roads or the markets would end.

His obstinate research marked our Caucasian era. He is also the only one of the team to have had this exceptional opportunity to have observed a kaptar alive. His ordeal has deepened more the kaptar legend.

## End of Porshnev Account

Well, there you have it. Merejinsky is no longer with us, but Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffmann is still alive (see my article, An Almasty Summary According to Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffmann). Although it's hard to forgive Merejinsky for his stupid blunder, it is even harder to forgive the Russian scientific establishment (and worldwide establishment for that matter) for not believing its own people, especially with the abundance of other



evidence on the existence of Russian homins. Although I don't think producing a dead kaptar, or providing firm photographic evidence of the creature (then or now) would resolve the sasquatch issue (probably not the same

creature), such evidence would definitely establish a very high likelihood that sasquatch do exist, and bring about high scientific involvement in the sasquatch question.